

## SMALL ANIMAL ESSAY CONTEST



### Purposes:

1. Recognize achievement among 4-H members with small animal projects.
2. Encourage 4-H members with small animal projects to evaluate and describe on paper the subject matter knowledge and skills, life skills, responsibilities and maturity gained by working with their small animals.
3. Offer a recognition opportunity for younger 4-H members as well as older members.

### Objectives:

1. Youth will improve their knowledge and skills by participating in small animal projects.
2. Youth will improve their thinking and written communication skills.
3. Youth will share what they have learned and accomplished with others.

### Eligibility:

1. Contestants must have passed their 8th birthday and be in the third grade and must not have reached their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday as of January 1 of the current year.
2. Contestants must be 4-H members enrolled in cat, pet rabbit, guinea pigs, or a small animal project during the current year.

### Contest Organization and Content:

1. Entries will be judged and only one winner will be picked in the current year.
2. Essays should be entitled "What I Have Learned in My 4-H Small Animal Project".
3. Essays will be limited to 500 words.
4. Essays may be typed or handwritten.
5. The 4-H member's name, age, and club must be clearly written on each essay.
6. 4-H members must have entries to the Extension Office by June 15. Essays will be returned to your advisor with their achievement packets after fair.
7. Winner will be announced at the small animal show.

### Scoring:

#### Item Points:

Description of specific animal care and life skills and knowledge learned and practiced.	25
The relation and application of these skills to 4-H'ers behavior in life.	25
The responsibilities assumed in the care of the animals.	25
Community service, leadership, and citizenship responsibilities assumed through the project.	15
Creativity, grammar, neatness, etc.	<u>10</u>
Total	100

**Awards:** One award will be given to the top essay turned in by June 15th.