4-H Animal projects teach caring, responsibility, biology, money management and veterinary medicine. Many youth do not have the opportunity to own animals. The RI 4-H Animal Friends Program allows more youth age 5-18 to experience working with live animal projects and it gives 4-Hers that own animals the opportunity to learn leadership and teaching skills while mentoring a peer. Long term the program builds agricultural awareness and support by introducing more Rlers to hands on agricultural experiences.
4-H Friends
(without animals)

Sign up online and pick the top 3 animals that you would like to work with and which fair(s) you will attend.

4-H Staff will then work to pair you with a mentor in one of those species. Priority will be given to those with no prior animal experience. You will be contacted by a fellow 4-Her to meet the animal and attend an initial meeting. You then will attend the second meet up and learn more. After this you maybe eligible to show in a special class. These classes will be shorter than a normal showmanship class and will not take fitting into consideration.

Mentors
(with animals)

Sign up online and list which animals you own that you would allow a 4-Her to work with.

You will be given up to 3 names of kids to work with. Contact them and set up a first meeting. Introduce them to the animal, where they live, what they eat, etc... you can work all together as a group or individually. Teach how to show the animal, what to expect in the ring and help the 4-Her at the fair.

You then go in the ring with the mentor in a special class after champion showman at a summer fair show.

Register on the 4-H website: uri.edu/4h