Hamsters
Are you interested in hamsters? Do you own a hamster or would you like to? Do you want to know all you can about keeping your hamster? Do you want to get the most out of your pet experience? This Hamster project is for you!

Objective
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
Record book 4H 300 B-24
New Mexico 4-H Greentop 400.B-27
Hamsters, Publication 4-H 277

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 hamster, cage, food, water, bedding, toys/exercise equipment
- Choose the areas about hamsters 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 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
What can be exhibited with the hamster project?

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

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

- Welding-build a pet cage or wheel
- Photography-take beautiful photos of your pet hamster
- Art-draw pictures or paint about hamster
- 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
- Guinea Pigs
- Small Pets
- Wildlife
- Veterinary Science

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