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Mini 4-H

PETS



An Introduction to 4-H for Youth in Grades K, 1 & 2

Developed by Purdue Extension—Elkhart County

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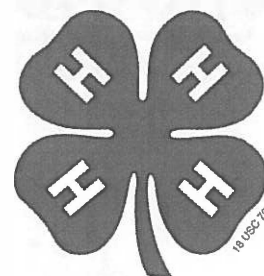
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OUR STAFF

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 fair. The 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 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 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 finish 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 product 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 the 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 most difficult, what was the easiest, and what they liked the most.

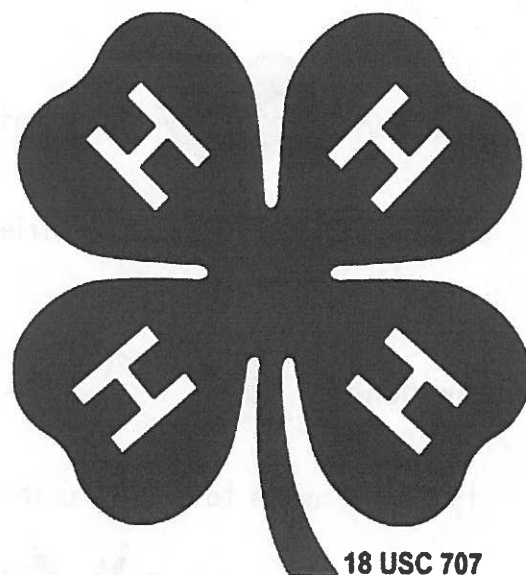
This manual contains activities for children that allow for a wide range of abilities and provide practice for developing a variety of skills.

Mini 4-H'ers 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 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 of 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.

The 4-H Pledge


A pledge is a promise you make to yourself and to the people around you. The 4-H pledge is in bold print below. Under each line of the pledge there are words telling what the pledge means.

I pledge my **Head**  to clearer thinking.

I promise to use my head to make good choices.

my **Heart**  to greater loyalty.

to use my heart to be a good friend.

my **Hands**  to larger service, and

to use my hands to do helpful things for others.

my **Health**  to better living,

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.

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



What is a Pet?

If a creature is four-footed or two-footed, if it crawls, flies, swims or hops, you can bet someone has it as a pet. Caring for a pet can be a lot of fun and also educational. To find out about your pet, get a good book from the library, book store, pet shop or talk to other people who raise them. This will help you get the detailed information you need to know about your special pet.

NOTE: In Mini 4-H, dogs & cats are included in the Pet Animal project. Once you are old enough for regular 4-H, (in grade 3) you may not enter dog or cat posters in the Pet Animal project. Dogs and cats have their own 4-H clubs which you must join if you plan to enter your dog or cat or a poster about these animals. The Pet Animal project in regular 4-H only includes animals that do not have their own 4-H club.



ACTIVITY 1 – CHOOSING A PET

Materials needed for this activity: none

What you will do:

1. Read the Helpful Hints for Selecting a Pet.
2. Think about these things before getting a pet.





Helpful Hints for Selecting a Pet

1. Before you select a pet, consider what kind is best for you and your family. Select a pet that can adapt to your home and to the people in it. Find out what kinds of pets are popular with your friends and neighbors.
2. It is easier to train a young pet rather than an older one. However, you can train a grown pet if you have patience and time.
3. If you live in a small house, apartment or trailer, small pets are best. You may be happier with a bird, small dog, cat, fish, turtle or hamster.
4. You can buy pets from breeders, dealers, pet shops, private owners or you may adopt a pet from the humane animal shelter.
5. If you get a pet and you decide you do not want it, give it to a good friend or take it to the animal shelter for adoption. Unwanted pets should never be turned loose as they will have nobody to care for them.
6. Be sure your pet is healthy. Have it examined by a **veterinarian** (a special doctor that cares for animals) as soon as possible. A veterinarian is your pet's best friend. It is important that you get one for your pet.

What did you learn?

What is the name of the special doctor that cares for your pet? _____

What should you do with a pet that you cannot keep? _____





ACTIVITY 2 – WHAT DOES YOUR PET NEED?

Pets are not *all fun*. They depend on you to give them the things they need to live. In this activity, you will learn the things you need to do for your pet.

Materials needed for this activity:

activity sheets

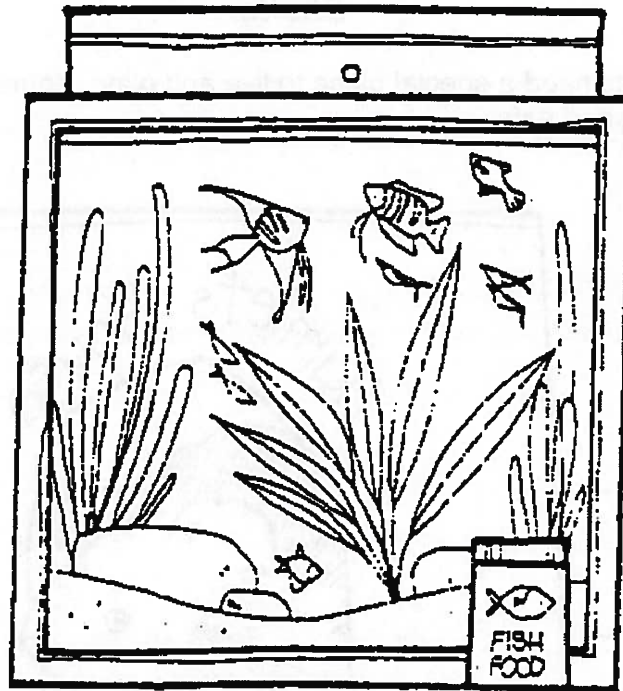
crayons

What you will do:

1. Read about the things your pet needs every day.
2. Color the pictures.

Food

Animals are like you. They need good, clean food and they like to be fed on time.



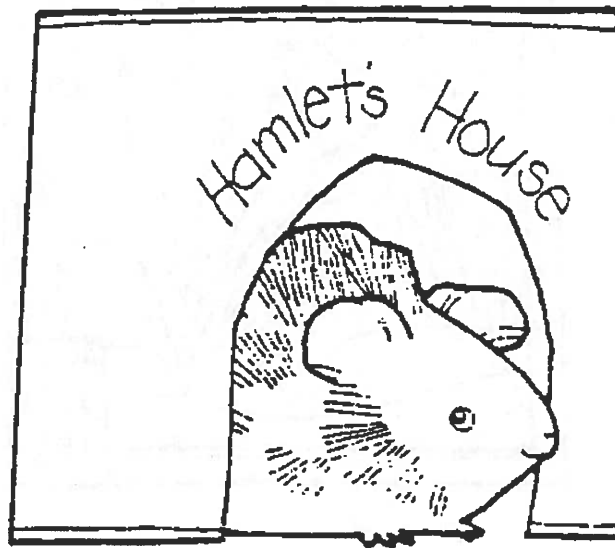
Water

Your pet needs to have clean, fresh water all the time.



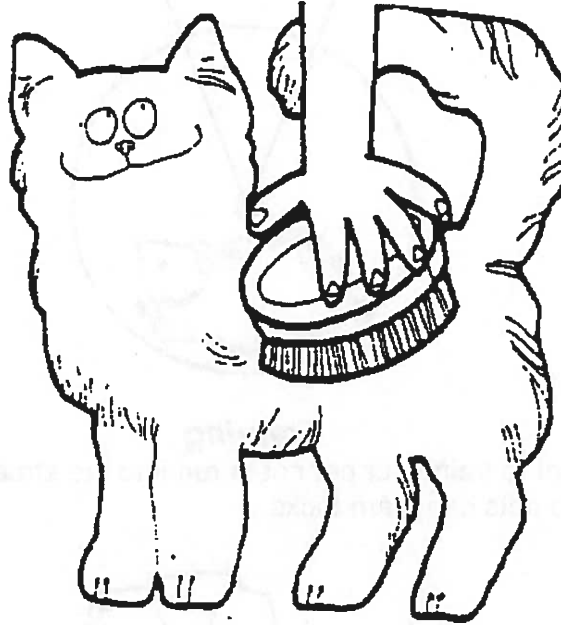
Shelter

Some pets need a special place to live and play. Your pet's cage needs to be kept clean and safe.



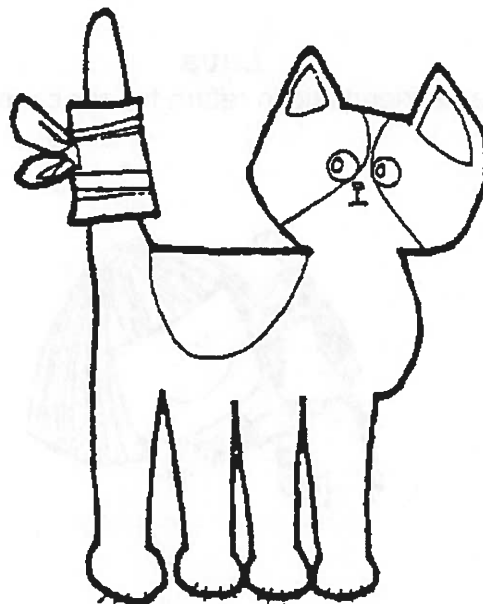
Grooming

Some pets need to have their fur cleaned and brushed for them.



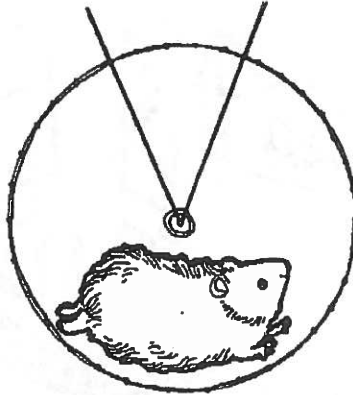
Health & Safety

Your pet needs to see the veterinarian if he is hurt or needs a shot to stay healthy. Keep your dog on a leash or inside a fence so they will not run into the street and get hurt.



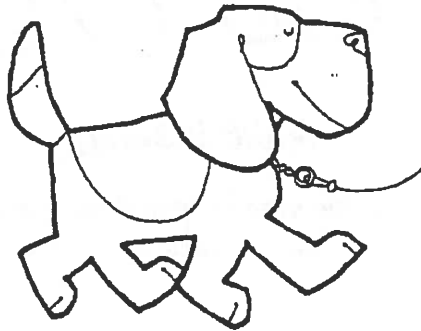
Exercise

It is important to exercise your pet. For some pets, this means taking them out for a walk. Others need special equipment.



Training

You will want to train your pet not to run into the street and to listen to your commands. Some pets can learn tricks.



Love

Pets give us friendship in return for our caring for them.



What did you learn?

What animal is your pet? _____

Do you take time to play with your pet each day? _____

What does your pet like to eat? _____

Do you keep your pet in a safe place? _____

Where? _____



ACTIVITY 3 – DIFFERENT PETS



There are different kinds of pets. All pets need special care. Some pets need special places to live. For example, fish need a bowl or an aquarium with a filter; hamsters and birds need cages; and dogs need a fence or a leash.

All pets need responsible owners.

Materials needed for this activity: word search pencil

What you will do:

1. Look at the word search on the next page and find all the kinds of pets listed.
2. Think about what kind of pet you would like to care for.

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

GOLDFISH
DOG
CAT
GUPPY

GUINEA PIG
HAMSTER
PARAKEET
CANARY

TURTLE
MICE
PARROT
GERBIL

What did you learn?

Did you know there were so many kinds of pets? _____

What kind of pet would you like to have? _____

What kind of home does your pet need? _____

Do you have more than one pet at your house? _____

Who cares to this other pet? _____



ACTIVITY 4 – A HOME FOR YOUR PET

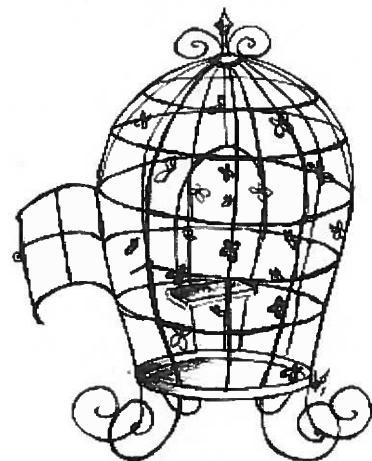
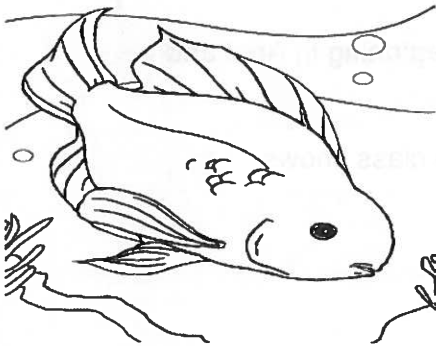
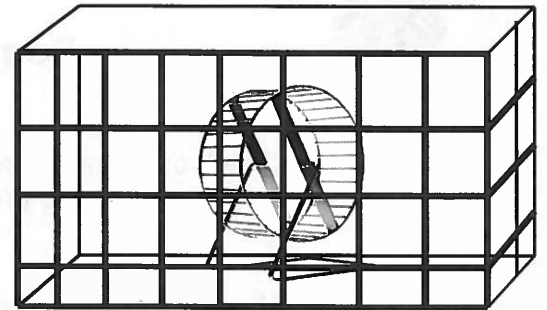
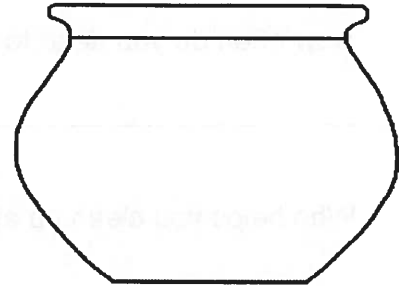
Materials needed for this activity: activity sheet pencil crayons

What you will do:

1. Look at the right side of the Pet Homes activity sheet to see different kinds of homes for pets.
2. Look at the pets on the left side of the activity sheet.
3. Draw a line from the pet to their home. After you have matched the pets to their homes, color the pictures.

PET HOMES

Draw a line from the pet to their home.
Color the pictures when you are finished.



What did you learn?

Did you know there were so many kinds of pets? _____

Do you have a special home for your pet? _____

How often do you need to change the water for fish or clean your pet's cage? _____

Who helps you clean up after your pet? _____



Something to think about!

- 1- Check out the fair schedule and plan to attend some of the Dog club shows during the fair.
- 2- This will help you see what members of these special clubs do with their animals.
- 3- Dog club members train their dogs in obedience beginning in April and show off at the fair.
- 4- These clubs also have showmanship *competitions*.





What to Exhibit

Pets

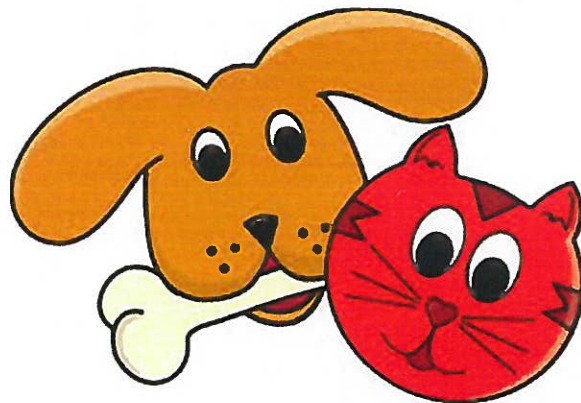
Here is a list of projects that can be shown at the Fair. Pick *one* of the projects you would like to exhibit at the fair. You do not need to make the projects in special order. If you have any questions about your projects, contact your leader or the Extension Office. There are people there who can help you.

1. Make a Pets poster. Your poster should be 22"Lx 14"H, displayed horizontally.
2. Your poster can be about you and your pet. You can use pictures of you and your pet, You must include a short story of what you do to care for your pet.

OR

3. You can use drawings or pictures cut from magazines of a pet you would like to own. You must include on your poster a short story telling what you would need to do to care for the pet you choose.

For more information on how to label your project, when to enter it in the Fair, and where your project needs to go, please contact the Extension Office.



STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF [illegible]



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