

## 4-H Project Report

**Name:** Jasper Houzenga

**County:** Tazewell

**Project Area:** Small Pets/Guinea Pig Project

**Years in Project:** 1

**Age on Sep 1, 2019:** 8

### **1. What are three things you learned or insights you gained this year from doing this project?**

1. I learned you have to use aspen wood shavings, because if you use pine or cedar it is harmful to the guinea pig.
2. I learned fruits and vegetables cannot exceed 10% of their diet.
3. I learned that guinea pigs need 30-50 mg of Vitamin C daily.

### **2. What would you like to describe or share about your exhibit that we can't see easily in your uploaded photos or documentation?**

It is hard to clean the cages, because you have to clean the barn and the bottom of the cage and you have to clean out the wood shavings. Cleaning the bottom of the cage is the hardest, because it can take a really long time. I got my guinea pig two years ago. My favorite part of having a guinea pig is watching her grow. She was about 2.5 months old when we got her, and she's been growing up most of her life in our house.

### **3. What steps did you take to complete this exhibit?**

I read Cavy Resource Handbook: A 4H Guide to Guinea Pigs and Gordon's Guide to Caring for Your Guinea Pigs. I also read pamphlets from Petco and PetSmart about guinea pigs. Using the stuff that I already know from being Smore's owner, we got onto a Google document and typed the sections for the poster. Then we had to print them out. We had to glue them on black paper and put them on the poster board. Then we had to get the pictures of Smore and Smore's cage. Then we had to put them on black paper and glue them down onto the poster board. Then we took pictures of the whole board and submitted them to the fair website.

### **4. If you did this project again, what would you change or do differently?**

I would get two guinea pigs instead of just one to make the guinea pig have company.

### **5. How will you apply what you have learned to your life?**

Having a pet teaches me responsibility and taking care of something other than myself. It is important to get the right diet for people and guinea pigs. If you have candy or snacks all day, you can get sick easier and not feel good. You can die, if you don't drink water- just like a guinea pig.