

# CATS

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.

Superintendent:

State Fair Entries: *Check with the IN State Fair for sign up deadlines without penalties..*

*web: <http://www.in.gov/statefair/>*

## Project Requirements

1. Any boy or girl currently in grades 3 through 12 may become a 4-H Cat project member.
2. Each member may show only his or her own cat or family cat, but no more than 1 per class.
3. To be eligible to be shown, the cat must be born by March 1 and in your possession by April 15<sup>TH</sup>.
4. The cat may be either a purebred or a household pet.
5. The cat must be fed and cared for by the 4-H member.
6. A 4-H cat project record sheet must be maintained and submitted at check-in before the show.
7. No cats will be left overnight at the show. Animals must be taken home immediately after completion of the show. No cats are to be left unattended at any time.
8. Cats do not need to be registered or pedigreed in order to enter the cat project.
9. Cats will be classed according to their predominate characteristics:
  1. Short Hair Kittens (4 to 8months)
  2. Long Hair Kittens (4 to 8months)
  3. Short Hair Cats (over 8months)
  4. Long Hair Cats (over 8months)
10. The 4-H member will place his or her cat in the cage and the judge will remove the cat and judge it. The member is not allowed to speak to the judge, unless so requested by the judge.
11. Each 4-H member must exhibit their own animal at the cat show. Each cat shall be under the restraint of the owner.
12. 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 cage is when they are showing or for last minute grooming.
13. The same cat may be exhibited more than one (1) year.
14. The final placing will be the determination of the judge. Cats will have to win Champion in its division, in order to go on to Grand Champion judging. Trophies will be for Best Kitten, Best Cat and Overall.
15. All exhibitors must bring their cats to the show in a carrier or a laundry basket with a lid that can be tied down. Exhibitors may use a leash during judging. However, the judge may ask the exhibitor to remove the leash during judging.
16. All cats must have a valid certification of vaccination for the 4-H Cat Project (4-H 777-W) including a fecal parasite exam with results that are required within 6 months of the show. The certification of vaccination must be signed by a licensed, accredited veterinarian and it must be provided to the Cat Superintendent at show check-in. Vaccinations must be at least two weeks before the show but within one year of the show. 4-H Cats must be free of fleas, fungus, ear mites, or other communicable diseases. Any animal showing signs of illness will be sent home.
17. All cats exhibited must have their toenails clipped, trimmed or declawed. If you exhibit an outdoor cat, please file the nails to assure safety for the exhibitors and judge. This is for safety reasons.
18. The Indiana State Fair 4-H Cat Show is optional but encouraged. Entries must be accompanied by an entry fee and must be postmarked to the Indiana State Fair Entry Department by July 1. You can also register online at the Indiana State Fair website.
19. Each 4-H member's cat will be judged on a) health, b) cleanliness, c) grooming, d) personality, e) knowledge, f) how you present your cat, and g) if all categories are equal, the judge will choose a winner by its "star quality."

## EXHIBIT OPTIONS

1. Record sheets completed.
2. Poster
3. Exhibit your cat at the County Fair 4-H Cat Show. OR
4. Exhibit both a poster & your cat.

All posters should be 22" x 28" and mounted horizontally on stiff cardboard or plywood backing. It must also be covered with clear plastic for protection. Posters must be entered prior to the fair during Exhibit Hall check-in.

A "Dress-Up" class will be offered. Cats may be dressed in any manner, but dressing will take place at judging. This is not a mandatory requirement. However, it should be fun.

## CAGE DECORATION CONTEST

### Class Description

Junior – 4-H Members in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

Intermediate – 4-H Members in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

Senior – 4-H Members in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade or above on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

### Cage Decoration Terms and Conditions:

1. The cat cage decoration is an optional activity for 4-H members with a cat entered in the cat show. If a 4-H member chooses not to decorate the cage, he or she must plan to bring a sheeting or material with which to cover the inside of the cage.
2. If a member chooses to decorate the inside of their 4-H cat cage, the single cat cage measures 22" H x 22" D x 25 ½ W.
3. The following judging criteria will be used to evaluate each entry:
  - a) color coordination
  - b) originality/imagination
  - c) Are the 2 sides, top and back appropriately covered? (Front of cage should not be covered.) Please do not use copyright figures such as Garfield, Mickey Mouse, etc. in decorating of your cat cage.
  - d) Health/Safety/Comfort of the 4-H Cat (to include: water dish, litter, appropriate continuation of the theme.)

Note: 4-H Cat Cages are decorated and displayed sitting on show tables. The cages are connected in groups of two.

The decision of the judge is final.

## 4-H CAT POSTER EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT

*(State Fair entries in each level)*

**To promote educational displays by 4-H members who enjoy developing a poster exhibit, the following classes shall be offered. Any Cat project member may exhibit a poster.**

All posters, notebooks, and display boards must include a reference list indicating where information was obtained, giving credit to the original author, to complete the 4-H member's exhibit. This reference list should/might include web site links, people and professionals interviewed, books, magazines, etc. It is recommended that this reference list be attached to the back of a poster or display board, be the last page of a notebook, or included as part of the display visible to the public. A judge is not to discredit an exhibit for the manner in which references are listed.

### Classes:

- Junior (Grades 3 thru 5 on January 1st of current year)
- Intermediate (Grades 6 thru 8 on January 1st of current year)
- Senior (Grades 9 thru 12 on January 1st of current year)

**Exhibit Requirements:** Use a 22" x 28" poster board with a stiff backing and a clear protective covering. Posters should be displayed horizontally. A poster label secured from your leader should be attached to the lower right-hand corner of the poster exhibit. Posters will be judged based on quality and content as determined by the judge.

**Exhibit Suggestions:** The following suggestions are ideas for development of an educational cat poster. 4-H'ers need not be limited by or to just these mentioned topics. Additional topics are listed in your manual.

- **Juniors** – cat care, cat breeds, litter-training, treating my cat with care and respect, cat responsibilities, grooming skills, training my cat, neutering/spaying, determining cat costs, traveling with my cat, my cat's safety.
- **Intermediates** – national cat fancier associations, a cat clinic, training with extra praise, careers related to cats, should my cat have kittens, feeding my cat, things I've learned, insect pests, symptoms of ill health, my visiting pet therapy program, cats get old too, saying good-bye.
- **Seniors** – understanding a cat show, planning a cat business, cat genetics, cat organs and systems, exploring careers, learning about leadership, teaching others, having fun learning, protecting our environment, issues of animal welfare/rights.

*Cat Education Poster Exhibit – One State Fair entry from each Level 1-3*