



# 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, ferrets, 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](http://florida4h.org)

or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office



## 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](http://florida4h.org)
- Interested in a career in Animal Science or Veterinary Science? Schedule a visit with the University of Florida: [ufl.edu](http://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

### Project Sharing Ideas

- Consider an educational exhibit, notebook or display
- Develop a video showing the steps in caring for a pet
- Make a toy for your pet and share with your club
- Learn about pets in different countries – make a chart or map to share with your club or as an exhibit

## 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](http://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](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/service_animal)

Animal Assisted Therapy  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/animal-assisted\\_therapy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/animal-assisted_therapy)

Orange County, FL Pet Educational Materials  
[ocfl.net/AnimalsPets/PetsEducationalMaterials.aspx#.U-eVSFaiStU](http://ocfl.net/AnimalsPets/PetsEducationalMaterials.aspx#.U-eVSFaiStU)

Healthy Pets  
[cdc.gov/healthy\\_pets](http://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](http://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](http://florida4h.org)**  
or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office

**4-H**  
GROWING TOGETHER