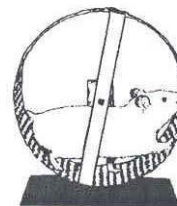


SMALL ANIMALS ESSAY CONTEST



Contact Person: Nancy Dreschel, (814) 863-4197

Purposes:

This event is designed to:

1. Recognize achievement among 4-H members with small animal projects.
2. Encourage 4-H members with small animal projects to evaluate and describe on paper the subject matter knowledge and skills, life skills, responsibilities and maturity gained by working with their small animals.
3. Offer a recognition opportunity for younger 4-H members as well as older members.

Objectives:

1. Youth will improve their knowledge and skills by participating in 4-H dog, rabbit, poultry, and pet care projects.
2. Youth will improve their thinking and written communication skills.
3. Youth will share what they have learned and accomplished with others.

Eligibility:

1. Contestants must have passed their 8th birthday and must not have reached their 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current year.
2. Contestants must be 4-H members enrolled in a dog, rabbit, pet care, or poultry (not including school enrichment embryology) project during the current year.
3. If the member's project is pet care, the pet must be a small animal. Examples of appropriate pets are cats, dogs, rabbits, caviars (guinea pigs), hamsters, gerbils, rats, mice, birds, tropical fish, turtles, and snakes. Pet care projects involving large animals (horses, dairy or beef cattle, goats, sheep, swine, llamas, etc.) do not qualify.
4. Counties are not limited in the number of entries they may submit. Counties may wish to conduct a county program to select outstanding essays to enter in the state contest.
5. Entries must be approved and submitted for competition by the county 4-H coordinator, who will verify the member's age and enrollment in a small animal project. Entries not following this procedure will not be judged.

Contest Organization and Content:

1. Entries will be judged in three divisions: ages 8 to 10, 11 to 13, and 14 to 18 as of January 1 of the current year.
2. Essays should be entitled "What I Have Learned in My 4-H Small Animal Project."
3. Essays will be limited to 500 words.
4. Essays may be typed or handwritten.
5. The 4-H member's name, age, county, and complete mailing address must be clearly written on each essay. A statement from the 4-H coordinator verifying the member's age and eligibility must accompany the essay.
6. Four-H members should send their entries to their county extension office. Entries from a county should be mailed to **Phil Hoy, 116 Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802-2601 by July 1 of current year.**
7. Winners will be announced at the Awards Assembly during Penn State 4-H Achievement Days. Entries will be available for pickup at the Headquarters desk following the assembly.

Scoring:

Entries in each division will be scored by a panel of judges according to the published scoring guidelines.

Item Points

Description of specific animal care and life skills and knowledge learned and practiced. 25

The relation and application of these skills to 4-H'ers behavior in life. 25

The responsibilities assumed in the care of the animals. 25

Community service, leadership, and citizenship responsibilities assumed through the project. 15

Creativity, grammar, neatness, etc. 10

Total 100

Awards:

1. Judges will select first, second and third place winners and as many "honorable mention" winners as they wish in each age division.
2. Merit ribbons will be awarded to all participants.