

Virtual Companion Animal Challenge

The Virtual Companion Animal Challenge offers a variety of 4-H companion animal contests that don't require live animals, including an essay, art, and photography contests. Youth have the opportunity to display their companion animal knowledge through these contests.



Essay Contest

Age Divisions

- Junior: 8 – 10 years of age as of October 1 of the current 4-H year
- Intermediate: 11-13 years of age as of October 1 of the current 4-H year
- Senior: 14-18 years of age as of October 1 of the current 4-H year

Categories

1. **Persuasive** - The essay should argue a point on a topic related to companion animal health, welfare, or a similar subject. The essay must take a definitive side on the argument. Examples include but are not limited to:
 - Adopting vs. buying from a breeder
 - Hamsters are the best type of pet
 - Every family should have a dog
2. **Informative** - The essay should explore a subject related to companion animal health, welfare, or a similar subject. At least four different sources should be cited in the essay. Example topics include but are not limited to:
 - Caring for senior cats
 - Use of pets for therapy
 - What is the energy source for fish?

Contestants & Eligibility

1. Entrants do not need to be enrolled in the 4-H companion animal projects. However, participants must be current enrolled 4-H members.
2. Only one entry per exhibitor per category permitted.
3. All essays are to be original works of the exhibitor and relate to companion animals. A [statement of authenticity](#) must be submitted with each essay.
4. Essays must be between 100-400 for juniors, 400-700 words for intermediate entries and 700-1000 words for senior entries.
5. Essays must include the writer's name, age, and club name.
6. Essays must be typed and in 12-point font.
7. Essays, along with a [statement of authenticity](#), must be attached to the online entry form.

Submission

Save documents as .pdf or .doc files and name per below instructions. Mail to Yakima.4h@wsu.edu.

Name documents as:

- Contest-FirstName-LastName-Age-ClubName(Example: Essay-Jane-Doe-13-Fantastic Pets 4-H Club.pdf)
- StatementOfAuthenticity-Contest-FirstName-LastName (Example: StatementOfAuthenticity-Essay-Jane-Doe.pdf)

Scoring Criteria - Accuracy, Conciseness, Creativity, Logical development, Grammar