

**BRITISH COLUMBIA  
SPECIFIC REGULATIONS FOR  
CAVY PROJECT**



1. The Cavy Project includes:

**Unit 1 – Short Coated Cavy**

Member to select and raise a quality boar and/or sow of a short haired breed (could include american, teddy, white crested, abyssinian, teddy, or any other breed or mixed breed with short hair). Members to learn basic cavy feeding, husbandry, showmanship, grooming and judging. Unit 1 projects are to be exhibited on Achievement Day.

**Unit 2 – Long Coated Cavy**

Member to select and raise a quality boar and/or sow of a long haired breed (could include peruvian, coronet, silkie, texel or any other breed or mixed breed with long hair). Members to learn basic cavy feeding, showmanship, and judging. Members to learn advanced husbandry and grooming. Unit 2 projects are to be exhibited on Achievement Day.

**Unit 3 – Sow with Litter**

Member to raise a sow, learning sow feeding, husbandry, management, sire selection, breeding etc. The member may use a previous year's 4-H project animal or they may buy or lease a new animal. Sow to be shown with two to four week old pup(s) at Achievement Day. Litter from a Unit 3 project may not be used to fulfill the unit requirements of any other unit.

**Note 1:** If a sow is older than one year and has never had a litter she should not be bred.

**Note 2:** At three weeks young boars should be separated from their mother and sisters but should still be shown as part of the litter.

**Unit 4 – Cavy Behaviour Project**

Member will select one of the following three options and carry out the project over a period of 4-6 months. Animals enrolled in Unit 4 may also be enrolled in one other unit.

Options:

- A. Natural Behaviour:** Observe and record cavy behaviour.  
Choose a cavy or group of cavies as a study group. Observe natural behaviours such as posturing and vocalizations. Prepare a display about natural cavy behavior based on your observations to present at Achievement Day.
- B. Situational Behaviour:** Design and record behavioural experiments.  
Choose a cavy or group of cavies to study. Design experiments or set up situations to observe behaviour. Ideas: introduce new items; introduce a new individual; present mazes or obstacles courses; do conditioning experiments. Prepare a display about situational cavy behavior based on your observations and experiments to present at Achievement Day.
- C. Learned Behaviour:** Teach your cavy to do tricks.  
Attempt to teach your cavy a trick. Prepare a display about your learned behaviour program and demonstrate your trick(s) at Achievement Day.

## Publication #1601

### Unit 5 – Cavy Senior Management

Member to select, upon the approval of the club leader, a project of interest to the member related to the cavy project. Senior Management Projects require approval and must be evaluated by Youth Development Staff. Animals used in a Senior Management project cannot be enrolled in any other units for the duration of the project. Senior Management projects must have records kept for 10-12 months. Project may include a research component to fulfill the 10-12 month time requirement. Possible projects could include:

- Designing and building a caviary
  - Participating in an open show circuit with purebred cavies
  - Examining the effect of genetics on coat color.
2. Animals in all units must be the property of the club member or his/her family, or if by other arrangement such as leasing, only on a sound written basis.
  3. Each individual cavy may not be enrolled in more than one unit, with the exception of Unit 4. Animals enrolled in Unit 4 may also be enrolled in one other unit.
  4. Each 4-H animal must be kept on the property where the club member resides, or on property leased by the member or his/her parents unless specific permission is granted by the club or club leader to keep it elsewhere.
  5. A club member must personally feed and care for his/her animals for at least four months, maintaining and completing his/her project record book.
  6. Each cavy must be individually identified with an ear tag. The tag numbers of the cavy project animals must be registered with the District Awards Coordinators 120 days prior to Achievement Day. The club leader is responsible for collecting the identification numbers, completing the 4-H Club Project Identification form (Publication #395) and submitting it to the District Awards Coordinator.

Unit	Number of days before Achievement that ear tag must be registered	Which ear tag(s) to register
1 & 2	120	All
3	120	Sow only
4 & 5	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

7. (a) Each 4-H club member enrolled in Unit 1, 2, or 3 must exhibit his/her project animals at the Club Achievement Day.  
(b) Members enrolled in Unit 4 must complete a display and should do a presentation on their project at Achievement Day or at some other suitable occasion such as a field day or club meeting.
8. On the death of an animal, or in the event of incurable sickness or serious permanent injury so as to render the animal totally unfit to be maintained as a Cavy Club project, a member must notify the club leader at once. At the discretion of the club leader and by a motion of authorization from the club membership, a member may apply to replace his/her animal with another of the same age and weight.
  - (i) The 4-H District Council must approve this change at least 40 days prior to Achievement Day.
  - (ii) There will be no substitution of animals under any circumstances after the 40-day deadline.
  - (iii) A 4-H District Council committee reserves the right to inspect the animal. The committee may seek the advice of a veterinarian.
9. Each 4-H family should in addition to this publication have 4-H Publication #150, "BRITISH COLUMBIA GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR 4-H CLUBS".



**BRITISH COLUMBIA  
GENERAL REGULATIONS  
FOR 4-H CLUBS**



All 4-H Projects are divided into a “Unit” classification and specific regulations governing individual projects should be carefully reviewed by the Club Leader and the club member.

1. Boys and girls who have reached their **6th** birthday before January 1st of the 4-H enrollment year, and who have not reached their **22nd** birthday before January 1st of 4-H enrollment year, are eligible for membership in a 4-H club, based upon the following: (updated Oct 2015)
  - (A) **Cloverbud Project** for 6, 7 and 8 year olds – Boys and girls who have reached their 6th birthday by January 1st of 4-H enrollment year, and who have not reached their 9th birthday by January 1st of 4-H enrollment year. (See Cloverbud Project Regulations #6301 for specific unit guidelines.)
  - (B) **4-H Projects (general)** for 9 to 19 year olds – Boys and girls who have reached their 9th birthday by January 1st of 4-H enrollment year, and who have not reached their 20th birthday by January 1<sup>st</sup> of 4-H enrollment year. (See 4-H project specific regulations for specific unit requirements.)
  - (C) **Specialty Projects:**
    1. **4-H 20 & 21 Year Olds** – Young adults who have reached their 20th birthday by January 1st of 4-H enrollment year, and who have not reached their 22nd birthday by January 1st of 4-H enrollment year [20, 21 year old 4-H members] may take only the following projects: Junior Leader Project, and/or Self Determined Project, and/or Senior Management unit in a Project.
    2. **4-H British Columbia Ambassadors** – Young adults who have reached their 16th birthday by January 1st of 4-H enrollment year, and who have not reached their 22nd birthday by January 1st of 4-H enrollment year [16 -21 year old 4-H members] and who meet the requirements of / be selected as a 4-H BC Ambassador, will enroll in a Self-Determined project. (See 4-H BC Ambassador Program application form for details (4-H BC Pub. #129). 4-H BC Ambassadors must be selected through a regional process.
2. A 4-H Club Shall:
  - (A) Consist of not less than six members between the ages of 6 – 21.
  - (B) Have one or more registered 4-H Leaders.
  - (C) Have an official 4-H club sponsor.
3. An existing 4-H club must enroll annually by **March 1st** to the District 4-H Key Leader. District Key Leaders have until **March 15th** for completed 4-H club enrollments and club assessment fees to be received by 4-H BC Provincial Council. **Please note:** As of 2007, 365-day enrolment is available for new member, new leader, or new club enrollment after March 1st for the first year of enrollment. 365-day enrollment must be forwarded to the 4-H BC Office and Key Leaders are to be advised by the leaders. The required number of days from start of a project to the 4-H Club’s Achievement Day is as specific regulations for each project.
4. Members may choose to enroll in a **maximum of four units** in one 4-H year, from a **maximum of four projects**.
  - “Project” is beef, clothing, junior leadership, self-determined, etc.
  - “Unit” is Unit, 1, 2, 3, etc. of each Project.
  - At the time of enrollment, members must select and identify the particular unit(s) they wish to enroll in.
  - A 4-H member may only be enrolled in the same unit once in a 4-H year.
  - A project animal or article may only be used to fulfill the requirements of one unit in a single year, unless an exception is noted in the specific project regulations.
5. A 4-H Club should endeavour to have a minimum of four members enrolling in any one project. A lesser number completing at Achievement Day will **not** eliminate them from achievement.

6. Each 4-H project must be inspected **at least once** by the club leader or someone designated by the leader, during the course of the project.
7. Only an animal or an article that is properly identified as a 4-H project and is an enrolled unit, shall be eligible to enter a 4-H Club Achievement Day, and appropriate 4-H Event classes and competitions at fairs, exhibitions, shows and sales.
  - (A) 4-H livestock projects are subject to identification check on Achievement Day, and 4-H Events. Projects must be the same as that identified on project identification forms. Incorrect identification will result in 4-H member being subject to enrollment suspension.
  - (B) A 4-H member is not allowed 4-H show rights of an animal after the sale of the animal.
8. A club member must maintain current records of costs and management of the 4-H project. A Record Book must be kept for each unit the member is enrolled in.
9. All club members, except those enrolled in units specifically designated not to be, must exhibit their project at the Achievement Day of the club and complete their record books by the deadline set by the leader in order that they may get credit for a year's achievement. Units that do not have to be shown on Achievement Day, such as multi-livestock projects and senior management projects, should either be:
  - (A) Exhibited at a senior member field day, etc.; or
  - (B) Inspected at home by the leader or someone designated by the leader.
10. Achievement certificates are awarded on the basis of work done by the club member throughout the entire year. Scoring is done by the club leader and/or designated person, based upon the following three categories:
  1. **MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECT:** (satisfactory or unsatisfactory)
    - An assessment to determine achievement of unit level standard of husbandry and care for livestock projects, or project work and skill for non-livestock projects.
  2. **COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT:** (satisfactory or unsatisfactory)
    - A member must show his/her completed project at Achievement Day.
  3. **COMPLETION OF RECORD BOOK:** (satisfactory or unsatisfactory)
    - A member must satisfactorily complete a project record book and turn it in to a club leader.

**Note:** Those members receiving “satisfactory” in all three areas will be awarded an Achievement Certificate.

Refer questions on the interpretation of any 4-H Club Regulation to your **4-H Key Leader**

or: **4-H British Columbia Provincial Council**

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### Background Information to General and Specific 4-H Regulations

General and Specific 4-H Regulations are for each individual 4-H member and individual 4-H Club to complete a 4-H year and achieve. (They are not designed to be used across or between any two 4-H members or 4-H Clubs competing or achieving at an inter-club event or competition.)

General Regulations are provincial 4-H policy governing each/all 4-H members/Clubs.

