

# Mini 4-H Rabbit



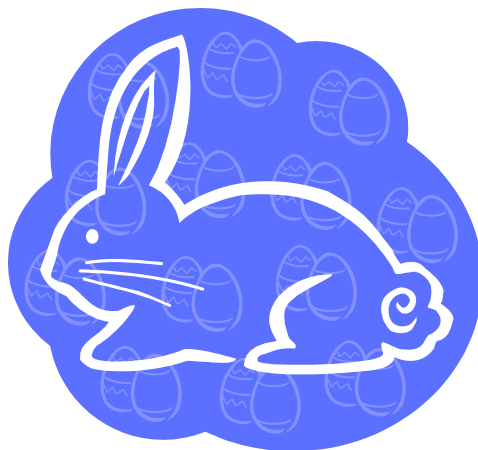
## Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grades

Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution.

## Mini 4-H Parent's Page

As a Mini 4-H parent, your job will be to guide and encourage your child through this project. We suggest that you do not complete the activities for them. Instead, help them, guide them, work with them, and let them do all that they possibly can. The 4-H motto is “Learn by doing” and is the best educational tool that we can provide for youth.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact  
Purdue Extension- Hancock County at 317-462-1113 or  
[hancockces@purdue.edu](mailto:hancockces@purdue.edu)



## Mini 4-H

Welcome to Mini 4-H! You are now a member of the 4-H family. Mini 4-H'ers have lots of fun. There are many activities for you to explore. You can try new things. You can share it with your friends and family.

An adult can help you with your project, and you can bring your project to the 4-H fair. Many people will be able to see what you have done. You will receive a ribbon made just for Mini 4-H.

The 4-H fair is an exciting time for 4-H members and families. It is a week that allows community youth to show their talents, interests, and enthusiasm for learning!

4-H Symbol: A four-leaf clover with an "H" in each leaf

4-H Colors: Green and white

4-H Motto: To make the best, better

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.

## Mini 4-H Rabbit

Welcome to the Mini 4-H Rabbit project! You are going to learn a lot of exciting things about rabbits! Do you know what they eat? Do you know how to handle one? Do you know why a rabbit twitches its whiskers? You will learn the answers to all of these questions in this project. Rabbits are a great project for young people to exhibit. Here are a few reasons to raise and show rabbits:

1. Rabbits are easy to handle.
2. They are gentle and smart!
3. They are fun to watch!
4. They need little space which to live.
5. They do not need very much equipment.



## What Will I Do?

To complete the project, you will exhibit a poster and a rabbit at the Hancock County 4-H Fair!

For the poster, you will label the parts of a rabbit. The rabbit print out is available from the Extension Office. Remember, Mini 4-H posters are displayed horizontally, are 22"x14" in size, mounted on firm backing, and should be covered in clear plastic.

## Rabbit Show

When your name is called, you will bring your rabbit to the judging table. The judge may ask a question or two about the Rabbit project. Do not get scared if you don't know the answer- the judge will tell you the answer. Learning is what Mini 4-H is all about!

The rabbit must belong to you or a 4-Her that is enrolled in the traditional 4-H Rabbit project. If you don't own a rabbit and know a 4-Her that has one at the fair, ask them if it is okay for you to exhibit their rabbit in the Mini 4-H Rabbit Show. If you need assistance in finding a rabbit to exhibit, the 4-H Rabbit Superintendent can assist you. All Mini-4-H-owned rabbits will be released to go home after the Rabbit Show.

## At the Judging Table

The proper way to pick up a rabbit is to follow the following steps:

1. Place one hand under the rabbit's hindquarters or rump and the other hand will grasp the loose skin over the shoulders.
2. As you lift the rabbit from the cage, the hand under the rabbit will support the weight of the rabbit.
3. Tuck the head of the rabbit under your arm that is holding the hindquarters of the rabbit and hold the rabbit against you.
4. Walk calmly to the judges table and set the rabbit on the table always supporting the rabbit with you hand under the rabbit.

The judge will ask you some questions about your rabbit. Things they may ask:

- What breed is the rabbit you are showing?
  - Is your rabbit a Buck or a Doe?
  - How did you care for your rabbit?

After the judge has completed the class, the Rabbit Superintendent will ask you to carry your rabbit back to the cage. The Rabbit Club Leaders and other 4-H members will be there to provide direction and to assist you for your safety and the safety of the rabbit you exhibit.

## Buck or Doe?

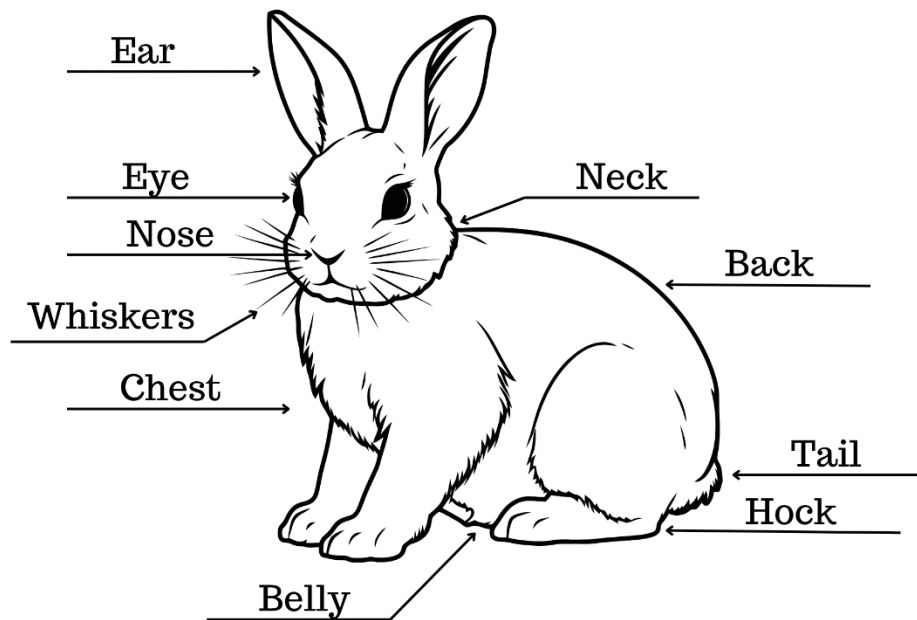
- A doe is a female rabbit. A doe will give birth after 28-32 days from breeding. A doe can have 4-10 babies in a litter! The doe pulls fur from her body to build a nest for her babies
  - A buck is a male rabbit. It is the father of the young rabbits.
- A baby bunny is a kit! They are born hairless and with their eyes closed. By the time they are 10 days old, they will have fur and their eyes open.

## Rabbit Fun Facts!

- Rabbits can live as long as ten years!
  - Rabbits have long ears so they can hear sounds from far away.
- They have long, muscular hind legs so they can run fast to get away from enemies.
- They have a good sense of smell. Their nostrils and whiskers twitch constantly so that they can catch every scent in the air. Smell helps them sense danger and find food.



## Parts of the Rabbit



## What Do Rabbits Eat?

Rabbits eat a pelleted feed that is available at feed stores. The pellet of feed contains protein, fiber, minerals and vitamins, all items that rabbits need. You will need to keep your rabbit's feed in an air-tight container so that the feed remains in a hard pellet and does not get soft and mushy. Your rabbit will not eat a pellet that is soft and mushy. You should feed your rabbit every day and it is best to feed in the evening. Do not feed your rabbit cabbage, lettuce, or green grass. Some fruits and vegetables may make your domestic rabbit very ill.

Always provide clean, fresh water to your rabbit. Do you like to drink water that has been sitting out in a glass all day? Neither does your rabbit!

## How Do I Care for My Rabbit?

A rabbit's cage needs cleaned out at least every two or three days for hygiene reasons. Rabbits themselves do not stink; it is their uncleaned litter that causes an odor. If a rabbit is kept healthy, the rabbit can remain outdoors all year. A rabbit's fur will become thicker during the winter to keep it warm and will molt or shed during the spring to allow it to be comfortable during the summer.

A rabbit's cage is called a hutch. The hutch may have a wood or wire floor. Wire floor hutches are easier to clean. For the hutch to be outdoors it will need a sturdy roof to keep the rain and sun off the rabbit and it should be lifted off of the ground to keep other animals like dogs away from the rabbit. Many hutches have a front area that is like a patio where the rabbit can get fresh air and a closed back end that is like a warm, quiet house. If you need help building a hutch, your parents may ask the 4-H leader for ideas on how to build one.

Rabbits may also be kept indoors as a pet. Indoor rabbits may also be litter box trained. Even if you keep your rabbit inside, you will want to have a cage for the rabbit for when you are gone from home.

Rabbits enjoy socializing with people. They love to be stroked and patted. Your rabbit should become tamer to you if you gently handle it every day. When you handle your rabbit, you should always remain calm and keep a quiet tone to your voice so that you do not frighten your rabbit.