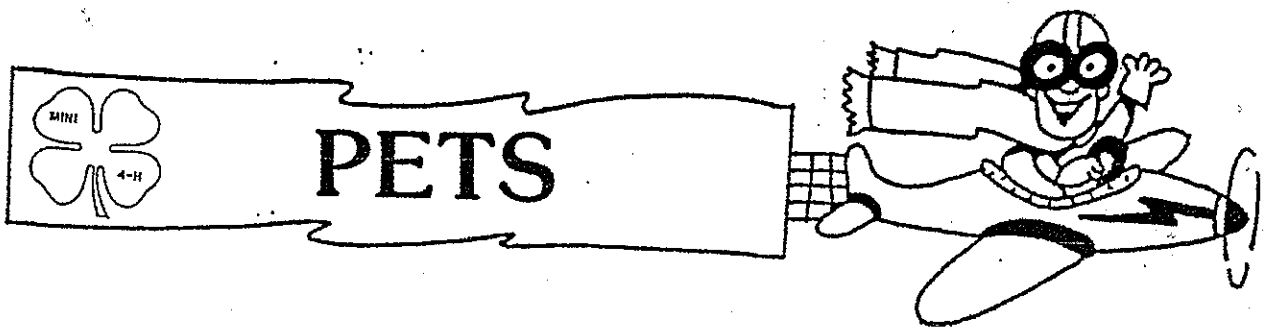


VERMILLION COUNTY

MINI 4-H



NAME _____

CLUB _____

MINI 4-H PET PROJECT

Welcome! We're glad you decided to be a Mini 4-H Club Member.

If a creature has two feet, four feet, or if it flies, swims, crawls or hops, you can be sure that someone has made a pet of it at sometime.

Here's a few helpful hints in selecting your pet.

Before you start looking for a pet, consider what kind is best for you and your family. Select a pet that can adjust to the size of your home and the people in it. Find out what kinds of pets are popular with your friends and neighbors.

It is easier to train a young pet than an old one. However, you can train a grown pet if you have patience and time.

If you live in a small house or trailer, small pets are best. You will be happier with a small dog, cat, bird, or maybe a fish, for example. Also, you should consider the cost to feed a big dog compared to a small dog and the time needed to take care of it.

Cats and dogs with long hair need more brushing and grooming than short-haired dogs and cats. And they shed more on rugs and furniture which means it will have to be cleaned more often.

If you get a pet and decide you do not want it, take it to an animal shelter for adoption or have a veterinarian put it to sleep so that it will not suffer. Never turn loose pets you don't want or they may go hungry and annoy other people.

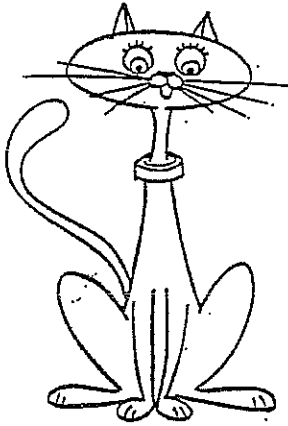
You can buy pets from breeders, dealers, pet shops, or private owners. Or, you can adopt them from humane society shelters and dog pounds. To be sure that your pet is healthy, have it examined by a veterinarian before you take it home, if possible. You should have an agreement with the seller that you can return the pet if it is unhealthy.

An animal does not have to have a "pedigree" to be a good pet. A pedigree is a written record of the pet's mother and father, grandmother and grandfather, and can go even farther back than it's great-great grandparents.

Here are some animals which you might want for your pet.



CATS



A bed is not necessary for your cat. It can curl up almost anywhere and be comfortable. But if you want it to have a bed, a box with a piece of old clothing in it will do very well.

It is important for a cat to have a litter box if it stays in the house.

Your cat might like an exercise post, sometimes called a scratching post. The cat does not sharpen it's claws on the post as some think, but stretches it's muscles as it pulls the post.

Your cat should have a bowl of clean water at all times and don't forget to feed it regularly.

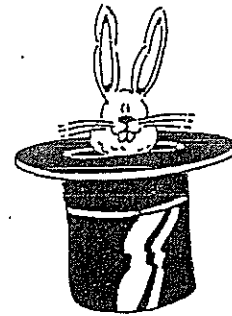
DOGS

There are over 100 different breeds of dogs from which to choose. Most are easy to feed and to train. Find a dog that behaves well but also likes to play. You'll have lots of fun.

All dogs should be taken to the veterinarian while a puppy to get it's shots.

RABBITS

Rabbits eat a simple diet of hay, greens, and rabbit pellets, which are small bits of tightly packed food. Since rabbits stand cold weather well they can be kept outdoors. Rabbits can be house-broken and make fine indoor pets.



GUINEA PIGS

Guinea pigs are fascinating pets although some people don't like the loud whistling sound they make. They come in many colors with short, wiry or very long hair, depending upon the breed.

HAMSTERS

Hamsters are popular pets. They are small and gentle if handled from an early age. An unusual thing about hamsters is that they have cheek pouches, which they fill with food. They carry this food to a storage space. Most interesting is that they have about seven litters of young and no more. Hamsters can be fed prepared food, some raw vegetables, nuts and grains.

MICE

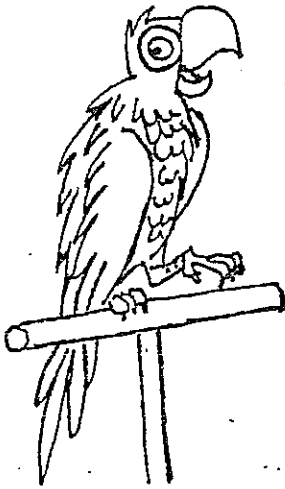
Mice make interesting pets. They should be kept in cages with an exercise wheel. The cage must be cleaned often or the odor will be very unpleasant. Mice can be fed hamster food and they drink from a tube attached to a bottle. Mice can become tame if you are gentle with them.

RACOONS

Racoons make especially nice pets. They are smart and learn quickly. They can even be taught tricks. You should get them when they are about three or four weeks old, and raise them on a bottle of milk. They can be fed dog and cat food or table scraps. They are very clean but very curious and sometimes they get into a lot of trouble. They like to climb and may tear curtains and table cloths. They should have shots to protect them against dog and cat diseases.

FEATHERED PETS

Domestic bird pets are parakeets, canaries, pigeons, finches, chickens, parrots, mynas, ducks, and geese.



Parakeets are little birds that talk, if properly trained. They are simple to care for and can be permitted freedom of the house. They eat a standard seed diet.

Canaries are pleasant pets, and many of the males are lovely song birds. The females are not. There are many breeds and colors. Some are yellow, some green, some shaded with red. Canaries are easy to keep.

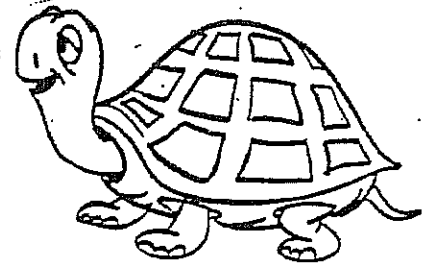
Mynas can become wonderful talkers with patient training, and some whistle tunes. Their favorite diet consists of fruit, but they also eat meat, insects, eggs, and bread.

WATER PETS

Goldfish are not always gold. Some are silver, black, and mixtures of color. They are best kept in water with a temperature of 55° to 65° F. Provided there is some air they live in ponds that freeze over in the winter. They eat aquarium plants as well as worms and fish food. They are easy to take care of and they learn to know their owner. In appearance they range from the ordinary goldfish to those with bug eyes and some with double flowing tails.

Of all aquarium fish the tiny guppy is the most popular. They bear live young instead of producing eggs and may be kept in aquariums.

Turtles can be kept in the back yard and will eat up worms and other garden pests. They learn to know their owners and will come for food, like bread, meat, and dog food. They will drink from a pan sunk in the ground and filled with water. If a male and female are kept, the female will lay eggs from which baby turtles will hatch.



HOW TO CARE FOR PETS

A pet is not a play thing but a living creature that depends upon its owner for its very life. Here are some suggestions on the care of your pet:

1. It should have fresh water every day and within easy reach.
2. Pets must have regular feeding times but must never be overfed.
3. Pets must live in a clean place.
4. Above all, each pet owner should learn how to take care of his pet's special needs and to handle it gently.



SUMMARY

We hope you've enjoyed learning about pets. The information contained in this manual is general and you may want to learn more. There are many books in libraries, pet stores and department stores that will give you more detailed information.

We hope you have enjoyed your experiences and will want to complete the record sheet and prepare your exhibit for the fair.

WHAT TO EXHIBIT

In order to complete the Mini 4-H Pet Project you must do the following:

1. Read the Mini 4-H Pet Manual.
2. Fill out the record sheet.
3. Draw or take a picture of your pet and write one or two sentences about why you like your pet.
4. Place your picture and story on an 8½" x 11" piece of stiff cardboard and display at the fair.

Be sure to put your name and your Mini 4-H Club name on the back of your poster and the title of your exhibit "Mini 4-H Pet Project" on the front.

MINI 4-H PET PROJECT
RECORD SHEET

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

SCHOOL _____ MINI 4-H CLUB _____

1. What is your pet's name? How did you come to pick that name?

2. How and what do you feed your pet? _____

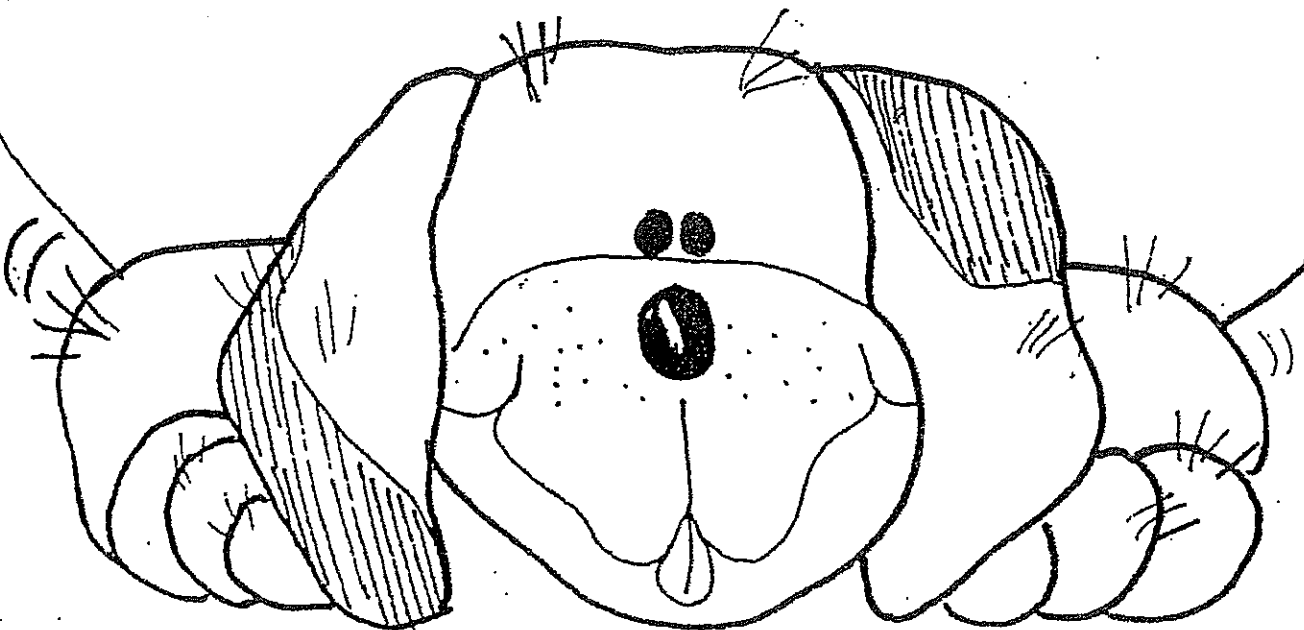
3. How did you groom and care for your pet? _____

4. Did you enjoy this project? What did you enjoy most? _____

Signature of Leader _____

Acknowledgement of Completion _____

(Signature of Parent)

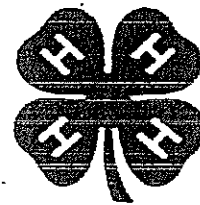
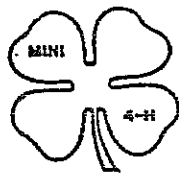


4-H PLEDGE

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, my country
and my world.

4-H CLUB MOTTO

TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER



4-H EMBLEM

A four leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaflet, meaning the development of HEAD, HEART, HANDS, and HEALTH, is the official 4-H club emblem.

4-H TRAIL SONG

Over hill, over dale, we will hit the 4-H trail, as we club folks come swingin' along. Let it rain, let it shine, we will keep a steady line, as we club folks come swingin' along. With a Hi, Hi, Hee it's the 4-H trail for me. Shout out your numbers loud and strong, 4-H. Where'er we go you will always know. That we club folks keep swingin' along, as we club folks keep swingin' along.