

## 2026 PET CARE 4-H PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

PROJECT	EXHIBIT RULES	FAIR EXHIBIT
<p><b>STATE FAIR COMPETITION</b> All pet care projects are eligible to compete.</p> <p>Companion animals must be in the member's care by May 1 to be eligible for state fair.</p> <p>No live animals go to state fair on Companion Animal Day.</p> <p>Members interested in competing at the State Fair must participate in county State Fair Selections on Friday, July 24 by appointment in the Extension Office. Only 1 member in each age division from each project may be selected for State Fair.</p>	<p><b>PROJECT GUIDELINES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Members with pets or small animals other than those offered as projects or that want to go beyond basic care, sign up for Self-Determined project #365. Members must then design their own learning experience. Select Idea Starters for additional animals may be found and downloaded at <a href="http://www.ohio4h.org/selfdetermined">www.ohio4h.org/selfdetermined</a>.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All pet care exhibitors must bring a poster (22"x28") talking about their project to the south end of the <i>Family &amp; Consumer Sciences (FCS) Building</i> on Sunday, August 16 between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Posters will be displayed in the FCS Building during the fair.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Posters must be on regular poster board only (22"x28"), no foam boards or tri-folds may be used.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Exhibitors without a poster turned in on Sunday by 3:00 p.m. will have their grade lowered one letter grade.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All grades and placings in pet care are based on exhibitor knowledge, project book, poster, and condition of animal. Placings are not based on the animal's conformation, breed type, etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Members must take their completed project book to judging. Failure to bring the completed book will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>NOTE:</b> Cats are not brought to the fairgrounds for judging. Grades &amp; placings will be based on the interview and poster.</li> </ul>	<p><b>FAIR EXHIBIT</b> Judging on Wednesday, August 19th beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the south end of the FCS Building.</p> <p>Specific interview times will be posted for each exhibitor.</p> <p>Animals for Pet Care projects are not kept at the fairgrounds. All pets and small animals (except cats) are brought to the fairgrounds for interview judging only.</p> <p><b>DO NOT BRING YOUR ANIMALS TO THE FAIRGROUNDS EARLY AND ALLOW THEM TO SUFFER IN THE HEAT!</b></p> <p>For more information, go to <a href="http://www.ohio4h.org/companionanimals">www.ohio4h.org/companionanimals</a></p>
<p>#210 - Assistance Animals in Action</p> <p><i>Members enrolling in this project must purchase a project book each year they enroll in the project (\$12.00).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare a 22" x 28" poster about your project to turn in at the FCS Building on Sunday, August 16 between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complete your project book and bring to judging on Wednesday, August 19 in the south end of the FCS Building.</li> </ul>	<p>Class 130 – Pet Care</p> <p>1. Assistance Animals in Action</p>
<p>#215 - Cavy Project and Record</p> <p><i>The Cavy Project and Record Book is needed annually by all guinea pig exhibitors (\$12.00).</i></p> <p><i>All cavy exhibitors also need the Cavy Resource Handbook: A 4-H Guide to Guinea Pigs (\$20.00). (One Resource Handbook per family is adequate).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Care for at least one cavy (guinea pig) for a minimum of three months.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare a 22"x28" poster about your project to turn in at the FCS Building on Sunday, August 16 between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complete your project book and bring to judging on Wednesday, August 19 in the south end of the FCS Building.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bring one cavy (guinea pig) in a ventilated container at your scheduled interview time.</li> </ul>	<p>Class 130 – Pet Care</p> <p>2. Cavy (Guinea Pig)</p>
<p>#216 - Purr-fect Pals, Level 1 #217 - Climbing Up! Level 2 #218 - Leaping Forward, Level 3</p> <p>Cat projects must be taken in order. Purr-fect Pals may only be taken two times.</p> <p><i>Must purchase a cat project book each year you enroll in the specific project (\$12.00).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Care for at least one cat for a minimum of three months.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare a 22"x28" poster about your project to turn in at the FCS Building on Sunday, August 16 between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complete your project book and bring to judging on Wednesday, August 19 in the south end of the FCS Building.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cats are not brought to the fair.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Members may enroll in Purr-fect Pals for a maximum of two years, before moving up to Climbing Up.</li> </ul>	<p>Class 130 – Pet Care</p> <p>3. Purr-fect Pals, Level 1 4. Climbing Up, Level 2 5. Leaping Forward, Level 3</p>

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<p>#220 - Pocket Pets Project &amp; Record (Hamsters, Gerbils, Mice &amp; Rats)</p> <p><i>Must purchase a Pocket Pets Project &amp; Record Book each year you enroll in the project (\$12.00).</i></p> <p><i>Must purchase a Pocket Pets Resource Handbook the first year you take the project (\$16.00). (One Resource Handbook per family is adequate.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Care for at least one hamster, gerbil, mouse or rat for a minimum of three months.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare a 22" x 28" poster about your project to turn in at the FCS Building on Sunday, August 16 between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complete your project book and bring to judging on Wednesday, August 19 in the south end of the FCS Building.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bring one hamster, gerbil, mouse or rat in a ventilated container at your scheduled interview time.</li> </ul>	<p>Class 130 – Pet Care</p> <p>6. Pocket Pets (Hamsters, gerbils, mice, rats)</p>
<p>#228PE – Pet Rabbit</p> <p>All Pet Rabbit exhibitors enroll in project #228PE and must purchase the Rabbit Project and Record Book annually (\$12.00).</p> <p><i>All Pet Rabbit exhibitors also need a Rabbit Resource Handbook (\$20.00) the first year you take the project. (One Resource Handbook per rabbit family is adequate.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Care for at least one rabbit for a minimum of three months.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare a 22" x 28" poster about your project to turn in at the FCS Building on Sunday, August 16 between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complete your project book and bring to judging on Wednesday, August 19 in the south end of the FCS Building.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bring one rabbit in a ventilated container at your scheduled interview time.</li> </ul>	<p>Class 130 – Pet Care</p> <p>7. Pet Rabbit</p>
<p>#365 - Self-Determined (Other Pets and Small Animals)</p> <p><i>Must purchase a Self-Determined Project Booklet with insert (\$12.00).</i></p> <p>Members enrolling in a Self-Determined Pet Care Project for Reptiles or Amphibians, Hedgehogs, Ferrets or Chinchillas should download the Idea Starter at <a href="http://www.ohio4h.org/selfdetermined">www.ohio4h.org/selfdetermined</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> For animals not mentioned in the Pocket Pets project, or projects that go beyond the basic care of animals. Create and complete a special project based on your project animal.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Design your project plans so that you learn things about your animal that you don't already know.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Enroll in Self-Determined Project 365.09 General, other</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Project Plan insert in Self-Determined project booklet is due in the Extension Office by April 15th. Summary sheet is to be brought to judging.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Care for at least one animal for a minimum of three months.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare a 22" x 28" poster about your project to turn in at the FCS Building on Sunday, August 16 between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complete your Summary Sheet insert and the Small Animal Record Book and bring to judging on <b>Wednesday, August 19</b> in the south end of the FCS Building. (Not judged with other self-determined projects on Monday)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bring your project animal in a cage or ventilated container at your scheduled interview time.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> NOTE: Ferrets must have a Certificate of Veterinary inspection completed and turned in with project poster on Sunday, August 16 to be eligible to come to the fair on Wednesday for judging.</li> </ul>	<p>Class 130 – Pet Care</p> <p>8. Other Pets (Cage birds, snakes, turtles, lizards, ferrets, chinchillas, hedgehogs, etc.)</p>