



Lesson 1 Project:

We would like you to perform a hands-off check of your pet. Although we at Small Pet School only need to collect this information once, you can do a hands-off check as often as you like. It's a good idea to complete it weekly so you can become more skilled.

Hands-off check for small pets (1 point for healthy, 2 points for unhealthy)	
Pet's name	
Species (rabbit, guinea pig, hamster etc)	
Pet's age	
Male or female pet?	
Name of Pet Scientist to add to the certificate	
	Points
Position check	
Reaction check	
Listening check	
Movement check	
Sniff check	
Food and water check	
Poop check	
Body size check	
Clean and dry check	
Behaviour check	
Total score	

If you think what you see is healthy give 1 point

Every check that doesn't seem completely healthy, write down 2 points

Add up the totals for each pet

Ask a parent to send your results to Supreme Petfoods so that we can turn your **data** into **information**. In return we will send you a special Level 1 Pet Scientist certificate.



Extra questions to discuss with friends and family

What information do you think these results will provide?

- A. This could tell us how many pets are likely to be unhealthy at any one time across the whole country. It will also tell us if older animals are more likely to be unhealthy than younger ones. It may also tell us whether some species are more likely to be healthy than others (for instance more unhealthy rabbits than guinea pigs).

How else could we use this health check list to make scientific discoveries?

- A. We could use this checklist weekly and chart how healthy an animal remains through their life. This might also tell us things like whether pets are always healthier in the summer than the winter, or during school holidays. We could also use it to make changes, such as providing more hay and see if that results in improvements in health. Do you have any other ideas?

What do you think is a 'healthy' score?

- A. A healthy score would be 10 or less, which would be the whole list filled out with 1s. Any score higher than 10 would show that a 2 for unhealthy was added.

Do you think you are better able to check your pet's health now than before you started this lesson?

Yes: Explain to your parent, brother or sister why you think you are now more skilled in pet care and pet science.

No: Explain to your parent, brother or sister what you think you still need to learn to improve your skills. How might you be able to improve your skills in the future?

We hope you have had fun. Next week's lesson is: Digestion – it starts in the mouth!

Complete the lesson and project for a Level 2 Pet Scientist certificate.