

Companion Animal

County ID Required: No County Affidavit required. Must be identified in the Pre-Fair Entry due July 10, current year.

The Companion Animal Show includes cats and pets. Companion Animals are not housed on the fairgrounds. All exhibits in the Companion Animal show must be pre-entered.

Premiums: P-\$2.50, B-\$2.25; R-\$1.75, W-\$1.25

Class G100001 Cat

Class G100002 Pet Rabbit

Class G100003 Ferret

Class G100004 Chinchilla

Class G100005 Guinea Pig

Class G100006 Gerbil

Class G100007 Hamster

Class G100008 Mouse

Class G100009 Rat

Class G100010 Hedgehog

Class G100011 Poster

Class G100912 Other – including birds, reptiles, fish. Only household, domesticated pets are allowed. This show may not duplicate animals that are exhibited in other departments in the fair. (county only show)

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS:

Only those animals listed above will be allowed to show in the companion animal show.

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 identification is not required.

Rabbits shown in the pet rabbit class cannot be shown in the **county** 4-H rabbit show.

Classes may be combined, or broken down further at the discretion of the show management.

Poster division (#11) can include entries covering any companion animal (including reptiles, companion birds, or others). Exhibitors should make a poster with information on the proper care of a companion animal that they are not showing in another class of the Companion Animal Show. Poster should be the size of one full standard poster (should not exceed 22"x28") board. Exhibitors must be present at time of judging and will be judged on quality of the poster, accuracy of information provided, and ability of the exhibitor to explain the information and answer judge's questions.

SHOW PROCEDURE:

A. Exhibitors must be present at time of showing. Animals must be housed in a cage at all times of the show unless asked to remove them by the judge. If being shown in a travel cage, exhibitors should bring photographs of the animal's normal habitat.

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 on knowledge of their animal and its care.

The judge will evaluate the participant on the following basis: animal health and wellbeing, cage evaluation (appropriateness of travel housing as well as description of everyday housing), and overall knowledge and presentation skills.

See the 4-H Companion Animal (Cat & Small Animal) score sheets for more complete breakdown of points available.

B. Participants should bring animal, adequate cage and accessories, and pictures of normal habitat if appropriate. **All vaccination records for cats and ferrets must be turned in to the Extension office in advance of the show.**

C. HOUSING: Cats must be brought in durable carriers. (plastic or wire cages). Cats will remain in carriers or other 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.

Companion Animal Tip: Did you know there is a poster exhibit in this project? A great fair exhibit idea to bring to the county fair.

All other animals should be brought in 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.

D. ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible to show at the County Fair Companion Animal Show, the exhibitor must be currently enrolled in the 4-H Cat or Companion Animal 4-H Project.

E. HEALTH AND VACCINATIONS: All animals should be free of fleas, ticks, ear mites, ringworm, and internal and external parasite and infectious disease. Required veterinary checks may 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 the animal in 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 in the show area.

Cats are required to be current on their vaccinations of Rabies, panleukopenia, viral rhinotracheitis, and calicivirus. Cats must either have a current feline leukemia vaccination or proof of a negative test within 180 days of the show. Proof of vaccinations must be on file with the Extension Office by July 10, current year, with vaccinations current on show day. Participants should have their veterinarian fill out and sign the "Nebraska State Fair Cat/Ferret Vaccination Record Form". Exhibitors will not be allowed to show without a signed Vaccination record form on file at the Extension Office.

Ferrets must be vaccinated for Rabies and have a completed health form signed by the administering veterinarian submitted with registration information. Participants should have their veterinarian fill out and sign the "Nebraska State Fair Cat/Ferret Vaccination Record Form". Exhibitors will not be allowed to show without a signed Vaccination record form on file at the Extension Office.

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

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.

F. ARRIVAL TIME: The Companion Animal Show will start no earlier than the time scheduled in the current premium book. Check in will ½ hour before the scheduled show time.

G. NUMBER OF ENTRIES PER EXHIBITOR: Exhibitors are allowed up to four entries. Entries may be all in the same class or may be in different classes. For example, you may enter four different cats in class G100001 or may enter one cat and three hamsters.

H. AGE OF ANIMALS: All animals must be weaned prior to show. Mini-mum age of animals to be shown:

- i. Cats:.....4 months
- ii. Ferrets:.....4 months
- iii. Chinchillas:.....7 weeks
- iv. Guinea pigs:.....4 weeks
- v. Gerbils, hamsters, mice, rats....4 weeks
- vi. Hedgehogs..... 5 weeks

CLEAN UP: All exhibitors must clean up their own exhibit areas. Exhibitors are expected to take down their exhibits directly following the final show. Animals left after the show will not be supervised and the Ag. Society and Extension Staff are not responsible for damages or losses experienced before, during or after the show.

J. DRESS CODE: Exhibitors in the County Fair Companion Animal Show are required to wear the official 4-H fair dress according to the 4-H Rules and Regulations during the judging of their exhibit. Long jeans/pants are required. While hard soled shoes are not required for the cat, dog and small pet shows, exhibitors are required to wear closed toes shoes with non-slip shoes. No hats, caps or other types of headgear are to be worn in the show ring. 4-H'ers will be judged on the neatness of their appearance. This includes, but is not limited to: shirt tucked in, appropriate size of clothing, tied shoe laces, etc. Individuals not meeting these requirement may be lowered one (1) ribbon placing.

