



New Mexico 4-H Greentop Project Guide



New Mexico 4-H Is A Program of New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service

400.B-30
(New 2004)

Guinea pigs

Are you interested in guinea pigs? Do you own a guinea pig or would you like to? Do you want to know all you can about keeping your guinea pig? Do you want to get the most out of your pet experience? This Guinea pig project is for you!

Objective

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

- Record book 4H 300 B-24
- New Mexico 4-H Greentop 400.B-30 (N-04)
- Guinea pigs, Publication 4-H 276

Suggestions for Completing the Project

- 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
- Choose the areas about guinea pigs 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.
- Complete your record sheet for the project

To complete this project, you can

- Learn about common guinea pig 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

What can be exhibited with the guinea pig project?

- Your guinea pig in the county fair or pet show
- Posters-photo journal of your pet, history of the guinea pig, breed characteristics, parts of a guinea pig, cage management, rodent diseases, reproduction/mating/genetics

If you enjoy this project, and want continue to learn about guinea pigs, you can try

- Welding-build a pet cage or wheel
- Photography-take beautiful photos of your pet guinea pig
- Art-draw pictures or paint about guinea pig
- Citizenship-take your pet to children's hospital or nursing home
- Leadership-help a friend set up or clean a cage or give a presentation/demonstration at your club meeting (handling, feeding, exhibiting for show, preparing for travel)

If you enjoy this project, here are some other great projects you might like

- Pocket pets
- Hamsters
- Small Pets
- Wildlife
- Veterinary Science

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