

Kindergarten

MINI 4-H CATS



Hi! Welcome to Mini 4-H and the Mini 4-H Cats Project. You are going to have a great time this year as you learn about choosing a cat.

Before you begin this project, please read the helpful information listed on the next two pages.

Good luck on your project and, most of all, have fun!

INSTRUCTIONS

Before you start working on this project, please read these instructions with an adult or 4-H member who will be helping you.

1. Read the Exhibit Requirements, Note to Parents, Helpful Hints, and Project Goals.

2. You should begin working on your project when you get this manual.

3. Be proud of your project if you have done the best you can do.

EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS

1. Read this project book.

2. Exhibit a scrapbook containing information and pictures on cats. Title your scrapbook "Mini 4-H Cat" and have fun decorating the cover. Bring the scrapbook to the 4-H Fair and turn it in as your cat exhibit.

NOTE TO PARENTS

4-H is proud to be considered a "family affair." While it is expected that the 4-H member will actively complete his or her own project, please offer encouragement and guidance to your child throughout the project. Keep in mind that your child's exhibit is to be an exhibit of his or her best effort. Most importantly, take time to enjoy 4-H with your child

HELPFUL HINTS

Each 4-H family should view a current copy of the Washington County 4-H Handbook. This book contains information on 4-H activities, rules and projects. Whenever you have 4-H related questions, please consult this information book

Monthly 4-H Newsletters will be made available to families. Please read these Newsletters. They will contain information on upcoming 4-H activities, rule or project updates, and 4-H fair information.

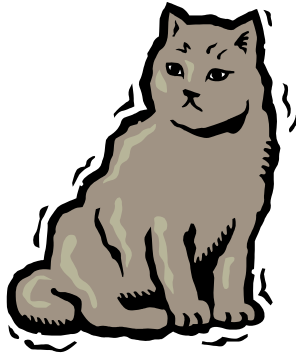
Mini 4-H members are encouraged to attend 4-H Club meetings. At these meetings, you will learn more about 4-H, make new friends, and have fun.

PROJECT GOALS

Given the information in this manual and the help of an adult or older 4-H member you will complete an exhibit in the Mini Cat Project.

Should You Get A Cat?

Your cat will need your help throughout its life, and with the right care, it may live 15 years or more. Are you willing to care for it and provide a home for that long? A lot of cats change owners at least once in their lifetime.



What Kind of Cat?

Kittens

- Should be 8-10 weeks before separated from mom and littermates
- Cute
- Very Playful
- Must watch very carefully

Adult Cats

- Less likely to be adopted
- Fully developed personality

"Mixed Breed" Cats

- Different looks
- Different personalities
- Also called "domestic shorthairs" or "domestic longhairs"

Purebred Cats

- 40 recognized breeds
- Uncommon
- Cost a lot of money

Where to get a Cat

Animal Shelters

An animal shelter is a good place to pick up a cat and save it. Look for a clean, healthy cat. Look for signs of friendliness and liveliness. Talk with the people caring for the animals for any information on a particular animal they can give you; they can often tell you a lot about a cat's personality. Don't overlook the adult cats.

At the animal shelter, be prepared to pay a fee, answer some questions about the home you will give the cat, and perhaps give some references. This is normal. The fee covers some of the costs of operating the animal shelter. The questions are meant to ensure that adopted cats go to good, stable homes.

Most will require that you have the cat neutered. Some will do it prior to adoption, others will require you to do so within a month or two of adoption. This is also normal and is intended to reduce the population of kittens returning to the shelter.

Friend, Newspaper Ad, Bulletin Board

People who have to find homes for adult cats will sometimes advertise in the paper (or on bulletin boards at local stores or schools). These cats are usually well cared for and you can meet them in a home environment.

You will also see kittens advertised in the paper. Make sure you are getting a healthy, well socialized kitten, don't get a kitten that is too young (younger than 8 weeks).

Breeders

If you want a purebred cat or kitten, you will need to look for a good, responsible breeder. Try to talk to more than one breeder before buying a kitten. Look for honest breeders who care about their cats' welfare, and who have good-natured cats. Talk to breeders about inherited health problems. Ask about how the cats are raised. If possible, visit the cattery before buying a kitten. A good breeder asks you questions, too, to find out if you are a good

home for a kitten. The breeder may also ask that you sign a contract requiring you to care properly for this kitten. This is normal, and is a sign of a responsible breeder. Expect to pay \$300-400 or more for a "pet quality" kitten, depending on the breed and your area.

Your Cat Project Exhibit

Your cat project exhibit will be to complete a scrapbook containing information and pictures on cats. Possible items you could include are (1) pictures of you and your favorite cats with captions, (2) pictures of cats from magazines, books, etc. with cute or funny captions, and (3) include any booklet or magazine articles you have found.

Making Your Scrapbook

Follow these instructions:

1. Title your scrapbook "Mini 4-H Cat" and have fun decorating the cover.
2. Remember to include pictures of cats with captions and any information that you have found.

Remember the scrapbook is to be fun, so use your imagination and creativeness. However, don't spend a lot of money preparing the exhibit.

Check List for Your Cat Project Exhibit

The judge will consider these things when they look at your exhibit. Can you answer "yes" to each question?

	Yes	No
1. Is your scrapbook entitled "Mini 4-H Cat"?	—	—
2. Are there pictures of cats?	—	—
3. Are there any booklets or magazine articles?	—	—
4. Do the pictures include captions?	—	—
5. Is the scrapbook clean and neat in appearance?	—	—
6. Is the scrapbook creative?	—	—



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