

# Kalamazoo County 4-H Cat Project Guidelines

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Project Social Media: N/A

## Project Objectives & Life Skills\*

- Study and learn about the responsibilities of cat ownership
- Learn cat health regulations, first aid and simple treatments for ailments
- Explore careers related to animal science
- Head
  - Keeping records
  - Planning/organizing
  - Goal setting
  - Problem solving
- Heart
  - Concern for others
  - Empathy
  - Sharing
  - Communication
- Hands
  - Responsible citizenship
  - Teamwork
  - Self-motivation
  - Leadership
- Health
  - Character
  - Disease prevention
  - Personal safety
  - Stress management

*\*note these life skills are just some examples of what 4-H members will learn in this project*

### Additional Resources:

[4-H Cat Project Snapshot](#)

[Feline Features](#)

[Cat Fitting and Showing](#)

[Showing The Household Pet](#)

[Washington State University Extension 4-H Cat Project Unit One](#)

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# Cat Project

## **Guidelines:**

- An Exhibitor may show only his/her cat or the family cat. A cat may not be shown by more than one exhibitor. An exhibitor can show up to two cats/kittens, but he/she may not have more than one entry per class.
- **Cats must be in the exhibitor's possession and be registered with the superintendent by July 1st. The cat must be fed and cared for by the exhibitor. A copy of the registration page (page 4) must be sent to the superintendent by July 1st.**
- All cats should have their nails clipped or be declawed for the protection of the judge and exhibitors.
  - a. **\*\*\*Note: This is a youth event. Do not have the cat declawed if you plan to enter other shows. This will be a disqualification at some cat shows.**
- All cats shown at the fair must have a certificate from a veterinarian stating that they have had the following vaccinations - rabies and distemper, Calais & rhinotrach (Feline 3 in 1). It is highly recommended that cats also have feline leukemia and pneumatic vaccinations.
- **Cats/kittens must be free of disease including fleas,lice and ear mites.**
- Cats must be brought to the show in a carrier on the day of the show and must be kept under control at all times while on the fairgrounds.
- No pregnant cats or kittens less than 4 months of age are eligible to show.
- Cats should be at the fairgrounds and checked in with the superintendent 30 minutes prior to the show and will go home after the conclusion of the cat show.
- For the cat show, the exhibitor's attire should be neat and clean. Exhibitors should wear a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and dark colored pants or jeans.

## Section E–Cat/Kitten

- Class Definitions:
  - Cat - older than one year on the date of the show.
  - Kitten - 4-12 months old on the date of the show.
  - Purebred - conforms to the standard of the breed. Purebred registration papers are not required.
  - Household - Mixed breed
- Cat judging criteria
  - Condition
    - Eyes clear and moist
    - Ears–free of parasites and dirt
  - Hair Coat
    - Sheen-not dull and patchy
    - Free of parasites
    - Groomed well, brushed coat
  - Nails-clipped
  - Body build
    - Nice hefty feel, firm and weighty body
    - Strong limbs, not deformed
  - Proper handing
    - Consideration in the way the cat is handled

## Section F–Costume

- Costume class is based on creativity and originality.
- Youth may dress up the cat by itself or the youth and the cat may have matching costumes.
- The purpose is to create a costume for the animal. Participants usually dress up also. However, a costume should not adopt someone else's culture, skin color, customs, traditions, speech, or way of being.

## Section G– Showmanship

- Showmanship is required to be able to exhibit in the cat project
- It is mandatory that on the day of showing all cats come in a carrier or cage and are wearing either a

harness or collar, although a harness is preferred.

- The exhibitor must be present while judging takes place.

### Section H–Cat Science

- An educational project consists of a notebook, poster, 3-D display or other display showcasing the 4-H'ers knowledge about cats.
- Knowledge, complexity and difficulty of the cat project should increase as the 4-H'ers experience increases.
- Requirements for cat science for each year start on page 5 of this document.
- Cat science requirements
  - It is the responsibility of the member to obtain a copy of the notebook guidelines. All notebooks will be judged based on the guidelines)
  - Each notebook must include a copy of the guidelines for that notebook level.
  - Each notebook must include a title page and table of contents (each on a separate page).
  - Each page should have the year that the page is done in the lower right-hand corner.
  - All notebooks must be bound in a three-ring binder or presentation folder. No loose pages will be accepted.
  - Any questions regarding notebooks should be taken to your leader.
  - List resources (bibliography page) (i.e. internet sites, books, Extension bulletins, etc.)

# Kalamazoo County 4-H Cat Project Registration Form

4-H members name: \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years in 4-H: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in the cat project: \_\_\_\_\_

Community club: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Cat Information**

### Cat/Kitten #1

Pet's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pet's age: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed of cat: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Color/Markings: \_\_\_\_\_

### Cat/Kitten #2

Pet's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pet's age: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed of cat: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Color/Markings: \_\_\_\_\_

This form must be turned into the cat project superintendent  
prior to July 1st with proof of vaccinations.

This form needs to be included with your cat science educational exhibit.

**Kalamazoo County**  
**4-H Cat Science Guidelines**  
**Level 1**

- Items A, B, C, D, E and F are required for all notebooks.
  - A. Decorative Cover
  - B. Title Page
  - C. Table of Contents and Notebook Guidelines
  - D. Your 4-H Story – talk about your Cat Project.
  - E. Place the year that you complete each page in the lower right corner.
  - F. Pictures of your cat and or any other cat pictures or cards of interest.

Level One – Cat Notebook options:

- Option #1 –
  - First Year – complete six (6) of the following items
  - Second Year – complete the remaining six (6) items
- Option #2 -
  - First Year – complete all the following items 1 through 12. \*Remember, you must have completed all the items 1 through 12 before doing Level 2.

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1. Report on four (4) cat breeds, including your own.
  2. Describe a cat's five senses and how they perform i.e. mouth and taste, ears and hearing, whiskers and touch, nose and smell, eyes and sight.
  3. List the basic shapes and colors of purebred cats' eyes, and the most common shape and color of a crossbred cats' eyes.
  4. Explain the difference between the terms – purebred and non-pedigreed.
  5. Describe the equipment you use to care for your cat. You may use pictures with your description. Include any toys your cat likes to play with.
  6. Explain the proper way to pick up and hold a cat or kitten.
  7. Describe the safest way to transport a cat and use pictures to show different kinds of cat carriers.
  8. Describe how to groom your cat. Explain how to trim a cat's claws. May use photos.
  9. List the different coat colors and markings for all cats.
  10. List the signs of a healthy cat. Include what to look for in their skin and coat, ears, eyes, nose, mouth and teeth, and their overall fitness.
  11. List two signs of ill health.
  12. Using a diagram, identifying the different body parts of a cat.

**Kalamazoo County**  
**4-H Cat Science Guidelines**  
**Level 2**

- Items A, B, C, D, E and F are required for all notebooks.
  - A. Decorative Cover
  - B. Title Page
  - C. Table of Contents and Notebook Guidelines
  - D. Your 4-H Story – talk about your Cat Project.
  - E. Place the year that you complete each page in the lower right corner.
  - F. Pictures of your cat and or any other cat pictures or cards of interest.

Level Two – Cat Notebook options:

- Option #1 –
  - First Year – complete six (6) of the following items
  - Second Year – complete the remaining six (6) items
- Option #2 -
  - First Year – complete all the following items 1 through 12. \*Remember, you must have completed all the items 1 through 12 before doing Level 3.

- 
1. Report on four (4) cat breeds, not previously reported on.
  2. Explain these terms – disease, virus, parasite.
  3. List of three common external parasites. Draw pictures of each, if possible; and explain the treatment and preventions for each one.
  4. What are ear mites? What are the symptoms and how are they treated?
  5. Describe Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV), the symptoms and how it is treated and prevented.
  6. Describe Feline Infectious Anemia (FIA), the symptoms and how it is treated and prevented.
  7. Describe heartworm in cats. Show with pictures the life cycle of a heartworm and how to treat it.
  8. Explain Rabies in Cats. How do cats get rabies and what is the prevention or cure?
  9. What is a cat’s third eyelid and what is it used for? Explain what the appearance of the third eyelid tells you of your cat’s health.
  10. Describe declawing and list the pros and cons of the procedure. Also list any alternatives.
  11. Talk about some cat-related careers.
  12. Describe Feline Panleukopenia (Distemper), its systems, prevention and treatment

**Kalamazoo County**  
**4-H Cat Science Guidelines**  
**Level 3**

- Items A, B, C, D, E and F are required for all notebooks.
  - A. Decorative Cover
  - B. Title Page
  - C. Table of Contents and Notebook Guidelines
  - D. Your 4-H Story – talk about your Cat Project.
  - E. Place the year that you complete each page in the lower right corner.
  - F. Pictures of your cat and or any other cat pictures or cards of interest.

Level Three – Cat Notebook options:

- Option #1 –
  - First Year – complete six (6) of the following items
  - Second Year – complete the remaining six (6) items
- Option #2 -
  - First Year – complete all the following items 1 through 12. Remember, you must have completed all the items 1 through 12 before doing Level 4.

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1. Report on four (4) cat breeds, not previously reported on.
  2. Tell about feline coordination and the “righting reflex”
  3. List the items to look for when choosing a kitten. Describe how to sex a kitten.
  4. Describe the different types of collars and leads available for cats. Explain how each is used and give a brief explanation of how to train your cat to walk on a lead.
  5. Explain the types of food and number of meals for a cat at different ages: 2-4 months, 4-5 months, 5-6 months, 6-12 months, adult, late pregnancy females, lactating females, older adult.
  6. Explain how to groom the different coat types of cats. (i.e. shorthair, longhair, Angora, Rex, Maine Coon, Sphynx.)
  7. Describe two signs of ill health not previously described.
  8. List common internal parasites and how to treat them. Draw pictures of each, if possible.
  9. Describe how to brush your cat’s teeth. What is “gingivitis” in cats? List the number of teeth that an adult cat has and what types.
  10. Draw a picture of a cat’s eye and explain how the eye works.
  11. Explain how the cat’s ear works. Draw a cross-section of a cat’s ear, if possible; and identify the different parts. Why are white cats sometimes deaf?
  12. Describe the virus Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP). What are the symptoms and how is it treated and/or prevented.

**Kalamazoo County**  
**4-H Cat Science Guidelines**  
**Level 4**

- Items A, B, C, D, E and F are required for all notebooks.
  - A. Decorative Cover
  - B. Title Page
  - C. Table of Contents and Notebook Guidelines
  - D. Your 4-H Story – talk about your Cat Project.
  - E. Place the year that you complete each page in the lower right corner.
  - F. Pictures of your cat and or any other cat pictures or cards of interest.

Level Four – Cat Notebook options:

- Option #1 –
  - First Year – complete five (5) of the following items
  - Second Year – complete the remaining five (5) items
- Option #2 -
  - First Year – complete all other following items 1 through 10. \*Remember, you must have completed all the items 1 through 10 before doing Level 5.

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1. Report on four (4) cat breeds, not previously reported on.
  2. Describe two signs of ill health not previously reported on.
  3. Describe Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), its symptoms, and the prevention and treatments.
  4. Explain the term – neutering. What is it and when and why should it be done?
  5. List some common houseplants that are poisonous to cats. If your cat accidentally eats one of these plants, what should you do?
  6. Explain how to treat insect bites and stings that your cat may receive.
  7. Explain how to treat wounds your cat may receive from fighting with other cats or animals.
  8. What is an Elizabethan Collar and why would it be used on a cat?
  9. Give a brief history of cat shows and describe how a show is organized.
  10. Describe the viruses Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR), and Feline Calici Virus (FCV). What are the symptoms and what prevention or treatment should be taken.

**Kalamazoo County**  
**4-H Cat Science Guidelines**  
**Level 5**

- Items A, B, C, D, E and F are required for all notebooks.
  - A. Decorative Cover
  - B. Title Page
  - C. Table of Contents and Notebook Guidelines
  - D. Your 4-H Story – talk about your Cat Project.
  - E. Place the year that you complete each page in the lower right corner.
  - F. Pictures of your cat and or any other cat pictures or cards of interest.

Level Five – Cat Notebook options:

- Option #1 –
  - First Year – complete five (5) of the following items
  - Second Year – complete the remaining six (6) items
- Option #2 -
  - First Year – complete all the following items 1 through 10. \*Remember, you must have completed all the items 1 through 11 before doing Level 6.

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1. Report on four (4) cat breeds, not previously reported on.
  2. Describe your cat’s body language and behavior and how you interpret your cat’s moods. (i.e. aggressive, purring, cat calls, defensiveness.)
  3. Describe the different types of cat litter and litter boxes available. Explain the use of each one.
  4. List the nutritional requirements of the adult cat. What is the average weight of an adult cat. Explain how to avoid overfeeding your cat and how to reduce the weight of an obese cat. Which cat foods provide the daily nutritional requirements for your cat.
  5. Describe how to bathe a cat and how to handle a cat during bathing. Use pictures to show bathing supplies and explain the use of any unusual supplies.
  6. Describe signs of stress in a cat and how to best handle each behavior.
  7. Explain how to take a cat’s pulse. List the normal heart rate.
  8. Explain the term “zoonoses.” List and describe the diseases that are transmissible to humans.
  9. Draw a cat’s skeleton and identify all the different bones.
  10. Explain the term – polydactyly. What causes it?
  11. Explain how to take a cat’s temperature. What is a normal temperature range for a cat?

**Kalamazoo County**  
**4-H Cat Science Guidelines**  
**Level 6**

- Items A, B, C, D, E and F are required for all notebooks.
  - G. Decorative Cover
  - H. Title Page
  - I. Table of Contents and Notebook Guidelines
  - J. Your 4-H Story – talk about your Cat Project.
  - K. Place the year that you complete each page in the lower right corner.
  - L. Pictures of your cat and or any other cat pictures or cards of interest.

Level Six – Cat Notebook options:

- Option #1 –
  - First Year – complete six (6) of the following items
  - Second Year – complete the remaining six (6) items
- Option #2 -
  - First Year – complete all of the following items 1 through 12.

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1. Report on four (4) cat breeds, not previously reported on.
  2. Explain basic first aid for your cat. Describe how to clean cuts and lacerations, how to stop bleeding, how to apply bandages, how to help a cat suffering from heatstroke or asphyxia (such as carbon monoxide).
  3. Explain the different methods of restraining a cat.
  4. Describe the different methods of administering medicine to a cat.
  5. Explain how to nurse a sick cat. Describe with pictures the equipment that could be used.
  6. Explain the care and feeding of a pregnant cat. Describe with pictures the equipment to have available for the kittens' birth.
  7. What is the length of pregnancy in a cat? If possible, show with pictures, the growth of a kitten fetus.
  8. Explain how to foster or bottle feed a kitten. Show pictures of the feeding equipment you would use.
  9. Describe the safest way to move an unconscious or uncooperative cat. Use pictures if possible.
  10. Describe CPR for a cat. Include descriptions of artificial respiration, cardiac massage, mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, and aid for drowning.
  11. List items in your home that may be poisonous to your cat. Identify signs of poisoning and the action to take. (These should be items other than houseplants).
  12. If possible, visit and report on a cattery.