



# CATS



## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Cats are a wonderful addition to a family and great companions for anyone living alone. They require minimal care but love attention. The 4-H cat project helps you explore what kind of cat fits into your family's lifestyle. Cats need your love and guidance to live long and healthy lives. The project will help you learn about nutritional aspects of a cat's diet, health needs and learn responsible ownership.

## HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN LEARN...

### STARTING OUT

- ✿ Gather information and determine the best cat for your family
- ✿ Learn about the proper care, grooming and feeding of your cat
- ✿ Learn the parts of a cat
- ✿ Create a plan to prevent your cat from getting lost and an emergency plan for if it does get lost
- ✿ Learn the appropriate grooming equipment and use proper grooming techniques on your cat
- ✿ Learn the various body language signs

### LEARNING MORE

- ✿ Plan a training and exercise program for your cat
- ✿ Prepare your cat for participation in cat shows
- ✿ Compare the labels on cat foods to make an informed decision on quality and price

### GOING FURTHER

- ✿ Create a trainer's diary to assist you when you work with your cat
- ✿ Create a cat ownership budget plan
- ✿ Help a friend make a decision about owning a cat
- ✿ Research diseases in cats
- ✿ Identify symptoms and a course of action in case your cat gets sick
- ✿ Research career options dealing with cats

### RESOURCES

- ✿ <http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/4-hcurriculum-cat.aspx>
- ✿ *Purr-fect Pals, Level 1* (08148)

- ✿ *Climbing Up!, Level 2* (08149)
- ✿ *Leaping Forward, Level 3* (08150)
- ✿ *Cat Helper's Guide* (08151)

## TAKE IT FURTHER!

- ✿ Learn about cats as service animals and the process of fostering and training one
- ✿ Job shadow at a local business (pet store, veterinary clinic, breeder or groomer) in a cat-related career that interests you
- ✿ Go to local and area cat shows, and explore the differences in cat breeds and the different ways they are shown
- ✿ Explore health safety issues with cats and the diseases cats have that might make humans ill
- ✿ Learn how local pet stores acquire cats
- ✿ Research all the kinds of parasites your cat might get, and find out how to protect yourself and your cat
- ✿ Do some comparison shopping for cat supplies
- ✿ Explore what kind of restrictions and laws your community has for cats
- ✿ Explore the uses and benefits of animal-assisted therapy
- ✿ Participate in the Cat Show at the Wyoming State Fair
- ✿ Visit the zoo to compare and contrast wild and domestic cats

### ENHANCE YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Give a demonstration on how to approach an unfamiliar cat safely

Demonstrate how to read cat food labels

Make community members aware of cat laws in your area through brochures or posters

### GET INVOLVED IN CITIZENSHIP AND SERVICE

Volunteer at a local animal shelter

Develop a plan to foster cats for deployed soldiers

Write a letter to your local paper about the importance of having cats spayed or neutered

Gather items such as cat food, cat toys, and brushes to donate to the animal shelter

Create new cat owner kits for animal shelters to give out to anyone who adopts a cat

### LEARN ABOUT LEADERSHIP

Organize a cat show for your 4-H club or community

Organize a community fundraiser to help benefit the local animal shelter

## EXHIBIT IDEAS

- ✿ Exhibit your cat at the fair
- ✿ Poster or diagram of cat parts
- ✿ Identify indoor and outdoor hazards that cats might encounter
- ✿ Make a first aid kit for your cat and tell why and how each item is used
- ✿ Share diet and nutrition information for raising a healthy cat
- ✿ Interview your veterinarian about a microchip to identify your cat
- ✿ Attend a cat show; take photos and make a notebook about cat breeds
- ✿ Write a story about famous cats for a younger sibling (Garfield, Sylvester, etc.)
- ✿ Visit a pet store and find as many pieces of cat equipment as you can, identify necessary equipment and costs
- ✿ Make a poster on diseases your cat can get and tell about its discovery, effects, treatments, etc.
- ✿ Research jobs related to cats; make a poster showing three jobs that interest you
- ✿ Develop a video showing the steps in training a cat
- ✿ Design a poster showing your cat's origin
- ✿ Make a toy for your cat
- ✿ Volunteer to feed or watch a neighbor's cat

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