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## **The Complete Encyclopedia Of Rabbits Rodents: Comprehensive information on hamsters, mice, rats, gerbils, and guinea pigs; Also including less well-know pets, such as ferrets and chinchillas**

*Esther J. J. Verhoef-Verhallen*

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**Esther J. J. Verhoef-Verhallen : The Complete Encyclopedia Of Rabbits Rodents: Comprehensive information on hamsters, mice, rats, gerbils, and guinea pigs; Also including less well-know pets, such as ferrets and chinchillas** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Complete Encyclopedia Of Rabbits Rodents: Comprehensive information on hamsters, mice, rats, gerbils, and guinea pigs; Also including less well-know pets, such as ferrets and chinchillas:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Quite the resource!By don havlicekThis book, though European in origin, contains much good information about the subject.Looking forward to applying that information.Glad I bought it!1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I bought it for me because I love the pictures!!By fullmoonclubAnyone who loves these little types of animals will love this book and the pictures!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Idea, Poor ResultBy Bethany FowlerThis book frustrates me because it could have been a great book. Nothing like it( that I know of) exists in English, and I was really excited when I stumbled on it at my local library. The premise, of course, is supposed to be a complete encyclopedia of Rabbits (which are part of the family Lagomorpha) and Rodents. This means that, like most encyclopedias, it includes illustrations and entries on its

subject. As far as the books set up is concerned, this went pretty well. The rabbit section was split up for some reason (beginning on pg 23 and ending abruptly on pg 37, then picking up randomly on pg 185 where it continues to basically the end of the book), but other than this, the organisation was reasonable. After the introduction (which included the reason why Rabbits are not rodents, but still included in the book) it had sections on Mice, Rats, Gerbils, Hamsters, Squirrels, Degus, Chinchillas, Cavies, and then, inexplicably, Rabbits again. There are no ferrets, unfortunately, though they are promised on the back. The page numbers matched up, so that section had not been simply removed from my particular book, as I had first thought. The pictures are really pretty good. They are, of course, a tad dated in this age of crystal clear imagery, but still wonderful to look at. If I find a copy of this book cheap enough (certainly less than 10 dollars) I may pick it up for the pictures alone. I do not, I should say, have a wide understanding of pet rabbits or rodents. I am not uninformed, simply an amateur. I know enough about rats to pick up some misinformation, however. First, this book claims that you should pick up your rat by its tail....never, ever, should you do this. This is so blatantly wrong that it just makes me wonder what the person writing this had done to qualify to write the book to begin with. You can seriously injure your rat doing this, no matter if you grasp the base or the tip. You pick up a rat with two hands, supporting its bottom and belly. Rats are easy to hand tame. They want to be your friend, and a little effort and patience will reward you with a rat that will come to the cage door when you call it by name and scramble up your arm of its own accord. Please do not pay heed to this book's ideas on the subject. Pick up *Rats* by Deb Ducommun if you want a book on the subject; there are also many websites. Another problem (also with rats) is that this book has a picture of, basically, a glorified mouse cage for a rat. Rats need to be able to climb to be mentally happy. They need a tall cage that has rungs, or ladders, or tubes for climbing. This also permits you to have less of your space taken up by a cage, since a tall cage will--obviously--go up the wall, instead of out into your room. Guinea pigs' cage needs were also misrepresented in this book. The author claims that an indoor cage can be as small as 24"x16". What? No. Sorry. Again, way off. The LEAST size, both for the guinea pigs (of which there should always be at least two) happiness, and so that the owner doesn't have to be continually cleaning the cage, is 7.5 square feet. I am, of course, assuming that the pets in question here will have their happiness considered very highly. If you are buying a rodent or rabbit to give to your child so that they learn "responsibility" please, please realize that the animal will suffer for whatever the child may forget to do. This is not fair to a living creature who has needs and wants. If you want to get a pet like this for your child, please consider making it a family pet, so that the creature's whole world won't rely on a child. This isn't fair. And, rodents and rabbits can make awesome, loving, interesting pets for adults too. I promise. Since these animals are the only ones that I have sufficient knowledge of presently (I plan to learn much more) I can't help with the rest of the animals. I don't know if the author got them wrong, but I know that both animals I did know something about had incorrect information that has probably led to the unhappiness of pet rats and guinea pigs already. So I don't personally feel a lot of faith in this book. Another problem was simply technical; repeated passages of information (pg 306-308 is a perfect example) and typing errors were fairly regular. In short, I wish with all my heart there was an illustrated encyclopedia detailing the many small mammals that people can keep for pets. This one is something that I would only use for picture viewing purposes. Certainly, don't spend a lot on it if you plan to buy it. It's a shame, but what can you do? Maybe I will write the encyclopedia I have in mind some day. You never know.

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