



Project Title: Cat

Description:

Allows youth to learn life skills and grow in project knowledge while raising a cat.

State Fair Entries:

Open. Visit www.indianastatefair.com for information. Exhibitor's Corner opens in the spring.

Exhibit Guidelines:

Division	Project Book	Certification of Vaccination needed for every cat: 4-H 777
Level A (grades 3 - 5)	BU 8148	
Level B (grades 6 - 8)	BU 8149	
Level C (grades 9 - 12)	BU 8150	

Check in your cat at least 15 minutes before the start of the show on the day of judging.

1. Any youth in grades 3 - 12 may become a 4-H Cat Project member.
2. Each member must be enrolled in the Cat Project through 4-H Online.
3. Each member may show only their own cat or the family cat. (Only one master per cat.) **A 4-H member may exhibit up to two cats and/or two kittens in this project for a total of four (4) animals: one long haired cat, one short haired cat, one long haired kitten, and one short haired kitten.** A kitten is an animal between four and eight months old on the day of the show. Any kitten becoming 8 months old on show day will be considered an adult cat.
*It should be noted that an exhibitor can still only show two animals at the Indiana State Fair. Indiana State Fair entries are 'open' and can
4. A cat or kitten being shown in the 4-H Cat project must belong to the exhibitor or to a member of the immediate family or household and be cared for by the 4-H member by May 15.
5. The cat may be either purebred or a household pet.
6. Each 4-H cat/kitten will be judged on a) health, b) cleanliness, c) grooming, d) personality, e) if all categories are equal, the judge will choose a winner by its "star quality."
7. All cats are required to have had distemper and rabies inoculations before they will be allowed to enter the Cat Show. (Health requirements will be the same as the Indiana State Fair. Updates may come following printing of this sheet). All cats must have met the health requirements and a health certificate must be presented at time of show. 4-H Form 777 (vet form) may be found online or at the Extension Office.

8. All cats will come to the show in a carrier and leave in their carrier. The only time the animal should be removed from the carrier is when they are showing or for last minute grooming. Harnesses should not be used because they interfere with judging.
9. The cat will be removed from its carrier during judging. The member will stay and watch their cat being judged, then return the cat to its carrier.
10. All cats/kittens should have their claws clipped.
11. It is recommended that all 4-H cats, other than pedigreed or breeding stock, be neutered or spayed.
12. 4-H cats/kittens must be free of fleas, fungus, ear mites, or other communicable diseases.
13. Cats/kittens will be classed according to (1) long hair breeds, (2) short hair breeds, and **(3) optional activities (showmanship, costume, carrier decorating)**. Optional activity information is listed below.
14. Members need not show their cat at the County Cat Show if the cat is in season. If this is the case, member may then turn in only the completed record sheet and health papers at time of the County Show to complete this project.
15. An exhibitor may choose to exhibit an educational cat poster or notebook. Please see the guidelines for Animal Education. One entry per level will be selected for the Indiana State Fair.
16. [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) may be used, with parent permission, when creating this exhibit and is to be documented as a reference. A majority of the work to create this exhibit is to be the 4-H member's original work.](#)

4-H Cat Show Classifications:

4-H member classifications:

Junior (Level A): 4-H members in grades 3-5 on January 1 of the current year

Intermediate (Level B): 4-H members in grades 6-8 on January 1 of the current year

Senior (Level C): 4-H members in grades 9-12 on January 1 of the current year

Cat Classifications:

Household Kittens: cats aged 4-8 months on the day of the show. See #3 above.

Household Adults: cats 8 months of age or older on show day

Purebred: cats of a recognized breed, kept pure for many generations. If a cat is registered, it must have a current registration number from one of the national cat registries, such as the Cat Fanciers Association.

Long haired: cats whose coat has long top hairs, with a thick wooly under-coat. The length of hair on a cat's tail is often used as a determining factor; hair length is normally 1.5" long or more.

Short haired: cats whose coat has only short hairs; a smooth, textured coat. Cat tail hair is usually less than 1.5" in length.

Optional Activities/Classes:

Showmanship: Exhibitors can enter only one cat in showmanship. Exhibitors will show in the class based on their age as of January 1 of the current year. The showmanship class will consist of an evaluation of how the cat is shown and handled and an oral interview between the exhibitor and the judge.

Costume: cats are presented in an appropriate costume or theme. Please try not to cause undue stress on your cat by dressing them in a costume. Practice dressing at home with your cat. If the cat is too stressed, consider not participating in this class/activity.

Carrier Decorating: Exhibitors can decorate their carrier with an appropriate theme. The following judging criteria will be used to evaluate each entry:

- a. Color coordination
- b. Originality/imagination
- c. Are the sides and top of the carrier appropriately covered? Do not cover the front of the carrier.
- d. Health/safety/comfort of the 4-H cat
- e. Appropriateness of theme. Exhibitors must post the theme name on the carrier.

Awards:

Short Haired Cat- Champion and Reserve Champion

Long Haired Cat- Champion and Reserve Champion

Short Haired Kitten- Champion and Reserve Champion

Long Haired Kitten- Champion and Reserve Champion

Overall Best of Show

Carrier Decorations- Champion and Reserve Champion

Costume- Champion and Reserve Champion

Showmanship- Champion and Reserve Champion in Junior, Intermediate, and Senior divisions. **Senior Showmanship Champion will have the opportunity to participate in the Small Animal Supreme Showmanship Contest.**