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# SMALL ANIMAL MODULE: **CAT**

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## **Cat and Kitten Care**

*“Dogs have owners. Cats have servants.”*

*Unknown*

### **WHAT WILL WE LEARN?**

In this session you will learn:

1. How to care for your pregnant cat.
2. How to care for newborn kittens.

### **WHO CAN HELP?**

You will need someone with some experience with cats. Some ideas may be the coordinator of your local SPCA, a cat breeder, or a veterinarian.

### **WHAT DO YOU NEED?**

A pregnant cat, or a cat with newborn kittens. A SPCA or vet may have some for you to spend some time with.

### **LET'S GET EDUCATED!**

Take a tour of your local SPCA. Some questions you might ask are:

- Do pregnant cats have any special nutritional needs?
- How often can a cat get pregnant?
- What can you do to prevent your cat from getting pregnant?
- What immunizations do cats need?

**What is more clever than a talking cat?**

**A SPELLING BEE!**

## Pregnancy And Birth

Unless your female outdoor cat is spayed (surgical removal of its reproductive organs to prevent pregnancy), inevitably she will become pregnant. Even if you try to keep her indoors while she is in heat, an escape of only a few hours is more than enough time for her to find a male or for males to find her. Signs of pregnancy begin about three weeks after conception, when your cat's nipples change from pale to deep pink and begin to swell and stiffen as the teats prepare for lactation. A cat will not change noticeably in size until the four or five-week mark, when her belly will begin to swell.

## Prenatal Care

Pregnancy normally lasts between 9 and 10 weeks. Like any pregnant mom, your cat will need more protein and energy. Ask your vet for specially formulated food. As the kittens grow, her internal organs will become cramped, so serve her smaller but more frequent meals. Watch her weight: An increase in weight of 20 to 25 percent is normal, but excessive weight gain can interfere with labor. Cats can, and should, remain active throughout pregnancy in order to keep fit and prevent obesity. But toward the end, you can expect your lady-in-waiting to decrease her activity level.

Some cats, especially first-time mothers, may be a bit confused by the physical changes and discomfort they experience. If your cat seems very nervous and excitable or becomes aggressive or more vocal, consult your veterinarian.

To prevent birthing in an inconvenient or unsafe place, prepare a disposable birthing box. Accustom your cat to the box early so that she will choose to give birth in it, lining it with her usual bedding and encouraging her to sleep in it for a week before the babies are due. Keep closet doors shut and block access to as many other places as possible. As delivery approaches, confine her to the house, even better to one room.

As her time approaches she may become grumpy, so keep other animals away.

**What do you get when you feed a cat vinegar?**

**A SOURPUSS**

## Kitten Time

Just before she enters labor, the expectant mother will probably be anxious and restless and might appear to be searching for something. She will probably lose her appetite; in any case, feed her sparingly or give her only water. When she settles into her birthing area, she will shred the nesting materials and lick at her abdomen and genital areas. As she enters the first stage of labor she will fuss over the nest, kneading it into shape. As contractions begin to move the kittens down the birth canal, her breathing and pulse will elevate, and her body temperature will drop.

In the second stage, forceful, straining contractions begin. The cat may lie on her side or chest, or she may squat. The first kitten should emerge within 30 minutes and subsequent kittens should be born at intervals of 15 to 30 minutes. There may be fluid if the amniotic sac ruptures on the way out. The amniotic sac is what the kitten is wrapped in while inside the mother's womb. If the sac is intact, the mother will tear it herself, sever the umbilical cord, clean and groom the kitten and perhaps nurse it while waiting to give birth to the next one. While the mother cat is pregnant it is the umbilical cord that provides the kittens with nourishment.

The kittens are born blind, nearly deaf and helpless: Their mother's care is essential. If she is doing a good job by herself, has groomed and is nursing the kittens, don't interfere. Anxious mothers, especially first-timers, have been known to abandon their kittens in favor of attention from their owners, so keep her calm and reassured. What the mother and her newborns need most right now is a warm, dark, quiet and secluded nest — no external stress.

Visually examine the kittens for defects and to make sure they are healthy, but do this without being intrusive; a worried mother will want to move her nest to a safer location. Then, leave the family alone for a few days, keeping other animals away as well.

**What is a cat's favourite dessert?  
CHOCOLATE MOUSE!**

Since Mother Nature does not work on a schedule it is unlikely you will be in attendance when a cat has her kittens. However, it is possible to visit a vet and see if they have any newborn kittens. Farmers with barn cats also always have kittens around. The SPCA likely has some as well. When you take a look at a mother cat it is a chance to ask lots of questions:

- Has this cat had kittens before?
- Did all the kittens survive?
- Did she need any help?
- Are the kittens nursing well?

If you are having a tour of the vets' facilities ask about the process of spaying an animal.

- What does the surgery entail?
- How long does it take the cat to recover?
- How old are the kittens?
- When will they be old enough for adoption?

## LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

### STAGES OF LABOUR

Using the words in the list below, put the stage of pregnancy or labour next to the description.

1. A cat has part of its reproductive organs removed surgically to prevent pregnancy.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. You will see swelling in its nipples and it begins to gain weight. \_\_\_\_\_
3. A cat's pregnancy lasts this long. \_\_\_\_\_
4. When the cats' time of delivery approaches, make this to give the cat a place where she can deliver. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The cat will look anxious and start shredding nesting material in her bed. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Kittens are born this way. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The cat will lay on her side or squat and her breathing will get faster.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. It will take this long for a kitten to be born. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Nourishment travels from the cat to the kitten along this pathway.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. This wraps the kitten in the womb. \_\_\_\_\_

### Word Choices

- |                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a. First signs of pregnancy       | f. Amniotic Sac                    |
| b. Ten weeks                      | g. Fifteen to thirty minutes       |
| c. Prior to first stage of labour | h. Umbilical cord                  |
| d. Birthing box                   | i. Blind, nearly deaf and helpless |
| e. Spayed                         | j. Second stages of labour         |

## CATS AND KITTENS

B B K S Z G R H F L I T T E R  
 J E R F P U N N T C E S R U N  
 V T D E O A I I O R E M V H S  
 U L X B A P Y L H N I K X D T  
 F U A Y P T O E K T J B U X R  
 Y L Q L P S H D D C R B E N A  
 K B E I T D J I Q B U I R E I  
 Y T Q R J X K E N W M R B T N  
 I X U R N C L W H G B C I T W  
 P M C I T O I N M A I Q O I O  
 W O M B N B M X Z C L D M K C  
 K L C U Y J G Y C H I G T G E  
 V P N J P Q I K I E C C W O V  
 Z Y F O W B P K S U A A W L L  
 I P R E G N A N C Y L T H G P

## WORD LIST

AMNIOTIC

BED

BIRTH

BIRTHING

BREATHING

CAT

COLOSTRUM

KITTEN

LABOUR

LITTER

MILK

NEST

NIPPLE

NURSE

PREGNANCY

SPAYED

STRAIN

UMBILICAL

WOMB

## SOLUTIONS!

### STAGES OF LABOUR

1-e, 2-a, 3-b, 4-d, 5-c, 6-i, 7-j, 8-g, 9-h, 10-f

### CATS AND KITTENS

B B + S + G R H + L I T T E R  
 + E R + P U N N T C E S R U N  
 + + D E O A I I O R E + + + S  
 + + + B A P Y L H N I + + + T  
 + + A + P T O E + T + B + + R  
 + L + L + S H + D + R + + N A  
 + + E + T + + I + + U I + E I  
 + + + R + + K + N + M + B T N  
 + + U + + + L + + G B + + T +  
 + M C I T O I N M A I + + I +  
 W O M B + + M + + + L + + K +  
 + + + + + + + + + + I + + + +  
 + + + + + + + + + + C C + + +  
 + + + + + + + + + + A A + + +  
 + P R E G N A N C Y L T + + +

### OVER, DOWN, DIRECTION

AMNIOTIC (10,10,W)

BED (1,1,SE)

BIRTH (12,5,NW)

BIRTHING (13,8,NW)

BREATHING (2,1,SE)

CAT (12,13,S)

COLOSTRUM  
(10,2,SW)

KITTEN (14,11,N)

LABOUR (2,6,NE)

LITTER (10,1,E)

MILK (7,11,N)

NEST (10,4,NE)

NIPPLE (8,2,SW)

NURSE (15,2,W)

PREGNANCY (2,15,E)

SPAYED (4,1,SE)

STRAIN (15,3,S)

UMBILICAL (11,7,S)

WOMB (1,11,E)

## MORE! MORE!

- Build a scratching post
- Make a cat toy

## RESOURCES USED TO CREATE THIS MODULE

[www.discoveryschool.com](http://www.discoveryschool.com)

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# SMALL ANIMAL MODULE: **PET**

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## How To Choose A Pet

### **WHAT WILL WE LEARN?**

In this module you will explore the benefits and drawbacks of certain pets. You will also explore how to choose an appropriate pet.

### **WHO CAN HELP?**

A parent, leader, veterinarian or staff member of the local SPCA would be ideal to help you out with this module, but ultimately this is an exploratory module using your own experience and research.

### **WHAT DO YOU NEED?**

An actual pet, photo of a pet, or picture of a pet you would like to own.

### **LET'S GET EDUCATED!**

There are a lot of things to consider before choosing a family pet. Never decide to get a pet on an impulse. Pet ownership comes with a significant amount of responsibility. Invest in a pet and you can typically expect to care for your new friend for up to ten years, sometimes longer.

Here are a few questions to ask yourself before you bring home that little bundle of fur or feathers.

#### **1. Do I have the time to take care of a pet?**

Some pets, like goldfish, are certainly less demanding than parrots, which live for as much as sixty years and need socialization, but they still need care and attention. Miniature horses need regular exercise, veterinary care, and company.

#### **2. Do I have room for a pet?**

Cats can adapt to any size living quarters. The same can be said for birds, fish and small mammals that live in a contained environment. A small snake can live in a fifteen-gallon aquarium. A boa constrictor will need a large aquarium; a lizard may like to explore your houseplants.



### 3. What kind of pet do I want?

Learn about the temperament and the behavior patterns, how much activity the pet needs and the animal's dietary and housing needs. Can you handle feeding a snake live fish or mice? A chameleon is cute but eats live insects. If your mother can't handle animals in the house a budgie will not work for you. Fighting fish are really fascinating to look at but will kill other fish in your aquarium.

### 4. Can I afford to acquire a pet?

While you may indeed acquire an animal from someone with an unexpected litter of rabbits, you need to consider the costs of food, veterinary care, grooming, toys, pet license and more. The cost for a pet varies with the type of animal, their requirements, your resources and your location. All pets require the basic food and shelter. For exotic pets you can expect to have unusual dietary requirements that can cost money and a lot of time to find. They should also have regular visits to a veterinarian for health checkups and vaccinations. Other costs could include boarding and obedience training. In some cases, pet health insurance is now available and may be something you wish to consider. If you acquire your animal from a local shelter or human society, you will most often be asked to pay a fee. Often this will include or at least provide a discount to a cooperating veterinarian for the purposes of having your animal spayed or neutered.

### 5. What type of extra housing or equipment will I need for a pet?

Will you need to build a shelter? Fence in your backyard? Buy a pet bed? Buy an aquarium? Animals often need to keep their minds busy, their aquariums need space to run toys to occupy their minds, equipment to exercise them. Want a gerbil or guinea pig you will have to have a cage large enough to hold them, and make sure you have separate ones for the males and females or you may have unwanted babies to contend with.

### 6. Will my other pets tolerate a new pet?

It's said that cats and dogs don't get along. Well try a cat and a cockateil. Or how about putting two rabbits in the same cage. They may make babies you have no ability to take care of. Your dog may eat your gecko. Introducing pets to a household takes thought and preparation. Maybe your dog can be taught not to harass your guinea pig or perhaps you will need a very sturdy cage to protect your chameleon from the cat.

### 7. Does anyone in my family have allergies?

If anyone in your family has allergies to animals this will definitely be something you have to consider. Birds can bring dust and mites into the house that can be very toxic. Sometimes people have slight allergies but if they sleep on the bed they get a rash. Remember to keep their cages clean and bathe your animals if appropriate, or better yet keep the animal outside if you can.

## LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

We have provided you with suggestions on some fun activities that can be completed at a project or general meeting.

### 1. Warm-up Activity

This activity could be facilitated by a leader or a member completing the Small Animal – Pet Module. The facilitator hands out index cards with common animals named on them. You can use as many different animals as you like and as many cards with the same animal as you like. This will allow the facilitator to make different numbers of groups of members with a different amount of members in each group. Ask participants to find their mates. They will do this by making the animal sound of the animal named on their card. All members will make their sounds simultaneously until all members have found their mates. This is a very loud game and guaranteed to bring fun into your program.

### 2. Roll Call

Have each member identify a type of pet they own or would like to own as their name is called.

### 3. Member Presentations

The leader or volunteer assisting with this module should facilitate this activity. Members are asked ahead of time to bring their pet, a picture of their pet or a picture of their dream pet to a meeting. Members will need to prepare and deliver a short presentation on the benefits and drawbacks of their pet. The leader/volunteer can provide members with suggestions on things that the member may want to talk about. If the member brought a pet or a picture of their pet they can introduce the pet to the group. They could also provide information on how to care for their pet.

Remember to make sure pets are leashed or caged in some way. Cats and dogs don't always get along, and a budgie may be cute, but if it gets out, it may be difficult to return it to its cage. Some animals may make meals of other member's pets, so be cautious.

Following the presentations each member will answer some basic questions on their pets. Encourage other members to ask the questions.

**Some questions that could be asked are:**

1. What are the benefits?
2. What are the drawbacks of owning your pet?
3. What does it eat?
4. What are the challenges to owning your pet?
5. What do you like most about your pet?

Some leaders may want to assign judges to evaluate these informal presentations for their content and delivery.

**MORE! MORE! MORE!**

Take a tour of your local small animal veterinarian's office or local SPCA. Workers at any one of these places may be able to provide information on the types of pets available to own.

**RESOURCES USED TO CREATE THIS MODULE**

- [http://exoticpets.about.com/cs/resourcesgeneral/a/findpet\\_sitter.htm](http://exoticpets.about.com/cs/resourcesgeneral/a/findpet_sitter.htm)
- [www.animalnetwork.com/critters/library](http://www.animalnetwork.com/critters/library)

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## SMALL ANIMAL MODULE: **APICULTURE**

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**Who is the bees favorite singer?  
STING!**

### **WHAT WILL WE LEARN?**

In this module you will learn what types of bees make up a hive and explore different ways of presenting research material.

### **WHO CAN HELP?**

Bee Keepers not only have an interesting job, but are often willing to share their knowledge.

### **WHAT DO YOU NEED?**

If possible, find out if your local beekeeper has a model of a hive so you can see the activity in the local bee colony. Some even have small models of hives. If not, you can usually find one at a nature centre. If you can't find a model you can find photos of beehives on the internet.

Some items you will need depending on the type of presentation you choose to do:

- Photos of bees
- Paper and pens to write
- A display board: cardboard, felt or wood
- Items for the display of your choice using your research, i.e. jars of honey, honeycombs, pictures of different bees, short articles and posters

Or

- Computer
- Photos

## LET'S GET EDUCATED!

### Research Is Fun!

Depending on the kind of presentation you wish to do you can focus in different places to do your research.

- Local beekeepers can give you a tour of a bee yard and give you first hand information.
- Your local library.
- The internet has many wonderful sites.
- Alberta Agriculture.
- Nature Centers and Museums often have displays on bees.

### Background Information

#### WHY DO BEES MAKE HONEY?

We know that bees have been producing honey as they do today for at least 100 million years (since the Cretaceous period). Bees produce honey as food stores for the hive during the long months of winter when flowers aren't blooming and therefore little or no nectar is available to them. European honeybees, genus *Apis Mellifera*, produce such an abundance of honey, far more than the hive can eat, that humans can harvest the excess. For this reason, European honeybees can be found in beekeeper's hives around the world!

#### THE COLONY

Honeybees are social insects, with a marked division of labor between the various types of bees in the colony. A colony of honeybees includes a queen, drones and workers.

#### THE QUEEN

The queen is the only sexually developed female in the hive. She is the largest bee in the colony.

A two-day-old larva is selected by the workers to be reared as the queen. She will emerge from her cell 11 days later to mate in flight with approximately 18 drone (male) bees. During this mating, she receives several million sperm cells, which last her entire life span of nearly two years.

The queen starts to lay eggs about 10 days after mating. A productive queen can lay 3,000 eggs in a single day.



**What does a queen bee do when she burps?  
ISSUES A ROYAL PARDON!**

## THE DRONES

Drones are stout male bees that have no stingers. Drones do not collect food or pollen from flowers. Their sole purpose is to mate with the queen. If the colony is short on food, drones are often kicked out of the hive.

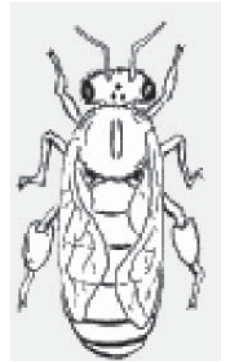


## THE WORKERS

Workers, the smallest bees in the colony, are sexually undeveloped females. A colony can have 50,000 to 60,000 workers.

The life span of a worker bee varies according to the time of year. Her life expectancy is approximately 28 to 35 days. Workers that are reared in September and October, however, can live through the winter.

Workers feed the queen and larvae, guard the hive entrance and help to keep the hive cool by fanning their wings. Worker bees also collect nectar to make honey. In addition, honeybees produce wax comb. The comb is composed of hexagonal cells that have walls that are only 2/1000 inch thick, but support 25 times their own weight.



**HONEY BEES' WINGS STROKE 11,400 TIMES PER MINUTE, THUS MAKING THEIR DISTINCTIVE BUZZ.**

## LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

### APICULTURE ACTIVITY

**You will need to gather information and/or materials for this activity. Use one or more of the suggestions listed.**

1. Take a tour of a bee yard.
  - Interview the beekeeper.

Ask the following questions, or think of some of your own:

    - i. What is the role of each of the bees in the hive?
    - ii. How do you harvest the honey?
    - iii. What is the purpose of the honey in the hive?
    - iv. What needs to be done before we eat it?
  - Take photos while visiting the bee yard and save them for your presentation.
2. Visit internet sites, museums, nature centers, or your local library for information, photos and other materials that may be helpful.
3. Once you have collected information and materials, you need to decide on a format for your activity. You may want to write an article to put in your local newspaper, make a presentation of your findings to your club, or create a display.
  - Article

Write an article describing your visit, or your findings. Local papers will often print short articles - less than 200 words. Submit your article and labeled photos to your club reporter. They can then contact the local paper or help you to approach them.
  - Presentation

As a 4-H member, you have the option to do a presentation instead of a speech, as a communication activity. The items and information you have collected could be used to make this presentation.
  - Display

Concentrate on visually appealing display. Include photos and pictures. Arrange your photos artistically. Don't be afraid to leave blank spots on your display. Interactive activities are wonderful for displays. Activities or puzzles slow people down and make them stop and take the time to see your display.

**Why do bees hum?**

**BECAUSE THEY'VE FORGOTTEN THE WORDS!**

## HIVES AND HONEY BEES

Y K B C J S N W A T E N S R E G N I T S  
 E I F O N E R F Y F K E J L E M P T O J  
 N U S J E H G E Z U T C E U T H Z D D B  
 O C M U A W O T W T N T M S E Z Y K C A  
 H E Q S N I N T Q O H A T L V N N A O U  
 B D E D N M T K K V L R W J Y I O G M A  
 Y O A B M M A I R U U F E K E J L R B H  
 J M B P R Y N T A L B O C T T P O T D O  
 Z D O E J T V J I B E I R A V B C W N F  
 J T U B G C X H Y N B D N T N I O D Z M  
 B O Y X O Z U E E D G O J R A W T F T B  
 O U W A V X U V P H Z K Y E W N I A G R  
 H H Z W O R T L A R V A E W X H G W P V  
 X J Y Z O C J R E K R O W F U P P O Z M  
 D A P P E D Z G M P W I N G S H L K U B  
 Y M E S P P G E V I H R P S L L A E L Z  
 C A N X R S N N Z M Z O U T E L L N O J  
 N I D M V H C G O A N L X N O Q I U Q L  
 A Q N O U M W G Q A X C F J B I R R K Y  
 G D U R Q J Z N Z W E I W S O Q P Q M Y

### WORD LIST

|        |          |         |        |        |
|--------|----------|---------|--------|--------|
| BEE    | BUZZ     | COLONY  | COMB   | DRONE  |
| EGGS   | EUROPEAN | FLOWERS | HIVE   | HONEY  |
| INSECT | LARVAE   | MATING  | NECTAR | POLLEN |
| QUEEN  | STINGERS | WAX     | WINGS  | WORKER |



## SOLUTIONS!

### HIVES AND HONEY BEES

Y + + + + S N + + + + N S R E G N I T S  
 E + + + + E R + + + + E + + + + + + + + +  
 N + + + E + + E + + + C + + + + + + + + +  
 O + + U + + + + W + + T + + E + Y + C +  
 H E Q + + + + + O + A + + + N N + O +  
 + + E + + M + + + + L R + + + + O + M +  
 + + + B + + A + + + + F + + + + L R B +  
 + + + + + + + T + + + + + + + + O + D +  
 + + + + + + + I + + + + + + + + C + + +  
 + + + + + + + N + + + + + + + + + + +  
 B + + X + + + E + + G + + + + + + + + + +  
 + U + A + + U + + + + + + + + + + + + +  
 + + Z W + R T L A R V A E + + + + + P +  
 + + + Z O C + R E K R O W + + + + O + +  
 + + + P E + + G + + W I N G S + L + + +  
 + + E S + + G E I H + + + + L + + + +  
 + A N + + S + + + + + + + + E + + + + +  
 N I + + + + + + + + + + N + + + + + + +  
 + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +  
 + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

### OVER, DOWN, DIRECTION

BEE(4,7,NW)  
 BUZZ(1,11,SE)  
 COLONY(17,9,N)  
 COMB(19,4,S)  
 DRONE(19,8,NW)  
 EGGS(9,14,SW)  
 EUROPEAN(8,11,SW)  
 FLOWERS(12,7,NW)  
 HIVE(11,16,W)  
 HONEY(1,5,N)  
 INSECT(2,18,NE)  
 LARVAE(8,13,E)  
 MATING(6,6,NE)  
 NECTAR(12,1,S)  
 POLLEN(19,13,SW)  
 QUEEN(3,5,NE)  
 STINGERS(20,1,W)  
 WAX(4,13,N)  
 WINGS(11,15,E)  
 WORKER(13,14,W)

## MORE! MORE! MORE!

1. Build a bee colony model with your local beekeeper.
2. Using the photos and information you collect, create a powerpoint presentation to show to the rest of your club.

## RESOURCES USED TO CREATE THIS MODULE

1. The World History of Beekeeping and Honey Hunting, by Eva Crane, Routledge, 1999, p. 7.
2. National Honey Board, [www.Honey.com](http://www.Honey.com)
3. [www.puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com](http://www.puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com)
4. [www.ahajokes.com](http://www.ahajokes.com)
5. [www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/bees/hive.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/bees/hive.html)
6. Almost Live Bee cams!
  - [www.gears.tucson.ars.ag.gov/beecam/beecam.html](http://www.gears.tucson.ars.ag.gov/beecam/beecam.html)
  - [www.draperbee.com/webcam/beecam.html](http://www.draperbee.com/webcam/beecam.html)

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# SMALL ANIMAL MODULE: **CANINE**

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## Basic Dog Training Tips and Techniques

### WHAT WILL WE LEARN?

In this section you will learn basic dog training techniques - how to teach your dog basic commands and how to work as a team.

### WHO CAN HELP?

Many community members have expertise in training dogs. Talk to other members in your club to find out if their parents may have experience in this area. Your local Adult Learning Council or SPCA may also have instructors who may be willing to donate their time.

### WHAT DO YOU NEED?

In order to complete this module, you will need a dog or at least have one dog for each three members. If you don't have your own dog try and borrow one. There are some things you need to ask if you are borrowing a dog. Talk to the owner and ask if the dog likes people and other dogs and if he/she is small enough to be managed by young people. If at all possible find a dog that is spayed or neutered to avoid competition between dogs.

Find a dog-friendly place to complete this session. Some halls or riding arenas will allow dogs indoors. Otherwise use an outdoor space but remember, wherever you choose to work on this module a pooper-scooper and a bag may be necessary so as not to leave any treasures behind. If you are indoors remember a mop and industrial detergent will be needed. Allow time at the end of the session for a clean up. Each dog should come with a leash and a well-fitted collar.

#### **You will also need:**

- A 15 ft nylon rope or lunge line
- Dog treats
- Lots of love and patience.

## LET'S GET EDUCATED!

We need to review some basic handling issues before you begin training.

1. You must be in control of your dog at all times. Keep the leash in your hand.
2. You need to keep your attention on the leader/teacher because the noise of the dogs will make it difficult to hear.
3. If you are borrowing a dog talk to the owner of the dog you are using, so you know its preferences and behavior.

As with all training you must be patient, persistent, consistent and firm when working with your dog. While you are a partnership, you must always remember that you are the handler and therefore the one in control of the situation. If you allow leadership to switch from you to your dog, training will no longer be taking place.

### **Here are a few other things that you should keep in mind when beginning a training session with your dog:**

1. Keep training sessions short in the beginning to avoid your dog from becoming bored or frustrated.
2. Try to train when you are alone or away from distraction so that you can keep the focus on you and what you are saying.
3. If your dog misbehaves use a simple "NO!" in a firm voice.
4. Keep commands short, simple and concise. Always use the same command for the same meaning. For example if your dog jumps up on you be sure to not use the command "down" as you will want to teach your dog a different action for "down". Instead use the command "stay off" so that he or she will not jump up on you.
5. Determine what commands you are teaching your dog and inform everyone in the family of these commands so that it is established before any training takes place.
6. Use a steady and controlled voice. Dogs' ears are sensitive and loud noises can be confusing.
7. Always have your dog come to you. Chasing after your dog will make your dog think that you are either playing a game, or it will frighten the dog.
8. Do not allow your dog to chew on your finger, hand or leash as this is not acceptable at any age.
9. During a training session, only teach one command at a time. Wait to teach a new one until the dog has learned the current command completely.
10. Remember patience, persistence, consistency, firmness and reward is what is needed to train your dog.

## BASIC COMMANDS

The obedience commands are introductory commands and by mastering these skills with your dog, you will be ready to move on and attempt to accomplish the more difficult skills outlined on your obedience commands.

### **'Come' When Called (Recall)**

Repeating the dog's name often will help the dog to learn what its name is. Having a dog that will come to you is very important, as it will enable you to control your dog in any situation.

To teach a dog to "come", place him on the 15 ft. nylon rope or lunge line. When the dog dashes away or leaves your side, simply say, "come" and the dog's name. If the dog doesn't respond give the line a pull until the dog comes to you. Keeping a handful of dog treats ready and giving one to your dog each time he/she responds will help with the learning process. Give the dog praise and patting when he/she responds to you. You will have to wean the dog off the treats so that eventually the dog is responding to the command and the praise without needing the treats.

Repeat the lesson until your dog will come to you no matter what he is doing. As a test, keep the lead on and expose your dog to situations where you think he will disobey you. When your dog is becoming reliable and obeys every command of "come" you make, get a cord that is a lighter weight than the lead. Work him/her on this line for a little while. Work on lighter and lighter lines, then cord, then string, until the dog comes to you. Eventually the dog will come to you without a string.

## 'Sit'

There are several ways to teach your dog to sit. Three methods are listed here for you to try and see what works most successfully for you.

### While saying sit:

1. Using the left index finger and thumb, place them on the loin of the dog and exert gentle pressure inward and down. (The loin is just in front of the hip bones on his/her back.) He or she should fold into a sit to avoid the pressure. When he or she does sit, reward immediately even if the sit was only for a brief second.
2. Slide your hand over his or her rump and apply pressure to the back of his/her legs right at the bend just above the hock. (The hock is the area of the leg below the "elbow" of the hind leg.)
3. Tuck the legs and tail comfortably beneath him/her.

Allow at least an hour to work with the 'come' and 'sit' commands. If a dog is already trained you can add 'down' and have the dog learn to lay down. 'Stay' is another command that can be taught using the long lunge line.

## LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

As well as the hands on teaching suggested in the Let's Get Educated section above, consider some of the suggestions below that could be completed at a general or project meeting before beginning the command training.

1. For roll call or as a communication activity have each member repeat their dog's name or something about his/her likes or dislikes.
2. Have a dog handler or parent discuss how to care for a dog – considering the differences between an outdoor or indoor dog, have the speaker talk about feed, water, grooming and exercising the dog.

## MORE! MORE! MORE!

Alberta 4-H has more on training your dog on their website, [www.4h.ab.ca](http://www.4h.ab.ca). Find out more about your dog, his/her health and further commands.

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## SMALL ANIMAL MODULE: **POULTRY**

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*Which came first, the chicken or the egg? This age old question has been debated by many scholars. While we may never all agree on which came first, we do know that getting those pristine packages—Alberta eggs—from the farm to your fridge involves hundreds of farmers and thousands of hens, working together every day. What you end up with at home is nature's own fast food – perfectly packaged protein that's easy to cook, convenient to carry, and simple to eat.*

### **WHAT WILL WE LEARN?**

There is a lot more to a chicken than meets the eye. In this module we will focus on egg production and getting eggs from the “Hen To Your Home.” We have included some fun games and activities to test your knowledge and help you become an “eggsper” on egg production.

### **WHO CAN HELP?**

A senior member, parent or leader could help you complete this module. If your club is fortunate enough to know someone that is knowledgeable on the production of eggs, this would be a bonus. However, because there are only a small number of egg producers in Alberta, we suggest going straight to the ‘eggsper’s by logging on to the Alberta and Canadian Egg Producer websites. Much of the material that is used in this module is taken from these sites. They are user-friendly and interactive, and suggest ‘eggsplanations’, ‘eggtivities’, ‘eggimals’, ‘eggheads’ and ‘eggciting’ recipes that will help you become an ‘eggsper’ on the egg industry. Sound like fun, well ‘Get Cracking’ and log on to [www.eggs.ab.ca](http://www.eggs.ab.ca) or [www.canadaegg.ca](http://www.canadaegg.ca). This module can be completed without the internet, however these websites will enhance what we have included in the module.

### **WHAT DO YOU NEED?**

The items you need will be specified in the 4-H Fun section. Each game or activity will have it's own list of supplies that you will require.

**Why did the chicken go cluck, cluck, cluck?**

**Because it's a chicken DUHHHH!**

## LET'S GET EDUCATED!

*Or as Yolkey Dokeywould says, Let's 'Get Cracking'*

1. As science has evolved so has our knowledge of food safety, food quality and a hens' needs. Gone is grandmother's hen house. Today the egg farm is highly organized and automated. Hens in Alberta are now housed in large, clean, well-ventilated buildings where temperature, humidity and lighting are controlled. These buildings/barns also protect the hens from predators such as coyotes. Fresh food and water are constantly available.
2. Most laying hens are kept in pens with 6-8 other hens to support their natural instinct to cluster together for security. These groups are small enough that the hens don't fight or hurt one another. They are fed a diet of grain, protein, vitamins and minerals. The stringent feed regulations set and controlled by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency ensure that only approved levels of ingredients and no antibiotics or hormones are in feed.

### **How do monsters like their eggs?**

**Terri-fried**

3. Egg producers in Alberta give their laying hens the best possible care, for two reasons - #1 because humane treatment is morally right and #2 because healthy, well cared for hens produce safer and more eggs. It just makes sense for egg farmers to treat their hens well!
4. In 1945, the average laying hen produced 151 eggs a year. Now, due to selective breeding and better nutrition the average hen lays approximately 280 eggs a year. That's about one egg every 1½ days. In Alberta those large barns house an average of 9500 hens. Gathering eggs by hand is impossible.
5. Why are some eggs brown and some white? It is a matter of genes. Some breeds of hen such as the Rhode Island Red (brown feathered) lay brown eggs, while others, like the White Leghorn (white feathered), lay white eggs. Brown or white, there is no difference in nutritional value or cooking performance.

### **What do you call a mischievous egg?**

**A practical yolker**

6. Egg collecting used to be like a game of hide and seek. Many eggs were lost or damaged in the process. Now, egg collection is done automatically as eggs, as soon as they are laid, gently roll down onto a moving belt. Eggs are collected twice per day, stored on flats (special trays) and immediately put in a cooler room chilled to 11° to 12° celsius. At this temperature, eggs retain their freshness and quality while awaiting shipment (in a refrigerated truck) to a registered egg grading station - usually within four days.
7. Once the eggs reach the egg grading station, the second part of their journey begins. High-speed, electronically controlled equipment provides a continuous automated process to carry out the tasks of cleaning, candling, grading, sorting and packaging eggs for shipping to stores, restaurants, etc.
8. The grading process begins with flats of eggs being lifted onto an assembly line. Metal arms with suction cups gently lift the eggs from the flats onto a moving track. The eggs are then washed and sanitized in a high speed washer that gently scrubs the eggs. After washing, a thin film of odourless mineral oil may be applied to help seal the porous shell. From here, the interior as well as exterior of the eggs are examined using a process called candling.
9. Candling is when the eggs are passed over a very strong light. This allows the grader to better inspect not only the shell of the egg, but the inside as well.
10. Eggs are then weighed (sized) and packaged in cartons. Less than five days after arriving at the grading station, eggs are off to grocery stores, restaurants, hospitals and so on. Eggs you buy at the store often arrive there within 7-10 days of being laid. THAT'S FRESH!
11. The best quality eggs are marked Canada Grade "A". These are put into cartons and sent to stores.
12. The other eggs are not wasted. They become processed eggs and are used in products such as pasta, salad dressing, cake mixes, mayonnaise and shampoo.
13. There are actually three possible grades for eggs in Canada.
  - **GRADE A:** sold at retail stores
  - **GRADE B:** a small percentage sold at retail stores; most go to further processing market
  - **GRADE C:** not sold at retail stores; go to further processing market



14. Eggs are shipped in refrigerated trucks from the grading station to the store. Care is taken to maintain safe storage of eggs.
15. At the store, eggs are kept refrigerated until purchased by the consumer. Look for eggs in a refrigerated egg case in your grocery store. Also check the “Best Before” date on the carton. This date indicates the length of time the eggs will maintain their top quality.
16. Put them in your fridge as soon as you get home. Store them in the main body of the fridge, not on your fridge door. This keeps the eggs at a cooler, more consistent temperature. Regularly check to ensure your fridge is 4°C (39°F). Also, keep eggs in their original carton to prevent them from absorbing flavours and odours from strong-flavoured foods like onions, cheese, cabbage and some meats or fish.
17. The eggs are brought home to be a part of your healthy diet. Eggs are good any time of day – for breakfast, lunch, dinner or snacks.

**ENJOY THE GOODNESS OF ONE OF NATURE’S MOST PERFECT FOODS!**

## LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

Now let's play some just for fun games and some games that will use the knowledge you have gained from going through the Let's Get Educated section above.

### YOLKEY'S EGG JOURNEY

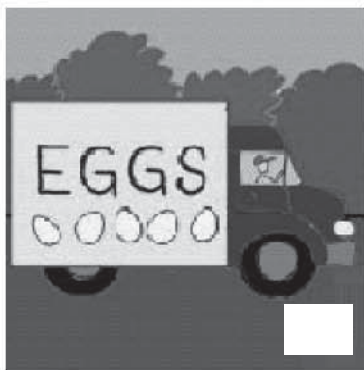
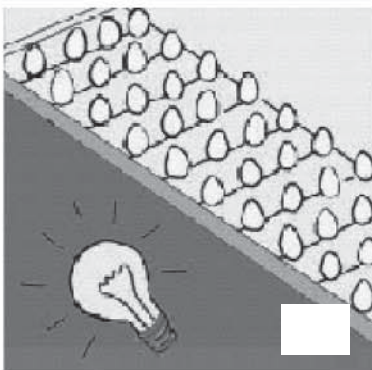
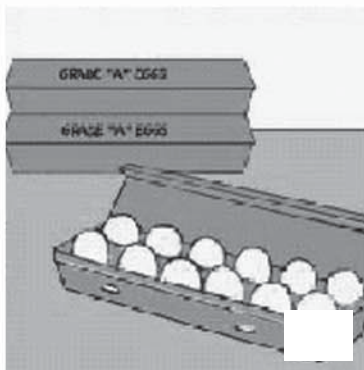
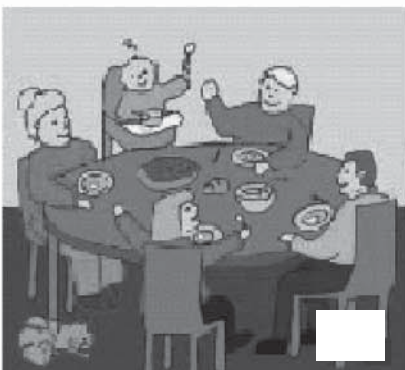
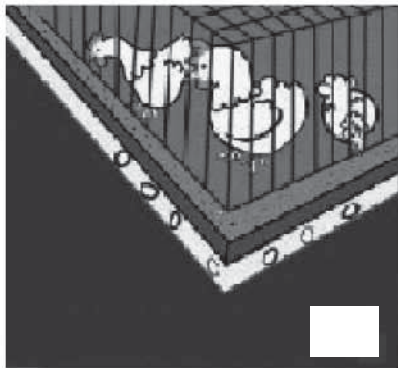
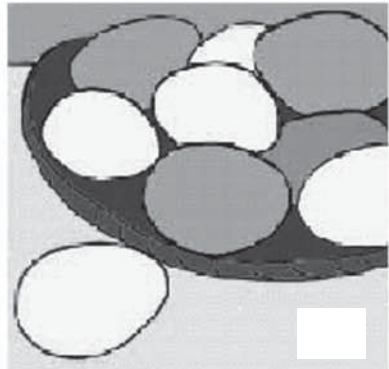
Yolkey Dokey is lost. He knows that if you can help him follow the egg from the hen to his house he will be able to get back home. He remembers that the egg had something to do with his getting lost in the first place. He is going to explain some of the things he can remember seeing before he got lost. However, all the pictures are mixed up in his head – he can't remember what order they go in. If you can help him put the statements below together with the picture they describe, then he will be able to find his home. Write the statement number that matches the picture in the box in the bottom right corner of the picture. Once you are done Yolkey Dokey will have a good idea how he got lost and where he lives.

1. Yolkey knows that eggs are produced on egg farms and that farmers give their chickens the best possible care. He can remember seeing Farmer Eggman with one of his chickens.
2. Yolkey was in one of those big barns that chickens are kept in and knows that they are clean, warm and safe.
3. He saw the chickens in their cages with other birds, and thought it was nice of the farmer to keep them together so they didn't get lonely, but also so that they were in small enough groups that they didn't fight or hurt each other.
4. Yolkey knows that chickens have a special diet and eat grain and get all the vitamins and minerals they need to be healthy. They also have lots of fresh, clean water available to drink.
5. On his travels, Yolkey saw eggs that were brown and eggs that were white. Farmer Eggman told him this is because some breeds of chickens lay white eggs and some lay brown. White eggs usually come from chickens that have white feathers and brown eggs usually come from chickens with brown feathers.
6. Yolkey remembers watching the eggs being collected and saw where they went after that - to a special room in the barn that was cool. By keeping the eggs in these rooms they stay fresh and great tasting longer.
7. After that the eggs went to a grading station where they were washed, candled, graded, sorted and packaged. Candling of course, is a special process where the eggs pass over a strong light so you can see the whole egg, inside and out.

8. Yolkey also remembers seeing the eggs being put into cartons that held twelve eggs, or one dozen. The best eggs had a special stamp on the carton that said Grade "A".
9. It was cold in the special trucks that took the eggs to the grocery store, but this of course is so that they will stay fresh, safe and great tasting longer.
10. Yolkey is starting to think he is getting closer to home. He remembers seeing the eggs at the grocery store, in the refrigerated cases, where they are kept cold as they wait for people to buy them.
11. He remembers seeing the eggs in his fridge last night. He knew they were eggs because they were still in the special carton they were packaged in. People use eggs for meals at breakfast, lunch and supper. He enjoyed one of those egg dishes with my family last night.

**Yolkey is very excited, because now that you have been able to put numbers on almost all the pictures he had in his head, he can figure out where he lives and will be able to find his way home. Yolkey says "Thanks a bunch for helping him get back home!"**

12. Eggs taste great and are very good for you. You should eat eggs along with other healthy foods such as bread, milk, fruits and vegetables. All of these foods help you grow, keep you healthy and give you energy so you can be active. Remember, eggs are one of nature's most perfect foods.



**"EGG"CEPTIONAL EGGS**

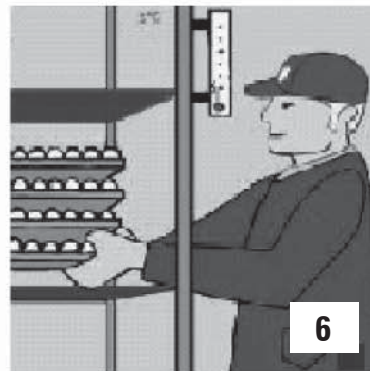
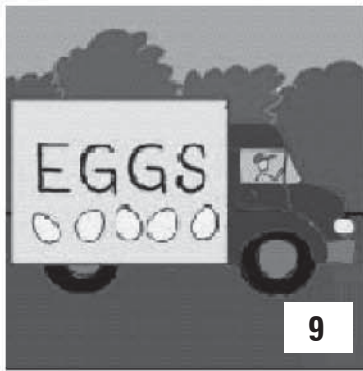
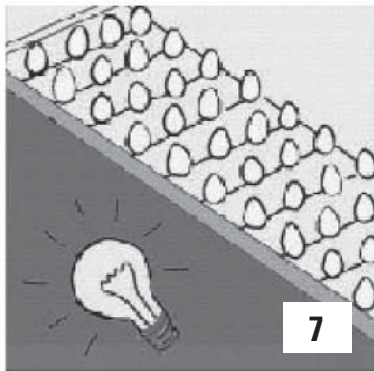
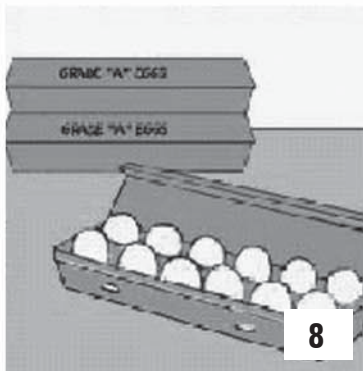
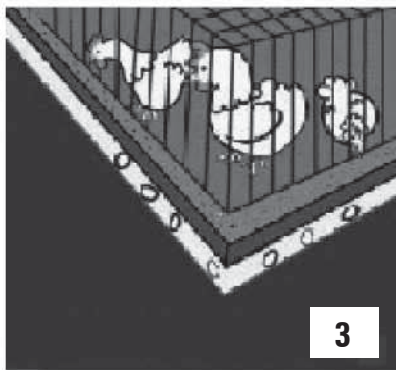
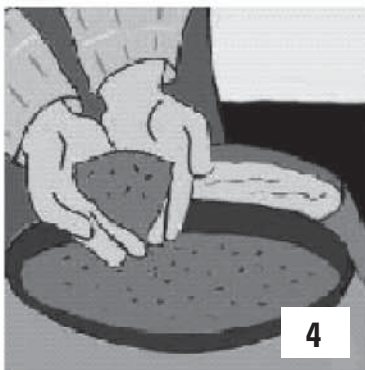
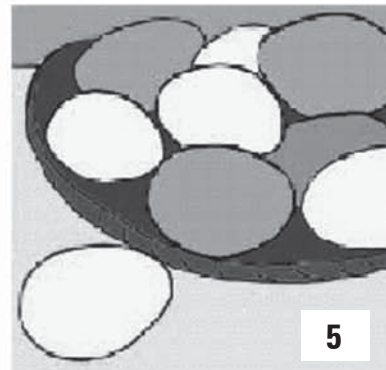
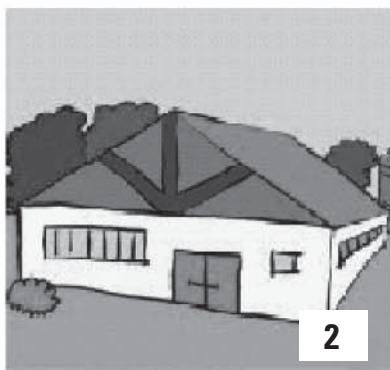
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**WORD LIST**

|          |             |              |             |
|----------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| BARNS    | FEEDING     | NUTRITION    | SUPERMARKET |
| CANDLING | FOODQUALITY | PACKAGING    | TEMPERATURE |
| CARTONS  | FOODSAFETY  | POULTRY      | TRUCKS      |
| CHICKEN  | FRESH       | PRODUCTION   | VITAMINS    |
| CLEANING | GRADING     | QUALITY      | WEIGHED     |
| EGGS     | HENS        | REFRIGERATED |             |
| FARMERS  | LAYING      | SANITIZE     |             |

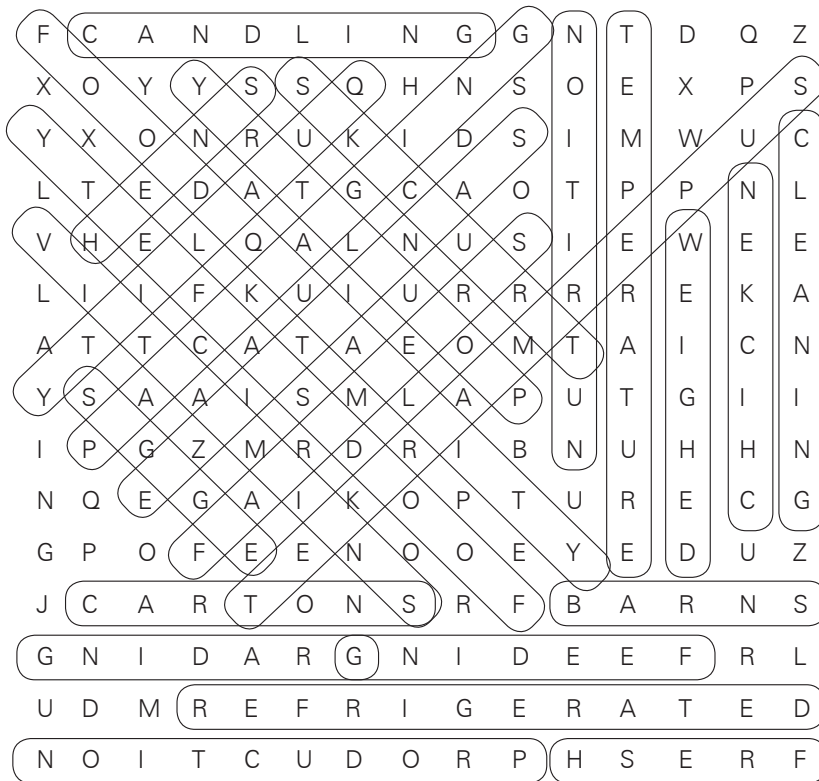
# SOLUTIONS!

## YOLKEY'S EGG JOURNEY



## SOLUTIONS!

### "EGG"CEPTIONAL EGGS



## MORE! MORE! MORE!

If you would like more information, interactive games or activity suggestions on egg production check out the websites included under resources section below. If you would like to look at the 4-H resources available on poultry contact the 4-H Branch to see what is available.

## RESOURCES USED TO CREATE THIS MODULE

### 1. Alberta Egg Producers

Calgary, Alberta

Phone: (403) 250-1197 or Toll Free: 1-877-302-2344

Fax: (403) 291-9216

Email: [info@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:info@eggs.ab.ca)

**Website:** [www.eggs.ab.ca](http://www.eggs.ab.ca)

### 2. Canadian Egg Marketing Agency

112 Kent Street, Suite 1501

Ottawa, Ontario

K1P 5P2

**Website:** [www.canadaegg.ca](http://www.canadaegg.ca) and [www.eggs.ca](http://www.eggs.ca)

### 3. Website: [www.puzzlemaker.discovery.com](http://www.puzzlemaker.discovery.com)

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## SMALL ANIMAL MODULE: **RABBITS**

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*Bugs Bunny might be one of the most mischievous rabbits you'll meet, but honestly most rabbits don't get into anywhere near as much trouble as Bugs. Rabbits actually make ideal 4-H project animals. They are interesting to watch, and easy to handle!!*

### **WHAT WILL WE LEARN?**

In this module we will learn a little about the care of rabbits. We will also look at some of the different breeds of rabbits, so that if you decide to pursue this project further you will have enough information to help you select the right type of rabbit for you.

### **WHO CAN HELP?**

Someone that raises rabbits could assist you with this project. Perhaps you have a leader or parent in your club that has some expertise in this area.

### **WHAT DO YOU NEED?**

If you don't have a rabbit you may want to talk to someone that does, so you can acquaint yourself with these furry creatures.

### **LET'S GET EDUCATED!**

Rabbits don't make noise and because of their size, they require only a small living area. They come in many sizes, shapes and colors.

### **BREED TYPES**

The larger breeds are usually kept for meat production. The medium weight breeds are usually kept for meat, fur or for pet or show stock. The smallest breeds are usually kept for pet or show stock. The smallest breeds weigh about one kilogram and the very large breeds weigh over six kilograms.



Here are some of the breeds associated with each size category.

### Small Breeds

Dutch  
Himalayan  
Holland Lop  
Mini Lop  
Netherland Dwarf  
Petite  
Polish  
Tan

### Medium Breeds

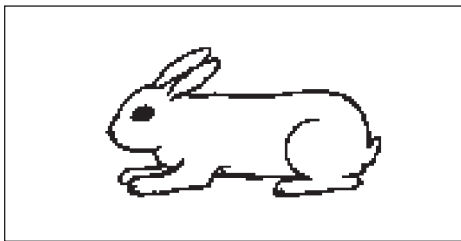
English Angora  
French Angora  
Belgian Hare  
Californian  
Standard Chinchilla  
English Spot  
Havana  
Rex  
Silver  
Silver Marten

### Large Breeds

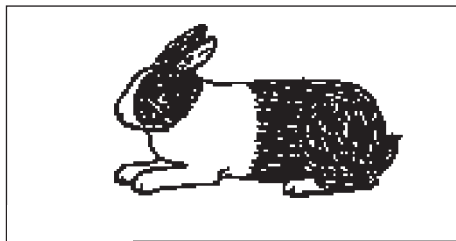
Argente Champagne  
Bevern  
Checkered Giant  
Giant Chinchilla  
Chinchilla Heavyweight  
Flemish Giant  
English Lop  
French Lop  
New Zealand  
Satin

If you are choosing a rabbit as a pet, you might choose a small breed. These rabbits require less area for housing, eat less food and are small and easy to pick up. Here are four of the more common of the small breeds.

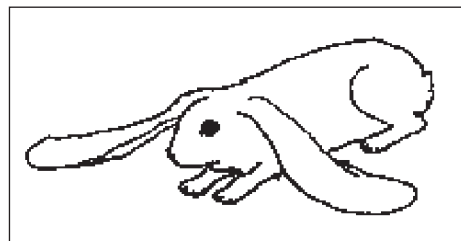
#### POLISH



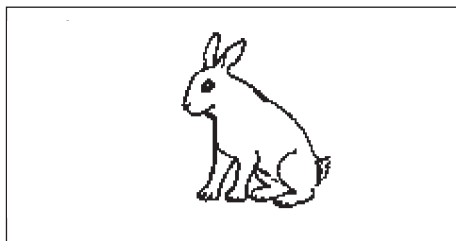
#### DUTCH



#### MINI LOP

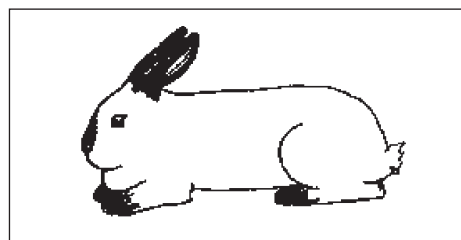


#### NETHERLAND DWARF

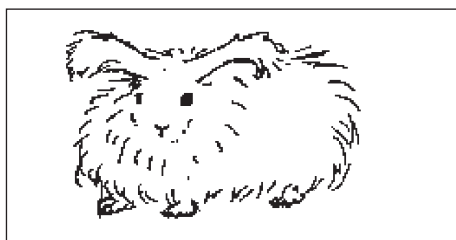


The rabbits on the medium breed list are also suitable as pets, but most of these are also large enough to be used for meat production. Here are a couple of these.

#### CALIFORNIAN

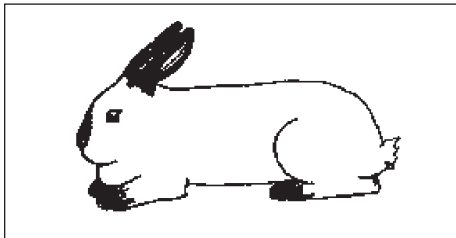


#### ENGLISH ANGORA



The rabbits on the large breed list may also be kept as pets, but as they mature, these rabbits will become quite large. They will require extra living space and food. As you can see by the pictures they get quite large therefore they may be quite difficult to handle.

### CALIFORNIAN



### ENGLISH ANGORA



Breeds such as the English Angora and French Angora rabbits have very long, soft, woolly coats. They require special grooming and must be regularly plucked or clipped to remove the wool, which they shed on a continuous basis. If they are not groomed adequately, their coats will become extremely matted. They will also try to groom themselves by licking their coats and will swallow large quantities of hair. This can result in a deadly digestive system blockage known as “wool block”.

### SELECTING YOUR RABBIT

You should try to purchase your first rabbit from an experienced rabbit breeder. Most serious rabbit breeders will be able to help you start out right with your new rabbits. Most will be able to make suggestions about ways to feed and care for your new rabbits. (You might like to take a notebook along when you go to purchase your new rabbits. Ask for instructions on feeding and care and make notes on these for future reference).

The health of your new rabbit is very important. Here are some pointers and a **TEN POINT INSPECTION** to help you choose a healthy rabbit!

**LOOK** around when you enter the seller’s rabbitry. The rabbitry should be clean. All of the cages, waterers and feeders should be clean. The air should be fresh and not heavy with dampness and odor from urine. All of the rabbits should be clean and healthy-looking.

**LISTEN** for any signs of coughing or sneezing in the rabbitry. These are signs of serious health problems.

Do the “TEN POINT INSPECTION” that follows when you find a rabbit you wish to buy. Take your time and watch carefully for health problems as well as defects that would affect the health of the rabbit and its usefulness for breeding or show.

- 1. Look inside the ears.** You should not see any dried, yellowish or brownish crusty discharge. This could mean an ear mite problem. Ear mites are very tiny bugs that can cause damage to rabbit's ears. The rabbit should not mind having its ears handled close to where they join the head unless the ears are sore from ear mite damage.



**Yellowish or brownish crusty discharge**

- 2. Check the eyes** to be sure that they are clean, shiny and bright. They should not be covered with a milky-looking coating. This would mean an eye infection. There should not be discharge from the eyes. The fur on the face below the eyes should be dry, never wet.

**Discharge in corner of eye**



**Wet fur below eyes**

- 3. Check the nose.** There should not be any yellow or white discharge. The fur around the nose should be dry, never wet! A runny nose and noisy breathing could mean that the rabbit has snuffles. Snuffles is a serious disease that cannot be cured.



**Discharge in nostrils and wet fur below nose**

- 4. Check the teeth** to be sure that there are none missing. The teeth should be straight and a normal length. Watch out for upper and lower teeth that do not meet properly. Malocclusion (mal-o-clue-shun) is the proper word to describe teeth that do not grow properly.



**Teeth are overgrown and deformed**



**Correct bite**

- 5. Check the front paws** of the rabbit to make sure that they are clean and dry. A rabbit with runny eyes or nose will rub its front feet on its face. Its front paws will then become wet. This is a common symptom of snuffles.

**A rabbit with 'snuffles' may have wet front feet from rubbing at its eyes and nose**

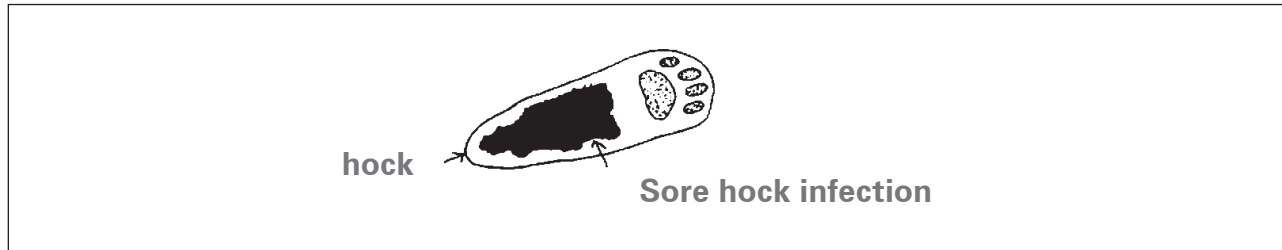


- 6. Check the rabbit's front and rear feet for broken or missing toenails.** Missing toenails are a disqualification at a show. Be sure that the nails are the correct color for your breed of rabbit.

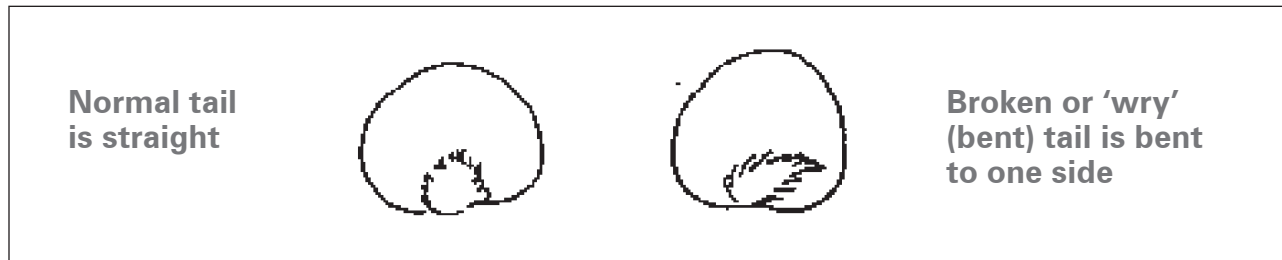


**Watch out for missing or broken off toenails or toenails of wrong color for breed (if you wish to show your rabbit).**

7. **Check the bottoms of the feet for sores.** Sores on the bottoms of the back feet and legs are called sore hocks. This is caused by poor hair covering and from being kept in an unclean cage.



8. **Check to see that the tail is normal** and not bent, broken or missing.

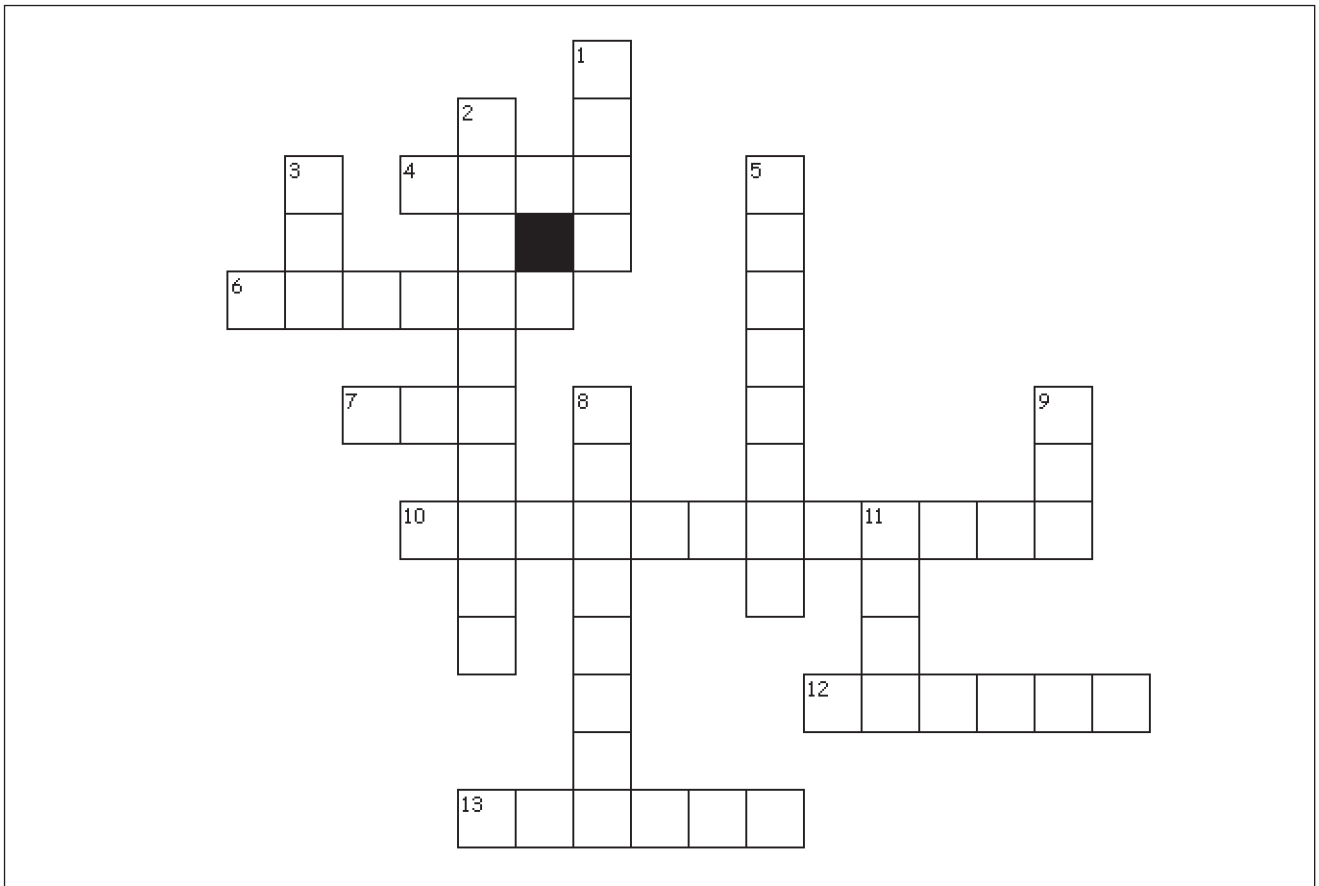


9. Turn the rabbit onto its back and **check to see if it is the sex you want.** Check that there are no sores or other skin irritations around the reproductive organs.
10. **Check that the rabbit's coloring, coat type, nails, eyes, etc. conform to the breed standard** (if you want a particular breed of rabbit for show).

## LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

Just for fun, do a search on the internet and see what kinds of pictures and information you can find on these breeds. It might be fun to start a scrapbook of pictures and facts about rabbits to help you learn about the different types and how to care for them.

## ROWDY RABBITS

**ACROSS**

4. The larger breeds are kept for \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The eyes should be clean, shiny and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The ears of your rabbit can get very tiny bugs in them called \_\_\_\_ mites.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ is the proper word to describe teeth that do not grow properly.
12. The Standard Chinchilla is an example of a \_\_\_\_\_ breed.
13. English and French \_\_\_\_\_ rabbits have very long, soft woolly coats.

**DOWN**

1. Small breed rabbits make the best \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ Dwarf is an example of a small breed rabbit.
3. The medium breeds are often kept for their \_\_\_\_\_.
5. When looking at a rabbit you would like to buy you should make sure it has no \_\_\_\_\_ missing or broken off.
8. Long haired rabbits require special \_\_\_\_\_.
9. When you find a rabbit you wish to buy you should do the "\_\_\_\_ Point Inspection."
11. When rabbits are kept in a dirty cage they will get \_\_\_\_\_ hocks or sores on the bottoms of the back feet or legs.

## SOLUTIONS!

### ROWDY RABBITS

#### ACROSS

4. The larger breeds are kept for **meat**.
6. The eyes should be clean, shiny and **bright** .
7. The ears of your rabbit can get very tiny bugs in them called **ear** mites.
10. **Malocclusion** is the proper word to describe teeth that do not grow properly.
12. The Standard Chinchilla is an example of a **medium** breed.
13. English and French **Angora** rabbits have very long, soft woolly coats.

#### DOWN

1. Small breed rabbits make the best **pets**.
2. The **Netherland Dwarf** is an example of a small breed rabbit.
3. The medium breeds are often kept for their **fur**.
5. When looking at a rabbit you would like to buy you should make sure it has no **toenails** missing or broken off.
8. Long haired rabbits require special **grooming**.
9. When you find a rabbit you wish to buy you should do the "**Ten** Point Inspection".
11. When rabbits are kept in a dirty cage they will get **sore** hocks or sores on the bottoms of the back feet or legs.

## MORE! MORE! MORE!

There are many resources available through the Alberta 4-H Branch related to the 4-H Rabbit Project. Talk to your leader or Regional 4-H Specialist to have a look at some of them.

## RESOURCES USED TO CREATE THIS MODULE

Information to create this module was obtained from:

1. Alberta Agriculture 4-H Publication – 4-H-2000-91 SE
2. [www.puzzlemaker.com](http://www.puzzlemaker.com)