

# Cats

**Manual:** Level 1 (grades 3, 4, 5) BU-8148 Purr-fect Pals  
Level 2 (grades 6, 7, 8) BU-8149 Climbing Up  
Level 3 (grades 9, 10, 11,12) BU-8150 Leaping Forward

**Record Sheet:** (Complete and put in your Green Record Book)  
Montgomery Co. Cat Record Sheet 4-H 777 Certification of Vaccination

**Exhibit Options:** 4H-528 General Record Sheet for poster  
Exhibit animal, OR, Display an educational poster about cats, OR  
Interactive Demonstration

## **Cat Health Requirements:**

### **SEE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SPECIES**

1. No cats may be exhibited that test positive for or show any symptoms of any communicable diseases.
2. Each cat presented for exhibition must be accompanied by a certificate of vaccination or other statement that is signed by a licensed and accredited veterinarian and that indicates the vaccinations each animal has been given. A certification of veterinary inspection may be used to document vaccinations but is not required. (You may pick up the Certificate of Completion at the Montgomery Co. Extension office or from your leader. It must be brought by the 4-H member to the 4-H Cat Show)
3. All cats must be vaccinated at least 2 weeks prior to the Cat Show. Vaccinations are good for 1 (one) year. Cats must:
  - a. Be vaccinated for feline panleukopenia
  - b. Be vaccinated for feline rhinotracheitis
  - c. Be vaccinated for calicivirus
4. All cats must be tested for the feline leukemia virus within one hundred eighty (180) days of exhibition or vaccinated within 1 year of the show.
5. All cats over 3 months of age must be vaccinated for rabies by a licensed and accredited veterinarian in accordance with the state rabies vaccination law.
6. The Board of Animal Health recommends, but does not require that:
  - d. Exhibitors consult with their veterinarian about preventative program for heart worms for all of the cats.
  - e. Cats have a negative fecal exam for parasites not more than thirty days prior to exhibition.
  - f. Exhibitors consult with their veterinarian about vaccination for feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) prior to exhibition.
7. **NOTICE: Indiana State 4-H imposes vaccination requirements for Cat Show participants beyond the requirements of the Indiana State Board of Health Minimum Requirements. Check with your local 4-H County Extension Educator for those requirements.**

For more information on cat health requirements, call the Indiana Board of Animal Health at (317)544-2387.

**Poster Exhibit Topics:** The following suggestions are ideas for development of educational cat poster. 4-Hers need not be limited by or to just these mentioned topics.

**Novice:** Cat care, cat breeds, litter training, treating my cat with care and respect, cat responsibilities, grooming skills, training my cat, de-clawing good or not, neutering/spaying, I lost my cat, determining cat costs, traveling with my cat, my cat's safety.

**Junior:** National cat fancier associations, a cat clinic, here comes the judges, training with extra praise, let's decide for my cat, careers related to cats, should my cat have kittens?, types of cat food, feeding my cat, things I've learned, insect pests, cat tails talk, symptoms of ill health, my visiting pet therapy program, cats get old too! – saying goodbye.

**Senior:** Understanding a cat show, planning a cat business, am I a role model?, cat genetics, cat organs and systems, exploring careers, learning about leadership, my cat quiz bowl, teaching others, having fun learning, it's the law!, protecting our environments, issues of animal welfare/rights.

## **Project Rules:**

1. Only ONE animal per exhibitor may be shown.
2. A cat being shown in the cat project must belong to the 4-H member or a member of their immediate family.
3. Refer to Certification of Vaccination for list of inoculations required. The certificate with the name of the veterinarian giving them shall be attached to the 4-H Cat Record Sheet. Papers will be checked at the Fair.
4. Vaccinations MUST be received by 2 weeks prior to the cat show. Those vaccinated after that date will not be allowed to show.
5. Each member is encouraged to exhibit his/her animals at the Fair. The cat is to be brought in a suitable cage or pet carrier. Kitty litter may be included but not required. Height of the cage is to permit the cat to stand but can be no larger than the 18" x 24". Each cat must wear a collar.
6. The Record Sheet must be submitted with the animal.
7. Cats will be brought to the Fairgrounds for the show only and return home.  
**CATS WILL BE DISPLAYED DURING THE SHOW ONLY!!**
8. Cats with claws MUST have nails trimmed for judge's safety.
9. Exhibitors in either of the Purebred classes must present pedigree or registered papers at check in.
10. ONLY the cat will be exhibited, NO binders, scrapbooks, etc. will be judged.
11. Cage decorations for the Cage Decorating Class must be in or on the cage. No tabletop decorations. Cages are subject to the cage/carrier size limit of 18" x 24".

## **Exhibit requirements:**

1. Each animal will be suitably caged in a cage furnished by the 4-H member; Cats MUST be on a leash when not caged!
2. Household Pet Classes:
  - a. Short Hair Cat over 8 months
  - b. Long Hair Cat over 8 months
  - c. Kitten – 4 to 8 months
  - d. Purebred over 8 months
  - e. Purebred Kitten 4 to 8 months
  - f. Costume class – both the exhibitor and the cat should be in costume for this class.
  - g. Cage Decorating Class
3. Animals will be judged on the following points:
  - a. Head – Well shaped
  - b. Body – Well shaped with no excess fat
  - c. Eyes – Good color with no discharge
  - d. Ears – Free of mites; clean & well-shaped
  - e. Coat – Color, Condition and free of fleas
  - f. Legs & Feet – Condition and Claws clipped
  - g. General Physical Condition
  - h. Balance - Physical & Temperamental