



4-H RABBIT ACTIVITY PAGE

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Beginning

Your 4-H COMPANION ANIMAL—RABBIT Project

Responsibility is an important skill to have when you own a rabbit. You have to know about your rabbit and what it needs and then you have to be able to care for your pet. This 4-H project can help you. Some of the skills you can learn and activities you can do in this project are listed below. Check your favorites. Then, work with your 4-H leaders and parents to make a 4-H project plan of what you want to do and learn this year.



Life Skill
Responsibility



- Learn about the proper housing and equipment needed to be successful at raising rabbits.
- Interview a local rabbit breeder. Discuss daily care, sanitation, management and feed.
- Learn about the proper feed for rabbits.
- Adopt a rabbit if you do not already have one. Some criteria to think about are on this sheet.
- Determine the breed and gender of your rabbit.
- There are 45 rabbit breeds recognized. Find information on three breeds and write about them.
- Conduct a demonstration about rabbits at your local club meeting. (Don't bring a real rabbit!)
- List the major diseases, parasites and other medical problems that affect rabbits.
- Conduct a service project dealing with rabbits.
- Other _____



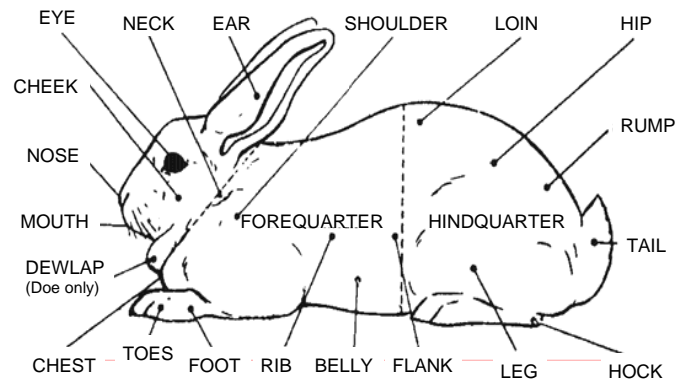
My Rabbit Story

Describe your rabbit! Use another sheet of paper to write about your rabbit, and attach it to this page. Things to write about: breed, gender, health, age, personality, training, type of food and exercise. Include a photo if you'd like. Share your story with others and keep it in your 4-H project folder.

Rabbit Selection Criteria

There are several things you need to consider when deciding which rabbit to get.

- **Use** – Will your rabbit be used for meat, fur, wool, breeding or just a pet?
- **Weight** - Do you want your rabbit to be small (2-6 lbs), medium (7-9 lbs), large (10-11lbs) or giant (over 11 lbs)?
- **Color** - What color rabbit do you want?
- **Price** - What kind of rabbit can you afford? What will you need to care for your rabbit?



Hare-raising Facts

- The largest rabbit breed is the Flemish Giant.
- A doe can have 6-8 kits, depending on the breed.
- A healthy, happy bunny can live from 8 to 14 years.
- A rabbit's teeth continuously grow throughout its life.
- Rabbits grow from a birth weight of 2-3 ounces to 4-5 pounds in eight weeks.
- A rabbit can hop faster than a person, cat or white-tailed deer can run.
- A rabbit is pregnant for 31 days.
- Rabbits can see almost all the way around themselves without turning their head.
- They can better tolerate cold than heat.
- They shed every three months. Every other time will be a light shedding.



