



# 4-H CAT ACTIVITY PAGE

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Beginning



## Your 4-H COMPANION ANIMAL—CAT Project

Responsibility is an important skill to have when you own a cat. You have to know about your cat and what it needs and then you have to be able to care for your pet. This 4-H project can help. Some of the skills you can learn and activities you can do in this project are listed below. Check your favorites. Then, work with your 4-H leaders and parents to make a 4-H project plan of what you want to do and learn this year.

- Learn the advantages and disadvantages of owning a cat with the following characteristics: adult, kitten, longhair, shorthair, male, female.
- Learn the difference between “spaying” and “neutering.”
- Visit a professional groomer and learn the proper way to groom a cat.
- Learn about cat parasites or diseases that also affect humans.
- Learn the personality and behavior differences between male and female cats.
- There are more than 40 breeds of domestic cats. Find information about three of them and write a report.
- Adopt a cat (if you don't already have one) after you learn about breeds, gender, health care, housing, expense and time commitment of caring for cats.
- Conduct a demonstration about cats at a 4-H meeting. (Don't bring a real cat!)
- Complete a service project using project skills you have learned.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_



## My Cat Budget

Being responsible for your cat means providing all the things your pet needs. Some things you only have to buy one time, and others you have to buy often. Visit a store that sells pet supplies, research on the Internet or talk to a veterinarian to find out the cost of each item. Then work with your parents to make a budget for how you will care for your cat.

Item	Cost
Litter box and scoop	
Food and water bowls	
Scratching post	
Kennel	
Brush/comb and nail clippers	
Spay/neuter surgery	
Cat bed	
Food	
Treats	
Kitty litter	
Annual vet visit	
Grooming	
Furball medication	
Toys	
Collar, leash and harness	
Boarding	
Unexpected medical costs: _____	_____
Other unexpected costs: _____	_____



## My Cat Story

Describe your cat! On another sheet of paper, write about your cat. Write about breed, gender, health, age, personality, training, type of food and exercise. Include a picture if you'd like. Share your story with others and keep it in your 4-H project folder.

## Cat Nips

- Long-haired cats generally have soft, beautiful voices; shorthairs usually have loud, harsh voices.
- Cats sweat through their paws.
- Cats walk on their toes. The soles of their feet rarely touch the ground.
- Most cats prefer to have food available at all times and to nibble small, frequent meals throughout the day.
- Fleas can transmit one form of tapeworms to cats.
- Antifreeze is very poisonous to dogs and cats. It tastes sweet and they like to lick it.
- Remember to wash your hands after petting animals. This will help keep you from catching diseases and passing them to your own animals.

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## Career Scavenger Hunt

By asking others, researching on the Internet, or reading a book or magazine—search for a job that uses companion animal skills and knowledge. Here's what you are looking for.

1. Job Title \_\_\_\_\_
2. Job Description \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Education Required \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Don't forget to submit your project report to your 4-H leader.



## Service Ideas

- Gather items such as cat food, cat toys and brushes to donate to an animal shelter
- Help find homes for stray cats at an animal shelter
- Conduct an educational "show-and-tell" about cats for younger kids
- Volunteer to care for someone else's cat

## Additional Resources

Responsibility is an important part of owning a cat. This activity sheet has given you the opportunity to explore things to think about as you care for your cat. You've learned important facts about cats, such as their body parts, and done other cool things. But this is just the beginning! Use the resources listed below to continue learning about cats.

- School & public libraries
- People who work with cats, such as veterinarians, pet shop owners and groomers
- 4-H project groups
- The 4-H companion animal Web page:

[www.utextension.utk.edu/4h/projects/companimal.htm](http://www.utextension.utk.edu/4h/projects/companimal.htm)

For more ideas, contact your 4-H office.

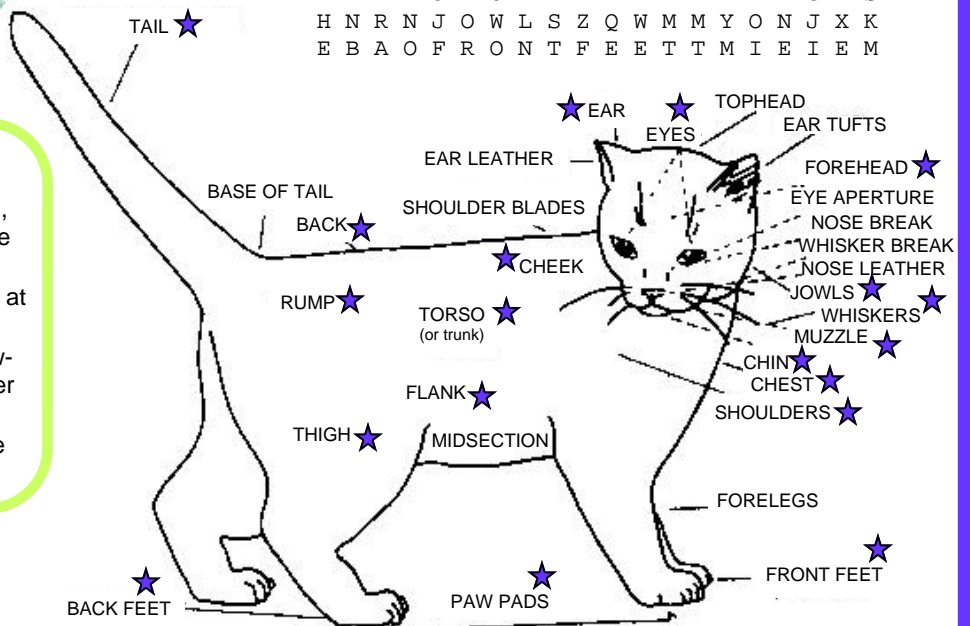
## Other 4-H Cat Activities

- The pet show at the county fair
- 4-H demonstrations
- Enter cat photos, paintings or drawings in the fair

## Feline Word Find

Study the drawing below. Then, search for the names of the body parts marked with a star. ★

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



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