COMPANION ANIMAL DAY
(INCLUDES All About Dogs and You and Your Dog)
Lausche Youth Exploration Space
Friday, July 31, 2026
CHERYL GOODRICH, Assistant Superintendent

PLEASE NOTE FOR COMPANION ANIMAL DAY JUDGING

- Youth **ARE NOT** permitted to bring live animals to judging. Please refer to the judging criteria below.
- All projects, INCLUDING *All About Dogs* and *You and Your Dog* will be judged on Friday, July 31 at the Lausche Youth Exploration Center.
- The Ohio 4-H PetPALS program will offer all participants the opportunity to be interviewed at the Ohio State Fair Dog Show on **Wednesday, July 21**. Participants who have met all project requirements will receive an award for their dedication to the program. Participants in this program with dog project animals will continue as usual with judging at the Ohio State Fair Dog Show. Participants with other species will be allowed to come to the Ohio State Fair Dog Show **WITHOUT** their animal to participate in an interview. All participants will need to enter the PetPALS class through the Ohio State Fair livestock entry platform under Ohio State Fair, Get Involved, Livestock Competitions, Dog Show. Online Entries for the Ohio State Fair Dog Show must be made by **1:00 PM June 21, 2026** at this link: https://ohiostatefair.com/livestock/livestock-competitions

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Participation is open to youth ages 8 and in the third grade, or 9 years old and older regardless of grade level, as of January 1, 2026. The last year of eligibility, or participation, in 4-H is the year in which the individual turns 19.

2. The clock trophy winner of any one class in 2025 will **not** be eligible to participate in the same class for 2026 with the following exceptions: if the winners of the 2025 Pocket Pet classes (J-10 and J-11), the Reptiles and Amphibians class (J-14), and the Self-Determined class (J-15) are taking DIFFERENT species within those projects from the species with which they won in 2025.

3. Companion animal projects include:

216	Cat 1 – *Purrr-fect Pals*	365	*Reptiles and Amphibians Idea Starter*
217	Cat 2 – *Climbing Up*	365	*Hedgehogs Idea Starter*
218	Cat 3 – *Leaping Forward*	365	*Ferrets Idea Starter*
215	*4-H Cavy (Guinea Pig)*	365	*Chinchillas Idea Starter*
227	*Pet Rabbits*	200	*All About Dogs*
220	*Pocket Pets*	201D	*You and Your Dog*
365	*Self-Determined Companion Animal* (for youth taking any companion animal project not listed above, such as caged birds, pot-bellied pigs, hermit crabs, pet chickens, etc…)	210	*Assistance Animals in Action*

- *Pocket Pets*, Project No. 220, **includes only the following animals**: mice, rats, hamsters,and gerbils.
- *Self-Determined Companion Animals* should be judged during Companion Animal Day. Youth may NOT have their self-determined companion animal projects judged at both Companion Animal Day and Self-Determined Day.
- *All About Dogs* is for beginning level members who are not ready to take a 4-H dog project that requires owning a dog.
- *You and Your Dog* classes are interview classes for youth WITHOUT their dogs. Youth showing dogs at the Ohio State Fair Dog Shows are not eligible to participate in these interview classes. Youth being interviewed in *You and Your Dog* classes are not eligible to enter any dog in the Ohio State Fair Dog Shows. **Please note: Age ranges of state fair delegate youth relating to dog classes at companion animal day judging are consistent with other age brackets of state fair companion animal day judging and not with the Ohio State Fair dog show.**

4. Each county may send no more than **ONE** participant in each class.

5. No one individual may participate in more than one class.

JUDGING CRITERIA

1. Participants will have an interview with a judge.

2. There will be a 7-minute time limit for each interview.

3. The judge will evaluate participants on their knowledge of the project, the overall interview, and the visual display. Refer to OSF Companion Animal Day score sheets, which can be found at the end of these rules. Study questions are available for All About Dogs and You and Your Dog projects. These questions are posted at: go.osu.edu/CAresources

4. Participants must bring:
   a. Completed project book (if applicable); completed project records.
   b. An educational display representing the learning experience of the 2025 current project. This display may be in addition to, or updated from, what was used either at local 4-H judging or county fair judging. Your display should include visuals of you interacting with your pet such as handling, feeding, grooming, cleaning habitat, etc. Examples of displays: poster, scrapbook, computer-generated slides, video, etc… You may use a computer for exhibit presentation, however there is no internet connection available, so make sure your presentation is downloaded to the computer.

CLASSES

All ages are 4-H age, as of January 1, 2026.

J-1	Cat 1 – (ages 8-10)	J-12	Cavies – (ages 8-13)
J-2	Cat 1 – (ages 11-13)	J-13	Cavies – (ages 14-18)
J-3	Cat 1 – (ages 14-18)	J-14	Reptiles & Amphibians – (ages 8-18)

J-4	Cat 2 – (ages 8-13)	J-15	Self-Determined/Hedgehog, Ferret, Chinchilla Pigeon, Reptiles Idea Starters – (ages 8-18)
J-5	Cat 2 – (ages 14-18)	J-16	All About Dogs Interviews – (ages 8-10)
J-6	Cat 3 – (ages 8-18)	J-17	All About Dogs Interviews – (ages 11-13)
J-7	Pet Rabbits – (ages 8-10)	J-18	All About Dogs Interviews – (ages 14-18)
J-8	Pet Rabbits – (ages 11-13)	J-19	You and Your Dog Interviews – (ages 8-10)
J-9	Pet Rabbits – (ages 14-18)	J-20	You and Your Dog Interviews – (ages 11-13)
J-10	Pocket Pets – (ages 8-13)	J-21	You and Your Dog Interviews – (ages 14-18)
J-11	Pocket Pets – (ages 14-18)	J-22	Assistance Animals in Action – (Ages 8-18)

AWARDS AND SPONSORS

1. All participants will receive participation awards, sponsored by The Ohio State Fair.
2. "Outstanding of the Day" ribbons, sponsored by The Ohio State Fair, will be awarded to the top 20% of each class.
3. One overall clock trophy will be presented in each class. In 2025 awards were provided by: **Mark & Beth Frey, Cheryl A. Buck, Ivan & Deanna Tribe, Kirk & Marlise Bloir, Virgil & Crystal Jennings, Rebekah Salyers, Bob & Angie Holmes Family, Laurie & Richard Hall, Pablo & Heather Villa, Ohio Township Association, Nicole Farrell, Green Meadow Veterinary Hospital, Philip & Christie Becker, Pamela Watkins, Joel Oney, Bob & Linda Joseph, The Moore Family, David White, and Erica Shelton & Kevin Rodda**
4. Awards will be presented at 5:00 pm (subject to postponement if additional judging time is needed).
5. Those not present for the awards ceremony may pick up their awards, or arrange for another to do so, from the 4-H state fair office located in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space until the conclusion of the fair. Unclaimed awards will be sent to county extension offices after the fair.
6. Results will be posted online at https://ohio4h.org/ohiostatefair.

JUDGING SCHEDULE

The exact schedule of participation will depend on the number reporting at any one time. Members should bring registration information provided by their County 4-H Professional to the registration desk in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space. Registration will begin 15 minutes before judging time.

9:30 a.m.	Ashland, Clark, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Pickaway
10:00 a.m.	Allen, Champaign, Franklin, Logan, Marion
10:30 a.m.	Coshocton, Crawford, Greene, Licking, Madison, Muskingum
11:00 a.m.	Hardin, Hocking, Holmes, Knox, Morrow, Richland, Union
11:30 a.m.	Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Ottawa, Perry, Ross, Wyandot
1:00 p.m.	Athens, Auglaize, Clinton, Guernsey, Morgan, Shelby, Vinton
1:30 p.m.	Highland, Huron, Jackson, Medina, Meigs, Pike, Seneca, Stark, Summit, Williams
2:00 p.m.	Belmont, Hancock, Mahoning, Tuscarawas, Wayne, Wood
2:30 p.m.	Butler, Carroll, Clermont, Darke, Defiance, Erie, Hamilton, Harrison, Lorain, Lucas, Warren
3:00 p.m.	Jefferson, Monroe, Noble, Paulding, Portage, Preble, Putnam, Sandusky, Scioto, Van Wert
3:30 p.m.	Adams, Ashtabula, Brown, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Fulton, Gallia, Geauga, Henry, Lake, Lawrence, Trumbull, Washington

2025 CLASS WINNERS

*Class winners – Please check 2026 classes and information in the **General Guidelines** section of these rules for eligibility for repeating classes.

J-01 Cat 1 (age 8-10)	Isabella Wannemacher, Putnam
J-02 Cat 1 (age 11-13)	Abigail Rupert, Delaware
J-03 Cat 1 (age 14+)	Emily Lewis, Greene
J-04 Cat 2 (age 8-12)	Baird Blondin, Cuyahoga
J-05 Cat 2 (age 13+)	Alexis Huffman, Portage
J-06 Cat 3 (age 8+)	Line Stingle, Jefferson
J-07 Pet Rabbits (age 8-10)	Natalie Scott, Pickaway
J-08 Pet Rabbits (age 11-13)	Gracie Weber, Fairfield
J-09 Pet Rabbits (age 14+)	Kamryn Mowder, Monroe
J-10 Pocket Pets (age 8-12)	Kynlee Wood, Wyandot
J-11 Pocket Pets (age 13+)	Cadence Kyser, Lorain
J-12 Cavies (age 8-12)	Ayla Lippert, Mahoning
J-13 Cavies (age 13+)	Kendra Rodgriguez-McMullen, Geauga
J-14 Reptiles & Amphibians (age 8+)	Paul Selig, Summit
J-15 Self Determined (age 8+)	Riley Caines, Franklin
J-16 All About Dogs (age 8-11)	Hailey Braun, Shelby
J-17 All About Dogs (age 12-14)	Juliet Mumea, Summit
J-18 All About Dogs (age 15+)	Isabella Thomas, Guernsey
J-19 You & Your Dog (age 8- 11)	Jacob Pugh, Greene
J-20 You & Your Dog (age 12- 14)	Zachary Pugh, Greene
J-21 You & Your Dog (age 15+)	Laine Holstein, Fayette
J-22 Assistance Animals in Action	Abigail Lightell, Tuscarawas