Mini 4-H
Cats

Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grades

Mini 4-H Parent's Page

As a Mini 4-H parent, your job will be to guide and encourage your child through this project. We suggest that you do not complete the activities for them. Instead, help them, guide them, work with them, and let them do all that they possibly can. The 4-H motto is "Learn by doing" and is the best educational tool that we can provide for youth.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Purdue Extension- Hancock County at 317-462-1113 or hancockces@purdue.edu

Mini 4-H

Welcome to Mini 4-H! You are now a member of the 4-H family. Mini 4-H'ers have lots of fun. There are many activities for you to explore. You can try new things. You can share it with your friends and family.

An adult can help you with your project, and you can bring your project to the 4-H fair. Many people will be able to see what you have done. You will receive a ribbon made just for Mini 4-H. The 4-H fair is an exciting time for 4-H members and families. It is a week that allows community youth to show their talents, interests, and enthusiasm for learning!

4-H Symbol: A four-leaf clover with an "H" in each leaf

4-H Colors: Green and white

4-H Motto: To make the best, better

4-H Pledge: I pledge my Head to clearer thinking

                     My Heart to greater loyalty

                     My Hands to larger service and

                     My Health to better living,
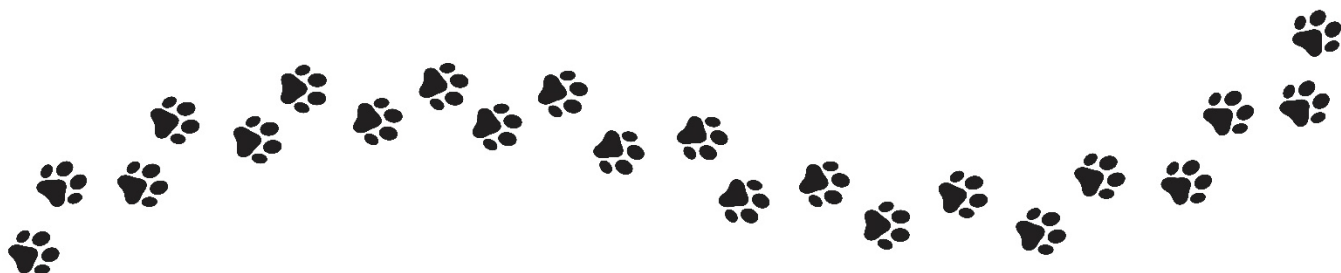
                     For my club, my community

                     my country, and my world.

Mini Cats

Welcome to the Mini Cat Project! Are you ready to learn about your curious new friend? Cats are one of the most popular pets in the world! They have been around for thousands of years. In this packet you will learn how to care for your cat. You will also learn how to tell if your cat is happy and healthy. Let's pounce right into it!

Keywords to Learn:
*pounce
*purr
*meow
*hiss
*litter box
*veterinarian (or vet for short)
*whiskers
*breeds
*mats
*retractable claws
*kneading

What Will I Do?

Poster:

      Option 1: exhibit a poster showing the parts of a cat

      Option 2: exhibit a poster about how to properly care for a cat

You can color the cat on your poster in the same colors/patterns as your own cat or the cat you wish to own in the future.

Posters are displayed horizontally, are 22" by 14" in size, mounted on a firm backing, and covered in clear plastic or other transparent material. Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right-hand corner indicating your name and grade.

The poster and parts page are available at the Purdue Extension-Hancock County Office, 972 E Park Ave, Greenfield, IN 46140. Official guidelines can be found in the Hancock County 4-H Handbook, available online or in the Extension Office.
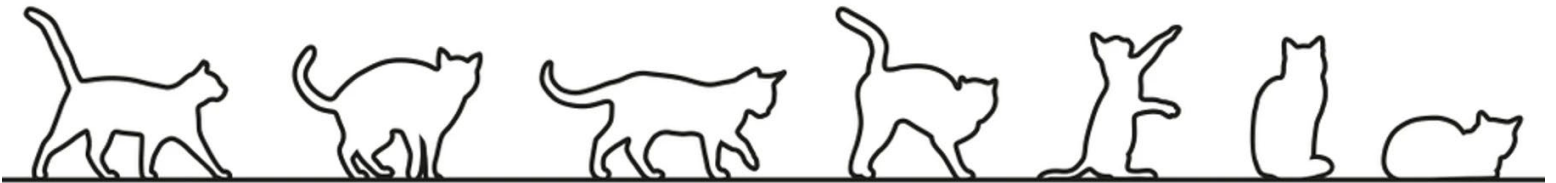
<u>Mini Cat Show</u>:

- Mini 4-H members do NOT need to own a cat to participate in the project.
- Bring a stuffed animal cat to show- **No real cats are to be brought in by Mini 4-H members**. The stuffed animal cat should have free-moving limbs that are separate from the body.

You will bring your stuffed animal cat to the judging table in proper holding form and present the cat just like in the 4-H cat show. The judge will ask you a few basic knowledge questions about cats (Example- What is a baby cat called?)
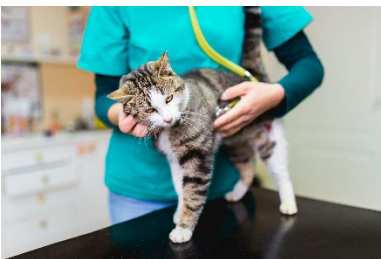If you have a cat of your own, you can bring a photo of your cat as well and share it with the judge.

If you have questions about the project, please reach out to the project superintendent, Heather Melton, or the Purdue Extension Office, 317-462-1113.
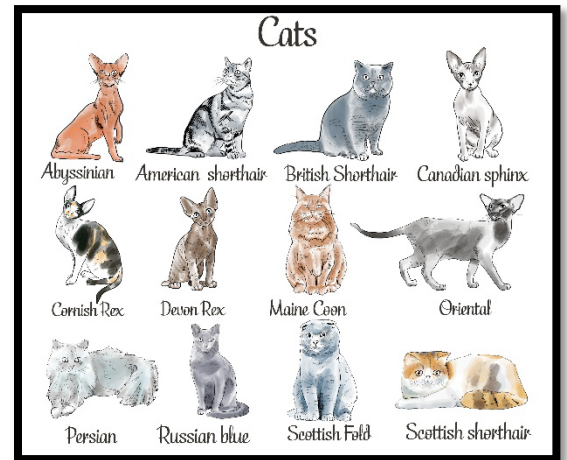
Cat Facts

- A baby cat is called a **kitten**. When a kitten is born their eyes are closed. It will take about 8-10 days for their eyes to open. Within a few short weeks your kitten will be ready to explore its new world.

- Don't be surprised if your new kitten likes to jump (or **pounce**) on you when you least expect it! They are just trying to play. This is why it's a good idea to have safe things for your kitten to climb and scratch on. Otherwise, they might get in trouble for tearing up things like furniture.

- Cats and kittens need a **litter box** with cat-safe litter. This is where they will use the bathroom. It's important to scoop the poop out of the litter box daily because cats are very clean animals.

- As your kitten grows into an adult cat, it is important to make sure to take them to see a **veterinarian,** or **vet** for short. The vet will make sure your cat is happy and healthy. They will also give them shots to keep them from getting sick.

- A cat will **purr** when it's comfortable and happy. When a cat talks to you, it will **meow**. When a cat is mad, it will **hiss** and put its ears back. If you see this, it's best to leave them alone until they calm down.

- All cats have **whiskers**. These are long hairs on their nose. They help them feel the things around them. It's important to never pull or cut their whiskers.
- There are a lot of different **breeds** of cats. These different breeds can have long or short fur. Cats come in many different colors. Some cats can have really long tails and some may have short tails.
- No matter the fur type, it's important to brush your cat. If your cat has long fur, make sure to brush their fur everyday so they don't get any knots, also known as **mats**, in their fur.

- Another cool thing about a cat is their nails are not always out. They can push their nails out and pull them back into their paws. This is known as **retractable claws**.
- They sometimes scratch their paws back and forth while also pushing their nails in and out of their paws before they lay down. This is called

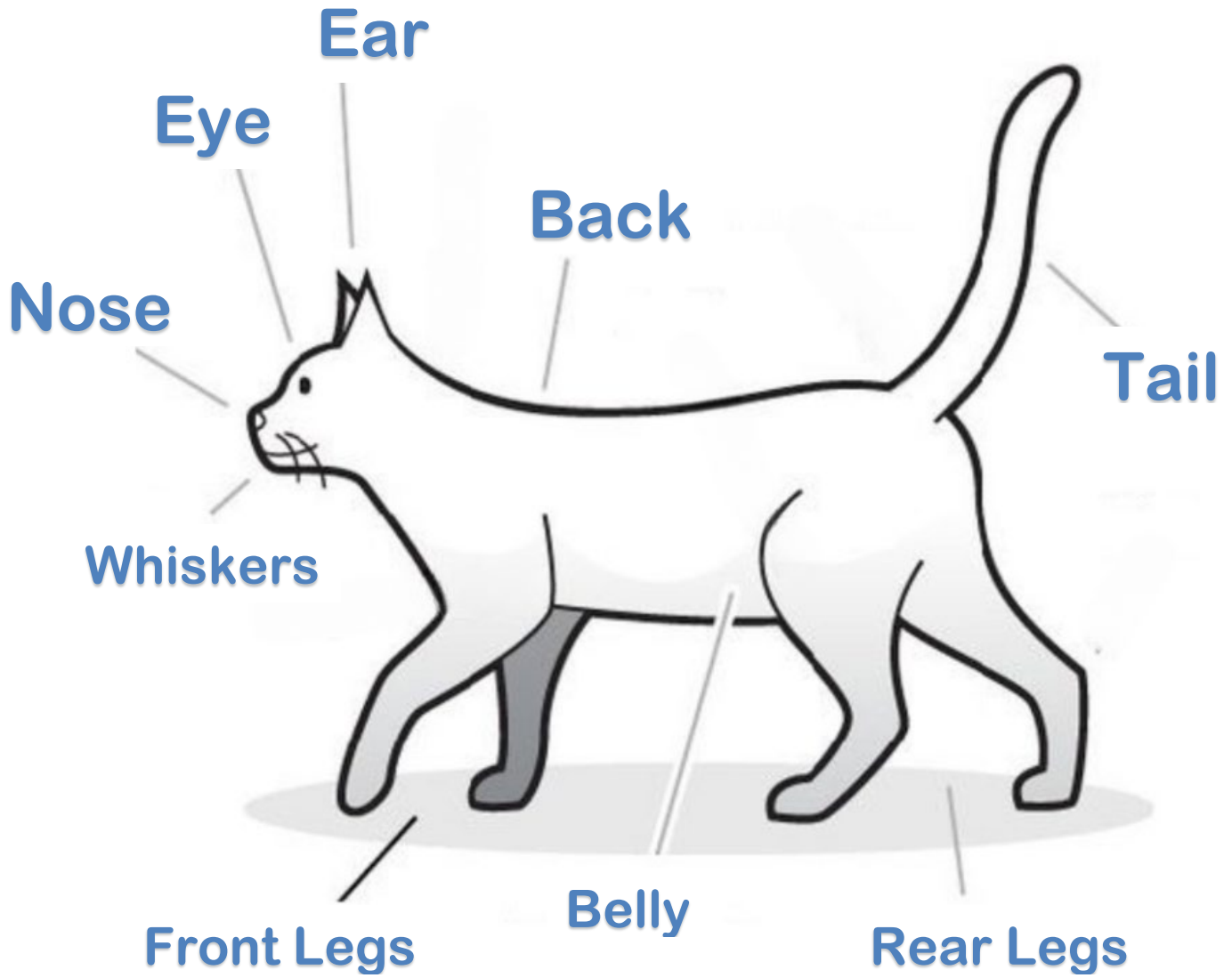**kneading**. They may also purr when they do this. This is a sign your cat is happy and comfortable. This is why it's also important to clip your cat's nails so they don't get too long or stuck on anything.

Even though having a cat can be a lot of work and there may be a lot of new things to learn, they can make wonderful family pets. If you want to learn more about cats, try checking out a book at your local library. If you are looking to add a cat to your family, your local shelter is a great place to start.

Parts of a Cat

Ear

Eye

Back

Nose

Tail

Whiskers

Front Legs

Belly

Rear Legs

Build a Cat