National 4-H Curriculum
BU-08148

4-H SKILLS FOR LIFE ANIMAL SERIES

LEVEL 1

Purr-fect Pals

Fun Activities for You and Your Cat

Name

County

REVIEWED & RECOMMENDED
National 4-H Curriculum

Note to the Project Helper

Congratulations! A young person has asked you to be his/her cat project helper. As a helper you are in a great position to help youth grow and develop in positive ways as they learn about cats and about themselves. You can nurture and cultivate their interest in this project by guiding their planning, helping them carry out their projects and recognizing them for a job well done.

Your Role

- Become familiar with the material in this activity guide and the *Cat Helper's Guide*
- Support youth in their efforts to set goals and complete each achievement program
- Date and initial the activities on the Cat Achievement Programs as the youth completes them
- Help them to get to know themselves, including their strengths and weaknesses
- Encourage the use of the experiential learning cycle described on this page

The Cat "Skills for Life" Series

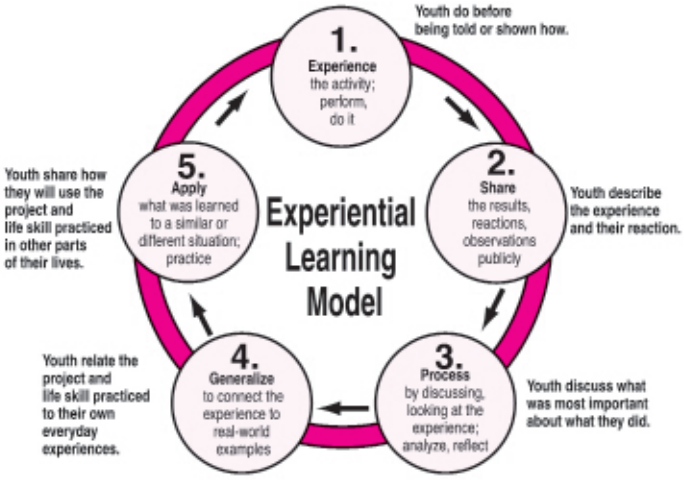
This guide, *Purr-fect Pals* is the first in the series of three for youth, which also includes Cat 2 *Climbing Up* and Cat 3 *Leaping Forward*. The three youth guides have been designed to be developmentally appropriate for grades 3–5, 6–8 and 9–12 respectively, but may be used by youth in any grade based on their project skills and expertise. The fourth piece, *Cat Helper's Guide* includes many fun and challenging group activities that can be adapted to the family, the classroom, after school child care, 4-H project groups, clubs or other groups. You'll also find helpful hints about characteristics of youth, life skill development, teaching experientially, meeting ideas, an evaluation piece, as well as answers to many of the activities in the youth guides.

National Standards

Each activity in this guide supports one or more of the national educational standards developed by several national and educational organizations. These standards are listed on the education-world web site.

Experiential Learning Model

This five-step model is included in each activity in this series. As you can see, the youth first attempt the activity alone. After the youth do as much as they can and answer the questions with the asterisks, you then meet together and discuss: What they did? What was important about what they did? How does what they did relate to their lives? And finally, how might they use the life and project skills practiced in the future? Sample questions are included following each experience. Your ability to ask additional thought-provoking questions and to clarify and expand the youth's ideas will add to the educational experience.



Pfeiffer, J.W., & Jones, J.E., "Reference Guide to Handbooks and Annuals" © 1983 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Reprinted with permission of John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Good luck in your role as project helper!

Acknowledgments

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AVMA
American Veterinary Medical Association

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For more on cats, look for these other guides in this set.

Climbing Up – Level 2 BU-08149

Chapter 1 Identification and Characteristics
- Recognizing Cat Breeds
- Six Senses
- Cat Cousins

Chapter 2 Training and Showing
- Ready, Set, Show
- Cats-ercize
- Celebrity Cats

Chapter 3 Health and Nutrition
- Purr-sonality
- A Pause for Claws
- Feline First Aid
- Checking the Label
- Special Needs = Special Diets

Chapter 4 Responsible Cat Ownership
- Me and My Shadow
- Cats on the Go
- Are You an "Innie" or an "Outie"?

Leaping Forward – Level 3 BU-08150

Chapter 1 Health and Reproduction
- All Systems Go
- Let's NOT Play Catch!
- Queen for a Day
- Your Cat's Golden Years

Chapter 2 Behavior and Showing
- Brown Eyes/Green Eyes
- Scaredy Cat
- Conducting a Cat Showmanship Clinic

Chapter 3 Social Issues
- It's the Law
- Cats, Cats and More Cats
- Animal rights: Who's Right?

Chapter 4 Business and Leadership
- Going Into Business
- Lead the Way
- Me, the Teacher
- A Role Model—WOW!

Cat Helper's Guide – BU-08151

- Youth Learning Characteristics
- Developing Life Skills
- Teaching and Learning Experientially

Chapter 1 Word Games
- Playing CATegories
- Glossary Games
- Cat Pyramid Fun

Chapter 2 Speaking Up
- Facts about Cats
- Producing a Cat Commercial
- Having Fun Presenting
- My Favorite Cat Story
- Here Kitty, Kitty, Kitty
- Picture a Cat

Chapter 3 Skill Building
- Cat Bowl Excitement
- Cat Skillathon Challenge
- Eye on Health

Chapter 4 Community Exploration
- There's No Place Like Home
- I'll Never Forget You
- Making Contact
- Protect Yourself and More

Cat Project Meeting Ideas
Answer Key: Cat 1, 2 and 3
4-H Recognition Model

Cat 1 – Purr-fect Pals

Paw Prints

Note to the Project Helper . . . . . Inside Front Cover
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Living and Learning with Your Cat

If you like learning about cats and having fun, then the Cat Project is for you! In Level 1, you will learn about being a good cat owner. What do you think you need to know about your cat? If learning about cat breeds, behavior, good health, grooming and feeding came to mind, you are right. Don't worry—if you thought of something else, you will probably find it in Level 2 or 3! Here are some of the things you'll get to do:

- Gather information about owning a cat.
- Decide on the best type of cat for your family.
- Properly groom a cat.
- Demonstrate how to pick up, hold and carry a cat.
- Communicate the procedure and benefits of spaying/neutering.
- Use body type to help you identify different breeds of cats
- Name, locate and describe at least 15 cat body parts.
- Conduct a cat hazards home survey.
- Decide which type of litter cats prefer.
- Develop a budget for keeping a cat.
- Create an up-to-date record of a cat's vaccination history.

Cat 1 Project Guidelines

- Complete the Cat-a-logue Your Knowledge evaluation BEFORE you begin doing the activities and then again AFTER you complete the Achievement Program.
- Do at least seven activities each year. Choose from the 14 main activities and the extra activities in Feline Adventures. You can also make up your own activities. Ask your project helper to initial each activity after you've completed it.
- Complete Purr-fect Pals Achievement Program within three years.
- Practice and develop the life skills of locating resources, accepting responsibility, nurturing relationships, thinking critically, being a responsible citizen, making decisions and communicating with others.
- Increase your knowledge about cats and improve skills needed to be a responsible cat owner and citizen.

Your Project Helper

Whom have you chosen to be your cat project helper? Maybe you have selected a parent or another relative, a neighbor, your club leader, a teacher, or an older friend. No matter whom you have asked, by agreeing to be your helper this special person has volunteered to give you his/her time and become an important person in your life. He or she will help you understand what you are to do and will talk over what you learn from each activity. If you need help finding resources or have any questions about the activity, ask your helper. Your helper may not always "give" you answers, but may simply guide you in the right direction so you can discover answers yourself. Make sure your helper dates and initials your Achievement Program. Remember, your helper has agreed to help you so make sure you talk to him or her if you have any questions or concerns.

My cat project helper: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

I selected him/her as my project helper because: _____

_____

Good luck with Cat 1,
Purr-fect Pals

Purr-fect Pals

Goals and Outcomes

My Cat Project Goals

Name _____

My Cat's Name_____ Breed _____

What I want to do and learn in Cat 1.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Cat Project Highlights

Date and list the exciting things you do and learn.

_____

Cat-a-logue Your Knowledge

Here's an easy way to tell if you learned something new and developed important project skills. **BEFORE** you start doing activities in this guide, indicate what you know now, and then indicate what you know **AFTER** you complete the Cat Achievement Program. You may be surprised by how much you have learned. Share the results with your helper. Begin each statement with the words "I know how to…" then circle 1 (not at all), 2 (somewhat), or 3 (to a great extent).

I know how to…	**Before**	**After**
Determine the best type of cat for my family.	1 2 3	1 2 3
Identify breeds of cats by body type.	1 2 3	1 2 3
Name, locate and describe at least 15 cat body parts.	1 2 3	1 2 3
Demonstrate how to pick up, hold and carry a cat.	1 2 3	1 2 3
Properly groom a cat.	1 2 3	1 2 3
Complete all the steps involved in cat showmanship.	1 2 3	1 2 3
Demonstrate responsible cat ownership.	1 2 3	1 2 3
Conduct a cat hazards home survey.	1 2 3	1 2 3
Select litter cats prefer.	1 2 3	1 2 3
Develop a budget for keeping a cat.	1 2 3	1 2 3
Evaluate a cat for signs of good health.	1 2 3	1 2 3
Describe traits of common cat parasites.	1 2 3	1 2 3
Create an up-to-date record of a cat's vaccination history.	1 2 3	1 2 3
Explain the procedures and benefits of spaying/neutering.	1 2 3	1 2 3

Picture of you and your cat(s).

Achievement Program

Guidelines

- Do at least seven of the ***Purr-fect Pals*** and **Feline Adventures** activities each year.
- Complete at least 21 of the ***Purr-fect Pals*** and **Feline Adventures** activities within three years to complete this achievement program and to earn your certificate.
- Have your project helper date and initial the activities as you complete and discuss them.

Purr-fect Pals Activities

	Date Completed	Helper's Initials
Chapter 1 Identification and Selection		
On the Prowl		
The Long and Short of It		
Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes		
Chapter 2 Training and Showing		
Carrying Kitty		
Cat-a-Comb		
Showing Off		
Depend On Me		
Chapter 3 Safety and Management		
Without a Scratch		
Litter for Your Critter		
Free Kitten?		
Chapter 4 Health		
Ding Dong Bell, Is Kitty Feeling Well?		
Is Something Bugging You?		
Hot Shots		
Save the Day, Neuter or Spay		

Feline ADVENTURES

Select and do any of the **Feline Adventures** activities in ***Purr-fect Pals*** or make up your own. Record the page and number of each one you complete.

Page	#	Date Completed	Helper's Initials

Write your own activity here.

Date_____ Helper's Initials_____

Write your own activity here.

Date_____ Helper's Initials_____

Write your own activity here.

Date_____ Helper's Initials_____

Explore more at
www.4-hcurriculum.org
National 4-H Curriculum

Purr-fect Pals

Completion Certificate

I certify that

_____

has completed all requirements in the
Purr-fect Pals Achievement Program
of the 4-H Cat "Skills for Life" Series.

Helper's Signature_____

Date_____

Picture of you
and your cat(s).

Chapter 1

Identification and Selection

On the Prowl

Cat Project Skill:
Selecting a cat

Life Skill:
Making decisions—gathering information

Education Standard:
NL-ENG. K-12.8
Developing research skills

Success Indicator:
Decide on the best type of cat for your family.

If you do not already have a cat, you must decide what kind of cat to get. Do you want a male or female, purebred or mixed breed, longhair or shorthair, kitten or adult cat? Each cat has its own personality and not all cats will be right for you and your family. The more thought you give to selecting the cat that is right for you, the better your cat will be suited to you and your family and the happier you both will be with each other.

Pounce!

Selecting the right cat will make you, your family and your new cat happy for many years to come. Some cats need lots of attention, others do not. Some cats need lots of grooming, others do not. There are many things to consider when making your selection. How will you decide? Read Cat Facts and other resources. List the advantages and disadvantages that you discover for the cat characteristics in the chart.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Certain Cat Characteristics

Characteristic	Advantages	Disadvantages
Adult Cat		
Kitten		
Longhair		
Shorthair		
Male		
Female		

CAT'S Meow Gender Purebred Sterilize

Many people have a cat because it chooses them, not the other way around!

Cat Chat

Meow! (share)

- What advantages and disadvantages did you discover for each of the characteristics?

Nibble On This (process)

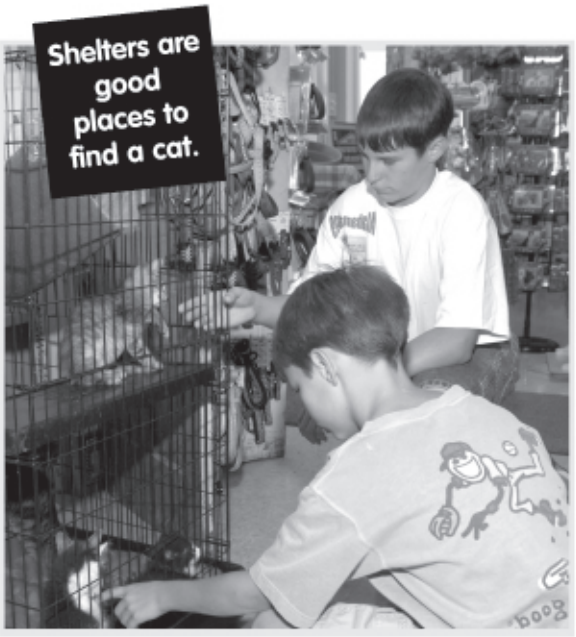
- Why is it important to know how much care and grooming different cats need?

Sharpen Your Claws (generalize)

- How do you make choices and decisions in your everyday life?

Leap Forward (apply)

- How can you use this information to help you choose your next cat?



CAT NIPS

- According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) the average cat-owning household has two cats

Activity written by Marilyn Rasmussen.

The New Cat

Kitten or Older Cat?

- Kittens are playful and fun to watch. They are easy to train and adjust to a new home and family quickly. Older cats will be quieter than kittens and already trained, but need more time to become used to their new home.

Long or Short Hair?

- Longhaired cats tend to be quiet, stay-at-home pets. Their fur needs almost daily brushing and combing. Shorthaired cats require brushing less often. Generally, shorthaired cats are active and playful. They are easier to groom than longhaired cats.

Male or Female?

- Male cats are usually more cozy and friendly, while females are generally more cautious. Males tend to be a little larger than females. Unless you are planning on breeding, you should sterilize your pet. Neutering male cats is generally less expensive than spaying females. Sterilizing usually produces a mellower, healthier animal.

Spayed/Neutered or Intact?

- If you adopt a cat that has already been spayed or neutered, you will not have to pay to have those procedures done. With a spayed female, you will not have to worry about a female coming into heat and getting pregnant. Some types of cancer are much less common in spayed cats. With a neutered male, you will not have to worry about a male spraying urine to mark his territory. Neutered males do not develop the unsightly jowls, thick skin and "stud tail" typical of tomcats.

Feline ADVENTURES

1. Interview three or four cat owners. Ask them about the six characteristics listed in the activity. Keep a chart of what people say are the advantages and disadvantages of each characteristic. Share your chart with your helper.

The Long and Short of It

Cat Project Skill:
Identifying breeds of cats

Life Skill:
Thinking Creatively—recognizing patterns and relationships

Education Standard:
NS.K-4.3 Characteristics of organisms

Success Indicator:
Identify eight breeds of cats by body type.

Have you ever thought about why some cats are long and thin and some cats are short and round? Shape and size are two characteristics that help identify a specific cat breed. Purebred cats are recognized by their different physical features, including coat color, face shape and length of hair. A cat's body type is an important characteristic that helps you recognize the breed of a cat.

Which of these cat breeds needs more brushing?

Pounce! Cats come in lots of shapes and sizes. There are so many different breeds of cats, how will you tell the difference? One clue is a cat's body type. Use books or the Internet to find the body type of each of these eight different cat breeds and then add one other characteristic of the breed.

Cat Breeds	American Shorthair	Abyssinian	Burmese	Cornish Rex
Body type				
Another characteristic				

	Manx	Scottish Fold	Siamese	Persian
Body type				
Another characteristic				

Cat Chat

Meow! (share)

- What were the different body types of the cats? What other characteristics did you find?
- Where did you find information about cat breeds?

Nibble On This (process)

- What are the differences among cat body types?

Sharpen Your Claws (generalize)

- How would you describe the shape of your cat's body?

Leap Forward (apply)

- If you could have any of these eight breeds of cat, which would you choose? Why?

CAT'S Meow
Ancestry, Temperament

CAT NIPS

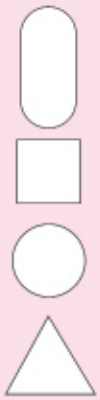
- Cats with long, lean bodies are generally more lively and friendly than cats with compact cobby bodies.

Activity written by Marilyn Rasmussen.

Resources:
The Complete Cat Book, Richard H. Gebhardt, Howell Book House, New York, 1991.

Facts — Cat Body Types

Most cats have one of three body types: cobby, moderate and foreign (or oriental). A cobby body type may be described as round, heavy, compact, boxy, short-legged or broad-chested. A foreign (oriental) body type may be described as slender, long, tubular, sleek, firmly muscled or lightly built. Moderate refers to all the breeds that are in between cobby and foreign.



Cat Breeds

Many breeds of cats have a long ancestry while other breeds are fairly new. Each pedigreed cat has been bred for certain characteristics of appearance and temperament. Cat breeds are identified by different physical characteristics, such as body form and face or head shape. They also have different temperaments, such as, being active or quiet. Purebred cats can be shown at special cat shows conducted by cat associations. These cats are judged on specific standards for each cat breed.

Pet Cats

The majority of pet cats are mixed breeds. They do not resemble the standards, such as body type, for any particular breed of cat. The cat project accepts all cats—mixed breeds and purebred cats. Mixed breeds and pet cats are judged on physical condition, cleanliness, temperament and presentation, not on specific breed standards.

Feline ADVENTURES

1. Do a survey to find which cat breeds are popular in your community. Ask five to seven cat owners what kind of cat(s) they have and why they chose this kind of cat. Share what you learned with your helper.
2. Read about the temperament or personality of different breeds of cats. Tell your helper which breed of cat you would choose based on temperament and which breed of cat you would choose based on appearance.

Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes

Cat Project Skill:
Identifying parts of a cat

Life Skill:
Communicating with others—presenting basic information

Education Standard:
NS K-4.3 Characteristics of organisms

Success Indicator:
Name, locate and describe at least 15 cat body parts.

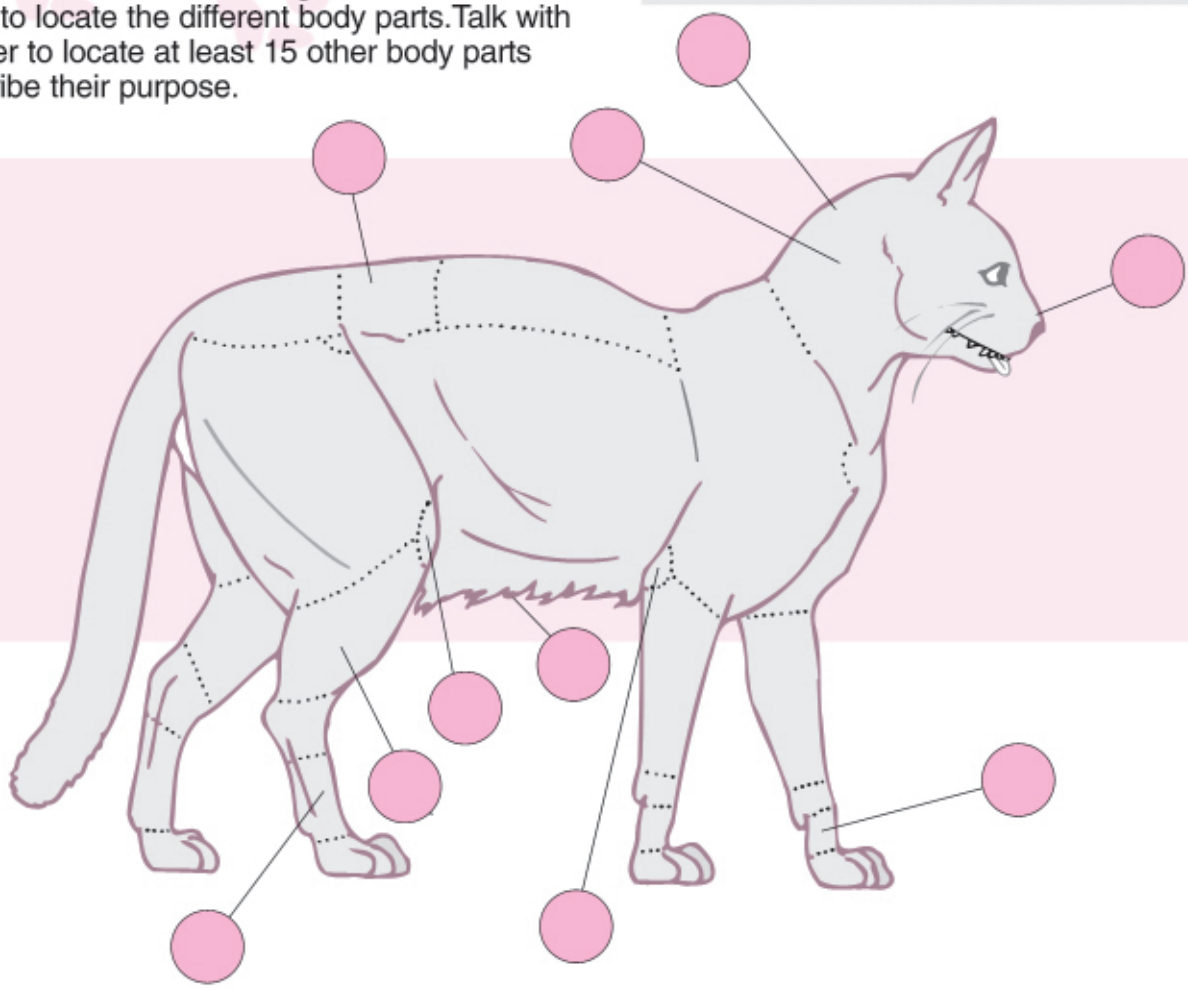
It is important for you to know the parts of your cat's body. What if your cat is injured? How will you tell the veterinarian where your cat is hurt? By knowing the body parts, you can give exact information, such as, "My cat has a cut on her knee." You can talk about your cat in everyday conversation, for example, "My cat is orange with white spots over his back, loin and ribs."

Name that body part!

Pounce!

Do you know the difference between your cat's head and shoulders, knees and toes? Look at the diagram of the cat below and try to identify the missing parts. Use the "Cat Body Parts" list on page 11 to match the correct body part to those in the cat diagram. Write the correct body part number in the circles.

After you have finished matching the numbers, use a real cat to locate the different body parts.Talk with your helper to locate at least 15 other body parts and describe their purpose.



Cat Chat

Meow! (share)

- How did you learn the body parts?
- How was using the live cat to identify body parts different from using the diagram?

Nibble On This (process)

- Why is it important to know the body parts of a cat?

Sharpen Your Claws (generalize)

- What body parts of a cat are similar to your body parts?

Leap Forward (apply)

- How can your knowledge about cat body parts help you learn about other animals?

Cat Body Parts

1. Tail
2. Rump
3. Ribs
4. Back
5. Elbow
6. Whiskers
7. Belly
8. Ear
9. Knee
10. Loin
11. Metacarpus
12. Metatarsus
13. Nape
14. Neck
15. Nose
16. Eye
17. Nose leather
18. Nostrils
19. Shank
20. Tongue
21. Shoulders
22. Chest
23. Forearm
24. Wrist
25. Toes
26. Midsection
27. Withers

CAT NIPS

- The Manx is the only cat breed that does not have a tail.
- Cats have more bones than humans have, mostly because of their tails.

Activity written by Marilyn Rasmussen and Lucinda Miller.

Body Parts

Head to Toe

- A cat's body shape helps it survive in the wild. Its small head and powerful hindquarters and back give the cat speed and an excellent sense of balance. These qualities help cats climb and walk along narrow ledges. Every part of a cat's body has a purpose. For example, the tongue is long and can scoop liquids like a spoon. The tongue also has rough areas to serve as a brush for the cat's fur. Pads are the soles of the feet. These are used to feel texture, size, shape and temperature, the way you use your fingertips.

Body Language

- Knowing the names of a cat's body parts helps you talk about your cat. If your cat becomes ill or injured, you can tell the veterinarian what part of your cat needs attention. If you enter a cat show, the judge might ask you to name and locate some of your cat's body parts. Knowing body parts also helps you describe the differences in breeds of cats. For example, a Persian cat has a boxy body, round head, small ears and a broad nose. A Siamese cat has a long body, triangular face, large pointed ears and a straight nose. Purebred cats are recognized, in part, by the shape of their body parts.

Feline ADVENTURES

1. Share with your helper five things cats can do with their bodies that dogs cannot do.