



## What is it All About?

Cats are a wonderful addition to a family and great companions for anyone living alone. They require minimal care but love attention. The 4-H cat project helps you explore what kind of cat fits into your family's lifestyle. Cats need your love and guidance to live long and healthy lives. The project will help you learn about nutritional aspects of a cat's diet, health needs and practicing responsible ownership.

## Grow in Your Project

### Starting Out

- Learn about the proper care, grooming and feeding of your cat.
- Learn to identify the parts of a cat.
- Create a plan to prevent your cat from getting lost and an emergency plan for if it does get lost.
- Learn the appropriate grooming equipment and use proper grooming techniques on your cat.

#### Resources

- Purr-fect Pals, Level 1 (08148)\*

### Learning More

- Plan a training and exercise program for your cat.
- Prepare your cat for participation in cat shows.
- Compare the labels on cat foods to make an informed decision on content and price

#### Resources

- Climbing Up!, Level 2 (08149)\*

### Going Further

- Create a trainer's diary to assist you when you work with your cat.
- Create a cat ownership budget plan.
- Help a friend make a decision about owning a cat.
- Research diseases in cats.
- Identify symptoms and a course of action if your cat gets sick.
- Research career options dealing with cats.

#### Resources

- Leaping Forward, Level 3 (08150)\*

### Resources for All Three Levels

- Cat Helper's Guide (08151)\*

## Take Your Project Further!

- Learn about cats service animals and the process of fostering and training one.
- Job shadow at a local business (pet store, veterinary clinic, breeder or groomer) in a cat-related career that interests you.
- Go to local and area cat shows, and explore the differences in cat breeds and the different ways they are shown
- Explore health safety issues with cats and the diseases cats have that might make humans ill
- Research all the kinds of parasites your cat might get, and find out how to protect yourself and your cat.
- Explore what kind of restrictions and laws your community might have on cats
- Explore the uses and benefits of animal-assisted therapy.
- Visit the zoo to compare and contrast wild and domestic cats.

## Applying Project Skills to Life

### ***Enhance Your Communication Skills***

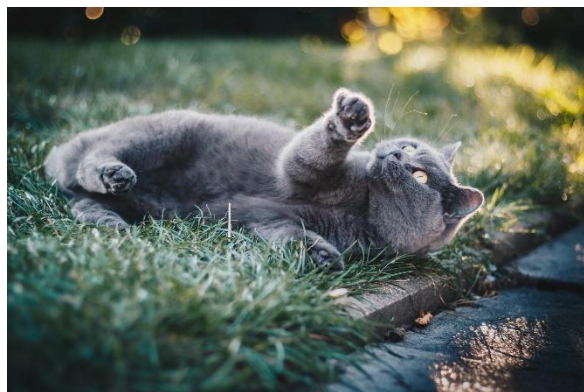
- Give a demonstration on how to approach an unfamiliar cat safely.
- Demonstrate how to read cat food labels.
- Make community members aware of cat laws in your area through brochures or posters.

### ***Get Involved in Citizenship and Service***

- Volunteer at a local animal shelter.
- Develop a plan to foster cats for deploying soldiers.
- Write a letter to your local paper about the importance of having cats spayed or neutered.
- Gather items such as cat food, cat toys, and brushes to donate to the animal shelter.
- Create new cat owner kits for the animal shelter to give out to anyone who adopts a cat.

### ***Learn about Leadership***

- Organize a cat show for your 4-H club or community.
- Organize a community fundraiser to help benefit the local animal shelter.



## Showing What You've Learned

- Exhibit your cat at the fair
- Poster or diagram of cat parts.
- Identify indoor and outdoor hazards that cats might encounter.
- Make a first aid kit for your cat and tell why and how each item is used
- Share diet and nutrition information for raising a healthy cat
- Interview your veterinarian about a microchip to identify your cat
- Attend a cat show; take photos and make a notebook about cat breeds
- Write a story about famous cats for a younger sibling (Garfield, Sylvester, etc.)
- Visit a pet store and find as many pieces of cat equipment as you can, identify necessary equipment and costs
- Make a poster on diseases your cat can get and tell about its discovery, effects, treatments, etc.
- Research jobs related to cats; make a poster showing three jobs that interest you
- Develop a video showing the steps in training a cat
- Design a poster showing your cat's origin
- Make a toy for your cats
- Volunteer to feed or watch a neighbors' cat



Adapted with permission from Wyoming State 4-H, Project Information Sheet, Cats. Retrieved from: <https://www.uwyo.edu/4-h/projects/animal-science/cats.html>.

The University of Wisconsin–Madison does not discriminate in its employment practices and programs and activities on a variety of bases including but not limited to: age, color, disability, national origin, race, or sex. For information on all covered bases, the names of the Title IX and Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinators, and the processes for how to file a complaint alleging discrimination, please contact the [Office of Compliance](#), 361 Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison WI 53706, Voice 608-265-6018, (relay calls accepted); Email: [uwcomplianceoffice@wisc.edu](mailto:uwcomplianceoffice@wisc.edu). © 2020 Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System.