

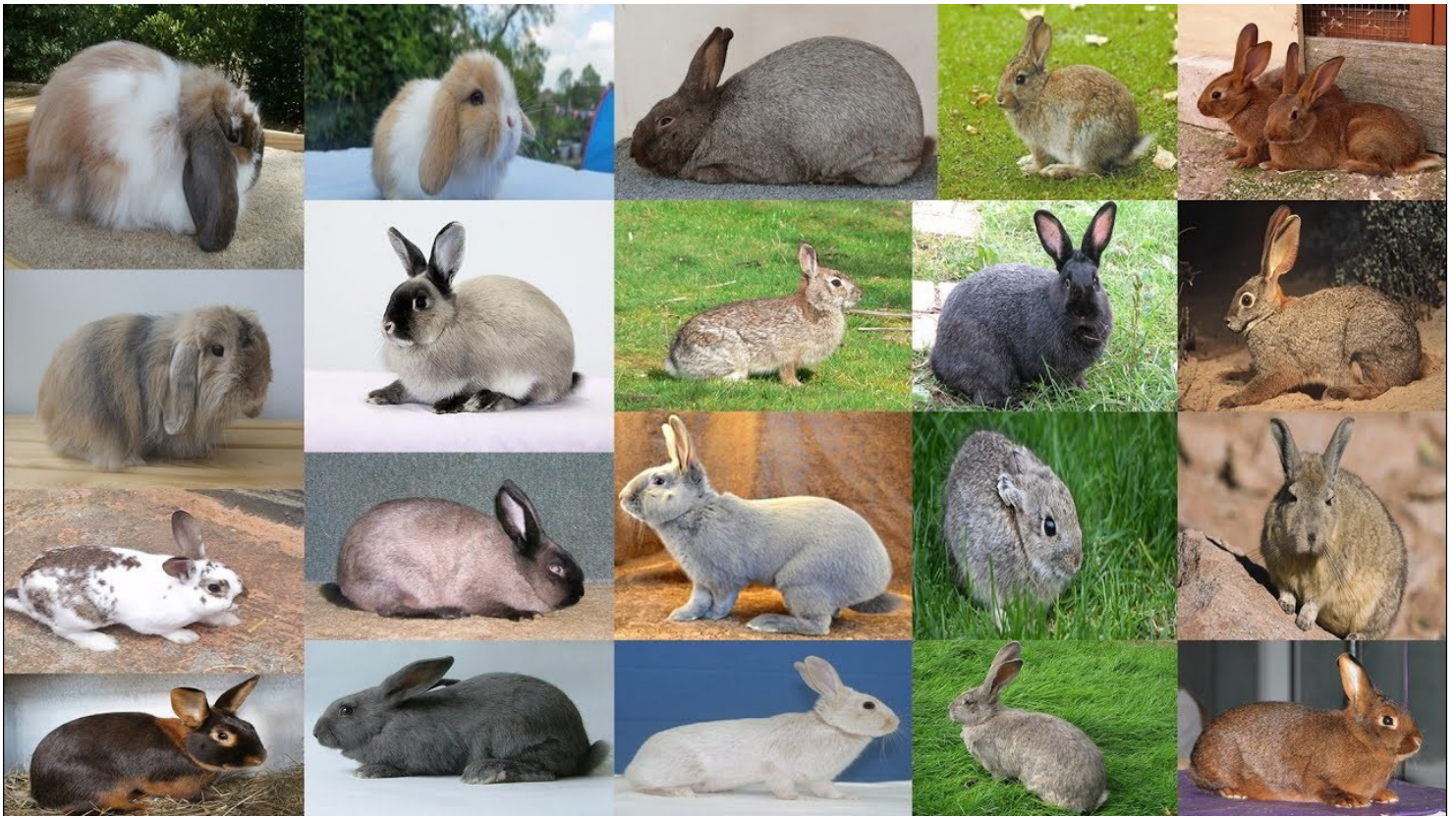
MINI 4-H RABBITS



NAME: _____

CLOVERBUDS—Grades Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd

This booklet is good for all 3 years of Mini 4-H Rabbits



DECATUR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

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GREENSBURG, IN 47240

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Booklet prepared and created by Bonita Hellmich, Decatur County Extension Office

Revised March 2023

SOURCES:

<https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/4h-31>

<https://rabbitpedia.com/rabbit-breeds/>

<http://www.therabbithouse.com/diet/rabbit-plants-vegetables-fruits.asp>

<https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/feeding-your-rabbit>

<https://bunnylady.com/how-to-handle-a-rabbit/>

<https://therabbithaven.org/rabbit-grooming-basics#:~:text=The%20grooming%20Tools%20you%20select,shed%2C%20daily%20brushing%20is%20ideal.>

<https://www.indianahrs.org/rabbit-care/housing.aspx>

Mini 4-H'ers Page

Welcome to Mini 4-H! You are now a member of the 4-H family. You are a special person. Mini 4-H'ers have a lot of fun! There are many activities for you to explore and new things to try. You can share it with your family and friends. Mom, Dad, another adult and your 4-H club can help you with your project. When it is finished, bring your project to the 4-H fair to display it so others can see what you have done. You will also get a ribbon made just for Mini 4-H'ers. Most of all, have fun!

Here are some things to know about 4-H:

The 4-H symbol: The symbol is a four-leaf clover with a "H" in each leaf.

Clover is a plant which grows in fields, yards and along roadsides. Most clovers only have 3 leaves. If you look closely when you are outside, you may get lucky and find a clover with four leaves. A four-leaf clover is used as the symbol for 4-H to let everyone know 4-H is a special kind of group.

The 4-H Colors: The 4-H colors are green and white. The four-leaf clover is green and the "H" in the leaf is white.

The 4-H Motto: "TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER." When something is better than all of the others, it is *the best*. 4-H encourages you to always try to do better, even if you are doing the best, you have ever done.

The 4-H Mission: The Indiana 4-H Youth Development mission is to "provide real-life educational opportunities that develop young people who positively impact their community and the world".

The 4-H Vision: Indiana 4-H Youth Development strives to be the premier community-based program empowering young people to reach their full potential.

The 4-H Pledge: A pledge is a promise you make to yourself and to the people around you.



**I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking,
My HEART to greater loyalty,
My HANDS to larger service,
And my HEALTH to better living,
For my club, my community,
My country and my world.**



Mini 4-H Helper's Page

Welcome to the Mini 4-H program! Mini 4-H is designed for youth to explore a variety of project activity areas and to interact with caring adults and other children.

Children receive project manuals for their chosen project(s) after enrolling in Mini 4-H. These manuals provide information to learn about the chosen project along with learning activities to provide fun and interaction throughout the year in Mini 4-H. The manuals also provide ideas for a project to bring to the fair. Read through the manual with your child and explain what they are learning about the animal. This booklet is good for three years of Mini 4-H.

As a Mini 4-H helper, your job will be to guide and encourage the Mini 4-H'er through doing the activities in the manual. A wide range of activities are provided to allow you to choose the ones most appropriate for the child you are working with. It is suggested that you DO NOT complete the activities for them, but instead, help them, guide them and work with them, letting the child do as much as they possibly can themselves. 4-H believes in allowing children to "learn by doing". The Mini 4-H project activities are hands-on learning opportunities designed to provide a meaningful educational experience for youth.

Additionally, the Mini 4-H program is set up to allow children to display a project activity based upon information learned from this manual. Some children choose to exhibit their project at the Decatur County 4-H Agricultural Fair. Fair week is an exciting week for 4-H members, Mini 4-H'ers and their families. It is a week that allows the community youth to showcase their enthusiasm for learning.

Mini 4-H is fun! Children will certainly enjoy it. As an adult helper, you can have fun too, by guiding and helping as children participate in the program. Encourage and praise the child(ren) as they have fun learning while doing the activities, and sharing what they are learning with you.

If you have questions regarding Mini 4-H or the 4-H program and projects, please feel free to call the Decatur County Extension Office at 812-663-8388.



Decatur County Extension Office
545 South County Road 200 West
Greensburg, IN 47240
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4-H Educator: Nora Bruns
Email: stacyn@purdue.edu



Mini 4-H Program Rules

The Mini 4-H program is designed to supplement and introduce students in kindergarten through second grade to the Decatur County 4-H program.

Rules:

Mini 4-H is open to any boy or girl who is currently enrolled in kindergarten, first or second grade on January 1st of the current 4-H year.

Mini 4-H participants will enroll in a 4-H club where they may get help with their project from older 4-H'ers and their club leader. They can also do their project at home with help from their parents.

Mini 4-H'ers in Decatur County may enroll in any of the following projects: Arts and Crafts, Bicycle (grade 2 only), Bugs, More Bugs (2nd grade), Collections, Dinosaurs, Farm Animals, Foods, Foods 2 (2nd grade), Forestry, Garden, Genealogy, Models, My Pets & Me, Plants & Flowers, Sewing, Space, Whales & Dolphins, Wildlife, and Woodworking.

Animal projects now have manuals, and the child will participate in the Mini 4-H Livestock show during the fair for the species they have signed up to show. They will use an animal provided by an older sibling, relative, friend, or other 4-H'er that is already being shown at the fair. Older 4-H'ers and adults will help them so they will learn the proper way to show the animal. Animal projects include: Beef, Dairy, Rabbits, Goats, Sheep, Horses, Swine, Puppies/Dog and Poultry. The manuals for animals are to be used over the three years of Mini 4-H (Cloverbuds).

Mini 4-H'ers will complete activities in their project manuals. Any poster exhibits must follow the following specifications:

The poster must be a stiff cardboard or foam core board so it can stand by itself if needed. Poster board size is to be 22" high x 28" wide. Posters are to be covered with plastic to protect them.

The Decatur County Extension office sells foam core board and plastic sleeves to cover them as a set a minimal price.

Posters must be positioned horizontally.



RABBIT BASICS FOR THE BEGINNER

<https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/4h-31>

SELECTING YOUR RABBIT

Rabbits are a popular project for younger 4-H members or those members who do not have the facilities or space for a larger animal species. Basic background information about raising and caring for rabbits will assist in making your endeavor into rabbit ownership a success.

Selecting a breed of rabbit can be a huge challenge for first-time rabbit owners. There are currently 49 breeds of rabbits recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA). (As a 4-H member, you should familiarize and research several breeds to determine those meeting the criteria you have for your rabbit project.) There are market fryers, breeding rabbits, or companion pet rabbits. The goals you have for your rabbit project have a large effect on the breed you choose to purchase.

BREEDS

<https://rabbitpedia.com/rabbit-breeds/>

Lionhead Rabbit

The Lionhead Rabbit is an increasingly popular breed which can be identified by an outstanding and unique mane of fur around their neck, resembling that of a lion's mane, henceforth being how the breed name was established. These curiously cute bunnies are available in a wide range of color, and average about 3.75lbs. Their personality makes them a great choice as a pet, or as a show animal.



Flemish Giant

Flemish Giants are notoriously one of the oldest, calmest, and largest breed of rabbit in existence. They typically weigh as large as +16lbs, and are available in 7 standard colors. Due to their easy-going, laid-back personalities, they are considered as a favorite breed to have as a pet. They are dually popular in the show arenas.



Holland Lop

Holland Lop rabbits are a small breed that have a short, stocky and almost boxy body type, somewhat resembling that of a Bulldog. They have short, lopped ears and a pronounced tuft of fur on top of their heads. The average weight of this breed is typically plus or minus that of 3.5lbs. They are available in a wide variety of colors. Due to their size and personalities, Holland Lops are very popular as show and pet rabbits.



Continental Giant

Continental Giants vary in specific type and body-style, according to each one's country of origin. Collectively, however, they are the largest breed in existence and can generally be found to weigh on the average of 18 - 22lbs. They are also notorious for having very large, erect ears. Continental Giants are available in various colors, but there is a standard of 8 base colors. They are exceptionally intelligent and thrive best with high amounts of human interaction. As such, they are highly desired as pets, and their popularity is growing in the show circuits as well.



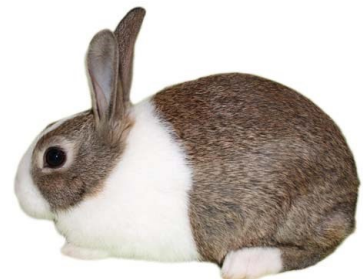
Netherland Dwarf

Netherland Dwarf's are a small, highly energetic breed of rabbit. They generally weigh around 2.5lbs, and they have short erect ears and can be found in many colors. Being as small as they are, and with such high energy levels, it is common for them to exhibit aggression. If choosing a Netherland Dwarf as a pet or for show purposes, it is suggested to choose wisely, especially if the bunny is intended for a child.



Dutch Rabbit

Dutch rabbits are identifiable by their uniquely specific combined colors of white plus another base-color, in an exact pattern of markings. They are approximately 4lbs in weight, with short, compact bodies, and short erect ears. Generally speaking, they are a docile breed, which makes them a good choice as a pet. They are common, also, in the rabbit show arenas.



English Lop

English Lops are a large breed which is instantly noticed for their excessively long, lopped ears, which are an average length of 21-32 inches from tip to tip. These calm, easy-natured bunnies are typically around 12lbs in weight, and are readily available in multiple colors. Most owners of English Lops choose to show them, however they are well suited as nice pets.



French Lop

French Lops are a medium, or commercial sized breed of rabbit which is highly prized for their sweet, calm, intelligent characteristics. They have a boxy-style head, with lopped ears. Frenchies, as they are often referred to as, tend to weigh around +14lbs. There are quite a few colors to choose from with this breed, and they are generally an excellent choice as a pet, and for showing purposes.



Mini Rex

Mini Rex rabbits are a small, compact breed, commonly known by the velvety texture of soft fur. Most are calm and good natured, although that is not always the case, so caution should be used when choosing one of this breed as a child's pet, for if a child will be showing the bunny. They are relatively easy to house, as their weight is in the ballpark of 4.5 lbs.



Polish Rabbit

Polish rabbits are known for their small size and average weight of 2-3lbs, which makes them an excellent choice if having limited space is an issue. They have been nicknamed the "Aristocrat" of the rabbit world, and are available in 7 standard base colors. These bunnies typically have a peaceful and friendly disposition, making them one of the more favored breeds for children to have a pet and for showing.



American Rabbit

The American Standard rabbit is officially a rare breed of rabbit. Due to this, they are a difficult breed to acquire. They were formerly named the "German Blue Vienna", later renamed as the "American Blue", and now, with the latest name of The American Standard. They are only available in white and blue. Additionally, this is a large, sturdy breed; having the average weight of 10-12lbs. They are good-natured, calm bunnies which make a nice choice for beginner-owners as well as for the more experienced owners.



Beveren Rabbit

The Beveren is a highly energetic & curious breed, yet they are known as gentle and docile. They are a good choice as a pet or show animal for older children & adults alike. They can be found in red, white, or blue colors. Due to their medium size, weighing up to 12lbs, they require ample space as living conditions.



Californian Rabbit

The Californian rabbit is a commercial breed, which are primarily known for showing and meat production. They are easily identified by having white bodies & color-markings on the ears, nose, tail, and feet. These bunnies typically weigh 10-12lbs. They are docile and a popular breed, which makes them fairly easy to acquire.



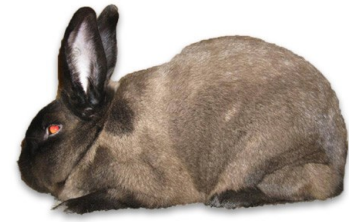
American Fuzzy Lop Rabbit

American Fuzzy Lops, or "Fuzzies" as they are commonly referred to as, are quite the social-butterflies of the rabbit world. They're active, curious, and playful. These qualities make them great pets, but a warning comes with this breed. As their name suggests, they have a longer, woolly type fur which must be groomed on a strictly regular schedule to prevent severe matting. They are readily available in a variety of colors. Otherwise, they are small, with short lopped ears, and they easily-kept; weighing an average of 3.5lbs. They are also a good choice to have for the show-rings.



American Sable Rabbit

The American Sable is a beautiful sable- colored breed, available in two varieties. They are social, friendly, and energetic bunnies. Being medium sized, about 8-9lbs, "Sables" are easy to care for, keep, and raise for showing, as well as for having as a pet.



Angora Rabbit

Angora rabbits are among the oldest breeds of domestic rabbit that originated in Angora (formerly known as Ankara), Turkey. They are known for their long, soft wool that is silky. They look like a fur ball, but with a face of a rabbit. Angoras are docile and calm, although they are not as hardy as other breeds. Regular grooming is necessary to prevent matting and felting.



Beige Rabbit

Beige rabbits are believed to have originated in England or in The Netherlands. They are a rare breed with a dense silky fur colored light-sand with slate blue-ticking. They weigh around 6.5 pounds.



Checkered Giant

Checkered Giant rabbits originated in Europe. They usually weigh more than 11 pounds. At first look, these rabbits look almost like the English Spot breed. They are noted for the butterfly pattern on their nose and their solid blue or black, erect ears. They also have two blue or black spots on either side of their body plus a blue or black stripe that runs from the tail to the base of the ears. Checkered Giants make good pets, trainable, and are regular groomers.

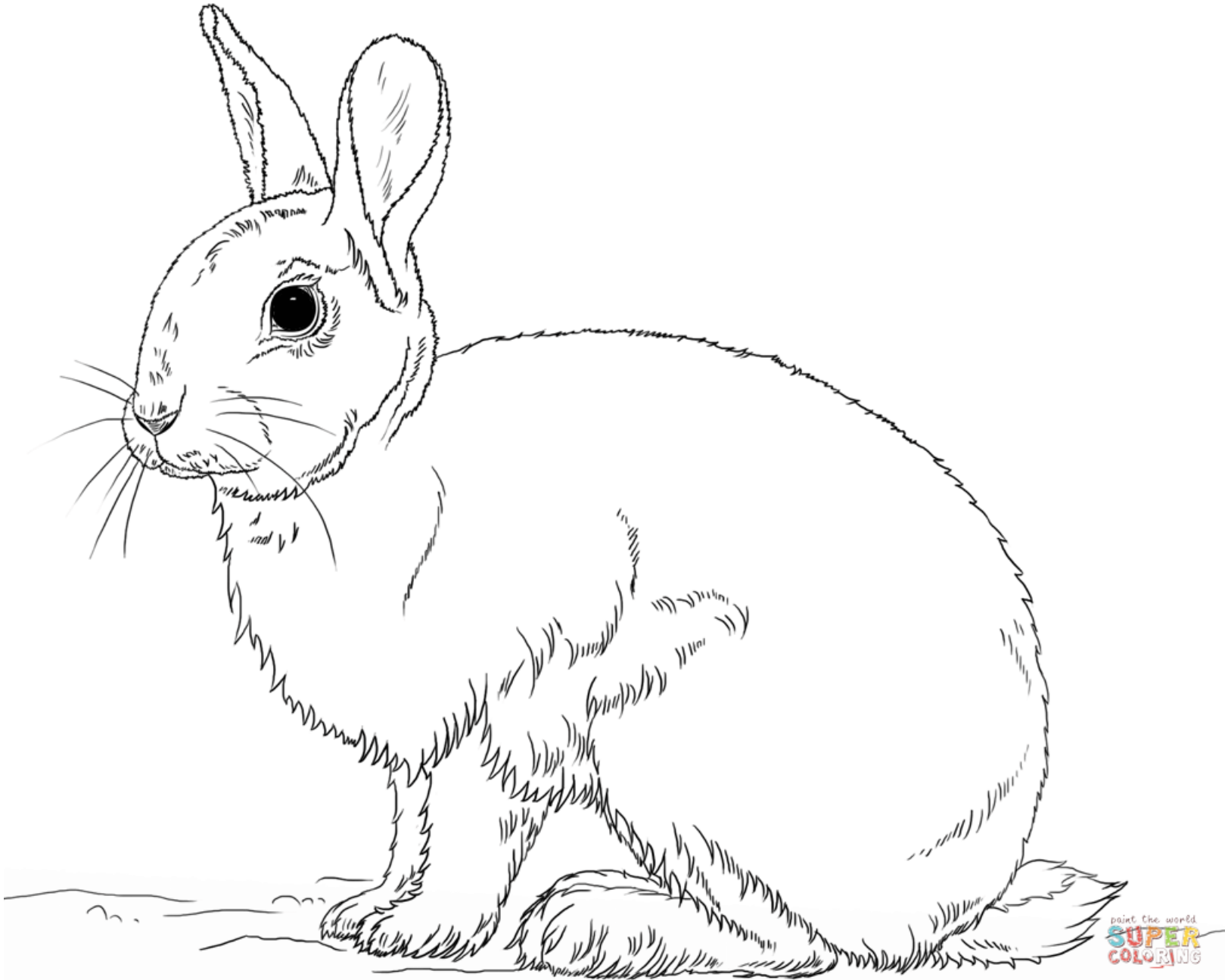


Chinchilla

Chinchilla rabbits are named as such because of their resemblance to chinchillas. The Standard Chinchilla and the Giganta breed were both developed in France, while the American and Giant Chinchilla originated in the US. They usually weigh around 10 to 16 pounds. They have a dense but soft coat of hair that has different color bands. Chinchilla rabbits are good natured, docile, and gentle.



Color the rabbit.



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CHOOSING YOUR RABBIT

Think Before You Buy

What is your need for your rabbit? Will you use it as just a 4-H project and pet? Do you want to raise a meat rabbit, or a rabbit bred for fur production? Think about the size of rabbit you want as well as the size of cage you have space for. Consider feed costs. Giant rabbit breeds eat up to 8 ounces of feed per day versus 2-3 ounces for a small breed rabbit. What size rabbit will you be comfortable handling? Consider that longer-haired rabbits will take extra work to keep their hair in excellent condition for showing.

More Items to Consider when Choosing Your Rabbit

1. Health—does the rabbit look healthy? Does it have a good appetite?
2. Age—The best age of rabbit to buy may be from 3 months to 1 year. Older rabbits may be out of condition. At the fair, 4-Her's show several rabbits per class. You may want rabbits of different breed categories so they will not all be in the same class.
3. Will the rabbit be of good age or right conformation type to reproduce if you want to breed it after you show it?
4. Does the rabbit have good conformation? Are its legs and tail straight? No abscesses or deformities? Nice round meaty shape to it? Nicely shaped head?
5. Does it have healthy looking fur? It's fur should shine and be dense.
6. Do it's teeth look healthy? They should overlap at the bottom and not wolf out.
7. Are the eyes clear? If they are watery, cloudy, dull or spotted you may have a sick or blind rabbit.
8. Ears should not look crusty inside and be of appropriate shape and length.
9. Feet should be well padded and not bleeding. There should be no toenails missing and they should be the correct color and all one color.
10. Does the rabbit have all the correct markings and color characteristics for it's breed, as set forth in ARBA's Standard of Perfection?
11. Cost. 4-H rabbits can be anywhere from \$5 to \$50.

CARING FOR YOUR RABBIT

Daily Care of Show Rabbits

Use the proper equipment. Only use all-wire cages. These are much less likely to cause urine stains on your rabbit than solid bottomed cages. They also keep your rabbit's environment cleaner and reduce ammonia. If you plan to breed your rabbits, make sure you have a nest box ready at least a week before your doe is due to deliver.

Feed a healthy and consistent diet. People will spend a long time looking at feed bag labels trying to determine the healthiest diet for their rabbits. While that is admirable, sometimes the freshness of the feed and the consistency of the nutrition are more important than the brand of pellets. Ideally, show rabbits should have a diet low in protein and fat and high in fiber. Free-choice timothy hay is an excellent addition to any rabbit's meal. Always make sure the feed is fresh; rabbits will not condition well on stale pellets. A healthy base diet is more effective at getting your rabbit in top condition than any supplements you could throw in.

Provide the proper environment. Proper housing doesn't stop at a well-made cage. The cage must be located in an area with excellent ventilation. The surrounding temperature should not get above 85 degrees at any time of the year, at least unless you take measures to keep your rabbit cool and hydrated in hot weather. The cage can be kept outside, but must be protected from predators and precipitation. It must be kept in a quiet area so your rabbit will not be stressed. All these factors, if the rabbit is not protected from them, can compromise your bunny's immune system. It's also very important to keep the cage clean. Not only will this help prevent disease such as coccidiosis, but it will you're your rabbit's coat from getting stained.

Handle your rabbit often. This step must not be neglected if you want to be successful showing rabbits in 4-H. You must train your rabbit to pose, so it will look good for the judges. Rabbits can learn to pose themselves as soon as they are touched if you work long enough with them. If you are competing in rabbit showmanship, you should get your rabbit used to the routine, so it will cooperate with you on show day. Handling your rabbit is also very important because it allows you to check its health and condition daily. That way if your rabbit has any health problems, you can catch them early on.

Keep good records. Some 4-H leaders or county fairs will require you to show your project record book along with your rabbit. You might even win a prize for keeping good records! Even if record keeping is not a requirement, it's an excellent management practice and will help you raise better rabbits in the end. At bare minimum, you should keep pedigrees and breeding records for every rabbit you raise. Hint: grab some [rabbitry management software](#) to make your job easier.

Feeding Your Rabbits

Rabbits are **herbivores** (plant eaters) and are considered grazers, in that they eat continuously. They have complex digestive systems and are very efficient at processing food. They also have very specific dietary needs. If you introduce new foods too quickly, or feed inappropriate food choices, the rabbit's normal digestive flora (normal bacteria) will be disturbed, gas- and toxin-producing bacteria can overgrow, and the rabbit may become very sick and possibly die.

Rabbits should have a daily diet of mostly hay, a smaller amount of fresh vegetables, and a limited number of pellets. Hay is the most important part of a rabbit's daily intake. Unlimited, high-quality grass hay, such as Timothy, orchard or brome, should make up the bulk of a rabbit's diet. Grass hay is high in fiber, which is critical to maintaining a rabbit's healthy digestive tract. While young, growing rabbits can eat any type of grass hay. **Alfalfa hay is not recommended for adult rabbits**, as it is too rich in protein and too high in calcium.

Timothy pellets can be offered at approximately 1/8-1/4 cup per 5 lbs of bodyweight. Over-feeding pellets to adult rabbits is a common cause of obesity and soft stool, as pellets are generally low in fiber and high in carbohydrates. In addition to hay, wild rabbits eat a lot of other fresh vegetation.

Rabbit Diet - Plants, Vegetables & Fruit

Fresh plants provide your rabbit with a range of vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients as well as additional fiber. They also make your rabbit's diet more interesting by providing different flavors and textures, and give you plenty of scope for encouraging your rabbit to browse and forage in a more natural way.

Many different plants, vegetables, and herbs are suitable for rabbits. You can feed some daily, where as others, that are high in sugar or starch, should only be a rare treat.

Fruits & Vegetables

Many of the common fruits and vegetables humans eat are also safe for rabbits. The part of the plant a vegetable is from is a good guide to its nutritional balance and its place in your rabbit's diet.

Bulbs Onion, leek, garlic—Avoid feeding these types of vegetables as they are generally either toxic or contain high levels of starch.

Tubers Potato, yam—Avoid feeding these types of vegetables as they are generally either toxic or contain high levels of starch.

Seeds Peas, beans, lentil—Avoid feeding these types of vegetables as they are generally either toxic or contain high levels of starch.

Roots Carrot, parsnip, turnip, swede, beetroot—These parts of plants store energy, so are high in sugars, and should make up a smaller portion of your rabbit's diet.

Fruits Cucumber, sweet pepper, pumpkin, apple, squash, blackberries, strawberry, raspberry, pear, pineapple, tomato (not leaves). These parts of plants store energy, so are high in sugars, and should make up a smaller portion of your rabbit's diet.

Stalks Celery, chard, broccoli—The green leafy parts of vegetables are best for rabbits to eat; these are low in calories and high in fiber.

Leaves Cabbage, spinach, carrot leaves, cabbage/broccoli leaves, kale, blackberry/raspberry leaves, strawberry leaves, romaine lettuce (not iceberg lettuce), radish tops—The green leafy parts of vegetables are best for rabbits to eat; these are low in calories and high in fiber.

Flower Bud Broccoli/cauliflower heads—The green leafy parts of vegetables are best for rabbits to eat; these are low in calories and high in fiber.

Seeds Although most of the seeds and grains humans eat are not poisonous to rabbits they are high-energy foods and not suitable for rabbits in large quantities. Remember rabbits are primarily leaf eaters not seed eaters. Keep in mind that some plants are toxic, and some plants are a mix - for example whilst tomatoes are safe to eat, the leaves of the tomato plant are poisonous.



Feeding Vegetable Off Cuts

In addition to sharing the vegetables you eat, rabbits can also eat many of the parts of vegetable plants that humans discard because they are tough and fibrous - the same characteristics that make them good for rabbits. These include cauliflower leaves, broccoli stalks, and carrot leaves

Supermarkets often strip vegetables of the leaves before sale so try visiting markets or farm shops to source your fresh food. Not all parts of vegetables plants are safe to eat though, for example, the leaves, and stems of tomato plants are poisonous.

Wild Plants

Many of the plants that make up a wild rabbit's diet grow in gardens as 'weeds' and can make an excellent free addition to your rabbit's diet. Common 'weeds' that are safe for rabbits to eat include Plantain, Clover, Dandelion, Thistle, Chickweed, Nettle, Blackberry/Bramble leaves, and Shepherd's Purse; and there are many more.

A good reference book on plants is essential as some garden plants and weeds are toxic. You should only pick plants from areas that are free from traffic pollution and pesticides, and have not fouled by other animals.

If your garden is a weed free zone, you can buy or collect seeds and grow your rabbit's favorites in pots like any other plant. Just be careful to pick them before they set seed or your garden won't stay weed free for long!

If you don't have any outside space, then try growing them inside on a windowsill.

Herbs

Herbs including: parsley, basil, mint, rosemary, sage, thyme, dill, and coriander make great healthy snacks or treats. You can grow most in pots to provide a cheap and regular supply.

Dried Plants

When fresh foods are dried, the water content decreases and the nutrients, including sugars, become much more concentrated. That means that weight for weight dried fruit and vegetables contain more calories. Dried fruit in particular you should only feed as an occasional treat if at all.

As leaves are low in sugar to begin with you can feed them dried. Mixing dried leaves into hay is a good way to make it more tempting to fussy rabbits.

Quantity & Variety

Different types of plants contain different types and amounts of vitamins, minerals, so feeding a variety of different plants is the key to providing a complete range of nutrients. Where one plant is low or high in a particular nutrient, another will balance it out. Aim to feed several different plants each day and not necessarily the same types every day.

Introducing Fresh Foods

Rabbits do not tolerate sudden changes in their diet well. A sudden introduction of large quantities of fresh foods can unbalance their digestion and cause illness.

Instead, introduce new foods one at a time in small portions so it is easy to isolate a particular type if it upsets your rabbit's digestion. If your rabbit reacts badly to one type, try a different one or a smaller portion.

You need to be particularly careful in introducing fresh foods to young rabbits, as they are more sensitive, although it is not necessary to withhold fresh foods completely, as some older books recommend. Ideally, baby rabbits will have eaten fresh foods from when they first start on solids. If you get a new baby rabbit (over 8 weeks old) that has not previously eaten fresh foods then allow it a week or so to settle in to the new environment and routine before beginning to introduce small quantities of fresh foods as you would for an adult.

Feeding Method

Rather than just putting fresh foods in a bowl, try to mimic some of the natural foraging a wild rabbit would do to find food. For example, you can hang up leaves, so your rabbit has to stretch up to get them, as a wild rabbit might have to stretch up to reach the tender shoots from trees and bushes. You can also hide food in, under, or on top of objects (such as flowerpots, boxes, or paper bags) so your rabbit has to sniff it out then work out how to obtain it. Even simply scattering the food around the enclosure will give your rabbit more enrichment than a tidy pile in a bowl.

By creating opportunities for your rabbit to browse and forage you provide exercise and mental stimulation, decreasing the likely hood of destructive behavior such as chewing.

What are the water requirements of rabbits?

Fresh water should be available 24 hours a day. Some rabbits prefer water bowls, and others prefer sipper bottles. If you offer water in a sipper bottle, be sure to inspect it for clogs and fill it with clean water daily. If you offer your rabbit water in a bowl, make sure the rabbit does not spill it in its cage or soil it with feces.

Is there anything else I should know?

Rabbits need to chew to maintain the health of their continuously growing teeth. Chew toys should always be available; hard wooden chew toys (blocks and sticks) and cardboard are best.

<http://www.therabbithouse.com/diet/rabbit-plants-vegetables-fruits.asp>



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Example Daily Diet



1 egg cup (20g) of pellets
1 pile hay (approx size of body)
Plus a selection of fresh foods



Handful of grass
& dandelion



Monday's Fresh Foods

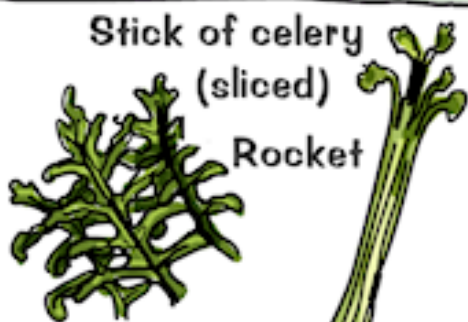


Cauliflower
leaf (large)

Fresh parsley
& basil



Tuesday - Herbs



Stick of celery
(sliced)

Rocket



1 cherry
tomato

Wednesday - Salad

Blackberry
leaves



2 handfuls
fresh grass



1 small
carrot

Thursday's Mix

3 handfuls of fresh
grass, dandelion &
thistle



Friday - Grass & Weeds



Kale

Cauliflower
leaf

Small piece
banana (1")



Saturday's Fresh Food

1 broccoli stalk



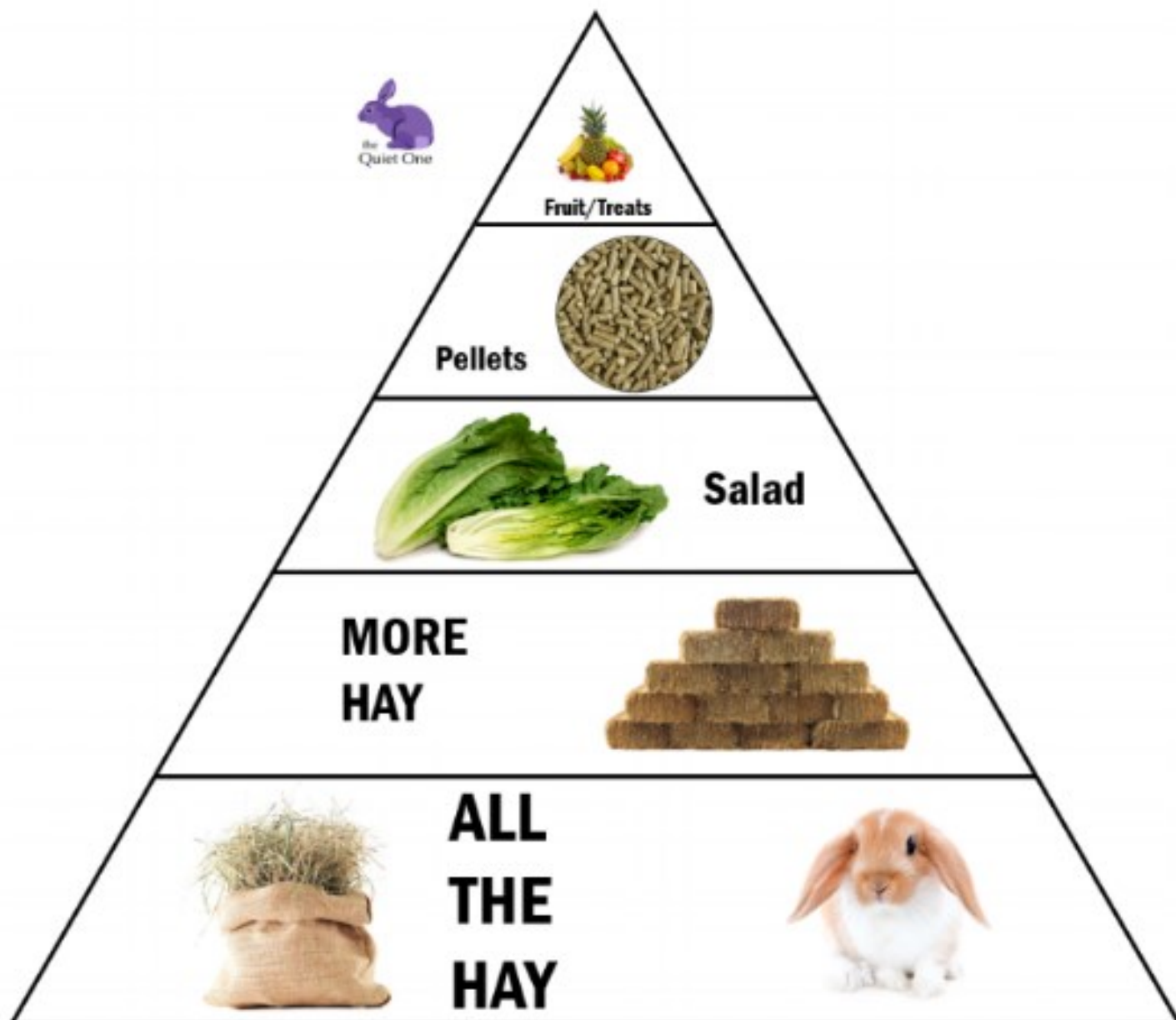
Peel from
1 parsnip &
peel & tops
of 5 carrots



Sunday - Leftovers

Note: This is an example of what you could feed your rabbit, not a diet plan. Pick and choose fresh foods depending on what is in season, available in your local shop or garden, and what your rabbit (or you) likes to eat. Leafy greens should make up the highest portion and fruits/roots (e.g. carrots) the lowest.

Understanding Your Rabbit's Habits - www.theRabbitHouse.com



WHAT TO FEED YOUR RABBIT?

GRASS HAY

80% (unlimited)

LEAFY GREENS

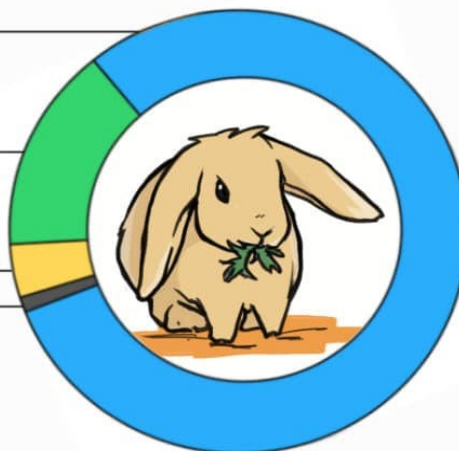
15% (about 1 to 2 cups)

PELLETS

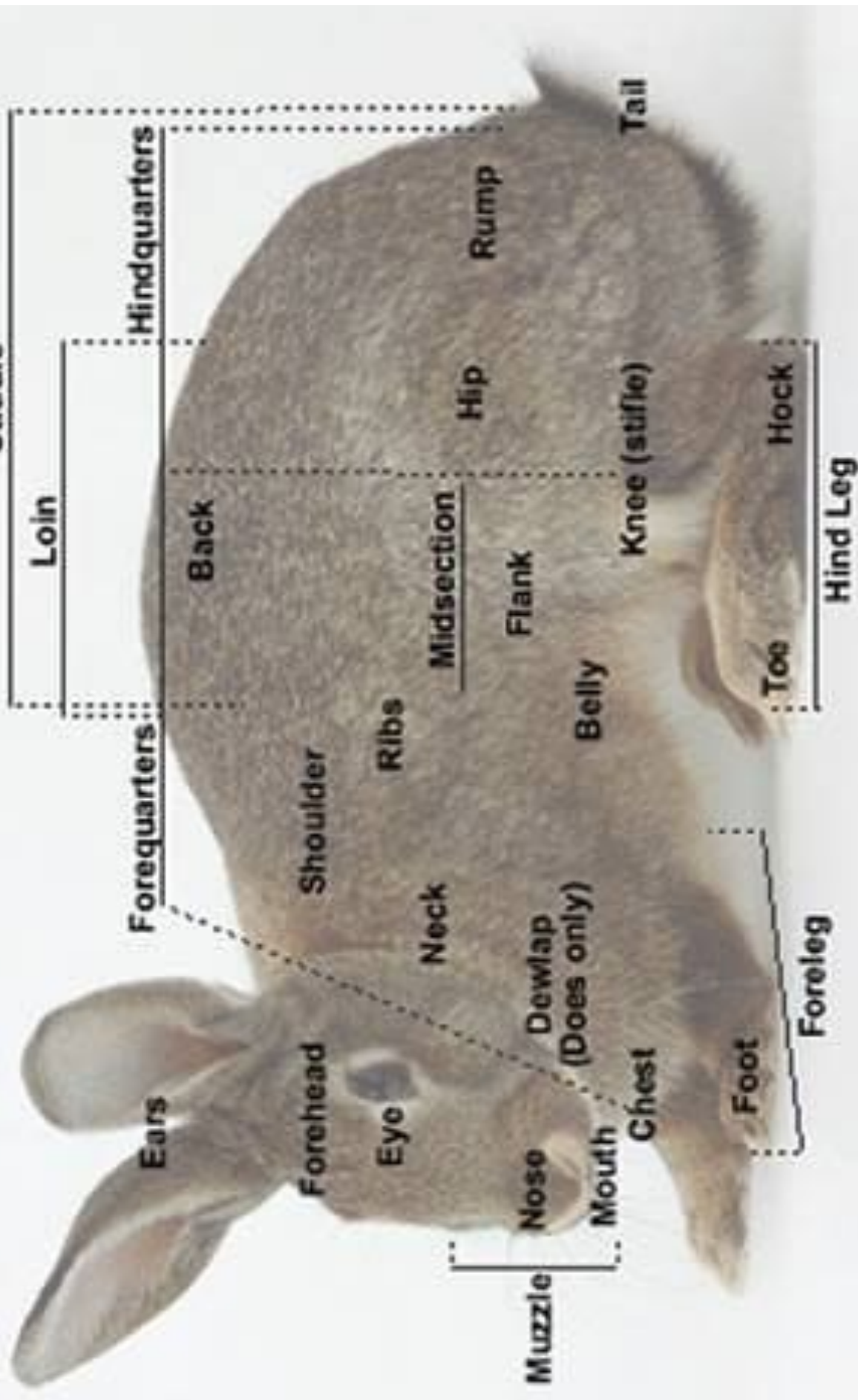
4% (about 1/4 to 1/2 cup)

TREATS

1% (about 1 to 2 Tbsp)

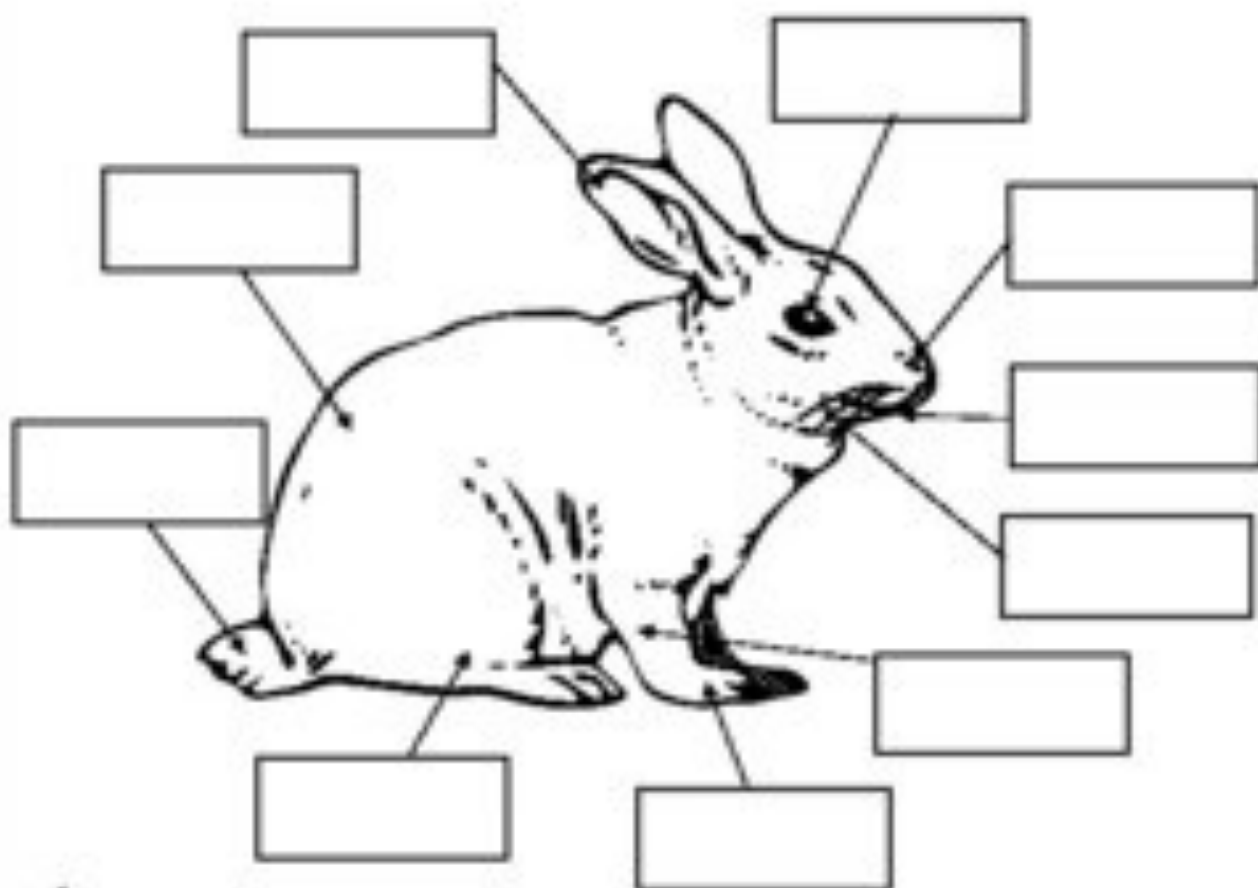
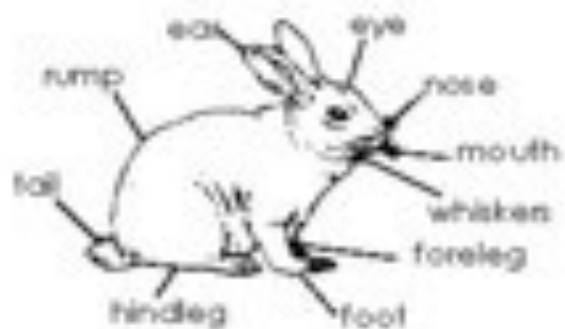


Rabbit Body Parts



Write the body parts of the rabbit into the correct boxes.

Parts of a Rabbit



ear	eye	nose	whiskers	mouth
foot	foreleg	hindleg	tail	rump

HOW TO HANDLE YOUR RABBIT

Handling

1. Wear long sleeves to protect your arms from getting scratched.
2. Handle your rabbit with care, and often.
3. Always handle your rabbit humanely. NEVER lift or carry a rabbit by its ears. This is painful for the rabbit, and causes damage to the ear veins. Also, without the entire body being supported, when a rabbit kicks to free itself, it may cause bone fractures in its back or hind legs, and cause injury to the nerves or tendons.
4. NEVER lift a rabbit by its legs. This is painful as well, and can cause injury.
5. NEVER lift a rabbit by the scruff of its neck without supporting the entire body weight, as injuries can occur as mentioned in No. 3. Fur can be damaged as well.
6. Put a rug or piece of carpet on the table or area where you are handling your rabbit, so it can get a foothold when being handled. A rabbit will not feel secure on smooth places and may become afraid.
7. Handle your rabbit during the cool part of the day. Two or three short sessions are better than one long session.
8. Handling rabbits when it is too hot can cause unnecessary stress and heat stroke.
9. Carry your rabbit by tucking its head under your arm while supporting its body between your side and your same arm. The rabbit's eyes should be covered by your elbow. Support the hindquarters with your free hand.
10. Refer to the *Ohio 4-H Rabbit Resource Handbook*, 228R, pages 54-55 for proper handling techniques.



Picking Up

Familiarize yourself. Before holding a rabbit for the first time, it is best to let the rabbit get used to you.

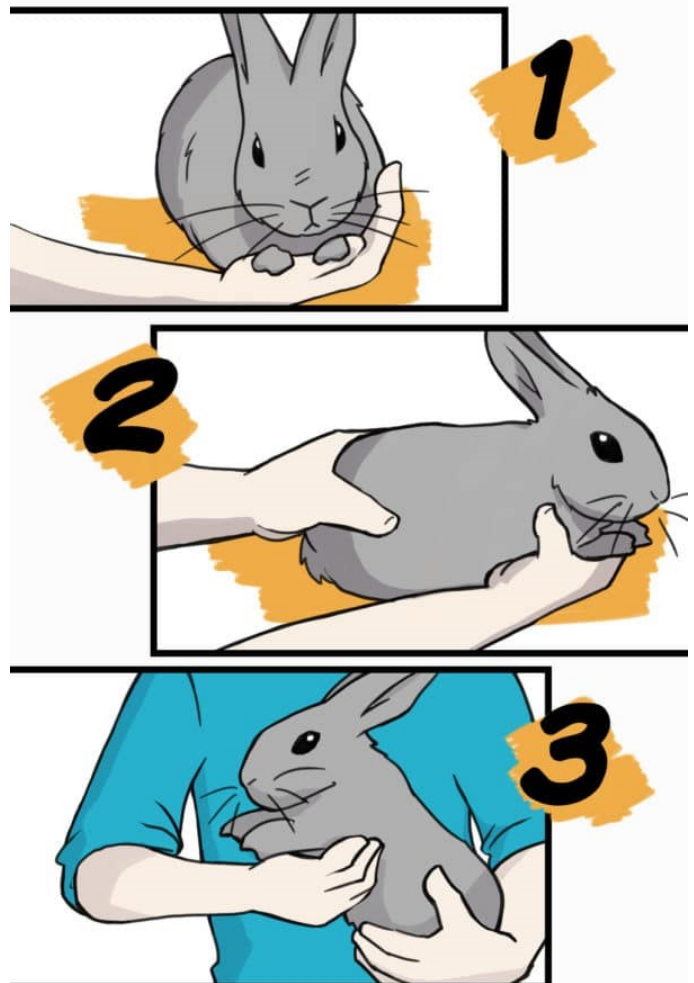
- **Get comfortable.** If the rabbit's cage or hutch is on the ground, sit next to it. Height can often be intimidating to smaller animals and sitting down reduces height and can make you seem less intimidating.
- **Don't rush.** Put your hand beside the rabbit's hutch or cage and encourage it to sniff you. Hold your hand there a few moments, speaking in soft, reassuring tones like you would with a human who may be frightened or uncomfortable.
- **Offer a treat.** If the rabbit shows no signs of aggression, take a treat like lettuce or carrot, and put your hand inside the cage or hutch. Don't force the treat on the rabbit, but bring your hand close enough so it can smell the treat. A friendly rabbit will have no problem taking the treat from you.
- **Understand shyness.** Just like some people, there are extroverted rabbits and introverted ones. Shyness doesn't mean the rabbit is aggressive or doesn't like you; it may just take longer for this rabbit to get to know you.

Attempt to pet the rabbit. If you've given the rabbit a treat and it does not show signs of aggression or fear, pet the rabbit. Pet in long, slow strokes from the shoulders down towards the flank, stopping at the top of the hip. Avoid touching the rabbit's head because this is what a predator would do and the rabbit might not like it.

- If the rabbit seems friendly, but hasn't moved toward you, curl your fingers under your hand, making it seem smaller and less threatening. Using the back of your hands or fingers, lightly stroke the top of the rabbit's shoulder or flank.

Slide your hand under the rabbit's armpits. You want to pick the rabbit up in such a way that you are supporting the weight of its body at all times. The first step is sliding your dominant hand, palm up, under the rabbit's armpits, gently positioning your hand like a cradle. You'll want your hand to rest behind the elbows, but snug against the back of the forelegs.

HOW TO PICK UP A RABBIT



Lift and scoop. In one motion, you'll lift the rabbit with your dominant hand, while scooping under the rear and back legs with the other. Don't worry if it doesn't work the first time. Your rabbit may be skittish, or you may be a little awkward. Be patient, offering treats and pets until the rabbit seems relaxed again. Remember that the key is to lift and support the rabbit's front and back legs at the same time.

- At all times, be ready to gently place the rabbit on the floor or back in the cage. This is in case the rabbit struggles, or tries to leap out of your arms which can cause physical injury.

Holding

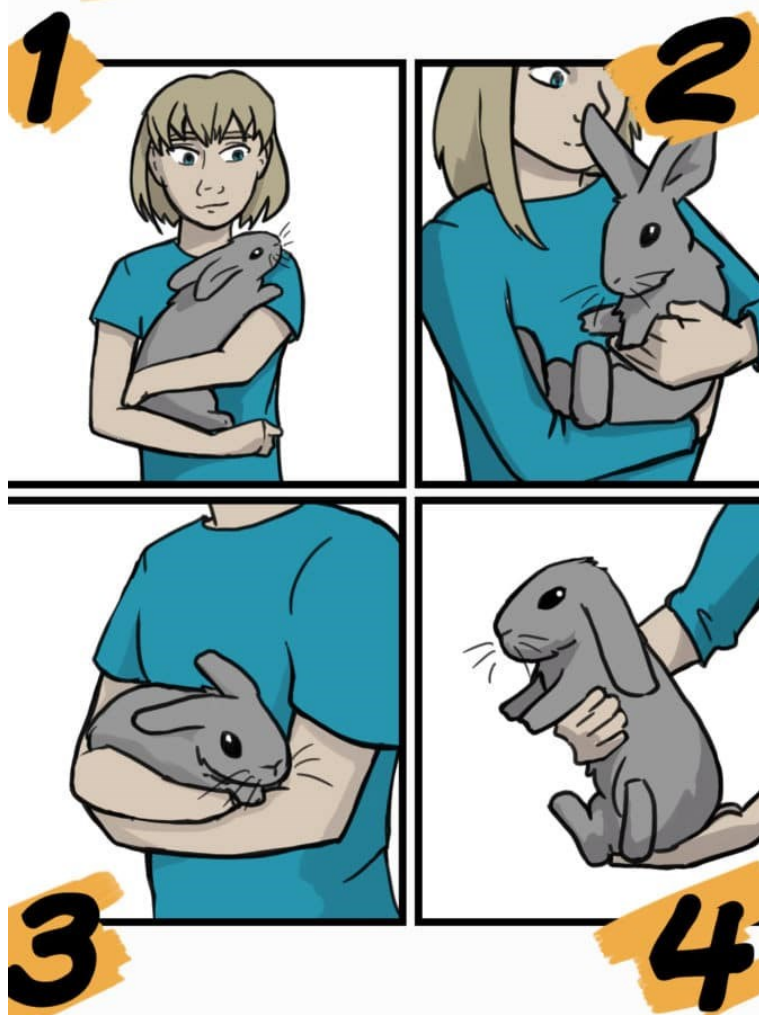
Hold the rabbit. Cradling it close to your chest, gently hold the rabbit. Your body acts as a stabilizing force for the rabbit and makes it feel more secure. Sometimes, rabbits will even lean into your chest while you hold them. You can also re-position it a little so that its tummy touches your torso, being sure not to force it onto its back, which can frighten it.

Pet the rabbit. Pat gently with the scooping hand still in place. Rub the rabbit's ears and/or shoulders with the hand under the torso. If the rabbit relaxes, replace the hand holding his torso with the forearm of the hand holding his bottom. Using the hand from the same arm, cradle his chest between his forelegs. This way, the rabbit is in a secure position but can be petted with your other hand.

Sit down with the rabbit. After a while, it may be a good idea to sit down and let the rabbit rest against your torso or lap.

- Find a sofa to sit on, or lean against a wall and gradually slide down until your bottom is on the floor. At this point, you may want to let the rabbit move freely around you and your lap.
- Be sure to pet the rabbit and offer praise. This helps create a positive association with human interaction, as well as being picked up and held. It can also build confidence in shy rabbits.
- Play with the rabbit. If bunnies associate getting picked up with play time, it can make them more comfortable with the process. Build a cardboard house for your rabbit to play in, or let it explore your own house. Set up objects like a bowling alley for the rabbit to knock down. As you get to know the rabbit, its personality will unfold and you'll know what sorts of games it likes to play.

HOW TO HOLD A RABBIT

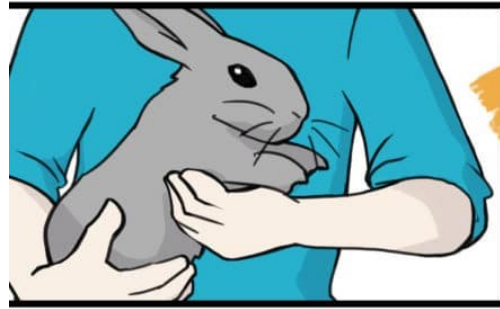


HOW TO PUT A RABBIT BACK DOWN

Put the rabbit back in its cage. When you are done petting the rabbit and letting it explore, pick it up again and gently put it back in its hutch or cage. It may anticipate being put down and start to struggle. Do not drop the rabbit but, at the same time, do not squeeze too firmly as this can cause injury.

- You can teach the rabbit not to struggle by bringing it quickly but gently back against your body. Be patient and repeat this until he sits calmly in your hands until you let go.
- The first time, only expect him to be still for a short moment before you let him go. As soon as he does not struggle, put him down quickly, so he understands that he is to be calm when you set him down.

<https://bunnylady.com/how-to-handle-a-rabbit/>



1



2



3



You may make copies of this page to keep track of taking care of your rabbit.

My Rabbit's Chores Checklist



(Daily)

- Remove any uneaten food, treats, or debris. Add new hay, greens, and pellets.
- Clean water bottle or bowl and refill with clean, fresh water.
- Check that cage and litter box don't need spot cleaning in an area that has gotten soggy or dirty. Check that all toys are in good condition.
- Observe your rabbit for signs of illness.
- Play with and pet your bunny.

DONE? (check off box)

(Weekly)

- Cage and litter box cleaning, replacing bedding. Thoroughly wash and clean food, hay, and water containers.
- Brushing (as needed).

DONE? (check off box)

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(Monthly)

- Grooming and nail trimming (this may be more often if your rabbit has wool fur or is shedding).
- Health Checks (done by you).

DONE? (check off box)

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(Yearly)

- Health Checks (done by your veterinarian)

DONE? (check off box)

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GROOMING YOUR RABBIT

Grooming your rabbit includes fur brushing, fur trimming as need be, mat removal, and removal of debris caught up in the rabbit's fur. Grooming also includes cleaning the eye areas, ears, the bottom side of your rabbit and nail trims. Care of the rabbit's fur and skin calls for your observation to check for the presence of parasites and your quick action to provide needed treatment. This article will highlight all the essential rabbit grooming basics and will help you understand how to properly groom your bunny. A well groomed bunny is a happier, healthier bunny.

Fur Brushing

By careful brushing of our rabbits, we hope to remove the excess fur to prevent the ingestion of fur. This is essential to prevent illness such as GI blocks. We also want to help the rabbit clean their fur and prevent fur clumping or matting which can irritate their skin. The rabbit constantly groom themselves, so they will always have some hair in their system. Our job in the grooming process is to limit their intake of fur and also to help keep the fur and skin of the rabbit clean and mat free.

Keeping the eyes clear of hay or fur will prevent irritation and potential infection of your rabbit's eyes. We use moistened cotton balls and gently clean the area around the eye. If your rabbit tends to have a heavy amount of fur around their eyes, you may use a tool called a mascara brush or a small flea comb to comb back the fur from the eye.

Keeping the rabbit's ears free of debris or wax is important. Removal of wax build up from outer ear is helpful. Lop rabbits may tend to have damp areas inside their ears which you need to keep clean and dry or they may suffer from an ear infection or inflammation which will require veterinary care.



Basic cleaning

Check the bottom side of your rabbit to make sure that no excess urine or droppings have remained on his underside. If so, remove them. Wipe off any of these substances and dry. Keep a watchful eye for any signs of urinary track issues and illness such as cecal overproduction or diarrhea. Seek vet care if you see this in your rabbit. Be sure to keep your litter box clean also so bunny is not forced to sit on their urine or droppings. Nail trims: Keeping nails trimmed will prevent snags, torn nails and possible infection to the nail bed and toe. Monthly nail trims are recommended.



Grooming is part of the normal health care routine of a rabbit. Rabbits are delicate animals and their grooming needs to be carried out on a regular basis, with gentle care. The grooming process is a wonderful way to bond with your rabbit. Take your time. Learn what you need to do and carry out grooming as part of your normal interaction with your rabbit. As you have read, all grooming relates directly to keeping your rabbit disease free and healthy.

How often to brush a rabbit

Rabbits need to be brushed at least every three days. In addition to removing any loose hair, these brushing sessions help prepare them for the multiple daily brushings that they need when heavy sheds begin. (These heavy shed cycles may occur about three times per year or more). Rabbits will shed in different ways. Some rabbits will take a couple of weeks or more to loose their old coat of fur. Other rabbits will be ready to get rid of their old coats just a few days. Quick shedding rabbits require immediate grooming to prevent illness.



<https://therabbithaven.org/rabbit-grooming-basics#:~:text=The%20grooming%20Tools%20you%20select,shed%2C%20daily%20brushing%20is%20ideal>

Common tools used to groom a rabbit:

Slicker brush or another type of brush designed to groom the specific fur type of your rabbit

Fur splitter. Wide toothed comb for removing mats in fur

Scissors for cutting out mats. (Use only after instruction on how to use scissors on rabbit)

Mini shaver for certain breeds. We recommend the mini Arco by Wahl

Nail clipping scissors, clippers and a small flashlight for back light

Kwick Stop or other styptic powder to stop bleeding from nails

Flea comb

Disinfectant solution for cuts or injury to skin. Chlorhexaderm or Betadine solutions are good options to have on hand. (available at pharmacies)

Mineral oil for cleaning sensitive scent gland areas on the rabbit

Eye wash for cleaning the eye area

Cotton balls (for cleaning)

Q-tips for outer ear cleaning and scent gland cleaning



Special tools

Furmitator, Fur buster, wide tooth and fine tooth combs, varied length combs, flea comb with handle. Possibly a Zoom Groom or other rubberized mitt or tool is great to use to follow up grooming. The grooming Tools you select will depend on your rabbit's fur length and breed.

The Rabbit's Brushing details

Brush your rabbit every three days. When the rabbit is shedding (they usually shed about every 3 months), more frequent brushing is recommended. During the heavy part of a shed, daily brushing is ideal. Keep in mind that rabbit skin is quite fragile, so be gentle and use a brush designed for rabbits if possible. A bristle brush is preferable to a metal toothed slicker which may hurt their skin. What ever grooming tool you use, be gentle and careful not to injure your rabbit. Following up with a rubber grooming tool such as a Zoom Groom or another lightweight hand finish grooming tool. During heavy shed times you may also gently lift off tufts of fur post grooming. Most rabbit do not mind this gentle process.

If you have an Angora rabbit, grooming is a daily ritual unless you trim down the fur. You will need to make sure that the rabbit is not collecting hay or litter in their fur which can cause matting. Pieces of hay can also work their way down to the rabbit's skin. You may also choose to trim the long hair down on your rabbit to a length of about 1 inch to prevent matting and fur blockages caused by fur ingestion. You can trim it yourself or have a groomer to do it and just do touch-up trims at home. You must be very careful about trimming their fur since the rabbit's skin is quite thin and easy to cut accidentally. With these rabbits, daily brushing is recommended.

Long haired rabbits will sometimes develop fur mats, large clumps of tangled fur. Rabbit skin is delicate and highly susceptible to cuts, so using scissors to remove mats is the last resort. Instead, use a mat splitter or mat rake to take the matt apart. When using these tools remember how delicate the rabbit's skin is and groom gently. We have many special procedures to show you including mat flowering techniques to open the mat, making removal easier, the use of mat splitter tools, and strategic trimming.

Shaving tools

At times mats become too difficult to remove from the rabbit and must be shaved. When sheet mats form, you have no choice. One recommended shaving tool is the Mini Arco by Wahl and for a complete sheet mat shaving, you may need to go to a professional.

For information regarding grooming an English angora rabbit, contact the Haven for detailed instruction. Certain English angora rabbits have fur coats that may groom out to 3 to 4 inches or more. You must know what you are doing or seek professional grooming care before you take on grooming an English angora rabbit.

Scent Glands

Rabbits have scent glands both under their chin and in their genital area. The only scent glands that may require cleaning are the scent glands by the anus of the rabbit. When these scent glands build up, the rabbit often has an unpleasant odor and the scent gland duct may actually become blocked due to the build up of this waxy substance. Material that builds up in the scent gland area may become very hard and uncomfortable for the rabbit. It's simple to clean the glands. Simply dip a Q-tip or cotton ball into mineral oil and hold your rabbit in a safe position that gives you access to the genitals. Locate the two slits on either side of the rabbit's genitals. Take the Q-tip and allow the mineral oil to moisten the area. In a minute or two you may easily remove the build up. Be very careful as the genital scent gland membrane is delicate. Remove this material with care or risk tearing the membrane in the scent gland.



Feet

Part of grooming includes checking the feet top and bottom for any signs of fur wear or injury. Mats may also form on the foot pad. Remove these mats carefully. The rabbit needs their fur padding on their feet to prevent injury to their tender skin. If the padding (fur) on the feet is worn down, exposing inflamed or callused skin, then soft dry resting pads (rugs) may be provided. Exposed skin that becomes urine burned or broken is very likely to become infected. Take extra care that rabbit rugs and litter boxes are kept clean and dry. Read our supplemental article on hock injury for more detailed information if your rabbit has problems with hock injury.

Ears

Ear wax from the outer ear can be removed from the outer ear with a cotton swab. Be careful not to push on wax in the canal, and do not attempt to reach deep into the ear canal. Your vet may recommend a variety of wax removal products as needed for your bunny.

Nail Trims

Check the nails once a week when grooming and trim the nails whenever they get a bit long. I find it is better to do frequent trims even if you are only trimming a sliver off than wait until the nail is quite long and trying to judge how much to remove. Rabbit nails can grow to be very long and will be uncomfortable for the rabbit. Allowing nails to grow too long may cause toe or nail injuries, foot injury and gait issues for your bunny.

How to trim bunny nails

Place the bunny in a comfortable position where you can easily reach their feet. We tend to do nail trims with the rabbit laying on our laps with feet up towards us, or having the rabbit in a standing position on a table where the rabbit is comfortable and we can pick up one foot at a time to trim the nails. A third choice is to use a cuddle approach/hold, where the rabbit is cradled on one arm as we trim the nails. Some people also use a towel to wrap their rabbit to keep bunny secure. Then they bring out one foot at a time to trim.

If the rabbit has light colored nails their nails will be easier to trim as you can see where the blood supply or Quick starts and can trim below that line. Dark colored nails are harder to see through and therefore, you may want to use a back light (flashlight) which will allow you to see the nail quick. Some people use a



touch spring back approach and I do not recommend that. It does work for very experienced people.

Trimming baby rabbit nails

Baby rabbit nails are very sharp and we recommend using an emery board to gently trim tips of their nails. People are often afraid to clip nails for fear that they will trim incorrectly and cause the rabbit to bleed. So be careful in trimming nails and always have on hand a septic powder product in case you make a mistake and the rabbit's nail bleeds. You can purchase a product called Kwik Stop to keep on hand for this problem. If the nail bleeds apply a bit of powder to the nail and also apply pressure for a minute. Your veterinarian can also trim the nails for you. Rabbit nails need to be trimmed about every month.

Eyes

Checking your rabbit's eyes for any redness or items like hay or fur that may be in the eye or on the eye rim is a part of grooming. You may use eye wash to remove material from the eye or move it to the edge where you may use a cotton ball to wipe it away. Of course never touch the actual eye. Some people use a special comb to groom fur back from the eye on rabbits that have heavy fur around their eyes.

Skin/Fur

Check for signs/symptoms of Parasites: Check the skin and fur on your rabbit to make sure they are parasite free. Mites, fleas and ticks and other skin disease may all damage your rabbit's skin and impact their health. Signs of parasites: Black fleas are usually seen near the head, face or genital area. Ticks may be found anywhere on the rabbit. Mites appear as dandruff and may cling to fur and skin. A tick is an oval shaped parasite that may be crawling on rabbit's fur or attached to your rabbit's skin. Watch your rabbit for signs of these parasites. Symptoms of these parasites include itching, scratching, flaky skin with bald patches or dandruff like materials near the skin of your rabbit and on the fur close to their skin. Ear mites are more readily observed as they quickly invade the ear, and you will notice the dark dried debris they leave behind. This is extremely irritating to your rabbit, so it is hard to miss. Ear mites are highly destructive and may damage your rabbit's ears. Seek vet care immediately. There are many different types of skin issues that may occur so having regular vet care will help you keep your rabbits skin free of disease and help your rabbit be healthy.

Fleas and Mites

Even when rabbits are housed indoors they may get fleas, ticks or mites. Other indoor/outdoor animals can carry in parasites. We can also accidentally carry in parasites on our shoes and clothing. Fleas, ticks or mites may also be carried in hay from the feed store. For ear mite or tick infestation, check with your veterinarian for medication to

eliminate this problem. Medications to prevent and kill fleas on rabbits include Advantage and Revolution. These products are available from your rabbit's veterinarian. Your veterinarian may also elect to use Ivermectin. **CONTACT YOUR VET FOR ADVICE ON DOSAGE. USE SPECIFIC DOSE ADVISED BY YOUR VET ONLY.** A flea comb is a non-toxic flea removal tool that takes more patience, but it works. Most rabbits learn to love the attention of being flea combed, and it can be used as a supplement to your main flea-control program.

The following products should NOT be used on rabbits

- Frontline has been linked to neurological damage and death in rabbits. The manufacturer of this product has placed a warning on the Frontline label stating that Frontline should never be used on rabbits. Remember, Frontline kills!
- Flea shampoos, even those considered safe for cats and kittens or advertised as "rabbit safe", are not recommended for use on rabbits. Bathing of rabbits, in general, is strongly discouraged because the stress of the bath itself can cause serious health problems, and has in some cases been linked to the death of the rabbit. Do not use a Flea baths or dips for this reason and there is no safe material we have found that is safe for rabbits.
- For environmental flea control, sprays and "bombs" are not recommended, as they may leave harmful residue that the rabbit can ingest. Safer alternatives include diatomaceous earth, worked into the carpet where fleas leave their eggs.
- Your vet will need to evaluate your rabbit for mite infestations. Your Vet will advise you regarding medications to rid your rabbit of mites.
- When cleaning up during a flea or mite outbreak remember to vacuum carefully and then throw out the vacuum bag and clean off the bottom section of the vacuum that is in contact with the carpet. Steam clean carpet let dry completely then put rabbit into a safe area inside. Use a light colored sheet to be able to see fleas that are still present. Use a flea comb to remove fleas as they die on the rabbit. Follow vet guidelines re use of all flea, tick or mite medications. Keep the rabbit's environment very clean. Learn all about the hatching cycles and when to administer your medication to stop the chronic infestation and rid your bunny of these parasites.

Grooming your rabbit will provide you with wonderful time together. Many rabbits enjoy the grooming session with their humans. Grooming need not be difficult or unpleasant. Make your grooming sessions an opportunity to connect and be with your bunny. Grooming time will quickly become another special time to spend together.

All About Rabbits

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



BIG FEET
BUCK
BUNNY
BURROW
CARROTS
COTTONTAIL
DOE
FOREST

FUR
GRASS
HERBIVORE
JUMP
KIT
LONG EARS
MAMMAL
MEADOW

PET
RABBIT
RODENT
SOFT
TUNNEL
WARREN

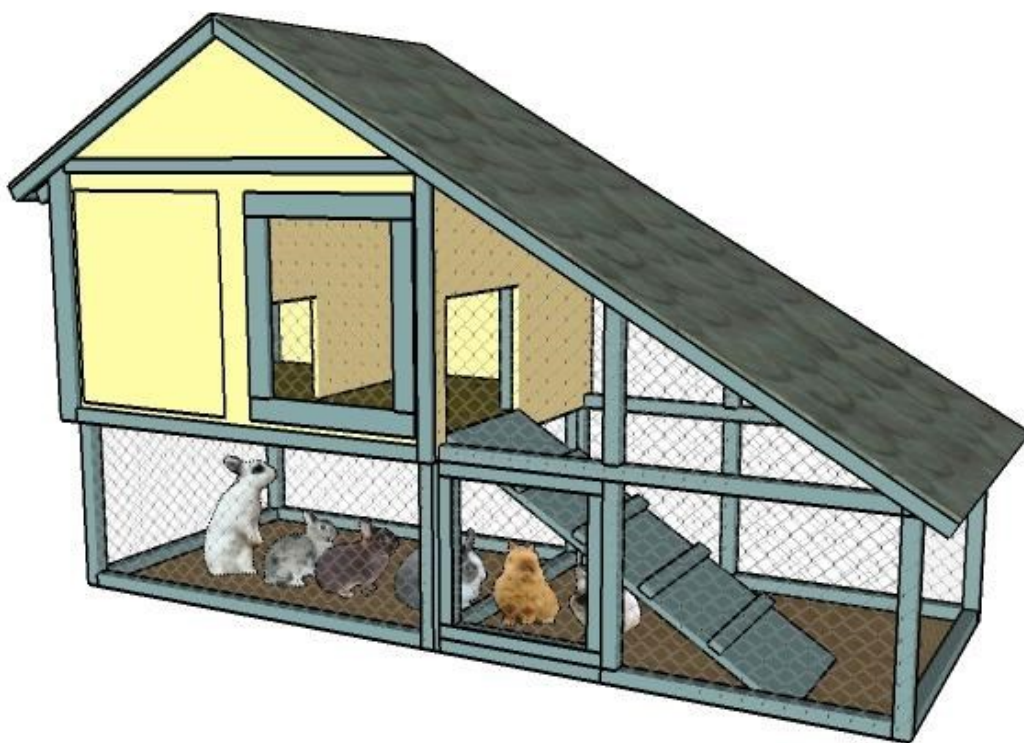


HOUSING FOR YOUR RABBIT

Rabbits should have plenty of room in their pen for a litter box, food bowl, water source (bowl or bottle), and toys. Some rabbits also like to have blankets or towels to bunch up and lay on. There should be enough room for the rabbit to 'flop-out' for a nap, sit upright without crouching, and periscope up to see what is going on somewhere else. Ramps or shelves in their living area can provide hours of entertainment.

A good minimum size cage is 30"x30"x24" for a rabbit who is approximately 5-6 pounds at adult size. Obviously, if your rabbit is bigger, a larger cage is needed. If you have a baby bunny, think about how big he will get when he is grown up!

DO NOT use aquariums or solid walled enclosures. The ammonia from their urine will build up and irritate their nose and lungs, causing health problems. Remember to choose a cage or pen with a door big enough to fit the litterbox in and out!

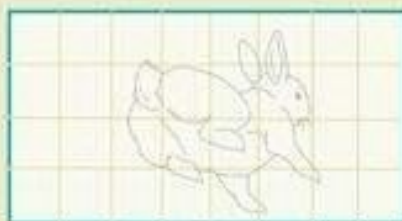
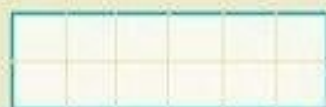


MyOutdoorPlans.com

Rabbit Hutch

Rabbit Housing Size Guide

MINIMUM SPACE



Living Space

12 sq. ft
(1.1 sq. m)

Exercise Space

32 sq. ft
(3 sq. m)

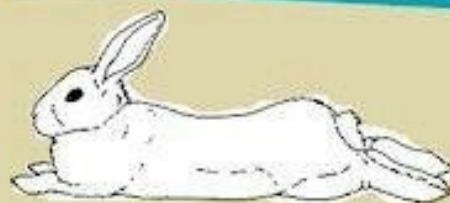
To calculate the floor space, multiply length by width
e.g. 6' x 2' = 12 square feet

EXAMPLES

Living Space		Exercise Space		Total
	Hutch 6' x 2'		Run 8' x 4'	44 sq. ft.
	Shed 6' x 4'		Aviary 6' x 6'	60 sq. ft.
	Dog Crate 4' x 3'		Wire Pen 6' x 6'	48 sq. ft.
		Spare Room 12' x 10'		120 sq. ft.

Ideally the living space and exercise space should be one large area, or two areas your rabbit can move between freely, for example cage connected to a pen or a hutch linked with a tunnel or ramp to a secure run.

MINIMUM DIMENSIONS



WIDTH

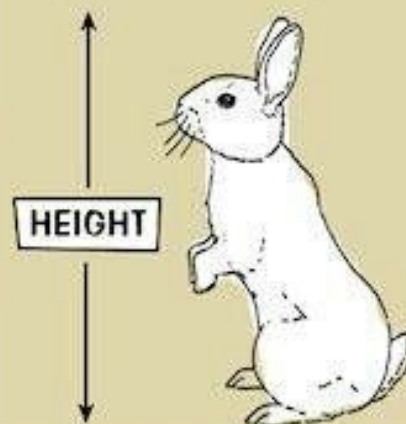
The length of your rabbit when fully stretched out resting.

2' (60cm) for small/medium
3' (90cm) large/giant



LENGTH

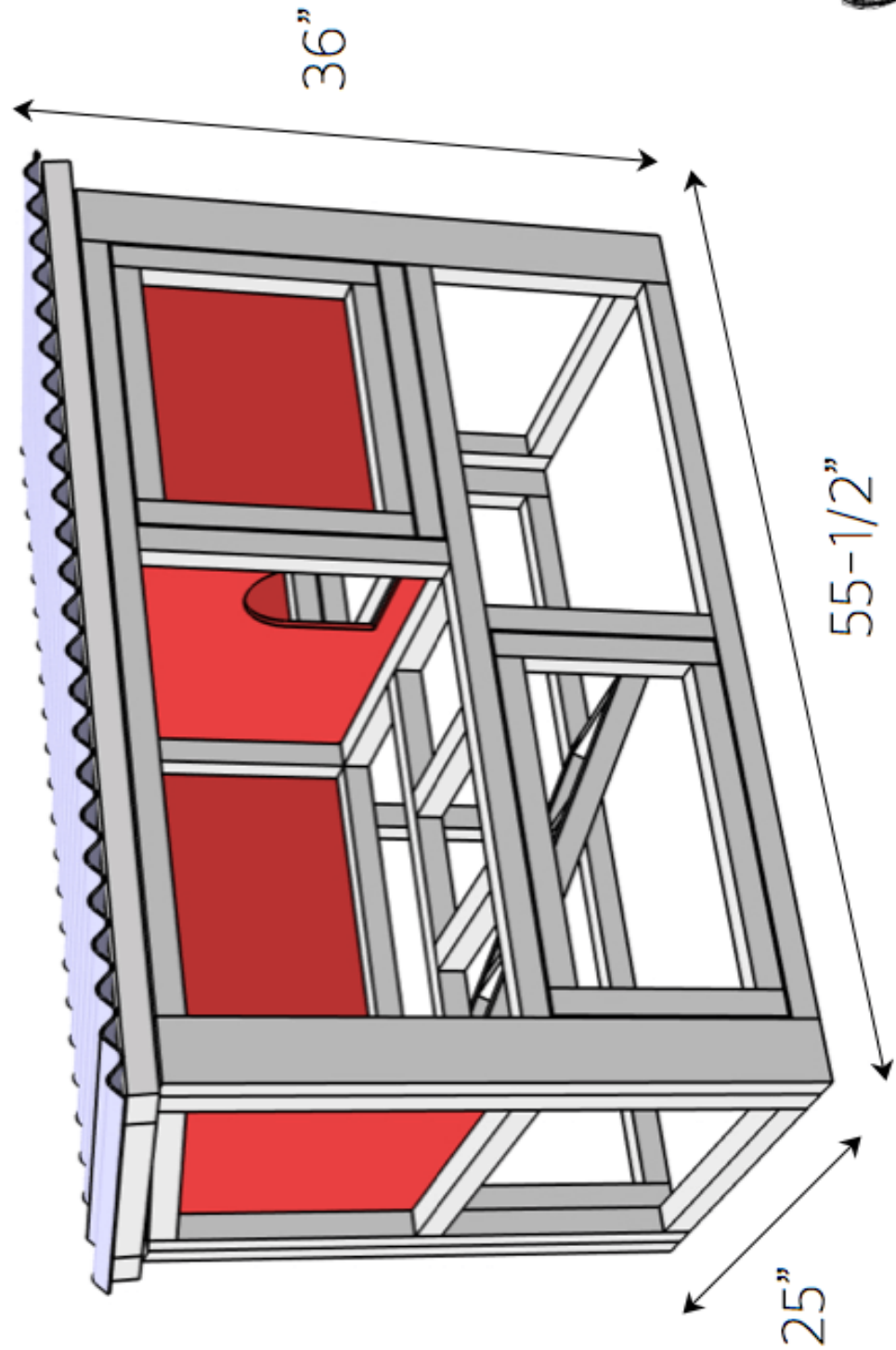
The distance your rabbit covers in 3-4 hops. One hop is about 18" (45cm) for a small rabbit, or 2' (60cm) for a large rabbit.



HEIGHT

Tall enough for your rabbit to stand on its back legs without touching the roof. About 2' (60cm), or 3' (90cm) for giants.

Understanding Your Rabbit's Habits - www.theRabbitHouse.com



Rabbit Hutch Design

A Quick Guide to Rabbit Care...

...because bunnies need more than carrots and a cage.

Rabbits are intelligent, social—and cute!—animals who make wonderful companions. The problem is, too many people think of them as “low-maintenance” pets, when in reality they require lots of care and attention. Whether you’ve had a pet bunny for years or are about to bring one home for the first time, follow these simple guidelines to keep your rabbit happy and healthy.



Caging. Like all companion animals, rabbits should be kept inside with the family. Although rabbits should be given supervised run of the house, they need a place of their own for security and quiet time. Rabbits’ cages should be spacious to give them room to exercise and stretch out. For a 6-pound rabbit, the cage should be at least 24 inches wide by 18 inches high by 24 inches deep. A large cage, however, is no substitute for socialization and running time around the house.

Housetraining and Bunny-proofing. You can help make housetraining easier for your rabbit by placing a litter box inside the cage and at least one outside the cage, too. Before you let your bunny run around the house, make sure all electrical cords are concealed. Rabbits are natural chewers, so give them chewing material to deter them from chewing furnishings.



Handling. If you have children, supervise them with the rabbit and make sure they never pick the rabbit up by the ears or let the body hang (a rabbit’s weight must always be supported with another hand). A rabbit’s natural instinct is to be close to the ground, so try sitting on the floor until your rabbit becomes more comfortable being handled.

Feeding. Provide your rabbit with fresh water daily, and clean the water bottle frequently. When feeding your rabbit, remember that moderation is the key. A rabbit’s diet should consist of a reputable brand of pellets; greens such as parsley, dandelion greens, and carrot tops; and small quantities of snacks such as golden raisins, shredded wheat, and dried bread. Never feed your rabbit lettuce, tomatoes, cabbage, or table scraps; these foods can cause bloat and diarrhea. Make sure your bunny has fresh hay available at all times for chewing and roughage.



Health Concerns. Bunnies have sensitive respiratory and digestive systems. Because rabbits cannot vomit and are susceptible to fatal blockage, it is essential they be fed a proper diet and be groomed regularly to prevent hair balls (use special grooming tools, never scissors). Because your rabbit’s teeth grow continuously and are susceptible to a condition called malocclusion (improper bite), you must check the teeth regularly. To learn more about rabbit health concerns, consult your veterinarian.

Spaying and Neutering. Spaying or neutering your rabbit not only helps fight rabbit overpopulation, but also improves litter box habits, corrects chewing behavior, and decreases territorial aggression. Have your rabbit sterilized between 3 1/2 and 6 months of age by a veterinarian experienced in rabbit care and surgery.



Supplies. *Housing:* roomy cage, resting board, litter box, pellet bowl or feeder, water bottle, chewing material (such as untreated wood approved for rabbits). *Foods:* fresh pellets, fresh water, limited treats (veggies, fruit, barley, oats, crackers), hay (for chewing and to aid digestion), multiple enzymes (to aid digestion and prevent blockage), and petroleum laxative (for passing hair). *Grooming:* flea comb, brush, and toenail clippers. *Cleaning supplies:* dust-free litter (or paper-product litter), scoop, broom/dustpan, white vinegar (for urine accidents), and chlorine bleach (for disinfecting).

NEW YORK STATE
HUMANE ASSOCIATION, INC.
PO BOX 3068
KINGSTON, NY 12402

Provided by The Humane Society of the United States

SHOWTIME

SELECTING SHOW RABBITS

Health—You want to choose an overall healthy rabbit to go to the show. No snot in the nose, and no dirty or cloudy eyes.

Body Condition—Do not take a rabbit that is molting or transitioning its coat. You do not want your rabbit to have any stains. Nails should be trimmed.

Conformation—Are its legs and tail straight? No abscesses or deformities? Nice round meaty shape to it? Nicely shaped head?

RABBIT TATTOOS

Rabbits **MUST** have a permanent ID number tattooed into their left ear. If they do not have a readable tattoo they can be disqualified from the show. A tattoo can be a combination of upper case letters and numbers.



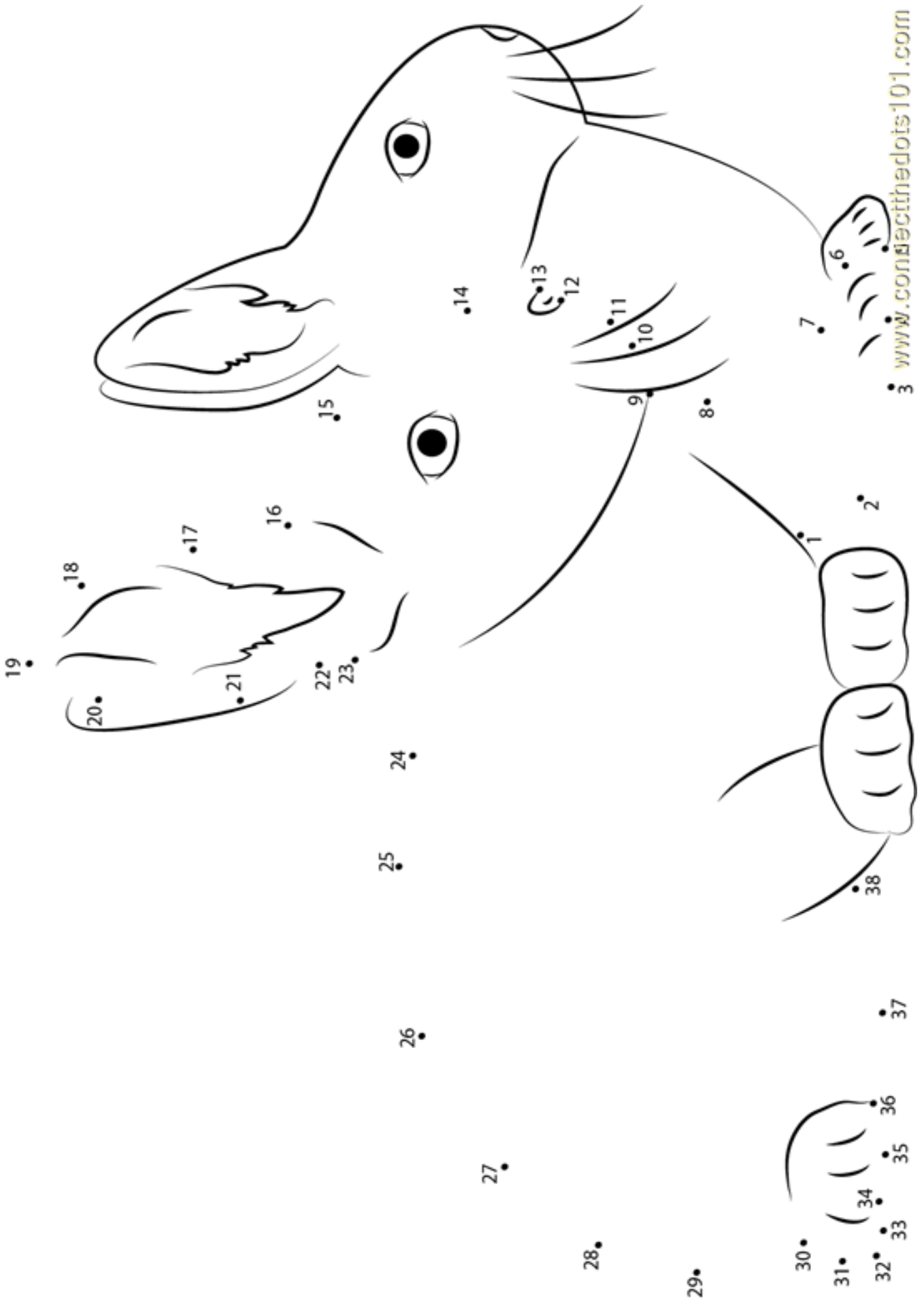
JUDGING

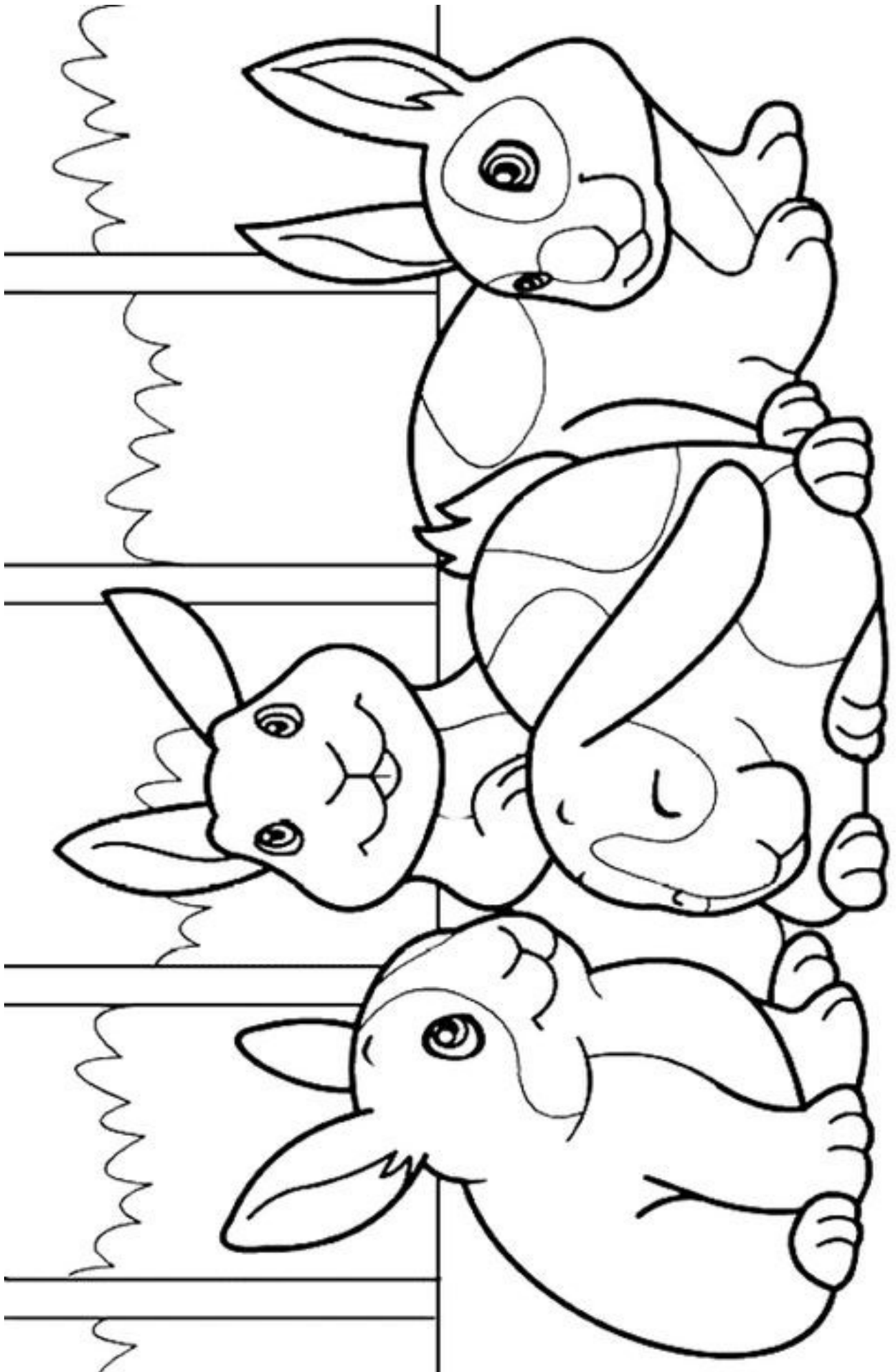
Every judge has their own way of working through the rabbits being judged. Each breed does have a standard of perfection and point values give to each "category" of the body conformation. Body, Head, Ears, Fur, Condition, Color, and some breeds have a few other points.

Different judges put more value on different things than other judges. **DO NOT** question a judge! You don't have to agree, just roll with it.

The judge will look over the rabbits, then go back through and remove ones that will not place. He will start reordering the rabbits in the holding pens in the order he likes them.. Then the judge will look at each rabbit again, and comment on the animals.

In the Decatur County 4-H Mini Rabbit show, you will receive help from older 4-Hers who will show you how to hold the rabbit and show them correctly. The judge will ask you questions and will help you with how you should answer, so you can learn from the process. You do not bring your own rabbit to the show, but rather show a rabbit belonging to another 4-Her.





COLOR THE PICTURE. YOU MAY ENTER IT AS A MINI 4-H PROJECT, IF YOU LIKE.

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**Rabbits
cannot vomit!**

**Rabbits can carry
2 litters of babies
at one time!**

**Rabbits
have 3
eyelids!**

**Rabbits have 28
teeth and their
teeth will never
stop growing!**



**Rabbits can run
between 25-45
miles per hour!**

Fun Facts About Rabbits

**It's impossible for
wild bunnies &
domesticated
bunnies to breed!**

**Rabbits can
sleep with their
eyes open.**



**Rabbits have
24 ribs!**

**Rabbits have over
14,000 taste buds
and chew about
130 times a
minute!**

**Rabbits take
about 18 naps
a day!**

**Rabbits have
only 18 toes!**



The Bunny Chick, LLC

What rabbits need each & every day!



A healthy diet
& fresh water



A nice clean, safe
& secure home



Lots of space to
exercise & play



Fun toys



Cosy hideouts



Lots of
love & care



& company too!



Best4bunny.com

... because rabbits deserve nothing less than the best!



PROJECT IDEAS

1. Participate in the Mini 4-H Rabbit Show during the Decatur County Fair. You DO NOT bring your own rabbit, but you will show a rabbit belonging to a 4-Her that is already entered to show during the Fair. Older 4-Hers will help you so you learn how to show your rabbit correctly and answer questions asked by the judge.
2. Make a poster with photos of you taking care of your rabbit. Tell what you do to take care of the rabbit next to each photo. Enter the poster for judging of Cloverbud (Mini 4-H) projects.
3. Color a picture of a rabbit from this booklet or another picture that you have and enter it in the fair during Cloverbud project judging.
4. Make a poster showing what foods belong in a rabbit's daily diet. Tell what amounts of the foods are safe for a rabbit to eat.
5. Make a notebook showing pictures of your rabbit, telling how you care for the rabbit, and what you feed the rabbit.
6. Any other good ideas that you have and would like to enter in Cloverbuds about rabbits. If you are not sure, call the Extension Office at 812-663-8388 for help.



Rabbit Body Parts

S H O U L D E R U O K C I C S W L
 I F Y O T Q F G Z R L D M Q W S P
 L D L Z K L A A E Q J R T K B I R
 O I L L E O T Z H A H E Y S P P H
 P B E I Z I A Z P C X L M K W Z Y
 B C B X C N L F H X K V V V A A O
 G U V F L E G L H K J L K U F X L
 Z I K D E W L A P O R A E X Z T E
 P P C H E S T H B C I L Z B B Y G
 C H H T U O M I S Z J O K A V Q Y
 H K L S K K W S P M U R C E I C D
 E J P M T W R T M A L F P J L D W
 E M K M K D P S H D J H G U E M C
 K X B S C C N O S E R I F G Y X F
 N F X B T K G N W J W L L W E E O
 I X Z W T O E S E K C A W I A Z O
 M A C N O L H O C K B E F Q B Y T

Toes

Leg

Shoulder

Nose

Foot

Hock

Ear

Mouth

Rib

Rump

Eye


Dewlap

Belly

Loin

Cheek

Chest

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">RABBIT RECORD</h2>
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Add this sheet to your regular 4-H Record Book. Keep all your records in one book.

Project enrollment number _____

INVENTORY

Opening _____ Date _____ Closing _____ Date _____

1. Animals	Value		Value
2. Equipment	Value		Value
3. Feed	Value		Value
4. Supplies	Value		Value



Year	Grade in school
------	-----------------

My project began with the following animals:

Total Weight (Box 1)	Total Cost (Box 2)
-------------------------	-----------------------

During the year, the following animals died:




Exhibit Name Tags

Below are name tags for you to cut out and attach to the project that you will be exhibiting at the fair. Attached the tag to the bottom right-hand corner of your poster or project. If you have another type project such as a model farm, attach the tag to the tack with the tag hanging down where it can be seen at the bottom right corner of the project

DECATUR

Name

Club

Project

Grade

MINI 4-H/CLOVERBUDS

DECATUR

Name

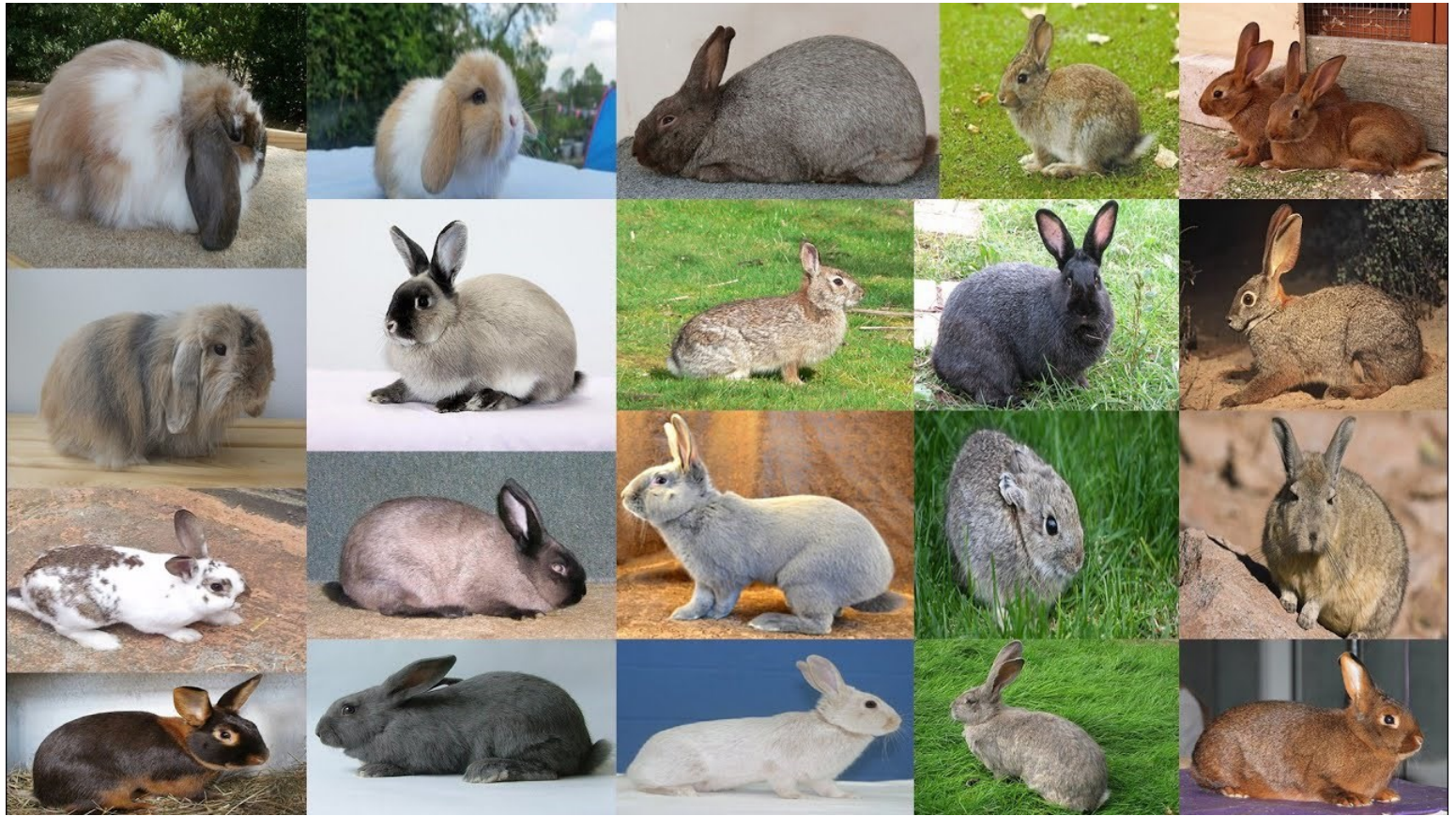
Club

Project

Grade

MINI 4-H/CLOVERBUDS

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HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH

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Cloverbuds



4-H Pledge

I pledge
My **head** to clearer thinking,
My **heart** to greater loyalty,
My **hands** to larger service, and
My **health** to better living for my
club, my community, my
country, and my world.

11

DECATUR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

545 S County Road 200 W

Greensburg, IN 47240

Phone: 812-663-8388

Stacy Bruns, 4-H Extension Educator and Youth Development

stacyn@purdue.edu