

Cats, Hamsters, & Birds, Oh My!

Ohio 4-H Volunteer & Teen Conference

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Presented By:

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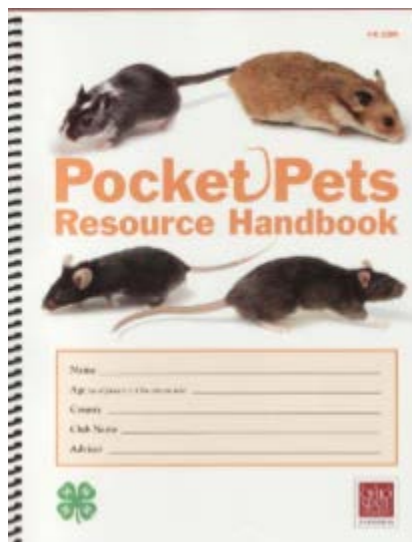
Dylan Kovach

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The Projects

There are a variety of companion animal projects that can be taken through the Ohio 4-H Program, including:

- Cavies (Guinea Pigs)
- Cats
 - Purrr-fect Pals
 - Climbing Up
 - Cat Connections
- Pocket Pets
 - Gerbils
 - Hamsters
 - Mice
 - Rats
- Pet Rabbits
- Reptiles & Amphibians
- Pigeons
- 4-H PetPALS
- Self Determined – including but not limited to:
 - Chinchillas
 - Ferrets
 - Hedgehogs



Safety

In order to ensure the safety of all involved, 4-H members taking a companion animal to judging must ensure that their animal is ok to be around other animals and strangers. These factors are considered when determining the safety of an animal at judging:

- Health of the animal
 - All animals being exhibited at judging should be in good health
 - Cats & Ferrets are required to have health forms filled out by a Veterinarian to ensure proper vaccinations have been given
- Temperament of the animal
 - It is important that the animal be calm and well behaved, if an animal is overly stressed they may act aggressively
 - The animal should be comfortable in the judging environment

Judging

The judging process for companion animal projects is not the same as the process for other “still” projects, while there are some similarities, there are also many differences.

- **Similarities**
 - Book
 - Learning Activities
 - Interview
- **Differences**
 - Showmanship
 - Record Book
 - State Fair process

The Ohio State Fair

- 4-Hers may compete at the Ohio State Fair by sending in a registration form and entry fee by July 1st
- Poster Display
- Project Judging
- Showmanship Competition
- Cage Decorating Competition

Preparing Your Animal

It is important that you're animal is ready for the judging experience, especially if they will be spending several hours at the Ohio State Fair. The following are some preparation tips for companion animal judging:

- Groom your animal
 - Before hand & at judging
- Practice showmanship
- Take your animal to new environments
- Introduce your animal to new people

Important Information You Need To Know

What To Bring

It's important that you bring several things with you to judging for your success & the comfort of your animal.

- Book
- Poster
- Grooming Supplies for your pet
- Cage / Crate for your pet
- Food / Water / Treats for your pet
- Litter Box (if applicable)

Important Paperwork

- Companion Animal Rules
- State Fair Walk Pass
- Health Form
- Entry Form
 - Includes entry fee

Important Dates

- July 1 – Postmark Deadline for Ohio State Fair Companion Animal Judging entries
- July 26 – Ohio State Fair Companion Animal Day Judging – Youth Discovery Building

Contact Information

- 4-H Animal Sciences Website
 - <http://4hansci.osu.edu/companion>
- Erica Clouse (Can also contact Dylan Kovach or Taylor Touvell at this address)
 - Clouse.96@osu.edu