

Noble County Mini 4-H



Pets

Mini 4-H Page

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

Here are some things to know about 4-H.

The 4-H symbol is a four-leaf clover with an "H" in each leaf. Clover is a plant that grows in fields, yards and along roadsides. Most clovers have three leaves. Sometimes, if you look very carefully, you may get lucky and find a special clover with four leaves. A four-leaf clover is used as the symbol for 4-H to let everyone know 4-H is a special kind of group.



The 4-H colors are green and white. The four-leaf clover is green and the "H" in each leaf is white.

A group motto is a saying that tells people what is important to the group. **The 4-H motto** is "To make the best better." When something is better than all the others it is the best. Think about a time when you did your best. Maybe you threw a ball farther than you have ever thrown it before. Now, think about some ways you could do better. You may be able to throw farther by practicing for a while or by watching someone who can throw farther than you, to see how they throw so far. Even if you throw the ball farther than you have ever thrown it before. There are still ways that you can do better the next time. 4-H encourages you to always try to do better, even if you are doing the best you have ever done.

*"To make the
best better"*


The 4-H Pledge


A pledge is a promise you make to yourself and to the people around you. The 4-H pledge is a bold print below.


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**.

What do these words mean?

I Pledge my Head  to clearer thinking, means I promise to use my head to make good choices.

My heart  to greater loyalty, means to use my heart to be a good friend.

My hands  to larger service, and, means to use my hands to do helpful things for others.

My health  to better living, means to take care of my body and to show others how to live in a healthy way.

For my club, my community, my country  and my world, means to help my group, my community, my country and my world be happy and safe for everyone.

Mini 4-H Helper's page

Welcome to the Mini 4-H Program! Mini 4-H is designed for children in grades K-2 to explore a variety of project activity areas and to interact with caring adults and other children.

Children receive this project activity manual when they enroll in Mini 4-H. This manual and the manuals on various other topics will provide fun, age-appropriate learning activities throughout their year(s) in Mini 4-H.

As a Mini 4-H adult helper, your job will be to guide and encourage each child through the activities. A wide range of activities is provided to allow you to choose the ones most appropriate for the children you are working with. It is strongly suggested 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. 4-H believes in allowing children to learn by doing. The Mini 4-H project activities are hands-on learning opportunities designed to provide a meaningful educational experience for youth.

Additionally, the Mini 4-H program is set up to allow children to display a project activity that is based upon information in this manual. Some children may want to exhibit at the 4-H Fair. The 4-H Fair is an exciting week that allows community youth to showcase their enthusiasm for learning. Children may choose to display a project activity they did by themselves or one they did with a group. Other children may choose to showcase their work in other ways, such as displaying it in a special place in their own home.

Mini 4-H is fun! Children will certainly enjoy it. You can have fun too, by guiding and helping as children participate in the program. Encourage and praise the children as they have fun learning and sharing with you. If you have any questions regarding Mini 4-H or other 4-H programs, please contact the Extension Office in your county.

Helper's Tips

The Mini 4-H Program can be used with individual children, but it works best when used in a group of 2 or more children. Children working cooperatively in groups develop positive images of themselves and their ideas. Other ways adult helpers can maximize the benefits of Mini 4-H are to:

- **Work on a subject interesting to the child by encouraging children to choose the content area.** Look through this manual and choose the project activities based on the interests and skill levels of the children
- **Relax and have fun.** Some children will want to finished their activities, others may not. There is no need to pressure children of this age to finish an activity, because the real learning takes place while they participate in the activity and interact with others. The finished project should not be the main focus. The knowledge children gain while they explore new areas and experiment with new ideas should be the primary goal.
- **Remain flexible and adapt to the changing needs of the children.** Restlessness or boredom may indicate a need to stop the activity and come back to it later.
- **Encourage children to talk and work with each other.** Children learn best when they are encouraged to freely share their reactions and observations. You may want to ask the children about what they did during an activity, what happened, what was the easiest, and what they like the most.

This manual contains activities for children that allow for a wide range of abilities and provide practice for developing a variety of skills.





What about My Pet & Me?

Do you ever wonder about the animals that live in your home? Would you like to share with others how and where they live? There are so many fun things to do to get to know your pet, indoors and out, every month of the year.

My Pet & Me involves watching your special pet all around your homes. Luckily, you won't need much in the way of equipment to enjoy sharing your special pet with us. You already have the most important tools – your eyes, ears, nose, and hands!

There are some rules to keep in mind when selecting a new pet for your family. A fish needs room for an aquarium. And a big dog just wouldn't feel right in a townhouse or apartment. And any pet will need some special training. And that is something you can do. There is so much we all can learn. Caring for animals can be fun too. So let's learn about your pet.

◆ Activity 1 – Can We Keep It?

It is easy to become attached with many of the animals you find and bring home. But should you keep them as pets?

Very few animals make suitable pets. Many just require too much room, or their food needs are too hard to meet. Some animals that are cute when babies can be too much for your house when they grow up. Remember, animals that make the best pets are those that have been around people for many years. Animals like cats, rabbits, and dogs have been around people for many, many years. Let's look at how to select a pet.

You will need the following things:

- color pencils, markers or crayons
- 14" X 22" posterboard (any color) OR
- glue or tape

Here is what you do:

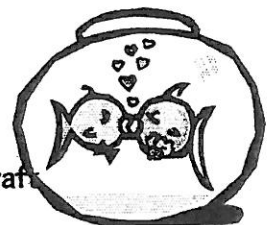
1. Ask a grown-up to help you read the list below or ask them to read it to you.
2. With your pencil or crayon, put a check on the checklist.

Can We Keep It?

	Me	Mom/Dad
1. Who is going to feed my pet?		
2. Who is going to water my pet?		
3. Who will take my pet for a walk?		
4. Who is going to clean the cage?		
5. Who will pay for the pet food?		
6. Who will take my pet to the vet?		
7. Who will train my pet?		
8. Who gets to keep my pet in their room?		
9. Who will take care of my pet when I am on vacation?		
10. Who will clean up when my pet dirties in the house?		

What did you learn about your pet?

Pets have a way of making people happy. How does your pet make you happy?



◆Activity 2 – Go to an Animal Show

You will need the following things:

- A newspaper, show bulletin, or local fairbook.
- An adult to take you to the show.
- Permission from your parents to attend.
- Some time to spend at the show.

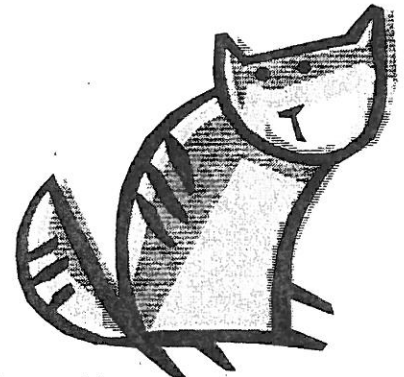
Here is what you do:

1. Gather information about an animal show in your area.
Contact your Extension Office to begin your search.
2. Talk to an adult to take you to the show.
3. Watch the show!

Which is your favorite animal?

Is there a show for your favorite animal near you?

Do you like dogs? Or Cats?



Dog shows are events that draw lots of people and dogs. How many dogs did you see?

Were they all different?

There are also horse shows, rabbit shows, and many other pet shows. These are good places to meet people who raise animals and to ask them questions about their animals. Some of the people may even be your age!

◆ Activity 3 – Pet Watching

You will need the following things:

- a quiet place to sit
- time to spend with your pet
- pencil or pen
- this page



Here is what you do:

1. Watch your pet for a whole day.
2. Write down what you see your pet do.
3. Share it with your friends.
4. Here is a chart to help you.

Time of Day	What my pet did.	How often?	Where?	Other things.

◆ Activity 4 – What My Pet Eats

You will need the following things:

1. Pet food and container.
2. Pencil
3. The chart on this page.

Here is what you do:

1. Read the label on the bag or box that your pet's food comes in.
2. Answer the questions after the chart.
3. Keep a chart of your pet.

Take responsibility for your pet by giving it the right care...food, water, shelter, exercise, grooming, and attention. Keep a record for one week of how you care for your pet. How often does it need the following things?

Day	Food	Water	Exercise	Grooming	Attention
Sunday					
Monday					
Tuesday					
Wednesday					
Thursday					
Friday					
Saturday					

◆ Activity 5 – Read about Pets

You will need the following things:

1. Books from home or the library about pets.
2. A good place to read.

Here is what you do:

1. Find lots of books about different kinds of pets. Even ones you don't have.
2. Ask someone to help you read the books.
3. Enjoy learning about pets.

Here is some information to help you get started.

Cats – A bed is not necessary for a cat. They can curl up almost anywhere and be comfortable. A window, dirty laundry, or your beds are favorite places to sleep. What else did you read about cats?

Dogs – There are over 100 different kinds of dogs. They can be trained. They like lots of petting. They know different things by how they smell. Dogs use their tongues to keep cool. What else did you read about dogs?

Rabbits – They are quiet, can live in a cage, and can even use a litter box. They are soft and clean. What else did you read about rabbits?

Guinea Pigs and Hamsters – They like to have special cages or old aquariums to live in. They have soft fur. They are nocturnal. That means they are awake during the night. What else did you read about these pets?



Birds – Birds sing and some can even talk. They are pretty to look at. They eat seeds. What else did you read about birds?

MINI 4-H – SMALL ANIMALS, PETS OR COMPANIONS

The Mini 4-H Pet project is to help you:

1. Learn how to select the proper pet to meet the needs of you and your family.
2. Learn how to properly care for your pet.
3. Learn how to properly train your pet.
4. Learn how to enjoy your pet more.

Raising and caring for pets can be lots of fun and also educational. There are many different kinds of animals that make excellent pets. You should make a study of several animals, their living habits, and what's involved in raising and caring for them before you select one as your pet. There are many books in department stores, etc., that will give you detailed information. Also, you may wish to obtain information from other people who raise animals, or from your veterinarian.

You can buy pets from breeders, dealers, pet shops, or private owners; you can adopt them from humane society shelters, dog pounds, or other people. To be sure your pet is healthy, have it examined by a veterinarian before you take it home, if possible. You should have an agreement with the seller that you can return the pet if it is unhealthy.

Have a veterinarian tell you what vaccinations your pet will need and when these should be given. He/she can also advise you about symptoms to watch for and when your pet will need treatment. If these symptoms show up, or if your pet is injured, take him/her to your veterinarian.

PREPARING YOUR EXHIBIT

Your exhibit will be:

Kindergarten – A poster, 14" HIGH x 22" WIDE, covered with clear plastic, with a hard backing. Your poster is to have 1 or 2 pictures of you and your pet(s). Label the Pictures with our pets' name, and kind/breed of pet.

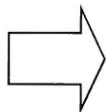
1st grade – A poster, 14" HIGH x 22" WIDE, covered with clear plastic, with a hard backing. Your poster is to have 1 to 3 educational pictures, and a half to full page story about your pet.

2nd grade – A poster, 14" HIGH x 22" WIDE, covered with clear plastic, with a hard backing. Your poster is to have 3 to 5 educational pictures, and a full-page story about your pet

Note: Your story should answer the following questions:

1. The type of animal your pet is.
2. Your pets' name.
3. What you feed your pet, and when.
4. Something special about your pet.

LABEL:
Cut out, fill
in, and place
on your
exhibit.



NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

TOWNSHIP _____
PETS Kindergarten, 1 st OR 2nd (circle one)