4-H Cavy Project Record Book
Kent County 4-H Program

Name: _____________________________________________

4-H Age (age on Jan 1 of current year): _______ # of years in cavy project: _______

4-H Club: ________________________________

4-H Leader: ________________________________

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Kent County 4-H Cavy Program Project Guidelines

Welcome to the 4-H cavy project. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the care and maintenance involved in owning a cavy. Keeping good records is an important part of your 4-H experience. Accurate records will educate others about the progress you’ve made with your project, and will also help you to learn more about your cavy.

As part of this project, you are required to complete this record book. Every exhibitor is responsible for completing this record book in its entirety and to the best of his/her ability in order to be eligible to participate in this year’s Kent County Youth Fair. The Notebook Requirements that you will complete will depend on the number of years you’ve spent in this particular project area. This record book will also help you prepare for questions that will be asked during cavy showmanship at the fair.

If you have any questions regarding the 4-H cavy project or completing this record book:

- Ask your 4-H club project or teen leaders
- Many answers can be found in the current Standard of Perfection and the Official Guide to Raising Better Rabbits and Cavies.
- Borrow resources, books, etc from Kent/MSU Extension
- Visit websites such as the American Cavy Breeders Association or other reputable websites pertaining to your area of interest.

Cavy Project Book Requirements

The record book must be completed and submitted to the Kent County Fairgrounds office by the last Friday in June of the current year for judging. The record book should be displayed in your club’s booth during the week of fair.

The current year’s record book must be submitted in a sliding bar report recover or a pocket portfolio with fasteners. No three-ring binders or individual page protectors please.

Include current year only. There will be point deductions for failure to follow these guidelines.

Each exhibitor must complete the minimum number of Notebook Requirements for their appropriate years in project. Additional Notebook Requirements may be completed at the exhibitor’s discretion, with each extra credit topic being worth up to an additional 10 points according to quality and completeness.
General Questions

1. What breed is your cavy?

2. What variety is your cavy?

3. What color group does your cavy belong to?

4. What are the complete weight ranges for each class according to the Standard of Perfection?

5. Name the 5 cavy breeds that also come in satin:

6. What vitamin does a cavy require as part of its daily diet because it cannot be stored in its body? Name 3 good sources of this vitamin:

7. Name 3 veggies a cavy shouldn’t have, and why:

8. How many toes should be on each front foot? Each back foot?

9. How many breeds are currently recognized by the ARBA?

10. What respiratory illness is transmittable from humans to cavies?
1st year – Choose a minimum of 3 topics below – include these in your Cavy Record Book

1. Using a picture or diagram, label the major external parts of the cavy in your own handwriting.
2. Write a description of at least 5 responsibilities of cavy ownership, and explain why each one is important.
3. Describe the proper process of grooming your cavy according to its breed/hair type.
4. Choose 3 showmanship steps, explain how to perform them, and why they’re important.
5. List and describe the 5 step process of handling a cavy.
6. Describe the process of wrapping a long-haired cavy’s hair.

2nd year – Choose a minimum of 3 topics below – include these in your Cavy Record Book

1. Write a detailed report on the origin and history of the cavy. *Minimum 300 words*
2. Describe the important characteristics of three different breeds of cavies, including body type, hair type, breed standard, and uses.
3. Define “disqualification” and give three examples.
4. Make a list of five ways to prevent disease in your caviary and tell why each one is important.
5. Define a common disease, and tell about the cause, symptoms, treatment, and prevention.
6. Complete a report on sportsmanship, appropriate dress and conduct for cavy showmanship. *Minimum 300 words*
7. Describe your cavy’s housing, and all equipment you use. Include the type of bedding used, and why it’s important to keep a cavy on a solid floor instead of a wire one.

3rd year – Choose a minimum of 3 topics below – include these in your Cavy Record Book

1. List and describe the method for registering a cavy with the ARBA.
2. Paste an ingredient label from your cavy’s food on a separate sheet, and choose 3 nutrients or ingredients and tell why each is important.
3. Choose one external parasite that can affect cavies, explain how it is transmitted, the signs/symptoms, treatment, and prevention.
4. Name and describe 3 disqualifications pertaining to the coat/hair of a cavy.
5. Draw and label the skeleton of a cavy.
6. Describe the process of tagging a cavy’s ear for identification.
7. Describe pregnancy toxemia, including the symptoms, treatment and prevention.
4th year – Choose a minimum of 3 topics below – include these in your Cavy Record Book

1. Describe and draw a diagram of your rabbit hutch/cage as well as other equipment you use in your project. Include a photograph with your explanation.

2. Write a report on the teeth of a cavy, including types of teeth, growth, and what to do in case a tooth is broken.

3. Select a breed and write a report on its history and development, as well as the standard for that particular breed. Minimum 500 words

4. Describe the breeding techniques used in cavies, beginning with the heat cycle all the way through birth.

5. Determine the scientific order and family classification of cavies and describe why they fit into those categories. List 3 close relatives.

6. Explain the process a pup goes through from birth through weaning, including timeframe and feeding requirements.

7. Name 3 conditions that can affect the eyes of a cavy, including causes, symptoms, treatment, and prevention.

5th year – Choose a minimum of 3 topics below – include these in your Cavy Record Book

1. List and describe in detail three uses for cavies.

2. Discuss the home veterinary care items it is important to keep on hand for your cavies, and how each item is used.

3. Discuss the process involved in having your cavy become a registered Grand Champion.

4. Describe the process involved in getting a new breed accepted by the ARBA.

5. Draw a diagram of an Abyssinian cavy, and include the proper placement and number of rosettes according to the Standard of Perfection.

6. Keep a record of your income and expenses for the year and include these in your notebook.

6th year – Choose a minimum of 3 topics below – include these in your Cavy Record Book

1. Describe the process and requirements of becoming an ARBA Cavy Registrar and then an ARBA Cavy Judge.

2. Write a report on the history of the ARBA and tell why it is important. Minimum 300 words

3. List six differences between rabbits and cavies.

4. Explain the different types of bedding used in raising cavies, and the reasons for using each type.

5. Explain the differences between satin, normal, teddy, and texel hair.

6. Describe a trip you took to a cavy show or other cavy event, and tell three important things you learned there.
7th year – Choose a minimum of 3 topics below – include these in your Cavy Record Book

1. Research and report on Vitamin C deficiency in cavies, the disease it causes, how it can be prevented, and what the signs/symptoms/treatment are.

2. What is the difference between a dominant and a recessive gene? Name 2 characteristics in cavies that are controlled by each type of gene.

3. Describe in detail the 2 accepted methods for turning a cavy onto it’s back during showmanship. Include pictures of you and your cavy demonstrating these methods.

4. List at least 5 items that you would bring to a cavy show and why each item is important.

5. Write a report on 3 diseases/disorders of the foot including cause, symptoms, treatment and prevention. Minimum 300 words

6. Name three diseases that affect the respiratory system. Describe the causes, symptoms, treatment and prevention of each.

8th & 9th year – Choose a minimum of 2 topics below – include these in your Cavy Record Book

1. Attend an ARBA or 4-H sanctioned cavy show and serve as a writer. Describe the process and any challenges or observations.

2. Attend a 4-H cavy development committee meeting and write a report about what was discussed, any suggestions or input you gave, and what you learned.

3. Analyze the differences between the rabbit and cavy showmanship processes.

4. Attend a state rabbit and cavy workshop and write a report on how the information gained at the workshop can be used in your community.

5. Design and draw an efficient caviary for 20+ cavies. Label clearly and tell why you chose each piece of equipment.

6. Select a variety and discuss the genetics involved in producing that variety.

7. Attend Exploration Days including at least one cavy-related workshop, and write a one-page report on what you learned.

10th & 11th year – Choose a minimum of 2 topics below – include these in your Cavy Record Book

1. Describe the proper method for processing a cavy for human consumption.

2. Serve as a year-long mentor to a novice or explorer exhibitor, and write a one-page story about your experience.

3. Report on cavy obesity and the health conditions it can cause. Minimum 300 words
4. Interview a local veterinarian regarding what he/she thinks is the biggest challenge to overcome when raising cavies, and write a one-page report on your experience. Include the veterinarian’s name and contact information in your report.

5. With a show superintendent’s permission, serve under a judge as a ramrod for the judging of at least one breed. Write a one-page story detailing what you’ve learned about the judging process.

6. Compete in at least 3 events at the Michigan State Rabbit and Cavy Expo, and write a one-page report about your experience. Include pictures.

7. Prepare and deliver a presentation to your club regarding an important aspect of raising and/or showing cavies. Use visual aids and demonstrations to aid in the effectiveness of your delivery. Write a one-page summary about your topic and include pictures of your demonstration.
My Personal Story for My Current Year in 4-H

4-H is a year-round experience. Throughout the year of your project, you will learn a lot! Please write a summary of your experiences for the current 4-H project year. You may write about how you have cared for your animal, genetics or breeding experiments, ARBA or 4-H show experiences, participation in volunteer activities with your cavy, unusual happenings, challenges and triumphs. Be creative, this is your story.— take pride!

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