

CAT

PLEASE NOTE: Any changes/updates from the previous year will be **BOLDED and *ITALICIZED*! Pay special attention to any projects with **BOLD**, *ITALICIZED WORDS* because they have changed from last year.**

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.

Completion, exhibition participation, and State Fair information for Cat			
Division/Level	Grades	Completion Activities Needed	Maximum State Fair Entries
Level 1	Grades 3-5	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	Check IN State Fair Website
Level 2	Grades 6-8	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	Check IN State Fair Website
Level 3	Grades 9-12	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	Check IN State Fair Website

SUGGESTED REFERENCE MATERIALS (available for purchase in Extension Office or shop4-h.org)

- Level 1: Purr-fect Pals
- Level 2: Climbing Up!
- Level 3: Leaping Forward

GUIDELINES

1. Refer to the Hendricks County 4-H Livestock and Animal Section for General Guidelines related to all livestock projects. See 4-H Policies, Entry & Exhibit Guidelines for poster and general display guidelines.
2. Be sure to enroll in the project on 4-HOnline and enter exhibit information into FairEntry by designated date.
2025 designated FairEntry Deadline is Tuesday, July 1st at 11:59 p.m.
3. Complete the Record Sheet (if not exhibiting at the Hendricks County 4-H Fair).
4. Each 4-H Member may show a maximum of two (2) cats in the 4-H cat show. Each cat may be shown in only one cat class. The member or their immediate family must own the cats shown. Each 4-H member that participates in the show may also enter one (1) cat in Showmanship.
5. To be eligible to show, the cat must be in the possession, care and feeding of the 4-H Member by May 15 of the year shown.
6. The cat may be either a purebred or a household pet.
7. 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 six (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. A Veterinarian will examine each cat at check-in, prior to being penned and entered in the 4-H Cat Show. Any animal showing signs of illness will be sent home. Pregnant or lactating female cats will not be permitted to show.
8. The Cat Show Entry Form should be submitted via FairEntry by the designated date if intending to bring cat to the fair for exhibition.
9. Each 4-H'er may show **ONLY** two (2) cats within the 4-Hers age level. For instance, a 4-H'er may show a long hair **AND** a short hair in their level **OR** the 4-H'er may show any combination of two (2) of the following as long as they are not in the same category: a long hair cat, a short hair cat, a kitten, **OR** a purebred. Example: two (2) longhaired cats, two (2) shorthaired cats, two (2) kittens or two (2) purebreds **WILL NOT** be permitted. Notice the Kitten and the Purebred category includes all levels combined.
10. The Purebred Category will be judged differently than the other categories. Purebreds are a recognized breed, kept pure for many generations; if the cat is registered, papers must be presented the day of the show. The purebred cats will be judged mainly on how they fit their specific breed standard according to the Cat Fanciers Association, as well as grooming and presentation of the animal.
11. The cage-decorating contest is an optional class for the Cat Show. Cage dimensions are 22" X 22" X 25" for a single cage.
12. 4-H'ers must provide appropriate draping whether or not they are entered in the cage decorating class to prevent cats from coming in contact with one another. Cats must be caged in the cages furnished. Exhibitors must provide water/feed containers, carrier, towels or curtains to drape their cage, litter box and litter, and other appropriate grooming aids.
13. All 4-H cats must be brought and taken from the show in carriers. Cats on leashes without carrying cases will not

be accepted. Please do not use paper/cardboard boxes as carriers. Harnesses should not be used because they interfere with judging. A leash and collar may be used but the leash must be removed for judging.

14. 4-H cats will be removed from their cages during judging. The 4-H member is responsible for bringing their 4-H cat to the show area and will stay and watch while their cat is being judged, and then return the cat to its cage. Only 4-H members may show cats at the judging table. Any cat not on the judging table at the time the class is judged, it will not be judged.
15. Each cat must be kept under control at all times. Do not leave your cat unattended either in the show arena or in an automobile.
 - a. Each 4-H member's cat will be judged on: Health, Cleanliness, Grooming, Personality, Knowledge, How you present your cat, and If all categories are equal, the judge will choose a winner by its "star quality."
16. The 4-H'er and/or his/her parent(s) should not speak with the judge unless conversation is initiated by the judge.
17. It is recommended that all 4-H cats, other than pedigreed breeding stock, be neutered or spayed, but not required.
18. All 4-H cats must have the claws clipped or be de-clawed.
19. NO PROFESSIONAL GROOMING PERMITTED - grooming must be done by exhibiting 4-H'er.
20. It is strongly recommended that all members show their own cats. 4-Hers who are unable to show their cat must receive prior permission from the Cat Project Superintendent in order to have another 4-H'er show the cat. Only another 4-H'er may show a 4-H'er's cat.
21. No cats will be allowed to stay overnight and must be taken home following the official release at the end of the 4-H cat show.
22. If wanting to exhibit a poster/display/notebook related to this species, 4-H members may do so under the "Animal Education" Project. (see page 24 for details)

4-H CAT SHOW CLASSES

4-H Cat Project members will be grouped and show their cats or kittens according to the following classes:

- Kittens - 4-Hers All Ages
- Purebred - 4-Hers All Ages
- Short Hair Cats - Junior 4-Hers
- Short Hair Cats - Intermediate 4-Hers
- Short Hair Cats - Senior 4-Hers
- Long Hair Cats - Junior 4-Hers
- Long Hair Cats - Intermediate 4-Hers
- Long Hair Cats - Senior 4-Hers
- Cage Decorating - 4-Hers All Ages (*optional*) - The cage-decorating contest is an optional class for the Cat Show. The cage dimensions are 22" X 22" X 25" for a single cage. Only one (1) cage decorating entry (single or double pen) allowed. See terms and conditions below. No lighting of any kind allowed.
- Senior Excellence Award - The Senior Excellence is for long term overall performance in the Cat Project. The award will consist of a permanent trophy engraved with the winner's name and year, to be placed in the 4-H Trophy Case and a smaller trophy will be given to the winner to keep. Applications are available in the Extension Office and must be turned in by July 1st.

4-H CAT SHOW CLASSIFICATIONS

- 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)

Adult: cats 8 months of age or older on show day.

Kitten: cats 4-8 months of age by day of show.

Long haired: cats whose coat has long top hairs, with a thick wooly undercoat. The length of hair on cat's tail is determining factor. Hair length is normally 1.5" long or more.

Purebred: cats of a recognized breed, kept pure for many generations. If the cat is registered, it must have a current registration number from one of the national cat registries, such as the Cat Fanciers Association.

Short haired: cats whose coat has only short hairs, a smooth, textured coat. Cat tail hair is usually less than 1.5" in length.

4-H CAGE DECORATING CONTEST:

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)

Rules

1. The 4-H cat cage decorating contest is OPTIONAL. It is an optional activity for 4-H members with a cat or cats entered in the cat show. If a 4-H member chooses not to decorate a cage, he/she must plan to bring a towel or sheet to cover the outside of the cage.
2. If a 4-H member chooses to decorate the inside of their cat cage, the single cat cage measures 22" H x 22" D x 25" W. 4-H members with two cats may decorate one (1) or both cages however, only 1 may be judged. Two (2) members of the same family may share one (1) double cage for 2 cats but this will only count as one (1) cage.
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? (The front of the cage should never be covered.)
 - d. Please do not use copyrighted figures such as Mickey Mouse, Garfield, etc., in decorating your cage.
 - e. Health/Safety/Comfort of the 4-H Cat. This includes water dish, litter, etc. Absolutely no lighting of any kind in the cages (violators will be disqualified).
 - f. Appropriateness to theme.

SHOWMANSHIP

A 4-H'er may only enter one cat in showmanship.

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)

Rules

1. Reference material may not be used during the activity by participants.
2. Questions for the activity will be taken from one or more of the following publications based on 4-H'ers entry class above.
 - a. Juniors – Purrr-fect Pals! (BU-6146 – designated project book)
 - b. Intermediates – Purrr-fect Pals! And Climbing Up! (BU-6146 and BU-6147 – designated project books)
 - c. Seniors – Purrr-fect Pals!, Climbing Up!, Cat Connections, and Your Cat and You. (BU-6146, BU-6147, BU-6148, and Purina Cat Chow) EACH of these books may be obtained from the local Purdue Extension Office.
3. Showmanship Judging includes scoring in each of the following
 - a. Written quiz
 - b. Showing your cat
 - c. Oral interview about the cat