

# Permission to Participate & Informed Consent

## 4-H PetPALS Program

I understand that my child/charge \_\_\_\_\_ will be participating in the 4-H PetPALS program and will be engaged in events, activities, and programs that involve direct and indirect contact with small animals of all sizes, including, but not limited to dogs, cats, rabbits, and guinea pigs. Activities, events, and programs may give rise to a risk of physical injuries to 4-H members, volunteers, parents/guardians, and residents or employees of senior care facilities. I also understand that participation in the 4-H PetPALS program is strictly voluntary and is not a requirement for 4-H membership.

I may or may not have had prior experience with visiting senior care facilities with a pet and am aware and have discussed with my child/charge that:

- A. Small animals have a propensity to behave in ways which may result in injury to members or other persons in the immediate vicinity due to bites, scratches and other instinctive actions;
- B. Small animals may react in an unpredictable way to unfamiliar environments, sounds, strange odors, sudden movement, unfamiliar objects, persons, or other animals;
- C. Senior care facilities include medical equipment that is vital to the care of residents and to the day-to-day operations of the facility and is never to be touched by 4-H members or their small animals;
- D. Members are to listen to adult volunteers and senior care facility employees at all times, remain with the group unless otherwise instructed, never visit a resident unsupervised, and treat all residents and employees with respect;
- E. Other participants involved in a senior care facility visit may fail to maintain control over their small animal or fail to act within their abilities, thus causing harm to my child, my child's small animal, facility residents, volunteers, or employees;
- F. Other participants in the activity, event, or program may act in a negligent manner which otherwise may result in harm to my child and/or small animal; and
- G. Senior care facility residents, employees, volunteers, and other 4-H members will be handling and/or petting my child's small animal with or without permission.

I have discussed with our child/charge the need to follow all safety procedures, behavior guidelines, infection control procedures (e.g. hand washing), and other protocols set forth by adult volunteers and senior care facility administration and staff. I understand that: (1) my child will receive the necessary education from a Master 4-H PetPALS Volunteer Leader; (2) my child and/or small animal is not to visit a senior care facility when sick or exposed to a contagious disease; and (3) 4-H PetPALS volunteers must participate in required training specific to this program prior to them providing education to my child.

I understand that my child is not required to participate in the 4-H PetPALS program, but grant permission for him/her to do so, despite possible risks. I recognize that by participating in this activity, as with any activity involving live animals, my child, volunteers, senior care facility residents or animals may risk injury. I hereby attest and verify that I have been advised of the potential risks, have sought clarification if I have not understood, that I have full knowledge of the risks involved in this activity, and that I assume any expenses that may be incurred in the event of an incident, including accident, illness, or other incapacity, regardless of whether I have authorized such expenses.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)