Leaping Forward is the third in the series of three for youth, which also includes Cat I, Purr-fect Pals and Cat II Climbing Up. In Cat III you will build on what you learned in Cat I and Cat II. Because 4-H is known for helping to build tomorrow’s leaders, leadership is a strong theme of Cat III. You’ll be asked to organize some events, investigate complicated issues, give presentations, teach others and make decisions. This guide is developmentally appropriate for grades 6 through 9, but may be used by youth in any grade.

In this project, you will:

- Compare an aged cat with a young cat.
- Identify stages of grief in a cat.
- Learn to organize a cat show.
- Plan and conduct a cat showmanship clinic.
- Record your community’s cat laws.
- Learn to debate animal rights and animal welfare issues.
- Teach a cat activity.
- Take an assessment of your own leadership skills.

Project Materials:

- Cat III, Leaping Forward, 100.F-32
- Cat III, Leaping Forward Greentop 400.F-32
- Pet Record Form, 300.B-24
Suggestions for completing this project and suggested learning activities:

- Complete Cat III within three years by completing a minimum of seven of the main chapter activities or “More Fun with Felines” activities each year you are enrolled in the project.
- Participate in a minimum of three of these learning experiences: give a presentation, be a member of a cat organization, organize a cat project meeting, plan a cat show, participate on a cat judging team, create a video presentation, organize a cat clinic, conduct a cat skill-a-thon, coach a cat quiz bowl team, organize a cat showmanship contest, and plan a neighborhood pet show.
- Practice and develop these life skills: learning to learn, making decisions, communicating with others, planning and organizing, developing team work, managing time, developing leadership, using resources wisely, setting goals, developing empathy and concern, teaching others and developing a business plan.

You may exhibit any of these items at Achievement Days or County Fairs:

- A poster or exhibit explaining something you learned from the Cat III project. Posters may be no larger than 14 x 22 inches (or half of a standard poster board). Exhibits may be no larger than 18 x 48 inches.
- Submit a record book to your local extension agent describing your Cat III project.

Leadership and Citizenship Activities:

- Organize and plan a cat show in your local community.
- Volunteer to assist with free vaccination clinics in your county.
- Volunteer to work at a local animal shelter.
- Visit a meeting of the local humane society to hear discussions about local laws and city ordinances.
- Organize a series of skill-a-thon stations to teach basic cat health procedures.

4-H Speech, Illustrated Presentation and Demonstration Suggestions:

- Present a speech or illustrated presentation on various cat-related careers.
- Demonstration the proper nutrition for aged as well as young cats.
- Present a speech on geriatric medicine as it relates to cats.

Beam, January 2006