



# Pocket Pet Project



Monthly Lesson Plan  
January 2023



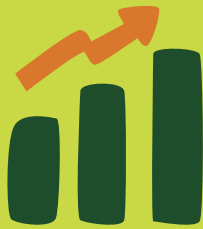
## Upcoming Deadlines

- ✓ February 1st - Re-enrollment deadline
- ✓ April 1st - New member enrollment deadline



## 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:** Download the 2023 Companion Animal Record Book
- Hands On:** Members should take time to bond with their pets this month. Brainstorm everyday activities they could involve their pet in - watch tv, study, etc.
- Knowledge:** Research a pet you would love to own one day - what supplies would you need, what breed/variety etc?
- Other:** Update your calendar with 2023 Animal Project Dates

2023 Animal Project Dates



## Opportunities

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

- March 1 -Project 101 Virtual





# Pocket Pet Project



January 2023

## Attached Activities

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

### Group: You Won't Believe

- This activity allows members to share their favorite pet story and learn how to relate to others.

### Individual: My Favorite Pet

- a. This worksheet can be completed by members at home and help learn about their current or future pets.

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



## Fun Fact

Goldfish do not have a "true" stomach. Instead they have long intestines that digest their food.



## Timely Tips to Share

Colorado is too cold for aquatic turtles to remain outside and hibernate. Make sure to have indoor housing for your turtles with a basking light to keep them healthy this winter.



## Resources



- The following & more can be found on the ADCO 4-H Cat Project Webpage: <http://adams4h.org/4-h-cat-pocket-pet-projects/>
    - 2023 Animal Project Save the Dates
    - Pocket Pet Project Activity Books (National 4-H)
    - E Record Books
    - Fourcast Newsletter Signup
- Project Tipsheets



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**ADAMS COUNTY**  
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EXTENSION

## You Won't Believe

**“Y**ou won't believe what my pet did!” Everyone who has ever had a pet usually has a story to tell. When a pet is a part of the home, favorite stories abound. Sharing these stories with others is not only an excellent way to appreciate pets but also a way to learn to tell stories and relate to others. This activity can be spread over several group meetings with one or more stories told each time.



<b>Life Skill:</b>	Relating to others through storytelling
<b>Pet Project Skill:</b>	Sharing views of pet behavior
<b>What Youth Will Do:</b>	Share a favorite pet story with others.
<b>Time Involved:</b>	One hour
<b>Suggested Group Size:</b>	Any
<b>Materials Needed:</b>	Poster paper or large paper, markers (optional)

## Getting Started

Give each person an opportunity to tell a short story about his or her pet or repeat a story read or heard about someone else's pet. In order to stimulate ideas for good stories, ask the group to brainstorm possibilities. These could be listed on a piece of paper or a poster. Then give everyone time to think about a story and, perhaps, practice with someone before telling it to the entire group.

### 1. Experience (Doing)

Provide a comfortable, supportive environment for storytelling. Encourage volunteering or, perhaps, put names in a hat to see who is next to tell a favorite pet story. Ask each person to think of a question to ask the storyteller.

You won't believe what my pet did!



## Talk it Over

### 2. Share (What happened?)

- Q. How did it feel to tell a pet story?
- Q. Why do pets make good subjects for stories?
- Q. What made one or more of the stories you heard fun to listen to?

### 3. Process (What's important?)

- Q. What did you learn about yourself by sharing a pet story?
- Q. What was easiest and what was most difficult for you when you shared a pet story with others?

### 4. Generalize (So what?)

- Q. What are some things good storytellers do to make their stories more interesting?
- Q. Why is learning to tell stories important to getting along with others?
- Q. What can you learn about people by the way they tell stories and the kinds of stories they tell?

### 5. Apply (Now what?)

- Q. How can you improve your storytelling skills?



## Challenges

1. Have the group or individuals interview adults or other youth about memorable experiences with pets. Share the stories with the group. Focusing on certain age groups such as under 4 years of age, teenagers, over 60, etc., may provide interesting contrasts in stories and telling stories.

## My Favorite Pet

**P**ets come in all kinds of shapes and sizes. You can learn about pets in many ways — talking to friends, searching the Internet, finding information in a library, attending a pet show or contacting a local animal shelter. In this activity you will gather information about a pet you now have or one you'd like to have someday.



**Life Skill:** Communicating with others

**Pet Project Skill:** Discovering your favorite pet

**Show of Success:** Gathers and shares information about a pet.

### Do the Activity

First find information about your favorite pet and its needs. In the space below write your pet's housing needs, health concerns and the food it likes to eat. Then share with someone in your family and at least one friend what you know about your favorite pet.

The kind of pet I have or hope to have: (circle)

- Mammal
- Fish
- Rodent
- Reptile
- Amphibian
- Insect (arachnid)
- Crustacean

Drawing or picture of my pet.

Where my pet lives

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What my pet eats

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Care my pet needs

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An interesting fact about my pet

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Why I like my pet

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Habits my pet has

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## Talk it Over

### Share with your helper

- Why do you like this animal for a pet?
- When did you first become interested in this pet?
- How did it feel to share what you know about your favorite pet?

### Tell what's important

Where did you find information?

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\_\_\_\_\_

Here's my favorite pet.



### Explore what you learned

Why should the whole family be involved when deciding to get a pet?

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### Imagine what's next

How can you find more about other pets that interest you?

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## Challenges

1. Draw a picture of your favorite pet, make a paper frame and put it up on the wall with an appropriate title.
2. Write a one-page report or make a one-minute audio tape about the history of your favorite pet and share it with your family and project helper. Start a Pet Challenges Book to keep all the information you gather.

## Pet Facts



### Kinds of Pets

Pets can be any living creature that lives in or near your home and depends on you for care and feeding. It can be a playful dog, a furry cat or a bouncy frog. It can even be a turtle, lizard, snake, bird or a pocket pet — a rat, a mouse, a hamster, a gerbil or a cavy (guinea pig).