



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

Grades: 7-8

Optimum Group Size: 25

Supplies Needed: See Lesson Plans

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 themselves.

Content Objective:

- Day 1 – Get acquainted, Cat facts, Cat-related expressions
Day 2 – Identify and describe 5-10 cat breeds
Day 3 – Learn about at showmanship & training
Day 4 – Explore careers related to cats
Day 5 – Comparison shopping/cat foods; Cat food promotion
Day 6 – Identify signs of good health, disease, parasites
Day 7 – Understand effects of aging cats; Pet therapy visits
Day 8 – Visiting an Animal Shelter

Related School Standards and Benchmarks:

A. Life Skills

- **Life Work**
 1. **Develops awareness of specific job opportunities and training requirements.**
- **Self-Regulation**
 1. **Maintains a healthy self-concept**
 - a. Has basic belief in ability to succeed.
- **Thinking and Reasoning**
 1. **Understands and applies basic principles of presenting an argument.**
 - a. Makes a basic distinction between information based on fact and fiction.
 2. **Understands and applies basic principles of logic and reasoning.**
 - a. Uses formal deductive connectors- “if.....then,” “not,” “and,” “or,”
 - b. Recognizes situations in which a variety of conclusions can be drawn from same information.
 3. **Effectively uses mental processes based on identifying similarities and differences.**
 - a. Compares consumer products on basis of features, performance, and cost.
 - b. Create a table to compare features of 2 or more items.
 - c. Compares different sources of information for the same topic in terms of basic similarities and differences.
 4. **Applies basic trouble-shooting and problem-solving techniques.**
 - a. Identifies alternative courses of action and predicts consequences of each.
 - b. Selects most appropriate strategy for solving problems.
 5. **Applies decision-making techniques.**
 - a. Makes decisions based on data obtained and criteria identified.
 - b. Analyzes personal decisions in terms of options that were considered.
- **Working with Others**
 1. **Contributes to overall effort of a group.**
 - a. Engages in active listening.
 2. **Displays effective interpersonal skills.**
 - a. Displays empathy with others.
 - b. Displays friendliness with others.
 - c. Seeks information nondefensively.
 - d. Identifies with speaker while maintaining objectivity.
 - e. Makes eye contact when speaking
 - f. Reacts to ideas rather than to person presenting ideas.
 - g. Communicates in a clear manner.
 3. **Demonstrates leadership skills.**
 - a. Occasionally serves as a leader in groups.
 - b. Occasionally serves as a follower in groups.

B. Science

- **Life Science**

- 1. Understands the principles of heredity and related concepts.**

- Knows that the characteristics of an organism (cat) can be described in terms of a combination of traits.

- 2. Understands the structure and function of cells and organisms.**

- Knows that animals progress through life cycles of birth, growth, development, death.

- 3. Understands relationships among organisms and their physical environment.**

- Knows that an organism's (cat) pattern of behavior is related to the nature of the environment (food, resources, physical characteristics.)

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
20-30 min	Facts about cats-p.18-21 Grp Act Gd	Set of picture cards & cat facts; Answer sheet for each group
15-20 min	Cat Pyramid w/ cat-related expressions-p 14- 16 Grp Act Gd Do word clues or pictionary format	Index cards w/ cat- related expressions; Blank cards
Day 2		
10 min	Cat Breeds- p.3 Your Cat & You - brief discussion	
30 min	Working in pairs, use available resources, prepare presentation about 1 breed	Computer, magazines, encyclopedias
20 min	Presentations about each breed	
Day 3		
30 min	Showmanship Clinic- p.8-9, Cat 2	1 cat/2 people; Showmanship Show Card
30 min	Training Your Cat – p 10-11 Cat 2	
Day 4		
	Broadening Your Horizons-p.14-15 Cat 2	
10 min	Brainstorming careers related to cats	Paper/pencil
10 min	Sharing	Newsprint/Chalkboard
10 min	Categorizing	Newsprint/Chalkboard
15 min	Determine interview questions	
15 min	Cat Pyramid w/ cat-related jobs -p. 14-16 Grp Act Gd- Do word clues or pictionary format	Index Cards; Markers & paper(if doing pictionary)

Time Allotment	Activity	Supplies
Day 5		
30 min	Checking the Label p. 18-19 Cat 2 Feeding Your Cat – p. 20 Cat 2	6 different cat food labels/containers; Cat care puzzle 1/person
30 min	Producing A Commercial- p. 17 Grp Act Gd Promote one of the cat food products	Paper/pencils/props
Day 6		
10 min	Signs & Symptoms – p. 26-27 Cat 2 Give each person an index card; must put under one column “sick” “healthy”	Index cards w/ signs of healthy and signs of sick kittens; Lrg sign-Healthy, Sick
10 min	Help! I’m Sick – categorize signs of illness under correct type of disorder; add more if needed.	Help! I’m sick – sheets- 1/person
30 min	Fleeing the Fleas – p. 22-23 Cat 2 Vet Guest Speaker- discuss internal/external parasites	
Day 7		
15 min	Grandfather Cat – p. 30-31 Cat 2	Getting Older Sheet 1/person, pencils
20 min	Bring A Little Sunshine – p. 29 Cat 2 Mock visiting pet therapy to prepare for visit	1 Cat/2 people
25 min	Visit nursing home w/ pets or Cat Pyramid p. 14-16 Grp Act Gd – Review of diseases and parasites from previous day- words or pictiary format	
Day 8		
60 min	Visiting an Animal Shelter –p. 26-27 Grp Act Gd	Transportation, paper & pencil

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