



CLAY COUNTY 4-H CATS

*Updated for 2024

OBJECTIVE:

The 4-H Cat Project provides youth a fun and hands-on learning experience that develops life skills, as well as teaches valuable information about properly caring for their animal. Subjects such as general care, nutrition housing, and health care are presented in the curricular materials, through workshops and in preparation of an exhibit. Youth also have the opportunity to develop responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communication skills through active participation in the 4-H Cat Project.

ENROLLMENT:

- a) All 4-H cats and/or kittens must be owned and cared for by 4-H member by May 15th of the current year.

HEALTH:

- a) Each cat presented for exhibition must be accompanied by a [certificate of vaccination](#) (4-H 777) that is signed by a licensed and accredited veterinarian. This form will indicate the vaccination dates and the date and test results of the feline leukemia test.
- b) Claws must be clipped before participating in the Cat Show.
- c) 4-H cats must be free of fleas, fungus, ear mites, internal or external parasites or other communicable diseases. No cats may be exhibited that test positive for or show any symptoms of any communicable diseases.
- d) Vaccinations must be given within 1 year of show date and at least 2 weeks prior to show date:
 - Feline panleukopenia
 - Feline rhinotracheitis
 - Calcivirus
 - Rabies
- e) All cats must have a negative Feline Leukemia TEST within one hundred eighty (180) days of the show or the Feline Leukemia vaccination within 1 year of show and at least 2 weeks prior to show. The Feline Leukemia vaccination is not a requirement, but is recommended.
- f) It is recommended but not required to consult your veterinarian about a heart worm program. It is required to have a Negative fecal exam for parasites not more than 30 days prior to exhibition.
- g) All cats over 3 months of age must be vaccinated for rabies by a licensed and accredited veterinarian within 1 year of the cat show.
- h) It is recommended that all 4-H cats, other than pedigreed breeding stock, be neutered or spayed.
- i) Pregnant or lactating female cats will not be permitted to show.

GROOMING:

4-H Exhibitors may receive clipping and grooming assistance from members of their immediate family (father, mother, and siblings), legal guardian, from a current Indiana 4-H member, and from individuals enrolled in the Indiana 4-H Approved Animal Grooming Assistance Program. Please contact the Extension Office with questions on how to be approved or to see if you are already on the approved groomers list.



SHOW:

- a) All kittens must be at least 4 months of age by the day of the show.
- b) No cats will be left overnight at the fairgrounds!
- c) A 4-H member may enter and show a maximum of 2 cats in the 4-H cat show.
- d) The cat(s) may be purebred or household pets. Cats do not need to be registered or pedigreed in order to be in the 4-H cat show.
- e) Cats will be classed according to their predominant characteristics.
- f) All 4-H cats must be brought and taken from the show in carriers. Cats on leashes without pet carrying cases will not be accepted. Please do not use paper/cardboard boxes as carriers. A plastic laundry basket with a lid makes a secure carrier. The only time the animal should be removed from the carrier is when they are showing or for last minute grooming. Leashes and collars should be used.
- g) The cat will be removed from its carrier during judging. The member will stay and watch his or her cat being judged, then return it to its carrier. 4-H cats must not be left unattended at any time. If a cat is not on the judging table at the time the class is judged, they will not be judged. The member is not allowed to speak with the judge unless so required by the judge.
- h) Each 4-Hers cat will be judged on (a) health, (b) cleanliness, (c) grooming, (d) personality, and (e) if all categories are equal, the judge will choose a winner by its “star quality.”
- i) 4-H exhibitors are asked to read the General Terms & Conditions printed in the front of this catalog regarding other 4-H related policies and information.
- j) Classes offered
 - Kitten
 - Adult short hair
 - Adult long hair
 - Purebred (must have registration papers)
- k) Household Kittens ages should be between 4 to 8 months on day of show. Any kitten becoming 8 months old on show day will be considered an adult cat.
- l) Household adult cats 8 months of age or older on show day.
- m) Purebred cats of a recognized breed, kept pure for many generations. They may be registered. If the cat is registered, it must have a current registration number from one of the national cat registries, such as the Cat Fanciers Association.
- n) Longhaired cats whose coat has long top hair, with a thick wooly undercoat. The length of hair on a cat's tail is often used as a determining factor. Hair length is normally 1 1/2" or more.
- o) Short hair cats whose coat has only short hairs, a smooth, textured coat. Cat tail hair is usually less than 1 1/2" in length.

SHOW AWARDS

Champion Showmanship: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior • Intermediate • Senior 	Grand Champion Cat
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4-H CAT SHOWMANSHIP KNOWLEDGE PROGRAM

- a) The purpose of this optional 4-H cat activity is to help the members learn and become more aware of current cat fanciers knowledge, techniques and related management and show procedures.
- b) All questions for showmanship test are taken from 4-H Cat Manuals for appropriate grade level.



- c) There are three parts to the Showmanship Knowledge Program
 - 1. Part 1 written quiz about cats
 - 2. Part 2 handling cat, removing from cage, etc.
 - 3. Part 3 oral quiz with judge about their cat
- d) There will be three divisions:
 - 1. Junior: Grades 3-5
 - 2. Intermediate: Grades 6-8
 - 3. Senior: Grades 9-12

STATE FAIR:

Special entry required by July 1 or date set by the [Indiana State Fair](#).

MANUALS:

Find these project books for FREE at the Extension Office!

- [Cat Level 1: Purr-fect Pals](#)
- [Cat Level 2: Climbing Up!](#)
- [Cat Level 3: Leaping Forward](#)

REFERENCES:

- [Purdue Extension Cat Project](#)
- [Indiana State Fair Book – Cat Show](#)