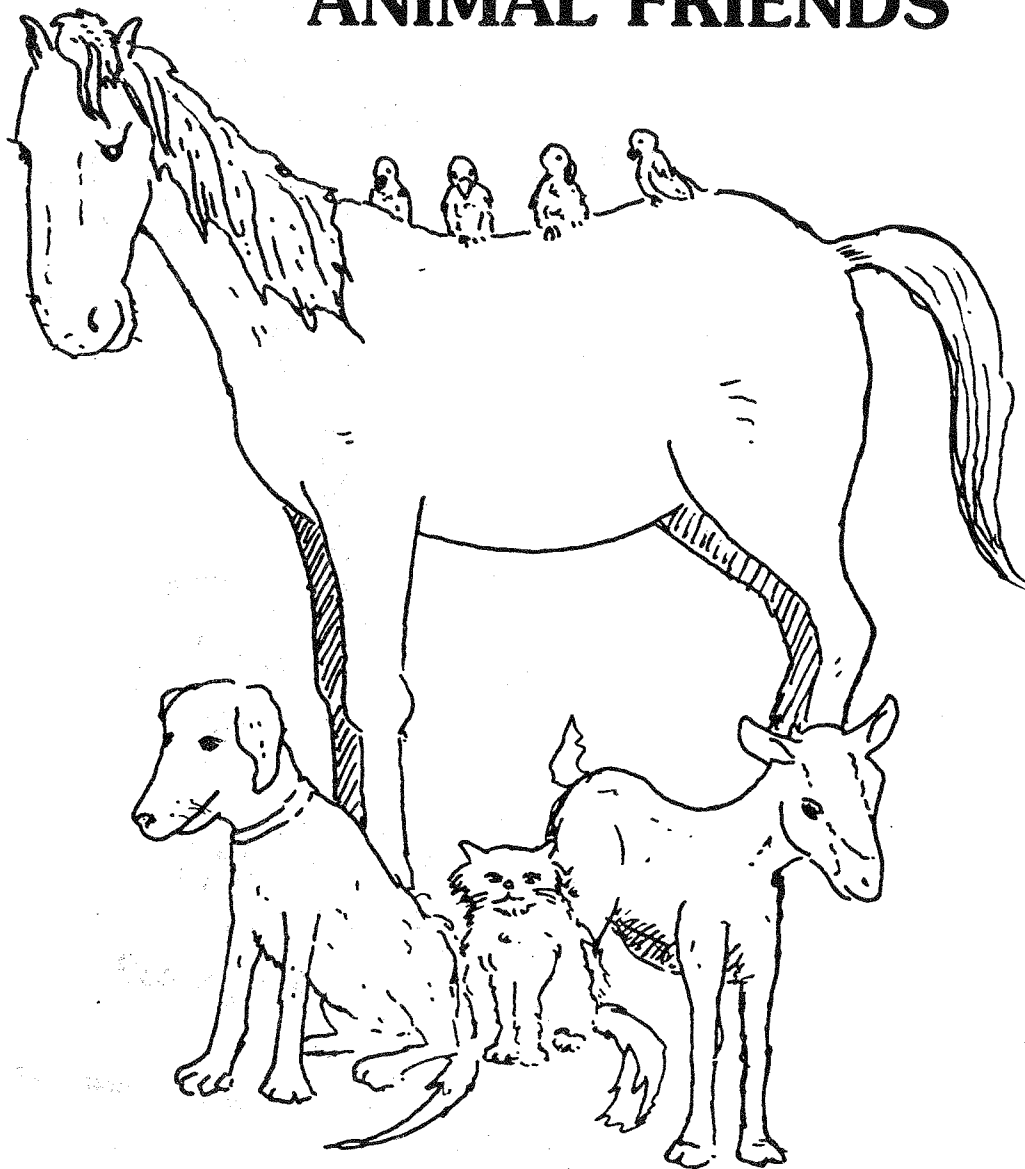




LEARN TO DO BY DOING

## ANIMAL FRIENDS



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

AGE \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF CLUBS \_\_\_\_\_



Ontario  
4-H Council



Ministry of Agriculture,  
Food and Rural Affairs

4 - H - 0150 - 90ME

## THE 4-H PLEDGE

"I pledge:  
My Head to clearer thinking  
My Heart to greater loyalty  
My Hands to larger service  
My Health to better living  
For my club, my community and my country."

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This project was jointly funded by the Ontario  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Agriculture Canada

### PURPOSE OF THE 4-H PROGRAM

The primary purpose of the 4-H program is the personal development of youth in rural Ontario.

In 4-H, members will be:

- encouraged to develop self-confidence, a sense of responsibility, and a positive self-image;
- helped to develop their skills in communications, leadership, problem solving, and goal setting;
- offered the opportunity to learn about the food production, processing, and marketing systems and the heritage and culture of Ontario through projects such as livestock and crop production, financial management, food preparation, nutrition, recreational activities, and career development.

### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 4-H Animal Friends Project! This project is providing proper care for a wide range of companion animals. During the meetings, many types of animals will be discussed. This includes housing, feeding, grooming, training, and health care. You will practice judging skills and learn about training and exhibiting animals and participate in interesting activities, demonstrations and experiments.

### OBJECTIVES

In this project you will:

1. Care for a companion animal which you have chosen for this project or learn about a kind of pet you would like to own.
2. Learn the basic care requirements for several different types of animals.
3. Learn the basics of feeding and nutrition for animals.
4. Practice how to groom, handle and train your project animal.
5. Learn about first aid and health protection of animals.
6. Practice how to judge articles and animals.
7. Have fun while you "Learn To Do By Doing".

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

This 4-H project is recommended for junior 4-H members.

A member will complete a project satisfactorily by:

1. participating in at least four of the six meetings of his/her own club.
2. completing the project requirements to the satisfaction of the club leader(s).
3. taking part in an achievement program.

### SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

1. Accept responsibility for the care and management of a companion animal.
2. Complete one of the projects from the list below.

### PROJECT IDEAS

1. Put together a grooming kit for your project animal. (i.e. nail trimmers, brushes, combs, etc.)
2. Put together a first aid kit for your project animal.
3. Set up an aquarium suitable for fish or an amphibian or reptile.
4. Design a poster about your type of project animal or some other topic about animal care. The poster could contain drawings, photographs or a collage (cut-out pictures pasted to a poster board).
5. Make a scrap book with pictures or articles which feature your favourite type of animal. (Possible sources: magazines and newspapers, breed club newsletters, etc.)
6. Write a story about your animal. You might like to draw pictures to go with it. Read your story at a club meeting.
7. Write a one week diary of care for your project animal (feeding, grooming, training, etc...)

These projects may be a little more difficult than those on the above list. You could do one of these with a small group of members.

1. Prepare a photo or slide collection of the different breeds available in one type of animal (this could be another type of animal other than your own project animal). Photos should be well labelled and include a brief description of the characteristics of each breed.
2. Build or make a piece of equipment for your project animal. (Some possibilities: scratching post or toy for a cat, halter for a pony, dog house for a dog, backpack or harness for a goat, rabbit cage for a rabbit, maze game for a mouse, hamster, rat, gerbil, etc.)
3. Research the history or origins of your favourite type of animal. Write a report on your findings, i.e. country of origin, first examples of the animal, when the animal was domesticated, what it was used for, which were the first main breeds, any other "trivia" information. Drawings or photos could add interest. Present your report at a meeting; or, make it into a display which can be exhibited at your club's Achievement Program.
4. Make a photo album about your project animal's progress. Take photographs of your animal throughout the project to help illustrate its improvement, growth, training activities which it has participated in, the place it lives in, any equipment which you have made for the animal. All photos should be clearly labelled.

5. Prepare a presentation which will inform the club about a specific use for a certain kind of animal. Explain how these animals are trained, the breeds that are used, etc. Some examples: Dogs - guide dogs for the blind, dogs for the deaf, dogs trained for police work such as searching for missing persons, obedience training or the K-9 corps, etc. Horses - sport or racing, agricultural draft horses, the RCMP horses, handicapped persons rehabilitation programmes, etc. Goats - used for dairy production, meat production or mohair fibre production.

PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

Animal's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Animal: \_\_\_\_\_  
Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Purchased: \_\_\_\_\_ Purchased From: \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration # (if registered): \_\_\_\_\_ Tattoo #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Colour or Markings: \_\_\_\_\_  
Veterinarian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Include in this space a picture or drawing of your pet if you like.

HEALTH RECORD

Record your animal's past vaccinations and any vaccinations or treatments done during this project.

Vaccinations:

Date:

Vaccination:

---

---

---

---

---

---

Medical History:

Date:

Illness:

Treatment:

Veterinarian:

---

---

---

---

---

---

## MEETING ONE:

## WHICH ONE'S FOR ME???

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT MEETING:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_

### ROLL CALL

What is your favourite kind of animal?

\*\*\*\*\*

### A ROAD MAP TO GOOD MEETINGS

Welcome to 4-H. Our final stop is our Achievement Program, but there are many things that we want to do along the way. You should find them fun and enjoyable.

When you are planning a trip, you need to have a road map to follow so you don't get lost along the way. The map that is used to reach a good meeting is called an agenda. There is a sample on the next page.

It keeps the meeting on time and lists all the items that need to be covered in the meeting. The agenda is usually prepared by the chairperson before the meeting with help from other members and the club leader(s). Everyone should be aware of the meeting agenda.



It is helpful to use point form. Put the name of the person who will be involved at the meeting and a time limit beside each item on the agenda.

It is very important to start and end the meeting on time.

## YOUR ROAD MAP TO GOOD MEETINGS

### SAMPLE AGENDA

<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Who</u>
Include club name, meeting location and date.	4-H Club Name Location Date	
List all items that need to be covered in the meeting.	7:00 p.m. Call to Order 4-H Pledge Roll Call Introduction of Guests Minutes of Last Meeting Adoption of Minutes Business Arising from Minutes Treasurer's Report	President Everyone Secretary 4-H Member Secretary President President  Treasurer
	7:15 p.m. New Club Business Date of Next Meeting	President Everyone
Program should relate to 4-H project.	7:25 p.m. Club Program	Youth Leader, Senior Members Leaders, Everyone 4-H Member
	8:25 p.m. Introduce Guest Speaker	Guest Speaker
	8:30 p.m. Demonstration	Guest Speaker
	8:45 p.m. Thank Guest Speaker Announcements	4-H Member Anyone
	9:00 p.m. Adjournment	President/ Anyone

### KEEPING YOUR CLUB GOING

In order to keep your club going in the right direction, you need some "tour guides", known as the club executive. They work with the club leader(s), youth leader(s) and all club members to keep the club on track.

#### **PRESIDENT**

The club president works closely with club leaders to plan meetings and other activities. He/she acts as chairperson of all club meetings and ensures that the meetings start and end on time.

#### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

The vice-president helps the president when needed and takes over the duties of the president if necessary.



### SECRETARY

The secretary is responsible for keeping minutes of meetings, attendance records and handling the club's mail. If the club has money, the secretary may become secretary-treasurer.

### PRESS REPORTER

The press reporter is responsible for letting the community know about the activities of your club through local newspapers, radio or 4-H newsletters.

### TREASURER

The treasurer is responsible for keeping a record of the club money which is received or paid out. A report is usually given after the reading of the minutes.



### YOU HAVE A JOB TOO!

Just as each executive member has certain duties, each member has responsibilities to the 4-H club.

Ways that I can help my club keep on track are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### ELECTING YOUR EXECUTIVE

The executive members are decided on by all club members.

Any member may nominate another member. Nominations do not require a seconder.

One way for 4-H clubs to make decisions is by voting.

Voting can be done in a number of ways.

### Examples:

- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. By show of hands | 3. By standing          |
| 2. By secret ballot | 4. By saying Yea or Nay |

A youth leader, senior member or club leader may chair the meeting until the president is elected.

LEARN TO DO BY DOING!

ELECTING YOUR EXECUTIVE

Be willing to let your name stand for an executive position. It is a rewarding and fun experience.

Following elections, complete this club executive chart.

CLUB EXECUTIVE:

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>
PRESIDENT	_____	_____
VICE-PRESIDENT	_____	_____
SECRETARY	_____	_____
TREASURER	_____	_____
PRESS REPORTER	_____	_____
OTHER	_____	_____

CLUB MEMBERSHIP:

<u>Members, Phone</u>	<u>Members, Phone</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

<u>Leaders, Phone</u>	<u>Leaders, Phone</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

<u>OMAF Contact, Position</u>	<u>Phone</u>
_____	_____

HELLO!!! Welcome to the "4-H Animal Friends Project". This project is about caring for animals which we keep as pets or companions. Many different animals may be kept as pets or companion animals. You might think of a large animal such as a pony, a large dog or a goat. You might think of a smaller animal such as a cat, small dog, rabbit, ferret, bird or hamster. You may even think of reptiles, amphibians or aquarium fish. But, no matter what kind of animal you are thinking of, all of them have some things in common.

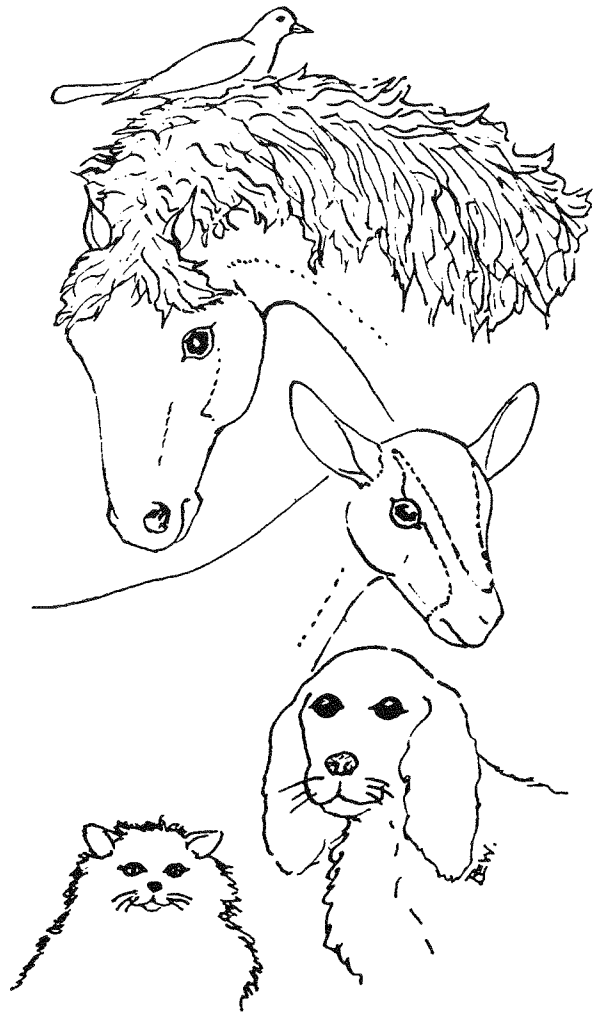
They all require:

- \* proper care and attention
- \* good food
- \* proper housing

And most important of all:

- \* our kindness and respect.

You will learn the right way to provide all of these things for your companion animal during coming meetings in this project.



### TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

Before choosing your companion animal, you should think about your responsibilities as a pet owner. Owning a pet can be fun, entertaining and rewarding, but there are a few responsibilities which come with the enjoyable part.

### RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PET:

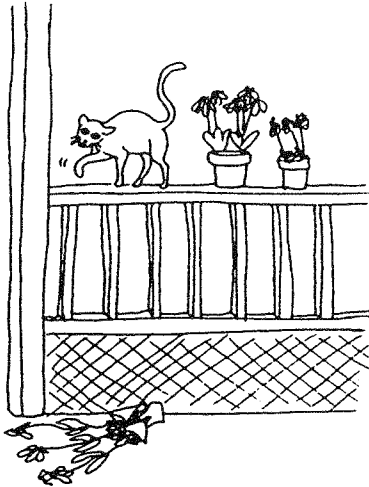
#### Long term care:

Most animals live for several years. If you purchase a young dog or cat, he or she will probably be with you for many years to come. Your pet will grow with you through your teen years and it will become your close friend. Your pet will grow to depend on you for friendship and company. Before you choose an animal, you should be quite sure that you want



this type of long-lasting companion. If you only want the responsibility of a pet for a year or two, you should choose a pet such as a fish or small rodent. It will not become so dependent on you for friendship (but it will still require care and kindness!!!)

Besides your friendship, your pet needs your care for as long as you own it. You must provide food, shelter, attention, and health care. You must also be prepared to clean up after your animal. If you want to own a pet, you must do any work that is required. Owning a pet does not just mean fun and games (although you will enjoy plenty of this too!)



#### RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHER PEOPLE:

When you choose to own a pet, make sure that your pet doesn't become a nuisance to your family or neighbours. Some examples of nuisances or problems which might make other people dislike your pet are:

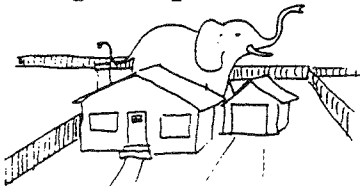
- \* a dog which barks for hours because it is left alone all of the time.
- \* a dog or cat which strays onto a neighbour's property and causes mischief or harm to other's belongings.

You should make sure that your pet does not create a problem for others.

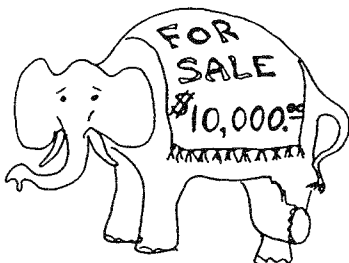
#### CHOOSING THE RIGHT PET

As you have already seen, there are many possible choices for companion animals. All of us probably like one type of animal more than all of the others.

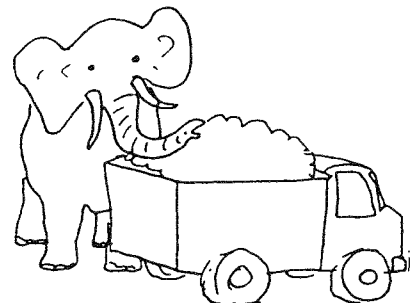
But, we can't always have the kind of pet we would most like. For example, we might like to have a pet elephant, but we couldn't really keep one as a pet.... could we???



Would we have enough space for it?



Would we have enough money to buy an elephant?



Could we afford to feed an elephant?

Let's look at some of the things which help us to decide which pet is best for us.

### HOUSING:

How much space do you have for a pet? Do you live on a farm which has a spare stall for a pony, a goat or some poultry? Do you live in a house in a town where there is a backyard that a dog could run and play? Do you live in an apartment which allows cats or small dogs? Do you need a pet which can live in a cage or aquarium on a desk in your room?

If you live in a town or city, remember there are "by-laws" or rules which allow only some types of animals as pets. You can usually keep dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits, caged birds, rodents, or fish, but you probably cannot keep a pony, a goat or poultry.

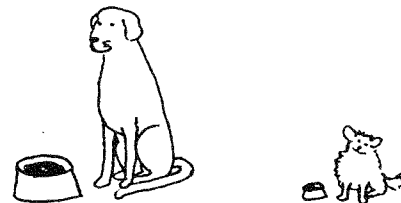
### FOOD:

Before you choose a pet, you need to know what kind of food it eats. You should know how much food it needs to eat each day. Will the food be difficult for you to find? It may also cost more than you wish to spend.

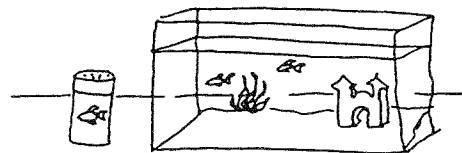
For example:

A very large dog will need to eat much more food each day than a very small dog (or a cat). If you only have a few dollars a month to spend on food, you should choose a cat, a small dog, or another type of small animal. If you have more money to spend for food, you might choose one of the large breeds of dogs as a pet. A pony or a goat will also cost more to feed than a cat or a small dog. A pony or goat needs:

- hay and grain for food
- straw or shavings for bedding
- a small field for summer pasture.



Some pets cost only pennies a day to feed. An example of this is an aquarium full of fish. You can keep many fish for less than ten cents a day. Mice, gerbils, hamsters, guinea pigs and rats also eat very small quantities of food. Rabbits require a little more food. If you purchase rabbit food in bulk amounts from a farm feed store, the cost for feed is very low.



### TIME & CARE:

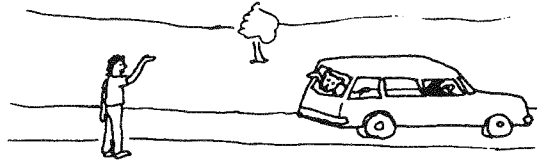
You probably lead a very busy life. You go to school for several hours a day. You might have some household chores to do each evening. If you live on a farm, you may have to do work in the barn as well. You may play some type of team sport, or have some other hobbies.

When choosing a pet, you should keep these things in mind. Caring for a pet takes time each day. Some pets take a great deal of time to care for. A pony or large dog will need lots of exercise. It will need to be groomed each day. A pony's stall will need to be cleaned out daily. A dog with long fur will need lots of brushing.

Some pets take only small amounts of time to care for. Small birds, reptiles and amphibians, small rodents, and tropical fish require only a few minutes of work each day. A cat, rabbit or small dog will require a little more time.

### ALLERGIES:

The last thing you might think of when you choose a pet is allergies. It is actually the very first thing you should probably think about. If you are allergic to cat or dog hair or feathers, you should not choose a pet which will make you ill. Think about the other people in your house too. You might end up having to give up your new friend. However, there are a few breeds of dogs which can sometimes be kept by those with allergies. An example is the Poodle. Borrow a dog book from the library and study information on the different breeds of dogs. You should be able to find out which breeds are best for people with allergies.



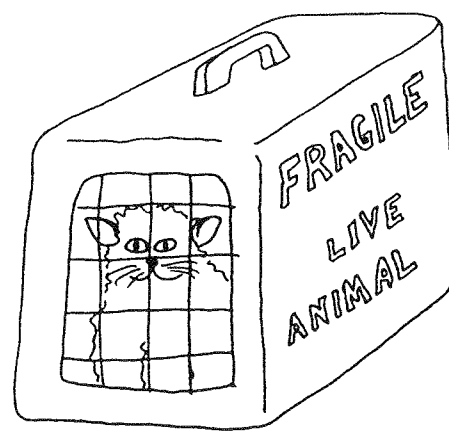
### STARTING OUT RIGHT

Now that you have made your choice about the kind of animal you want, you can go to buy it. Can you think of some places where you might find the kind of animal you want? Or somewhere that you can find out about animals for sale?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

When you go to pick out your new pet, bring along a pen and paper to write down important information about the animal you choose. Find out all about the animal before you bring it home. You need to know how to feed and care for it properly and what medications it has had.

Pretend that you are just picking up your new pet. The person who is selling it has asked you if there is anything you would like to know about the animal. What would you ask?



1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

### THE NEW ARRIVAL

When you bring your new pet home, do everything to make it comfortable and keep it healthy. You should:



- \* Try not to make any sudden changes to the diet. Be sure to purchase some of the same food which the animal has been eating at its last home. If you change foods, make the change slowly by mixing in a little more of the new food each day. Cut back on the old food until there is only the new kind of food being fed. This will prevent digestive problems.
- \* Be sure that the animal has a quiet, protected place where it can go to rest and sleep when it wants to.
- \* Give the animal plenty of time to rest and relax in its new home. You are probably quite excited about having a new pet, and may want to play with it all the time. This is a natural feeling. BUT, the pet needs time to adjust to its new home. It may be frightened, especially if it has just been separated from its mother. Also, young animals need lots of sleep while they are growing quickly. Give your pet lots of time to sleep and disturb it as little as possible.

### IMMUNIZATIONS AND WORM MEDICATIONS

Many kinds of animals should be immunized (a needle which has a medicine which helps to prevent diseases). Many animals must also be treated to help prevent internal parasites (usually small worms that live inside of animals). There are a few points to remember about immunizations and worm medications.

- \* The place where you bought your new pet may have had some immunizations done. It may also have dewormed the animal. You should ask about this when you buy your animal. The seller will have vaccination certificates and will give you a copy.
- \* Talk to your veterinarian about necessary medications or immunizations. He or she will tell you about the medications your animal needs. You can then make plans to take the pet to the veterinarian when it is time to immunize or deworm.

NOTE: You will find information about immunizations for your animal in the "Animal Care Guide".

### HOW MUCH CARE?

You have learned a little bit about some of the different types of animals. Below is a list of animals. There is a blank space next to each animal on the list. Decide how much care each type of animal requires. If the animal requires a low amount of care, put an "L" in the space next to the animal. If it requires medium care, place an "M" in the space. If it requires a high degree of care, put an "H" in the blank.

- \_\_\_\_\_ An aquarium full of fish.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A dog with a very long, heavy coat of hair.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A cat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A small bird such as a canary or budgerigar.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A pony or goat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A small dog with a short-haired coat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A mouse, gerbil, hamster or rat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A ferret.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A small snake, iguana, frog or salamander.

### BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING:

1. Choose your pet and fill out the "Project Information Sheet" page 3.
2. Bring a plastic lunch bag with a small amount of your pet's food in it to the next meeting.



## MEETING TWO:

## SUPPER'S READY!

DATE: _____	NEXT MEETING: DATE: _____
TIME: _____	TIME: _____
PLACE: _____	PLACE: _____

### ROLL CALL

What is your pet's name?

\*\*\*\*\*

### UNDERSTANDING THE NEED FOR FOOD

How do we feed an animal? It is a short question but it has a long answer.

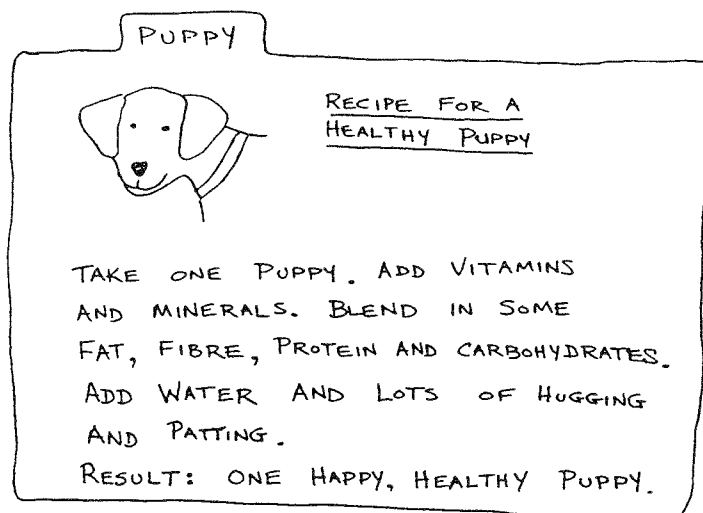
To feed an animal properly, you must think about:

- \* the age
- \* the amount of exercise it gets each day
- \* what food it can eat.

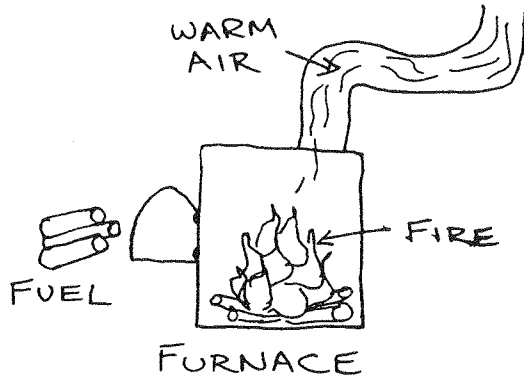
Food provides nutrients to the animal.

You might be thinking, "What is a nutrient?".

Nutrients are like ingredients in a recipe. When baking a cake, you need certain ingredients like flour, milk, eggs, baking powder, sugar and salt. Our bodies also need certain ingredients to help us to stay alive. These ingredients are known as nutrients and we get them from the food we eat. We need enough of different kinds of nutrients to stay healthy. To get these nutrients we eat certain foods. Some foods have lots of one kind of nutrient, but hardly any of another. This is why we must choose several different types of foods to eat. This will help us to get all of the nutrients we need for daily living.



These nutrients give the animal energy and strength to grow, live, and reproduce. You can understand this if you think of food as fuel.

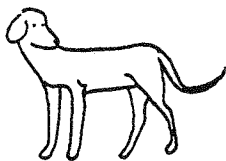
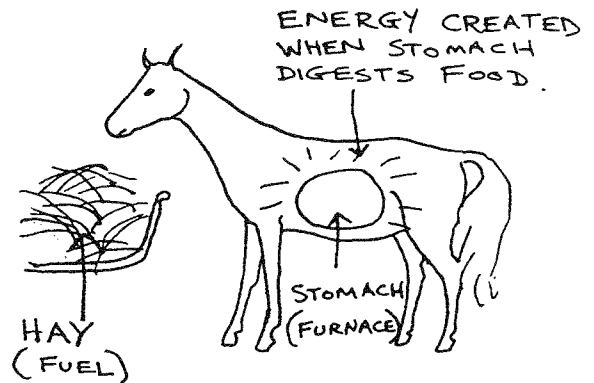


When you want your house to be warm, you might burn wood, oil, natural gas, or electricity to run a furnace. These are food for your furnace, and it is called fuel.

If it gets really cold outside, your furnace must run a lot more to keep the house warm. When the furnace runs a lot more, it burns more fuel. When the weather gets warmer, the furnace does not run as much, so it needs less fuel.

You can think of food in much the same way as fuel. The animal's digestive system is a little like a furnace. It burns the food and turns it into nutrients. These nutrients help the animal to grow, exercise, reproduce, and maintain body temperature. Some of the fuels or foods which animals eat are hay, grain, seeds, grass, dog food or cat food.

Like a furnace which has to work harder in cold weather, animals have times when they need more nutrients for special reasons. Some of these are:



Growth



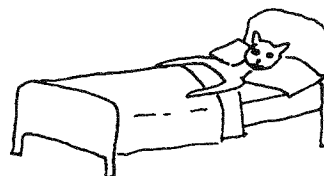
Activity



Pregnancy



Nursing



Illness

### WHAT KIND AND HOW MUCH???

Our pets depend on us for a balanced diet. A balanced diet means that the food has the correct nutrients needed for growth and every day activities such as exercise. Remember that even though a pet may have reached its full size, it is still growing for the rest of its

life. One example of this is a pet's hair. You can't actually watch the hair grow, but it grows a little every day. Nutrients are needed so that the hair can grow.



### FEED THE RIGHT FOOD TO YOUR PET:

Most pet food companies work hard to make foods which provide a balanced diet for pets. There are many kinds of dog food, cat food, budgie food, fish food, horse food, small rodent food, etc.... As a pet owner, it is your job to choose the right food for your pet.

For each kind of food, there are many different brands available. For example, in cat food, you will find many brands of dry cat food, semi-moist cat food in pouches, and canned cat food. These foods may be a little different in nutrients. The label on the food package will tell you what nutrients are in the food. It will also have information about the type of animal it should be fed to.

Why can't you give food for one kind of animal to another kind of animal?

This is because every kind of animal has different nutrient requirements.



For example: A cat has very different nutrient requirements than a dog. Dog food does not contain all of the nutrients necessary for good health in a cat. For this reason, you should feed cat food to cats and dog food to dogs.

### FEEDING THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF FOOD

When you buy animal food, you will usually find feeding directions on the bag or box. The directions tell how much food to give animals of different growth stages, sizes or breeds. The directions tell you to feed a certain amount of food to an animal that weighs a certain weight. You can make best use of these directions if you know the weight of your animal. When you have a young animal or one with special needs, it is a good idea to weigh it every week or two.

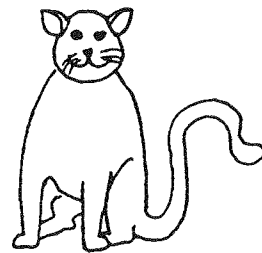
To weigh most small animals:



Pick up the animal. Step onto a set of bathroom scales to weigh the combined weight of you and your pet.

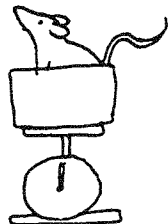


Put the animal down. Weigh yourself without the animal.

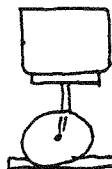


Subtract your weight from the weight of the combined weight of you and your pet. The answer to this is equal to your pet's weight.

Very small animals may be weighed by putting them into a container and placing them on a set of food scales. You will have to weigh the container first and then subtract this weight from the weight of the animal and the container. This will give you the weight of the animal.



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Most of the time, the directions on a bag of feed will give you an amount which must be fed each day. It will usually tell you how often to feed your animal each day. It is best to feed your animal at a set time each day. Animals become very used to feeding times and they will learn to expect food by a certain time of the day. You won't want to keep your pet waiting.

Sometimes you will see "Feed this product free choice". This means the food should be there any time the pet wants it. This is often done with rabbits, small rodents and birds. Most of these animals will eat a little bit of food several times a day. Goats are usually fed free choice hay so that they may nibble whenever they feel like it. When you feed an animal free choice, make sure that the food is always fresh. You may have to remove damp or soiled food every day and replace it with fresh food. For this reason, put just enough food in the feeder to last a day or two at a time.

Water is always provided free choice. You should provide fresh water at least once a day, but two or three times would be better.

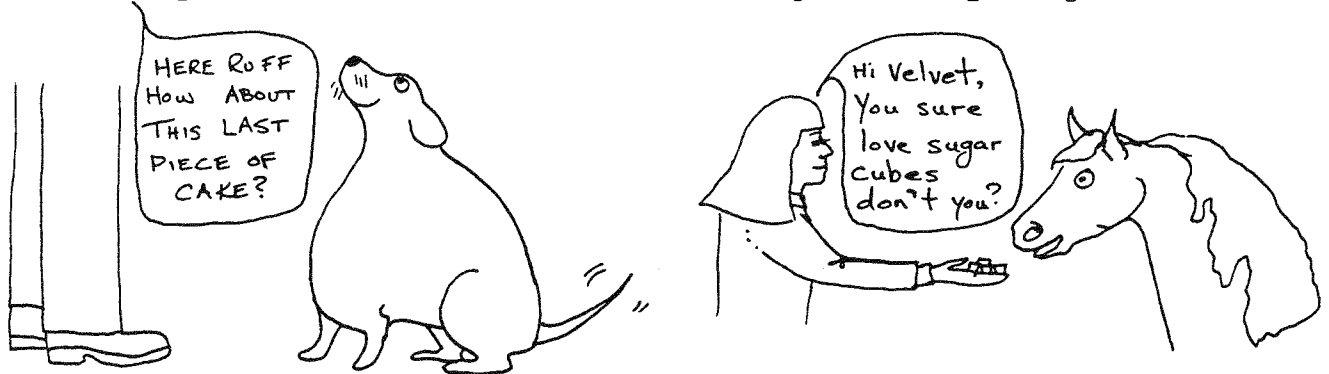
In hot weather, be extra careful about providing water. On hot days, animals can suffer greatly from the heat and may become dehydrated (starved for water). This can easily result in the death of your pet. Water is always provided free choice. You should provide fresh water at least once a day, but two or three times would be better.

Horses and goats must have a free choice salt lick. Be sure that a salt lick is in the animal's stall and in its field or exercise pen. See the Animal Care Guide for more information about salt licks.

### BE CAREFUL WITH TREATS

If your pet is fed the proper amount of its food, it should not really need other foods. Unfortunately, your pet may not agree with this rule. Some kinds of treats can be good for your pet, BUT some can cause serious health problems. A food which is not very nutritious, or a food which your animal isn't used to eating can cause problems.

Some examples of "treats" which are not good for your pet.



Try to replace "bad treats" with "good treats". All treats should be fed in moderation. (Moderation means in small or moderate amounts). Animals can be very pesky about wanting treats that are not good for them. But, REMEMBER pets do not really know what is best for them.

When feeding treats, be sure they are:

- \* Nutritious food for the animal.
- \* Fed in small quantities.
- \* Digestible for your pet. Some treats will cause diarrhea as they contain milk. This is especially true if your pet is not used to having milk every day.

- \* Safe to eat: Many bones are not good to give to dogs. Chicken bones will splinter in the dog's stomach. Small sharp bones from steaks or pork chops may be swallowed whole or may cause digestive trouble.
- \* Cut up so that the animal can't choke on the treat. For example, carrots should be cut into long strips, and apples cut into sections when fed to goats or ponies.

Can you suggest some good treats which could be fed to each of these animals:



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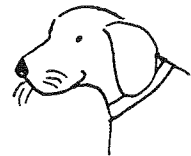
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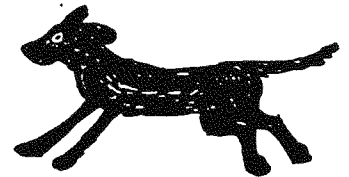
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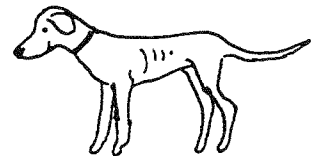
### THE TALE OF THREE DOGS

Three dogs lived at three different houses on the same road.

The dog at the first house was named "Bert". Bert is a 10 week old puppy. He is not very big now, but he is a Newfoundland (a very large breed of dog) and will be very big some day. He sleeps several times a day, but when he is awake, he likes to run and play all around the backyard.



The dog at the second house is named "Tina". Tina is two years old. She is a Labrador Retriever and her owner takes her out jogging with him every morning. On weekends "Tina" sometimes competes in 'Obedience Trials' (competitions where dogs are judged on their ability to obey commands). Tina could be considered a very active dog. Tina is very hungry much of the time and she seems to be rather thin.



The dog at the third house is named "Jeff". Jeff is a 12 year old Beagle. Jeff almost never goes out for exercise. He spends most of his time sleeping. He is quite overweight. His owner likes to feed him leftovers and treats besides his regular bowl of dogfood.



The owners of these three dogs have asked you for some hints about proper feeding and care of these dogs. Try to think of some ways that the owners might care for their animals better.

"BERT" (Dog # 1): \_\_\_\_\_

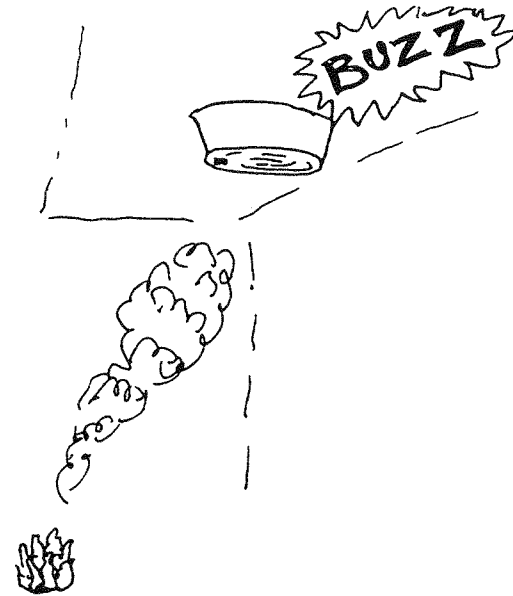
"TINA" (Dog # 2): \_\_\_\_\_

"JEFF" (Dog # 3): \_\_\_\_\_

### POOR NUTRITION CAN CAUSE PROBLEMS

If you don't feed an animal properly, bad things can happen. Fortunately, most of the time, the animal's body gives you a signal that there is something wrong. You can think of these signals as warnings. These signals are like a smoke alarm. A little fire starts somewhere. The smoke alarm buzzes and tells you that there is smoke coming from somewhere. You have time to get out of the house and call the fire department.

When you see some of the following signals, you will know that you are not feeding the animal correctly. Look at what you may be doing wrong. Then make changes to the animal's food. The problem will probably go away after changes are made.



### Problems or "Signals"

- \* A poor hair coat or dry, flaking skin: Well fed animals usually have soft, shiny, lively hair or feathers. Poorly fed animals have a dull, rough, dry coat or feathers. Skin may flake off like dandruff. Parasites (like fleas or worms) will sometimes cause skin problems.
- \* Runny eyes: Runny or watery eyes have several different causes. But they can also be caused by a lack of vitamins. Your veterinarian can best decide what to do.
- \* Overweight: Pets which become overweight are usually overfed and not exercised enough. You should cut back on the amount of food fed, cut out treats, gradually begin an exercise program (be careful to start exercise slowly to let the animal get into better shape).

- \* Under weight: This may be caused from not enough food or feeding the wrong foods. It can also be caused by internal parasites or disease. Talk to your veterinarian about this problem.
- \* Illness: Problems such as vomiting, diarrhea, loose droppings, or constipation may be signs of a nutritional problem.
- \* Behavior changes: Lack of food can sometimes make animals quiet and sleepy. Wrong foods can sometimes cause bad or aggressive behavior.
- \* Reproductive failure: Animals which are poorly fed may not be able to have babies. Sometimes animals will give birth to dead offspring (babies). Your veterinarian can best advise you about this problem.

#### The Healthy Animal:

- \* Shiny haircoat. Healthy glow.
- \* Eyes are bright and shining.
- \* Nostrils are clean.
- \* Body is not too thin (ribs sticking out) or overweight.
- \* Breathing is clear (no rumbling, wheezing, or watery sounds).
- \* Alert and interested.

#### SAFE HANDLING OF ANIMALS

You should know how to handle your animal safely. This will prevent:

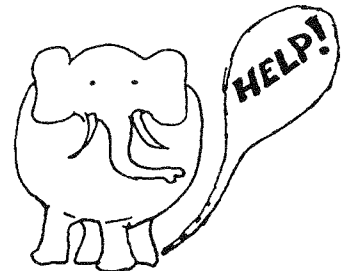
- \* Pets from being accidentally hurt.
- \* Pets from hurting humans and other animals.

Here are some general rules to make handling safer for your pet and for you. There are more specific instructions on handling each type of animal in the "Animal Care Guide".

#### Handling the small animal such as a small rodent, birds, fish:

When you handle the very small animal, remember how small and fragile it is. Imagine that you are standing next to an elephant. How would you feel if it stepped on your toe or started to sit on you? This is how the very small animal feels if you hold it too tightly.

When you hold a small animal too tightly, it will become frightened. It will struggle to escape OR, it will try to bite to make you release it. These bites may not be serious, but they can be painful. You should be very careful when handling small animals.





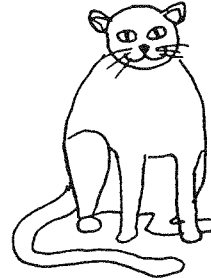
Frequent handling will usually make a pet friendlier. However, it is possible to handle a pet too much. Give your pet time for rest, time to eat, and time to play in its cage.

Do not take an animal into a dangerous place:

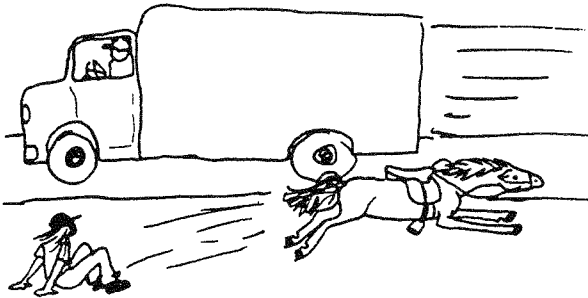
Use common sense when handling your animal. If you take an animal into a dangerous place, there is a very good chance that an accident will happen. For example:



If you carry your cat into a room filled with dogs, a disaster is almost certain.



If you let your gerbil run on the floor while a cat is in the house, you may end up with one less pet.



If you take a pony out onto a busy road, you may be very sorry that you did.



If you take an animal outside that isn't used to this, it may get lost.

Begin handling your pet at a young age:

It is much easier to begin training an animal when it is small. Your pet will learn to enjoy being handled. It will also learn not to be afraid when you are training it. Also, young animals are usually very curious and easy to teach. They will try hard to please you. Animals which grow to be very large are best taught to obey before they get powerful and unmanageable.



Be extra careful when handling pregnant animals:

It is very easy to cause serious injury to the pregnant female or the babies she is carrying. Try to avoid handling as much as possible. If it is absolutely necessary to handle the animal, be very gentle and do not hold the animal tightly or let it fall.

LOST AND FOUND:

Sometimes pets can become lost. Can you think of some ways that you can help to prevent this from happening?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What things might you do to find your lost pet?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

CAN YOU REMEMBER?

Read each statement and mark it with a "T" for True or an "F" for False.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Small pets like being squeezed tightly when you hold them.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Young animals are harder to handle than older animals.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Dog food does not have the proper nutrients for a cat.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ You should not feed fattening snack foods to pets.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ You should cut carrots into strips before feeding to ponies or goats.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ A very active dog does not need any more food than a dog that doesn't get much exercise.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ "Free choice" feeding means that an animal can have all it wants of a certain kind of food whenever it wants.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ There are no directions on animal foods and you must guess how much to feed your pet.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ All animals should be provided with fresh water at all times.

### BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING

Keep track of what you feed your animal for one day. Fill in the information on this page in the spaces provided.

Animal's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal's Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Food Fed: \_\_\_\_\_

Times Fed: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Food Fed: \_\_\_\_\_

### LEARNING ABOUT JUDGING (Optional)

4-H Clubs are often involved in judging exercises so it is a good idea to learn some of the basics of judging.

1. Objects or animals are usually divided into groups or classes of similar type to make it easier for us to compare the entries.
2. For most types of animals there is a set of breed standards which describe the breed of animal. This makes it easy for us to decide if the animal has the proper characteristics for its breed.
3. When we are asked to judge a class of items or animals, we should begin by carefully inspecting each entry in the class. As a judge, we are looking for good or bad features on each entry.
4. Most animals have a list of disqualifications for each breed. (A disqualification is something which is not correct for a breed of animal.) When judging, it is important to know what these disqualifications are. You should check each entry carefully to make sure that it is free from any disqualification.

For example: If you are told that a certain breed of dog must be all white and must not have any black spots, check for black spots on each dog. If a black spot was found on one of the dogs, that dog would be disqualified from the class.

5. Don't let the nice hair colour of one animal distract you from closely looking at it for other faults. Sometimes it is hard for us to look past the pretty coloured hair to see the conformation (Conformation is a word which means "body structure").
6. A "reason" is a statement which explains why you place one entry above another. Form a set of "reasons" when you examine and place your class of objects or animals. You must have at least one reason for making each placing.
7. When giving your "reasons" or comments on your judging of a class, always mention the positive rather than the negative. For example: You should say, "The first place entry in this class of dogs has a more correctly shaped nose for its breed", rather than saying "the second place dog in this class has a nose which is wrong for its breed".
8. Judges should always remember to be courteous to those who present their entries for judging. The judge should always be positive and encouraging to exhibitors so that they will remain interested in exhibiting in the future.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON JUDGING, SEE THE 4-H JUDGING HANDBOOK.

## MEETING THREE:

## MAKING THEM SHINE

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT MEETING:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_

### ROLL CALL

Name a kind of animal which is smaller than a loaf of bread.

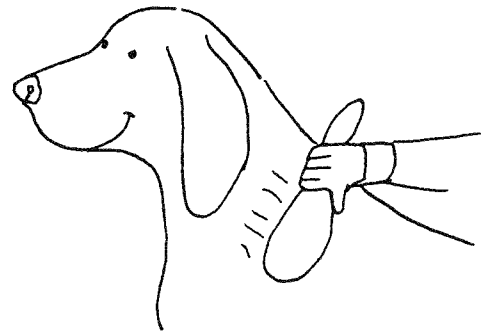
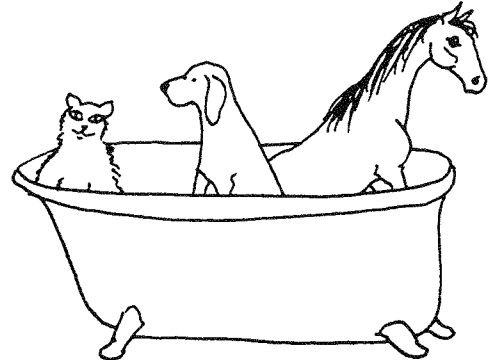
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### RUB-A-DUB-DUB

The word grooming means to clean or beautify an animal or an object. Grooming has many benefits besides making an animal look neat and shiny.

Grooming helps to:

- \* increase circulation to the skin which makes the skin healthier.
- \* look at the animal and check its condition.
- \* make friends with the animal, because most animals enjoy the grooming and attention they receive.
- \* remove loose hair and prevent health problems such as hair balls. When animals lick and swallow loose fur it collects in the stomach. This can cause serious problems, particularly for cats and rabbits.
- \* treat and control some skin diseases.



If you want your animal to enjoy being groomed, you should remember several things:

- \* start grooming an animal when it is young so that it will learn to enjoy being brushed, combed, etc...
- \* always take care not to hurt during grooming. They remember bad experiences, so try not to cause pain.

- \* use the proper equipment to do the job. The wrong tools may cause discomfort.
- \* talk to your pet while you groom it. A kind voice will reassure your pet so that it won't be frightened.

### HOW DO YOU GROOM AN ANIMAL?

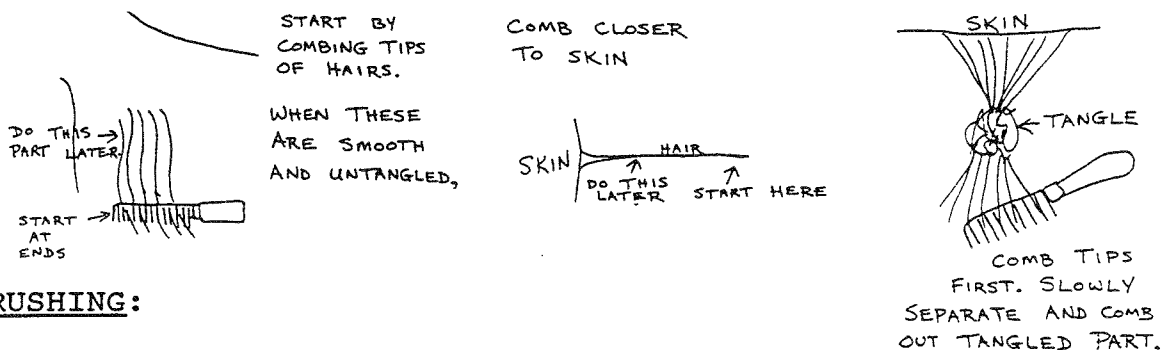
Grooming can include many different jobs. When you groom, you may need to bath an animal, comb or brush its hair, trim long hair, and trim claws or hooves.

Each kind of animal is groomed in a certain way. You should learn what equipment to use and how to use it.

Your "Animal Care Guide" contains information for grooming each type of animal, but there are a few basics you can learn.

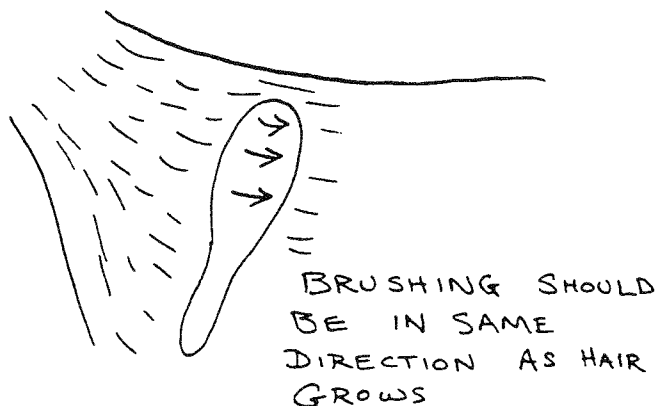
### COMBING:

When you start to comb take care not to pull the hair. Do this by starting to comb the ends of the hair and then gradually comb closer and closer to the skin. If part of the animal's hair is tangled, slowly work on the tangle from the edges. Do not drag the comb through the tangle by tugging and pulling on it. You will pull at the animal's skin and cause pain. You will also remove large pieces of hair that could be saved if the hair was combed properly. A wide-toothed steel comb is best for matted or tangled hair. A fine-toothed steel comb is best for finishing the job after tangles are removed.



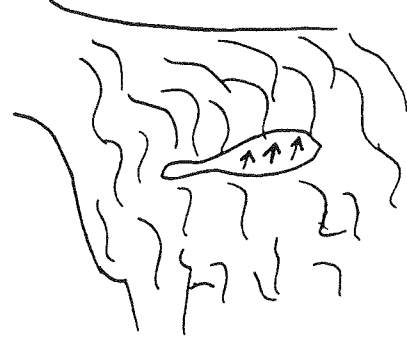
### BRUSHING:

Use the right type of brush for the job. A short haired dog or cat needs a different kind of brush than a long haired dog or cat. A natural bristle brush is good for all kinds of cats and dogs. A steel-toothed curry comb (wire brush) should only be used on very long haired dogs



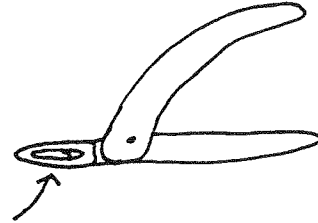
which shed a lot of hair. A rubber brush (which is often shaped like a mitten) is good for sleek, short haired cats and dogs. Brushing and combing should be done with the hair rather than against it. Long haired animals are sometimes brushed in an upwards motion to fluff their hair out and away from the body.

SOME LONG-HAIRED ANIMALS ARE BRUSHED UPWARDS TO FLUFF UP COAT.



#### NAIL AND HOOF TRIMMING:

Many animals have nails (claws) which need to be trimmed from time to time. This is because overgrown nails may cause the animal's toes to become bent out of shape. This is also done because animals with sharp nails can give painful scratches. The most common type of nail trimmer looks like this: ----->

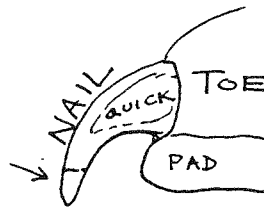


NAIL TIP GOES INTO HOLE. HANDLE OF CLIPPER IS SQUEEZED TO CLIP NAIL.

Most animal nails look the same. They are long and curved. They are thickest where they come out of the animal's toe. They become narrower as they get close to the point. If the animal has light coloured nails, you will be able to see the quick inside the nail. (The quick is the soft part on the inside of the nail where veins and nerves are located). The quick is very sensitive and it can bleed a lot if it is cut. So, when you trim nails, only cut off the curving tip of the claw. Be extra careful when cutting very dark nails because you cannot see where the quick is. If you own a dark-nailed pet, you could take it to a veterinary clinic to have its nails trimmed. The fee for nail trimming is usually quite low.

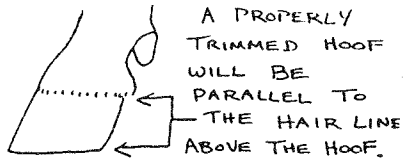
Note: Human nail clippers should not be used on animals.

CUT TIP  
OF NAIL OFF.  
NEVER CUT  
THE QUICK.

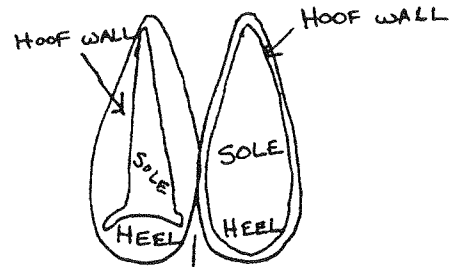


You could use a special animal nail file or an emery board (a type of manicure tool which is made of cardboard and coated with a sandpaper-like covering on both sides) to smooth sharp nails. This would be useful for smaller animals with nails that are too small to cut with clippers.

Trimming hooves on a goat can be done with a pair of pruning shears. There are also special hoof trimming tools made for sheep and goats called "hoof rot shears". The bottom of the hoof is trimmed so that the heel is even with the rest of the sole. The outer hoof walls grow faster than the sole and must be trimmed even with the sole. This should be done about once a month.



Trimming a pony's hooves is very difficult so a farrier is usually hired to do this job (a farrier is a person who makes and fits shoes on horses). Hooves are usually trimmed every 4 to 8 weeks depending on the amount of wear to the pony's feet. Shoes are usually needed if the pony will be ridden on hard ground or on slippery footing such as mud or ice.



OVERGROWN TOE:  
HEEL IS LONGER  
THAN SOLE. HOOF  
WALLS ARE LONG  
AND FOLDED OVER  
THE SOLE.

WELL-TRIMMED  
TOE: SOLE OF  
HOOF IS FLAT.  
HEEL IS EVEN  
WITH SOLE.  
HOOF WALL IS EVEN  
WITH SOLE.

#### TRIMMING BEAKS AND TEETH:

Teeth on some rodents (usually rabbits) and beaks on birds can grow to be too long. This causes problems when eating. Teeth and beaks may be filed or clipped into the proper shape. This is best learned from a veterinarian or from an experienced breeder. Tooth problems can sometimes be prevented by providing hard objects for an animal to chew on.

#### CLEANING EARS:

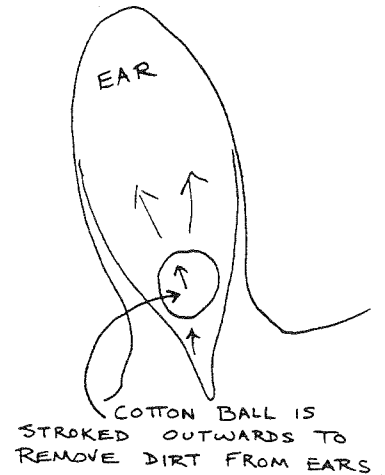
The insides of the ears can become quite dirty. Some animals get ear mites. (Ear mites are a type of small parasite which live in the ear and cause itching.) Inspect your pet's ears regularly to be sure that they look normal and clean. Rabbits, ferrets, cats and goats can get ear mites. When ear mites are present, the animal will:

- \* Dislike being touched around the ears or on the head.
- \* Have yellow or black, crusty discharge inside the ears.
- \* Move with its head tilted to one side.
- \* Have drooping ears.
- \* Scratch at its ears with its feet.



When you clean the ears you should use mineral oil or baby oil to flush dirt from the ear. A small amount of oil may be massaged gently in the ear to loosen dirt. The ear may be swabbed out with cotton balls or swabs. If you are using swabs do not put these into the ear canal.

Always stroke from the inside of the ear to the outer edge. This prevents dirt from falling back inside.



#### BATH TIME:

Most animals do not need frequent baths. They have natural oils on their skins which help to keep their coats shiny and sleek. Their coats usually do a good job of repelling rain and dirt. Frequent baths will remove these natural oils and can cause a dry, damaged haircoat. For this reason, it is not a good idea to bath any animal too often.

When you do bath an animal, it is usually because:

- \* there is some kind of dirt which needs to be removed.
- \* you want to show the animal and want its coat to look extra clean.
- \* you are giving the animal a thorough clean-up and may want to clip its coat after.



If you are going to bath an animal, you should remember a few important points.

- \* Use a mild shampoo which is suitable for animals. Do not use household cleansers.
- \* Use luke-warm to warm (but not hot) water.
- \* Do not spray water into the ears or eyes. You can put a piece of absorbent cotton into each of the ears to prevent water from going down into the ear. A drop of mineral oil in each eye will help to protect eyes from soapy water which could sting them.
- \* After the bath, towel dry the animal well. Be sure that it does not get chilled for several hours afterwards (until its hair is completely dry).



### CLEAN-UP TIME

You have been asked to groom this dog, an Old English Sheepdog. Can you think of some of the things you might want to do to get the dog cleaned up.



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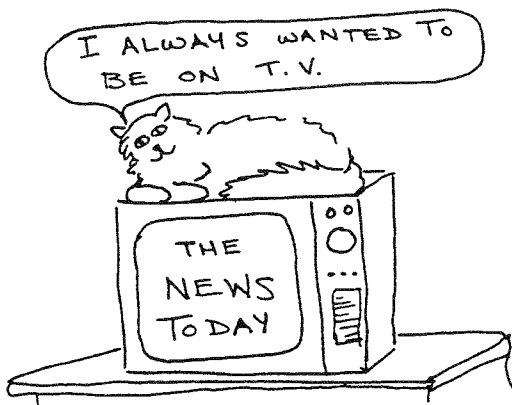
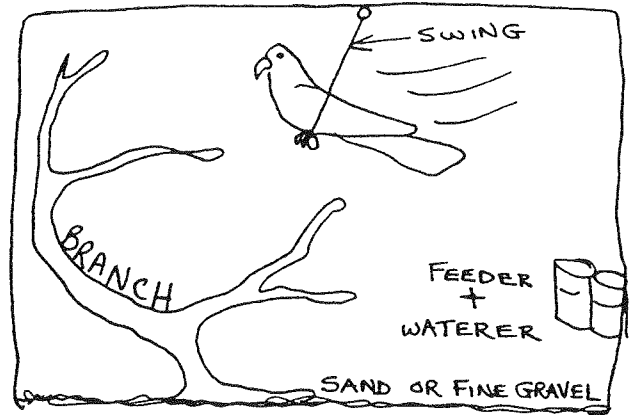
What are some of the pieces of equipment that would be useful for someone who grooms many different kinds of animals?

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### HOME SWEET HOME

In Meeting One, we learned a little about housing for animals when we discussed which pet was the best for each of us. We know that animals need proper housing to stay healthy. If the housing is not right, the animal may be too cold or too hot. If the housing is too small, the animal may become crowded and it will not do well. Each kind of animal needs its own kind of housing. Many smaller animals can live inside our houses, but most animals will still need a place of their own where they will be safe.

Birds and small rodents are usually kept in cages. Be careful that you don't place the cage in a drafty, cold or hot spot. The cage should provide a good environment (living space) for the animal. It will usually have some kind of feeder and water container. It will usually have certain items to make the animal's life more enjoyable. For birds, this may be a swinging or rigid perch. For small rodents, this may mean a wheel to play on, toys to play with, and a little box to sleep in.

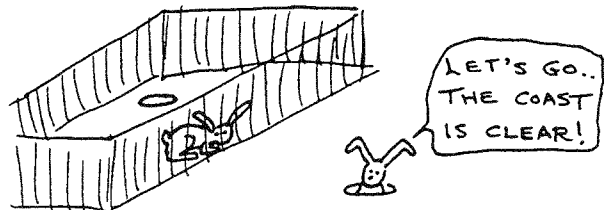


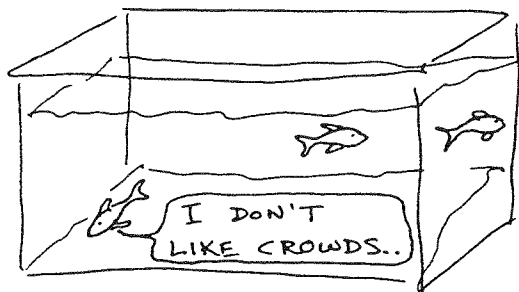
Cats and dogs often live with us in our houses. If you do allow them in your house, provide them with their own food and water bowls. You may provide a dog or cat bed, although cats will usually choose their own place to sleep.

Rabbits can also be kept in the house like a cat, but they should have a cage to sleep in. Like cats, rabbits can be trained to use a litter box, so they can roam around the house if they are well behaved.

You may have an outdoor place where your animal can get fresh air and exercise. Make sure this place is safe from dangers such as other animals which may come into your yard.

Your outdoor place should be secure so that your animal cannot escape and wander away (possibly into a dangerous place such as a busy street!).





The place you choose for your animal must have enough space. It is unfair to confine an animal to a space which is too small. Animals should be able to move about in comfort so they can have exercise.

When you keep several animals, have a place that is big enough for all of them. Overcrowding is not kind and it may cause health problems. Some animals become very aggressive when confined in too small an area.

Your "Animal Care Guide" has more information about proper housing for each kind of animal.

### SUMMER AND WINTER

Consider the seasons of the year when you are providing housing for your animal. A house may be OK in summer, but it may be too cold in winter. You should know what kind of housing your animal needs in the different seasons of the year.

### SUN & HEAT:

Sun and heat might be nice in the winter. Sun can shine through a window and provide light and a cozy spot for an animal.

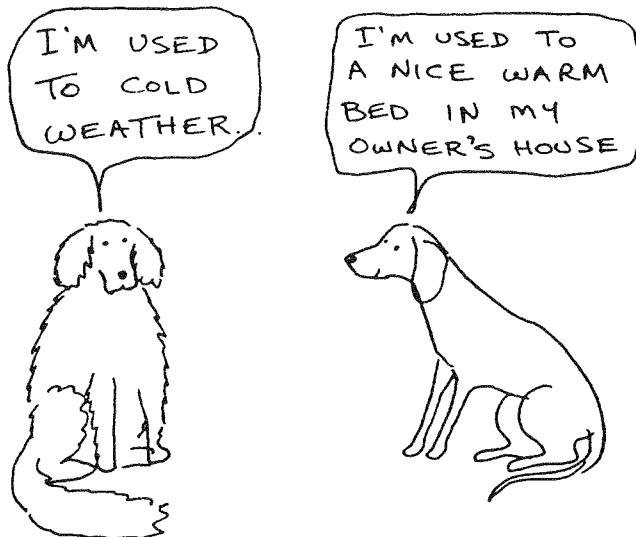
BUT, in the heat of the summer, the same sunshine may cause a serious danger to your pet.

You might put your rabbit out in a cage in the yard during the morning when the sun shines from the east. It may be shaded by the side of a building or by a tree. However, as the day goes by, the sun's direction will change and the shade may disappear. If this happens, the rabbit will become hotter and hotter. If you don't protect your rabbit from the sun, it may have a sunstroke which can result in death.

Heatstroke is also possible even when the sun is not shining on an animal. For example, a pet left in a car with closed windows may get over-heated on a hot day. This could also happen in a small enclosed house where there is little fresh air and the temperature gets too high.



### WIND & COLD:



In the winter, you should be careful about harm from cold temperatures.

Some animals stay outside all winter long. These animals need some type of sheltered place to rest and sleep. Quite often dogs are kept outside in a dog house even during the winter. This is usually OK for dogs such as Saint Bernards, Huskies, and many other breeds. BUT, these dogs must become used to the cold. You cannot take a dog which is used to living in the house and suddenly start keeping it outside part way through the winter. Animals which stay outside all of the time grow heavier coats than animals which stay inside. A house dog will not have a thick enough coat for living outside in the winter.

Some of the short haired breeds of dogs cannot be kept outside in the winter because they have very little hair. However, all dogs can go outside for exercise for a little while each day. Watch your dog to make sure that it isn't getting too cold.

### CAN YOU REMEMBER?

Mark a "T" next to the statements you think are true, and an "F" next to the statements you think are false.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Brushing an animal's hair helps to increase circulation to the skin.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Some animals, like cats and rabbits, can get hair balls in their digestive system if they lick at their coats when they are shedding hair.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Don't groom your pet for the first time until it is fully grown.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Talking to your animal while you groom it can help it to relax and enjoy the attention.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ When you comb out a tangle of hair in an animal's coat, you should tug and pull at the comb to remove as much hair as possible.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Darkly coloured nails are the most difficult to trim so you must be extra careful.

7. \_\_\_\_\_ Overgrown nails or hooves do not bother or damage an animal's feet and legs.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ You should never use household cleansers to wash animals.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ If you leave an animal out in the hot sun, it may get seriously ill or die from sunstroke.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ House dogs have the same thickness of hair coat as dogs kept outdoors all of the time.

BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING:

Describe your pet's housing. If you keep fish, tell how big your aquarium is and how many fish live in it. If you keep small rodents or a bird, measure the size of the cage and tell about the feeders and equipment in it. If you keep a dog or cat, say how much time it stays outside or inside, where it likes to sleep, and what kind of outside exercise area it has. If you own a pony or goat, note the size of its stall and what kind of outdoor pen or paddock it has.

## MEETING FOUR:

## FUN AND GAMES

DATE: _____	NEXT MEETING DATE: _____
TIME: _____	TIME: _____
PLACE: _____	PLACE: _____

### ROLL CALL

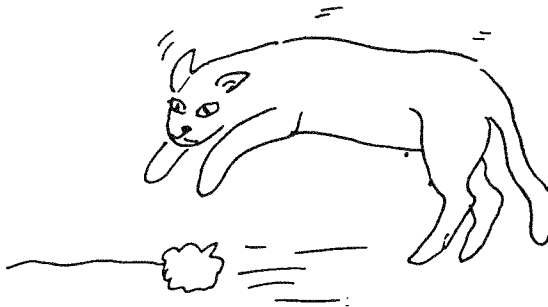
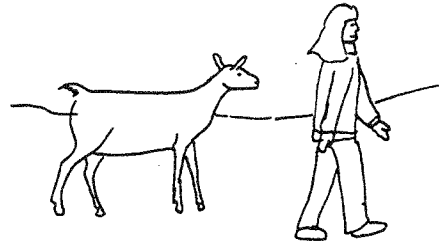
Name an animal character from a television show or a book.

\*\*\*\*\*

### WORK-OUT TIME

Just like people, animals need exercise to keep in shape. If your pet sits around and does nothing, it will become overweight. It will begin to age before it should. Its bones will become sore from being overweight and its muscles are weak. The lungs and heart will not work as well.

Try to think of activities to keep your pet in shape. Some animals are easy to exercise. If you have a pony, you can take it for a ride. If you have a goat or a dog, you can take it for a walk.

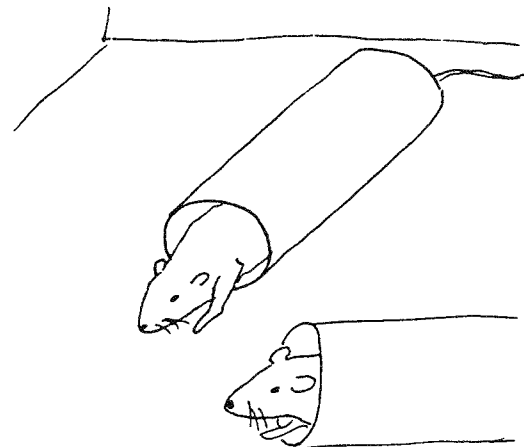


For most other kinds of animals you may have to invent games or toys to encourage the pet to get exercise. Most cats like to chase anything that moves. You can make toys like a cloth ball on a string to pull along behind you. The cat will enjoy pouncing on this as you make it hop.

Small rodents will enjoy objects like cardboard tubes from rolls of paper towels. They can have fun running through the tube. When they get bored, they can use the tube to chew on -- a favorite pastime of these animals. You can set up an obstacle course of objects for the rodents to climb on, climb through, or run on (such as a wheel).

Even fish can have toys. Fish like glass or plastic objects which have passages to swim through.

Whatever type of toy you place in a cage or aquarium, be sure the animal will not become stuck inside it!!!



### How much exercise does an animal need?

Some animals need more exercise than others. The amount of exercise will depend on the kind of animal, its age, breed, size and personality. Most animals require more exercise when they are young because they have a lot of energy. A young dog, cat, goat or pony will spend quite a lot of its time running around just for fun.

As animals become quite old, they will probably eat less. They will not need quite so much exercise as they did when they were younger. But, keep them active so that their bones and muscles stay strong. Plan moderate exercise for these animals. This means to carefully provide exercise. You do not want to injure the animal or overwork it when it gets older.

For information on possible activities and exercise for your pet, see the "Animal Care Guide".

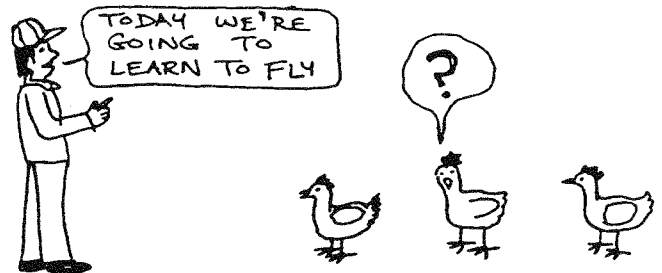
### TRAINING YOUR ANIMAL

If you want to plan activities or exercises, you may need to train your animal. Training means to teach your animal to do something it is asked to do. You may train a pony to let you ride it. You may train your dog to walk on a leash, or sit and come when asked. You may train your goat to carry a pack and walk with you when hiking. Training doesn't always apply to exercise. You also train animals when you teach a cat or rabbit to use a litter box. You housebreak a dog to let you know when it needs to go outside to its "bathroom" area.

Whatever kind of training you want to do, you must understand how animals think. You will then have an easy time teaching your pet good manners, tricks or games.

Most animals like to please us. They will try very hard to do as we ask. BUT, because animals do not understand our language, we must try to find ways to make them understand our wishes.

Use commands to train an animal. A command is a word which is always used to ask a certain thing. This word will get your pet's attention and tell it what you want. If you want your pony to stand in one spot while you get ready to mount it, tell it to "Stand". If you want it to stand in one spot after you have had it circling on a long line, tell it to "Stand". If this same word is





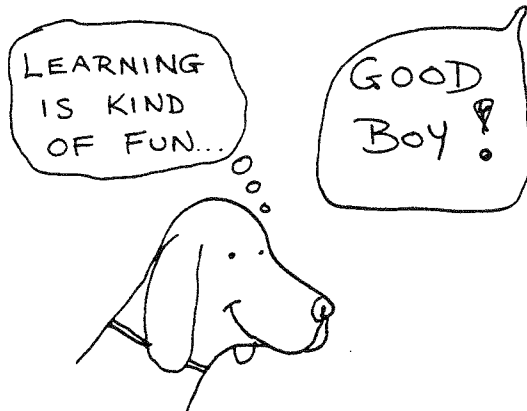
always used to tell the pony to stand still in one spot, the pony will get to know that it must stand when it hears the word "Stand".

SO, when you teach a trick or motion, you must always use the same word so that the animal does not become confused.

Training takes a lot of time and patience. Animals try very hard to learn. It may take many attempts before they really understand what it is supposed to do.

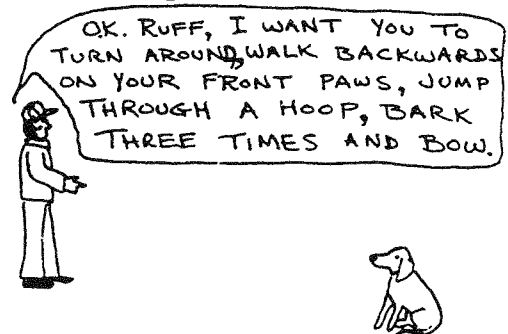
Training is hard work. You should plan a training period of only a few minutes rather than for an hour.

For example: If you wish to teach a dog to "Heel" while you lead it on a leash, walk the dog for 10 or 15 minutes each day while you train it to heel. This is much better than only walking once a week for an hour. If a dog is walked every day for several minutes, it will learn to heel after a few days. If it is only walked once a week, it will forget how to heel from one week to the next.



When you do a good job on a project, you like to hear someone say "Good work". Animals are very much like us when it comes to being praised. When it tries hard to please you after you have asked it to do a trick or task, you should praise it. The task may not be done exactly right, but you should still praise the animal if it has tried to understand and do the task. This will make training much easier.

Don't ask for too much all at once. Animals must have time to learn one task or trick properly before another is begun. It is better to teach two or three simple tasks at first. Slowly add one or two more after the first ones have been learned properly. This will prevent confusion.



Do not punish an animal for doing the wrong thing when it is trying to learn a task or trick. It is better to repeat the command and help the animal to do the task properly. For example, if you have asked a dog to SIT and it does not, do not scold. Instead, tell the dog to SIT and gently push down on its rump as you say the command. After several patient lessons, the dog will learn to sit down when you say the SIT command.

Do not yell at your pet or hit it. This will make it dislike anything to do with training. Much patience and kindness are needed. Punishment has no place in the training of animals.

Use a firm voice when you are telling your pet what to do. Speak the command clearly and a little louder than you normally speak. Do not yell (this will only confuse your pet). Keep the command simple and short. Do not say the pet's name at the same time as the command because this can confuse the animal.

For example: When you call your animal to come to you, you probably will call its name. If you are training it to stay in a certain spot when you say the word STAY, you should not say TINA, STAY. Tina will probably want to come to you when she hears you say her name. Just say STAY and she will more easily understand what you want.

Learning can be very tiring and confusing. Make time for fun after a training session. Play a game with your pet, take it for a walk, sit and pat it or brush it. Let the pet know that it has pleased you. Your pet will be happy to learn more when you begin training it again next time.



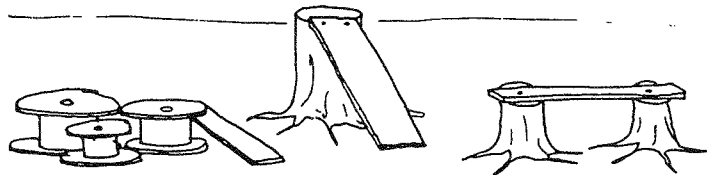
To learn more about training and games, see your "Animal Care Guide".

### ANIMAL PLAYGROUNDS

You can create a 'playground' for your pet to exercise and have fun in. (This should not be a children's playground.) You can get ideas for an animal playground by thinking of the animal's natural habitat. A habitat is a place where a plant or animal would be found in nature.

For example: We know that in wilder parts of the world, goats can be found roaming on hills and cliffs of rocky mountains. A fenced exercise yard for your pet goat might contain the following.

- \* wooden crates to climb on
- \* boards to walk on from one crate to another
- \* crates placed close together to jump from one to another
- \* a wide plank to form a steep ramp

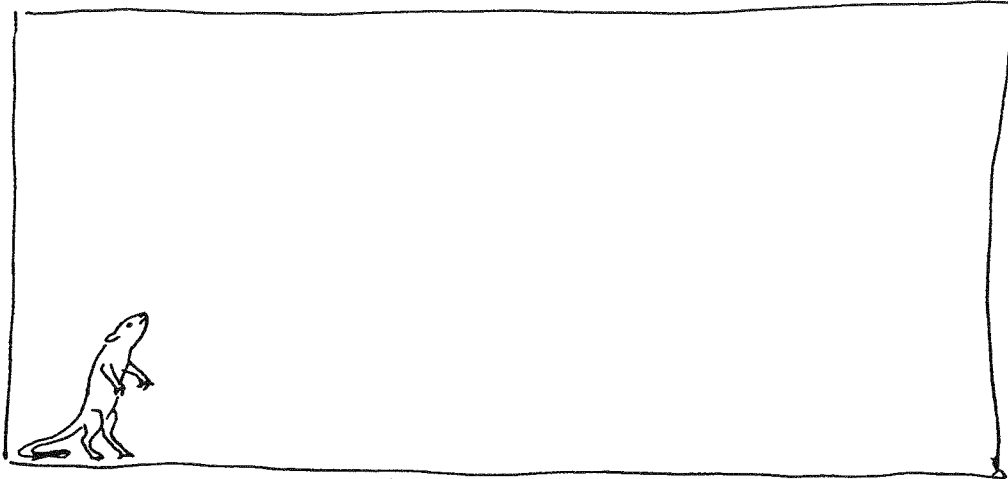


This would be an ideal playground for a pet goat.

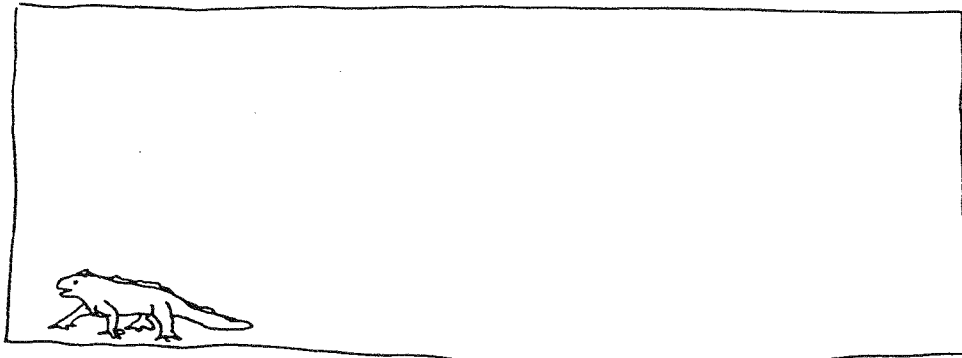
YOUR TURN TO THINK OF ANIMAL PLAYGROUNDS!!!

Keep the idea of a natural habitat in mind. Think of some ways to build a playground for each of the following animals. Make it as interesting as you can for the animal. You might like to write or draw some of the items on the diagram.

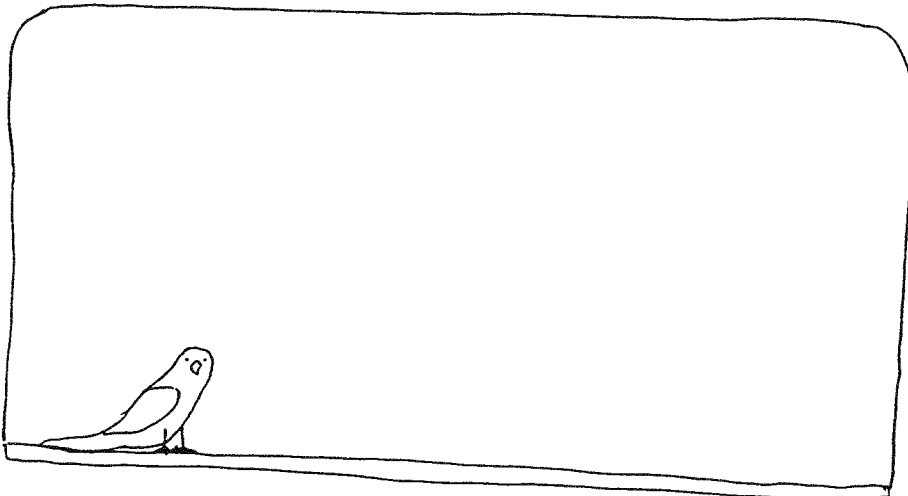
A Mouse or Rat



A Reptile



A Bird



CAN YOU REMEMBER?

Place a "T" next to any statement you think is "True", and an "F" next to any statement which you think is "False".

1.     \_\_\_\_\_     Exercise young and old animals exactly the same regardless of age.
2.     \_\_\_\_\_     Exercise will help to keep pets fit and prevent them from becoming overweight.
3.     \_\_\_\_\_     When training, only practice once a week.
4.     \_\_\_\_\_     When an animal tries to do what you have asked, always praise it.
5.     \_\_\_\_\_     Always use the same command word for the same task or trick.
6.     \_\_\_\_\_     When a pet does the wrong thing after a command, you should scold it.
7.     \_\_\_\_\_     Don't say their name at the same time as giving a command.
8.     \_\_\_\_\_     Spend some time relaxing and playing after a training session with your pet.
9.     \_\_\_\_\_     Keep training sessions short and repeat them each day.
10.    \_\_\_\_\_     It is best to teach two or three commands at first and add a new command as each is learned properly.

BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING

Think of a trick or a task that you can teach your animal. Try to think of something which will be simple and easy to learn. Begin teaching this trick or task to your animal and report on your progress at the next 4-H club meeting.

OR

Make a toy for your animal to play with. Bring this toy to the next meeting and explain how you made it as well as how your pet likes to use the toy.

## MEETING FIVE:

## BAND-AIDS AND BOOSTERS

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT MEETING:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_

### ROLL CALL

What is the name of your veterinarian?

\*\*\*\*\*

### HEALTHY AND HAPPY

Just like people, pets can have times when they don't feel well. Unfortunately, because your pet can't talk, it can't tell you when it isn't feeling well. Also, it can't tell you what is wrong or where the pain is. You must learn to watch for signs which will let you know when it is not feeling well. Also, you must learn how to keep track of problems so that you can tell your veterinarian about them.

How do you know when your pet isn't feeling well???

There are a few signs which let you know when your pet isn't feeling well. Here are some of the most common ones:

#### LOSS OF APPETITE:

If you feed your animal the same amount of food each day, you will know if it has lost its interest in food. You will find that your pet hasn't eaten all of its last meal. OR, a pet which usually waits in excitement as you prepare its food might not bother to come to its bowl.



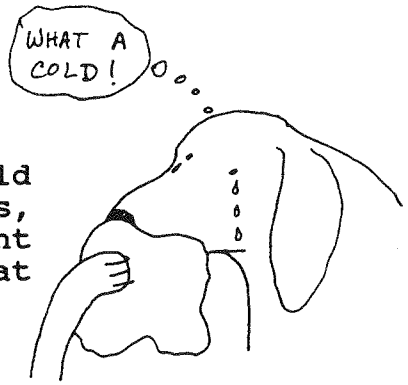
#### DROWSINESS:

A pet which sleeps much more than it usually does may be ill. When animals are ill, they are often much more tired than usual.

#### UNUSUAL BEHAVIOUR:

Animals which do something that they don't usually do might be ill. An animal which scratches or chews at itself constantly may have a problem. OR, an animal which is housetrained may suddenly begin leaving puddles behind. An animal that drinks a lot more than usual is another sign. Anything which is out of the ordinary can be a sign that something is wrong.





### PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS:

You may be able to see a physical problem. This could be something like runny eyes or nose, a cough, cuts, diarrhea, vomiting, scratches or sores. You might notice that the animal's hair is dull and dry or that there is a great deal of hair loss.

### KEEPING RECORDS

It is important that you keep health records on your animal. Records let you know when it is time to take your pet to the veterinarian's office for annual check-ups and treatments. Keep a record of any health problem your pet has had. This provides information if your pet becomes ill again. Record any treatments which have been given to your animal as well. Other important information:

- \* dates when females have been bred or have given birth
- \* notes about offspring
- \* allergies (Pets can have allergies just like us!).
- \* date when a pet was spayed or neutered. (Male and female animals are often "neutered" so that they cannot produce offspring. This keeps the pet population under control).

You can use the Health Record Sheet on page 4 for your pet.

Some veterinarians will give you a health record folder for your pet at its first office visit. Bring this each time you visit so the veterinarian can add notes to it.

### AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE

This is quite an old saying, but its meaning is still important in our time. It means that we can prevent many illnesses by using common sense and good health care. After an animal becomes sick, it takes more work, medicine and money to make it well again. Here are some ways to prevent health problems.

### VACCINATIONS:

When you vaccinate an animal for a disease, very small amount of a medication is given. This makes the immune system develop antibodies to fight a virus or bacteria which could cause illness.

You can compare the immune system to an army which is always waiting to fight against enemy diseases. Vaccinating your pet, is like posting a "Wanted" poster in the pet to help the immune system recognize the disease. It also gives the army a practice battle against a weakened version of the disease. The immune system army will develop some special fighters (known as antibodies) who will be ready to fight the real disease if it comes along. A vaccination booster is repeated -- usually once a year -- to keep antibodies ready to fight disease.



### PARASITE CONTROL:

All kinds of animals can have parasites living inside of them. A parasite is a life form which must live on another animal. The larger animal is always known as the "host" animal because it is providing a home for the parasite to live on.

Parasites are usually classed as:

External parasites: These parasites live on the outside of the animal, on the skin or hair. They usually bite and suck a small amount of blood from the animal. Examples - fleas, ticks, lice.

Internal parasites:



These parasites live on the inside of the animal. They can live in the digestive system or in other organs. These parasites also live on the blood of the host animal. Internal parasites can be quite large and are often called worms. Internal parasites can also be so small that you can only see them with a microscope. Something which can only be seen with a microscope is called microscopic.

Parasites can be present in small or large numbers. Most healthy animals can live with a small number of parasites. BUT, if there are large numbers of parasites, the animal will probably become very sick and it might even die. All kinds of parasites should be kept under control. Your veterinarian can help in deciding how to get rid of pesky external parasites and the more dangerous internal parasites.

### SAFETY FOR ANIMALS:

There are many different things which can be dangerous to pets. Many of these things are everyday items which can be found in any house, garage or garden. Make sure that your pet does not meet dangers which could cause poisoning or injury.

Remember that your pet does not know what is dangerous or poisonous so it is up to you to protect your pet.

### A SAFETY CHECK-LIST FOR YOUR HOME

\*\*\* NOTE: Most things which are dangerous to pets are also dangerous to small children.

POISONS Keep all poisons locked away or get rid of them!

#### COMMON POISONS:

- \* Rodent poisons to kill rats and mice.
- \* Herbicides (to kill weeds in the garden, lawn or around the farm). BE CAREFUL WITH SPRAYS: Your pet can be poisoned by eating herbicide sprayed on a play area or lawn.
- \* Bug killers (poison sprays or liquids for killing bugs).
- \* Household cleansers: can often burn skin or internal organs if swallowed. Some examples:
  - \* Heavy duty disinfectant
  - \* Toilet bowl or drain cleaner
  - \* Oven cleaner
  - \* Floor polishes and cleaners
- \* Paint removers, varnishes, turpentine, varsol, other chemicals.
- \* Paints which contain lead.
- \* Lead in things like fishing sinkers or batteries.
- \* Acid from batteries.
- \* Antifreeze from cars.
- \* Some indoor and outdoor plants.
- \* Human medicines (lock them in a child-proof drawer or cabinet).

#### SHARP OBJECTS:

- \* Fish hooks
- \* Axes, knives, grass clippers, scythes, sickles.
- \* Nails sticking out of boards.

#### DANGEROUS MACHINERY:

- \* Lawn mowers, snow blowers.
- \* Farm equipment
- \* Saws, drills, chainsaws (when we are busy working with them).
- \* Car engines (cats will climb on top of a warm engine).

#### OTHER HAZARDS:

- \* Irons on ironing boards.
- \* An appliance with an electrical cord that hangs down.
- \* Pots and pans left close to the edge of a counter top.
- \* Traffic on the road or laneway.
- \* Porcupines and skunks.
- \* Anything electrical that could be chewed and cause a shock.
- \* Swimming pools (pets can sometimes get in but can't get out).
- \* Barbecues and hot coals.
- \* Fires in the fireplace or woodstove.
- \* Flames from a candle.
- \* Small objects or toys that could be swallowed.

#### GARBAGE: Some of the greatest dangers:

- \* Chicken or fish bones can puncture the stomach if eaten.
- \* Tin cans with sharp lids (licking out leftover food scraps can cause bad cuts).
- \* Rotting food (food poisoning if badly spoiled food is eaten).
- \* Strings from roasts (can become tangled inside when eaten).
- \* Poisons (as on the list above).



# TINA'S YARD

This drawing shows many dangerous objects and situations. Can you find some??? Circle any dangers which you see in the picture.



### WHAT TO DO WHEN SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS

Sometimes, no matter how careful you have been, your pet will become sick or injured. When you discover that something is wrong, decide if you can treat it yourself or if you need to visit the veterinarian.

You can decide by thinking of what you would do if the same thing was wrong with you. If it is a minor scratch, bruise or cut, you would probably clean the injury, put on some type of antiseptic salve or ointment, then put on a clean bandage. You can do the same for your pet.



BUT, if you were to break your arm, fall and hit your head, or swallow something poisonous, you would go to the hospital immediately!!! You would not try to fix these problems yourself. If this kind of thing happens to your pet, take it to your veterinarian as soon as possible.

When your animal shows signs of illness, you will usually decide to take your animal to the veterinarian as well. If you aren't sure what to do, call your veterinarian's office for advice. Describe the problem as carefully as possible. Your veterinarian will help you to decide if the situation is an emergency.



EMERGENCY CARE CHART

This chart will help you to know what to do in an emergency situation.

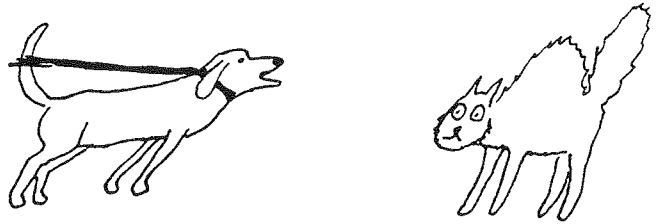
PROBLEM	WHAT TO DO
Small Scratch or Cut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Wash injured area well with soap and water. Apply antiseptic ointment and cover with a bandage.</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- AFTER FOLLOWING THE STEPS BELOW GET VETERINARY HELP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.</li></ul>
Poisoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Call veterinarian immediately.</li><li>- Take animal <u>and</u> poison container to veterinarian.</li></ul>
Bad Cut or Puncture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Use gauze pads, or any absorbent cloth. Press this against the cut and hold tightly until bleeding stops. Transport the animal to the veterinarian's office as soon as possible.</li><li>- Cut in the chest area - place a piece of plastic (sandwich bag) over the cut and press. Get veterinary help immediately.</li><li>- An object sticking out of wound (piece of glass, steel) - wrap a piece of cloth around the object to hold it still. <u>Do not</u> pull the object out (it may start to bleed very badly).</li></ul>
Hit by a car	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Get help if possible. Be careful moving animal. Slide a board under it so spine isn't damaged. Be very gentle.</li></ul>
Injured Eye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Hold a cool, wet compress (cloth) over the eye.</li></ul>
Heatstroke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Remove animal from hot place to a shady, cooler spot with fresh air. Use wet, cool compresses on the animal's head.</li></ul>
Frostbite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Get animal into a warm room. Do not rub frozen parts. To thaw frozen parts soak in cool water <u>or</u> hold gently under your arm or in your hand (against your skin). Avoid injuring frostbitten parts. <u>Do not</u> allow thawed parts to become frozen again.</li></ul>
Drowning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- If animal is small, hold it upside down and gently swing it slowly from side to side. Support weight of body and head with your hands. Clear animal's throat of any liquid.</li><li>- Fluid may be removed from a large animal's lungs by placing it on its side and pulling front leg to the side and then back again (pumps water from lungs).</li><li>- If you know how, compress animal's chest for heart massage and/or do artificial respiration.</li></ul>

## THE VETERINARIAN --- YOUR PET'S BEST FRIEND

What should you expect when you take your pet to the veterinarian's office?

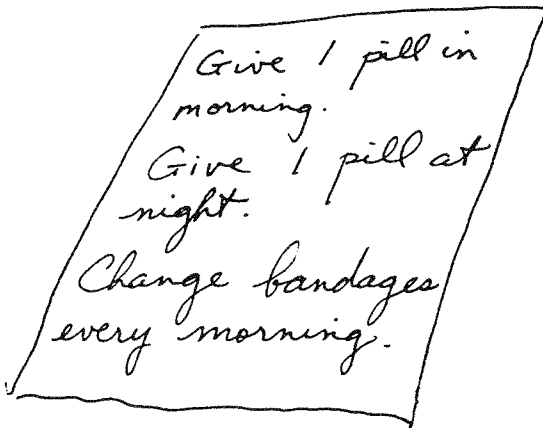
Go to the office with your pet controlled on a leash or in a cage. This is so the pet cannot injure (or be injured by) other animals at the office.

Know your pet's previous illnesses, treatments, and vaccinations. This is why your "Animal Health Record" is so useful.



If you are taking an animal to the veterinarian because it has a health problem, several things may happen:

- \* The veterinarian may ask about the history of the illness. (Any of the things which have happened to the pet in the past few days as well as signs of illness).
- \* The veterinarian will examine the animal. He/she will check for signs of illness. He/she may look in the eyes, ears or mouth and take their temperature.
- \* The veterinarian may keep the animal at the clinic to observe or treat it.
- \* The veterinarian may treat with an injection or pills. You may have to continue giving medication at home.



When the veterinarian gives you instructions for care or treatment, listen very carefully. Repeat the instructions to make sure that you understand everything. Write them down so you won't forget at home.

Ask how soon you should see improvement in your pet's condition. He/she will probably tell you that if there's no improvement in a certain time period, call back for new instructions or another appointment.

### SPECIAL NOTE:

An annual check-up at your veterinarian's office is highly recommended. Your veterinarian can check your pet all over and give any needed vaccinations. He/she may recommend certain tests or treatments such as worming. REMEMBER, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

CAN YOU REMEMBER?

Fill in the space with a "T" for True and an "F" for False.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ A sick animal will rarely lose its appetite.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ A dull, dry coat of hair can be a sign of a physical problem.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ It is quite helpful to keep a health record for your animal.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Vaccinations do not help to prevent your pet from catching diseases.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ A parasite is a small life form which lives on a larger life form.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ A flea is an "external" parasite.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Animals can tell if something is poisonous and they will not eat it.

BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING

Look around your home and see if there are two things you could do to improve the safety of your pet. You might actually want to make the changes to improve these things. Report your findings at the next meeting.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

## MEETING SIX:

## LET'S SHOW OUR STUFF!!!

DATE: _____	NEXT MEETING: DATE: _____
TIME: _____	TIME: _____
PLACE: _____	PLACE: _____

### ROLL CALL

Name a type of animal which can be shown at a fair or animal show.

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### GETTING READY!!!

In other meetings of this project, you learned a little about grooming, training, feeding, exercise, housing and health care. Now you will learn about the showing or displaying of animals. You may think that this is a completely different topic from the rest. However, showing or presentation of animals actually includes all that you have learned.

- \* If you wish to show an animal, you want it to look as beautiful as possible. You must groom it so that it will look sleek and shiny.
- \* If you wish to show an animal, train it so that it will behave and not be frightened when it gets to the show.
- \* If you want your animal to look as good as possible, it should be fed so that it is healthy.
- \* If you want your animal to be in the peak of condition, it needs exercise to make it strong and muscular.
- \* If you wish to display your animal in its "habitat", it should be comfortable. Housing also affects the condition of an animal's coat and its general health.
- \* If you wish to show your pet, it must be in the best of health. Your animal should have had all needed vaccinations. It should never be shown if it is ill.

All of the parts of animal care are related to each other and help produce an animal which is healthy and attractive.

You should think about the different places that you might like to show or present your animal. These could be:

- \* A display of animals for an achievement program.
- \* A 4-H animal or showmanship competition.

- \* A show for your type of animal (fair, exhibition or a specialty show).
- \* A science fair project display.
- \* An information display on 4-H or on animals.
- \* A visit to a seniors' retirement home.

Before you go to the show or event, you will have to ready your pet and some equipment. Some of the things that you will want to do are:

#### GROOM THE PET:

Give the pet a complete grooming so that it shines, smells nice, looks great.

#### PREPARE ANY NECESSARY CAGES OR PENS:

This is a very important point. When you take an animal to an event, you want it to be comfortable. You also want it to be displayed in the best way possible so that it looks its best. You do not want to have the animal in an overcrowded pen where it will be uncomfortable.

#### TAKE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO THE EVENT:

Prepare for an event by making a list of everything that you might need for the display or show. Your list should include: the animal, its food; food and water bowls; registration papers (if needed), health certificates (vaccination certificates, etc...), the animal's pen or cage; grooming equipment; leashes, halters, collars, saddles, etc... You may need to take special clothing for yourself. You may also want spares of some items in case they become lost or broken.

Put everything in one place before the event. Check it twice to make sure that you haven't forgotten anything.

#### TRAIN YOUR ANIMAL:

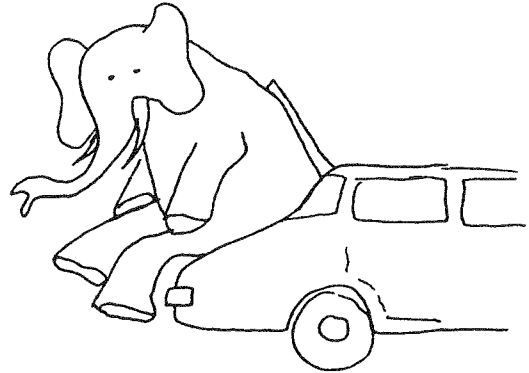
Be sure that your animal is trained to do anything which is needed for the competition. Go over the rules of the competition and be sure that you know what will be expected at the show.



Spend time practicing before the show. It is not a good idea to practice much on the day of a show. The animal may become bored and will not do well when it competes before the judges.

### TRANSPORTING YOUR ANIMAL:

Plan the transporting of your animal well before the event. This will save time and trouble on the day of the show. You do not want to pack the car and find that your cage won't fit into the back seat.



REMEMBER that most animals should not travel in an open container in the back of a car or truck. Wind, rain or hot sunshine can make a pet very sick on the way to the show.

### WHEN YOU ARRIVE

When you arrive at the show, the first thing you should do is find out where to set up your pen or cage. Do not leave your pet sitting in the car any longer than needed. Get your pen arranged, fill water pails or waterers, fill feeders (for ponies, goats, rabbits, etc...). Arrange your display area so it is nice and neat.

When your animal is comfortable and settled down, check on the time of the show. Find out if there is anything else to do. Get changed into different clothes if necessary.

Before the competition, groom your animal again. Leave plenty of time for doing this.

### BEING ON DISPLAY

When you compete at a show or present your animal for display, be properly prepared. If you are presenting an information display, consider how your display should look.



You might want to include the following things in your display:

- \* A sign with the name, kind, breed and age of the animal. You might also include information about the kind or breed of animal so that people will learn more about your animal.
- \* Photographs of your animal or others of its breed.
- \* Anything else that you think will give the display more flair or will provide more information to the public.



When you show an animal at an event, you are on display just as much as the animal. You may be asked questions by visitors so you should be prepared to answer them (some questions may seem a little funny to you).

You should always be polite to the public. Try your best to answer questions. If you don't know the answer, don't make one up. Instead, tell the person who they might talk to to get more information.

You want to be a good representative for 4-H and for the breed or type of animal you display.

### IN THE SHOWRING

When the time comes for you to "Show Your Stuff", you should be ready if you have followed all of the steps in this meeting. You now present your animal for judging.

As a "showperson" or "exhibitor", there are a few things you should always remember:

- \* Be polite to the judge, other exhibitors, and to the public.
- \* Handle your animal carefully and as well as you can. DO NOT treat any animal roughly if it misbehaves. You would not do this at home and you definitely would not do this at a show.
- \* Wear clean clothes and be sure that you are as well groomed as your animal.
- \* Pay careful attention to instructions from the judge at all times.
- \* When you are placed in the final order, be a good sport if you are not at the top of the class. Congratulate the winners. Do not become angry and leave the showring before being excused. This is unsportsmanlike behavior. Also, do not blame your animal for a poor placing.



- \* If you win, don't boast and brag about it. It will make others feel badly. Remember that next time out, they may very well be a winner.
- \* After the placings of a class, the names of the winners are announced. It is correct for the whole class to remain in their places in line until the winners are announced.
- \* Go home and begin working towards being ready for your next show!

CAN YOU REMEMBER?

Fill in a "T" before any TRUE statement and an "F" before any FALSE statement.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Feeding has very little to do with the final appearance of an animal for a show.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Animals should be transported out in an open cage in the back of a pick-up truck.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ You may be asked many questions by the public when you show your animal at any type of event.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ When you arrive at a show, you should make your animal comfortable in its cage or pen before you do anything else.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ If you are not chosen as a winner in a class, you should leave the showring immediately.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Showing animals can be a lot of fun.

## PROJECT SUMMARY — ANIMAL FRIENDS

### A. Member Comments:

1. What did you gain from taking this project?

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2. Which meeting or topic was the most/least interesting? Why?  
Most: \_\_\_\_\_

Least: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Comment and/or give suggestions for improvements on the overall project (eg. activities, tours, achievement program, member presentations, senior projects, judging information).

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4. What interests would you like to explore through future 4-H projects?

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B. Parent/Guardian Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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C. Leader Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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This project has been completed satisfactorily.

Member \_\_\_\_\_

Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Leader \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_