

4-H Small Animals Series

Discover Small Animals



Introduction

If you have completed Explore Small Animals and want to learn more about selecting and owning a small animal then the Discover Small Animals project could be for you! This project will look at selecting a small animal as well as more information on facilities, feeding, management, health care and economics of being a small animal owner.

You may complete this project without owning a small animal - using it to learn more about a companion animal or small livestock animal that you are thinking of owning. It can also be used to help you learn more about a small animal you or your family already owns.

If you are interested in studying a particular small companion animal or small livestock animal you may wish to take Discover Small Animals - Time to Specialize Companion Animal or Discover Small Animals - Time to Specialize Small Livestock . These two projects go into lots of detail about particular small animals.

PAWS will be helping out along the way with information and resources that will support you in the success of your project. Your 4-H leader will also be with you to help, provide resources, and act as a mentor. Good luck and have fun!

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- Revised 2017 -



PAWS' Positive Ideas

When you see me in this box, it's because I have some helpful hints and positive ideas! I hope to make your Discover Small Animals project fun and interesting.

Get Online!

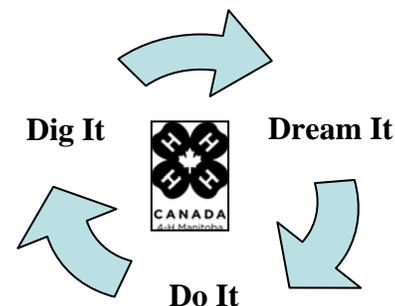


I can't wait to show you what I've found on-line! Check out my great link ideas wherever you see me in the computer screen.

Learning is 3D!

To help you get the most out of your learning, the project has the following parts:

Dream it! Plan for success
Do it! Hands on learning
Dig it! What did you learn?



What Skills Will You Learn?

Each section or Skill Builder (or Builder) in this project has activities that will help your project group learn to do by doing while learning new skills and having fun!



DISCOVER

To complete this project, you must:

- Complete the activities in each Builder **or** a similar activity that focuses on the same skills as you and your leader may plan other activities.
- Plan and complete the Showcase Challenge.
- Complete the Portfolio Page.
- Participate in your club's Achievement (See the inside back cover for more information about 4-H Achievements).

	Members will be able to...	Activities	Page
Skill Builder 1	Selection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify 3 needs that all small animal have • Identify 5 things to consider when selecting a small animal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment Quiz • People in the Know 	4 5
Skill Builder 2	Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify what facilities are needed for all small animals • Identify special shelter needs • Identify two safety hazards for your small animal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning a Safe Environment • Your Small Animal's Home 	7 8
Skill Builder 3	Feeding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe a ration • List four nutrients a small animal needs to be healthy • Describe a healthy snack for a small animal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowdown on Labels • Balancing Act • Be Careful With Treats 	10 11 12
Skill Builder 4	Management 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe two regular activities you use to care for your animal • Identify if your small animal is diurnal or nocturnal • Describe two ways a small animal communicates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals Take Time • Get to Know Your Animal • Animals Communicate 	14 15 16
Skill Builder 5	Management 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how you groom your small animal • Demonstrate how to properly pick up and hold your small animal • Explain why exercise and play are important 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handle With Care • Work Out Time • Make Them Shine • Time to Play 	17 18 19 20
Skill Builder 6	Health Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to check for vital signs on your small animal • List three signs of illness for your small animal • Describe one disease your small animal may get 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy and Happy • Help! My Small Animal is Sick! • Health Care Word Find 	21 23 24
Skill Builder 7	Economics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why it is important to comparison shop • List two uses for good animal records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pet Costs - Comparison Shop • Animal Records 	25 27
When you successfully complete your builders, you will showcase what you have learned.			
Showcase /Portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain success in using the skills listed above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcase Challenge • Portfolio Page 	29 31

Skill Builder 1: Selection



What kind of small animal will you choose?
Before choosing your small animal, you should think about your responsibilities as an animal owner.



Skills Checklist:



- Identify 3 **needs** that all small animal have
- Identify 5 things to consider when selecting a small animal

Important words

Watch for these important words throughout this builder:
Responsibilities, Needs

Dream it!

Owning a small animal can be fun, entertaining and rewarding but there are a few **responsibilities** that come with the enjoyable part. In your project group talk about the kinds of **responsibilities** that come with your favorite small animal. List three below:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Do it!

Owning an animal is a big responsibility. Not everyone thinks carefully about accepting this responsibility until it is too late. As a result, many animals end up unwanted and abandoned. Make good decisions about the animal you select by completing the Commitment Quiz on the next page.

Get Online!



PAWS says—there is lots of information on the internet about small animals. With your parents' permission do a search for information about the needs of your small animal choice. Here is a site to get you started:

<https://www.petfinder.com/pet-adoption/other-pet-adoption/facts-small-mammals-pets/>

Commitment Quiz



DISCOVER

1. What type of animal would you like and why?
2. What do you know about that animal? Life span? Special **needs**? Daily care?
3. How much time do you have to spend with an animal?
4. What kind of experience do you have with owning and caring for an animal?
5. Where will you keep an animal?
6. How much will it cost you to buy feed, keep in good medical health and care for this animal? Can you afford it?
7. Do you have approval and interest from your family?
8. Who will care for your animal when you can't?
9. Where will you be when your animal...
 - Grows to full size
 - Has offspring
 - Gets lonely

People in the Know

Now that you have thought about what kind of small animal would be best for you and your family, interview an “expert” to learn more. Talk to a person who has bred and raised your type of small animal



In your project group brainstorm the names of people in your area that you could talk to.

Call ahead to make an appointment. Plan your questions ahead of time - it is a good idea to write them down and then jot down the answers during the interview. Save the paper and mount it in the space below.

At your next project meeting share what you learned with your leader and other members in the project.

Dig it!

In your project group discuss these questions:

What did you learn from the commitment quiz? Did it change your mind about the type of small animal you would like to own?

Why is it important to learn about what is involved in owning a small animal before you purchase one?

Did what you learned change your mind or are you happy with your small animal selection?

What's next?

In the next builder you learn more about the facilities - shelter and equipment that your small animal will need.

Skill Builder 2: Facilities

DISCOVER



Everybody needs a home?

Every living thing has a home. A home can be a house, a tree or even a hole in the ground. Your home is different than your small animal's home in size, looks and location.



Skills Checklist:

- Identify what **facilities** are needed for all small animals
- Identify special **shelter** needs
- Identify two **safety** hazards for your small animal

Important words

Watch for these important words throughout this builder:

Facilities Shelter Safety

Dream it!

Your home makes you feel secure and comfortable and that's how your small animal's home should make it feel.

In your project group talk about what makes your home right for you.

Your small animal's home should provide the same types of things. Think about what your pet's home should include. Use this Pet Shelter Checklist to help.

Pet Shelter Checklist

- ◆ Light source
- ◆ **Safety** features (lid, lock, etc)
- ◆ Ventilation
- ◆ Proper temperature
- ◆ Bedding area
- ◆ Food/water containers
- ◆ Exercise space
- ◆ Location of the home in your home or yard
- ◆ Other needs (perch, chew toy, toys)



Did all the small animals that your project group own need the same things in their home?

What made your small animal's home special?

Get Online!

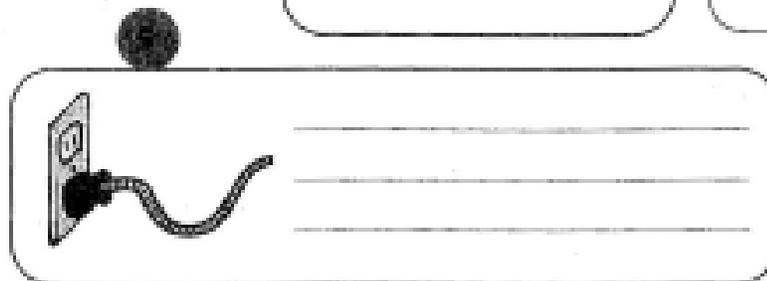
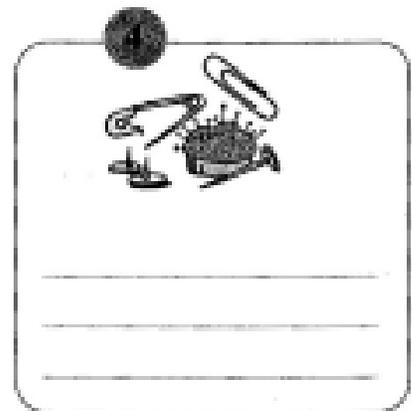
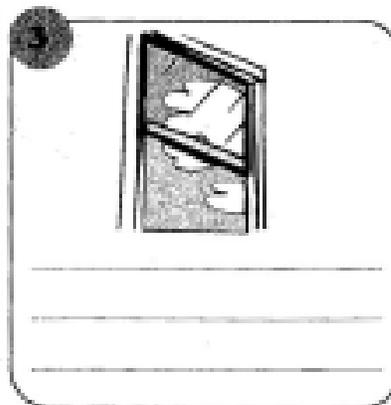
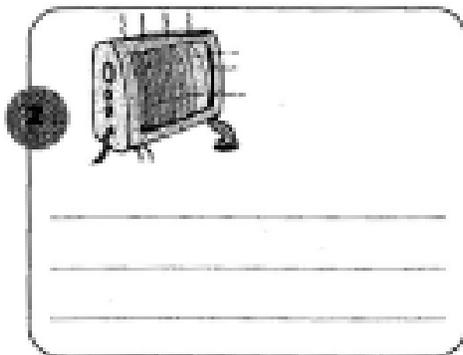
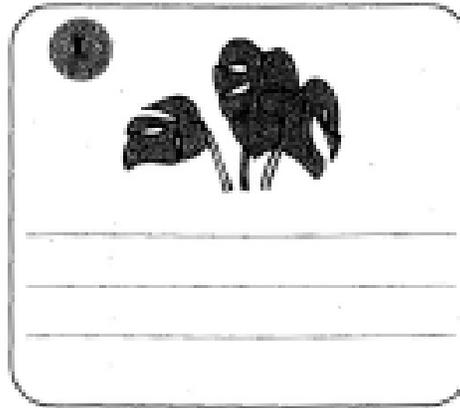


PAWS says—there is lots of information on the internet about keeping your pet safe. Check this website on holiday **safety** for pets! http://www.petmd.com/dog/seasonal/evr_multi_christmas_safety

Do it!

Planning a Safe Environment

As a small animal owner you have made the decision to be responsible for your animal's needs. Being responsible means planning a safe environment for your small animal to live in. Here are pictures of possible **safety** hazards in the home. Describe how each of these could be a hazard to your small animal.



Now think about your small animal's environment. In your project group talk about what possible hazards might be there? List one hazard that is different. Are the hazards different if your small animal lives outdoors?

What should you do to eliminate the hazards in your small animal's environment?



PAWS' Positive Ideas

PAWS says - Common household plants such as English Ivy, Elephant Ear, Philodendron and Azaleas are poisonous, and harmful to your pet if eaten. Safe plants include the Spider Plant, Swedish Ivy and Dracaena.

Your Small Animal's Home

Draw a picture of your small animal's home:

What did you include in your small animal's space?

Dig it!

In your project group talk about why it is important to plan your small animal's living space.

What's Next?

In the next builder you learn more about feeding your small animal.

Skill Builder 3: Feeding



When the ancestors of your small animal were in the wild they found and ate a wide variety of food. Your small animal relies on you to provide all the **nutrients** it needs each day in its **ration** and to and give it lots of fresh **water**.

DISCOVER

Skills Checklist:



- Describe a **ration**
- List four **nutrients** a small animal needs to be healthy
- Describe a healthy snack for a small animal

Important words

Watch for these important words throughout this builder:

**Nutrient Ration
Supplements Water Treats**

Dream it!

How do we feed our small animals? 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 and what food can it eat. In your project group talk about those questions for your small animal. Did everyone have the same answers?

Can you name two **nutrients** ? Do all small animals need the same kind and amounts of **nutrients**?

We call the food we feed our small animals **rations**.

Do it!

All animals need good nutrition. Nutrition means getting the right kind of food and **water** in the right amounts to keep the body healthy. Nutrients include vitamins, minerals, protein, **water** and energy. Your small animal relies on you to provide it with a nutritious diet. Just as you need energy to grow, and stay active, so does your small animal.

Calories measure the energy food provides. If you eat too many calories for your activity, and growth you gain weight. When you eat few calories, compared to your activity, and growth level, then you lose weight. The same is true for your small animal. A balance of calories and activity are important to keep you, and your small animal healthy. The activities on the next three pages will help you learn more about your small animal's nutritional needs.

PAWS Positive Ideas

PAWS says—When feeding or giving medicine to your animal, you may need to know its weight to give it the correct amount. Here are three ways to weigh your animal:

1. use a livestock scale if your small animal is too heavy to pick up
2. Pick up the animal, step on a bathroom scale and note the weight. Put the animal down and weigh yourself. Subtract your weight from the weight of you and your animal. This is how much your small animal weighs.
3. Weigh very small animals by putting them in a container and using a set of food scales. Weigh the container first and subtract this amount from the weight of animal and container to get your animal's weight.



Lowdown on Labels



DISCOVER

Some pets are given the same diet every day for their entire lives! You'll want to make sure your small animal is fed a diet that meets its requirements. Sometimes a wider variety of foods is necessary to supply all the vitamins, minerals, energy and protein needed. One way to select feed is to compare the labels on your pet's feed and other similar products.

Clip the nutrition label from a box, or bag of any kind of pet food. Tape the label in the space provided. if you serve a home grown ration make up a label showing the items in your animal's diet. Answer these questions about your label.

My Pet Food Label

What animal should eat this food?

How much should the animal eat each day?

What feed ingredients are used to supply these **nutrients**:

Energy

Protein

Minerals

Vitamins

How much energy would the small animal get from this daily diet/**ration**?

What other food might be needed to make sure the small animal receives a "balanced" diet/**ration** each day?

What conditions would change the small animal's feed requirements?

Balancing Act

Select two or three balanced diets/rations for your animal. They could be home grown, commercially prepared, or a combination of both. Use this chart to compare the diets/rations. Add a page if you need more space.



Put an X by the diet/ration that would be the best choice for your animal.

Type of Animal:	Age of Animal:		
	Diet/Ration 1	Diet/Ration 2	Diet/Ration 3
Description of diet/ ration contents (you could attach the label)			
Amount required daily			
How well does it meet your animal's dietary needs? Consider nutrition, variety, etc.			
Cost/day			

PAWS Positive Ideas: Disease Prevention Tips

PAWS says: Your small animals should always have access to clean, fresh water. This is called "free choice". You should change the water at least once a day, more often if possible.



Be Careful With Treats

Everyone likes a snack or a treat and your small animal likes them too! As a responsible owner you need to make good choices when giving your small animal a treat.

DISCOVER

PAWS Positive Ideas

PAWS says - Here are some tips to keep in mind when feeding treats:

- nutritious food
- fed in small amounts
- digestible
- safe

In your project group talk about what things might make good treats for your small animals. Did all of the small animals get the same treats? Why?

In the space below, draw or glue pictures or recipes for some good treats for your small animal. You could display a healthy treat as part of your Showcase Challenge.

Dig it!

Why is it important to know your small animal's nutritional needs?

What are the best sources for finding nutritional information for your pet?

What would happen to your pet's health if you didn't make the right choices about the type of food to feed it?

What's Next?

In the next Skill Builder you will learn about managing your small animal including how much time it takes to care for it as well as how it communicates and what it does at different times of the day.

Skill Builder 4: Management 1



Managing a small animal involves lots of activities — handling, grooming, training, exercise and general **maintenance**. All of this takes time and it is important to get to know your small animal and its **habits**.

DISCOVER

Skills Checklist:



- Describe two regular activities you use to care for your animal
- Identify if your small animal is **diurnal** or **nocturnal**
- Describe two ways a small animal **communicates**

Important words

Watch for these important words throughout this builder:

Maintenance **Habits**
Communication **Nocturnal**
Diurnal

Dream it!

You probably lead a very busy life. You go to school, have chores to do and may play on a sports team or have hobbies. When choosing a small animal you should keep these in mind. Some small animals require lots of **maintenance** and special kinds of care. Others may have their own schedules that won't fit with yours - for example some animals are **nocturnal** and prefer to be active at night.



With you leader and project group talk about the kinds of things that need to be done keep you pet happy and healthy. Are the small animals in your group **nocturnal** or **diurnal**? How does your animal communicate its needs?

Do all small animals need the same kind of attention and time? Is your small animal low or high **maintenance**?

Do it!

Animals Take Time



Use the chart on the next page and make a daily, weekly and monthly to do list for caring for your small animal. Remember feeding, exercising, grooming, cleaning, etc. List as many tasks as possible. Then record how much time it takes.

You can try to think about all you do and make up this list or you could keep track of all the activities and time you take for one month.

Get to Know Your Animal

Understanding your small animal will help you in working with it. Have you ever quietly watched and listened to your small animal? If you have, you probably know that your small animal can teach you many things.



Quietly observe your animal for 15 to 30 minutes on four days. Pick different times of day. Write down what you see or hear your animal doing. Make notes on your animal's activities, eating **habits**, sleeping and exercise patterns, how it interacts with people or other animals or anything unusual.

Date: What I Saw:	Time:

In your project group talk about the things you observed.

How does the time of day make a difference in your pet's behavior?

What new things did you learn? Did anything surprise you?

How Do Animals Communicate?

DISCOVER

Animals **communicate** in many different ways. Some **communicate** by using body movement, by secreting from scent glands or by making noise or sounds that sometimes cannot be heard by the human ear.

How does your small animal **communicate**?

Can you tell how it feels by watching, listening or touching it?

What do you think your small animal is trying to tell you?

In your project group talk about all the ways you have observed your small animal communicate.

Talking about how your animal communicates could be part of your Showcase Challenge.



Get Online!

PAWS says—find out about how cats **communicate** by visiting this website:
<http://www.pets.ca/cats/articles/cat-communication/>

Dig it!

Did your small animal take more or less time to care for as the ones that belong to your project group? Why?

In your project group talk about what you learned about small animals and their **habits** and why it is important to understand them.

What's Next?

In the next builder, you will learn more about small animal management including handling, grooming and exercise.

Skill Builder 5: Management 2



In Skill Builder 4 you learned more about your small animal - its habits, how it communicates and the time it takes to keep it happy and healthy. Now it is time to learn about proper **handling**, **grooming**, and **exercise** so you have a content and happy small animal.

DISCOVER

Skills Checklist:



- Describe how you groom your small animal
- Demonstrate how to properly pick up and hold your small animal
- Explain why **exercise** and play are important

Important words

Watch for these important words throughout this builder:

Grooming Handling Exercise

Dream it!

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

- the small animal from being accidently hurt
- the small animal from hurting humans and other animals.

Proper **handling** of your small animal will make it easier to do many tasks involved with caring for your small animal.

In your project group talk about how proper handling will help you take care of your small animal.

Do it!

Handle With Care

All small animals have to be handled with care.

Research **handling** tips for your small animal. Use library books, the internet or your leader may have resource material for your small animal.

Use your animal or a toy animal to show your project group the right way to pick up and move your animal.

Are all small animals handled the same way? Why?



Get Online!

PAWS says - check out these websites for ideas on grooming all kinds of small animals:

<http://www.animalplanet.com/pets/other-pets/grooming/>

Work Out Time—How Much is Enough

DISCOVER

Just like people, animals need to **exercise** to keep in shape. If your animal sits around and does nothing it will become overweight. It will begin to age before it should. Your animal may also become bored if it has nothing to keep it active.

In your project group talk about activities to keep your small animal in shape - some are as easy as taking them for a walk, but for others you will have to invent games or toys to encourage them to get exercise.

List three activities to keep your small animal active:

Some animals need more **exercise** than others. In your project group discuss things that will affect the amount of **exercise** your small animal needs. List two reasons in the space below:

Does your small animal need the same amount of **exercise** as other small animals in the group? Why?

Get Online!



PAWS says - check out this website for ideas on how to **exercise** a dog.
<http://www.animalplanet.com/pets/healthy-pets/10-fun-ways-to-exercise-your-dog/>

Check for sites on the internet or Pinterest for exercising your small animal.

Make Them Shine

You will want to clean and groom your small animal. Let's get ready by making a list of everything you need and how you clean and **groom** your animal.



I will need:



I need to do this

Now go out and make your small animal shine! At your next project meeting share your experiences.

As part of your Showcase Challenge you could display the items you use for grooming your small



Time to Play

Begin by watching your small animal and pay special attention to the things it likes to do.

List the things you see in this box.

Next, make a toy for your small animal.

Things My Small Animal Likes to Do



Get Online!

PAWS says - search on the internet for ideas for making toys and equipment for your small animals .

<https://pethelpful.com/> has ideas for toys and exercise for many kinds of small

In the space below, glue or draw a picture of a toy you made for your small animals. Add pictures of its other favourite toys. Don't forget to label them. Display your toy as part of your Showcase Challenge.

Dig it!

In your project group talk about what you learned about:

How does **handling** a small animal correctly protect you and your animal?

Why is it important for small animals to have **exercise** and other things to do or play with?

How will you prepare to **groom** your pet before your next meeting?

What's Next?

In the next builder, you will learn about small animal health care.

Skill Builder 6: Health Care



Why is it important to reflect?

Remember the last time you saw a doctor for a check up? Your eyes, ears, reflexes, temperature, pulse and respiration were probably checked. When your pet visits the **veterinarian** many of the same things are examined.

DISCOVER

Skills Checklist:



- Be able to check for **vital signs** on your small animal
- List three signs of illness for your small animal
- Describe one disease your small animal may get

Important words

Watch for these important words throughout this builder:

Veterinarian
Vital Signs
Symptoms Prevention
Vaccination

Dream it!

Just like people, small animals can have times when they don't feel well. Unfortunately, because your small animal can't talk, it can't tell you when it isn't feeling well, what is wrong or where the pain is. You must learn to watch for signs or **symptoms** that will let you know when it is not feeling well.

With your leader and the other members in your project group talk about some of the signs that your small animal isn't feeling well.

Are the signs of illness the same for all small animals?

Do it!

Healthy and Happy

Your leader will arrange for you to tour a **veterinarian's** office and discuss what practices will keep your animal healthy.(e.g. diet, parasite control, **vaccinations**, etc.)

Ask the veterinarian what the healthy vital signs are for your small animal and what signs might tell you your small animal is getting sick.



Get Online!



PAWS says - here are two websites that can give you information on conditions and illnesses of small animals :

<http://www.usask.ca/vmc/animal-health/index.php>

<https://www.acvs.org/small-animal>

Pet Examination Chart

Species		
Name		
Date		
	Healthy Pet	Unhealthy Pet
Eyes		
Nose		
Skin or Fur		
Body Temperature		
Respiration Rate		
Pulse Rate		
Overall Appearance		
Behaviour		
Appetite		
Vaccinations Required		

Help - My Small Animal is Sick!

A responsible small animal owner should be familiar with the health problems of their animals. Do a search on the internet or at the library or ask a small animal expert about some of the more common diseases, illnesses and problems for your animal as well as the **symptoms**.



List the information you found in the chart below. Put a star * by the ones you can take care of yourself and an X by the ones which require additional help?

Name	Symptoms	Care Required & By Whom

PAWS Positive Ideas: Disease Prevention Tips

PAWS says: a responsible small animal owner will:

- Clean pen and food container weekly
- Feed a balanced diet
- Provide fresh water daily
- Never transfer water or feed containers from one pen to another
- Protect from cold, drafts and excessive moisture



Health Care Word Find

Draw a line through each of the words in the word list. Words may run across, down, and on the diagonal. Did you find all the words?

VETERINARIAN	MEDICATION	ILLNESSES	SAFETY	FOOD
HEALTH CARE	RESPONSIBLE	TREATMENT	HAZARD	CLEAN
DISEASE	PARASITE	HUMIDITY	IMMUNIZATION	GROOM
VACCINATION	WELFARE	RECORD	SICK	GROW
EXERCISE	TEMPERATURE	INJURY	APPETITE	PET

V P A R A S I T E Z I I A S
E A N O I T A C I D E M N A
T X C H U M I D I T Y M I F
E R A C H T L A E H M U T E
R E R E I R E C O R D N N T
I S P S Z N F O O D R I E Y
N P D I S E A S E R A Z M E
A O C C W I I T F A Z A T T
R N L R O O C N I S A T A I
I S E E R S W K J O H I E T
A I A X G R O O M U N O R E
N B N E R A F L E W R N T P
N L I L L N E S S E S Y E P
T E R U T A R E P M E T P A

Dig it!

In your project group talk about what you learned about animal health. Where can you find out more?

Why is it important to know your small animal's vital signs? What could cause it's vital signs to change?

What's Next?

In the next skill builder you will learn about record keeping and the cost of being a small animal owner.

Skill Builder 7: Economics



Being a small animal owner has costs - some in the form of money, some in the form of time and responsibility. In Skill Builder 4 you discovered how much time you will invest to care for a small animal. Now it's time to look at the other costs - financial and responsibility.

DISCOVER



Skills Checklist:

- Explain why it is important to **comparison shop**
- List two uses for good animal records

Dream it!

As a responsible owner you will want to spend money wisely and take good care of your small animal.

In your project group talk about ways you could save money when purchasing supplies for your small animal. How many did your group think of?

Sometimes small animals get lost or accidents happen - in your project group talk how you can be prepared if this should happen.

Do it!

Pet Costs—Comparison Shop

You will require certain supplies to own and care for your small animal. Use the chart on the next page to make a list of the supplies required—include food, equipment, grooming tools, facilities etc.

Make a note of how often you will need to purchase the item. Write down an estimate of how much you think these items will cost. Then **comparison shop** between at least two sources - consider new, used, rentals etc - consider quality and price to make your best choice.



Using a different coloured pen or a highlighter mark the best choice for each item.

PAWS Positive Ideas:



PAWS says: Get the most out of the money you have to spend on raising and caring for your small animal. Always **comparison shop** - check at least two suppliers for prices and watch for sales. If you shop online remember to include the cost of shipping and handling when you compare prices.

Supplies I need	How often I need to buy (one time only, weekly, quarterly, etc.)	Cost estimate	Real cost	
			Source 1	Source 2

What was the total cost of all your best choice items? _____

Was the cost higher or lower than you thought?

What other costs do you need to consider? (medical, transportation)

How does shopping at more than one store help you save money?

Animal Records

Responsible animal owners should keep good records. With your leader discuss the kinds of records you might keep and why record keeping is important.

Use the space below and on the next page to start a record for your small animal.



My Small Animal

Name:

Kind of animal:

Breed:

Sex:

Date acquired:

Premises ID #

Date of Birth/Age:

Tattoo Number or Chip:

Colour and markings:

Photo of your animal

Feeding Notes: (detail kinds of feed, amounts, feeding schedule and changes, etc.)

Health Record: (what did you do to maintain your animal's good health ie. exercise, vaccinations, treatment of health problems, etc.)

Facilities Description: (describe how your animal is housed)



Management Records: (note any behaviors, training, grooming schedules, etc.)

Inventory and Costs (list the items you own for your small animal and their cost)

Describe Item	Cost
Pet:	
Housing:	
Feed:	
Equipment:	
Info/books, etc.	
Other	
Total	

Dig it!

In your project group:

Talk about the cost of being a small animal owner. How do the costs compare for different animals.

What will you consider the next time you shop for something?

Talk about how you can use good animal records as a responsible small animal owner.

What's Next?

Now that you have finished all the 7 Skill Builders in this project, it is time to think about and plan for the Showcase Challenge. The Portfolio Page is for you to make sure Your Discovering Small Animals Skills Chart is complete. There is space for you to write down what you liked and didn't like about the project..

Showcase Challenge

Bringing it all together!



Now that you have finished this project, it is time to think about how you will share your experiences and knowledge with others. You may put your new skills to work by helping at a community event or at your club Achievement or teaching others about your topic. The goal of the Showcase Challenge is to help highlight your new skills and help you understand how you can use them. It can be an opportunity to receive feedback from others on your project. So go back through your manual and find some highlights of your learning (what you are proud of) and think about how you will “showcase” it.

Here are some Showcase Challenge Suggestions:

- Demonstrate something you made or learned about
- Make a poster or display
- Make a pamphlet
- Make a computer presentation (e.g. PowerPoint)
- Give a speech
- Write a report
- Use your new skills to help with the Club Achievement plans
- Or come up with your own idea. It is up to you and your leader!



My Showcase Challenge Plan



My showcase idea: _____

What materials and resources do I need? _____

Who do I need to help me? _____

When do I need to have things done by? _____



Insert or attach your finished product or a photo of you sharing your skills in your Showcase Challenge.



Now that you have showcased your project skills:

- How did your Showcase Challenge go?
- What would you do differently next time?
- How will you use your new skills in the future? (*in different situations?*)





My 4-H Portfolio Page



Name: _____ Date: _____ Year in 4-H: _____
 Club: _____ Hours Spent on 4-H: _____ (Project and Other 4-H Activities)



Discover Small Animals Skills Chart

To be completed by the leader and the member based on observations and

Skill Builder	Members will be able to... Each Builder had a Skills Checklist which identified the skill you will learn.	We know this because... Identify activities completed and record observations and information from discussions about activities.
1 Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify 3 needs that all small animal have Identify 5 things to consider when selecting a small animal 	
2 Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify what facilities are needed for all small animals Identify special shelter needs Identify two safety hazards for your small animal 	
3 Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe a ration List four nutrients a small animal needs to be healthy Describe a healthy snack for a small animal 	
4 Management 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe two regular activities you use to care for your animal Identify if your small animal is diurnal or nocturnal Describe two ways a small animal communicates 	
5 Management 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how you groom your small animal Demonstrate how to properly pick up and hold your small animal Explain why exercise and play are important 	
6 Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be able to check for vital signs on your small animal List three signs of illness for your small animal Describe one disease your small animal may get 	
7 Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain why it is important to comparison shop List two uses for good animal records 	
Showcase Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain success in using the skills listed above 	

Additional Comments/Activities:

Leader Point of Praise!

I am most impressed by...

I acknowledge that the member has completed the 4-H project requirements.

Leader's Signature: _____



Above and Beyond!

In addition to project skills, 4-H also increases skills in meeting management, communications, leadership and community involvement through participation in club, area, or provincial 4-H events or activities. List below any activities you participated in this year in 4-H.

(Some examples include Executive Positions Held, Workshops, Communication, Community Service, Rally, Bonspiels, Conferences, Judging, Camps, Trips, Awards, Representation to Area or Provincial Councils, etc)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Feel Free to add additional pages that include awards, certificates, new clippings, photos or other items that describe your 4-H involvement.

Member Point of Pride!

What I learned...

What I need to improve on...

What I want others to notice...

Member's Signature: _____



Point of Praise! Another's perspective on your achievements in 4-H.

(community professionals, 4-H club head leaders, parent, friend,)

I am most impressed by...

I believe that you have learned...

In the future I encourage you to...

Signature: _____





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4-H Manitoba

4-H Achievement

4-H Achievement is... a 4-H club celebration when members have completed their projects. Achievements are planned by the club to give recognition to members and leaders for their accomplishments in their 4-H projects and club activities.



A 4-H Achievement can take many different formats: from choosing a theme, to member project displays, to members using their new skills for the event (entertainment, food, decorating, photographer, etc.), to members presenting their project to the whole group, the options are endless and open to the creativity of the members and leaders in each club!

Clubs may also plan their Achievement to promote 4-H to the community or to recognize sponsors and others who have helped the club.

Members and leaders - be sure to check your project books for the project completion requirements, so you will be ready for your club's Achievement celebration!

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions for this or other 4-H projects contact:

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CANADA
4-H Manitoba

This manual is for educational use only and is not intended as professional advice.

For more information about 4-H and the many 4-H opportunities available please visit

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/4-h/>



What is 4-H?

4-H is an international youth organization involving more than 7 million members in 80 countries around the world.

In Canada, 4-H began in 1913 in Roland, Manitoba as a community-based organization dedicated to growth and development of rural youth. Today's 4-H program reaches both farm and non-farm youth across Canada. The motto of "Learn to Do by Doing" is embodied in the program, as 4-H focuses on skill development as well as personal development of life skills such as communications, leadership and citizenship.



4-H Motto

"Learn To Do by Doing"

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.

All project materials are available in alternate format upon request.

Thank you to Ontario 4-H and Saskatchewan 4-H
for the use of their project material.

Manitoba 4-H project material is developed by
Manitoba Agriculture