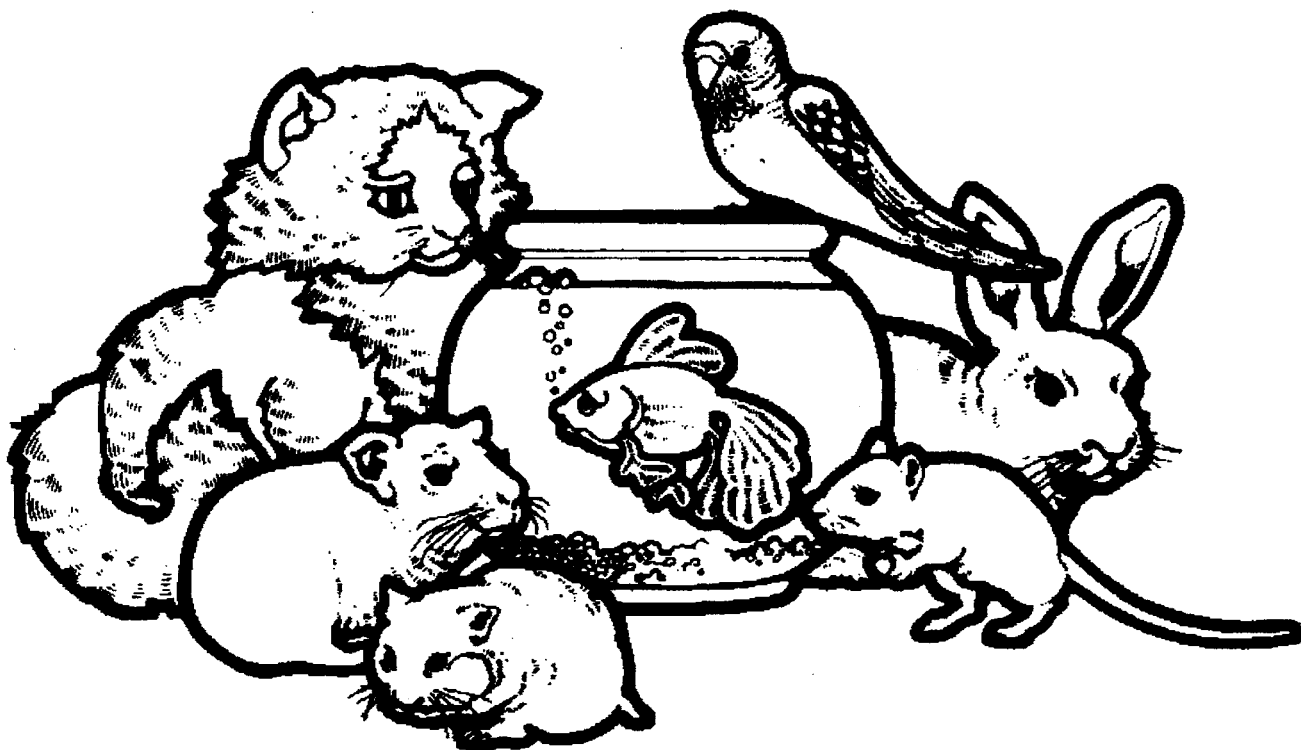




Pet Care Project

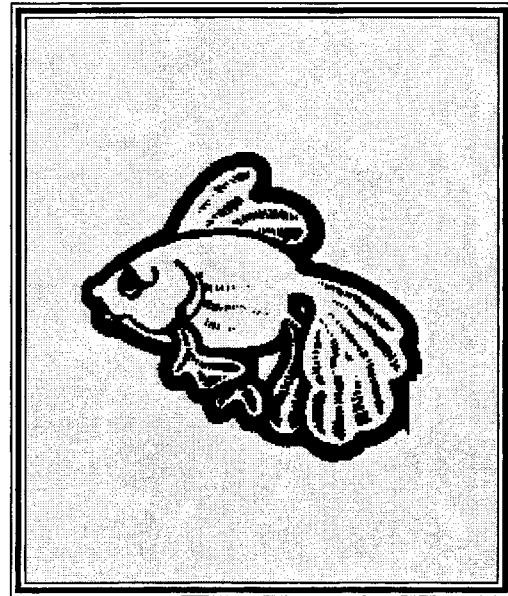
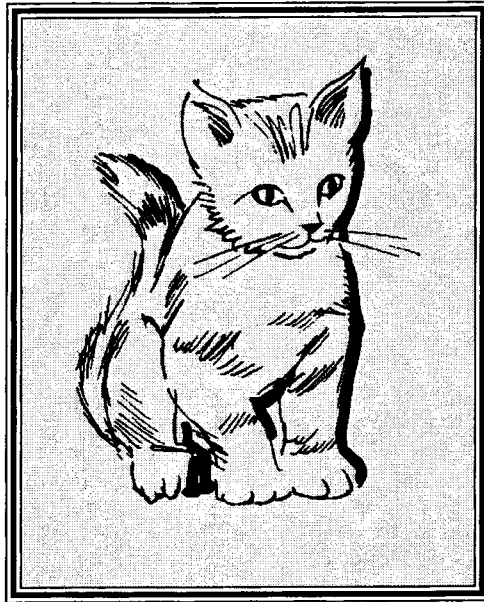
**Member's Guide
and Record
Level 1**



PENNS^TATE



College of Agricultural Sciences
Cooperative Extension



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Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences research, extension, and resident education programs are funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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Produced by Information and Communication Technologies in the College of Agricultural Sciences

A1210A R.7M11/04ps1299

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Purpose of the project

The 4-H pet care project will give you the opportunity to learn about the life history, management, and care of a pet of your choice. You will develop responsibility, and you will learn to find information and to share ideas and experiences with others. You'll also participate with your friends in the other activities of your 4-H club.

Should you enroll?

You should enroll in the 4-H pet care project if you want to care for a pet and another 4-H project is not offered for the kind of pet you choose.

For example, dogs, rabbits, and horses are popular pets, but the 4-H dog care and training, rabbit, and horse projects are offered for 4-H members who choose them as pets. Cats, guinea pigs, gerbils, hamsters, birds, and fish are popular pets for 4-H members who enroll in the pet care project. Other kinds of animals may make good pets for your project, too.



Things you will do in the project

- ___ 1. Feed and care for a pet at least three months.
2. Find information about your kind of pet. (Do a and b, c, or d)
 - ___ (a) Obtain and study at least one reference book, magazine, or pamphlet about your type of pet.
 - ___ (b) View a film or videotape about your kind of pet.
 - ___ (c) Visit a veterinary clinic, animal shelter, or pet store to learn about pet care.
 - ___ (d) Discuss pet care with a pet care expert. Examples are a veterinarian, a worker in an animal shelter or pet store, and a pet owner, breeder, groomer, or trainer.
3. Do reports in your project book on:
 - ___ (a) the life history and care of your pet
 - ___ (b) the natural characteristics of your kind of pet
 - ___ (c) your pet care project experiences (project story)
4. Share what you learn with others.
 - ___ (a) Give a show and tell or a presentation related to your pet care project.
 - ___ (b) Exhibit your pet or a poster or display about pet care at a pet show, fair, or roundup.
5. Keep records of:
 - ___ (a) the money you spend and receive with your 4-H pet project
 - ___ (b) activities you do with your pet

Extra activities you may enjoy

- ___ 1. Visit a nursing home with your pet.
- ___ 2. Help with a petting zoo.
- ___ 3. Make a kit of pet grooming or first aid supplies and equipment.
- ___ 4. Train your pet to obey commands or do tricks.
- ___ 5. Take photographs of your pet.
- ___ 6. Enter a pet photography or essay contest.

Are you ready for a pet?

Answer these questions before choosing your pet:

- * Will your parents let you have the pet?
- * Are pets allowed where you live?
- * Do you have room for the pet?
- * Do you have time to care for the pet?
- * Are you big or old enough to handle the pet?
- * Are you able to pay for the pet's food, equipment, and veterinary care?
- * Can the pet live in your home, or must it stay in the garage or outside?
- * Will the pet need a cage or pen?

Choosing the right pet

You may choose from many kinds of pets for your project. Some animals make better pets than others. Choose the pet that is right for you and your family.

Decide what characteristics you want your pet to have. If you want a quiet animal, choose a rabbit or fish. Birds, dogs, cats, and guinea pigs can be noisy. If you want a pet to hold or cuddle, choose a soft, furry animal. Pick a tame one, because many animals will wiggle, bite, or scratch when they are afraid. If your pet must live in the house or apartment, choose one that is housebroken or isn't very messy or smelly. If nobody will be at home while you are at school, pick a pet that isn't unhappy when it's alone.

Avoid choosing an unusual animal, such as a ferret or skunk, without making sure you can meet its special needs. It's against the law to keep some kinds of animals as pets. You may need a special permit or license to keep the kind of pet you want.



What does your pet need?

Your pet cannot take care of itself, so you must give it what it needs. Some important things a pet needs are:

Shelter

Shelters protect animals from sun, wind, rain, snow, and cold. Some animals need warm homes, but others need cool homes. Pets that are not very messy can live in your home, basement, or garage. Outdoor pets need a doghouse, hutch, or shed to protect them.

Fenced yard, cage, pen, crate, or aquarium

Many kinds of pets need a fenced yard, cage, pen, crate, or aquarium to keep them safe and out of trouble. Animals that run loose outdoors may get lost, stolen, hurt, or into trouble. Animals that are not housebroken may make messes if they roam loose in the house. Use a cage, pen, or other enclosure that is big enough to keep the pet clean, healthy, and comfortable.

Food and water

Feed your pet every day. Give it clean, fresh water all the time, or let it drink often. Follow the advice of your veterinarian or other advisor about the kinds and amounts of food to feed your pet and how often to feed it. Pet food packages may have directions to guide you. If your pet is getting too fat or too thin, you may need to change the amount or kind of food you feed.

Don't give your pet food made for another kind of animal. Different kinds of animals need different kinds of food. The wrong kind of food could make your pet sick.

Health care

Pets can get sick. Sick animals may act different from healthy animals. They may stop eating, cough, or have a runny nose or runny droppings. Call a veterinarian if your animal is hurt or sick.

Some diseases are spread from one animal to others. Vaccinations can prevent some diseases. Laws require some pets to be vaccinated for some diseases. For example, cats and dogs must have rabies vaccinations. A veterinarian can tell you which vaccinations your pet needs. Vaccinations cannot prevent every disease your pet may get, so it's important to do what your veterinarian says to keep your pet healthy.

Clean equipment and cages

Dirty cages and equipment can smell bad and spread diseases. Clean your pet's food and water dishes daily. Throw away wet and spoiled food. Remove dirty bedding, litter, and manure from pet pens, cages, and litterboxes often. Give your pet clean bedding or litter after dirty bedding or litter is removed. Ask your leader about the right way to dispose of animal wastes.

Grooming

Brush your cat or guinea pig to remove loose hair and dirt. Trim the toenails of guinea pigs when they get long. Most pets don't need baths.

Exercise

Animals must have exercise to stay healthy. Make sure the pet's pen or cage is big enough to let it move around. Gerbils and hamsters will enjoy an exercise wheel. Leash-trained pets can be taken for walks.

Love and attention

Talk to your pet and play with it so it knows you. Learn the right way to pick up and hold it so it doesn't get hurt or hurt you. Learn when to put it down or in its cage.

Information about your pet's life history and care**What is your pet's:**name?

species (kind)?

sex?

breed?

If registered, what is the name of its registry association?

Where did you get your pet?

When did you get your pet?

What did your pet cost?

Who owns your pet?

What is your pet's:date of birth (if known)?

age (if known)?

What is its:weight?

length?

What color is:your pet?

its eyes?

How many:

brothers and sisters does it have?

toes does it have?

teeth does it have?

What kind of :

home or cage does it live in?

bedding do you use?

food do you feed it?

container do you use to give it water?

container do you use to feed it?

How much do you feed it?

How often do you:

feed your pet?

play with your pet?

exercise your pet?

clean its cage or litterbox?

clean its food and water containers?

take it to the veterinarian?

What is its favorite:

food?

place?

What is it's favorite?

toy?

thing to do?

What tricks can your pet do?

What commands does your pet obey?

What do you do to keep it healthy?

Has your pet ever:

been sick?

been hurt?

been lost?

been neutered or spayed?

been declawed?

had babies?

Do you have other pets?

What are their names and species? (Example: Fluffy—cat)

What do you do to take care of them?

Natural characteristics of your kind of animal

Find out about the natural characteristics of your kind of pet. Answer the following questions for your kind of pet. (For example, answer about cats in general, not your own cat.)

What species or kind of animal is your pet?

Origin and habitat

In what country or on what continent did the species originate?

What is the animal's natural habitat (or environment where it lives)?

Life cycle

Are the young hatched or born? (Tell which one)

How many young are born or hatched at one time?

What do newborn or newly hatched young look like?

What do the parent animals do to care for their young?

When are the young old enough to leave their parents?

At what age do they become able to breed?

For animals that give birth, how long does gestation (pregnancy) last?

For animals that lay eggs, how long are eggs incubated before they hatch?

How long does an animal usually live?

Sources of your reference information

Books or pamphlets studied

Record the title of one or more reference book or pamphlet you have obtained and studied about your type of pet.

Name of book or pamphlet:

Tell one thing you learned:

Name of book or pamphlet:

Tell one thing you learned:

Other sources of information (Consult one or more)

► Field trips to veterinary clinics, animal shelters, or pet stores

Place visited:

Tell one thing you learned:

Place visited:

Tell one thing you learned:

► Videotapes or films watched

Title:

Tell one thing you learned:

Title:

Tell one thing you learned:

Photographs of your pet(s)



Project score

	Highest score	Score yourself	Score from your leader
Care and management of the pet (to be scored by leader at any time after first month and before roundup, fair, or scheduled judging)			
Does the pet show evidence of proper attention, care, and handling?	10	_____	_____
Has the member provided the pet with adequate food, water, exercise, cleanliness, health care, and housing?	10	_____	_____
Does the member know the pet's food, exercise, and care requirements?	10	_____	_____
Subtotal for care and management of pet	30	_____	_____
Project record book			
Are plans clearly stated?	5	_____	_____
Are questions about the pet's life history and care answered satisfactorily?	5	_____	_____
Are questions about the natural characteristics of the type of animal answered satisfactorily?	5	_____	_____
Are records of the reference materials used, people consulted, trips taken, and films viewed up-to-date and complete?	5	_____	_____
Are income and veterinary, feed, and other expense records up-to-date and complete?	5	_____	_____
Are project experiences described adequately in member's story and photographs?	5	_____	_____
Are the presentation, exhibit, and activities reports complete?	5	_____	_____
Subtotal for project record book	35	_____	_____

Performance of member

Did the member do what was planned to meet goals?	5	_____	_____
Did the member complete the activities recommended for project completion?	10	_____	_____
Did the member care for his or her own pet when possible?	5	_____	_____
Did the member attend meetings regularly?	5	_____	_____
Subtotal for performance of member	25	_____	_____

Project exhibit

(pet, poster, or educational display)	10	_____	_____
Total points for project	100	_____	_____

Project scored by

Date

4-H ACTIVITIES REPORT

This report will help you keep a better record of your club activities. Fill it in as you complete each assignment. Refer to this record when you are entering county, state, and national programs. Ask your local leader to explain these programs to you.

My 4-H Activities Report for the 19____ Club Year

Projects taken _____

Number of new members you encouraged to join 4-H _____

Number of boys and girls you helped with projects _____

In what way? _____

TV member yes no

Program title _____

Check those attended and tell how you helped

Offices held

3- or 4-day camp _____

Club _____

1-day camp _____

County _____

Club or county tours _____

“Show-and-tells” given to:

Club picnic _____

Family _____

Countywide picnic _____

Friends _____

4-H Sunday _____

Local club _____

County fair _____

County _____

Achievement programs _____

Regional _____

Roundup _____

State _____

Teen Leader Retreat _____

News articles _____

State 4-H Capital Days _____

Radio _____

Camp Leadership Training _____

TV _____

Penn State 4-H Achievement Days _____

Things done to improve your health

Pennsylvania Farm Show _____

National 4-H Week _____

Community service or citizenship work done

State Ambassador Conference _____

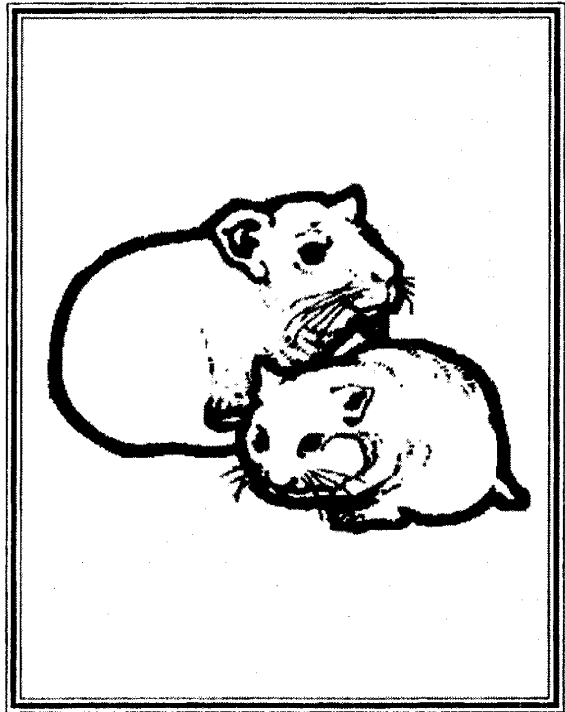
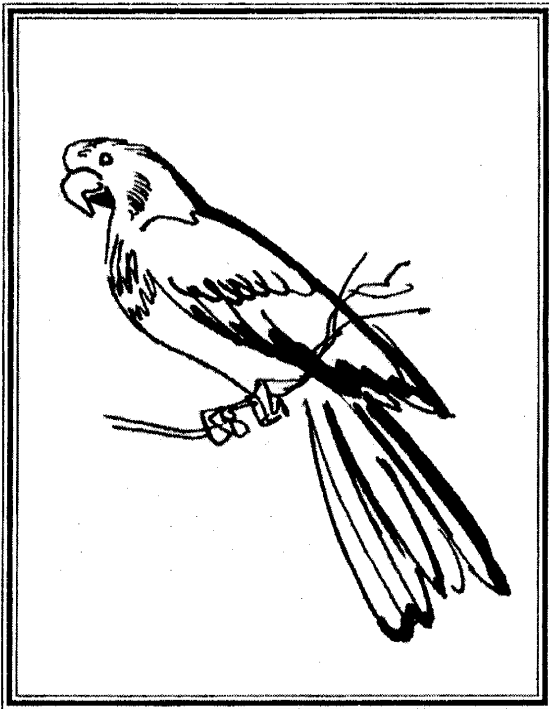
By myself _____

Others _____

With club _____

Number of meetings your club(s) held this year _____

Number you attended _____



Name _____

Address _____

Name of Club _____

Leader's Name _____

Name of Project _____

4-H Club Motto
"To make the best better"

4-H Club Pledge
I pledge
my head to clearer thinking,
my heart of greater loyalty,
my hands to larger service, and
my health to better living, for
my club,
my community,
my country, and
my world.

4-H Club Colors
Green and White
