

4-H COMPANION ANIMAL SHOW
Thursday, August 8, 2019 • Rabbit Barn South End • 1:00 pm

Cats! Kittens! Hamsters! Guinea pigs! Gerbils! Lizards! Do you have a pet you would like to show at county fair? As in the past two years, a Companion Animal Show is now included in Clay County Fair events. There is a difference from previous years, though. Cats and kittens are now included instead of having their own show.

A companion animals is defined as ‘an animal that is fully or mostly dependent on human care in order to survive’. Animals that can be shown in other 4-H shows cannot be entered in the Companion Animal Show. The only exception to this rule is non-showable rabbits. Examples of non-showable rabbits would be crossbreeds; off-color toe nail; missing color around nose; a broken tail; etc. Also, if the rabbit is not a nationally recognized color or has been spayed or neutered they are considered non-showable. If your animal cannot be brought to the fairgrounds, photographs in its normal habitat are acceptable. No snakes allowed.

A vet’s certificate will be required for all animals coming on the fairgrounds. All animals should be free of fleas, ticks, ear mites, ringworm, any other internal or external parasites and infectious diseases. Ferrets and cats must be vaccinated for rabies. Required vet checks will be performed on each animal entering the show. If any signs of these external parasites or other contagious health conditions are presented, exhibitors will be asked to leave without being allowed into the show area. No expectant or nursing mothers may be entered.

All animals should be brought in appropriate housing, either their normal cage or a durable plastic or wire travel cage (not cardboard). Cages must be secure. Exhibitors need to provide water and food for their animals as appropriate.

All animals must be weaned prior to show. Minimum age of mammal companion animals at the time of county fair: ferrets four months; chinchillas seven weeks; guinea pigs four weeks; gerbils, hamsters, mice and rats four weeks; hedgehogs five weeks and pet rabbits nine weeks.

Posters or displays can be made to include any companion animal (reptiles, amphibians, fish, birds, or invertebrates). Exhibitors should make a poster with information on the proper care of their companion animal not to exceed 22” x 28”. Judging of the posters will take place during the Companion Animal show. Exhibitors must be present at time of judging and will be judged on quality of the poster, accuracy of information provided, and ability of the exhibitor to explain the information and answer judge’s questions.

Exhibitors must be present during the check-in time (12:30 – 12:50 pm) to be eligible to show their animal. Animals must be housed in an appropriate cage or carrier at all times before and during the show unless asked to remove them by the judge. If being shown in a travel cage, exhibitors should bring photographs of the animal’s normal habitat.

Each exhibitor will be asked to give a short showmanship presentation (photos acceptable, no PowerPoints) on their animal. The characteristics, health and care of the animal should be provided in this presentation. Following the presentation, the exhibitor will be interviewed on knowledge of their animal and its care.

Registration for the Companion Animal show will be done in Fair Entry. Members can register for the show by going to <https://faireentry.com/Fair/SignIn/3301>. Fair entry will open June 1 and close on Friday, July 19.

Note: 4-H members must provide their own carpet square for showing cats so the cats are familiar with the showing surface and will recognize their own scent.

