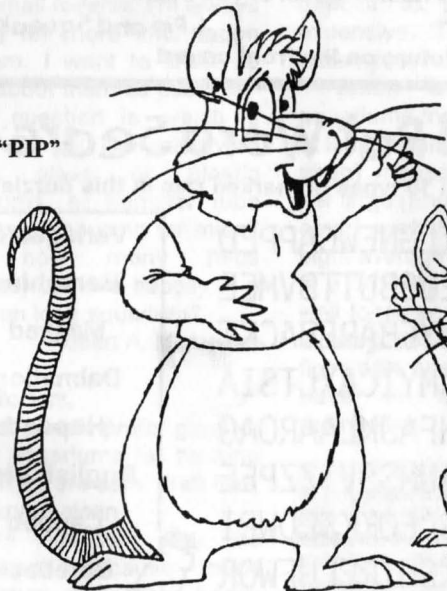


AFRMA 

RUG RAT REPORT #1

"PIP"



"SQUEAK"



 Just For Kids! 

Dear Kids,

Welcome to the first ever rat and mouse newsletter just for you! This is a new idea that we thought we would try. If you like it, let us know. Send us your stories about your pets, questions, puzzles, pictures, book reviews, and anything else. We will then print up a new Rug Rat Report whenever we get enough stuff from all of you.

We hope to hear from all of you soon.

Pip and Squeak

P.S. Color in our picture on the front cover!

Marked Rat Word Search

Can you find all 10 types of marked rats in this puzzle?

HSIRIHSILGNEWCAPPED
ODHNRTREUCBUTTBVMEE
OVMI IAZWYEBAREBACKT
DEHTSQOCMYICAXLTSIA
EOTRHLBHFAJKLAAROAG
DALMATIANMSSVIZZPEE
DIRVKHFSDEOKKSEDWPI
EZALBERKSHIRELHFWOR
MGEICLSEQPSXVDESCAA
IRIOADJDFVHNOIERUUV

Variegated
Berkshire
Masked
Dalmation
Hooded
English Irish
Capped
Bareback
Blaze
Irish



Letters!

Ask Pip n' Squeak



Dear Pip n' Squeak,

Hi, I'm 15 and my name is Robert. I love mice, rats and all other small rodents. I'm always looking for more information on them. I want to know as much about them as possible.

My question is, which is better? Do you like using wire cages, glass or plastic aquariums, or hamster tube systems as housing for mice? Also, how many mice (females) can live happily in a 15 gallon long aquarium?

Robert A. McAuslan

Dear Robert,

Most people prefer glass or plastic aquariums for housing mice. They are safe, draft free, and easy to clean.

Wire cages can be dangerous because mice sometimes get their heads stuck between the bars. Also, wire cages are drafty and messy.

Hamster tube systems (Habitrail and S.A.M. products) can be used, though they are difficult to clean and very expensive. They are fun to watch your mice play in.

When keeping mice in aquariums most people figure at least 2 gallons per small (pet shop) mouse, and 3 gallons per large (English) mouse. You could probably easily house eight average size female mice in a 15 long, if they get along well together. As you probably already know, male mice will fight with one another so you have to keep them by themselves.

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Rodent Relative

The Prairie dog

Class: Mammal

Scientific Name: *Cynomys ludovicianus*

Size: 11-13 inches
(28-33 cm)

Weight: 2-3 pounds
(.90-1.4 kg)

Life Span: 8 years

Gestation: 28-32 days

Offspring: 3-5 at a time

Distribution: North
America

Habitat: Dry upland prairies

Diet: Mostly herbivorous.

Eats grasses, leaves, roots, seeds, and occasionally insects.

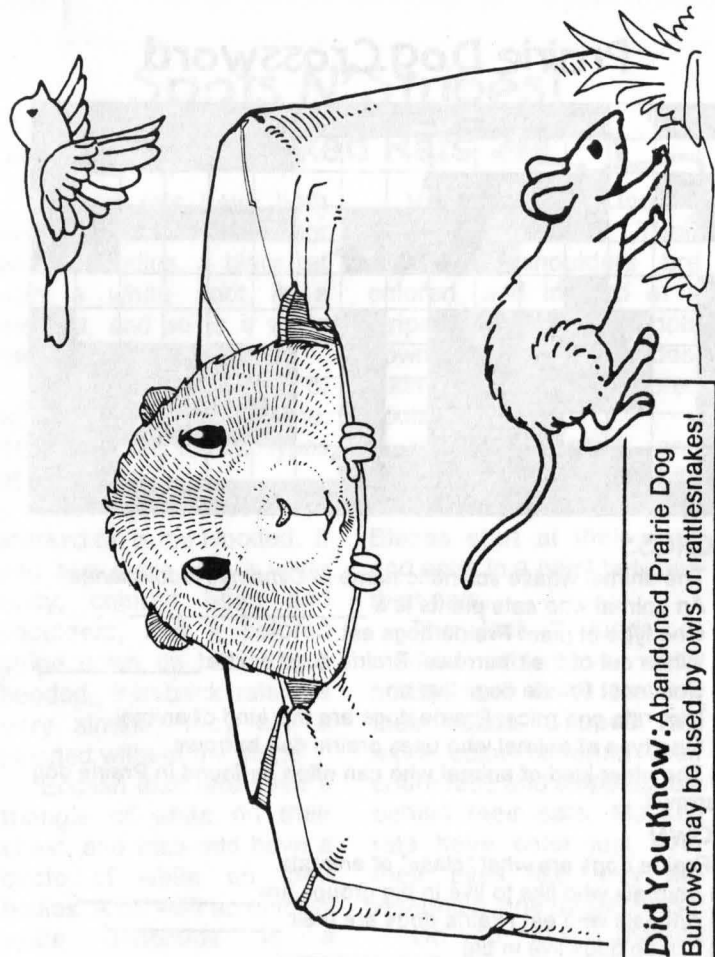
Prairie dogs are small rodents which are closely related to squirrels. As their name suggests, they can be found on the prairies of North America.

Prairie dogs are very gregarious. That means that

they like company. In the wild they live in huge groups called towns.

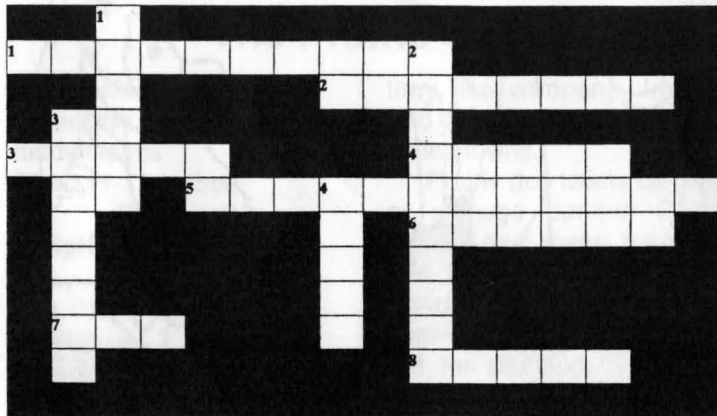
Prairie dog towns consist of a huge burrow. Each burrow has many tunnels. Just like our houses, many prairie dog burrows have special rooms. Some rooms are for sleeping, some for storing food, and others for raising babies. They even have a special bathroom.

When prairie dogs are out of their burrows, they are in danger of being eaten by many other animals. To prevent this, they always post a guard. When a predator is spotted, this guard lets out a loud two part bark which sends all the prairie dogs scurrying for their burrow. This bark is the reason they are called Prairie Dogs.



Did You Know: Abandoned Prairie Dog Burrows may be used by owls or rattlesnakes!

Prairie Dog Crossword



ACROSS

- 1) The animal whose scientific name is *Cynomys ludovicianus*.
- 2) An animal who eats plants is a _____.
- 3) One type of plant Prairie dogs eat.
- 4) When out of their burrows, Prairie dogs post a _____.
- 5) Continent Prairie dogs live on.
- 6) Like rats and mice, Prairie dogs are this kind of animal.
- 7) One type of animal who uses prairie dog burrows.
- 8) The other kind of animal who can often be found in Prairie dog burrows.

DOWN

- 1) Prairie dogs are what "class" of animals.
- 2) Animals who like to live in big groups are _____.
- 3) Animals who eat Prairie dogs are their _____.
- 4) Prairie dogs live in big _____.

Spots N' Stripes!



Marked Rats



Marked rats have both white and some other color on their bodies. A black rat with a white spot is a marked, and so is a white rat with a brown spot.

Each different pattern of white and color has a name. There are ten official types of markings.

The most common marked rat is the Hooded. If you see a rat with a white body, colored head and shoulders, and a colored stripe down its back, its a hooded. Bareback rats are very similar, they are a Hooded without the stripe.

English Irish rats have a triangle of white on their chest, and Irish rats have a circle of white on their bellies. A rat with an entirely white underside is a Berkshire.

Variegated rats look a little like Hoodeds. Their head and shoulders are colored, and instead of a stripe, they have polka dots down their backs and sides. Dalmatian rats have colored spots all over.

Some Berkshire and Variegated rats have white Blazes on their face. These Blazes start at their nose and ends in a point between their ears.

The last 2 kinds of marked rats have white bodies and color just on their heads. Capped rats have color covering their entire face and stopping just behind their ears. Masked rats have color just over their eyes like they are wearing a lone ranger mask.

Do you have a marked rat? Draw us a picture!

Marked Match Up

Can you match each marked rat with its name?



1 _____



2 _____



3 _____



4 _____



5 _____



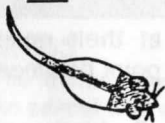
6 _____



7 _____



8 _____



9 _____

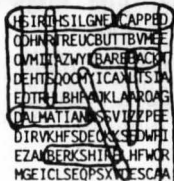


10 _____

- A) Variegated
- B) Berkshire
- C) Masked
- D) Dalmation
- E) Hooded
- F) English Irish
- G) Capped
- H) Bareback
- I) Blaze
- J) Irish

Answers

Marked Rat Word Search



Prairie Dog Crossword

Across

- 1) Prairie Dog
- 2) Herbivor
- 3) Grass
- 4) Guard
- 5) North America
- 6) Rodents

7) Owl

- 8) Snake
- Down
- 1) Rodent
- 2) Gregarious
- 3) Preditors
- 4) Towns

Marked Match Up

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1) C | 6) F |
| 2) H | 7) B |
| 3) D | 8) G |
| 4) I | 9) E |
| 5) A | 10) J |