



OSU South Centers
1864 Shyville Road
Piketon, Ohio 45661
740.289.2071 (phone)
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July 22, 2009

Dear State Fair Companion Animal Day Exhibitor;

We look forward to your participation in this year's Ohio State Fair Companion Animal Day Judging on Friday, July 31 at the Youth Center located north of 17th Avenue. Enclosed with this letter you will find the following: 1) one (1) Single Day Participant admission ticket; 2) one (1) Reserved North Lot parking permit; and 3) one Companion Animal Walk Pass. A parking map can be found online at: http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~prec/4h/sm_animal/.

The Reserved North Lot parking permit allows you to enter the Fairgrounds off of 17th Avenue and park in the Reserved North Lot. You must pay a \$5.00 parking fee. Once parked you must carry everything in through the Cardinal gate just northeast of the Youth Center. As you enter the Fairgrounds through these gates you will see the Youth Center to your right. Enter the building through the closest doors, as the Companion Animals Judging will be held in the 4-H area of the building that is at the north end.

The *Judging Schedule* is as follows:

Cat 1 (Level 1) Projects, Jrs. 8 – 13 (7)

Registration opens at 9:00 a.m.

Judging begins at 10:00 a.m.

Cat 2 (Level 2) Projects, Jrs. 8 – 13 (2)

Registration opens at 9:00 a.m.

Judging begins at 10:00 a.m.

Cat 3 (Level 3) Projects, Jrs. 8 – 13 (2)

Registration opens at 10:00 a.m.

Judging begins following Cat 2 Juniors

Cat 3 (Level 3) Projects, Srs. 14 – 18 (4)

Registration opens at 10:00 a.m.

Judging begins following Cat 3 Juniors

Guinea Pig Projects, Jrs. 8 – 13 (3)

Registration opens at 9:00 a.m.

Judging begins at 10:00 a.m.

Guinea Pig Projects, Srs. 14 – 18 (1)

Registration opens at 9:00 a.m.

Judging begins following Guinea Pig Juniors

Pet Rabbit Projects, Jrs. 8 – 13 (7)

Registration opens at 10:00 a.m.

Judging begins at 10:30 a.m.

Pet Rabbit Projects, Srs. 14 – 18 (1)

Registration opens at 10:00 a.m.

Judging begins following Pet Rabbit Juniors

Small Animal Projects, Jrs. 8 – 13 (8)

Registration opens at 10:00 a.m.

Judging begins at 10:30 a.m.

Small Animal Projects, Srs. 14 – 18 (2)

Registration opens at 10:00 a.m.

Judging begins following Small Animal Juniors

Reptiles & Amphibians, Jrs. 8 – 13 (2)

Registration opens at 10:00 a.m.

Judging begins at 10:30 a.m.

Reptiles & Amphibians, Srs. 14 – 18 (2)

Registration opens at 10:00 a.m.

Judging begins following Reptiles Juniors

Note: Numbers of entries in each class are listed in parentheses following class title.

Health Requirements – Youth showing cats and ferrets must bring a *2009 Ohio State Fair Companion Animal Day Certificate of Vaccination for Cats and Ferrets* signed by your veterinarian. Some of you sent the certificate in with your entry form, and I will have them at registration. All animals will be checked for any signs of sickness, disease or parasite infestation. Please refer to the 4-H Companion Animal Day Rules found at: http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~prec/4h/sm_animal/ for ownership, age, and health requirements. A copy of the health form is also available at this website.

Cat Project Exhibitors – Have a harness and leash on your cat. A harness is preferred to a collar as it is usually harder for a cat to slip through a harness. It is a good idea to have a pet identification tag on the harness. Also, bring some kitty litter in a covered container so your cat will have that to use if needed during the day.

Questions will be asked from the sections of the project book that you completed for this year.

All Exhibitors – Bring your animals to judging in a humane cage or carrier. Traveling cages or carriers are fine. Bring water from home so your pet will drink. Bring any other items needed for your pet throughout the day. Once the awards are presented, exhibitors are free to leave. Pets will not be kept on display. However, once you are through being judged, you can leave your pets in the judging area and enjoy the fair, provided you return for the announcement of awards.

Evaluation Process – This year exhibitors will be rotating to different stations. For youth showing cats, rabbits, and cavy, the stations will include (1) Showmanship, (2) Skillathon, and (3) Exhibit. The Ohio State Fair Companion Animal Day Evaluation form will be used in addition to the Cat Showmanship Score Sheet, Pet Rabbit Showmanship Score Sheet, and Cavy Showmanship Score Sheet. Refer to the website for the evaluation criteria and score sheets. For youth showing Small Animals and Reptiles & Amphibians the stations will be (1) General Evaluation, (2) Skillathon, and (3) Exhibit, and the Ohio State Fair Companion Animal Day Evaluation form will be used. For evaluating the exhibit for all entries, an Educational Exhibit Score Sheet will be used and is also posted on the website.

Bring your completed project book, or the section of your book you completed (if applicable). All participants must bring project records. If they are not included as a part of your book, you must bring completed records that you have kept on your project. Also, bring an educational display or presentation such as pictures, scrapbook, poster, or something you've made (including pictures of how you've made the item).

Cat showmanship, cat anatomy and body posture information can be found online at: http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~prec/4h/sm_animal/. I am enclosing information about guinea pig and pet rabbit showmanship to those respective exhibitors. Youth showing pet rabbits should

refer to Chapter 10, Show Preparation, in the *Rabbit Resource Handbook*. Refer to your Small Animal Project Book about showing and handling the other projects. Refer to information you have researched in preparation for showing Reptiles and Amphibians.

Skillathon Stations – *Cat 1* project members will be asked to identify external parts of a cat. *Cat 2* project members will be asked to identify cat body postures. *Cat 3* project members will be asked to identify systems of the cat (physiology). *Junior Guinea Pig* project members will be asked to identify external parts of a guinea pig. *Senior Guinea Pig* project members will be asked to identify breeds of guinea pigs. *Junior Pet Rabbit* project members will be asked to identify external parts of a rabbit. *Senior Pet Rabbit* project members will be asked to identify breeds of rabbits. *Small Animal* project members will be asked to identify external parts of their respective species. *Reptile and Amphibian* project members will be asked to identify anatomical parts of their respective projects.

Decorated Cage Contest – This is optional for all exhibitors. Decorated Cage awards will be presented in the following age divisions, 9 – 11 years, 12 – 14 years, and 15 – 18 years, for each companion animal project (cats, pet rabbits, guinea pigs, small animals, and reptiles & amphibians). The cages will be provided for exhibitors taking cat, pet rabbit, and cavy projects; however, you may use your own pet rabbit, cavy, or cat cage if you wish instead of the ones provided. The provided cages will be wire cages like those used for showing poultry and/or rabbits. Each cage has two openings, and will therefore hold two pets, one per opening. There are double wire dividers separating the animals. The entire cage is 27” high, 21” deep and 45” long. Therefore, each individual compartment will be 27” high, 21” deep, and about 21” long. We will provide dividers so the animals will not see each other; however you may use a decorative divider if you want. The cage will be sitting on top of a table, and will not have a base attached to it.

Exhibitors taking the Reptiles & Amphibians and Small Animals projects can decorate the cages/aquariums in which they bring their animals. Cages for these project animals will not be provided.

You can be as creative as you wish when decorating. Usually people cover the back and sides of the cage with material, as well as the top. You can include a small litter box if your pet uses one. Sometimes people put a piece of carpet on the bottom of the cage. Be careful not to decorate with something your animal might chew and become sick. Some bring a picture of their pet and other information to put on the cage top, as well as their name and pet’s name. For cats: some put a pillow in the cage for the cat to lay on.

We want the cages to look nice so when people come through the Youth Center during the Companion Animal Judging they can see what 4-H’ers do with their projects.

Only the exhibitors are permitted to decorate their cages.

Information to Remember

Participant to Bring

1. Animal
2. Adequate cage and accessories
 - Cats and ferrets must wear a harness, as well as an attached leash, during activities out of their cages
3. Health certificates for cats and ferrets
4. Completed project book (if applicable)
5. Completed project records
6. Educational display/presentation, such as pictures, scrapbook, poster, or something made
7. Items to decorate cage if participating in this contest.

Awards – The Awards Presentation will take place once the judging is completed and scoring is tallied for all Companion Animal projects. Please plan to stay until 4:00pm. All participants will receive participation ribbons. “Outstanding of the Day” rosettes will be awarded to participants scoring 90% or higher. A clock trophy will be awarded to each overall class winner. Placing rosettes will be awarded to cat, rabbit, and cavy showmanship winners. Gold, silver, and bronze medallions will be awarded to exhibitors participating in the decorated cage contests.

Web Site – For information about Companion Animal Day Judging please refer to:
http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~prec/4h/sm_animal/.

If you have any questions, please call my cell at 740.708.0359. My email address is miller.78@cfaes.osu.edu. **If you are not coming to this activity please call or email me as soon as possible.** We look forward to you and your pet being part of the Companion Animal Day Judging Event at the Ohio State Fair!

Sincerely,

Lucinda Miller
Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development
Companion and Small Animal Programs

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