4-H Pets Project

Are you Into It?

In the Pet project you can explore learning about raising and training a variety of pets, health issues, and careers. What are some pets youth raise? Cats, ferrates, birds, mice, lizards, aquarium fish, hamsters, gerbils are just a few. Wild animals are not meant to be pets and should not be used in a project.

You will be able to:
• Learn about the selection, care, needs of pets and basic principles of pet behavior and identification of their characteristics
• Demonstrate care and management in feeding, handling, grooming and showing
• Learn and practice animal ownership responsibilities
• Explore health regulations, first aid, and simple treatments for ailments

Here’s what you can do all year!

Starting Out
Basic
• Gather information and determine the best pet for your family
• Locate and name parts of a pet: internal and external
• Learn proper feed and feeding techniques
• Create a plan to prevent your pet from getting lost
• Practice appropriate training for your pet

Learning More
Intermediate
• Plan a training and exercise program for your pet
• Prepare for a pet show
• Compare the labels on pet foods to make an informed decision on content and price
• Describe signs of a healthy pet
• Learn about health issues that affect pets

Expanding Horizons
Advanced
• Explore the health benefit of raising pets
• Explore careers that involve working with pets
• Connect with other 4-H pet owners on the internet to share stories and ideas

Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

Citizenship/Leadership
• Collect pet food, towels and rags for the local animal shelter
• Volunteer to do a pet presentation
• Clean up after your pet
• Organize a pet show for your club

Communication
• Design a poster on parts of the animal
• Teach someone about the care and maintenance of owning a pet
• Write an article for your 4-H Newsletter about pet care

Healthy Living
• Explore the best practices of nutritious advantages to feeding your pet
• Plan a regular daily exercise with your pet walking or playing

Science
• Explore research on your pet’s behavior
• Learn the science behind pet nutrition, growth and development, and genetics

Learn more at florida4h.org
or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office
Read the text below.

Expand Your Experiences in the Pet Project

- Learn about service animals and how they compare and contrast to pets
- Write an educational article about some aspect of your pet project for your newspaper
- Research parasites and how they affect pets and how to protect your pet
- Explore the subject of animal assisted therapy, how it is used and the benefits
- Register for 4-H University to attend workshops, participate in community service events, hear keynotes, compete in contests, have fun, and meet other youth from across Florida: florida4h.org
- Interested in a career in Animal Science or Veterinary Science? Schedule a visit with the University of Florida: ufl.edu
- Search the internet and see what other state 4-H programs are doing with the pet project
- Contact your county Extension office for other local workshops, and events

Resources

4-H Project Resources

Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your county 4-H office or you can order directly. Available at National 4-H: www.4-hmall.org

Pets
Level 1: Pet Pals
Level 2: Scurrying Ahead
Level 3: Scaling the Heights
Helper Guide: Leader Materials

Connections and Events

Check out these resources!
Service Animal en.wikipedia.org/wiki/service_animal
Animal Assisted Therapy en.wikipedia.org/wiki/animal-assisted_therapy
Orange County, FL Pet Educational Materials ocfl.net/AnimalsPets/PetsEducationalMaterials.aspx#U-eVSFaStU
Healthy Pets cdc.gov/healthy pets

Record Keeping

Learning to take good records of what you do and what you spend for your project is a 4-H life skill.

The following record keeping forms can help you keep a record of your activities.

Project Report Forms can be found at florida4h.org
- Junior (grades 4-6)
- Intermediate (grades 7-8)
- Senior (grades 9-12)
- Financial Summary
- Member Portfolio (ages 8-13)

Awards and Recognition

Florida’s Recognition Program involves feedback through:
- Participation
- Setting Goals
- Meeting Standards
- Peer Competition
- Cooperation

Certificates, pins, ribbons, trophies, trips and/or scholarships are awarded based on quality of performance at the county, district, state and national levels.

Learn more about current recognition opportunities by contacting your county 4-H agent.

Learn more at florida4h.org or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office

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