Place a photo of you and your cavy here

Name: ________________________________________________

4-H Age (age on Jan 1 of current year): ______ Number of years in project: _____

4-H Club: ____________________________________________

4-H Mentor: __________________________________________

MSU is an affirmative action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.
Information for 4-H Explorers and their Families

Welcome to the 4-H cavy project. The 4-H cavy project is a wonderful project to learn about the care and maintenance of having a small pet, while gaining valuable life skills. Keeping good records is an important part of your 4-H work. Accurate records will tell others about your work and progress and will also help guide learning about the project.

As part of this project, youth will be required to fill out the project book pages for their 4-H age (the child’s age on January 1 of the current year—see the top right of each page) prior to participating at the Kent County Youth Fair. This record book will also help youth prepare for questions that will be asked during cavy showmanship or other cavy educational events. Parents are encouraged to help their child read and process the questions and activities throughout this book. Please remember this book is the project of the youth member.

Explorer/Cloverbud books are not graded for accuracy, but rather for completion.

If your family has any questions about the 4H rabbit project or completing this record book:

- Ask your 4-H club project or teen leaders/mentors
- Visit a local rabbit show to speak with experienced breeders or other youth involved in the project
- Contact the Kent County MSU Extension/4-H staff to obtain resources for your project
- Call the rabbit/cavy superintendent for the Kent County Youth Fair
- Read e-mail updates from the Kent County 4-H Developmental Committee
- Borrow resources such as rabbit books, CD-ROMs, or rabbit Learning Lab from Kent/MSU Extension
- Visit websites such as the American Cavy Breeders Association or other reputable websites pertaining to your area or interest

4-H Parent or Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian Name(s): ___________________________________________________________

Street Address: ____________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________________________________________________________ Zip: ______________

Phone Number: _____________________________________________________________________

E-mail: ___________________________________________________________________________
Explorer Cavy Project Summary

My cavy’s name is: ____________________________________________

My cavy’s favorite thing to do is: ________________________________

A boy cavy is called a boar. My cavy is a: (Check One)
A girl cavy is called a sow. ______ Boar
________ Sow
________ I’m not sure

My favorite part about my 4-H cavy project was: __________________

My least favorite part about my 4-H cavy project was: ________________

I attended __________ (number) 4-H club meetings this year.

Draw a picture of your cavy
Explorer Cavy Project Summary

My cavy’s breed & variety: ________________________________________________

Where does your cavy live? Tell about his or her house. _____________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

What was the most important thing you learned in 4-H this year?
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

My favorite part about my 4-H cavy project was: __________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

My least favorite part about my 4-H cavy project was: ____________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

I attended __________ (number) 4-H club meetings this year.

Draw a picture of your cavy
Cavy Breeds

Color and identify the breeds of cavies.

To find the breeds, you may use American Rabbit Breeder’s *Standard of Perfection*, or get help from your 4-H leader or 4-H mentor.

This breed has a smooth coat that comes in a large variety of colors and patterns.

**What is this breed?**

This breed has swirls in their hair called *rosettes*.

**What is this breed?**

Which breed do you have? ____________________________________________

What color is your cavy? ____________________________________________
What does not belong? One word in each sentence does not belong. Can you figure it out? Cross out the word that does not fit.

Example: Cavies need . . . Food, air, and chocolate.

1. Cavies have . . . ears, beaks, feet, and teeth.
2. Cavies can eat . . . carrots, spinach, metal, and parsley.
3. My cavy should not eat . . . cheese, apples, or oranges.
4. Vegetables that I feed my cavy are . . . fresh, wilted, and clean.
5. Teeth, eyes and toenails continue to grow throughout a cavy’s life.

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate word.

1. My cavy always needs clean, fresh ________________ to drink.
2. I make sure my cavy has _____________ and water every day.
3. Cavies have _______ toes on their front feet.
4. I clean my cavy’s cage ________ times per __________.

Cut and paste pictures or draw the equipment that you use for your cavy. Add labels to each piece of equipment. You may add additional pages.
Cavy Families and Age Groups

A pedigree is a record of a cavy’s family. We sometimes call this a family tree. Cavy breeders use charts like these to track which cavy belongs to which family. A cavy’s pedigree may also include:

1. Ear Tag Number
2. Weight
3. Awards from cavy shows
4. Cage Number
5. Birthdate
6. Cavy Breeder’s club or association registration numbers

Fill in the information that you know.

**Your Cavy’s Family**

- Cavy’s Father’s Name
- Cavy’s Father’s Color
- Your Cavy’s Name
- Your Cavy’s Color
- Cavy’s Mother’s Name
- Cavy’s Mother’s Color

**Your Family**

- Your Father’s Name
- Your Father’s Hair Color
- Your Name
- Your Hair Color
- Your Mother’s Name
- Your Mother’s Hair Color

Tell what you know about each cavy age group in the box.
The American Rabbit Breeder’s *Standard of Perfection* is a good resource.
Rabbit Health and Nutrition

To keep my cavy healthy, I need to make sure that I ....

(Put an X next to all that apply to keep your cavy healthy.)

____ Give fresh water daily
____ Provide clean bedding and clean cage space
____ Check for and treat for lice or mites
____ Give pregnant/nursing sows more water
____ Ensure my cavy is warm enough
____ Provide a source for Vitamin C
____ Check for signs of disease
____ Block the cage from fresh air
____ Keep the cage free from pests
____ Bathe and trim toenails

True or False: Circle the best answers.

1. Cavies cannot get parasites. True False
2. A cavy’s water bottle needs to be washed weekly. True False
3. A cavy’s teeth will continue to grow. True False
4. A cavy’s food dish does not need to be cleaned. True False
5. It is not important for cavies to eat vegetables. True False
6. It is safe to feed wet or moldy feed to my cavy. True False
7. Cavies do not need exercise. True False
8. Cavy identification tags are important. True False
9. White toenails on a black cavy are a disqualification. True False
10. Cavies can catch a cold. True False

List three reasons why domestic cavies live in cages.

1.____________________________________________________________________
2.____________________________________________________________________
3.____________________________________________________________________
Explorer Cavy Project Story

Tell about the most important thing you learned during your cavy project this year.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Tell what you want to learn more about in the cavy project and why.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________