



NM 4-H Guinea Pig Greentop

400.B-30 R-18



Objectives: To educate 4-H members about guinea pigs. You will learn about the guinea pig's history and origin, breed characteristics, anatomy, housing, health, identification, and behavior. The project is designed to teach you about how to care for a guinea pig in your home as it focuses on cage management, nutrition, grooming, breeding, and expenses associated with owning a pet guinea pig.

Materials Included in this project

- Guinea Project Manual 100.B-30
- NM 4-H Hamster Greentop 400.B-30 (R-18)
- Pet Record Form 300.L-5

Suggested tips for successful project completion.

- Review the project book, record sheet, and Greentop to become familiar with the project before you begin.
- Review needed materials: pet guinea pig, cage, food, water, bedding, toys/exercise equipment
- Choose the areas about hamsters in which you wish to study
- Keep records of the expenses associated with having a guinea pig.
- Keep a log or diary of the activities you participate in which are related to those areas. This will make it easier to complete your record sheet at the end of the 4-H year.
- Attend Project meetings and workshops
- Deliver a demonstration or illustrated talk on your project.
- Complete the record form, and turn in a county record book to your local Extension Agent.

Learning Activities/Topics:

- Learn about common guinea diseases
- Show your guinea pig at a local or county fair pet show
- Keep records of the expenses associated with having a guinea pig
- Learn about reproduction of guinea pigs, sexing, breeding your pet, and raising litters
- Learn to handle and tame your pet guinea pig
- Learn about the equipment available and necessary to have a healthy pet guinea pig
- Learning about proper nutrition of a guinea pig.
- Construct a poster or photo journal of your guinea pig project to exhibit at a fair, or achievement day.

Additional info can be found from:

- County Extension Agent
- Club or Project Leader
- Local Pets Store
- Internet
- Library

Christina Turner and Hayley Encinias,
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