



# Cat Project



Monthly Lesson Plan  
April 2022



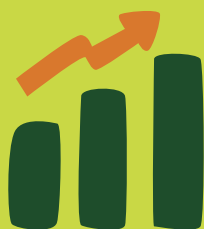
## Upcoming Deadlines

- ✓ May 1st: Project animal ID'd in 4HOnline
- ✓ May 1st: Cats must have current distemper & rabies vaccinations



## Project Progress

*Suggest the following as things your members should work on or accomplish with their project this month. Follow up to see which they achieved:*



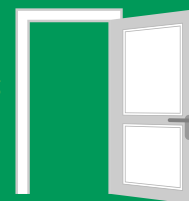
- E Record Books:** Update their "Equipment/Supplies Inventory" (p. 3) & "Animal Inventory" pages (p. 4)
- Hands On:** Members should begin training their cat to become comfortable in a travel carrier. Feeding them in the carrier can help them grow accustomed to it.
- Knowledge:** Members should learn the body parts of a cat. The judge may ask them to point them out during showmanship.
- Other:** Brainstorm a topic for their Cat educational poster and/or demonstration.
- Other:** Update your calendar with 2022 Animal Project Dates



## Opportunities

*See 4-H Calendars for full details & more recently added events*

- April 12 - Record Book Workshop (virtual)
- April 30th - ADCO Speech & Demonstration Contest



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## Attached Activities

Use these suggested activities at club project meetings to increase member knowledge and keep members engaged in their project.

### Group: Eye on Health

- Help members examine their cat's health.

### Individual: Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes

- This activity page can be completed by cat members at home and will help to review/learn the body parts of their cat.

\*for more Cat project activities, order the National 4-H Curriculum "Cat Helpers Guide" through the 4-H Office\*



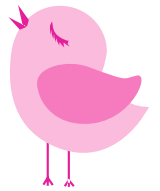
## Fun Fact

Ancient Egyptians would shave off their eyebrows in mourning when their pet cats died.



## Timely Tips to Share

Spring time brings young baby birds which may struggle to escape a keen cat. If members let their cat outside, make sure they attach a bell to its collar to give fledglings a warning.



## Resources



- The following & more can be found on the ADCO 4-H Cat Project Webpage: <http://adams4h.org/4-h-cat-pocket-pet-projects/>
  - 2022 Animal Project Save the Dates
  - Cat Project Activity Books (National 4-H)
  - E Record Books
  - Fourcast Newsletter Signup
  - Project Tipsheets



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# Eye on Health

To recognize when something is wrong with your cat, you need to know his normal attitude, temperature, appetite, heart rate and so on. This activity provides excellent opportunities for participants to observe behavior, examine animals and make judgments about cats' health. Youth will also be encouraged to keep their own safety in mind as they complete this task.

**Cat Project Skill:**  
Examining a cat

**Life Skill:**  
Personal safety

**Education Standard:**  
NS.K-12.6: Personal and Social Perspectives: Personal health

**Success Indicator:**  
Performs a physical examination on a cat.

**Time Involved:**  
60 minutes

**Suggested Group Size:**  
2 to 4

**Materials Needed:**  
Cooperative cats, penlights, scales, flea combs, gloves, rectal thermometers, petroleum jelly, health charts, stethoscopes, otoscopes, wristwatches, pencils

## Cat Examination Chart

Team members' names \_\_\_\_\_

Cat's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_

Indoor or outdoor cat? \_\_\_\_\_

Vital signs: Respiration rate (#/minute) \_\_\_\_\_

Pulse (beats/minute) \_\_\_\_\_

Temperature (F°) \_\_\_\_\_

Characteristics	Observations
Attitude _____	_____
Stance and movements _____	_____
Sounds _____	_____
Body condition (fat, thin) _____	_____
Skin (dandruff, sores, growth, parasites) & nails _____	_____
Coat (type, length of hair, shiny or dull, texture) _____	_____
Mucous membranes (color, moistness) _____	_____
Ears (redness, discharge, odor) _____	_____
Eyes (color, shape, clarity, discharge) _____	_____
Under tail (swelling, parasites) _____	_____
Teeth (color, gums, missing or broken) _____	_____
Abdomen _____	_____
Hydration _____	_____
Lymph nodes _____	_____
Nose (discharge, abnormal sounds) _____	_____
Reproductive status (spayed, neutered, pregnant) _____	_____
Habits _____	_____
Appetite _____	_____
Elimination (number, volume, frequency, color, consistency, parasites, blood) _____	_____
Other (describe) _____	_____

## Getting Started

Roll call Idea: Have members respond by telling how they know when their animals are really happy and contented.

Your group will enjoy the opportunity to discover for themselves the signs of a normal animal's health rather than being told or shown what they are. One way to do this is to have the youth divide into teams and play the role of veterinarians. A calm animal that can be easily restrained should be available for each team of three to four members, and an adult should carefully observe the process.

**Pounce!**

Each team will need a healthy, calm animal. An adult should oversee the examinations for the sake of everyone's safety.

Divide youth into teams. Give each team the supplies listed above and ask members to perform an examination of their animal. They should record their findings in the Cat Examination Chart or on another form of their own creation. When teams have completed their examinations, have them compare their findings.

## Cat Chat

### Meow! (share)

- What did you discover during your examination?
- How did your examination compare with those of the other teams?

### Nibble On This (process)

- Why is it essential for cat owners to know what is normal for your cats?
- Why should you keep your own safety in mind when you examine a cat?

### Sharpen Your Claws (generalize)

- Which parts of an examination can you do well? Which do you need to work on?

### Leap Forward (apply)

- If you found something abnormal during your exam, what would you do about it?
- How can you keep yourself safe in other situations?



Make sure to use a friendly and patient cat for this activity.

## CAT NIPS

- Stopping the purr: If you can't hear your cat's heart because it is purring, carry your cat over to a sink and turn on the water—the purring should stop.
- Normal feline vital signs: Respiration = 26–30/minute, pulse = 110–140/minute, temperature = 100–102°F.

Activity written by Susan Kerr.



## Practice Makes Purr-fect!

You probably now realize that performing a thorough examination on a cat is not all that easy! Sometimes it is also dangerous—especially if the cat is in pain, afraid or having trouble breathing. Cats have many weapons to protect themselves with and human safety should always be considered when a cat is examined.

### Conducting an Examination

A routine examination involves taking a cat's temperature, heart rate and respiratory rate. The skin and coat are checked for problems such as parasites, dehydration, wounds and growths. The chest is examined with a stethoscope to see if the heart and lungs sound normal. Lymph nodes are checked for normal size. An oral examination can detect problems with the teeth, gums, tongue and mouth. Ears should be checked for mites, debris, deafness or other problems. Eyes should be clear, bright and moist; make sure to check for normal vision. The abdomen can be palpated for pain, growths, swellings, constipation, pregnancy and so on. Watch the animal walk and move; look for limping or other signs of pain. Make sure all pulses are strong, regular and symmetrical. Overall, determine if the cat's attitude, behavior and responses are normal. History from the owner should reveal if the cat's appetite, behavior and elimination have been normal lately.

A fecal examination will indicate whether or not the cat has internal parasites. Even more thorough examinations can be performed using additional medical equipment or laboratory tests.

## Feline ADVENTURES

1. Visit a zoo to observe and record the behavior of the big cats. Have each member make a chart to record their findings about an animal from each species. Suggested columns across the page include animal species, mental condition/attitude, posture or stance, movement or gait, sounds, eating habits/appetite, sexual activity, skin/coat condition, eyes and bodily discharges. Ask youth to compare their observations.
2. Visit a veterinary clinic and watch a veterinarian perform examinations on several cats. Ask the doctor to explain any abnormal findings to you.

# Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes

It is important for you to know the parts of your cat's body. What if your cat is injured? How will you tell the veterinarian where your cat is hurt? By knowing the body parts, you can give exact information.

**Cat Project Skill:**  
Identifying parts of a cat

**Life Skill:**  
Communicating with others—presenting basic information

**Education Standard:**  
NS K-4.3 Characteristics of organisms

**Success Indicator:**  
Name, locate and describe at least 15 cat body parts.

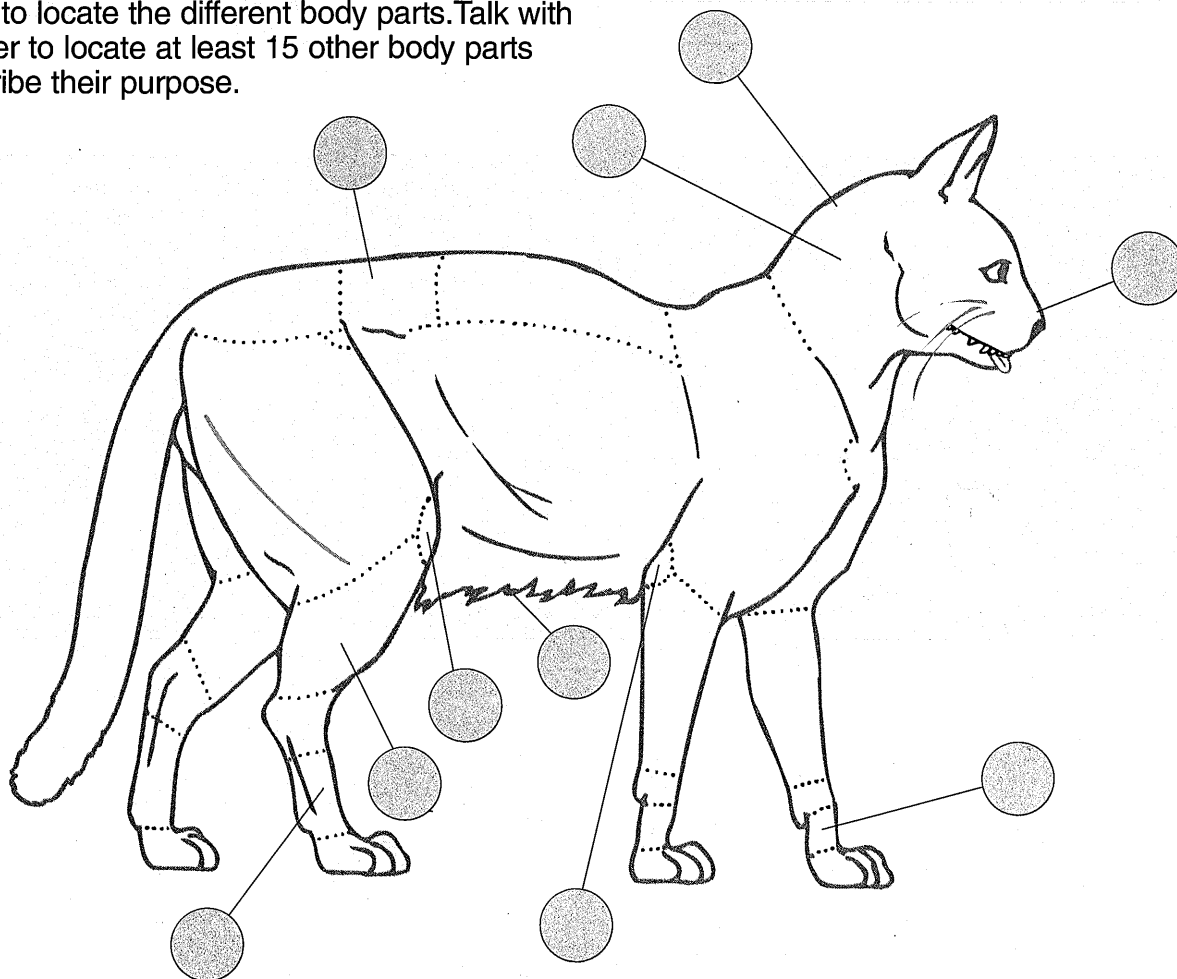
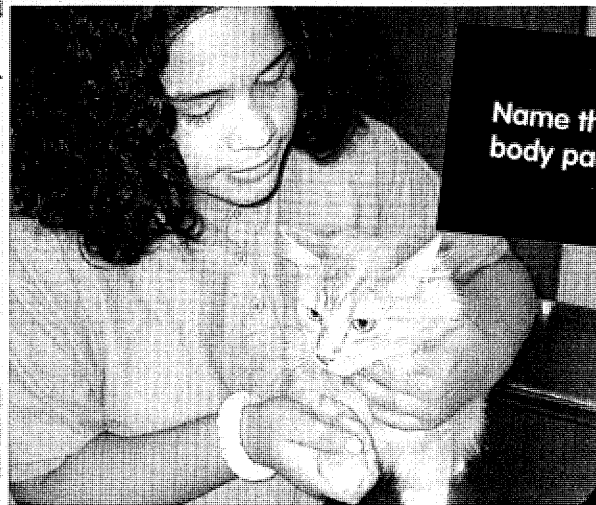
such as, "My cat has a cut on her knee." You can talk about your cat in everyday conversation, for example, "My cat is orange with white spots over his back, loin and ribs."

## Pounce!

Do you know the difference between your cat's head and shoulders, knees and toes? Look at the diagram of the cat below

and try to identify the missing parts. Use the "Cat Body Parts" list on page 11 to match the correct body part to those in the cat diagram. Write the correct body part number in the circles.

After you have finished matching the numbers, use a real cat to locate the different body parts. Talk with your helper to locate at least 15 other body parts and describe their purpose.



# Cat Chat



## Meow! (share)

- How did you learn the body parts?
- How was using the live cat to identify body parts different from using the diagram?

## Nibble On This (process)

- Why is it important to know the body parts of a cat?

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## Sharpen Your Claws (generalize)

- What body parts of a cat are similar to your body parts?

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## Leap Forward (apply)

- How can your knowledge about cat body parts help you learn about other animals?

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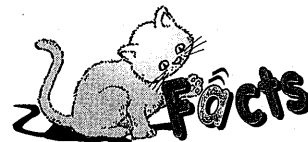
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## Cat Body Parts

- |             |                  |                |
|-------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Tail     | 10. Loin         | 19. Shank      |
| 2. Rump     | 11. Metacarpus   | 20. Tongue     |
| 3. Ribs     | 12. Metatarsus   | 21. Shoulders  |
| 4. Back     | 13. Nape         | 22. Chest      |
| 5. Elbow    | 14. Neck         | 23. Forearm    |
| 6. Whiskers | 15. Nose         | 24. Wrist      |
| 7. Belly    | 16. Eye          | 25. Toes       |
| 8. Ear      | 17. Nose leather | 26. Midsection |
| 9. Knee     | 18. Nostrils     | 27. Withers    |

## CAT NIPS

- The Manx is the only cat breed that does not have a tail.
- Cats have more bones than humans have, mostly because of their tails.



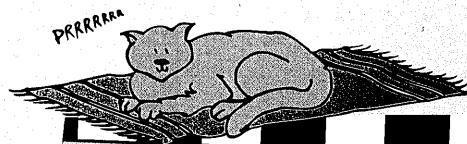
# Body Parts

## Head to Toe

- A cat's body shape helps it survive in the wild. Its small head and powerful hindquarters and back give the cat speed and an excellent sense of balance. These qualities help cats climb and walk along narrow ledges. Every part of a cat's body has a purpose. For example, the tongue is long and can scoop liquids like a spoon. The tongue also has rough areas to serve as a brush for the cat's fur. Pads are the soles of the feet. These are used to feel texture, size, shape and temperature, the way you use your fingertips.

## Body Language

- Knowing the names of a cat's body parts helps you talk about your cat. If your cat becomes ill or injured, you can tell the veterinarian what part of your cat needs attention. If you enter a cat show, the judge might ask you to name and locate some of your cat's body parts. Knowing body parts also helps you describe the differences in breeds of cats. For example, a Persian cat has a boxy body, round head, small ears and a broad nose. A Siamese cat has a long body, triangular face, large pointed ears and a straight nose. Purebred cats are recognized, in part, by the shape of their body parts.



## Feline ADVENTURES

1. Share with your helper five things cats can do with their bodies that dogs cannot do.