



**This section was written by M. Michele Thorp/ Louise Christofferson, and Penny Deggelman,
4-H Leaders, Lane County, Alden Hilliker, Former Extension Specialist, 4-H & Youth,
in cooperation with the 4-H Development Committee for Small Animal Projects.
Edited by Heather Bruce, Snohomish County 4-H Cavy Program Leader, Washington State.**

OBJECTIVES:

- To make your cavy project more interesting.
- Help you learn more about cavies.
- Help you develop greater skills with cavies
- Provide you with new, enjoyable experiences.
- Allow you to advance according to your ability, interest, and willingness to work.
- Provide you recognition for work well done.

The 4-H Cavy Advancement Program is an important part of your cavy project. It should be included as a part of your project records. Most of the answers to the questions asked in the advancement program can be found in your project manual. For information about your project, you will need to study other pamphlets and books.

As you complete each option, fill in the date and have your leader or parent initial it. When you have completed the required number of options for a step, tell your leader you are ready to be tested to qualify for that step. You will be asked questions on the work you have done. When each step is completed, you will receive an attractive advancement certificate from your leader.

Follow through the steps in consecutive order. You can do options for higher steps while you are working on a lower step, but you cannot qualify for the higher step until you have qualified for all preceding steps.

Substitutions for skill and personal development options can be made with the approval of your club leader.



STUDY EACH OPTION CAREFULLY. GOOD LUCK!

STEP ONE

This is the first step in the 4-H Cavy Advancement Program. When you have completed ten skill options and three personal development options, you qualify to complete Step 1.

Skill Options	Date Passed	Approved By
1. Identify, describe, and tell the important characteristics of three breeds of cavies.	_____	_____
2. Name, point out, and spell the following parts: shoulders, buck, rump, hip, nose, crown, chest, toes, and teeth.	_____	_____
3. Describe the following undesirable characteristics of cavies: pointy head, excessive flab, pear-shaped body, flat crown, buck teeth, and broken teeth.	_____	_____
4. Describe the following: registered, pure-bred, crossbred, parasite, pedigree, and wean.	_____	_____
5. Explain what feeds are important for cavies. What fresh vegetables should you not give to cavies? Why?	_____	_____
6. Demonstrate you are willing to provide fresh water, feed, vitamin C, and daily care for your cavy.	_____	_____
7. Keep a record of your cavy project including expenses and income.	_____	_____
8. Describe a suitable cage for your cavy and how to set it up for use.	_____	_____
9. Describe what you might do for your cavy's protection during extremely hot or cold weather.	_____	_____
10. What does a baby cavy look like and act like when it is first born.	_____	_____
11. Show and tell how to lift, hold, and carry a cavy.	_____	_____
12. Make a report of your breed of cavy.	_____	_____

Personal Development Options (Page 60)

1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____

_____ is qualified and has completed all requirements
 Name of 4-H Member Age
 for Step 1 of the 4-H Cavy Advancement Program on ____ / ____ / ____ .
 Date

Approved by _____
 Advancement Chair Club Leader

STEP TWO

This is the second step in the 4-H Cavy Advancement Program. When you have completed ten skill options and three personal development options, you qualify to complete Step 2.

Skill Options	Date Passed	Approved By
1. Name and describe three additional breeds of cavy.		
2. Build a suitable carrying cage, feeder, or some other cavy equipment.		
3. Demonstrate how to tell the sex of a young cavy at approximately three weeks of age.		
4. Explain how to breed a boar and sow (length of time together, whether to remove boar during kindling, etc.)		
5. Take part in a 4-H Cavy Judging contest.		
6. Take part in a 4-H Cavy Showmanship contest.		
7. Describe the following disease/ailments and their remedies: lice, mites, colds, bumblefoot, diarrhea, salmonella, and broken teeth.		
8. Describe the following undesirable conditions in a cavy: buck teeth, pea eye, coat faults, torn ears, eye circles, non-matching color in ears, feet, and toes.		
9. Describe the desirable characteristics of your cavy's ears, type, crown, head, and eyes.		
10. Start a library on cavy literature: books, magazines, bulletins, and 4-H material.		
11. Explain the three major uses of a cavy.		
12. Do a report on the history of the cavy.		

Personal Development Options (Page 60)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

_____ is qualified and has completed all requirements
 Name of 4-H Member Age
 for Step 2 of the 4-H Cavy Advancement Program on _____ / _____ / _____ .
 Date

Approved by _____ Advancement Chair _____ Club Leader

STEP THREE

This is the third step in the 4-H Cavy Advancement Program. When you have completed ten skill options and three personal development options, you qualify to complete Step 3.

Skill Options	Date Passed	Approved By
1. Keep a sow production record through at least three litters.		
2. Explain breeding, heat period, conception, gestation, and kindling or parturition.		
3. Explain why cavies need fresh vitamin C, and how much they need daily. Name at least five different sources of vitamin C for cavies. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of each source.		
4. What are several measures you can take to avoid problems in pregnancy and birth?		
5. What is the difference between fur and hair?		
6. Invite and introduce a guest speaker to one of your club meetings—a local cavy breeder, a feed dealer, a judge, a veterinarian, etc.		
7. Explain or describe three more diseases of cavies and their treatment.		
8. Describe fully “type” in a cavy.		
9. What are “angel wings”? Where and how do they show up?		
10. What is “condition” in a cavy? Tell what measures you can take to improve it in your cavies.		
11. Cavies belong to the order Rodentia (rodents). Draw a picture or write a report on the cavy’s relationship to its rodent relatives.		
Personal Development Options (Page 60)		
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		

_____ is qualified and has completed all requirements
 Name of 4-H Member Age
 for Step 3 of the 4-H Cavy Advancement Program on ____/____/____ .
 Date

Approved by _____ Advancement Chair _____ Club Leader

STEP FOUR

When you complete eight skill options and six personal development options, you qualify to complete Step 4.

Skill Options	Date Passed	Approved By
1. Do a demonstration at your club on how to prepare and enter a cavy at an ACBA Open Show.	_____	_____
2. Attend, and if possible, enter your cavy in an ACBA Open Show.	_____	_____
3. Name and explain three characteristics or conditions of cavies due to inheritance and three due to environment (feed/management).	_____	_____
4. Make a bibliography of your cavy library. Add names and addresses of local and national cavy support groups to it.	_____	_____
5. What are the symptoms of toxemia? What is toxemia and what causes it? How is it prevented?	_____	_____
6. Give three examples of breed characteristics that are genetically dominant. Give three that are recessive.	_____	_____
7. Report to your club on the uses of cavies in laboratory work.	_____	_____
8. Explain Mendel's Basic Law in Genetics using diagrams.	_____	_____
9. Keep a one- or two-year written and pictorial record of your cavy's development. A monthly diary is encouraged.	_____	_____
10. Explain the range of colors in cavies due to genetic dominance. Explain "dilution" of color and give examples.	_____	_____
11. Ear tag a cavy.	_____	_____
12. Do a report on the marketing of cavies. Include financial reports.	_____	_____
13. Serve as Teen Program Assistant at the county level.	_____	_____
14. Design an educational game.	_____	_____

Personal Development Options (Page 60)

1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____

_____ is qualified and has completed all requirements
 Name of 4-H Member Age
 for Step 4 of the 4-H Cavy Advancement Program on ____ / ____ / ____ .
 Date

Approved by _____
 Advancement Chair Club Leader

STEP FIVE

When you complete eight skill options and six personal development options, you qualify to complete Step 5.

Skill Options

1. Learn how to register a cavy. Explain the advantages of belonging to the ACBA and ARBA.
2. Do a report on the breeding and potential outcome of cavies with lethal genetic factors.
3. Select a breed or variety of cavy that requires precise or preferred markings for ACBA showing. Keep accurate written and pictorial records on the breeding stock for three generations as to their markings.
4. Make a written and pictorial account of your cavy's strengths and weaknesses. Choose a mate for your cavy whose strengths may genetically offset the weaknesses of your cavy. Record the results of their breeding in at least two litters. Compare and contrast the two litters.
5. Select three different feed programs for three groups of cavies for a specific period of time (i.e., three mos.). Keep records of the weight and condition of flesh, hair, eyes, etc., of each cavy. Keep notes of your observations as to activity and general health during this program.
6. Study, prepare a paper (300 words or more), and give an oral report on one or more of the following topics:
 - a. The results of options 2, 3, 4, and/or 5.
 - b. General management of cavies.
 - c. Genetics involved in breeding cavies.
 - d. Breeding, pregnancy, and kindling.
 - e. Cavy diseases, prevention and control, general sanitation.
 - f. The kinds of bedding available, advantages & disadvantages of each.
 - g. Keeping and using records as a basis for improving your 4-H Cavy project.
7. Work on developing a breed. Keep written and pictorial records on at least three generations.
8. Breed and litter specifically for sale. Record your marketing techniques and actual disposition of the litter. Include financial records.
9. Fulfill the "Breeder Project" goals.

Date Passed

Approved By

Personal Development Options (Page 60)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

_____ is qualified and has completed all requirements
 Name of 4-H Member Age
 for Step 5 of the 4-H Cavy Advancement Program on ____ / ____ / ____ .
 Date

Approved by _____
 Advancement Chair Club Leader

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS

(Choose a different option each time)

GENERAL 4-H

- A. Lead the Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge at a 4-H meeting.
- B. Lead a song or game at a 4-H meeting.
- C. Preside at a meeting of your 4-H club.
- D. *Write a news story for a local paper.
- E. *Participate in a radio or television program.
- F. *Present a demonstration or illustrated talk to your club.
- G. *Present a demonstration or illustrated talk to a group other than your 4-H club.
- H. *Serve as a host for a 4-H meeting. See that everyone is welcomed and made comfortable.
- I. *Participate in a Community Service Project.
- J. *Serve as chair of a club committee.
- K. *Participate in a judging contest.
- L. *Serve as a Junior or Teen leader.
- M. *Attend 4-H camp or serve as a camp counselor.
- N. *Develop and exhibit a science display which is related to cavy.
- O. *Make arrangements for a tour by your club.
- P. *Arrange for a film to be shown at your club meeting.
- Q. *Secure a speaker to talk at your club meeting.
- R. *Complete your 4-H records.
- S. *Get new members for your club.
- T. *Develop some of your own options with your leader's approval.

II. CAVY 4-H

- A. Serve as a superintendent, assistant superintendent, table superintendent, clerk, or show secretary at a cavy show.
- B. *Help prepare and work with your club leader on a cavy demonstration for your club.
- C. Work with some younger members of the club in improving or constructing cages or cavy equipment.
- D. Teach cavy showmanship to 4-H members.
- E. Participate in State 4-H Fair with cavy.
- F. Do a cavy presentation at your local 4-H fair.
- G. Share your cavy with a person who cannot have one, i.e., a young friend, an older shut-in, etc.

*These options may be repeated for credit in different steps.