



# Cat Project



Monthly Lesson Plan  
January 2023



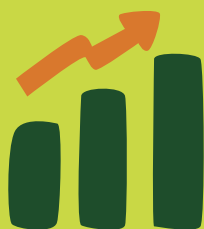
## Upcoming Deadlines

- ✓ 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 Recordbook
- Hands On:** Experiment with different types of grooming brushes - metal, plastic, gloves etc. Are there tools your cat dislikes or parts of their body they don't like being groomed at?
- Knowledge:** Members should research cat history and how they became domesticated.
- 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



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# Cat Project



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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: "Cat Pyramid Fun"

- This fun game helps members learn cat related terms.

### Individual: "Cat-a-Comb"

- This activity page can be completed by cat members at home and will help to learn about cat grooming and establish regular grooming practices

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



## Fun Fact

Cats spend 70% of their lives sleeping!



## Timely Tips to Share

Antifreeze is commonly used in car radiators and de-ice fluids in winter time and can be fatal to cats if ingested. Make sure it is properly stored and your vehicles are not leaking – cats are attracted to the taste.



## 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
  - Cat Project Activity Books (National 4-H)
  - E Record Books
  - Fourcast Newsletter Signup
  - Project Tipsheets



**4-H Agent - Kenzie Kimmel**

303-637-8109 / [kkimmel@adcogov.org](mailto:kkimmel@adcogov.org)



**Cat Superintendent - Val Skidmore**

[icepixi@yahoo.com](mailto:icepixi@yahoo.com)



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# Cat Pyramid Fun

Having fun while learning is one of the attractions of a great educational experience. Cat Pyramid is not only fun for all ages but is also an excellent way to develop skills while learning about cats and other animals.

**Cat Project Skill:**  
Learning cat-related terms

**Life Skill:**  
Communicating creatively

**Education Standard:**  
NL-ENG.K-12.4  
Communication skills

**Success Indicator:**  
Presents new information to other youth.

**Time Involved:**  
30 minutes for 10–15 sets of cards

**Suggested Group Size:**  
4–20

**Materials Needed:**  
3" x 5" word cards for each team of two to four players.

## Getting Started

The purpose of the game is for teammates on one side of the table to see if they can figure out words in a stated category. The words are being described by one-word clues given by their teammates on the other side of the table. For example, suppose the category is "Happy Birthday," the category that describes giving birth. The round might start with the clue giver saying, "kittens." The guesser might say "birth." Since that is wrong, the clue giver would continue saying "young." The guesser might say "queening," the correct answer for a cat giving birth.

**Pounce!**

**1.** Have the youth help you make sets of cards. List the categories on one side of the card and the words pertaining to that category on the other side of the card. You'll need a separate card for each category and a set of cards for each team of two to four players. Ideas for categories and words are included in this guide. The youths (and adults) will have fun making other categories relating to cats.

**2.** Select a game show host. Form teams of two to four with half of each team facing the other half.

This game makes me think.



**3.** Give directions and hand out one category card with the words related to that category on the reverse side to the half of the team that will give the clues.

**4.** Start the game. The team clue giver says the category, turns the card over and begins giving clues for the first word. Stop the round after a certain length of time or after most teams have raised their hands indicating they have figured all the words in the category.

**5.** Have the teams discuss words not easily understood.

**6.** The show host then gives the second set of cards to the other half of the team, and the game is repeated.

**7.** In order for everyone to have the opportunity to learn to communicate with others, have one-half of each team pair with one-half of a different team after two categories are completed.

**8.** Continue the game until all categories are used or until time expires. Discuss the experience.

This game is a lot of fun.





# Cat Chat

## Meow! (share)

- How did you feel about this game?
- What did you learn about giving clues?
- What part of the game was most difficult for you? Why?

## Nibble On This (process)

- What did you learn about communicating with others?
- What types of communications worked best? Why?

## Sharpen Your Claws (generalize)

- What did you learn about your skills in communicating with others?
- Why is it easier to communicate with someone you already know?

## Leap Forward (apply)

- What did you learn about communicating that will help you in future situations?

# Feline ADVENTURES

1. Reverse the game and play "Here's the Answer—What's the Category?" Instead of being given the category and trying to figure out the words, the clue givers are given a category and have to think of word clues that will allow the receiving team to guess the category. For example, the category might be "Animals that Nurse Their Young." The receiving team would try to guess this category based on the clues given such as goats, sheep, cows, horses, pigs, cats, dogs and humans.
2. Develop new categories and conduct a game show for another group of youth and/or adults.

## Game Starters

### Talk With the Animals - Sounds that animals make

Woof, baa, cluck, moo, quack, gobble, neigh, oink, meow, cock-a-doodle-do

### Pumping Iron - Names of minerals cats require

Iodine, magnesium, calcium, iron, phosphorous, zinc, selenium, sodium, copper, chloride

### All Creatures Great and Small - Experiences of young animals

Castrated, docked, identified, vaccinated, weighed, nursed, weaned, dewormed, tattooed, branded

### Operation Bandage - Types of veterinary equipment

Thermometer, stethoscope, syringe, needle, suture, otoscope, endoscope

### TV Dinners - Feeds fed to animals

Corn, soybean meal, wheat, barley, oats, chicken, fish

### What's the Scoop - Equipment used on the farm

Waterer, feeder, rake, shovel, pitchfork, scales, combine, pail, tractor

### At the Fair - Cat breeds

Persian, Siamese, Scottish Fold, Cornish Rex, Maine Coon, Ragdoll, Burmese, Abyssinian, Russian Blue, Korat

### Name That Part - Cat parts

Hock, ear, tail, paw, knee, stifle, back, nape, chest, wrist, heel

### And the Vet Says... - Cat diseases

Feline Leukemia, rabies, distemper, FUS, FIP, URI, calici virus, diabetes

### Happy Birthday - Words that describe giving birth

Queening, calving, lambing, whelping, kidding, farrowing, foaling, kindling, hatching

### In the Cat Bowl - Items found in cats' diets

Corn, soybean meal, vitamins, protein, minerals, water, fish, liver

### 9-5 - Cat-related Occupations

Groomer, veterinarian, laboratory assistant, pet store operator, nutritionist, pet toy manufacturer

### Plants Poisonous to Cats

Iris, daffodil, mistletoe, poinsettia, hyacinth, nettle, Easter lily, holly, oleander, rhododendron

### Cat Internal Parasites

Tapeworms, roundworms, hookworms, coccidia, thread worm, whip worms, flukes, lung worms, heart worms

### Cat Emergencies

Burns, wounds, choking, broken bones, poisoning, heat prostration, shock

### Signs of a Sick Cat

Listlessness, rough coat, loss of appetite, persistent diarrhea, repeated vomiting, watery eyes, sneezing, lumps, nasal discharge, high temperature

### Cat Medicine Box

Tweezers, baby thermometer, petroleum jelly, mineral oil, bandaging materials, needle nose pliers, scissors

### Cat-related Expressions

What's New Pussycat, Cat's Meow, Cat's Pajamas, Scaredy Cat, Cat On a Hot Tin Roof, Cat's Eyes, Catwalk, Cat and Mouse, Cat Nap

### Cat-related Terms

Queen, kitten, tom cat, litter, spaying, neutering, litter box

### Cat Talk

Purr, growl, hiss, meow, call, chirr

### Cartoon Cat Characters

Garfield, Felix, Fraidy Cat, Tiger, Marmalade, Morris, Toonses, Heathcliff, Bill the Cat

### Cat Equipment

Collar, lead, name tag, bell, harness, litter box, scratching post, brush, toys, carrier

### Cat Skeleton

Cranium, ribs, radius, carpus, tibia, pelvis, scapula, phalange



# Cat-a-Comb

**Cat Project Skill:**  
Grooming a cat

**Life Skill:**  
Accepting responsibility  
—managing self

**Education Standard:**  
NL-ENG.K-12.12  
Applying Language skills

**Success Indicator:**  
Properly groom a cat.

**G**rooming your cat is very important. It is a special time for you and your cat. Grooming helps keep your cat healthy. Frequent grooming helps you find skin problems, external parasites and injuries. Grooming also gets rid of loose hair, keeping furniture and carpets free of hair. A third reason for grooming your cat is to make him beautiful. Cats groom themselves by licking their fur and removing dead hair. They will

swallow much of this hair. Hairballs are formed as this hair collects in the stomach. Regular grooming is a good prevention for hairballs. Grooming your cat also helps strengthen the bond between the two of you. Grooming your cat is an important responsibility. In this activity you'll groom a cat and share the importance of grooming cats with others.

## Pounce!

Check the grooming equipment you now have. Record the time you spend grooming your cat over a one-month period. Then compare your grooming schedule with others.

- Small, soft, natural bristle brush**—to loosen dirt and dead hair from short and long-haired cats
- Fine-tooth flea comb**—to smooth the coat and remove fleas and dirt from short-haired cats
- Wide-tooth metal comb**—for initial combing of long-haired cats; removes tangles
- Cotton balls**—for cleaning the eyes, ears and nose
- Pet toothpaste**
- Small soft toothbrush**—for cleaning the teeth
- Chamois, grooming cloth or rough wash cloth**—to give shine to the coat of short haired cats
- Rubber brush**—for general grooming on short-haired cats



Clean the cat's ears with cotton balls and baby oil.



Combing and brushing a cat's coat.

### Brushing Tip

On short-haired cats, using a chamois will pick up loose hairs and dust and bring a shine to your cat's coat.

## My Cat Grooming Schedule

Task	How Often Done			
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Brush				
Comb				
Clean eyes				
Clean nose				
Clean teeth				
Chamois the coat				



# Cat Chat

## Meow! (share)

- What grooming skills did you practice?
- How did your cat act while it was being groomed?

## Nibble On This (process)

- What could happen to your cat if you didn't groom it?

## Sharpen Your Claws (generalize)

- Why is it important for you to brush or comb your hair daily?

## Leap Forward (apply)

- How does grooming your cat strengthen your relationship with your pet?

## C A T N I P S

- When washing a cat, lay a screen on the bottom of the tub for your cat to grasp with its claws.



# Cat Grooming

## Brushing your cat's hair

- Long-haired cats should be groomed for at least 15 minutes everyday. This helps to prevent tangling and matting. Mats are most often found behind the cat's ears, under the legs and on the belly. They are a hiding place for fleas and a breeding area for infections. Short-haired cats should be groomed weekly. In between grooming, pet your cat from head to tail to loosen the dead hair. First, use the bristle brush or rubber brush to loosen dead hair and debris from your cat's coat. Second, use a fine tooth comb (short-haired cats) or wide tooth comb (long-haired cats) to remove tangles from the coat.



Use pet toothpaste or salt and water.

## Brushing your cat's teeth

- Use pet toothpaste and a small soft child or pet toothbrush to clean your cat's teeth. Never use human toothpaste on pets.

## Ears

- If you notice any dark, crusty wax or debris in your cat's ear or a bad smell, call your veterinarian. Your cat may have ear mites. Untreated ear mites can cause a serious ear infection. This could harm your cat's hearing. Notice whether or not your cat scratches its ears. A cotton ball should be used to clean a cat's ears. Moisten the cotton ball with baby oil and wipe out the visible part of the ear.

## Eyes

- Moisten a cotton ball with warm water and gently remove any debris from the corner of your cat's eye.

## Nose

- Moisten a cotton ball with warm water and gently remove any debris from your cat's nose.

## Nails

- Ask your helper or veterinarian to trim your cat's nails or claws.

# Feline ADVENTURES

1. Visit a pet store or animal shelter and find as many pieces of cat equipment as you can. Take note of their cost. Share this information with your helper.
2. Give a presentation about grooming a cat to your group.
3. Visit professional pet groomers and watch them work. Ask questions.
4. Make a grooming kit. Include at least a brush, flea comb, cotton balls and rough wash cloth.