



West Virginia 4-H Pets Record Guide

Name: _____ Age (as of Jan. 1): _____

Address: _____

Club Name: _____

County: _____ Years in 4-H: _____ Date Project Completed: _____

Check Project Taken:

Pet Pals Scurrying Ahead Scaling the Heights

I hereby certify that, as the exhibitor of this project, I have personally been responsible for the care of this animal, record keeping, and have completed this record guide. I am aware that this record book may be on display and thus all content will be appropriate for all audiences.

Youth Signature: _____ Date: _____

I, the parent/guardian, certify that my son/daughter has completed this project and record guide and will comply with all rules and regulations. I give permission for this record book to be displayed and will ensure that all content is appropriate for all audiences.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Check with your local WVU Extension office to determine when your record book needs to be submitted and any additional guidelines or rules for completion.

Introduction

The 4-H Pet Pals project begins when you start your 4-H project year in October. Some sections of the record book require you to establish some goals to meet. It is important to do that at the start of the project year. If you need help understanding the material, contact your 4-H leader or county Extension agent.

This project is for those who want to learn how to care for their tropical fish, gerbil, hamster, guinea pig, or small reptile; keep their pet(s) healthy and contented; know the costs involved in raising; promote responsible pet ownership; in addition to practice important life skills such as decision-making, communicating with others, leading self and others, planning and organizing, and accepting responsibility.

If you are interested in a “**pet rabbit**,” you should enroll in What’s Hopping (Rabbit 1), Making Tracks (Rabbit 2), or All Ears (Rabbit 3) and use the *Pets Record Guide*. If your interests are in “**market rabbits**,” you should take one of those three projects and use the *Market Livestock Record Guide*. If you breed and raise rabbits, you should take one of those three projects and use the *Breeding Livestock Record Guide* and supplemental breeding rabbit doe and buck record sheets.

This record guide is designed to be used with the Pet project. It is suggested that each project be used for three years before moving to the next level. After your first year in the Pet project, you will need to reorder only the *Pets Record Guide* until you move to the next level.

Project Guidelines

- Complete at least seven main chapter activities or More Challenges activities in the Pets Achievement Program each year.
 - Finish each level within three years.
 - Complete 21 activities before advancing to the next level.
 - If you choose to do More Challenges activities, record in a notebook or portfolio the what, when, where, and how you accomplished each selected activity. Include your notebook or portfolio with your project book for grading.
 - Practice and develop life skills as you learn more about pets.
 - Participate in at least three learning experiences outlined in the Planning Guide each year.
-

Information About My Pet

Kind of pet _____

Name of pet _____

Sex of pet: Male _____ Female _____

My pet's age is _____ Year of birth _____ Month _____ Day _____

Unknown; estimated age _____

I assumed ownership of my pet on _____

(date)

My pet was (check all that apply) _____ Already the family pet

_____ Gift

_____ Purchased

Value when purchased _____

Where purchased _____

(name of store, breeder, animal shelter, or pound)

_____ Other (explain)

Date I started my project _____

Date I completed my project _____

Description of my pet (include size, weight, color, and other identifying characteristics of your pet)

Average time I spend with my pet each day (observing, playing, exercising, caring, etc.)

Project Pictures

Make sure to include at least two pictures of your project animal.

Beginning project picture on page 11 and ending project picture on page 12.

Pet Care

What kind of home or cage does your pet live in? _____

What kind of bedding do you use? _____

How often do you clean your pet's cage or litterbox? _____

What kind of food do you feed your pet? _____

How often do you clean your pet's food and water containers? _____

How often do you play with your pet? _____

How often do you exercise your pet? _____

How often do you take your pet to the veterinarian? _____

What is your pet's favorite food? _____

What is your pet's favorite place? _____

What is your pet's favorite toy? _____

What is your pet's favorite thing to do? _____

What tricks can your pet do? _____

What commands does your pet obey? _____

What do you do to keep your pet healthy? _____

Has your pet ever

 Been sick? _____

 Been hurt? _____

 Been lost? _____

 Been neutered or spayed? _____

 Been declawed? _____

 Had babies? _____

Do you have other pets? (Include their names and species) _____

What do you do to take care of them? _____



Pet Life Cycle

Are your pet's young hatched or born? (Tell which one) _____

How many young are born or hatched at one time? _____

What do newborn or newly hatched young look like? _____

What do the parent animals do to care for their young? _____

When are the young old enough to leave their parents? _____

At what age do they become able to breed? _____

For animals that give birth, how long does gestation (pregnancy) last? _____

For animals that lay eggs, how long are eggs incubated before they hatch? _____

How long does an animal usually live? _____

Did your pet have a litter? _____ How many? _____

What did you do with the litter? _____



Veterinary and Health Expenses

(Please list all medical expenses appropriate for your pet. Include costs of medicine, vaccinations, boarding fees, and other health practices performed by you, your parents, or others.)

Date	Treatment or Service	Performed by	Reason for Treatment or Service	Cost	Comments
Example: 10/9/2018	Pet's first visit to vet	Dr. DVM	Pet's first visit to vet for vaccinations and declawing	\$20.00	This was my pet's first visit to a vet. Divot liked her vet.
Total Costs					

Miscellaneous Expenses

(List purchases other than food and health products or practices; examples: equipment, bedding, grooming supplies, entry fees, sales fees, advertising fees, toys.)

Date	Item Purchased or Service Performed	Reason for Item Purchased or Service Performed	Cost	Comments
Example: 10/9/2018	Hamster Cage	Cage so my hamster can play and exercise	\$10.00	My hamster likes her new cage.
Total Costs				

Show Record

Record the results of all shows and showmanship events your pet enters during the year.

Name and Place of Show/Fair	Date	Class	Placing	Premiums/ Ribbons
<i>Example:</i> County Fair Pet Show Morgantown, W.Va.	7/12/18	Breed Class Syrian Hamster Teddy Bear	Second	\$ 5 / Red Ribbon
Total Value of Premiums Won				

Record of Demonstrations, Talks, and Activities During the 4-H Year

Record your participation in events such as judging contests, project workshops, visits to farm operations, demonstrations, etc.

Date	Location	Activity	Comments



Financial Summary

Income

Price received for any animal(s) sold _____

Show/fair premiums won (Page 6) _____

Other (Explain; example: care for your neighbor's pet while they were away.)

Total Income _____

Expenses

Cost of your project animal(s) (Page 1) _____

Total feed cost (Page 4) _____

Total health care costs (Page 5) _____

Total other expenses (Page 5) _____

Total Expenses _____

Total Income _____

Total Expenses _____

(Total income minus total expenses) _____
(Circle One) **Profit or Loss** (amount)

The exercise reflects only the financial commitments you have made in caring for and loving your pet.

Beginning Project Picture

Take a picture of your project animal(s) at the beginning of your project and include it here.

Date of photo: _____

Ending Project Picture

Take a picture of your project animal(s) at the end of your project and include it here. This will help show how your animal(s) have grown and developed.

Date of ending photo: _____

Pets Project Score Sheet

If you are taking this project without an animal, check with your Extension agent for approval. It is suggested that the self-determined project be used with the National 4-H Curriculum pets project book as a resource. Consult with your Extension agent to plan your project work.

Pets Project Book

Complete seven activities (from the main required activities and the extra More Challenges activities) in the Pet Achievement Program of the *National 4-H Curriculum Project Book*
(Each activity is worth 5 points – Total 35 possible points)

Complete Planning Guide in *National 4-H Curriculum Project Book* on pages 3 and 4 (Worth 5 points)

Pets Record Guide

(Worth 20 points)

Exhibit/Production Score

This may be the actual exhibition of your pet or other designated project or service determined with your Extension agent
(Total 20 possible points)

Activity Record

(Worth 20 points)

TOTAL

Comments:



Revised in 2007 by the 4-H pet curriculum development committee: Jodi Richmond, Mercer County Extension Agent; Carol R. Schuller, Retired Senior Project Coordinator; and Jean M. Woloshuk, Retired Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Agriculture.

Developed and written in 2001 by the 4-H pet curriculum development committee with cooperation from: Frank J. Cary, D.V.M., Treasurer of the West Virginia Medical Association.

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