



NM 4-H Hamster Greentop

400.B-28 R-18



Objectives: To educate 4-H members about hamsters. You will learn about the characteristics, anatomy, housing, health, identification, and behavior of these animals. The project is designed to teach you about how to care for a hamster in your home as it focuses on cage management, nutrition, grooming, breeding, and expenses associated with owning a pet hamster.

Materials Included in this project:

- Hamster Project Manual 100.B-26
- NM 4-H Hamster Greentop 400.B-28 (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 hamster, 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 hamster.
- 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 hamster diseases
- Show your hamster at a local or county fair pet show
- Keep records of the expenses associated with having a hamster
- Learn about reproduction of hamsters, sexing, breeding your pet, and raising litters
- Learn to handle and tame your pet hamster
- Learn about the equipment available and necessary to have a healthy pet hamster
- Learning about proper nutrition of a hamster.
- Construct a poster or photo journal of your hamster 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

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