



Iowa 4-H After School Program
Cats Lesson Plan
(Eight, 60-minute sessions)

Grades: 4-5-6

Optimum Group Size: 25

Supplies Needed: See Lesson Plan

Reference Resources (include citation and ISBN#):

4-H Skills for Life – Animal Science Series, Cat Group Activity Guide (Project Helper’s Guide)
North Central Region Extension Publication 414-1993

4-H Skills for Life-Animal Science Series: Cat 1 - Purrrrr-fect Pals! (Project Activity Guide)
4-H Cooperative Curriculum System Publication BU-6146 1997

4-H Skills for Life- Animal Science Series: Cat 2 – Climbing Up! (Project Activity Guide)
North Central Region Extension Publication 412-1993

4-H Skills for Life- Animal Science Series: Cat 3 – Cat Connections (Youth Leadership Guide)
North Central Region Extension Publication 412-1993

Your Cat and You-A Complete Guide to Cat Selection and Care
North Central Regional Extension Publication # 254

Physical Setting: Classroom

Life Skills Addressed:

- Communication with others
- Relating to others
- Learning to learn
- Solving problems
- Making decisions
- Planning and organizing

Indicator: To help youth learn about cats and about themselves.

Content Objective:

Day 1 – Get acquainted; Share stories about favorite cats; Fun w/ famous cats

Day 2 – Learn body parts of cat; Cat behavior & communication

Day 3 – Learn cat-related terms; Promote something about cats

Day 4 – Cat examination; Basic cat care; Grooming a cat

Day 5 – Cat well-being decisions- de-clawing, neutering

Day 6 – Cat training; Cat-proofing the house

Day 7 – Lost cats; To travel or not to travel

Day 8 – Cost of cats; Cat facts

Related School Standards and Benchmarks:

A. Life Skills

- **Self-Regulation**
 1. **Sets & manages goals.**
 - a. Prepares and follows a schedule for carrying out a plan.
- **Thinking and Reasoning**
 1. **Applies decision-making techniques.**
 - a. Studies decisions to be made and alternatives.
 - b. Analyzes decisions made.
 2. **Applies basic trouble-shooting and problem-solving techniques.**
 - a. Identifies issues and problems related to cat ownership.
- **Working w/ Others**
 1. **Contributes to overall effort of group.**
 - a. Demonstrates respect for others
 - b. Engages in active listening
 - c. Takes the initiative to interact w/ others.
 2. **Displays effective interpersonal communication skills.**
 - a. Displays empathy w/ others.
 - b. Displays friendliness w/ others.
 - c. Uses emotions appropriately in personal dialogue.
 - d. Makes eye contact when speaking.
 - e. Communicates in a clear manner.

B. Science

- **Life Science**
 1. **Understands relationship among organisms and their physical environment.**
 - a. Knows organisms (cat) pattern of behavior is related to the environment.
 2. **Understands the structure and function of cells and organisms.**
 - a. Knows living organisms have distinct structures and body systems that serve specific functions.

Time Allotment	Activity	Supplies
Day 1		
15- 20 min	Get Acquainted- Here Kitty, Kitty, Kitty – p 24, Grp Act Gd	1 sheet/person-pencil - Here Kitty, kitty, kitty
10-15 min	My Favorite Cat Story – p 25 Grp Act Gd	
15-20 min	Cat Pyramid w/ Famous Cats – p 14-16 Grp Act Gd Do word clues or pictionary format –	Index cards w/ famous cat names; Markers & paper(if doing pictionary)
Day 2		
20 min	Pin the Tail – p 8-9, Cat 1 Members given slips of paper; Try to place on correct body part; Use p. 8 as review or take-home activity	Enlarged pic of cat; Names of body parts on slips of paper; Diagram/crswrd puzzle-p. 8 Cat 1 & pencils
20 min	Cat Charades (p.7 Grp Act Gd) using behaviors p. 24-25 Cat 2	Cat behavior written on slips of paper
20 min	Find or draw pictures that illustrate cat	Magazines/ Paper & Markers

Time Allotment	Activity	Supplies
	moods/behaviors. Explain to group.	
Day 3		
10-15	Glossary Games/Matching - p.10 Grp Act Gd Cat Talk 1 Glossary p. 35 Each person gets 1 card; must find their match; Share w/ whole group.	3x5 Card Pairs- 1 w/ word, 1 w/ definition
10-15	Sentence to Story Game p 10 Grp Act Gd	
30 min	Producing A Commercial – p. 17 Grp Act Gd	Paper, pencils, props (optional)
Day 4		
20 min	Examine Your Cat p. 6-7 Grp Act Gd Lifting & Holding Cat – p. 14 Cat 1 - demo	1 cat/3-4 students; Animal Exam Chart- (1/team), pencils
20 min	Cat Grooming – p.18 Grp Act Gd Each pair of students chooses a bag, tells what the grooming supply is and demonstrates how to use it	Variety of cat grooming supplies; each in a paper bag.
20 min	Cat Care Schedules - p. 16-17 Cat 1	1 copy/student- Cat Care Schedule Cat Care Timetable
Day 5		
30 min	Claws or No Claws? – p 22-23 Cat 1 To Neuter or not to neuter- p. 24-25 Cat 1 Guest Speaker, Veteranarian- Discuss procedures used/ pros & cons of de-clawing; Pros & cons of neutering	
30 min	Claws or No Claws? – p. 22-23 Cat 1 Build a scratching post	Carpet remnants, cardboard pieces, wood pieces
Day 6		
15-20 min	Making A Friend – p. 20-21 Cat 1 Establishing “in-house” cat rules Training Cats – Cat Tip, p 23 Cat 1	
15-20 min	Cat-proofing the house p. 32-33 Cat 1	
15-20 min	Facts About Cats p. 18-21 Grp Act Gd	Set of picture cards & cat facts; Answer sheet for each group
Day 7		
15-20 min	Case of the Lost Cat – p. 26-27 Cat 1	Paper/Markers
15-20 min	Traveling w/ A Cat – p. 30-31 Cat 1	
15-20 min	Saying Goodbye – p. 32-33 Cat 2	Role-playing situations
Day 8		
30 min	The Bottom Line – p. 28-29 Cat 1 Cost of Owning A Cat	Cat food cans/pkggs, Service charge chart from vet clinic, pet care equipment costs
30 min	Facts About Cats p 18-21 Grp Act Gd	Supplies from Day 6