

DOG and CAT SCIENCE CONTEST

Contest Description: Individual contestants will demonstrate their scientific knowledge of dogs and cats. Winners will be determined by the combined scores from:

1. A written general knowledge exam (100 pts)
2. An informative presentation. (100 pts)

Contest Superintendent: Diana Coulon – dbcoulon@agcenter.lsu.edu

Award: 4-H Educational Trip

Sponsor: Louisiana 4-H Foundation and Louisiana Veterinary Medicine Association

Age Requirement: Must have passed his/her 13th birthday and not passed his/her 20th birthday on January 1st of the current year.

Rules:

1. No cell phones, computers, or open books allowed during presentations or testing
2. **Casual business attire** is required for all presentation
3. No. 2 pencil required for test – BRING YOUR OWN
4. PowerPoint required for Oral Presentations. Computer and projector will be provided. PowerPoints must be submitted on the 4-H U PowerPoint site prior to the due date.
5. Visuals and note cards may be used
6. A minimum of two references must be cited in presentation; Please make sure information is current and accurate
7. A schedule of presentation times will be posted. Contestants will be required to stay for all presentations in their section.

Contest Guidelines:

1. Written Knowledge Exam: 100 pts.
 - a) All contestants will complete a written exam in the morning and then come back for their scheduled presentation time.
 - b) Questions will be multiple choice or true/false and comprise approximately 50-75% dog-related questions and 25-50% cat-related questions.
 - c) All dog-related questions will come from the American Kennel Club Website (www.akc.org) under Expert Advice topics.:
 - Health
 - Nutrition
 - Dog Breeding
 - Puppy Info
 - Lifestyle
 - d) All cat-related questions will come from the Cat Friendly Homes website (<https://catfriendly.com>) endorsed by the American Association for Feline Practitioners (AAFP). Review topics under Cat Care at Home, Keep your Cat Healthy, and Diseases.
 - e) Specific articles and topics will be identified in April.



2. Informative Oral Presentation: 100 pts

- a) Scores based on points awarded by judges on subject matter, content, and presentation skills.
- b) **Maximum of 6 minutes will be allowed for each talk.** A red flash card will be raised at 5 minutes to indicate you have 1 minute left to complete your presentation.
- c) Must be able to answer questions from the judges on chosen topic (limit of 2 minutes for Question & Answer)

Casual Business Attire Required (attire appropriate for a job interview)

- For young men
 - Polo or button down shirt, tie optional, shirt must be tucked in
 - Slacks or khakis with a belt
 - Casual shoes or boots
 - NO jeans, tennis or athletic shoes, or flip flops allowed

- For young ladies
 - Modest dresses, skirts, or slacks with appropriate blouse or shirt. Pantyhose is optional
 - Sensible shoes
 - NO sun dresses, tank tops, midriff tops, or mini-skirts allowed
 - NO athletic or tennis shoes or flip flops allowed (even the decorated ones)

TIPS

- An informative speech is educational **and based on facts**
- Avoid persuasive talks based on personal views
- Keep the informative presentation brief and to the point
- Stick to the facts and avoid complicated information
- The subject matter should be unique and interesting
- Remember this is a learning experience to deliver a professional science presentation and should not be very theatrical or dramatic.
- Avoid broad topics and general subject matter.
 - Below is a list of topics and ideas to consider (these are suggestions only and presentation does not have to come from these topics)
 - Choosing a breed responsibly or a specific breed
 - Spaying and Neutering (benefits/risks)
 - Dental Care
 - Geriatric Care
 - Puppy Care
 - Dog Healthcare
 - Dog Fighting-common breeds and controversy
 - Common household toxic plants for dogs
 - Common household poisons for dogs
 - Zoonotic diseases- choose a topic or two such as Rabies, Toxoplasmosis, internal parasites (worms) or ringworms, etc
 - Dog Training
 - Heartworm Disease
 - Pet Safety
 - Assistance, Rescue, and/or Police Dogs
 - **Feline Diseases like FIV or FeLV, kidney disease, hyperthyroidism, diabetes**



- Feline Vaccines
- Feline Life Stages
- Feeding your Cat
- Litter Box care and maintenance
- Feline Parasite Prevention
- Feline Heartworm Prevention and Disease (how it differs from Dog)

CAUTION:

The reliability and accuracy of web information is not guaranteed. Web sites may have incomplete information that is biased to reflect and promote individual viewpoints. Check with experts in the field to help you decide what sites have accurate information.

DOG and CAT SCIENCE CONTEST PRESENTATION SCORECARD (Max 100 points)

Points awarded are determined by averaging the Judges' scores. The start and finish time will be posted and 10 points will be deducted from the total for each minute over the 6 minute time limit.

JUDGES SCORECARD:

PRESENTATION SCORE CARD	Possible Points	Score (0-5)	Judge's Notes
I. SUBJECT MATTER (35)			
Valid topic and sub-topic	5		
Subject matter relevant to topic	5		
Theme focused (not too broad)	5		
Good organization of subject matter	5		
Complete, appropriate information	5		
Clear summary statement	5		
Appropriate References cited	5		
II. CONTENT (35)			
Clear introduction of the topic	5		
Central theme readily understood	5		
Points clear and logically presented	5		
Accurate, up-to-date facts with at least two references cited	5		
Captures attention and holds interest	5		
Originality/ Creativity	5		
Quality use of equipment and timing of presentation	5		
III. CONTESTANT (30)			
Clear speaking, eye contact	5		
Appearance, poise, and posture	5		
Correct grammar and semantics	5		
Enthusiasm, interest and knowledge of subject	5		
Observed contest rules	5		
Accurate answers to questions	5		
TOTAL SCORE			

