



COMPANION ANIMAL

W139

SKILLS

- Explore classification of dog breeds ☐
- Learn important facts about rabbits ☐
- Expand companion animal vocabulary ☐
- Develop mathematical skills ☐
- Increase technology skills ☐
- Complete a service project ☐
- Gain an awareness about cat communication ☐



LIFE SKILL- Responsibility

Pets are important parts of our lives. However, they require much responsibility on your part as the owner and depend on you to take proper care of them. Some of the new skills that you can learn in the 4-H Companion Animal project are listed on the left. Check your favorites and then work with your 4-H leaders and parents to make a 4-H project plan of what you want to do and learn this year.



FELINE FEELINGS

Cats use many of their body parts to communicate with us. The ears, eyes, head, whiskers, tail and paws are used by cats to express themselves. They also use their "voices" to tell us if they are happy or mad. Study the actions below. Circle the happy face or mad face to show how the feline is feeling.

ACTION

HAPPY

MAD

The cat is purring.



The cat has moved his/her ears forward and up. The whiskers appear to be bristled.



The cat's ears are flattened back against its head.



The cat "chirps."



The cat hisses.



The cat's tail is bushed out. The cat is thumping his/her tail.



The cat is kneading his or her paws.



The cat's eyes are partially closed.



The cat rubs his/her head against the leg of your pants.



The cat growls.



DOGGIE DESCRIPTIVES

The American Kennel Club (AKC) divides dogs into seven different breed groups. On the left is a list of specific dog breeds. On the right is a list of the specific dog breed groups. Using the Internet, go to www.akc.org to place the dog breeds into the correct dog breed groups.

DOG BREEDS

- German Shorthaired Pointer
- Bull Terrier
- Cocker Spaniel
- Labrador Retriever
- German Shepherd Dog
- Great Dane
- Greyhound
- Giant Schnauzer
- Bichon Frise
- Bloodhound
- Chihuahua
- Australian Cattle Dog
- Collie
- Dalmatian
- Irish Setter
- Pomeranian
- Miniature Schnauzer
- Lhasa Apso
- Maltese
- Standard Poodle
- Rottweiler
- Pug
- Dachshund
- Puli
- Welsh Terrier



HERDING



HOUNDS



NON-SPORTING



SPORTING



TERRIER



TOY



WORKING

PETER RABBIT'S TRUE OR FALSE

How much do you know about rabbits? Using the Internet, go to www.n4bccs.org. Click on "Projects Online." Then click on "Rabbits." Read the information about rabbits to answer the questions below:

- | | | |
|------|-------|---|
| True | False | 1. The part of the rabbit called a "hock" is the same as a human's ankle. |
| True | False | 2. A baby rabbit is called a kaboodle. |
| True | False | 3. In addition to pets, rabbits are used for breeding stock, laboratory use, wool, fur and meat production. |
| True | False | 4. Rabbits shed their coats only in the warm months. |
| True | False | 5. Water is the most important nutrient for rabbits. |
| True | False | 6. Rabbits use their ears to regulate their body temperatures. |
| True | False | 7. A healthy rabbit's nose should always be wet and runny. |
| True | False | 8. Feed is the most expensive part of raising rabbits. |
| True | False | 9. A male rabbit is called a buck. A female rabbit is a doe. |



CANINE COUNTING

Your dog eats three scoops (16 ounces per scoop) of food each day. You have just purchased a new bag of dog food for \$8.99. The bag contains 22 pounds of dog food.

- Based on the information above, how many days will one bag of dog food last? _____
- You are going out of town for seven days. How many bags of dog food will you need? _____
- Based on the number of bags you will need to buy in Question #2, what will this cost? _____

SERVICE IDEAS

Share your knowledge with others!
Give a project demonstration about the companion animal project.

Volunteer to "baby sit" a friend, relative or neighbor's pet while he or she is away from home.

Collect items -- food, shampoo, blankets, etc. -- to donate to your local animal shelter.

Volunteer your time to your local animal shelter or provide foster care or hospice care.

RESOURCES

School and public libraries
Companion Dog, Cat or Rabbit manual
4-H project leader/groups

The following Web sites were used to create this activity sheet. To learn more companion animal skills visit:

- www.n4hcs.org
- www.utextension.utk.edu/4h/projects/companimal.htm
- www.thecatstime.com
- www.akc.org

Don't forget! For more ideas and info, contact your local 4-H office.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

4-H Demonstration

4-H Skill-a-thon

Area pet shows/competitions



CANINE CROSSWORD

WORD LIST

Alpha Dog
Balanced Ration
Break
Cynology
Field Trial
Genes
Hackles
Handler
Nick
Outcrossing
Zoonosis

ACROSS

- The mating of dogs of the same breed that are unrelated to each other.
- The function, growth, development and physical characteristics of dogs is a result of these "units of heredity."
- The hairs on the back and neck of dogs that raise involuntarily when they are frightened or angered.
- The amount of dog food that has the appropriate proportions of ingredients (i.e., lamb, rice, beef, etc.) to meet a dog's daily nutritional needs.
- The dog that is dominant over all other dogs within a pack.
- Competition in which hounds and sporting breeds are judged on finding, retrieving and following scents.

DOWN

- The study of canines.
- Term given to breeding that results in desirable puppies.
- The person who handles a dog in a dog show ring or at a field trial.
- Used to describe the point when the coat color of a dog changes from the puppy stage to adult stage.
- Type of disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans (i.e., rabies).

