



4-H REPTILE PROJECT



The 4-H reptiles project helps you explore what kind of reptile fits into your family's lifestyle and how to be an excellent caretaker of your lizards, snakes, turtles, or tortoises.

- Identify different reptile species and their characteristics.
- Learn about the selection, care, needs of reptiles and basic principles of reptile behavior.
- Demonstrate care and management in feeding, handling, grooming, and fitting/showing.
- Explore health regulations, first aid, and simple treatments for ailments.
- Learn and practice animal ownership responsibilities.

4-H THRIVE

Help Youth:

Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth explore what they love about animals.

Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to help them reach higher levels of success.

Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

Goal Selection: Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.

Pursue Strategies: Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.

Shift Gears: Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek help from others. What are youth going to do when things get in their way?

Reflect

Ask project members how taking care of an animal can make them more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their character, or establish connections.

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Gather information and determine the best reptile for your family.
- Learn about proper care, grooming, and feeding of your reptile.
- Create a plan to prevent your reptile from getting lost and/or finding it.
- Purchase and use appropriate grooming equipment and techniques.
- Compare prices to shop for setting up a terrarium.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Prepare for participation in a reptile show.
- Make a decision about breeding or not breeding your reptile.
- Compare labels on reptile foods to make an informed decision on content and price.
- Keep a diary of your reptile's health and eating habits.
- Learn to identify parts of your reptile for conversations with your vet.
- Practice appropriate training for your reptile.

Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Develop a business plan for a reptile care or sitting business.
- Assess careers related to reptile and the reptile business.
- Help a friend make a decision about reptile ownership.
- Research diseases in reptiles.
- Identify symptoms and a course of action for a disease in your reptile.
- Do a presentation on how reptiles affect the environment and humans.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.



Expand Your Experiences!

Science, Engineering, and Technology

- Research nutritional needs of your reptile(s) and compare to needs of other animals.
- Explore the need for bio-security measures when handling reptiles.
- Create a poster on the anatomy of your reptile, and the difference between hot and cold blooded animals.

Healthy Living

- Discuss the necessity of washing your hands before and after handling your reptile.
- Discuss your reptile's life expectancy, what to look for when they get older, and how you might feel when they die.
- Create a display or skit on rules reptile safety.

Citizenship

- Use the confidence obtained through shows and expos in all aspects of life.
- Use your animal as therapy for sick and disadvantage individuals.
- Use showing/raising your reptile(s) as a cultural exchange with other nations.
- Create a global map of the origins of a variety of reptile species.

Leadership

- Teach others the importance of caring for another animal at a community or club event.
- Become a role model for others by taking the position of junior/teen leader.

Resources

- American Red Cross Pet First Aid/ CPR
www.redcross.org/pets
- Service Animal
[//en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_animal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_animal)
- Animal Assisted Therapy
[//en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal-assisted_therapy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal-assisted_therapy)
- Healthy pets
www.cdc.gov/healthypets
[//vetmed.illinois.edu/pet_columns](http://vetmed.illinois.edu/pet_columns)
www.avma.org/firstaid/procedures.asp
- California State Fair
www.bigfun.org

Connections & Events

Presentation Days – Share what you've learned with others through a reptile related presentation.

Field Days – During these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.

County & State Fair - Enter your animal(s) and show the judge what you have learned!

Contact your county 4-H office to determine additional opportunities available.

Curriculum

- Youth Development through Veterinary Science
http://www.ca4h.org/Projects/Curriculum/FREE/Vetinary_Medicine/
<http://www.4-hmall.org/Catalog/ProductDetails.aspx?ProductId=06374>
- Pet Pals Level 1 (4H 563A) -
- Scurrying Ahead Level 2 (4H 563B)
- Scaling the Heights Level 3 (4H 563C)

4-H Record Book

4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their personal experiences, learning and development.

4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit www.ca4h.org/4hbook.

The UC 4-H Youth Development Program does not endorse, warrant, or otherwise take responsibility for the contents of unofficial sites.

