

## 4-H Companion Animal Club

### What to expect?

- I want the kids to learn and practice responsibilities in caring for a pet in a fun way! This includes the needs of a pet like feeding, grooming, veterinarian visits, training, and just general love and care.
- Secondly, I want the kids to get into a habit of ethics and budgeting. Owning a pet is not cheap. Practicing money management can be taught in this club by doing household chores, saving allowances, saving change, buying a piggy bank and etc. that they can use to purchase items and services for their pet.
- We will discuss selecting your companion animal and researching why or why not they will pick this animal as their pet to care for.
- We will discuss maintaining companion animals including housing, animal environment, sanitation, disaster plans, veterinarian care and euthanasia.
- I want the kids to learn about different breeds/classifications of companion animals. We will discuss the different characteristics of all the many breeds of pets there are. From learning this we can hopefully take trips to different major dog shows and identify these breeds.
- We will learn the importance of keeping an accurate record of everything your pet has had like vaccines, medication, and surgeries. This will also teach the kids more responsibility.
- We will take trips to different animal hospitals, humane societies, and shelters where the kids can get a close up look at everything we have discussed.
- I expect the parents to feel more comfortable in having a pet or potentially buying their child a pet.
- Most of all we will have fun and build our sportsmanship!