Many other plants have been named after animals. Look for them in plant guide books or when you visit places where plants are sold. You might want to start your own petting zoo at home!

Leopard’s Bane  Catnip  Cattails
Buffalo Grass  Cowslip  Butterfly Bush
Hens and Chicks  Snake Weed  Bugbane
Goldfish Plant  Toad Lily  Bear’s Breeches
Pussy Toes  Spider Flower  Ostrich Fern
Bunny Tails  Chameleon Plant  Pussy Willow
Fleabane  False Dragonhead  Bird’s Foot Trefoil
Pussy Willow  Monkey Flower  Gooseneck Loosestrife
Bird’s Foot Trefoil  Kangaroo Paw  Dogtooth Violet
Dogtooth Violet  Cardinal Climber  Elephant Ear
Elephant Ear  Horsetail  Goatsbeard
Goatsbeard  Lion’s Ear  Turtlehead
Turtlehead  Tiger Lily  Gooseberry
Gooseberry  Spiderwort  Skunk Cabbage
Skunk Cabbage  Foxtail Grass

For more information about gardening and youth activities related to horticulture, visit these Web sites.

ISU Extension publications
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pubs

ISU Horticulture
http://www.hort.iastate.edu

ISU Youth and 4-H programs
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/

Prepared by Cindy Haynes, extension horticulturist, and Diane Nelson, communications specialist. Illustrated by Jane Lenahan, graphic designer, Instructional Technology Center.

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stanley R. Johnson, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.

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RG 902  May 2002
Many plants have been named after animals. Sometimes the plants have features that look like an animal. For example, the plant called lamb’s ear has very soft, fuzzy leaves that feel like a lamb’s ear. Other plant names, like dogwood, make no sense at all. Everyone knows that dogs don’t have wood!

Reiman Gardens and many other public gardens have several such plant pets. Can you find the ones listed below? Check off the ones that you find. Remember not to pick the flowers or leaves of the plants so that others can find them, too.

- **Bee Balm**—Bees enjoy the flowers of this plant and so can you! Look for bright red, pink, or purple flowers but watch out for the bees.
- **Butterfly Weed**—Let the butterflies guide you to this plant’s bright orange flowers in the summer.
- **Cardinal Flower**—What color is a cardinal? The flowers on this late summer blooming plant are often that same color.
- **Cockscomb**—Look for bright red, pink, yellow, or orange flowers in summer. The flowers can be “feathery” or resemble a rooster’s comb.
- **Cranesbill**—Look low; this plant hugs the ground. The beak-like fruit looks like a crane’s bill. Have you ever seen a crane?
- **Dogwood**—These woody plants come in almost as many varieties as dog breeds. One type is a shrub that has red twigs in winter.
- **Dragon’s Blood Sedum**—This plant has smooth “fleshy” leaves that turn red. Look for this pool of dark red close to the ground, but watch out for the dragon!
- **Harebells**—In early summer, the blue or white flowers look like bells. But why would a rabbit carry bells?
- **Lamb’s Ear**—Look for the soft, velvety, gray leaves. This plant will be close to the ground. Pet the leaves to see how soft they are.
- **Pig Squeak**—The leaves on this plant are larger than your hand! Rub the leaves the right way to hear a “pig-squeak.”
- **Snake Plant**—This green snake likes to be indoors when it is cold, but it doesn’t mind spending the summer outside in a container.
- **Tickseed**—Don’t worry, this plant doesn’t have ticks. But it does have plenty of tiny yellow flowers.
- **Wormwood**—Worms don’t bother this silvery plant with its mound of fine leaves.
- **Zebra Grass**—What does a zebra have that makes it different than other animals? This tall grass has them in yellow.