

Utah 4-H Reptiles, Amphibians, Arachnids, and Other Pets



Rank Advancements

This book belongs to: _____

And my pet: _____

The Utah 4-H Rank Advancements are designed to help youth and club leaders set goals and get the most out of their involvement in Utah 4-H animal science programs. Club leaders should work with their county extension office to recognize youth as they pass off ranks 1 through 4. Youth who have completed rank 5 will be recognized by the Utah 4-H State Team at either the Utah State University Horse and Livestock Symposium or the Utah State University Companion Animal Event.

These ranks are designed as benchmarks for participants. Some exhibitors will not be able to obtain all the ranks, and some exhibitors may pass off the highest level as a 9th grader. An exhibitor that started at 8 years old could have 10 years to complete all 5 ranks, and may seem to have the advantage. However, the skills get progressively harder and it would be difficult for anyone to do that. They are designed to build on each other over the entire experience.

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Rank Advancement Level 1

This rank covers the very basics of handling of pets and being safe and successful with a pet in the home. This rank should be easily achieved by all ages, including youth who are not yet 8.

Name _____ Pet's Name _____

Club Leader _____ Phone _____

County Agent _____ Phone _____

Date Completed _____

Handler/Pet Team Skills Pick 3 or more of the following	Date	Initials
Spend 15 minutes every day for a week talking or reading to your pet		
Spend 15 minutes every day for a week with your hand in your pet's home until it no longer runs away (can be combined with above task)		
Demonstrate the proper way to hold your pet while standing		
Demonstrate the proper technique for taking your pet out of its home and placing into a carrier or back into its home		
Demonstrate the correct way to introduce your pet to a stranger		
Mastery and Education Pick 2 or more of the following	Date	Initials
Ask your leader to interview you on your pet project.		
Show where 4 unique body parts are on your pet		
Answer the following questions: What "class" of animals is your pet? What species is your pet? What breed is your pet?		
What are three methods to keep your pet from being injured while being handled?		
What are two other species that would be considered in the same class as your pet?		
Citizenship and Personal Development Pick 1 or more of the following	Date	Initials
Submit a portfolio to county or state contest.		
Hold a leadership position in your club or at the county level.		
Participate or help plan a community service project.		
Work with a parent or club leader to set goals for your pet project and make a plan to achieve them.		

By signing this form, I am verifying that the exhibitor mentioned has completed these tasks in a satisfactory manner and is ready to move on to the next level.

4-H Member _____ Club Leader Signature _____

Rank Advancement Level 2

This rank covers the basic skills and knowledge of nutrition and care needed to be safe and successful with a pet project. This rank is designed to be achievable by youth 8 – 11 years of age.

**Level 1 must be completed to achieve a Level 2 Rank*

Name _____ Pet's Name _____

Club Leader _____ Phone _____

County Agent _____ Phone _____

Date Completed _____

Handler/Pet Team Skills Pick 4 or more of the following	Date	Initials
Teach your pet to climb into your hand		
Teach your pet to come out of hiding by using a special cue.		
Demonstrate how much feed to give your pet and when you feed them.		
Pass off the Utah 4-H Companion Animal Endorsement for your Pet (coming soon!)		
Design a pet-proof playing area for your pet and spend 20 minutes or more throughout the week teaching your pet to be comfortable with you		
Allow your pet to crawl up your arm, onto your shoulder, or into your hair demonstrating that your pet feels comfortable with you		
Work with your club leader or county staff to come up with your own skills option.		
Mastery and Education Pick 3 or more of the following	Date	Initials
Create a poster on the correct type of well-balanced diet for your pet and present it to your club or other audience.		
Participate at a county, regional or state 4-H Pet Advocate Workshop.		
Ask your leader to interview you on your pet project.		
Participate at county or state 4-H contests giving a public speech or demonstration on a topic related to your pet (discuss age appropriate options with leader).		
Answer the following questions: How often do you sanitize your pet's cage? What do you do if your pet did not eat their food from yesterday? How often does your pet need fresh water? How often should you check on your pet?		
Explain how you would introduce your pet to a new feed		
Work with your club leader or county staff to come up with your own Mastery option.		
Citizenship and Personal Development Pick 2 or more of the following	Date	Initials
Submit a portfolio to county or state contest.		
Hold a leadership position in your club or at the county level.		
Participate or help plan a community service project.		
Work with a parent or club leader to set goals for your pet project and make a plan to achieve them.		

By signing this form, I am verifying that the exhibitor mentioned has completed these tasks in a satisfactory manner and is ready to move on to the next level.

4-H Member _____ Club Leader Signature _____

Rank Advancement Level 3

This rank is for handlers that have owned their pet for two or more years.

**Level 2 must be completed to achieve a Level 3 Rank.*

Name _____ Pet's Name _____

Club Leader _____ Phone _____

County Agent _____ Phone _____

Date Completed _____

Handler/Rabbit Team Skills	Date	Initials
<i>Pick 7 or more of the following. Repeated skills from Level 1 or 2 MUST be re-done in the current year. For example, if the exhibitor participates in county, regional or state Pet Advocate workshop, they must attend a second time to pass off that requirement for Level 3.</i>		
Design an obstacle course for your pet and teach them to race through it		
Design a carnival or jungle gym for your pet and reward your pet for exploring		
Explain how you would know when your pet needed to be returned to his home due to stress, fatigue, or body temperature. Demonstrate how you would handle your pet in those circumstances		
Demonstrate how to do a general health exam on your pet, pointing out unique body parts and features		
Teach your pet to come to its name		
Teach your pet a trick such as begging for food or jumping through a hoop		
Pass off the Utah 4-H Companion Animal Endorsement for Pets (coming soon!)		
Demonstrate how to tell the gender of your pet		
Demonstrate how to properly handle three different species of pet within your pet's class		
Work with your club leader or county staff to come up with your own skills option.		
Mastery & Education	Date	Initials
<i>Pick 5 or more of the following. The requirements for Level 3 Mastery need to be completed within 2 years of the time the youth wishes to achieve this rank. A limit of 3 options can be the same (but completed again) from previous years.</i>		
Go to a non-4-H event involving amphibians, arachnids, or reptiles and observe.		
Participate in a county or state 4-H Pet Advocate Contest		
Create and write a blog with a minimum of 10 posts related to animal husbandry and pet ownership		
Run a summer project club related to your pet project (minimum of 6 hours)		
Create a poster about a topic related to your pet and present it to your club or submit it for county contest.		
Prepare a speech or demonstration on a topic related to your pet project. Present it to your family or club members (discuss age appropriate options with leader).		
Participate in county 4-H contests giving a public speech or demonstration on a rabbit related topic (discuss age appropriate options with leader).		
Ask your club leader to interview you on your pet project.		

Teach a workshop on one of the handler/pet skills you passed off in Rank 1 or 2.		
Work with your club leader or county staff to come up with your own Mastery option.		
Citizenship and Personal Development Pick 3 or more of the following	Date	Initials
Submit a portfolio to county or state contest achieving a blue ribbon score.		
Hold a club or county leadership position.		
Be a show secretary at a county pet show.		
Participate in a countywide community service project.		
Organize a community service project for your club.		
Participate or help organize a Pet Show or Pet Advocate Workshop at the local level or participate in a show's youth committee.		
Work with a parent or club leader to set goals for your pet project and make a plan to achieve them.		

By signing this form, I am verifying that the exhibitor mentioned has completed these tasks in a satisfactory manner, thus completing the rank advancements for Reptiles, Amphibians, Arachnids, and Other Pets

4-H Member _____ Club Leader Signature _____