

# Pocket Caged Critters

Superintendent: Jenny Spicher

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**State Fair Entry:** Not eligible for State Fair

**Animal Check In:** Wednesday, July 2, 2025; 5:30PM, Shrine Building, Kosciusko County Fairgrounds

**Show Day:** Wednesday, July 2, 2025; 6:00PM, Shrine Building, Kosciusko County Fairgrounds

**Animal Identification:** All participants must submit their animal identification form with a color picture to the Extension Office by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

A limit of one animal per category per 4-H member may be shown. Animals can only be shown in one project (for example a rabbit shown as a pet in Pocked Caged Critters may not also be shown in the Rabbit Project). To complete the Pocket Caged Critters, project a 4-H member must complete 2 activities in the pet's manual. A Pet Report is required for each animal entered into show. Pet Reports and manual activity completion is due at Pocket Caged Critters Show.

**Pet Report:** 4-H'ers need to complete one report for each exhibited animal. Points will be deducted for duplicated reports and/or information. A three-ring binder is recommended, but not mandatory. As a minimum requirement, reports must contain information on the following: habitat, healthcare, how acquired, estimated annual costs of animal care, and report as designated below for Level:

**Level 1 Grades 3-5:** A minimum one-page story of experiences with the pet.

**Level 2 Grades 6-8:** A minimum two-page report of experiences with your animal.

**Level 3 Grades 9 & up:** A minimum three-page report on one or more topics concerning the animal.

**Loss of pet:** If a registered animal is unavailable (runs away, death, etc.), the 4-H'er must bring the following three items to the Pocket Caged Critters Show to be eligible for competition: Cage or habitat, Photos of registered animal and the Pet Report for registered animal.

## **Show Divisions:**

Level 1 Junior Grades 3-5

Level 2 Intermediate Grades 6-8

Level 3 Senior Grades 9 and up

## **Show Categories:**

- **Arachnid & Insect:** Madagascar hissing cockroaches, millipedes, praying mantis, tarantulas, scorpions and walking sticks
- **Aquatic & Amphibians:** Crabs, fish, frogs, mudpuppies, newts and salamanders
- **Birds:** All pet birds
- **Mammals:** Ferrets, guinea pigs, hedgehogs, pet rabbits, prairie dogs, gerbils, hamsters, mice, rats and sugar gliders
- **Reptiles:** Lizards (non-poisonous), snakes (non-poisonous), turtles, etc.

**Exhibit:** Pets must be brought to the show in a secure, solid bottom carrier or cage. All participants must provide and use waterless antiseptic hand cleaner and/or change gloves when handling their pet. During the show, animals must remain in their carrier/cage at all times. The only time an animal is removed from the carrier/cage is at the request of the judge. No 4-H'er should handle the pets of other 4-H'ers during the show. Animals must be removed from the building immediately following conclusion of the show-*no exceptions*. Please note that any animal removed from the contest site prior to end of show without approval of committee member, judge, or extension educator will automatically be disqualified.

**Judging:** Judging will be on the following areas: Personal interview conducted by judge on knowledge of pet, appearance, cage conditions and ease of handling, and Pet Report.

**Veterinary Rules:** All pets should be free from disease and/or parasites and fleas. Any animal showing signs of ANY infectious disease, parasites, or fleas will not be allowed to show. The 4-H'er will be asked to remove the animal from the show building as quickly as possible.

**Ferrets:** To exhibit a ferret, rabies vaccinations are required within one year of the date of exhibition as per Indiana State Law. A *4-H 902 Certificate of vaccination* signed by a licensed, accredited veterinarian must be submitted at time of pre-registration. Tags will not be accepted for proof of vaccination.