



# Mini 4-H PETS



## An Introduction to 4-H for Youth in Grades K - 2

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# 4-H Facts



**The 4-H Symbol:** A four leaf clover with an “H” in each leaf.

**4-H Colors:** Green and White

**The 4-H Motto:** To make the best better!

**The 4-H Pledge:**

I Pledge  
My Head to clearer thinking  
My Heart to greater loyalty  
My Hands to larger service  
My Health to better living  
For my Club,  
My Community,  
My Country,  
and my World.

# Mini 4-H

**Welcome to Mini 4-H!** You are now a member of the Elkhart County 4-H family! We hope that you will have lots of fun learning new things in your 4-H career.

Mini 4-H is designed for youth in Kindergarten through Second grade. It will give you a taste of the 4-H program as well as help you to explore a variety of project areas.

Mini 4-H'ers may enroll in two different projects each year. This manual contains fun, age-appropriate activities to complete throughout the 4-H year. These activities will help you to learn about the project you have chosen. Additionally, the manual contains all instructions for the exhibit you will be preparing for the Elkhart County 4-H Fair in July.

There is no competition in the Mini 4-H program. Each child who completes a project for the Fair will receive the same green completion ribbon and certificate. Judges' comment sheets are provided only as a way to help you do your very best on future projects.

Mini 4-H does not have regular monthly meetings. Try to attend the special activities planned especially for YOU! These will give you a chance to meet the project leaders, have some hands-on fun, and ask questions about your important Fair display. Mini 4-H is FUN! You will enjoy it.

Once you enter the third grade you can join a regular 4-H club that meets monthly. You must enroll each year of your 4-H career.

If you have questions about the Mini 4-H program, please call the Purdue Cooperative Extension Office at 574-533-0554. We will be happy to answer your questions.

**As a Mini 4-H parent, please help guide and encourage your child through the activities. Work with them to help them to "learn by doing". Activities are designed to help your child learn about the project they have chosen. It is not required that they complete all the activities. Choose those that interest you and your child.**

## **What is a Pet?**

If a creature is four-footed or two-footed... or if it crawls, flies, swims or hops, you can bet someone has it as a pet. Caring for a pet can be a lot of fun and also educational. To find out about your pet, get a good book from the library, bookstore, pet shop or talk to other people who raise them. This will help you get the detailed information you need to know about your special pet.

**NOTE:** In Mini 4-H, dogs & cats are included in the Pet Animal project. Once you are old enough for regular 4-H, (in grade 3) you may not enter dog or cat posters in the Pet Animal project. Dogs and cats have their own 4-H clubs which you must join if you plan to enter your dog or cat. The Pet Animal project in regular 4-H only includes animals that do not have their own 4-H club.

## **ACTIVITY 1 – CHOOSING A PET**

**Materials needed for this activity:** None

**What you will do:**

1. Read the Helpful Hints for Selecting a Pet.
2. Think about these things before getting a pet.

### **Helpful Hints for Selecting a Pet**

1. Before you select a pet, consider what kind is best for you and your family. Select a pet that can adapt to your home and to the people in it. Find out what kinds of pets are popular with your friends and neighbors.
2. It is easier to train a young pet rather than an older one. However, you can train a grown pet if you have patience and time.
3. If you live in a small house, apartment or trailer, small pets are best. You may be happier with a bird, small dog, cat, fish, turtle or hamster.
4. You can buy pets from breeders, dealers, pet shops, private owners or you may adopt a pet from the humane animal shelter.

5. If you get a pet and you decide you do not want it, give it to a good friend or take it to the animal shelter for adoption. Unwanted pets should never be turned loose as they will have nobody to care for them.
6. Be sure your pet is healthy. Have it examined by a **veterinarian** (a special doctor that cares for animals) as soon as possible. A veterinarian is your pet's best friend. It is important that you get one for your pet.



### **What did you learn?**

What is the name of the special doctor that cares for your pet?

What should you do with a pet that you cannot keep?

## **ACTIVITY 2 – WHAT DOES YOUR PET NEED?**

Pets are not all fun. They depend on you to give them the things they need to live. In this activity, you will learn the things you need to do for your pet.

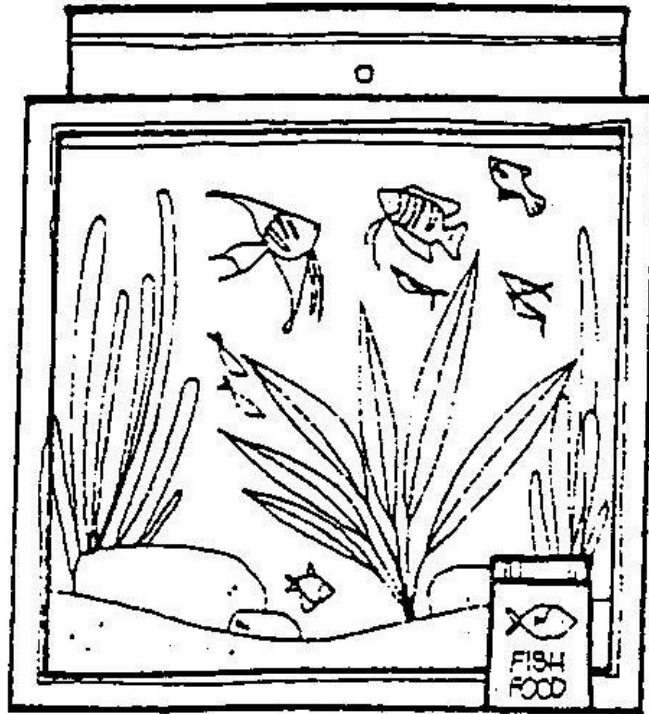
**Materials needed for this activity:** Activity sheets and crayons

### **What you will do:**

1. Read about the things your pet needs every day.
2. Color the pictures.

## ***Food***

Animals are like you. They need good, clean food and they like to be fed on time.



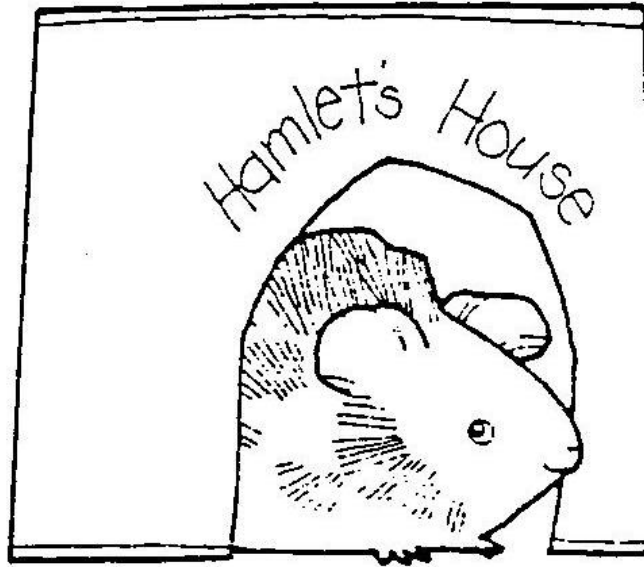
## ***Water***

Your pet needs to have clean, fresh water all the time.



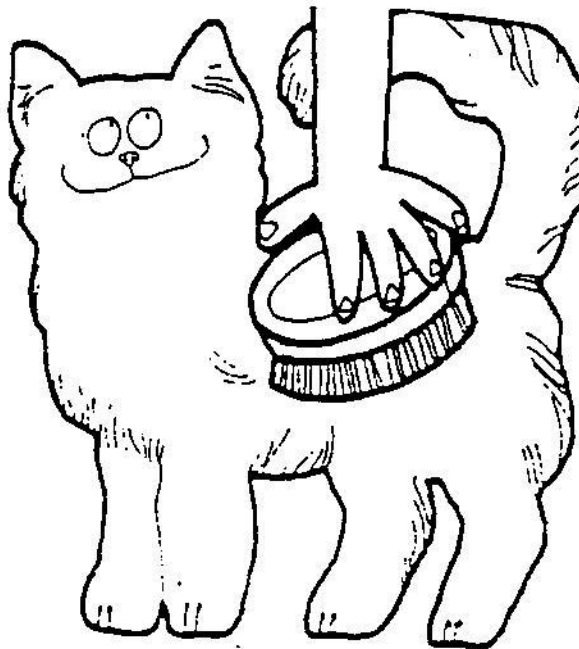
## ***Shelter***

Some pets need a special place to live and play. Your pet's cage needs to be kept clean and safe.



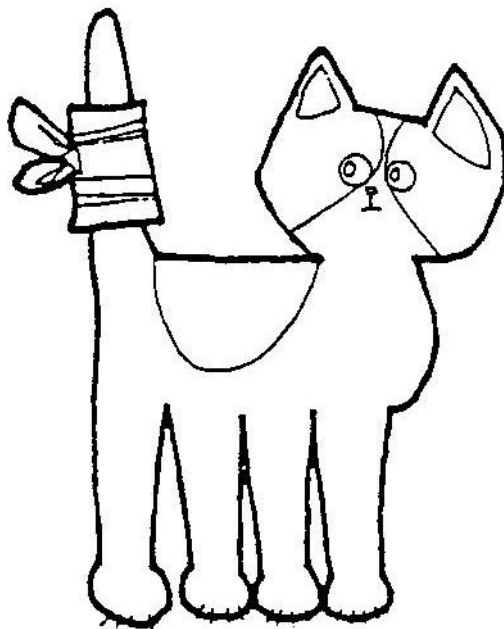
## ***Grooming***

Some pets need to have their fur cleaned and brushed for them.



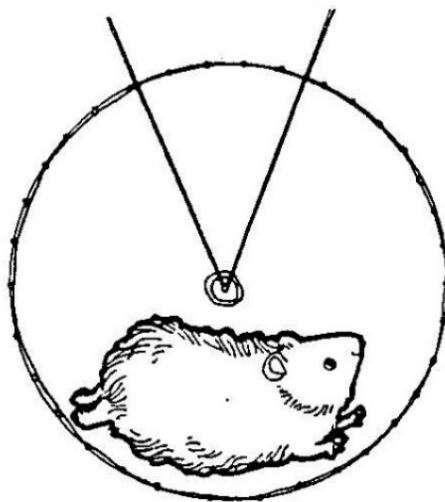
## ***Health & Safety***

Your pet needs to see the veterinarian if he is hurt or needs a shot to stay healthy. Keep your dog on a leash or inside a fence so they will not run into the street and get hurt.



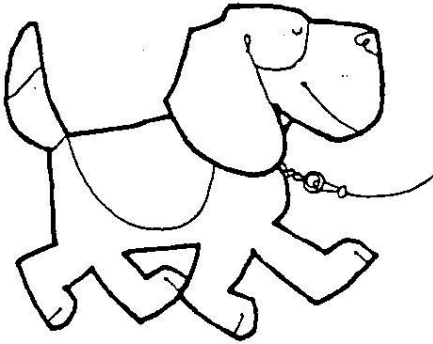
## ***Exercise***

It is important to exercise your pet. For some pets, this means taking them out for a walk. Others need special equipment.



## ***Training***

You will want to train your pet not to run into the street and to listen to your commands. Some pets can learn tricks.



## ***Love***

Pets give us friendship in return for our caring for them.



### **What did you learn?**

What animal is your pet?:

Do you take time to play with your pet each day?:

What does your pet like to eat?:

Do you keep your pet in a safe place?:

Where?:

## ACTIVITY 3 – DIFFERENT PETS

There are different kinds of pets. All pets need special care. Some pets need special places to live. For example, fish need a bowl or an aquarium with a filter; hamsters and birds need cages; and dogs need a fence or a leash.

***All pets need responsible owners.***

**Materials needed for this activity:** Word search and pencil

### **What you will do:**

1. Look at the word search find all the kinds of pets listed.
2. Think about what kind of pet you would like to care for.

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

GOLDFISH  
DOG  
CAT  
GUPPY

GUINEA PIG  
HAMSTER  
PARAKEET  
CANARY

TURTLE  
MICE  
PARROT  
GERBIL

**What did you learn?**

Did you know there were so many kinds of pets?:

What kind of pet would you like to have?:

What kind of home does your pet need?:

Do you have more than one pet at your house?:

Who cares for this other pet?:

**ACTIVITY 4 – A HOME FOR YOUR PET**

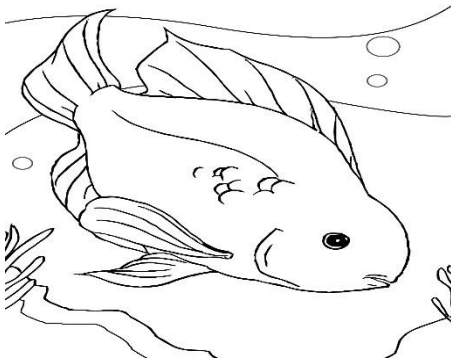
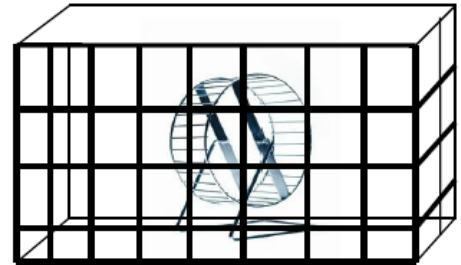
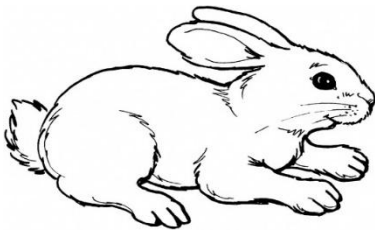
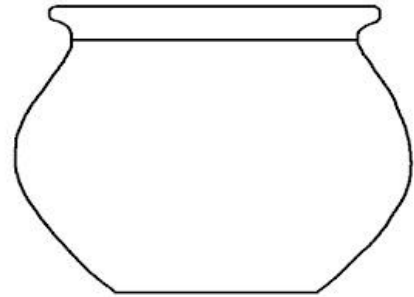
**Materials needed for this activity:** Activity sheet, pencil, and crayons

**What you will do:**

1. Look at the right side of the Pet Homes activity sheet to see different kinds of homes for pets.
2. Look at the pets on the left side of the activity sheet.
3. Draw a line from the pet to their home. After you have matched the pets to their homes, color the pictures.

## PET HOMES

Draw a line from the pet to their home.  
Color the pictures when you are finished.



### **What did you learn?**

Did you know there were so many kinds of pets?:

Do you have a special home for your pet?:

How often do you need to change the water for fish or clean your pet's cage?:

Who helps you clean up after your pet?:

### **Something to think about!**

Check out the fair schedule and plan to attend some of the Dog or Cat club shows during the fair. This will help you see what members of these special clubs do with their animals. Dog club members train their dogs in obedience beginning in April and show off at the fair. These clubs also have showmanship and costume class shows.

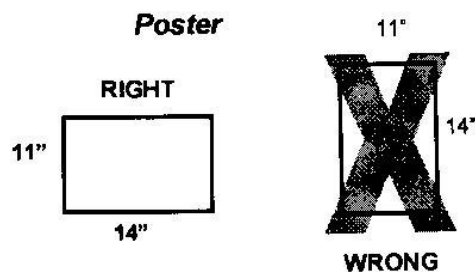
Developed by Purdue Extension – Elkhart County  
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**Elkhart County Mini 4-H Pets Manual**  
**Revised October 2024**

# What to Exhibit

## *Pets*

Make a Pets poster. Your poster must be exactly 11 inches x 14 inches, displayed horizontally (wider than it is tall) and attached to a stiff backing (like cardboard). You may use foam board. Foam board is already stiff and does not require additional backing. Your poster must be covered with clear plastic. This can be a poster sleeve. If you have made a three-dimensional item, you may use clear vinyl. Your poster must have a title.



**NOTE:** No oversize posters will be accepted for exhibition.  
No un-mounted items will be accepted for exhibition.

Choose one option below for your exhibit

1. Your poster can be about you and your pet. You can use pictures of you and your pet. You must include a short story of what you do to care for your pet.
2. You can use drawings or pictures cut from magazines of a pet you would like to own. You must include on your poster a short story telling what you would need to do to care for the pet you choose.

**NOTE:** If you are unable to pick your project up on Project Release Day, please make arrangements to have it picked up. All projects must be removed from the exhibit building on that day. There is no available storage space for unclaimed projects.

**All posters must include:** *(both are found on page 15)*

- Record Sheet (attached to the back of the poster).
- Exhibit Tag (attached in the lower right front corner of the poster).

## Exhibit Tag:

|                 |  |             |              |               |             |
|-----------------|--|-------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| <b>Mini 4-H</b> |  |             |              |               |             |
| <b>Name</b>     |  | <b>City</b> | <b>Grade</b> | <b>School</b> | <b>Pets</b> |

## Record Sheet

----- Cut here -----

**Name:**

**Grade:**

**My pet is a *(type of animal)*:**

**My pet's name is:**

**I chose this name because:**

**How long have you had your pet?:**

**What do you do to care for your pet?:**