



Cats Project Brief

Learning Objectives

- Practice the life skills of decision making, communicating with others, leading self and others, planning and organizing, and learning to learn
- Identify cat breeds
- Demonstrate good cat grooming and healthcare
- Develop proper cat showmanship skills
- Develop a budget for cat expenses

Fair Projects (building)

- Poster diagram of cat body parts
- Identify indoor and outdoor hazards that apply to cats
- Display poster of budget report for cat expenses
- Poster on the life cycle of common cat parasites
- Identify and classify cat breeds
- Poster explaining cat senses
- Poster on cat-to-people diseases

Demonstration Ideas

- How to pick up, hold, and carry a cat
- How to properly groom a cat
- Show how to handle a cat
- How to make a homemade litter box
- How to tell when a cat has an illness
- How to keep vaccination records
- How to check a cat food label

Field Trips

- Veterinarian Clinic
- Zoo
- Animal Shelter

Ideas for Speech Topics

- Cat diseases
- Cat laws
- Cat breeds

Critical Thinking

- Name at least one common cat parasite and explain what you know about the parasite's life cycle.
- What are some advantages/disadvantages of having an inside cat?
- Name at least three signs that are noticed when a cat is ill.
- What are some ways to exercise your cat?
- What are the differences between dry, semi- moist and canned or specialty canned cat foods?
- Name two diseases that people can contract from cats.
- What is at least one calming behavior of a cat?

Community Service

- Volunteer at a veterinarian clinic
- Volunteer at an animal shelter
- Volunteer for a petting zoo
- Exercise a cat for a friend, family member, or neighbor
- Conduct a cat showmanship clinic

Science & Technology

- Describe the bone structure of a cat.
- Gather information about diseases and preventative measures
- Summarize the life cycle of a flea
- Explore the digestive system of a cat

Show Me Character

Trustworthiness - includes honesty, promise keeping and loyalty.

- Only exhibit animals you raised and trained yourself
- Show your animal that they can trust you to do what's in their best interest
- Be on time to shows so everyone can start on time
- Enter in the proper weight class and age category for your animal

Respect - includes courtesy and proper treatment of people and things.

- Take care of other's animals too; remember each animal is a pet to someone
- Show appreciation to those who help you complete your projects
- Always congratulate the winner of the show, no matter how you place

Responsibility - includes the pursuit of excellence, accountability and perseverance.

- Do your part in raising your animals
- Make sure you have all of your supplies ready to go so you have everything you need to show
- Try to pay for your own supplies to prove that you can care for your animal

Fairness - involves consistently applying rules and standards appropriately for different age groups and ability levels.

- Make sure you raise your animal with help from mom and dad only when you need it
- Follow all rules for entering and showing in competitions
- Never punish your animal for a poor showing

Caring - promoting the well being of people and things in a young person's world. It denotes action and not just feelings.

- Do your chores to help your animals stay healthy and happy
- Reward your animals with praise and treats no matter how they perform in shows
- Keep animals' surroundings properly maintained

Resources

177 Cat Care Unit 1

Y620 4-H Project Record
Y1770 Purr-fect Pals- Level 1
LG1760 Cat Helper's Activity Guide

178 Cat Care Unit 2

Y620 4-H Project Record
Y1780 Climbing Up!- Level 2
LG1760 Cat Helper's Activity Guide
To Order

Extension Publications online at <http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/shop/> or by phone 1-800-292-0969

For additional resources check with your local University of Missouri Extension Center or the 4-H Source Book at <http://www.4-hmall.org/educationalresources.aspx>.

Citizenship - includes making the home community and county a better place to live for themselves and others.

- Find ways to use your animal for good in your community
- Follow the rules, no matter how unfair they may seem
- Teach others what you know
- Be open to learning from others

Show Me Standards

Missouri 4-H members will acquire the knowledge and skills to gather, analyze and apply information and ideas, communicate effectively, recognize and solve problems, make decisions and act as responsible members of society.

4-H members will acquire a solid foundation which includes knowledge of:

- **Health/Physical Education** - Diseases and methods for prevention, treatment and control
- **Communication Arts** - participating in formal and informal presentation and discussions of issues and ideas
- **Mathematics** - data analysis, probability and statistics
- **Science** - characteristics and interactions of living organisms; impact of science, technology and human activity on resources and the environment
- **Social Studies** - economic concepts (including productivity and the market system) and principles (including the laws of supply and demand)

179 Cat Care Unit 3

Y620 4-H Project Record
Y1790 Leaping Forward- Level 3
LG1760 Cat Helper's Activity Guide