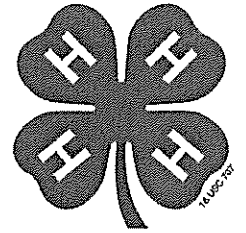


220.21



## SELF DETERMINED OTHER CREATURES

This project is judged with other Small Animal projects. Check member's handbook for date and time. This is a project for members who want to explore the world of Other Creatures such as Caged Birds, hermit crabs, etc., anything that is not classified as an Reptile or Amphibian and there is no project book for this creature. There is an idea starter for Reptiles and Amphibian 365.13 that will help you out if you are taking those projects.

Use this publication as the starting place for your Other Creatures 4-H Self Determined Project. Use this Idea Starter in conjunction with our 4-H 365 Self Determined Project Guide to complete your project. This Idea Starter and the 4-H Self Determined Project Guide 365, are available through your county OSU Extension office. Be sure to register your Other Creatures Self Determined Project (893-C) with your county OSU Extension office through your club enrollment sheet. This project is not eligible State Fair participation.

### Background

Other Creatures have been with us for many years. People have often gone outside to explore the world of other creatures to see their habitat, life expectancy, food habits and if they are able to adapt to the inside environment. They also want to learn all they can about the animal/creature they want to explore. There are some other creatures that live indoors such as caged birds, hermit crabs, turtles, etc., which you would want to use this pamphlet to help you with the research of your animal/creature. When we learn to appreciate the world of other creatures we learn to respect the environment around us and to be better prepared to take care of our resources to protect some of these animals in their environment. The project Other Creatures is ideal for those 4-H members who live in the city or the county but do have the best place for outdoor projects. Self Determine Other Creatures should be explored when you are interested in other animals that are not currently covered by the 4-H project curriculum.

### Planning Your Self Determined Project

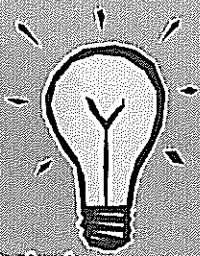
Every Self Determined Project can be broken down into Areas of Interest. These are the specific things members wish to address during their project adventure. Using your Self Determined Guide, identify at least three (3) Areas of Interest with at least three (3) Activities per area to explore. The list below is only a partial list of ideas. You may choose to identify other areas of interest and explore other activities within these areas of interest. Use the 365 Self Determined Project Guide as your outline to record what you have done with this Other Creatures project.

#### Areas of Interest - (Identify at least 3 as stated above)

- Learn about careers related to the animal/creature you are studying.
- Explore the habitats related to the animal/creature you are studying.
- Learn what education you need to become a Keeper of your animal/creature.
- Explore how to plan a build a habitat for your animal/creature.
- Explore what food your animal/creature needs to sustain life and what is it made of.
- Learn and/or explore an area of interest to you. Other examples would be Life expectancy, proper care, history of the animal/creature you are studying.

#### Activities for your Interest Areas - (Explore at least 3 per interest area as stated above)

- Search the Library on careers related to your animal/creature you are studying.
- Tour a pet store that sells the animal/creature you are studying.
- Take a trip to the zoo to explore the life of your animal/creature.
- Volunteer your time to help with the park system to learn more about the environment.
- Give a demonstration on how to take care of your animal/creature.
- Search the web for organizations that promote the environment on where your animal/creature lives.
- Plan 3 activities in each area of interest that you choose.



This pamphlet must be completed and brought with your project to judging.

4-H 365



# Project Idea Starters

www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~idea

## SELF DETERMINED PROJECT GUIDE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADVISOR \_\_\_\_\_

TOPIC YOU'VE CHOSEN TO EXPLORE \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### PROJECT BACKGROUND

The 4-H Self Determined project is an opportunity for members to go beyond the scope of their current project or explore a topic that is presently unavailable as a project book. Younger members should take this project under the guidance of a willing adult. This project may be repeated if a new topic or specialization is selected, new goals set and additional sources and activities used to supplement the project book. Review the Family Guide to 4-H for a list of available Project Idea Starters for Self Determined projects. Obtain your Project Idea Starter from your county Extension office or visit our web page at [www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~idea](http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~idea). If an Idea Starter is not available for your topic of interest you can still use this guide to plan and conduct your own Self Determined project. Be sure to register your project with your county OSU Extension office.

### PROJECT GUIDELINES

1. Complete the *Planning Your Adventure* section of this guide (Steps 1 through 3).
2. Explore all sections and complete the activities, as instructed, in each section.
3. Take Part in at least two *Organized Project Activities*.
4. Become involved in at least two *Leadership/Citizenship Activities*.
5. Complete the *Conducting Your Adventure* section.
6. Complete the *Reporting Your Adventure* section of this guide.



#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Created by Bob Horton and Kathy Cox, Extension 4-H Specialists, Ohio State University Extension, 2000

All educational programs conducted by Ohio State University Extension are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender, age, disability or Vietnam-era veteran status.  
Keith L. Smith, Associate Vice President for Ag. Adm. and Director, OSU Extension  
TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1868  
Reprinted 5/02—6M—197045

# PLANNING YOUR ADVENTURE

## Step 1. Let's Begin (check off what you plan to do)

- discuss your ideas with family, friends and of course, your 4-H Advisor.
- check books about your topic at the library before you begin.
- visit web pages that provide more information about your topic.
- check your country's project guidelines (if any) for additional requirements, especially if you choose to participate in county project judging or prepare an exhibit for the fair.

## Step 2. Learning Experiences

Select two Learning Experiences listed below and plan your involvement in the "Report of Learning Experiences" chart. Before starting your project, write your choices in the section labeled "Plan To Do". Once you have taken part in an activity, record what you did and when. Learning Experiences may be added or changed at any time.

### Sample Learning Experiences

County Project Judging  
 Demonstration  
 Field Trip

Speech  
 Interview  
 Project Exhibit

Project Meetings  
 Tour  
 Mall Show

Workshop  
 Event

### Report of Learning Experiences

Plan to Take Part In	What You Did	Date
<p>(example) Demonstration</p>	<p>Presented "Native Americans of Ohio" to 4-H club</p>	<p>July 15</p>

### Step three. Leadership/Citizenship Activities

Check (✓) the activities you wish to do or plan your own in the space provided. Do at least two. Keep track of your progress by marking the date and month you complete it. Leadership / Citizenship activities may be added or changed at any time.

Plan To Do	When I Finished	Leadership/Citizenship Activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Assist in setting up and/or cleaning up for a show or event.
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Help someone with their project.
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Help organize a workshop or show in your community.
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Encourage a friend to join 4-H and take a project.
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Teach someone something you learned about 4-H or your topic.
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Invite someone to talk to your club about your topic.
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Arrange a tour for members of your club about your topic.
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Give advice to a member who is preparing a project for the fair.
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Prepare and exhibit a display promoting 4-H and/or your topic.
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Plan your own activity here:
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

### CONDUCTING YOUR ADVENTURE

Every Self Determined project can be broken down into Areas of Interest. These are the specific things members wish to address during their project adventure. In the space provided, identify at least three (3) areas of interest with at least three (3) activities per area to explore. Refer to your project Idea Starter for areas of interest and things to do. If an Idea Starter is not available for your project of interest you can still use this section to plan and conduct your own project adventure. Have your parent or advisor initial and date what you complete.

(EXAMPLE) My first area of interest is to *Plan a Layout*

Activity 1: *Locate a reference book on model railroading to use during the project.*

Activity 2: *Create a track plan for a model railroad.*

Activity 3: *Identify a knowledgeable person who is willing to help.*

Activity 4: *Talk with parents about where to put a layout.*

Date Started: *3/22*

Date Completed: *4/18 BH*

My first area of interest is to \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Started: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

My second area of interest is to \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Started: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

My third area of interest is to \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Started: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

My fourth area of interest is to \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Started: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

## REPORTING YOUR ADVENTURE

You've reached the final step in completing your Self Determined project. In the space provided below, summarize what you did and learned. Once you've completed this step arrange for a local project review. This review can take place with your parent, project advisor or interested adult. Be sure they review this completed project guide with you. Such evaluations are designed to help you assess what you learned as well as your growth as a 4-H member. Members who take part in this level of evaluation may receive special membership and project achievement awards like ribbons, pins and certificates.

In addition, you may want to take part in county project judging. This level of evaluation determines how well you did on your project by assigning a project grade. You may also want to represent your county at the Ohio State Fair. For more information, contact your county OSU Extension office or visit our web site at [www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~idea](http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~idea).

## YOUR SUMMARY

**Requirement:** Complete this Record Book each time you take an Other Creatures or Reptile and Amphibian project.

## **Why Keep Records?**

**Records help you learn about:**

- your animal's growth and development
- the feed your animal requires
- the cost of your animal's feed, equipment, etc.
- your animal's habits

**Records help you improve your management practices.**

**Records help you become prepared and responsible.**

**Records help you see personal growth and success.**

**Records help you plan future projects.**

**Records let you know how much money you spend on your animal.**

**Records let you figure profit or loss.**

**Records give you information about your project activities.**

- \*number and sex of offspring
- \*health and behavior of offspring
- \*health and behavior of parents
- \*costs of raising young
- \*profit or loss

## Beginning Project Picture(s)

Attach one or more pictures of your project animal(s) and include a caption.

## Project Animal Information

Species of Animal \_\_\_\_\_

Animal's Name	Sex	Color/variety	Age when purchased	Date purchased	Purchase price or value* at start of year	Value* of animal at close of project year

\*Hint: To find the value of your pet, visit a pet shop to see how much a pet similar to yours costs.

# Housing, Equipment, and Supply Inventory

It is important to keep a record of the cages, cage accessories, and other supplies you have on hand or have purchased for your small animal project. This inventory includes grooming and medical supplies. List any items purchased, sold, or lost throughout the year.

Item	Number on hand	Value* at beginning of project	Value* when purchased during the year	Value* when sold or at end of project	Note if sold or lost
		\$	\$	\$	
<b>Totals</b>		\$	\$	\$	

\*Hint: To find the value of your cages, equipment, etc., visit a pet shop to see how much items similar to yours cost.



## Growth Records

It is important to keep a record of your small animal's growth. Record the weight and length of your pet when you purchase it. If you have purchased a young animal, record its growth in weight and length weekly. If your pet is mature, record its growth in weight monthly. Growth records help indicate the health of your pet, including the effects of its diet.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Weight (g/oz./lb.)*</b>	<b>Length** (cm/in.)</b>	<b>Comments</b>

\*Hint: Find a container to put your animal in to weigh it. First weigh the container, then the container and the animal. Subtract the weight of the container from the weight of the container and the animal to find the animal's weight. You may need to use a dietary gram scale (found in most houseware sections of department stores) to weigh your animal.

\*\*Length includes length of tail. Older members who are involved in a breeding project should weigh their female weekly after breeding to help determine if she is pregnant.

## Feeding Records

Use this chart to keep daily feeding records for the first fourteen days of your project.

Date	Times fed	Kind of food	Amount of food or no. of pieces of lab chow (g/oz./lb.)	Cost of food (g/oz./lb.)	Comments
<b>Total Costs</b>				<b>\$</b>	

## Feeding Records Continued

Use this chart to keep records of any changes in feeding times, kind of food, amounts of food, etc., that are made after you have finished the fourteen-day chart on the previous page.

Date	Times fed	Kind of food	Amount of food or no. of pieces of lab chow (g/oz./lb.)	Cost of food (g/oz./lb.)	Comments
<b>Total Costs</b>				<b>\$</b>	

## Labor Records

Record the time you spend cleaning your pet's cage and equipment, grooming, training, and playing with or exercising your animal. Not all areas may be applicable to your pet. If you do something else with your pet, record that in the "Other" column.

**Keep the records by the week throughout the project. Record in hours per week.**

Beginning date per week	Time spent cleaning	Time spent grooming	Time spent training	Time spent playing or exercising	Other things you do with your pet
<b>Totals</b>	hrs.	hrs.	hrs.	hrs.	

## Record of Medical Expenses

Record any medical expenses you have for your project. This includes costs of medicine and veterinary service.

Date	Service or treatment	Name of vet or other person giving treatment	Reason for service or treatment	Cost
				\$
<b>Total Costs</b>				<b>\$</b>

## Record of Miscellaneous Expenses

Record below any expenses you have not previously recorded.

Date	Item or service	Reason for item or service	Cost
			\$
<b>Total Costs</b>			<b>\$</b>

**4-H or Other Exhibit Record**

Date	Name of show or exhibit	Class entered	Award or placing	Expenses and/or receipts (winnings)

# Caring for My Pet

Ask your 4-H advisor or parent/guardian to evaluate the care you are giving your pet using a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being poor, 5 being average, and 10 being excellent. Your animal should be inspected once a month for four months.

Points checked	Dates of inspections/rating				Comments
Condition of cage/accessories					
Condition of hair coat/skin					
Condition of eyes					
Condition of ears					
Condition of toenails					
Weight (thin/fat/ideal)					
Temperament (shy/friendly/aggressive)					
Initials of inspector					

## Management Notes and Important Dates

This section should be kept by older 4-H members, age 15 and up. Record information below that will help you manage your project better throughout the year (i.e., vet exams, check teeth, etc.). Also, record important dates during the duration of your project, (i.e., 4-H club meetings, fair entry deadline, etc.)

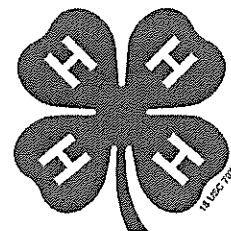
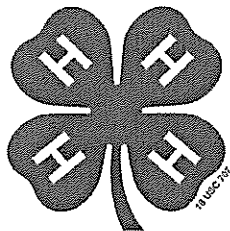
Date	Notes/description

**Attach a feed label from your commercial pet food below.**

### **Ending Project Picture(s)**

**Attach one or more pictures of your project animal(s) and include a caption.**





**THIS PROJECT  
IS JUDGED  
IN OCTOBER  
AT THE  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY  
FAIR**

For Additional Opportunities,  
check out

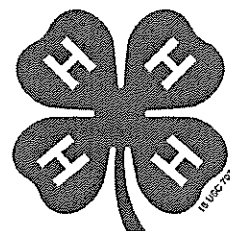
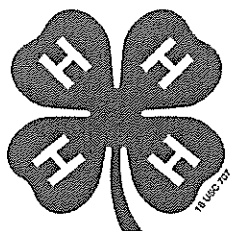
Ohio State Fair  
Companion Animal Day

go to:

<http://southcenters.osu.edu/4h/programs.htm>

click on

Ohio 4-H Small Animal Program



---

## The 4-H Pledge



I pledge  
my head to clearer thinking,  
my heart to greater loyalty  
my hands to larger service, and  
my health to better living,  
for my club, my community,  
my country and my world.

---