

POCKET PET DEPARTMENT 10

1. Read General Rules, Livestock Rules, and Animal Health Regulations carefully.
2. "Pocket Pets" are small domesticated rodents legally kept as pets in Massachusetts. Examples include mice, rats, gerbils, dwarf and Syrian hamsters, degus and hedgehogs. **Chinchillas** meet this definition, but because of their susceptibility to heat and our Fair's outdoor location, we do not offer a chinchilla class at the Fair. Contact the Department Chairman with questions about whether your pet qualifies.
3. All animals must have been owned by the exhibitor on or before July 1 of the current year. Exhibitors in the Pocket Pet Department do not need to belong to a Pocket Pet Club.
4. Maximum number of entries per lot: Lots 01-07 - no limit; Lot 08 - two; Lot 09 - one; Lots 10-13 - make one entry which will include all animals brought by that exhibitor; Lots 14-17 - one for each **species** shown; Lots 18-19 - one entry which will include all animals brought by that exhibitor; the number of fun events will depend on the show schedule and Department Chairman will determine the number of events for each exhibitor.
5. Animals may come from **any domestic source** (breeder, pet store, rescue, shelter, friend), and need not be "purebred" or pedigreed. They may not be wild-caught.
6. Entries will be accepted between 8:00 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. on Saturday. **Entries must arrive no later than 8:45 a.m.**; exhibitors will attend a brief mandatory meeting at 8:45 a.m. and the show will begin at 9:00 a.m.
7. Pocket pets must be **quarantined** for 30 days preceding the fair. Quarantine requires that no new pocket pets be introduced to the home during that time. There must also be no contagious illnesses or unexplained deaths among other pocket pets in the home during that time. Contact the department chairman for guidance if problems arise during your quarantine.
8. **Containers:** Animals will be shown in a plastic show box large enough for the animal to be comfortable (recommended: medium for mice, hamsters and gerbils; large or extra-large for rats). Show boxes should contain a carrot or other vegetable as a substitute water source. Each animal being shown **must have its own** plastic show box.
9. In addition to the show box, all animals should have **exhibit housing** with a water bottle, in which they can rest when not being shown. The animal's regular housing may be used, but it must be less than 18" wide or long, and light enough for the exhibitor to carry by themselves. If the animal's regular housing is too large, a 10 gallon aquarium is recommended. Exhibit housing for **rats and mice** must be solid-sided (i.e. aquarium) in order to minimize the possibility of airborne disease transmission.
10. Cage-mates of show animals that are not being shown themselves may come to the fair but are subject to health inspection.
11. Animals will be assigned a position on the show tables by the Health Inspectors. The position of animals is selected carefully to minimize the possibility of disease transmission. Exhibitors must use the space provided. Extra equipment may be stored under the table.
12. For animal health reasons, exhibitors must have a **clean shirt or over-shirt** to wear with or over their standard 4-H show attire (white and/or club shirt with tan pants, shorts or skirt)
13. Classes and lots may be eliminated, split or combined at the discretion of the Judge and Department Chairman. Department points will be reduced for lots with fewer than the minimum level of entries (5 per lot). Weather may necessitate changing the show schedule.
14. There is an entry fee of \$1.00 per pocket pet to be exhibited; there is also a \$2.00 entry fee per person, per department for all static entries (Class V, Lot 8). There is no entry fee for Fitting and Showmanship (Class X, Lots 10-13 and Class Y, Lots 14-17) or Kennel Keeper's Contest (Class W, Lot 09).

HEALTH REGULATIONS

Pocket pets are vulnerable to transmission of diseases between animals and between animals and humans. For the safety of all pets and participants, all pocket pets will be subject to a health inspection prior to entry. Exhibit and show housing should be thoroughly cleaned and filled with clean, white bedding. All equipment brought into the show hall will be inspected.

Inspectors will be looking for common signs of disease such as puffy, bedraggled appearance, lethargy, discharge from eyes, nose or mouth, sneezing, diarrhea, reddened or pale skin or gums, parasites, skin conditions or any other indicator of poor health. If any animal of an exhibitor is judged to be sick or has parasites, **all** of that exhibitor's animals must be removed immediately. No refunds will be given if sick animals are brought to the fairgrounds. The decision of the inspector is final. *We encourage exhibitors to consult a veterinarian in advance if you have any questions about your animal's health.*

Exhibitors should limit handling of their animals by visitors and use good hygiene practices. Exhibitors should bring hand sanitizer and use it after handling any animal and prior to eating or drinking. You must wear a clean shirt or over-shirt when handling your pocket pet to help prevent transmission of diseases or parasites between animals you work with at the Fair.

CLASS A Breed Class Divisions

Lot 01. Rats

Lot 02. Mice

Lot 03. Gerbils

Lot 04. Dwarf Hamsters

Lot 05. Syrian Hamsters

Lot 06. Other - with breed standard

Lot 07. Pocket Pet Lovers - other species with no breed standard

CLASS V Display

Lot 08. Educational Display. Create a display about proper care of a pocket pet species or a special aspect of your experience with Pocket Pets. Your display should demonstrate your knowledge and love for these small animals with the visiting public.

Total judging points for this lot: 100. Creates interest, curiosity, advances knowledge (25); Suitability of purpose (25); Originality, attractiveness, neatness, scale, color scheme (25); Effectiveness, clarity, quality of materials and workmanship (25).

CLASS W Kennel Keeper's Contest (required for all exhibitors; no entry fee)

Lot 09. This contest lasts for the duration of the Pocket Pet event at the Fair. Each exhibitor will be scored on the following:

A. Animals: cleanliness, appearance, health

B. Cages, show boxes and equipment: cleanliness, suitability, neatly stored

C. Exhibitors: friendliness, tidy appearance, attitude, knowledge and safe animal handling

D. Participation: interaction with visitors and other 4-H members, assistance with event tasks and animal supervision, enthusiasm and 4-H spirit.

CLASS X Fitting (required for all exhibitors; no entry fee required)

Lot 10. Cloverbud Fitting (ages 5-7)

Lot 11. Novice Fitting (ages 8-13 and showing in the department for the first time)

Lot 12. Junior Fitting (ages 9-13)

Lot 13. Senior Fitting (age 14-18)

Fitting will judge the animal's quality and condition, and the suitability, cleanliness, appropriateness and stimulation/interest level of the housing selected for the animal. Judges may award Fitting condition and quality points at the same time as they judge the breed classes. For the Cage/Habitat judging, exhibitors may: a) bring the animal's regular housing **thoroughly cleaned** to the fair, or b) if the animal's regular housing is too large or heavy to transport easily, bring a photograph **and** written or verbal description of the regular habitat. In this case the cleanliness of the temporary exhibit housing will be judged. Applicable sections from the American Fancy Rat and Mouse Association Junior Showmanship Handbook standard will apply as follows: Condition - 25 points; Cage/Habitat - 25 point.

CLASS Y Showmanship (no entry fee required)

Lot 14. Cloverbud Showmanship (ages 5-7)

Lot 15. Novice Showmanship (ages 8-13 and showing in the department for the first time)

Lot 16. Junior Showmanship (ages 9-13)

Lot 17. Senior Showmanship (age 14-18)

Showmanship will be judged using a modified version of the American Fancy Rat and Mouse Association (www.afirma.org) Junior Showmanship Handbook standard, as follows: Handling - 25 points; Examination - 50 points; Exhibitor - 25 points.

Exhibitor will remove the animal from the show box and will be judged on how well they handle and control it. At the judge's prompting, the exhibitor will then systematically examine and describe to the judge the condition and quality of the animal's ears, eyes, body, coat, color, tail, teeth, head and muzzle, legs and feet. She or he will state the animal's gender. Judges will rate the exhibitor on knowledge, appearance, conduct, awareness of the animal's limitations and steps taken to maximize that animal's potential. The judges may shorten or modify the examination portion of this class if class size requires it.

CLASS Z Fun Classes

Lot 18. Chewing Contest. Who can shred a paper cup (single) or toilet paper tube (team) the most in one minute?

Lot 19. Hamtrac Race. Which pet can run the fastest from the start to the finish line?

BREED STANDARDS

Breed standards used for this show are:

- Mice and Rats: American Fancy Rat and Mouse Association, www.afirma.org
- Syrian and Dwarf Hamsters: British Hamster Association, www.britishhamsterassociation.org.uk
- Gerbils: American Gerbil Society, www.agsgerbils.org
- Other: degus, spiny mice, dormice, hedgehogs or other rodent pets that are legal in Massachusetts may be shown as “Standardized” in Lot 06 if the exhibitor can provide a written copy of a breed standard. They will be judged by the most qualified judge available against the standard provided. If no standard is available for your animal, it may be entered in Lot 07, Pocket Pet Lovers.

PREMIUMS

All Classes/Lots: No premiums will be awarded for this department. Top Novice, Junior and Senior Awards will be calculated using the following point system:

	First	Second	Third
Class A, Lots 01-06	11 PTS	9 PTS	7 PTS
Class A, Lot 07	5 PTS	4 PTS	3 PTS
Class V, Lot 08	4 PTS	3 PTS	2 PTS
Class W, Lot 09	Department Award Only		
Class X, Lots 11-13	15 PTS	13 PTS	11 PTS
Class Y, Lots 15-17	15 PTS	13 PTS	11 PTS
Class X, Lot 10, Class Y, Lot 14	Ribbons Only		
Class Z, Lots 18-19	Ribbons Only		
