Small Animals Series
Explore Small Animals

Introduction

Lots of 4-H members enjoy taking animal projects. It’s easy to like animals, but taking care of animals is a big job and there is work to do every day.

The Small Animals project series lets you learn how to pick and take care of a companion animal or small farm animal.

There are seven sections called Skill Builders focusing on specific topics. Each builder has activities to help you develop your skills and fun activities to try!

If you are ready to learn about small animals, come explore with PAWS.

Meet PAWS

PAWS says, “Look for me throughout the manual. I’ll share exciting and important information that will help you with your project.”

Links

This More PAWS box will appear throughout the project book. Check out the great website link ideas that will lead you to fun online content to help you with your 4-H project.

Learning is 3D!

To help you get the most out of your learning, each project meeting has the following parts: Dream it! Plan for success Do it! Hands on learning Dig it! What did you learn?

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- Draft 2017 -
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!

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).

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Skill Builder 1: Small Animals

The Small Animals project lets you learn how to select and take care of a pet or small farm animal.

In Skill Builder 1 learn about the difference between small companion animals and small livestock.

Skills Checklist:
- List three kinds of small animals
- Separate small animals into companion animals or small livestock

Dream it!

Do you have a pet? What is it? Sometimes pets are called companion animals.

Is it a small animal?

If you don’t have a pet – what kind of small animal would you like to have for a pet?

Why would this small animal make a good companion animal?

Do you have small livestock? What are they?

Can a small animal be both a companion and livestock?

Important Words
Watch for these important words throughout the builder:

Small animal, Companion animal, Livestock
Do It!

Small Animal Sorting

Circle the small animals that are companion animals. Put a line under the animals that are small livestock. Some animals may be both and some may be neither.

Talk with your leader and other project members in your group about how your sorted the animals. Did all of you agree about what group each animal belonged in?

Dig It!

Think back about what you learned about the difference between companion and livestock small animals.

Why do you think people keep animals for different reasons?

What’s next?

In Skill Builder 2 you will learn about the different needs of all small animals.
All living things need similar things to be happy and healthy. This skill builder will help you learn what things your small animal needs.

Skills Checklist:
- List 3 things that an animal needs to live
- Describe a habitat

Dream it!

With your project group and leader answer these questions:

What is a habitat?

What does a habitat give to the person or animal that lives there?

Do you live in a habitat?

What kinds of things do you need every day to stay healthy and happy?

Does your companion animal or small livestock animal have needs?
Do It!

Your leader will ask you and your project group to talk about what all animals need to be healthy and happy.

What needs can you think of for your favourite small animal?

Does your favorite small animal need a special kind of place or habitat to live?

Does your favorite small animal need a special food?

Recipe for a Healthy Animal

Get a recipe card. Write all the ingredients you need to make a healthy small animal. Add what you have to do with these ingredients to make them work.

Your leader will show you an example of a cooking recipe card to help you get started.

Save the recipe card to show at your 4-H Club Achievement day or to use in your Showcase Challenge.

Dig it!

What would you tell a friend who wants to get a pet or small farm animal?

What’s next?

In Skill Builder 3 you will learn about the things to think about when picking a small animal.
Skill Builder 3: Picking a Small Animal

There are many possible choices for a companion animal or small livestock animal. All of us probably like one type of animal more than all of the others.

But you can’t always have the kind of pet you would like the most. There are lots of things to think about when you decide which small animal is the best for you and your family.

Skills Checklist:

- List the things you should think about before getting a small animal

Important Words
Watch for these important words throughout the builder:
Choosing   Allergies   Responsibility

Dream it!

It is important to pick a small animal that will fit in with your home and family.

Not every small animal will work for everyone.

List three things you should think about before picking a companion animal or small livestock animal?

1. ________________________________________________________________

2. ________________________________________________________________

3. ________________________________________________________________
Do it!

**The Best Fit**

In your project group talk about how these questions can help you pick a small animal that will fit in with your home and family.

At home: sit down with your family and talk about these questions. Write some of the answers in the boxes. Bring the answers to your next project meeting.

What could an animal add to our family?

What are our favourite animals?

Who would be willing to help look after animal?

What are some other things to think about?

Where would be the best place to keep an animal?

**Dig it!**

What small animal did you and your family decide would be the best pick? Why?

**What’s next?**

In Skill Builder 4 you will learn about getting to know your small animal.
Now that you have made your choice about the kind of small animal you want it is time to learn more about the parts of the animal and their function. Every living creature has a body with many different parts. Each part has an important purpose or function. Learning about your pet’s body can help you keep it healthy.

Skills Checklist:

• Identify animal body parts
• Identify the purpose of animal body parts

Dream it!

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

In your project group talk about questions you would like to ask the seller: Write three of them here

1. __________________________________________

2. __________________________________________

3. __________________________________________

Do it!

Small animals have many similar parts that have the same use. All small animals have eyes but some have paws while others have fins. Similar body parts may have different names - for example a bird has a beak while a cat will have a mouth or a jaw.

In your project group talk about body parts that may have more than one use to your animal.

On the next page, complete the crossword puzzle, using the numbered body parts in the pictures as clues.
Animal Parts Crossword

1. [Illustration of fish, a turtle, a guinea pig, and a bird with parts numbered from 1 to 12.]

Crossword:

Across:

4. (2) [Part of the fish.
5. [Part of the turtle.
6. [Part of the guinea pig.
7. [Part of the bird.
8. [Part of the turtle.
9. [Part of the fish.
10. [Part of the guinea pig.
11. [Part of the fish.
12. [Part of the bird.

Down:

1. [Part of the guinea pig.
2. [Part of the bird.
3. [Part of the turtle.

Note: The numbers correspond to the parts labeled on the illustrations.
## Small Animal Parts Matching

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Beak</td>
<td>Breathing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Ear</td>
<td>Hearing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Eye</td>
<td>Protecting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Fin</td>
<td>Balancing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Foot</td>
<td>Crushing/Chewing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Fur</td>
<td>Seeing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Gill</td>
<td>Running</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Leg</td>
<td>Smelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Nose</td>
<td>Flying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Shell</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Tail</td>
<td>Keeping Warm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Wing</td>
<td>Grasping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Feathers</td>
<td>Sensory Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Scales</td>
<td>Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Claws</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Whiskers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Teeth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Match the parts in the Small Animal Parts Word Bank with the words that describe their most important function to a small animal. Connect the part and the function with a line. You may have more than one answer for each body part or each function.

**Dig it!**

In your project group talk about what kind of body parts are the same on all your animals.

What body parts are different? List one reason why they are different.

**What’s next?**

In Skill Builder 5 you will learn about where your small animal should live.
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. But your home makes you feel secure and comfortable, and that’s how your small animal’s home should make it feel.

Dream it!

All small animals have homes or habitats. Some like to live outdoors while others need shelter. Some small animals need cages or shelters that are like their habitats in nature.

In your project group talk about some of the homes that the small animals you know live in. Are they all the same? Why are they different?

Besides shelter are there other things that small animals need in their homes. List three things that small animals might need in their homes:

1. ____________________________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________________________

Do it!

Small Animal Shelter Check List

Circle the items that your small animal needs in its shelter:

! Light source  ! Safety features (lid, lock, etc.)
! Ventilation  ! Proper temperature
! Bedding area  Food/water containers
! Exercise space  Special location of its home in your house
! Safety  Other needs (perch, fenced area, tunnels, etc.)
Where My Animal Lives

Circle the word or words that best fit your small animal or add in the correct term.

I keep my small animal  inside  outside.

My small animal likes to be kept  hot warm cold damp dry wet .

I keep my small animal in a  small large space.

My animal  has does not have  toys.

My animal  needs does not need  protection in the winter or cold weather.

My animal  needs does not need  protection in the summer or hot weather.

My animal  has does not have  bedding to sleep on.

My animal  needs does not need  a special habitat.

Share your answers with your leader and project group.

Dig it!

Do all small animals need the same kind of places to live? Why or why not?

What kind of animal had the most needs for a home?

What's next?

In Skill Builder 6 you will learn more about taking care of your small animal.
Skill Builder 6:  
Caring for Your Small Animal

No matter what kind of small animal you choose, they all require our kindness and respect. Some pets require a great deal of time to care for while others only take small amounts of time.

You will need to learn how to feed your small animal and how to keep it safe in its new home.

Skills Checklist:
- Identify people who know about animals
- Identify three signs of a healthy animal
- List three things you need to do to care for your animal

Dream it!

With your leader and project group talk about the things you do to care for your small animal.

How can you tell if your small animal is not feeling well?

Do it!

T.L.C  Tender Loving Care

Circle the animal care words in the puzzle below. Were there any needs listed in the word bank that you hadn’t talked about?

![Puzzle]

Important Words
Watch for these important words throughout the builder:
Veterinarian, Healthy Needs, Safety
Ask an Expert

Caring for your animal is very important. All animals need to be fed and watered.

With your leader and project group, brainstorm questions you have about taking care of your small companion animal or small livestock animal.

An example of a question you might ask is - What type of bedding is best for my animal?

Talk about who you could talk to that would be able to answer your questions and why these people would be able to answer your questions.

List one person in your area you could call about your small animal questions:

Your leader will arrange for you to visit a pet store or veterinarian. Be sure to take your list of questions and write down the answers to your questions. Save the list to display as part of your Showcase Challenge.

Dig it!

How did you work together as a group coming up with questions to ask about caring?

Why is knowing about caring for animals important?

What was the most fun about doing this Skill Builder?

What’s next?

In Skill Builder 7 you will learn about handling your small animal.
Skill Builder 7: Handling Your Small Animal

It is important that you learn how to handle your small animals safely. This will prevent:
- Pets from being accidently hurt.
- Pets from hurting people and other animals.

Skills Checklist:

- Demonstrate how to lift and hold your small animal safely
- List three things to do to keep your animal safe

Dream it!

Have you ever done something special for a friend? How did it make you feel? How did your friend feel?

It is important to treat your pet with kindness. With your leader and project group list some ways you can treat your small animal kindly.

Can you list two ways your pet will let you know if is being handled incorrectly? Has your pet ever done this?

Do it!

Handle With Care

All small animals have to be handled with care.

Use your animal or a stuffed toy animal to show your project group and leader the right way to pick up, hold or move your small animal.

Are all small animals handled the same way?
**Lost and Found**

Sometimes small animals can become lost. Talk about these question with your leader and project group:

List three ways that you can prevent your small animal from getting lost.

What are two things you might do to find your lost small animal?

**Animal ID**

Fill in the identification information for your small companion animal or small livestock animal.

- Date:
- Name
- Type of Animal
- Breed
- Colour and Markings
- Date of Birth
- Registration # or Tattoo #

**Dig it!**

How can you learn more about handling your small animal safely?

Do you have the information you need to help you find your small animal if it was lost?

**What's next?**

Now that you have finished all the 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 Exploring Small Animals Skills Chart is complete. There is a 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.

Dream It!

Here are some Showcase Challenge Suggestions:

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

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?)
## Explore Small Animals Project Skills Chart

To be completed by the leader and the member based on observations and conversations throughout the project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Builder</th>
<th>Members will be able to...</th>
<th>We know this because...</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1             | List three kinds of small animals  
                           Separate small animals into companion animals or small livestock | Identify activities completed and record observations and information from discussions about activities. |
| 2             | List 3 things that an animal needs to live  
                           Describe a habitat | |
| 3             | List the things you should consider before getting a small animal | |
| 4             | Identify animal body parts  
                           Identify the purpose of animal body parts | |
| 5             | Identify two things needed in a small animal home | |
| 6             | Identify people who know about animals  
                           Identify three signs of a healthy animal  
                           List three things you need to do to care for your animal | |
| 7             | Explain success in using the skills listed above | |

## 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, 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, friends of 4-H)

I am most impressed by...

I believe that you have learned...

In the future I encourage you to...

Signature: _______________________________
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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Fax: 204-726-6260

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 material.

Manitoba 4-H project material is developed by
Manitoba Agriculture