



The Creed of the 4-H Animal Caretaker

I WILL:

Be kind to my animals. I will not take my frustrations out on animals. I will be patient while training my animal. I will never physically abuse my animal and I will only use low-stress handling methods and tools.

Provide comfortable and sufficient housing for my animals. I will house my animal with enough space to prevent crowding and fighting. When I tie my animal, I will make sure the rope is not too tight and that there is nothing nearby that can harm the animal. This also means that I will help to prevent my animal from being too hot or too cold, both at home or during transport.

Feed my animal on time each day. I will make sure that I can financially afford to feed my animal the right amount and type of feed every day on a regular schedule. This will provide the nutrition my animal needs and ensure the daily comfort of my animal.

Provide my animals with clean water. Every day I will check that the water supply for my animal is clean, free of ice, easily accessible and working properly.

Keep my animals free from disease and parasites. To ensure the good health of my project animal, I will observe it carefully every day, to see that it is eating and behaving normally. If my animal appears unhealthy, I will see that it receives immediate attention. I will keep accurate and complete records of any health problems that occur. I will never subject my animal to undue suffering.

Learn as much as possible about the best methods of feeding and caring for animals. By learning about different methods, my animals will benefit from new ideas that help to ensure that my animals receive the best possible care. I can explore new animal husbandry ideas through reading, asking questions, attending workshops and participating in 4-H activities.

Strive to improve the breeding and quality of my animals. The more structurally sound, efficient and productive our animals are, the less stress will be placed on them.

Always be a good sport in competition. Events, including Achievement Days, are one way that the public can see how important proper care of our animals is to us. Good manners and a courteous disposition go a long way in presenting a good impression to my fellow members and the public.

Talk to my 4-H volunteers or fellow members about others who are not following this creed and are not setting a good example of animal care.

Complete my project requirements and participate in all activities organized by my 4-H Club. By taking part in all the activities and completing this project, I am allowing myself to learn and experience all that I can about my project. This will help me to improve my understanding of animals and my methods of caring for them.

Member's Signature

Date



The Five Freedoms

For all Animals

Farmers, 4-H members, animal owners and caretakers are all responsible for providing their animals with these five freedoms:

- Freedom** from thirst, hunger and malnutrition by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.
- Freedom** from discomfort by providing a suitable environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- Freedom** from pain, injury and disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- Freedom** to express normal behavior by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
- Freedom** from fear and distress by ensuring conditions that avoid mental suffering.