

Companion Animal

Rules

1. Class Information

- a. Entries in the 4-H Companion Animal Show are judged on the overall health and appearance of the animal, and the exhibitor's presentation and knowledge of the animal; not judged according to breed standards. Mixed – breed animals can be entered and ear identification is not required.
- b. Rabbits shown in the pet rabbit class cannot be shown in the rabbit show.
- c. Poster Class (#11) can include entries covering any companion animal (including reptile companion animals that are not showing in another class of the Companion Animal Show. The poster should be the size of one full standard poster board (should not exceed 22 inches x 28 inches). Exhibitors must be present at the time of the judging and will be judged on the quality of the poster, accuracy of the information provided, and the ability of the exhibitor to explain the information and answer the judge's questions.

2. Show Procedure – Exhibitors must be present at the time of showing. Animals should be housed in a carrier unless actually showing and in place ½ hour before the show. If being shown in a travel cage, exhibitors should bring photographs of the animal's normal habitat.

- a. Each exhibitor will be asked to give a short “showmanship” presentation on their animal. The characteristics, health, and care of the animal should be provided in this presentation. Following the presentation, exhibitors will be interviewed about their knowledge of their animals and their care.
- b. The judge will evaluate the participant on the following basis: animal health and wellbeing, carrier evaluation (appropriateness of travel housing as well as a description of everyday housing), and overall knowledge and presentation skills.
- c. Participants should bring an animal, adequate carrier, and accessories, a completed health certificate for cats and ferrets, and pictures of the normal display if appropriate.

3. Housing – Cats must be brought in durable plastic or wire carriers (not cardboard). Cats will remain in carriers, or another appropriate cage provided by the exhibitor except for when being judged. The exhibitor may provide food, water, and litter for the cat in the carrier if necessary. Exhibitors may want to provide a cover for the carrier to prevent their cat from seeing other cats. ALL CATS MUST BE SHOWN ON A LEASH and be on a leash at any time they are removed from the carrier/cage.

All other animals should be brought in the appropriate housing, either their normal cage or a durable plastic or wire travel cage (not cardboard). Cages must be secure. Exhibitors should provide water and food for all animals as appropriate. If a cage/enclosure is deemed inappropriate by the show superintendent, the exhibitor will not be allowed to show.

4. Health and Vaccination – All animals should be free of fleas, ticks, ear mites, ringworm, any internal or external parasite, and infectious disease. Required veterinary checks will be performed on each animal entering the show. If any signs of these external parasites or other contagious health conditions are presented, exhibitors will be asked to leave without being allowed into the show area. It is highly

recommended that a veterinary check is performed, or preventative measures are taken prior to the show to ensure that the animal is free of external parasites.

ALL DECISIONS OF SHOW OFFICIALS ARE FINAL. If an animal shows the possibility of being contagious, it will be considered a danger to the other animals in the show and will not be allowed to show. Animals that pose a danger to others will not be allowed to enter the building.

Cats are required to be current on their vaccinations for rabies, panleukopenia, viral rhinotracheitis, and calicivirus, it will be considered a danger to the other show animals in the show and will not be allowed to show. Proof of vaccinations must be sent in with entry forms. Exhibitors will not be allowed to show without proof of vaccinations.

4-H'ers vaccinating their own cats must provide proof by including a statement from their vet or by including the vaccination labels on the form and having it signed by a parent. Rabies vaccination is federally mandated to be given by a **Certified Veterinarian ONLY**. This vaccination must be current and include a veterinarian's signature.

If a cat is not declawed, the claws must be clipped. This will be a point of judging during the competition. No expectant or nursing mother animals may be entered in the show.

Call the Extension Office at 402-376-1850 if you have any questions.

5. Number of Entries per Exhibitor at County Fair – An exhibitor may make no more than two entries per class with a maximum of four entries total in Companion Animal.

6. Age of Animals – All animals must be weaned prior to the show. Minimum age of animals to be shown:

Cats – 4 Months	Gerbils, Hamsters, Mice, Rats – 4 Weeks
Ferrets – 4 Months	Hedgehogs – 5 Weeks
Chinchillas – 7 Weeks	Pet Rabbits – 9 Weeks
Guinea Pigs – 4 Weeks	

Class

G10001L – Cat

G10003L- Caged Pets (includes pet rabbits, ferrets, chinchillas guinea pigs, gerbils, hamsters, mice, rats, and hedgehogs). Any pets not included on this list must receive permission from 4-H Educator.

G10004L- Other (includes ponies, potbellied pigs, etc.)

G10011L – Poster

10061L – Companion Animal Showmanship

See **Clover Kid Companion Animal Show and Tell** for Clover Kid options.

Animal Educational Display

Class

G090100 – Animal Educational Display

Rules

1. 4'ers are invited to create a poster highlighting an educational aspect of their animal project. The poster could focus on a current livestock issue, animal industry career, animal care or health, and economic impacts of the livestock industry.
2. Poster display should be sturdy enough to last through the fair and no larger than 22 inches x 28 inches. Please take into consideration that these exhibits will be displayed inside the barns and may not be returned to the exhibitor in the original condition at the time of entry.
3. All entries **must** match the species of livestock they have entered at either the county fair or the Nebraska State Fair. For example, if a 4-H'er is exhibiting beef, their entry must be about beef and not another specie.
4. Species include dairy, beef, sheep, swine, goat, poultry, and rabbit.
5. In order to be eligible for the State Fair, posters must have been exhibited at the county fair and received a purple ribbon. Because posters may have been exhibited at the county fair in outside conditions, it is understood that they may be re-done prior to Nebraska State Fair but the content and design should be similar.

Resources

Cat

Learn about cat breed, senses, shows, tricks, signs of illness and health, cat sounds, emergency situations, feeding, special diets, and traveling with cats

URL: https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/207

Rabbit

Learn about rabbit breeds; Learn how to care for a rabbit; Learn to tattoo a rabbit; Learn about genetics and rabbit breeding

URL: https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/15

Other Pets or Small Animal

Find out what it costs to have a pet; Learn about animal digestion; Learn to keep a pet healthy; Consider a career with animals

URL: https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/6