



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 _____



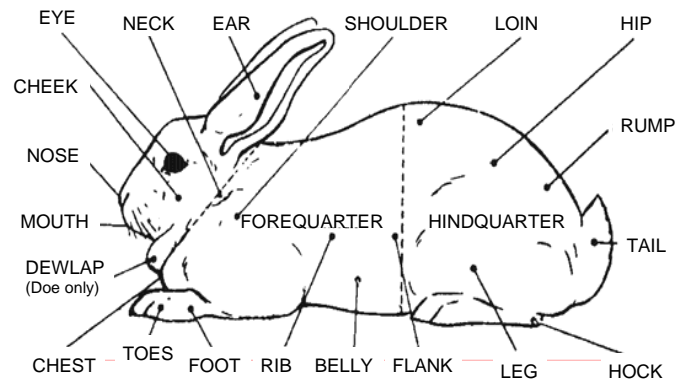
My Rabbit Story

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.



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Word Scramble

Unscramble these words about rabbits and use the numbered squares to discover the message below.

TIK 13

DIENLK 12

OED 10

CUBK 3

BYUNN 4

TIXSNNOGBE 15 8 5 9

WOLO 14

MATE 1

TEP 6

RUF 2

RETILT 7 11



1 2 1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 **H** 1 13 2 14 15 8 8

- Words to Use
- | | | |
|-------------|--------|-------|
| WOOL | KINDLE | BUNNY |
| PET | LITTER | BUCK |
| FUR | DOE | MEAT |
| NESTING BOX | KIT | |

Career Scavenger Hunt

By asking others, researching on the Internet, or reading a book or magazine—search for a job that uses companion animal skills and knowledge. Here's what you are looking for.

1. Job Title _____
2. Job Description _____
3. Education Required _____

Service Ideas

- Take your rabbit to a nursing home and let the patients pet it. (Remember to check with the nursing home staff first!)
- Conduct an educational "show-and-tell" about rabbits for younger children.
- Care for someone else's rabbit.
- Build a wire cage or nesting box for someone who wants to start the rabbit project.

Demonstration Ideas

- ☆ Show how to correctly handle a rabbit.
- ☆ Demonstrate proper showmanship techniques at a rabbit show.
- ☆ Show how to build a rabbit cage or a nesting box.
- ☆ Demonstrate day-to-day care of a rabbit.
- ☆ Collect rabbit feed tags from three different companies. Compare the ingredients and give a talk on your findings.

Don't forget to submit your project report to your 4-H leader!



Additional Resources

Responsibility is part of being a good pet owner. This activity sheet has given you the opportunity to explore things to think about as you care for your rabbit. You've selected your rabbit, learned important facts and done other cool things. But this is just the beginning! Use the resources listed below to continue learning about rabbits.

- School & public libraries
- People who know and work with rabbits, such as veterinarians, rabbit breeders and pet shop owners
- 4-H project groups
- The 4-H companion animal Web page:
www.utextension.utk.edu/4h/projects/companimal.htm

For more ideas, contact your 4-H office.

Other 4-H Rabbit Activities

- 4-H demonstrations
- 4-H exhibits
- Pet show at the fair
- 4-H rabbit shows



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