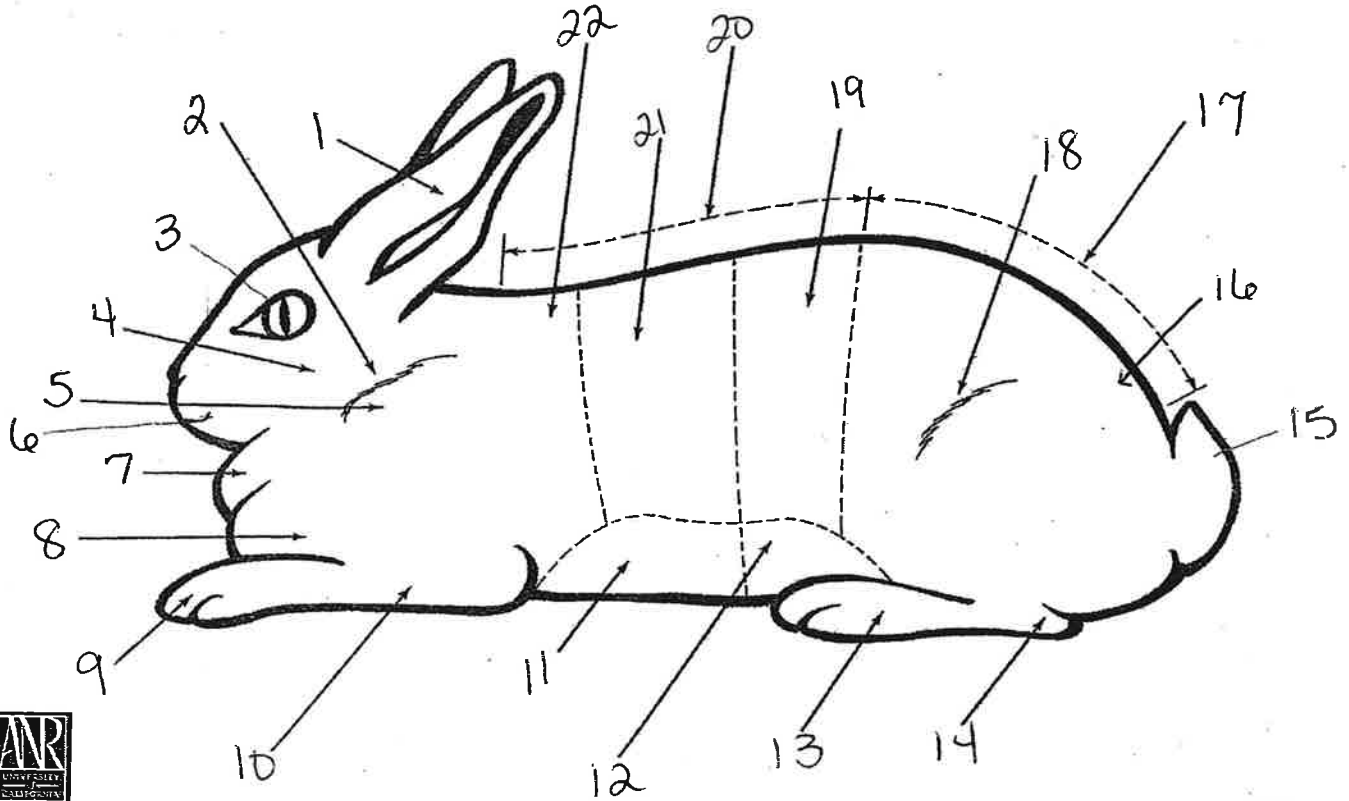


SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY RABBIT LEVEL TESTING
LEVEL 2
PASSING SCORE FOR LEVEL 2 IS 70%

The test will include identifying body parts, true/false questions, multiple choice and fill in the blank. The following body parts chart is the one that will be used and all other questions will come from the 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System - Making Tracks, the rabbit project 2 activity book.

LEVEL 2 TEST - STUDY SHEET

RABBIT BODY PARTS



1	Ears
2	Neck
3	Eye
4	Cheek
5	Shoulder
6	Mouth
7	Dewlap
8	Chest

9	Toes
10	Leg
11	Stomach
12	Flank
13	Foot
14	Hock
15	Tail

16	Rump
17	Hindquarters
18	Hip
19	Loin
20	Forequarters
21	Ribs
22	Saddle

Rabbit Selection & Showing

You Be the Judge

When you take a test at school you need to have the answers ready in your head. The teacher has the answer key ready to grade. As a rabbit judge you have to have all the answers ready to go. You have to know the ideal **conformation** of a rabbit. This is the answer key for a rabbit judge. When you can judge a rabbit you can make good decisions that will increase the good qualities of rabbits in your rabbitry. These decisions will be based on the standards of the breed. By comparing and observing you will be able to decide which rabbit is the best one.

Activity:



Judge rabbits and present reasons.

Rabbit Skill:

Selecting rabbits

Life Skill:

Making decisions

Success Indicator:

Presents reasons on a class of four rabbits.

Reasons Note Card

Class Name _____

Animal description (list major items that will help you recall each animal)

I place this class of _____

General statement about class

Top Pair

I placed _____ over _____ because _____ was

_____ than _____

I grant _____ was _____

than _____

I criticized _____ for _____

Middle Top Pair

I placed _____ over _____ because _____ was

_____ than _____

I grant _____ was _____

than _____

I criticized _____ for _____

Bottom Top Pair

I placed _____ over _____ because _____ was

_____ than _____

I grant _____ was _____

than _____

I criticized _____ for _____

Bottom Rabbit

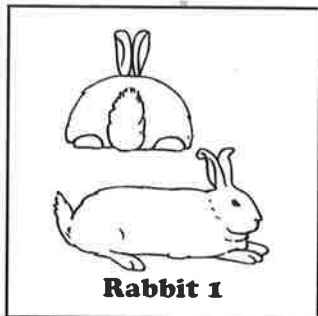
I placed _____ last because _____

For these reasons

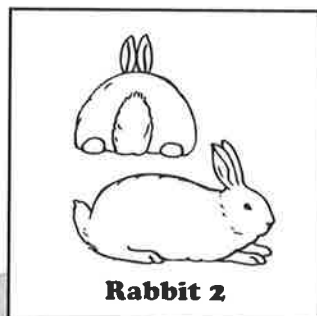
I placed this class of _____

Hop to it!

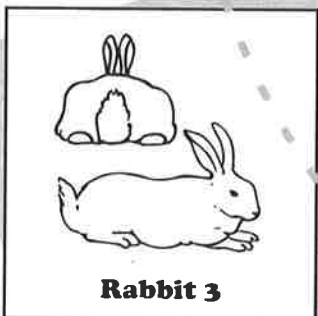
Have a small judging contest with your friends. Using the pictures below write your placing and reasons on the score card and compare with your friend's. After you have placed this class of rabbits, do this activity with live rabbits.



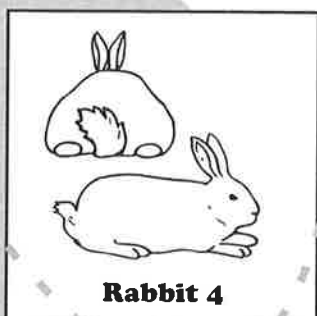
Rabbit 1



Rabbit 2



Rabbit 3



Rabbit 4

Extra! Extra!

A copy of the Official Rabbit Score Card will help you learn more about judging rabbits. To get one, write to:

American Rabbit Breeders Association
 P.O. Box 426
 Bloomington, IL 61702

Conformation and Type

Conformation

Conformation describes the shape of the body, which is determined by the skeleton and muscular development. Each breed of rabbit can have a different conformation. As a rabbit breeder, you need to know what type of conformation your breed should have.

Type

Each breed of rabbit also has a type that is determined by the parts of the body. You must be able to recognize the parts of the body—head, ears, bone, shoulders, saddle and hips. Five general types of rabbits are compact, commercial, snaky, full-arched and semi-arched.

The blend of conformation and type makes a rabbit nice to see.

Balance

Balance is the order and the proportion of the parts of the rabbit.

Ideal Body Type

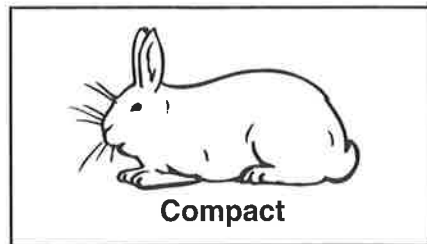
- A) Compact body with depth and width that balance, tapering slightly from the hindquarters to the shoulders.
- B) Very plump and full over and around the hips.
- C) Size of head, ears and bone in proportion to the general composition for proper balance.
- D) Firm, meaty saddle carried as full and meaty as possible to nape of neck. Meaty over ribs and shoulders.

Head

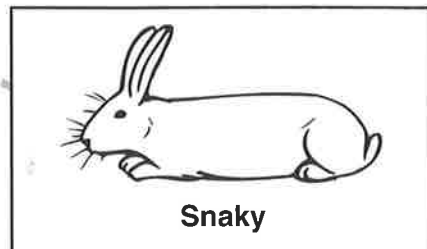
Well-shaped, well-filled face and jaws, set on a short neck.

Ears

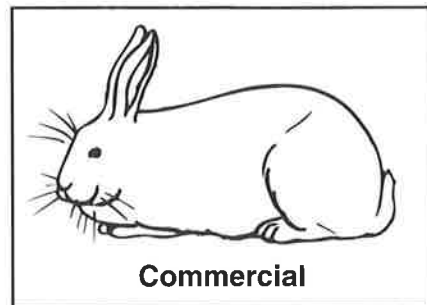
Carried erect and well together, strong at base, rounded tips. Well furred.



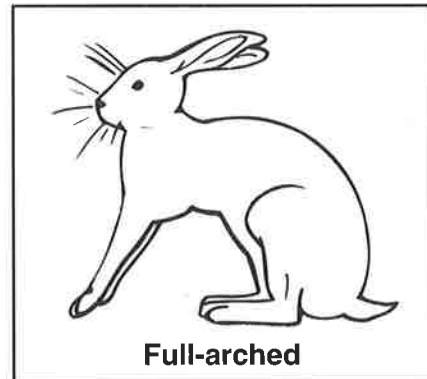
Compact



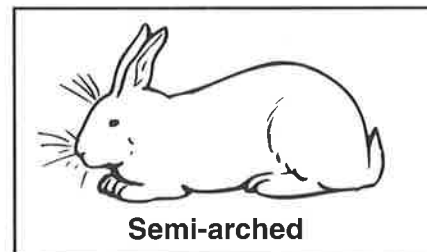
Snaky



Commercial



Full-arched



Semi-arched

Satin Standard of Perfection

Body Type

- a. Compact body with depth and width that balance, tapering slightly from the hindquarters to the shoulders.
- b. Very plump and full over and around the hips.
- c. Size of head, ears and bone in proportion to the general composition for proper balance.
- d. Firm, meaty saddle carried as full and meaty as possible to nape of neck. Meaty over ribs and shoulders.

Head Well-shaped, well-filled face and jaws, set on a short neck.

Ears Carried erect and well together, strong at base, rounded tips. Well furred.

	Rabbit 1	Rabbit 2	Rabbit 3	Rabbit 4

The A.R.B.A. Standard of Perfection book identifies rabbit faults by specific breed.

Did you know?

Rabbit Talk Words

Compact, Commercial, Snaky, Semi-arched, Full-arched, Balance, Type, Conformation, Satin Standard of Perfection

Rabbit Rap

Share What You Did

How did you place the five rabbits?

Process What's Important

Why is it important to learn how to make good decisions? How did you decide what your placings would be?

Generalize to Your Life

When you have to decide between two things, what decision making steps do you consider?

Apply What You Learned

What skills do you need to practice to become a better judge of rabbits?



Rabbit Facts

Hints On Giving Reasons

Most of the time you'll have an opportunity to present reasons orally rather than in writing.

How well you do will depend on these six items.

Accuracy

Point out the obvious and most important points in the class.

Delivery

Present your reasons confidently and sincerely about six to eight feet from the judge with hands behind your back.

Organization

Bring out the more important and general points first.

Completeness

Bring out all the major differences.

Length

Never go over two minutes in length for a class of four rabbits.

Terms

Use terms acceptable to rabbit breeders. Use comparative terms when comparing pairs of rabbits such as smoother, thicker, stronger arch, rather than smooth, meaty, thick, etc.

Bounding Ahead

- Hold a mini rabbit-judging contest with two or three friends. Compare your placing. Date _____ Initial _____
- Attend a rabbit show and compare your placing with those of the official judge. Date _____ Initial _____
- With your friends, compare the difference between the following 'types' of rabbits: full arched type, semi-arched type, commercial type, compact type and snaky type. Date _____ Initial _____
- List some of the decisions you will have to make concerning your rabbit project in the next six months. Decide how they will affect you. Date _____ Initial _____
- Figuring your score. In a judging contest with four animals in a class, the judge will announce the placing for the class (e.g. 1-2-3-4) and the "cuts" or differences between animals in each pair (e.g. 3-2-4). The larger the cut number (from 1 to 8 points) the more differences. The total of the three cut numbers cannot exceed 15. Given the following see if you can figure what your score out of the 50 possible points would be.

Your placing
Official placing
Cuts

3 - 2 - 1 - 4
1 - 2 - 3 - 4
3 2 4

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|---|---------------------|
| 1. Did I place 1 over 2? | No | - | Lose 3 pts. |
| 2. Did I place 1 over 3? | No | - | Lose 3 pts. + 2 pts |
| 3. Did I place 1 over 4? | Yes | - | Lose 0 pts. |
| 4. Did I place 2 over 3? | No | - | Lose 2 pts. |
| 5. Did I place 2 over 4? | Yes | - | Lose 0 pts. |
| 6. Did I place 3 over 4? | Yes | - | Lose 0 pts. |

Total Lost

10 pts.

My Score

50 - 10 = 40 pts.

Given official placing of 3-2-4-1 and cuts of 5-2-4 what would be your score if you placed the class 1-4-3-2? See if your answer is 20 points. Date _____ Initial _____

Take One

Shows are a lot of fun if you have entered your rabbits in the right class. Make sure you have your rabbit's sex, age (Jr., 6/8, or Sr.) and color correct on your entry form. Once the show starts you cannot correct the mistake.

Pretend you are on the movie set and the producer says "All quiet on the set". The big scene is about to be shot. You and your rabbits are the stars. You're nervous—you're scared—you wonder if you did everything you were suppose to do.

Activity:



Name the show classes for your rabbits.

Rabbit Skill:

Showing rabbits

Life Skill:

Making decisions

Success Indicator:

Determines the correct class for own rabbits.

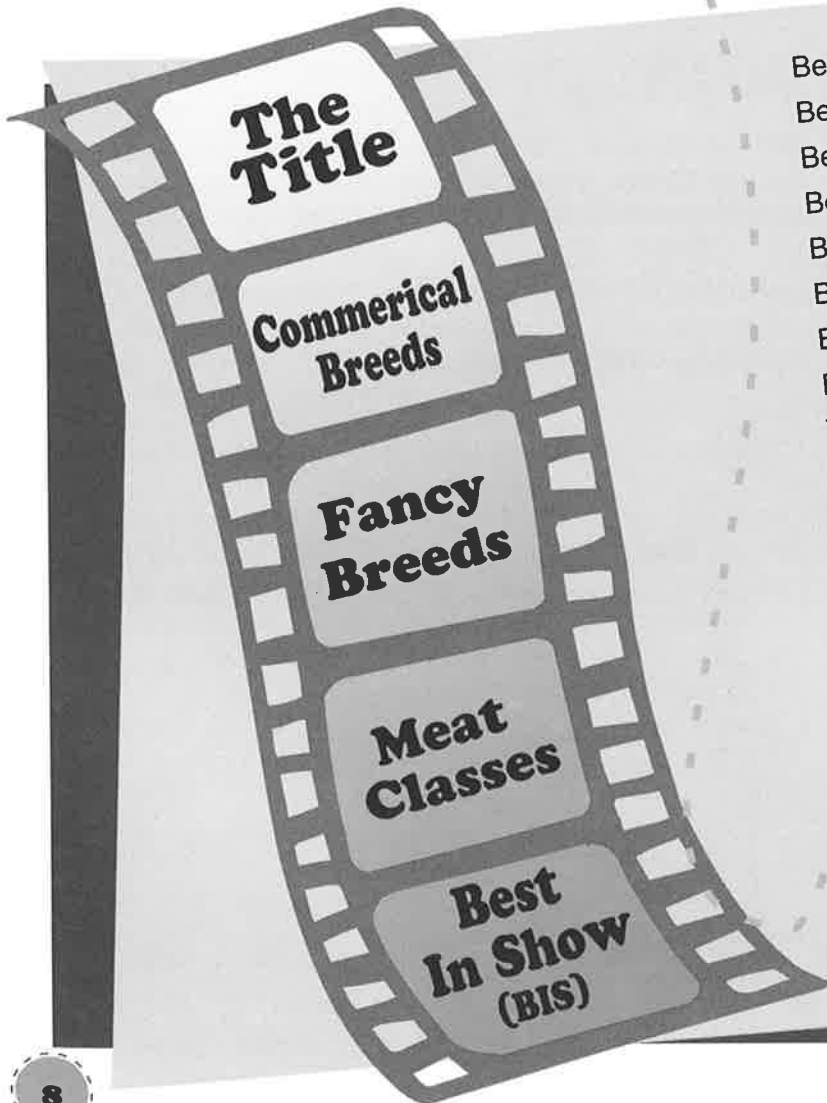
Does your rabbit know exactly what to do? All of a sudden you hear "CUT" and you know this is your chance for a retake. Before the cameras start rolling again do you have time to do anything? You hope that this is your chance to win the "Oscar for Rabbit Stars."

I always wondered what the six class was.



"Hop to it!"

1. Match the following statements to the correct movie film order to have a rabbit in the correct class.



- Best of Variety
- Best Opposite of Variety
- Best of Breed
- Best Opposite of Breed
- Best of Variety
- Best Opposite of Variety
- Best of Breed
- Best Opposite of Breed
- The Competition
- The Four Class
- The Six Class
- Jr. Buck Sr. Buck
- Jr. Doe Sr. Doe
- Jr. Buck 6/8 Buck Sr. Buck
- Jr. Doe 6/8 Doe Sr. Doe
- Judged by color in the breed
- Meat Pen
- Single Fryer
- Roaster
- Stewer
- Baker

Rabbit Rap

Share What You Did

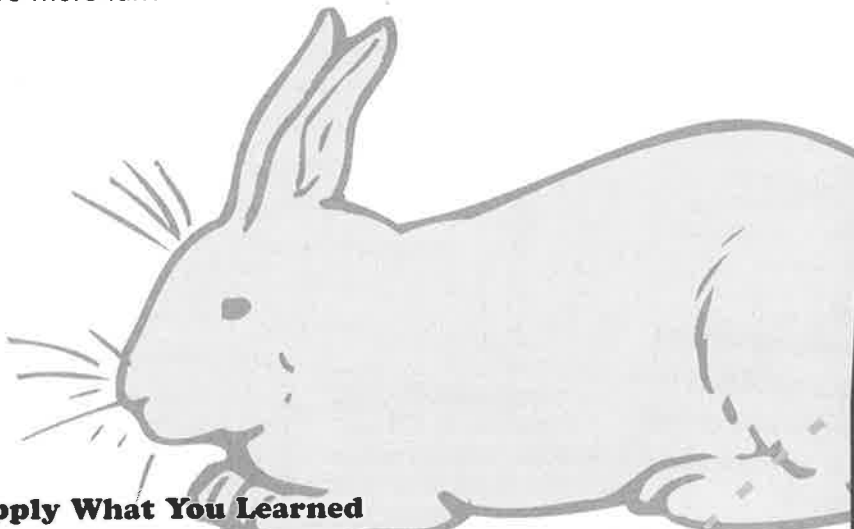
How did you choose what classes matched?

Process What's Important

What classes do your rabbits fit into? Why are there several rabbit classes?

Generalize to Your Life

How does being in groups help you learn better and have more fun?



Apply What You Learned

How do you decide who will be your closest friends?

Rabbits have been mentioned in all of recorded history. They have been used for food in Asia for more than 3,000 years, and marketed for food in Europe for over 1,000 years. In some cultures, rabbits have been used in religious ceremonies.



Did you know



Rabbit Talk Words Prime condition, Prime coat, Nutrient, Flesh, Supplements, Roaster stewer, Single fryer, Meat pen, Pre-junior

Rabbit Facts

Show Ready

Be prepared. Rabbits are fun to show. To win takes a lot of planning and hard work. Winning rabbits must be at the top of their class. If you enter a rabbit in the junior class that is only two months old it will not compete as well as the rabbit that is five to six months in age. The five to six month-old rabbit will have firmer flesh, will be in good prime coat (not a baby coat) and will have had three to four more months of training. You will have also had more time to condition your rabbit with nutrients. To be the star of the show a rabbit must be the top of his class in the *Standard of Perfection* for rabbits.

Four and Six Class Rabbits

Two general classes are provided for all breeds under nine pounds ideal weight. This group is considered "Four Class Rabbits" because there are four classes.

These classes are provided for all breeds having nine pounds or over ideal senior weight. This group is considered "Six Class Rabbits" because there are six classes.

Besides these classes you may find others at some shows. These include: pre-junior, meat pen, single fryer, roaster, stewer, breed fur and wool.

Bounding Ahead

1. Visit a rabbitry that has several different breeds of rabbits and decide which classes they fit into.

Date _____ Initial _____

Top Hat and Tails

Taking rabbits to a show and participating in a showmanship contest is an exciting experience. Showmanship also helps you select rabbits, check for diseases, determine the sex of a rabbit and learn to relate to others. In this activity you get to be the judge and make decisions about your rabbits.

Activity:



Practice proper showmanship techniques. Showing rabbits
Communicating with others
Gives a presentation showing correct rabbit showmanship techniques.

Rabbit Skill:

Life Skill:

Success Indicator:

You and I are going to be a great showmanship team.



“Hop to it!”

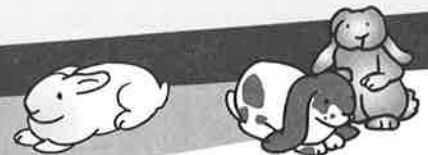
When participating in rabbit showmanship you will want to show that you and your rabbits can do all the required moves. You will also be demonstrating your knowledge and the ability to communicate to others. Sometimes the judge will ask all the participants to do the moves together as a group. Other times the judge will ask you to do them by yourself.

To complete this activity, prepare a showmanship presentation where you do all the moves in order. Practice with a friend and take turns playing judge and exhibitor. When you are ready, give a presentation to your helper. Practice going through the presentation three times. Ask your friend (the judge) to score each move and record your score on the score card. Score your friend's moves too.

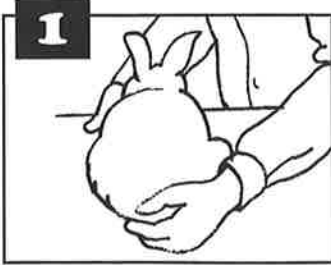


Showmanship Scorecard

Presentation	Points	My Score	My Friend's Score
1. Carry rabbit	4	_____	_____
2. Pose rabbit	3	_____	_____
3. Check ears	4	_____	_____
4. Turn rabbit over	5	_____	_____
5. Check teeth	4	_____	_____
6. Check eyes	3	_____	_____
7. Check nose	5	_____	_____
8. Check toenails on all feet	4	_____	_____
9. Check hocks and front feet	9	_____	_____
10. Check straightness of legs	6	_____	_____
11. Check body for ruptures and abscesses	6	_____	_____
12. Check sex	3	_____	_____
13. Return rabbit to posed position and check tail	6	_____	_____
14. Check for proper coloring, smut and foreign spots	4	_____	_____
15. Check fur quality and cleanliness	10	_____	_____
16. Pose rabbit for evaluation of overall balance	10	_____	_____
Participant's Knowledge	10	_____	_____
Participant's Appearance	10	_____	_____
	100		

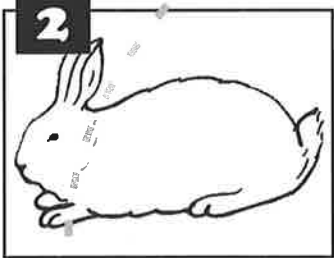


Rabbit Showmanship Steps



1 Carry a Rabbit

To carry a rabbit, tuck the head under one arm and support the rabbit's weight by placing the other hand under the rump. One hand supports the weight of the rabbit, while the other hand controls the rabbit. Keep a firm grip since a rabbit dropped from this position can easily break its back. You may remove your hand when you feel confident about being in control. If the judge asks you to move to a different spot on the table, always pick up the rabbit for carrying before moving to a new location.



2 Pose Rabbit

When you arrive at the exhibit table place the rabbit on the table immediately and pose it. Pose the front feet even with the eyes. Rear feet should be firmly on the table with toes even with the haunch (thigh joint) with tail up. Facing left is the natural position for a right handed presenter,



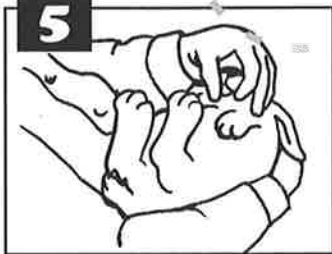
3 Checking Ears

Check the ears for ear mites, tattoo in rabbit's left ears, torn or missing portions of ears that distract from general appearance, ear carriage, tattoo obliterated by ink that is unreadable.



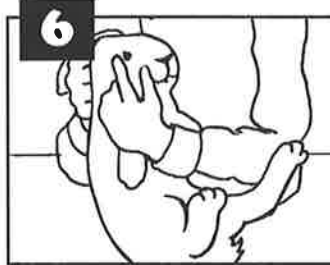
4 Turn Rabbit Over

Turn the rabbit over, supporting the rabbit on the table or against your body. The rabbit will remain in this position until checking the tail.



5 Check Teeth

With your hand over the area of the eyes, place a thumb and index finger on each side of the split lip and push back lips to expose teeth. You are checking for tooth defects such as malocclusion or simple malocclusion, broken or missing teeth.



6 Check Eyes

Check each eye for signs of blindness or abnormalities. Check for walleyes or moon eye (this is an eye with whitish cornea given a milky appearance to the eye), unmatched eyes (two eyes not of the same color), spots or specks in iris or on cornea, off colored eyes (eyes other than color called for in breed standard. Abnormal eye discharge, must be noticeable and pronounced. Marbling, a mottling of eye color, except in some chinchilla breeds allowing blue-gray eyes.



7 Check Nose

Check nose for sign of cold. The animal shows a white nasal discharge when they have a cold. Matted fur on inside of front legs may indicate presence of cold.



8 Check Toenails

Check toenails by pushing thumb into center of paw. Push back fur with index finger if necessary to see toenails. Don't forget to check dew claws. You are checking for missing toenails, unmatched toenails on corresponding feet, (including dew claws), proper color toenails for the breed as stated in the breed standard.



9 Check Hocks and Front Feet

Check the bottom of the hind feet for sore hocks. Also check bottoms of front feet for sore areas. You are checking for sore, infected or bleeding areas, not just for bare areas.



10 Check Legs

Extend the front legs to check for straightness. Run your index finger and thumb the length of each front leg. Extend rear legs out straight by placing your cupped hand ahead of the rear legs and pushing toward the feet. Legs should not be bent, bowed, deformed or cow-hocked.



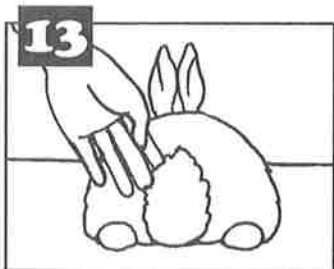
Check Body for Ruptures and Abscess

Run your hand over the chest and abdominal area to check for any abscesses, tumors or abnormalities. Ruptures may appear as lumps or large bumps under the skin, normally in the belly area. Abscesses may appear as red lumps or sores in the belly areas or the neck or chin area or under the legs, normally.



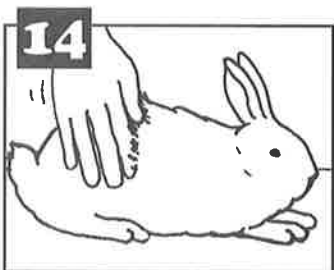
Check Sex

Check for the sex of the rabbit. Place your thumb below the vent area and push toward front of rabbit with the index finger. You are also checking for signs of vent disease (as indicated by a scabby, reddened sex organ), a split penis and testicles. All male animals in the regular show classes must show two normally descended testicles at the time of judging. Juniors must show both or neither testicle because juniors showing only one descended testicle at the time of judging would be disqualified from competition.



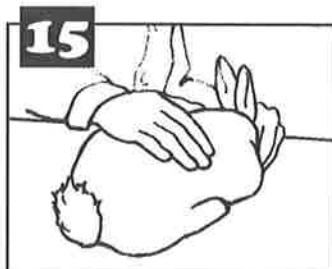
Check Tail

Return the rabbit to its posed position. Check to determine: if tail is straight, permanently set to either side or permanently out of line. Ascrew tail or bob tail will disqualify an animal from judging competition.



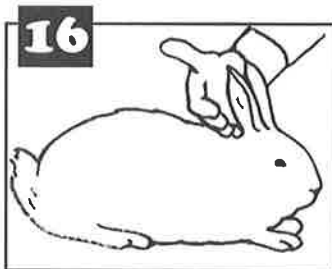
Check for Surface Color, Undercolor, Ring Color, Foreign Spots, or Smut

Check the fur for foreign colored spots (white spots in colored animal, or colored spots in white animal, unless specifically excepted in the breed standard). Inspect fur for smut on the usable portion of the pelt on a Pointed White, Californian, or Himalayan marked breeds and varieties. Check for color. Check surface color. Check undercolor and/or ring color by stroking fur forward or blowing into fur over the entire body. Tan Pattern: any tan pattern marking appearing in the marking pattern of Pointed White, Californians, or Himalayan marked breeds or varieties, is a disqualification. Wrong undercolor, color other than called for in the breed standard, white hairs (excessive white hairs in a colored section) are also disqualifications.



Fur Quality and Cleanliness

Stroke fur toward rabbit's head to show fur going back into natural position, either flyback/rollback. Check density standing/upright fur, such as Rex and Mini Rex, by patting and blowing into several areas. Some woolled breeds, such as Angoras and Fuzzy Lops should be felt and blown into to check density. Stroke rabbit from head to rear for a molt condition. Check for stains on fur.



Evaluation of Overall Balance

Pose the rabbit for evaluation. Check front, rear and side views for overall balance. Locate each of the following with your hand: shoulders, ribspread and fullness of loin. Check hindquarters for fullness by stretching your hand across width and depth of the rump. Check hips for smoothness and fullness by running your hand over the top of the hip to the tail.



Participant's Appearance

You need to demonstrate good posture, keep eye contact with the judge throughout the presentation, smile, dress neatly, remove chewing gum, hat or cap and pull long hair back.

Participant's Knowledge

Demonstrate quick, confident and correct response to questions asked about your rabbit.

Participant's Actions

Carry out actions in a confident manner, always being considerate of your animals, fellow showmen and the judge. Demonstrate a gentle and smooth flowing presentation. Order is not as important as doing a smooth and organized presentation of showmanship.

Rabbit Rap

Share What You Did

How did you learn to show a rabbit?

Process What's Important

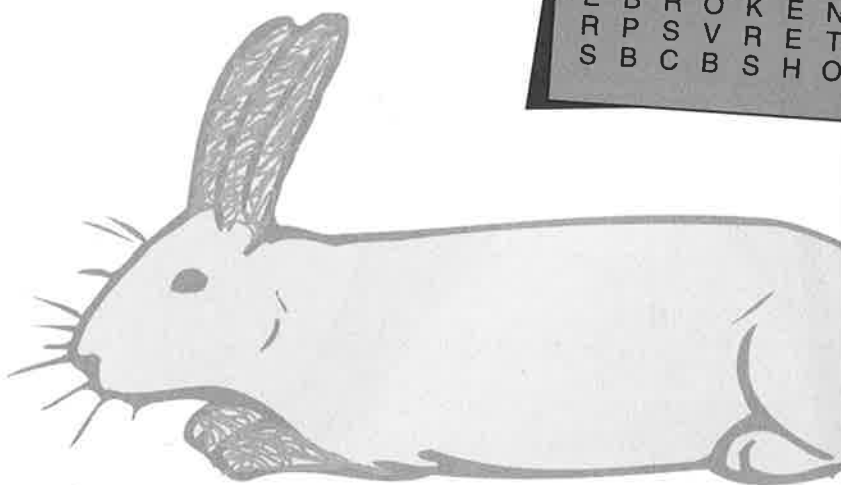
What did you learn about rabbits by showing them? What was most challenging about preparing your presentation?

Generalize to Your Life

As a teacher of others, what is the difference in helping others learn rather than telling them how?

Apply What You Learned

How can you become a better teacher and communicator?



You are expected to show the front, rear and sides of your rabbit in the order requested by the judge so he or she can see the overall balance. If a judge asks you to move to a different spot on the table, you are expected to pick the rabbit up for carrying before moving to the new location.



Rabbit Word Find Words

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Abscess | Nose |
| Back | Pad |
| Bob | Pedigree |
| Boil | Pelt |
| Box | Pet |
| Breed | Flank |
| Broken tail | Ribs |
| Buck | Rollback |
| Cheeks | Rump |
| Chest | Flyback |
| Condition | Saddle |
| Dam | Screw tail |
| Dewlap | Scrotum |
| Doe | Shoulder |
| Eyes | Snuffles |
| Fault | Spraddled legs |
| Foot | Tattoo |
| Hindquarters | Testicles |
| Hip | Type |
| Hock | Uterus |
| Lapin | Vent disease |
| Malocclusion | Vulva |
| Neck | Wall eyes |

Rabbit Word Find



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

Bounding Ahead

- Assist a judge at a rabbit show.
Date _____ Initial _____
- Judge a rabbit show at a rabbit project meeting or county event.
Date _____ Initial _____
- Complete the Rabbit Word Find and use each word in a story about rabbits.
Date _____ Initial _____

Rabbit Management

Tattoo Parlor

Why is it important for a rabbit to have a tattoo? It helps you tell which rabbit is which, and is needed for keeping records and showing a rabbit. You tattoo the *left ear* because the American Rabbit Breeders Association registration number goes in the *right ear*. A tattoo can have up to five letters or numbers. The best time to tattoo a rabbit is when it is about eight weeks old and ready to be weaned.



Activity: Tattoo a cardboard ear.
 Rabbit Skill: Tattooing a rabbit
 Life Skill: Planning and organizing
 Success Indicator: Makes a readable tattoo.

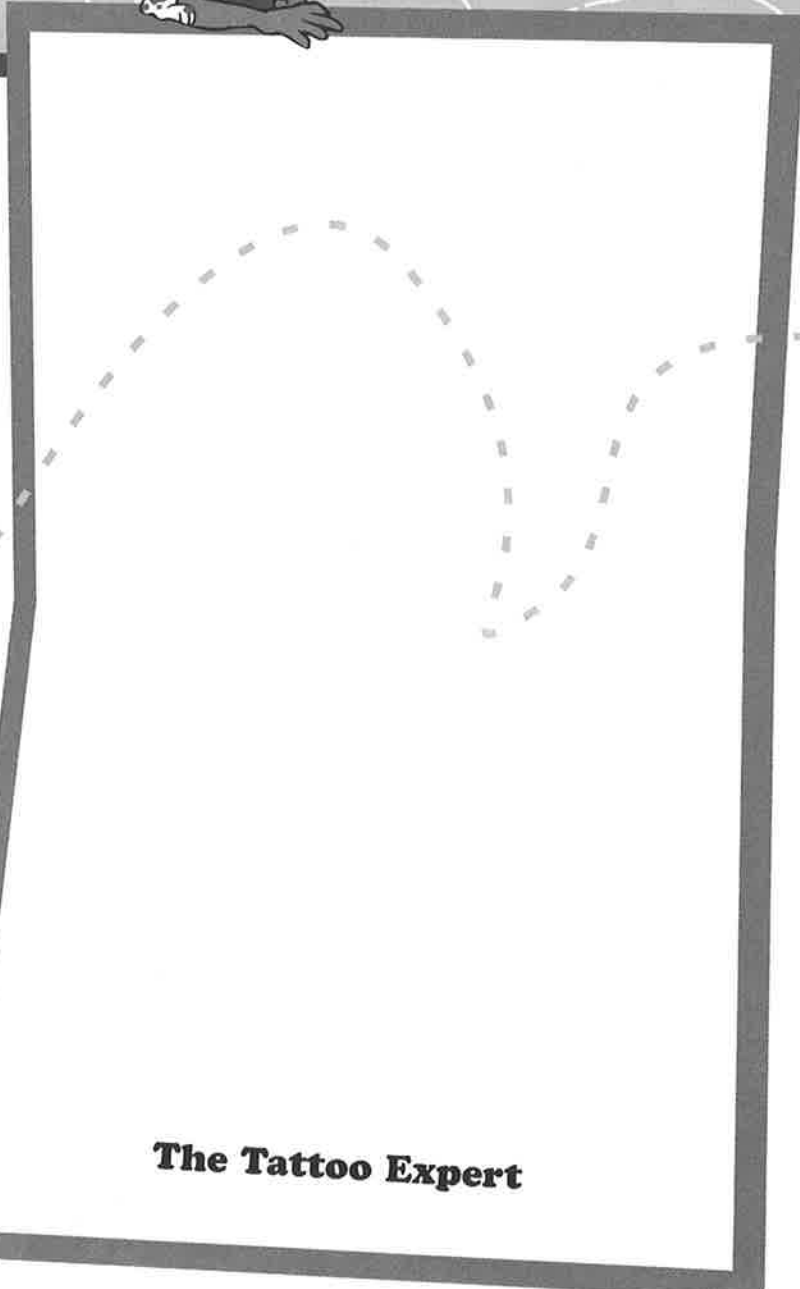


“Hop to it!”

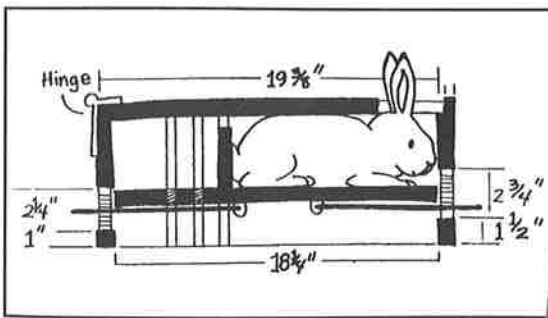
With an adult, gather the things listed below and practice tattooing on a cloth rabbit or piece of cardboard. Plan a system of identification that will help keep track of your rabbits. Check off the things you have. Circle the things to get. Tape a picture of you tattooing a rabbit's ear in the space.

You will need:

- tattoo pliers
- Vaseline
- paper towels
- cotton swab
- tattoo box or towel
- tattoo numbers and letters
- tattoo ink
- cardboard or cloth ears
- alcohol



The Tattoo Expert



Rabbit Rap

Share What You Did

What were some of the most difficult things about tattooing a rabbit?

Process What's Important

What system of identification did you decide to use for your rabbit?

Generalize to Your Life

Why are planning and organizing important in tattooing a live rabbit?

Apply What You Learned

Why are planning and organizing important in doing your homework? Planning a meal? Playing a sport? Taking a trip?

A rabbit's ears help regulate its cool the rabbit and temperature.

Did you know?



Rabbit Facts

Tattooing Steps

1. Put numbers and/or letters in the tattoo pliers. (A tattoo needle may also be used.)
2. Tattoo a piece of cardboard or paper first to make sure it says what you want it to.
3. Put the rabbit in a tattoo box or have someone hold the rabbit in a towel with ears exposed.
4. Clean the rabbit's ear with a cotton swab soaked in alcohol.
5. Carefully tattoo the left ear with the tattoo pliers. Be as gentle as possible.
6. Rub tattoo ink into the puncture holes.
7. Rub a small amount of Vaseline into the tattoo area, then wipe the area clean.



Bounding Ahead

1. Build your own tattoo box with help from an adult. You will need to find some plans. The A.R.B.A. has details on plans.

Date _____ Initial _____

Homeward Bound

It is very important that you consider the environment that surrounds your rabbit housing. Take precautions to ensure the best practice to use as your rabbitry grows.

Activity:



Describe the environmental needs of rabbits.

Rabbit Skill:

Planning housing for raising rabbits

Life Skill:

Planning and organizing

Success Indicator:

Evaluates existing conditions around a hutch.

“Hop to it!”

Draw a picture of your current rabbit caging and include the following:

- Location in barn, yard, garage, etc.
- Direction air flows past cage and where it enters your barn, garage, etc. if applicable.
- Location of sun at different times of day, (sunrise, sunset, etc.).



Will you need to make changes like I did?

My Rabbit Housing



Rabbit Rap

Share What You Did

Describe your rabbit's housing. Why is ventilation important to your rabbit?

Process What's Important

What ventilation does your rabbit have?

Generalize to Your Life

How can learning about the environment around you be helpful to your life?

Apply What You Learned

What changes will you make in your rabbit's environment as a result of this activity?

A rabbit eats best and gains weight easiest when the temperature is maintained between 60 degrees F and 65 degrees F.

Did you know?



Rabbit Facts Ventilation

One of the most important features in raising healthy rabbits is proper ventilation. This is necessary to provide fresh air, reduce humidity, dilute or kill airborne disease causing organisms and to help control temperature. If the animals are located in an area with a breeze most of the time, you may be able to rely on natural ventilation.

Proper ventilation is important in all types of weather and in all types of housing. Signs of poor ventilation are condensation and a smell of ammonia. The more rabbits there are in an enclosed area, the greater the manure build-up and the greater the need for increased air exchange to keep the ammonia level within safe, tolerable limits.

In enclosed buildings where temperature and humidity are controlled, the desirable combination is 60–78 degrees Fahrenheit and 30–40% humidity.

Air Circulation

If you have an enclosed building, there should be adjustable side flaps that can be lowered or raised to accommodate the air circulation. In addition, there should be a vent slot in the ridge of the roof to allow the rising warm air to escape from the building. There needs to be 8–10 complete air changes per hour in an enclosed building, whether by natural or forced ventilation.

Hot Weather

Rabbits can withstand cold weather better than hot weather. They may die if exposed to extreme heat. The temperature in the hutch should not be higher than 85 degrees Fahrenheit. In hot weather, provide the rabbits with shade and any possible breezes. On extremely hot days, place plastic bottles of frozen water in the cage. The rabbits curl up around the bottle to keep themselves cool. An electric fan can help to circulate the air. Situate the fan so that it doesn't blow directly on your rabbits.

Wet Weather

In cold weather, protect rabbits from wind, rain, sleet, and snow. Rabbits can tolerate low temperatures and excessive cold, but wet and drafty conditions weaken their resistance to disease. Place the hutches where rain will not enter the cages and get the rabbits wet. In general, face the cages toward the south for the best protection against drafts.



Bounding Ahead

1. Determine the normal low and high temperatures in your area during each season. Determine level of humidity during the seasons. Log your findings.

Date _____ Initial _____

Rabbit Rap

Share What You Did

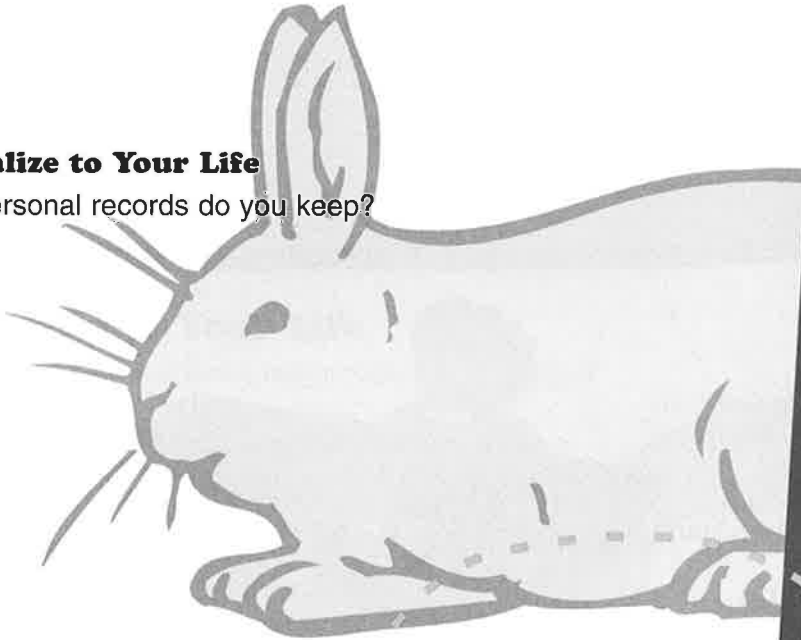
What did you include in your record?

Process What's Important

Why are financial records important? How do records help you with your project?

Generalize to Your Life

What personal records do you keep?



Apply What You Learned

Describe how you will use the information from the rabbit record to improve your business.

Did you know?
A rabbit is the only animal that will produce 10 times its own weight in one year.

Acknowledgments: Revised by Maureen Dunckel.

Rabbit Facts

Examples of Income and Expenses

Original rabbits purchased
Building costs
Equipment purchased
Feed
Supplies
Veterinarian services and supplies
Show supplies
Transportation
Advertising
Registration fees
Rabbits sold
Equipment sold
Show premiums received
By-products sold
Other income
Other expenses

Bounding Ahead

1. Explore different record keeping systems.
Date _____ Initial _____
2. Explore one computer program for financial records.
Date _____ Initial _____
3. Give a demonstration or illustrated talk about your record system.
Date _____ Initial _____

Rabbit Health and Reproduction

Administering Medicine

Just as people do, rabbits sometimes need medicine. With practice you can learn to recognize when you can give medicine and when a veterinarian needs to be involved. Learning to give medicine is an important skill to learn. In this activity you'll practice giving medication both intramuscularly and orally.

Activity:

Demonstrate how to give medicine orally and intramuscularly.

Rabbit Skill:

Treating health problems

Life Skill:

Leading self and others

Success Indicator:

Helps another youth learn to give medication to a rabbit.

“Hop to it!”

Practice giving medication intramuscularly using an orange or a model stuffed rabbit such as one made with the 4HCCS Rabbit Pattern. Work with someone who has had experience. Then help another person who has not done this before learn how.

Now help someone learn how to give powdered medication.

In the chart below check which diseases are usually treated orally and those treated



Type of Medication Treatment

Disease	Treated Orally	Treated Intramuscularly	Other Treatment (Name)
Ear Mange			
Ring Worm			
Caked Breasts			
Mastitis			
Snuffles			
Pneumonia			
Coccidiosis			
Tapeworm			
Orchitis			



Rabbit Rap

Share What You Did

How did you help someone learn? How and where do you administer an intramuscular shot to a rabbit?

Process What's Important

Why are medicines administered in different ways? Why is it important to learn the proper way to give medication to your rabbits?

Generalize to Your Life

How did you help someone learn rather than telling or showing them how?

Apply What You Learned

How can you use this skill to treat health problems in your rabbitry?

Mice, rats, birds, flies, dogs and cats are the most common carriers of external parasites and bacteria that can infect a rabbitry.

Did you know

Rabbit Facts

Administering Powdered Medicine

Gently grasp the rabbit by the loose skin (with the ears included) behind its neck and tip it back, sliding your other hand under its haunches at the same time. Let the animal lean against you as if you were checking the sex. Tip the rabbit's nose up. Gently press the jaws apart with the thumb and forefinger. Place the medicine well back on the tongue. Allow the rabbit to close its mouth and then gently stroke the chin until it swallows. Liquid medication can also be given this way using an eye dropper to put the medicine on the rabbit's tongue.

Bounding Ahead

1. Select three of the following rabbit diseases and report to your helper what causes them, what their symptoms are, how they can be controlled and how to treat them?

- Ear mange or canker
- Skin mange
- Sore hocks
- Abscesses
- Ringworm
- Caked breasts
- Mastitis
- Conjunctivitis or weepy eyes
- Slobbers
- Snuffles
- Pneumonia
- Malocclusion
- Fur block
- Coccidiosis
- Scab
- Tapeworm
- Metritis
- Orchitis

Tipping the Scales

Like humans, animals benefit from tracking their diet and weight gain. For instance what if you were preparing to take your rabbit to a show? It would be helpful for you to record the progress of your rabbit by developing a weight chart.

Activity:

Develop a weight and diet chart.

Rabbit Skill:

Keeping records

Life Skill:

Learning to learn

Success Indicator:

Maintains a one-month weight chart.

“Hop to it!”

- Over a one-month period track the weight of your rabbit and the amount of feed it consumes. Keep weekly records such as below:

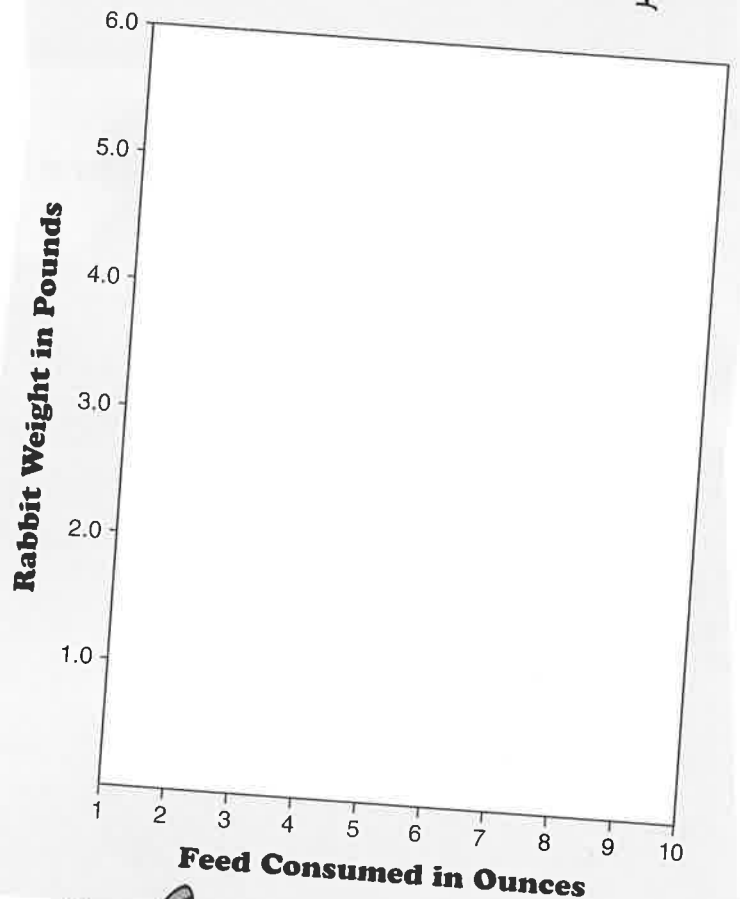
August 9 Weighed 3.4 pounds, consumed two ounces of feed

August 16 Weighed 3.9 pounds, consumed five ounces of feed

Record your data/information here:

Date	Feed (oz.)	Weight
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		
26		
27		
28		
29		
30		
31		

- Now plot your findings on this grid.



Rabbit Talk Words Lactation, Fattening, Roughage

Rabbit Rap

Share What You Did

Why do we need to record the weight of rabbits?

Process What's Important

Did you notice any differences in the amount of feed consumed? Why?

Generalize to Your Life

How do your parents and doctors use your weight to make sure you are growing correctly?

Apply What You Learned

Why is it important to understand how to analyze data/information?

The average feed conversion of rabbits is 3 to 4 pounds of feed required to produce a pound of gain.

Did you know

Acknowledgments: Written by Greg Kaase

Rabbit Facts



Feeding Guidelines

Keep breeding does and bucks in good condition. Many breeding failures are caused by does being overweight. In general, it is best to have a doe a little thin rather than having her too fat.

Pregnant does and those who are lactating require more feed. Consult an experienced breeder or a rabbit feed salesperson to determine the amount of feed needed to meet the increased nutrient requirement.

Reduce the amount of feed given to a doe 24 to 48 hours before she kindles. This will help to prevent caked mammary glands. After kindling, gradually increase her back to full feed over a seven day period.

Young rabbits need as much feed as they can eat; however, DO NOT let stale or moldy feed accumulate in the feeder.

Provide only as much feed as your rabbits will eat between feedings; any excess left in the feeder is usually wasted.

Acknowledgment: Adapted from Rabbits, Rabbits, Rabbits, Purdue University

Bounding Ahead

1. Define roughage and find some examples in rabbit feeds. Track your rabbits weight gain over an extended period of time. How does weather affect your rabbit's eating patterns.

Date _____ Initial _____

Disease Detectives

When it comes to your rabbit's health, you are always on the case. As a Disease Detective you will have to use the clues your rabbit gives to decide the disease affecting it. Pay close attention by examining your rabbits weekly and you will have no problem solving the case.

Activity:

Rabbit Skill:

Life Skill:

Success Indicator:

Identifying rabbit diseases.
Recognize rabbit diseases
Problem solving
Uses problem solving skills to recognize rabbit diseases.

“Hop to it!”

Research diseases that affect your rabbit by visiting a veterinarian or experienced breeder. Work with a friend to match the signs of illness to the proper disease. Draw lines from the diseases to the correct symptom.

Symptoms

- #### Diseases
1. Ear Canker (Ear mites)
 2. Snuffles (pasteurellonis)
 3. Mastitis
 4. Sore Hocks
 5. Ring Worm
 6. Wry Neck
 7. Weepy Eye

- a. Nasal discharge, sneezing, coughing, watery eyes, rubs nose with front feet.
- b. The rabbit turns its head to one side and has a loss of balance.
- c. Shake head and flop ears. Scaly crust starting at base of inner ear.
- d. Loss of hair is usually in circumscribed patches, often starts on head but may involve other parts of the body.
- e. Bruised areas under surface of hocks. Often becomes infected or abscessed.
- f. Excessive discharge from the eye and matted fur under the eye. Rubs its eyes with its front feet.
- g. Mammary glands become hot, reddened and swollen—later may appear blue in color.

Rabbit Rap

Share What You Did

What signs of illness have you witnessed in your rabbit?
What did you learn about rabbit diseases?

Process What's Important

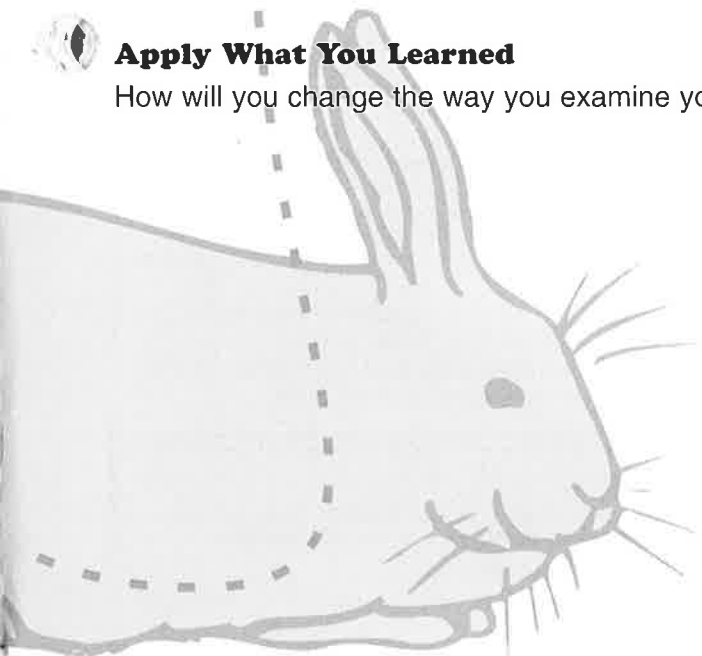
How do you look for signs of problems in your rabbit?
Why is it important to examine rabbits daily?

Generalize to Your Life

How is problem solving helpful to you?

Apply What You Learned

How will you change the way you examine your rabbits?



Acknowledgments: Written by Greg Kaase & Chad Wootton.

*Why neck is caused
by ear infections not
skeletal disorder.*



Additional resources:
Vet/Books/Library/ARBA/WWW-
List of Diseases & Symptoms



Rabbit Facts

Disease Prevention Tips

- Buy stock that appears healthy from breeders with good reputations and healthy herds.
- Provide plenty of clean, fresh water.
- Feed a healthy diet of clean, fresh feed.
- Use approved or recommended sanitary practices. Dispose of debris of all kinds.
- Check your rabbits each day and handle each rabbit once a month.
- Check closely for ear canker. Immediately isolate any animal that appears abnormal and keep it isolated until you identify the problem and correct it.
- Quarantine or isolate new animals for at least two weeks before placing them with your herd.
- Wash thoroughly after completing your rabbit chores.
- In large rabbitries where diseases can more easily be spread, keep visitors out of the rabbit buildings.
- Snuffles is pneumonia for rabbits.
- In some instances, diseases will cause the rabbit to need to be destroyed.
- Clean hands prevent disease for you and your rabbit.
- To treat ear mites use mineral oil and Q-tips.

Bounding Ahead

1. Tour your local veterinarian clinic.

Date _____ Initial _____

2. Develop a weekly disease examination checklist for your rabbits.

Date _____ Initial _____

Abscess

Symptoms—Collection of pus in the tissues of the body.

Cause—Bucks fighting and injuring each other or bad or broken teeth may cause infection.

Treatment/Control—Carefully cut away the fur around the infected area and bathe the abscess in hot water with antiseptic. Then gently squeeze out the pus and bathe the wound again.

Caked Breasts

Symptoms—“Caked Udder,” one or more of mammary glands swollen, and hot and firm.

Cause—Milk not drawn from glands as rapidly as formed. Too few young or young not nursing sufficiently.

Control—Reduce ration one-half on the day doe kindles and gradually increase to full feed in 7 days. Relieve congested glands by partial milking. Rub lanolin into affected glands to soften. Do not wean young abruptly from heavy milk doe.

Coccidiosis

Symptoms—Symptoms vary with severity of exposure but include loss of appetite, diarrhea, tough coat and loss of weight. The disease may involve the liver or the intestines.

Cause—Five different species of protozoan parasites or one-celled animals, which injure the lining of the bile ducts of the liver, intestines or cecum depending on the particular species present, is the cause to the disease.

Control—Sulfa added to the drinking water at a rate of 1 1/2 ounces per gallon. Treat for 14 days. If necessary the treatment may be repeated after 7 days on plain water. To be fully effective, treatment should be accompanied by strict sanitary practices. Clean and disinfect hutches twice weekly with disinfectants. Remove manure daily and do not allow droppings to come in contact with feed and water. Clean and disinfect the feeder regularly. Separate young from other rabbits as soon as possible.

Diarrhea

Symptoms—Fluid or soft, foul and sour smelling feces. The rabbit eats little, sits hunched up with eyes closed and becomes listless.

Cause—Inflammation, irritation or infection on the digestive tract, due to eating food that is too wet, too cold, spoiled or contaminated with chemicals. Changes in the feeding routine, environmental or damp bedding may also lead to diarrhea.

Treatment/Control—Separate the rabbit immediately and house it in a clean hutch away from the other hutches. Thoroughly clean and disinfect the old hutch.

Ear Canker

Symptoms—The rabbit holds its head to one side and scratches violently with one of its legs. The symptoms appear in stages: first red spots and patches are seen around the edge of the ear, then scabs appear.

Cause—Mites burrow into the skin of the ear and cause irritation.

Treatment/Control—Clean the ear with a piece of material soaked in a two percent solution of hydrogen peroxide. Olive oil may also be used to soften the scabs and remove them. The hutch should be disinfected and all bedding disposed of.

Enterotoxemia

Symptoms—Diarrhea usually only symptom. May go off feed and is found dead in 24 hours. Usually seen in 4–8 week-old rabbits.

Cause—Clostridium Spiroformes, a bacteria, is the specific cause. It produces a toxin which kills the rabbit. The disease is brought on by overfeeding with a high carbohydrate feed (contains a lot of grain).

Control—Change to a higher fiber (low energy) diet and reduce the amount of feed. The addition of hay or straw to the ration or antibiotics may be helpful.

Heat Stroke

Symptoms—Rabbit lies at full length, rapidly panting with open nostrils and often foaming at the mouth.

Cause—Excessive heat and direct sun.

Treatment/Control—Remove the animal to a cool, shady, well-ventilated area where it can move freely. Cool the animal's head and legs with a cool damp cloth and put a carton of ice in the cage. Offer it a dish of water at room temperature.

Mastitis

Symptoms—Inflammation of the teats. The mammary glands become hot, reddened and swollen. In later stages they may appear blue in color.

Cause—Occurs in does that have had their young removed too early.

Treatment/Control—The inflamed teats should be gently massaged with olive oil until the swelling subsides. Antibiotic treatment may be necessary to save the doe.

Snuffles

Symptoms—This respiratory disease causes a yellow nasal discharge and heavy breathing. The mucous membranes of the nose swell and become bright red in color. The rabbit uses its forepaws to rub its nostrils. Frequent sneezing occurs, lungs become infected and the rabbit makes a loud snuffling noise as it breathes.

Cause—A simple cold can lead to snuffles. It is highly infectious and can quickly infect the entire herd.

Treatment/Control—If the disease is caught in its early stage it may be successfully treated with antibiotics.

Sore Hocks

Symptoms—Mostly seen in heavier breeds, the hocks show bald patches that may eventually turn into green wounds.

Cause—Pressure on the hind legs

Treatment/Control—Regularly check the underside of the hocks.

Teeth, Overgrown

Symptoms—The upper and lower teeth do not match and cannot wear correctly allowing the teeth to continue to grow until the animal is unable to feed properly.

Cause—This condition is considered hereditary.

Treatment/Control—Clipping and filing of the teeth should only be done if the teeth are growing normally. If they are not, the most humane treatment is to put the animal to sleep.



Rabbit Selection & Showing

Going Public

Rabbit meat is a very popular food in some European countries. In these areas, rabbit meat is an important part of the human diet. You are a key person to introduce more people to rabbit meat.

Activity:



Plan, develop and use a rabbit promotional display. Marketing rabbit meat

Rabbit Skill:

Life Skill:

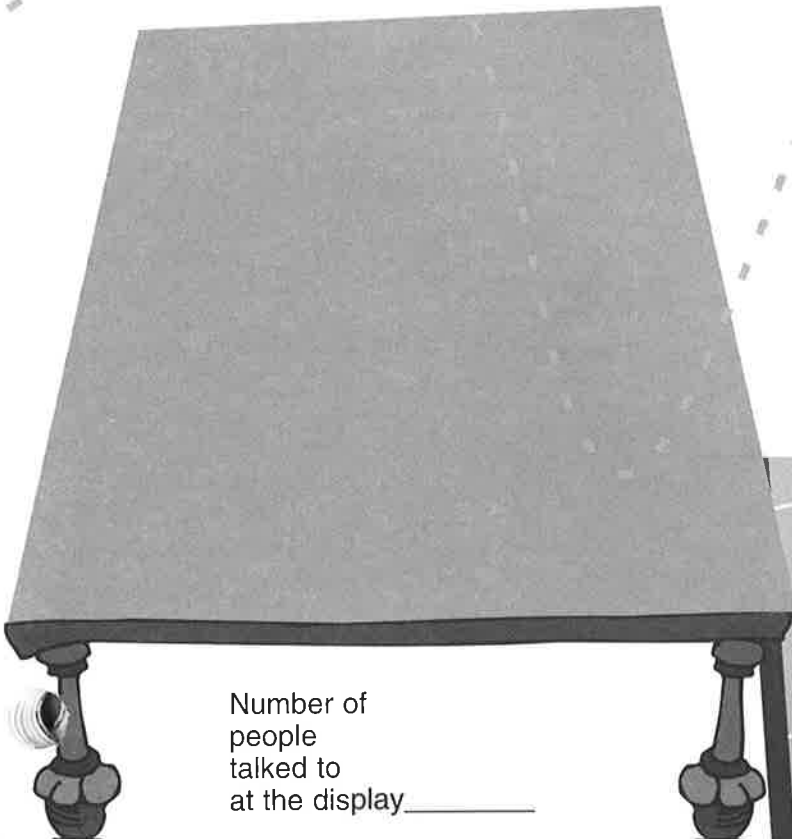
Success Indicator:

Communicating with others

Develops a promotional display and promotes rabbit meat.

“Hop to it!”

Contact a local supermarket about having a rabbit meat promotional display. Prepare handouts including favorite rabbit recipes and nutritional facts about rabbit meat. Promote rabbit meat (and yourself as a source for rabbit meat) at the supermarket. If this is not possible use the display you make at a rabbit meeting or with your family. Draw the display you made on the table below or use a picture. Record the approximate number of people you talk to at your display.



Number of people talked to at the display _____

“Rabbit Rap”

Share What You Did

How did you design your display? What was the message you presented through your display?

Process What’s Important

What did you learn about marketing from this activity?

Generalize to Your Life

What decisions would you need to make to market your skills for a particular job?

Apply What You Learned

How can you use your marketing ideas to improve your rabbit project?



“Bounding” Ahead

1. Research local laws about butchering your rabbits and selling the meat yourself. Share what you discover with your helper.

Date _____ Initial _____

2. Prepare and serve rabbit recipes at a special tasting party for your group.

Date _____ Initial _____

Rabbit Facts

Processing a Rabbit

Getting Ready

- Nail a board to a wall or fence at about your head level. Screw in two hooks with sharpened points about eight inches apart. Put a table near the hooks. Place a bucket or pan under the hooks.
- Put two buckets of cool, clear water on the table to wash hands and wash and cool the rabbit carcass.
- If you have a market for pelts, have several wire stretchers ready. Have clothespins handy on the table for fastening the hides to the stretchers.
- You will need two knives. One with a narrow, sharp 3-inch blade and the other a boning knife with a medium width, sharp blade 5 to 6 inches long. Keep both knives very sharp.



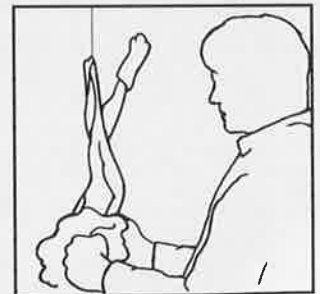
At eight weeks of age a commercial meat type rabbit should weigh four pounds and be ready for fryer marketing.

Did you know



Processing Steps

1. Stun the rabbit by dislocating its neck. Press the base of your thumb against the back of the rabbit's head. Bend its head back as far as possible. Pull until you feel the head break away from the neck.
2. Hang the rabbit by its left leg and immediately cut off its head. Cut close to the head and through the place where the head was broken away from the neck.
3. Cut off both front feet with a boning knife.
4. Cut off the free hind foot.
5. With the other knife, slit the skin up the inside of both hind legs.
6. Tear the hide away from the hind leg on the hook.
7. Tear the hide from the tail and vent by working your fingers between the hide and the body ahead of the tail and over the rump.
8. Force your fingers between the hide and the body, and pull the hide from the free hind leg.
9. Cut as shown, leaving the fat on the flanks, not on the pelt.
10. As soon as you can hold the whole pelt with one hand, remove the pelt with one strong pull. Dry the skin indoors.
11. Cut off the tail.
12. Cut the pelvic bone between the hind legs by inserting the knife from above and prying it out.
13. Slit down the belly, being careful not to cut the bladder, intestines or stomach.
14. Pull out the insides by grasping the stomach and hold the liver in place with the thumb of your other hand. Leave the kidneys, liver, heart and lungs in place.
15. Carefully remove the gall bladder without cutting or breaking it. Do not let the bitter green bile of the gall bladder spill on the meat.
16. Wash the carcass in cold water. It may be left in cold water for 15 minutes for cooling. Remove and place in a pan or wire basket in a natural position.



Rabbit Rap

Share What You Did

What equipment do you need to process a rabbit?
What did you include in your demonstration?

Process What's Important

Why is it important to learn how to process a rabbit?

Generalize to Your Life

How is processing a rabbit like some other difficult things you have done for the first time?
How did demonstrating the process help you learn how to do it better?

Apply What You Learned

How would you like to improve your presentation skills?



Rabbit Talk Word Processing

Acknowledgments: Adapted from the 4HCOS "Skills for Life" Rabbit Series and the Purdue University resource manual Rabbits, Rabbits, Rabbits!

Bounding Ahead

1. Develop at least one additional market for your rabbits that you have not had before. This market could be for meat, pets, laboratory, wool, fur, breeding etc.

Date _____ Initial _____

2. Identify six parts of a processed rabbit.

Date _____ Initial _____

3. Compare processed rabbit to other kinds of meat such as poultry, pork, beef and lamb. What differences are there in the protein level, fat content, cholesterol level and retail price? Display the differences in a chart for others to see your findings.

Date _____ Initial _____

Rabbit Rap

Share What You Did

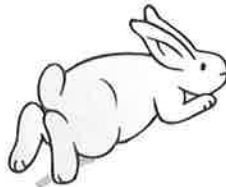
How did your dish compare to chicken? What did you include in your meal? Why is it good to try new dishes?

Process What's Important

How does rabbit meat compare to other meat?

Generalize to Your Life

Why is rabbit considered a nutritious meat for your diet?



Rabbit Facts

Rabbit Meat

Rabbit meat is very nutritious. High in protein and low in cholesterol, it is very healthy. Europeans have eaten rabbits (lapins) for many years. During the war years rabbits were a mainstay in diets because they require very little space and are relatively quiet with little odor compared to cows, sheep, goats or chickens. People in the United States are beginning to discover the "secret" behind rabbit meat—low fat, low cholesterol, tasty!

Apply What You Learned

How could you get others to eat rabbit meat?

Nutritional Values of Common Meats

Meat	% Protein	% Fat	% Moisture	Calories per lb.	Cholesterol m/100g
Rabbit	20.8	10.2	67.9	795	164
Chicken	20.0	11.0	67.6	810	220
Veal (med. fat)	18.8	14.0	66.0	910	—
Turkey (med. fat)	20.1	20.2	58.3	1190	—
Lamb (med. fat)	15.7	27.7	55.8	1420	250
Beef (Select)	16.3	28.0	55.0	1440	230
Pork (med. fat)	11.9	45.0	42.0	2050	230

Rabbit Almond Casserole

Ingredients

4 cups cooked rabbit meat
1 can water chestnuts
1 medium onion
rabbit broth to moisten

1 can mushrooms, drained
1/2 cup blanched whole almonds
paprika

1. Take the rabbit meat off the bone
2. Cube the rabbit meat
3. Spread half the rabbit meat in the casserole dish
4. Top with almonds, chopped onion, water chestnuts, and mushrooms
5. Cover with remaining rabbit meat and rabbit broth
6. Sprinkle with paprika
7. Bake for 30 minutes in a 350 degree oven.

Rabbit Talk Words Protein, Cholesterol

Bounding Ahead

1. Visit a local supermarket and compare the price of rabbit meat with that of beef and chicken.

Date _____ Initial _____

2. Prepare two dishes using chicken in one and rabbit in the other. Conduct a taste test with family members and friends.

Date _____ Initial _____

An Animal Career... Is It For Me?

Have you thought about a career you might like? Now is a good time to explore which careers interest you and how you will need to prepare for them. Notice the kinds of things you enjoy doing most as you work on your rabbit projects. Discovering what you enjoy is a clue that can help you when you select a career. Does your interest in animals lead you to possible careers in marketing? Production? Sales? Communications? Farming? Research? Other areas? One good way to find out more about careers is to talk with people who are doing what you might want to do.

Activity:



Interview people involved in raising rabbits or other animals.

Rabbit Skill:

Life Skill:

Success Indicator:

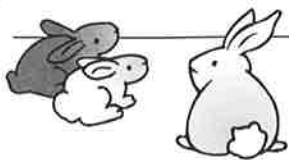
Learning about careers
Communicating with others
Conducts at least one career interview.

“Hop to it!”

How could you learn more about an animal career? Talk to at least three people involved in animal-related careers. Ask them questions such as these. Check those questions you might want to use.

- Why did you choose your present career or job?
- What do you like best about the job?
- What do you like least?
- What people in other jobs or careers do you work with?
- How did you get the training needed for your job?
- How is your job changing?
- Add some questions you'd ask. List them below.

Jot highlights of your talks with the people you interview. Use more paper if you need more space.



“Rabbit Rap”

Share What You Did

What did you do to prepare for the interviews?

Process What's Important

What kinds of interview questions got the best answers?

Generalize to Your Life

What makes a person easy to interview or communicate with?

Apply What You Learned

In what ways can interviewing people help make you be a better communicator?

What do I need to be a veterinarian?



“Bounding” Ahead

1. Interview members of your family or relatives about their careers. Ask them how and why they chose their careers.

Date _____ Initial _____

2. Talk to a school counselor about how you can prepare for a career in two or three different areas.

Date _____ Initial _____

3. Arrange for two or three speakers to come to a career night and talk with your group about their careers.

Date _____ Initial _____

Rabbit Talk 2

A

Adult class - See Senior.

B

Bell Ears - Ears that have large tips with distinct fall or lop.

Belt - Line where the colored portion of the body meets the white portion just behind the shoulders. Example: Dutch breed.

Blaze - White area on the head and nose running up between the eyes on rabbits with multi-colored fur. Example: Dutch breed.

Boil or abscess - Hard swelling or isolated collection of pus or matter on the rabbit's skin, accompanied by a fever and localized heat.

Breeding certificate - Written certificate by the owner of a stud buck, showing its pedigree and the date of breeding to a particular doe. Given to prove the ancestry of the young.

Broken tail - A tail that has been broken and is out of line—a disqualification.

Buck teeth - See Wolf Teeth.

Bull dog - Short, broad, bold head with a masculine look.

Butterfly - Dark-colored area surrounding the rabbit's nose. Examples: Checkered Giant and English Spot breeds.

C

Caked teats or caked udder - Inflamed and feverish condition of the teats arising from too much milk in a doe rabbit. Easily seen by distended teats with hardened milk.

Carcass weight - Weight of the rabbit after it has been processed.

Cecum - The blind gut at the head of the large intestine.

Choppy - Condition in which a rabbit is not well filled out and rounded in the loin and rump area.

Conformation - Body structure conforming to the standard type of the breed represented.

Cow hocks - A deformity in which the legs are closer together at the hocks than at the feet and stifle joint. Same as knock-kneed.

D

Disqualification - One or more permanent defects, deformities or blemishes that make a rabbit unfit to be registered, to win an award in competition or to take part in an exhibition.

E

Ear canker - Inflamed, swollen, scabby condition of the lower inside ear of rabbits, caused by colonies of rabbit ear-mites.

Embryo - A kit in the early stages of development inside the uterus of the doe.

F

Faking - Changes in the external appearance of a rabbit on exhibition, with intent to deceive.

Faults - Imperfections.

Conditions or characteristics that are unacceptable and will result in lower show placing but not disqualification. Example: broken toenails, cheek spots too large and poor tail carriage.

Foreign color - Any color of fur, eyes or nails different from the standard of perfection for the breed or variety.

Four class rabbits - Rabbit show category for all breeds having ideal adult weight under nine pounds. There are four show classes for these rabbits: senior bucks, senior does, junior bucks and junior does.

G

Glossy - The reflected luster of brightness from naturally healthy fur.

Guard hair - Longer, coarser hair of the coat offering protection to the undercoat. Gives wearing quality to the coat in addition to providing the luster to the coat.

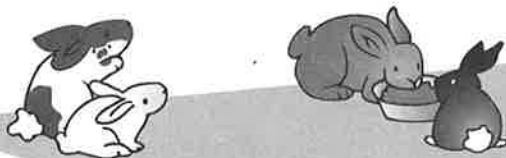
H

Hump back - Condition of having a hump or protrusion on the back, marring a gracefully arched outline.

I

Inner ear - The concave portion of the ear.

Inventory - List of everything that is necessary to a 4-H project. A beginning inventory is taken at the start of a project year. An ending inventory is taken at the close of a project year.



K

Knee - Second joint of the rear leg, connecting the thigh and leg. In animals, more properly called the "hock." The second joint of the foreleg is the elbow.

Knock kneed - See Cow Hocks.

L

Lapin - French word for rabbit. In the fur trade, it is dyed rabbit fur.

Linebreeding - Mating rabbits that are both descended from the same animal but are related several generations back. For example: mating first cousins, uncle to niece or aunt to nephew.

Loose coat - Condition of fur lacking density in the undercoat, usually coupled with fine guard hairs, resulting in lack of texture. Does not indicate a slipping coat.

M

Malocclusion - Inherited defect where the upper and lower jaws do not let the teeth meet correctly, resulting in long, uneven teeth extending out of the rabbit's mouth.

Marked - Basic color broken up by orderly placement on a white (usually) background.

Meaty - Having a good proportion of meat in relationship to the size and type of rabbit.

Moult - Process of shedding or changing the fur, one to four times yearly depending upon genetic inheritance.

P

Parasites - Lice, fleas or mange that utilize the rabbit as their host.

Pedigree - Written chart of the male and female ancestors of a rabbit. Shows the date of birth, ownership of dam and the parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

Processing - Process of harvesting the edible protein, or meat, of the rabbit.

R

Respiratory infection - Bacterial infection of the nasal sinuses. Characterized by sneezing, thin watery discharge and slightly matted fur on the inside of front feet.

S

Sandy - Color of sand, as in sand-gray Flemish Giants.

Screw tail - Tail that is twisted. A corkscrew tail has more than one turn and is a disqualification.

Scrotum - Skin sack that contains the testicles.

Senior - Show class term for rabbits that fulfill the weight requirements of the breed and that are 1) six months of age and older in those breeds having two show classes (junior and senior) or 2) eight months of age and older in those breeds having three show classes (junior, intermediate and senior).

Service - Mating act of the buck with the doe.

Shadow bars - Weakness of self color in the fur of both fore and hind feet, appearing in the form of white or lighter colored bars running across the feet. Acts as a severe cut or penalty in scoring. Occurs more often in the agouti breeds than in selfs.

Six class rabbits - Rabbit show category for all breeds having ideal senior weight of nine pounds and over. There are six show classes for these rabbits: senior bucks, senior does, intermediate bucks, intermediate does, junior bucks and junior does.

Snuffles - Contagious infection of the nasal passages and respiratory organs, usually terminating in chronic illness.

Spraddled legs - Forefeet bowed outward when viewed from the front; knock-kneed. Hind feet not set parallel with the body; turned outward from the hock joint.

Standard weight

- Recommended weight established for breed and age class.

Symmetry - Harmonious proportion of head, ears, legs and body structure conforming to the standard type of the breed represented.

T

Tail carriage - Way in which a rabbit tail is positioned. A tail being carried to one side or the other has poor tail carriage.

Testicles - Male reproductive glands.

Ticking - Wavy distribution of longer guard hair throughout the fur of a color distinct from under wool or body fur. Such ticking is usually produced by black-tipped guard hairs, as in Agouti Cavies, Chinchilla, Flemish Giants and Belgian Hares, and adds greatly to the beauty of the fur.

Trio - One buck and two does.

Type - As used in these standards; to denote body conformation of a rabbit or shape of a particular part of the animal as in "Head Type." The general description of the physical makeup of the animal.

U

Under-color - The base of the fur hair-shaft next to the skin, not the belly fur of the animal.

W

Wall eyes (moon eyes) - Having a milky film over the cornea or appearance similar to a moonstone.

Wolf teeth - Protruding or long teeth in either jaw caused by improper alignment of the front teeth. Prevents normal eating action.

