

**Sarah Evans**  
**Liberty County 4-H**  
**Companion Animal Project**

As a young child, I never played without Muffin, our family Chinese Pug, right beside me. In fact, my mom even has photos of me dressing up Muffin to be a tiny infant, and I would pretend she was my baby. I would even let Muffin join me in my secret clubhouse. Muffin must have thought I was crazy; she was such a great companion animal!

I am Sarah Evans, a Junior 4-H member from Liberty County. I have been a 4-H member for 3 years, and I plan to continue my involvement in the future. I chose the companion animals project because I am a responsible pet owner and wanted to learn more about the feeding, care, handling, and grooming of my companion animals. Currently, I own 3 exotic birds, 2 hamsters, 4 hermit crabs, and 15 tropical fish. I truly value my pets and love them dearly!

### **Main Project Work**

#### **Total Activities: 14**

- Fed multi-grain birdseed to 3 exotic birds 1 time a day.
- Provided fresh water to 3 exotic birds 3-4 times per week.
- Maintained a clean cage for 3 exotic birds at least once a week.
- Ensured 3 exotic birds were healthy by scheduling annual veterinarian examination.
- Fed commercial feed pellets to 2 hamsters 2 times a day.
- Provided fresh water to 2 hamsters 3-4 times per week.
- Cleaned hamsters' cage one time per week.
- Provided commercial food flakes and fresh water to 4 hermit crabs 2 times per week.
- Maintained a clean cage for 4 hermit crabs once every two weeks.
- Interviewed Dr. Mark Brown, Coastal Pet Care veterinarian, to learn about the importance of companion animal annual exams.
- Read 3 books that share information about rodent care (hamsters, mice, rats, and gerbils).
- Viewed 10 internet articles about proper aquarium set-up and maintenance.
- Toured Liberty County Animal Shelter with Director, Mr. Hal Greene. (1 hour)

### **Main Project Sharing and Helping Experiences**

#### **Total Activities: 6**

- Presented "Feathered Friends Care" demonstration at Cloverleaf County Project Achievement - 1<sup>st</sup> place (16 members in audience).
- Shared "Feathered Friends Care" demonstration at Cloverleaf Area Project Achievement – 2<sup>nd</sup> place (22 members in audience).
- Demonstrated how to groom a rabbit at 4-H Junior Crew meeting (8 members in audience).
- Taught my younger sister how to properly clean a cage for hermit crabs.
- Shared facts about snake care during English class presentation (19 members in audience).
- Wrote article titled "Things to Consider Before Purchasing an Exotic Pet" that was published in the Taylor's Creek Middle School Gazette (300 students view the paper).
- Collected 7 donation items (food, toys, grooming supplies, etc.) for the Liberty County Animal Shelter.

## **Other Leadership and Teen Leadership Activities**

### **Total Activities: 5**

- Serve as the Vice-President of the Liberty County 4-H Junior Crew. At each meeting, I lead our club in the pledges to the American and 4-H flags.
- Taught Recycling Class at 4-H Summer Programs (12 participants).
- Serve as the Secretary of the Taylor's Creek Middle School Fellowship of Christina Athletes group.
- Assisted 4-H Agent with Cloverleaf Officer's training (32 participants).
- Served as a Teen Leader during the 4-H trip to Bamboo Gardens.

## **Other Community Service and Citizenship Activities**

### **Total Activities: 9**

- Collected 3 coats for the Taylor's Creek Middle School Y-Club winter clothes drive.
- Participated in the 2011 River's Alive Clean-Up where I picked up trash in the marsh (2 hours).
- Donated 10 canned goods to the Georgia 4-H Cans Hunger collection.
- Brought 4 pounds of pop-tabs for the Ronald McDonald House collection at Junior Conference.
- Delivered Christmas cookie platters and thank-you cards to Liberty County Sherriff's Office.
- Created 5 holiday cards for members of the Brightmore Senior Citizens Home.
- Built 2 birdhouses for Liberty County Park.
- Assisted with the set-up and take-down of the YMCA Fall Festival (2 hours).
- Folded 100 4-H informational brochures to be distributed throughout the community.
- Wrote 3 letters to deployed service members during Junior Conference.

## **Other 4-H Activities**

### **Total Activities: 8**

- Member of the Liberty County 4-H Junior Crew; attended 6 county meetings.
- Participated in Junior Conference at Rock Eagle 4-H Center.
- Member of the Liberty County 4-H Poultry Judging Team; attended 8 practice sessions.
- Competed at the area Poultry Judging contest.
- Member of the Liberty County 4-H Cotton Boll/Consumer Judging Team; attended 3 practice sessions.
- Competed at the area Cotton Boll/Consumer Judging contest.
- Attended the 4-H Ice-Skating trip.
- Won 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Messiest Sandwich at the 4-H Peanutrition Contest.

## **Other Activities and Information**

### **Total Activities: 5**

- Member of the Taylor's Creek Middle School Y-Club; attended 6 meetings.
- Member of the Taylor's Creek Middle School Chorus; attended class daily.
- Member of the Taylor's Creek Middle School Builder's Club; attended 11 meetings.
- Member of 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of Hinesville where I sign in the choir.
- Received Honor Roll Award at Jordye Bacon Elementary School.