



NM 4-H Scurrying Ahead Greentop

400.B-24 R-18



Objectives: To educate 4-H members about pocket pets (gerbils, mice and rats). You will learn about the characteristics, differences, anatomy, environments, diseases, identification, and behavior of these animals. The project is designed to teach you about how to care for a pocket pet in your home as it focuses on cage management, nutrition, grooming, breeding, and expenses associated with owning a pet rodent.

Materials Included in this project:

- Scurrying Ahead Project Manual 100.B-24 (N-09)
- Scurrying Ahead Greentop 400.B-24 (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, cage, food, water, bedding, toys
- Keep records of the expenses associated with having a rodent
- Choose the areas about pets in which you wish to study.
- 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.
- Participate in county, state and regional fairs.
- 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:

- Learn about breeds of rodents.
- Learn about common rodent diseases.
- Show your pet at a local or county fair pet show.
- Learn about reproduction of rodents, breed your pet, and raise litters.
- Learn to handle your pet rodent.
- Learn about the equipment available and necessary to have a healthy pet rodent.
- Learn about the controversial issues surrounding rodents.

Citizenship Activities:

- Conduct a clinic for less experienced members.
- Assist with local achievement days and small pets fairs.

Additional info can be found from:

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

Christina Turner and Hayley Encinias,
2004; Revised 2014 and 2018