



Cat Project



Monthly Lesson Plan



March 2022

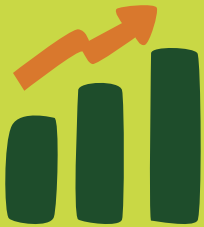
Upcoming Deadlines

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

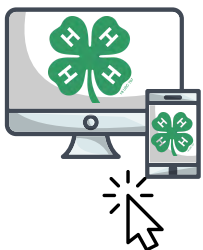


Project Progress

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



1. **E Record Books:** Download the 2022 Companion Animal Record book for their age and complete the front page and Goals page
2. **Hands On:** Work on getting their cat to allow them to cut their nails. Begin with touching paws while giving treats.
3. **Knowledge:** Members can discuss with another cat owner the advantages and disadvantages of cat characteristics (ie. Adult v. kitten, longhair v. shorthair, male v. female).
4. **Other:** Review project requirements listed on the Project Tipsheets
5. **Other:** Update your calendar with 2022 Animal Project Dates



Opportunities

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

- March 17 - Virtual Record Book Workshop
- Watch Fourcast and calendar for upcoming opportunities.





Cat Project



March 2022

Attached Activities

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

Group: Facts About Cats

- This game can be adapted to play in person or online with youth voting "right" or "wrong" on different cat facts.

Individual: 4-H Cat Activity Page

- This activity page can be completed by cat members at home and will help to review/learn information and begin to plan for your upcoming 4-H year.

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



Fun Fact

Cats have 32 muscles in each of their ears that allow them to swivel and rotate their ears 180 degrees.



Timely Tips to Share

If your cat has access to your garage in the winter months, check your car engine before starting it up. Cats will sometimes sleep on top of the engines of parked cars to soak in their warmth.



Resources



- The following & more can be found on the ADCO 4-H Cat Project Webpage: <https://adams.extension.colostate.edu/4-h-youth/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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ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



Speaking Up

Facts about Cats

The youth you lead will enjoy learning more about their cats through this activity. Information passed from one person to the next is often not true. Anticipate differences of opinion as your group discusses each of the "facts" about cats.

Cat Project Skill:
Debating cat sayings

Life Skill:
Leading a discussion

Education Standard:
NL-ENG.K-12.4
Communication Skills

Success Indicator:
Discusses popular cat facts and misconceptions.

Time Involved:
40-60 minutes

Suggested Group Size:
Any

Materials Needed:
Set of picture cards and cat facts answer sheets for each group

Getting Started

Make copies of the picture card page and cat facts answer sheet. Cut out each card. Form groups of five to ten with an older youth in charge of each group. Provide each group with a set of cards and a cat facts answer sheet.

Pounce!

Each group is seated in a circle. The group leaders give their first cards to the person on their left. This person shows the card to the group and reads what it says. The group indicates whether the

saying is true or false. If there is a difference of opinion, the person with the card facilitates the discussion regarding why people feel as they do. Youth with different answers do their best to change each other's opinion. The facilitator needs to stay neutral. After debating or agreeing, the group leader reads the answer. The group leader hands the next youth a card, and play continues. When the cards are used up or everyone has had a chance to be the discussion leader, ask the questions in Cat Chat.



True or False?

Cat Chat

Meow! (share)

- How did it feel to lead a discussion?
- Why do people have different ideas about what is correct?

Nibble On This (process)

- Why is it often hard not to express your own opinion when leading a discussion? What happens when you do?
- What did you and others do to be sure everyone had a chance to speak?

Sharpen Your Claws (generalize)

- What other times have you led a discussion?
- What special responsibilities does a discussion leader have in any group?

Leap Forward (apply)

- What did you learn about leading a discussion that will help you next time you have the chance to do so?

Feline ADVENTURES

- Use the cards to have the youth do pantomimes or play charades. They are lots of fun as well as good opportunities for learning.

Right or Wrong?

1. A cat can live a happy, healthy life without ever going outdoors.



2. Short-haired cats never need brushing.



3. A stray or abandoned cat usually only lives for a week or two.



4. Siamese kittens are white when they are born.



5. The best way to pick up a cat is by the fur on the back of its neck.



6. A cat's whiskers help it "see" in the dark.



7. Cats are color blind.



8. It's okay to give a cat chicken bones.



9. Cats don't drink water.



10. A cat that catches a lot of mice doesn't need cat food.



11. Cats do not need regular baths.



12. Cats need more protein than dogs.



13. A cat that eats grass is not getting enough vegetables in its diet.



14. A falling cat will always land on its feet.



15. A cat should not be fed dog food.



16. A cat that is foaming at the mouth probably has rabies.



17. Cats should be fed mostly fish.



18. A cat uses its tail to tell you how it feels.



19. This is what a cat's paw print looks like.



20. Cats need milk.



21. Cats can see in total darkness.



22. A cat's ears have thirty muscles.



23. Cats usually have five toes on the front feet and four on the back.



24. Cats should be vaccinated annually for rabies.



25. A ball of yarn makes a good toy for a kitten.



26. A cat that is spayed will get fat and lazy.



27. It's ok to use dog flea spray on a cat.



28. Almost all kittens have blue eyes.



29. Cats can be trained.



30. Raw eggs are good for cats.



Right or Wrong? - Answers

1. **True.** A cat can get plenty of exercise indoors and is usually safer indoors than outdoors.
2. **False.** Cats need and enjoy occasional brushing, which removes dead hair and keeps the skin clean and healthy.
3. **True.** Homeless cats live in constant danger and are usually soon killed by cars, dogs, poison, thirst or starvation.
4. **True.** The dark color on ears, face, paws and tail develops later.
5. **False.** Use two hands to support the cat's body, holding it close to you.
6. **True.** They are very sensitive and act as "feelers" to let the cat know when it's about to brush against something.
7. **True.** Cats see everything as black, gray or white.
8. **False.** A cat will splinter and swallow the bones, which will easily kill it.
9. **False.** All cats need water.
10. **False.** Even if it were able to catch enough mice to live on, it would not be a balanced diet.
11. **True.** Cats can usually keep themselves clean by licking their fur with their tongues.
12. **True.** Cats need two to four times as much protein as dogs.
13. **False.** Cats usually eat grass just because they like the taste, or because they need to throw up something they have swallowed. Grass will wrap around a sharp object in the cat's stomach and protect the throat as the object is vomited.
14. **False.** Though cats can sometimes twist around in mid-air and land safely, they are often hurt or killed by a fall.
15. **True.** Since cats need more protein than dogs, dog food is not adequate for them.
16. **False.** Foam around the mouth usually indicates indigestion or other illness.
17. **False.** Too much fish will cause vitamin and thiamin deficiencies, which may cause convulsions, paralysis or death.
18. **True.** A swishing tail indicates anger. Tail-up-straight expresses pride or contentment. Tail curled around body indicates fear or insecurity.
19. **False.** A cat keeps its claws retracted when it walks, so they do not appear in the paw print.
20. **False.** Although some cats enjoy milk, it is not a necessary part of the diet. Many adult cats are made sick by it. Milk is not a substitute for water.
21. **False.** They can see better in the dark than many other animals but cannot see in **total** darkness.
22. **True.** The thirty muscles in the cat's ears enable them to twitch or flatten back against the head.
23. **True.** Some cats, however, have extra toes.
24. **True.** This is a serious disease, usually fatal.
25. **False.** Although kittens enjoy playing with yarn balls, they can easily get tangled in the yarn and strangle to death, or swallow long pieces of it.
26. **False.** Spaying won't affect a cat's weight—overfeeding will! Well-cared-for, spayed cats stay slender and active.
27. **False.** Dog flea spray contains toxic substances, which the cat will pick up as it licks its fur. It can cause sickness or death. Cat flea spray is specially made not to harm cats if they lick it off their fur.
28. **True.** The gold, green or orange pigment develops later as the cat matures.
29. **True.** Although more independent than dogs and therefore less "trainable," they can be taught to walk on a leash and do simple tricks. Training is most successful when begun at an early age.
30. **False.** The white of a raw egg is harmful to cats. Cooked eggs are okay, and many cats enjoy them.



4-H CAT ACTIVITY PAGE

Developed by **Samantha Bernard**, Extension Agent, Robertson County

Beginning



Life Skill
Responsibility

Your 4-H COMPANION ANIMAL—CAT Project

Responsibility is an important skill to have when you own a cat. You have to know about your cat and what it needs and then you have to be able to care for your pet. This 4-H project can help. Some of the skills you can learn and activities you can do in this project are listed below. Check your favorites. Then, work with your 4-H leaders and parents to make a 4-H project plan of what you want to do and learn this year.

- Learn the advantages and disadvantages of owning a cat with the following characteristics: adult, kitten, longhair, shorthair, male, female.
- Learn the difference between “spaying” and “neutering.”
- Visit a professional groomer and learn the proper way to groom a cat.
- Learn about cat parasites or diseases that also affect humans.
- Learn the personality and behavior differences between male and female cats.
- There are more than 40 breeds of domestic cats. Find information about three of them and write a report.
- Adopt a cat (if you don't already have one) after you learn about breeds, gender, health care, housing, expense and time commitment of caring for cats.
- Conduct a demonstration about cats at a 4-H meeting. (Don't bring a real cat!)
- Complete a service project using project skills you have learned.
- Other _____



My Cat Budget

Being responsible for your cat means providing all the things your pet needs. Some things you only have to buy one time, and others you have to buy often. Visit a store that sells pet supplies, research on the Internet or talk to a veterinarian to find out the cost of each item. Then work with your parents to make a budget for how you will care for your cat.

Item	Cost
Litter box and scoop	
Food and water bowls	
Scratching post	
Kennel	
Brush/comb and nail clippers	
Spay/neuter surgery	
Cat bed	
Food	
Treats	
Kitty litter	
Annual vet visit	
Grooming	
Furball medication	
Toys	
Collar, leash and harness	
Boarding	
Unexpected medical costs: _____	_____
Other unexpected costs: _____	_____



My Cat Story

Describe your cat! On another sheet of paper, write about your cat. Write about breed, gender, health, age, personality, training, type of food and exercise. Include a picture if you'd like. Share your story with others and keep it in your 4-H project folder.

Cat Nips

- Long-haired cats generally have soft, beautiful voices; shorthairs usually have loud, harsh voices.
- Cats sweat through their paws.
- Cats walk on their toes. The soles of their feet rarely touch the ground.
- Most cats prefer to have food available at all times and to nibble small, frequent meals throughout the day.
- Fleas can transmit one form of tapeworms to cats.
- Antifreeze is very poisonous to dogs and cats. It tastes sweet and they like to lick it.
- Remember to wash your hands after petting animals. This will help keep you from catching diseases and passing them to your own animals.

4-H CAT ACTIVITY PAGE

Career Scavenger Hunt

By asking others, researching on the Internet, or reading a book or magazine—search for a job that uses companion animal skills and knowledge. Here's what you are looking for.

1. Job Title _____
2. Job Description _____

3. Education Required _____

Don't forget to submit your project report to your 4-H leader.



Service Ideas

- Gather items such as cat food, cat toys and brushes to donate to an animal shelter
- Help find homes for stray cats at an animal shelter
- Conduct an educational "show-and-tell" about cats for younger kids
- Volunteer to care for someone else's cat

Additional Resources

Responsibility is an important part of owning a cat. This activity sheet has given you the opportunity to explore things to think about as you care for your cat. You've learned important facts about cats, such as their body parts, and done other cool things. But this is just the beginning! Use the resources listed below to continue learning about cats.

- School & public libraries
- People who work with cats, such as veterinarians, pet shop owners and groomers
- 4-H project groups
- The 4-H companion animal Web page:

www.utextension.utk.edu/4h/projects/companimal.htm

For more ideas, contact your 4-H office.

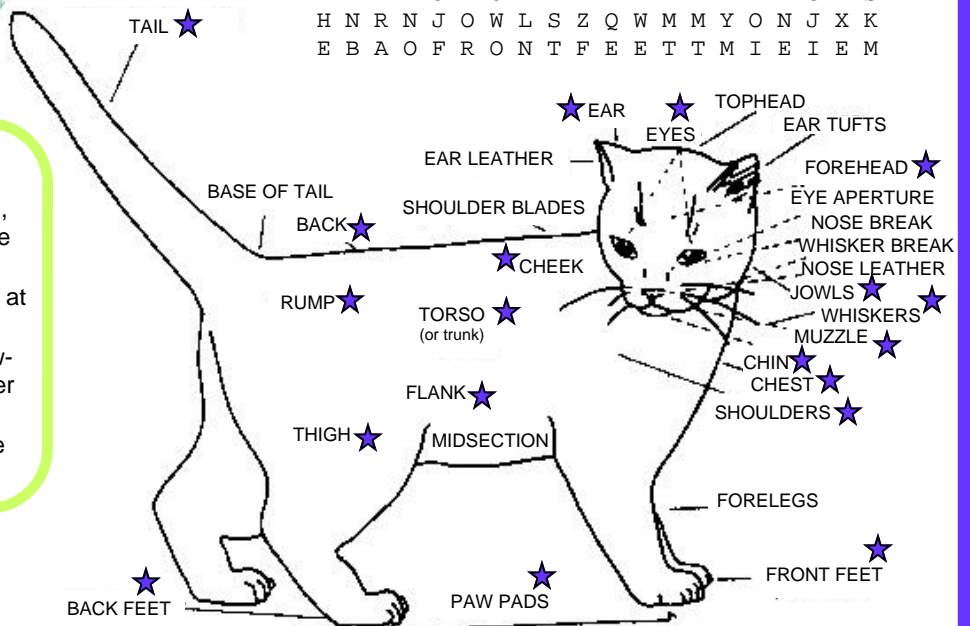
Other 4-H Cat Activities

- The pet show at the county fair
- 4-H demonstrations
- Enter cat photos, paintings or drawings in the fair

Feline Word Find

Study the drawing below. Then, search for the names of the body parts marked with a star. ★

Z T B L Q T H F J H Z C U S C D M O G Y
 K C A B M C Q G N J G W H P V K H S X M
 D F W W W Q Y F G I K I A E L C S R P N
 U J O C N M H N S W O W H N S I E O E K
 A D F E R L Z Z U M P H E T L T Y T Z M
 C Q S T E O I T H A P I F P I E E F N S
 Y A A N H H K W D O N S X V M R N I E L
 V I F Z Q N E S S O G K D D X U H W E X
 L F O O A S F A R H Q E S C M C R Y N F
 G H S L B P C T D D O R R H Y P H F V R
 A Q F B Q L E L S S M S E E W W D O X J
 D H R R V E A R S X G I D E W Y B G B Q
 K M D S F I V E T O E S L K S Z H L J M
 S K T K F D N M X R N D U K Z H Q P U A
 K N C H Z L A G Z A T A O A C I A Y V X
 H A Q J Q L J T W U I H H H R L A H F K
 B O T D D Y X Y I C R E S C F A I K O R
 K Z M E J P O R M A R T E R I E M G T S
 H N R N J O W L S Z Q W M M Y O N J X K
 E B A O F R O N T F E E T T M I E I E M



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