



# 4-H CLOVERBUD Rabbit Project

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_

## INTRODUCTION

Since Cloverbud 4-Hers can range in age from the very young who have not developed reading, writing, and coloring skills to eight-year olds who indeed have a good grasp of these, this booklet was written with the purpose of being useful to each and every Cloverbud.

It is suggested that the parent, adult leader, or teen leader take an active role in the use of this manual. The Cloverbud should be encouraged to do as many of the activities as he or she feels capable of doing.

A completed record book is not a requirement for showing at the fair as a Cloverbud, but it is a good habit to teach!

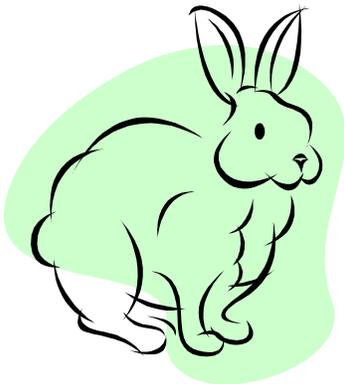
Good luck with your Cloverbud project and remember to have fun while you are learning!

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

My rabbit's name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



My rabbit  
is:

a buck (boy)

a doe (girl)

The color of my rabbit is \_\_\_\_\_

The color of my rabbit's eyes \_\_\_\_\_



When is a rabbit like money?

ANSWER: A rabbit is like money when people call it a "buck" or refer to it as "dough" (a doe).

A boy rabbit is called a:

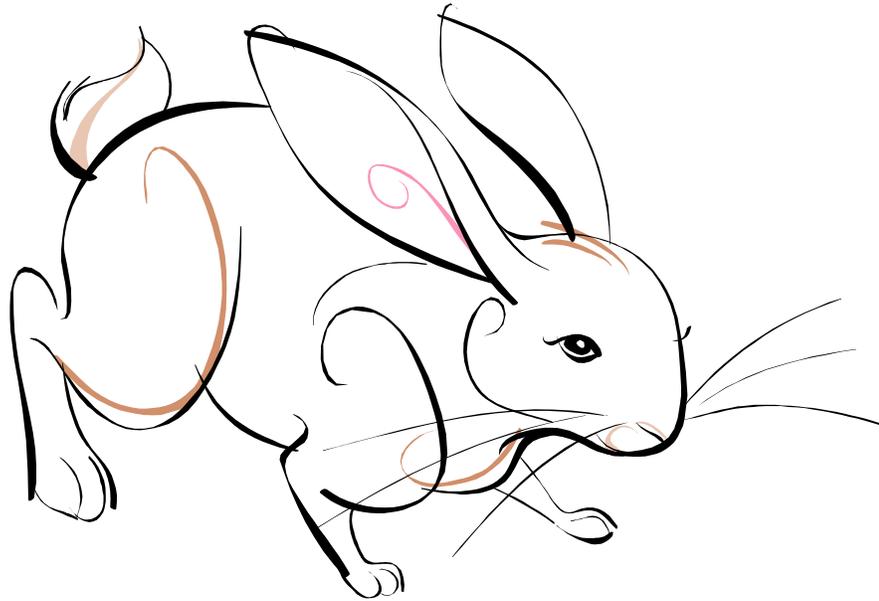


**Buck**

A girl rabbit is called a **Doe**

A group of baby rabbits is called a **Litter**

This mother rabbit is looking  
for her litter.

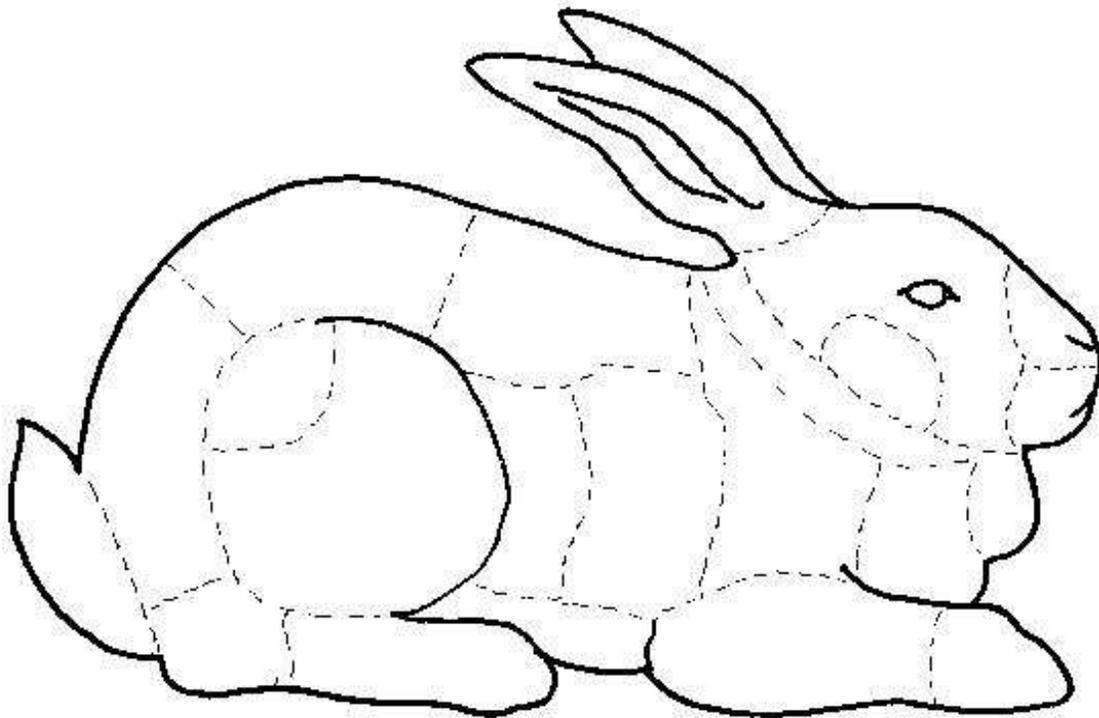


Can you help her find her baby bunnies by either drawing a litter of bunnies or cutting pictures from magazines and gluing to this page?

**A baby bunny under 16 ounces is called a kit.**

# Learn the Parts of a Rabbit

Write the number of each part in the rabbit below to learn the parts of a rabbit. Then find all the parts on your own rabbit.



- |           |             |              |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Back   | 9. Foot     | 17. Neck     |
| 2. Belly  | 10. Foreleg | 18. Nose     |
| 3. Cheek  | 11. Head    | 19. Ribs     |
| 4. Chest  | 12. Hip     | 20. Rump     |
| 5. Dewlap | 13. Hock    | 21. Shoulder |
| 6. Ears   | 14. Leg     | 22. Tail     |
| 7. Eye    | 15. Loin    | 23. Toes     |
| 8. Flank  | 16. Mouth   |              |

# Carry Your Rabbit Right

## THE FOOTBALL HOLD

To lift a rabbit, place one hand under the rabbit's belly. Place the other hand supporting the rabbit's rump. Lift the rabbit from his cage or from the table and place his head under the same arm that is supporting the rump. You can now safely carry your rabbit just like a football.



**NEVER! NEVER! NEVER!  
NEVER LIFT A RABBIT  
BY THE EARS OR LEGS  
TO MOVE THEM!!!!  
IT HURTS!!!!**

**HOW WOULD YOU  
LIKE SOMEONE TO  
LIFT YOU BY THE  
EARS???**

When you correctly carry your rabbit, he should feel safe and secure in your arms.

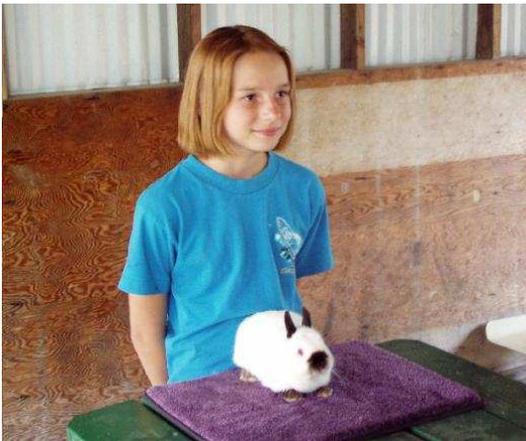
## BACK TO THE CAGE

Always put your bunny back in his cage facing backwards. If a bunny sees his cage, he may become excited and jump out of your arms. You may get scratched when he does this. If he can't see where he is going, he will be easier to put back home.



# Rabbit Showmanship

In rabbit showmanship, the 4-Her carries his or her rabbit to the table and places the bunny on the table, facing the judge. When you put your bunny on the table, first make sure you pose your bunny. Then place your arms to your sides, stand up straight, and smile at the judge!



You will be asked to turn your rabbit to one side and then the other. The judge

may ask you to turn your rabbit so he faces you. To turn your rabbit, place your arms straight out along the sides of your bunny. Gently press your forearms around your bunny, lift him a little from the table and turn him. Then make sure he is posed and smile for the judge!



Cloverbuds are not required to do rabbit showmanship at the fair, but it is a good thing to practice with your club.

# Turning Your Rabbit Over

During rabbit showmanship, the hardest part is turning your rabbit so you can show your rabbit's legs and belly.

The most important thing is having control of your rabbit so he feels safe when you turn him over. First make sure your rabbit is facing you. If you are right-handed, use your right hand to hold your rabbit's head and your left hand to support your rabbit's rump. If you are left-handed, use your left hand for the head and right hand for the rump. Make sure when you turn your rabbit over you NEVER let go of the head. But, if your rabbit starts to squirm and kick, turn him upright and start again. Be gentle and slow when turning your rabbit over.

## SHORT SMALL EARS

Place your thumb under your rabbit's chin and your next two fingers in front and behind those short ears like scissors. Your last two fingers will wrap around the back of the rabbit's head. Keep a firm grip and gently rock your bunny back on his rump and then his back.



## LONGER STICK-UP EARS

If your bunny has longer ears that stand straight up, use those ears to control the head. Remember that you are not carrying the bunny by his ears. There are two ways to turn your rabbit. You can use your whole hand and grab the base of the ears. Hold on tight. Then gently rock your rabbit back on his rump.



Both ears.

Or, place your thumb in front of the one ear and slide your second (index) finger between the ears from the back of the neck towards the nose. Place your third finger around the back of the other ear and wrap the rest of your hand around the back of the head. Tighten your fingers and hold on to those ears. Then gently rock the bunny back on his rump.



Finger between ears.

## LOP EARS

Never use both ears on a lop to turn it over. Lop ears are not meant to go together, that's why they lop on both sides of the head. When you use both ears, you can damage the crown or top of the head between the ears. Put your thumb in front of one ear and two fingers on the crown from behind the head pointing to the nose. Make sure you only grab onto one ear and not both.



Try not to grab the scruff of the neck on any rabbit. This damages the skin and fur on the bunny's neck. Try to learn one of these techniques instead, and **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!**

# Food Match

Draw a line to match the picture with the name of the foods your rabbit might like to eat.



Timothy or  
Grass Hay

You cannot be successful in raising rabbits if you do not pay attention to what they eat.

Use a good commercial feed for your rabbit. Don't overfeed or underfeed your rabbit. Feed 1 ounce per 1 pound adult weight.



Water

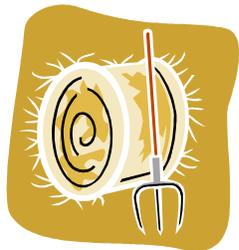
Regular feeding is important. Always feed in the morning or the night and check on them one other time each day. If you feed in the morning, check on them at night. In the summer, rabbits will eat better in the evening than during the day.



Fruits &  
Vegetables  
(not lettuce)

**Rabbit pellets** are made especially for rabbits and contain protein, alfalfa, minerals, and vitamins.

Since rabbits have a tendency to gnaw on anything they can reach, **timothy or grass hay** can be supplied once in a while to help keep them occupied.



Rabbit  
Pellets

Clean **fresh water** is very important. Always keep it available during hot weather. During freezing weather, see that your rabbit gets to drink at least twice a day. Dump out the frozen water crocks and refill with fresh water.



Dandelions

Make sure you feed **dandelions** that have not been sprayed with poison. Dandelions are a good source of nutrition, especially when your bunny doesn't feel well. Dandelions help encourage eating.

Feed **fruits and vegetables** sparingly and only to mature rabbits (6-9 months old or older). Never feed iceberg lettuce.

# Experiment

Do this experiment and discover how much water a rabbit will drink in 24 hours or one day.



You will need:

- A cup measure
- A quart jar
- A gallon container
- Water

(Ask an adult to help you with the equipment you need.)

1. Using the cup measure, count how many cups fill a quart jar.
2. Using the quart jar, count how many quarts of water it takes to fill the gallon container.
3. Now, IN THE GALLON CONTAINER, YOU HAVE THE AMOUNT OF WATER A RABBIT DRINKS IN ONE DAY.

Number of cups in a quart: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of quarts in a gallon: \_\_\_\_\_

CONCLUSION: Rabbits drink

A LOT OF WATER

A LITTLE BIT OF WATER

It is important to water your rabbit every day:  Yes

No

# What is a rabbit's home called?



Match the number under each space to the letter in the alphabet. Write the letter on the line.

8

21

20

3

8

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

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

Each rabbit should have a minimum of one square foot of floor space per pound of body weight. Usually 2 feet by 6 feet is room enough for a large rabbit, 4 feet by 4 feet for a medium-sized rabbit, and 2 feet by 3 feet for a small rabbit.

WHAT SIZE DOES YOUR RABBIT NEED? \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_

If the rabbit's home is outside, it must have a roof that will protect it from the rain and a tight fitting door with a latch, so dogs or other animals can't get in. The back of the hutch should be to the prevailing winds. During the cold weather, a masonite panel may be attached to the bottom of the hutch to close the area to reduce drafts. Be sure to clean often.

# Rabbit Breeds

The American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) is a national rabbit club in the United States, organized to promote, improve, and teach people about domestic rabbits. Currently, there are 47 different rabbit breeds recognized by ARBA. These are purebred rabbits. A crossbred rabbit is when you take two different breeds and breed them together. Below is just a few of the breeds ARBA recognizes.



## Flemish Giant

The Flemish Giant is the largest of all rabbit breeds. They mature at nine months, and can weigh thirteen pounds or more. Some have weighed up to twenty-five pounds! They come in a variety of colors, including black, blue, fawn, sandy, steel, and white.



## Netherland Dwarf

The Netherland Dwarf is the smallest of all rabbit breeds. They mature at six months, and weigh only two pounds! They are very popular and come in lots of colors. Because of their small size, Netherland Dwarfs usually don't have very many babies.



## Himalayan

The Himalayan is a great rabbit as a pet. When posed correctly, they have a long slender body like a hot dog. Their body type is called cylindrical or snaky. They are the only rabbit with this body type. They have white bodies and pink eyes. Their ears, nose, tail, and feet are either black, blue, chocolate, or lilac.

## Tan



The Tan rabbit has a full-arch body type, which makes him look like a wild jackrabbit. Because of the arched body, Tans are able to run very fast. They are a small breed and weigh about four to six pounds. They have a reddish-brown belly and either a black, blue, chocolate, or lilac color on the rest of their body.

## Angora



This rabbit looks like a fuzzy ball of wool. Angoras are raised for their wool and not usually for meat. Angoras can weigh from four to eight pounds. There are four different Angora breeds: Giant Angora, French Angora, Satin Angora, and English Angora. This one is a baby English Angora. They feel very soft to touch and their wool feels silky. The wool is three to five inches long. It can be spun into yarn! If you get an Angora breed you will need to comb the wool often. There are two smaller breeds with wool coats: Jersey Woolies and Fuzzy Lops.

## Lop



There are five kinds of Lop rabbits: French Lop, English Lop, Mini-Lop, Holland Lop, and Fuzzy Lop. The French Lop is the largest and weighs ten pounds and over. The English Lop is not as big. The Fuzzy Lop is about three pounds and has long fluffy wool. They come in many solid colors, even broken colors. The way you can tell Lop rabbits from other rabbits is by their lop ears. They are not bent but do not stand up like other rabbits.



## **New Zealand**

The New Zealand rabbit can be white, red, or black in color. This one is white with pink eyes. They weigh about nine to twelve pounds when they are fully grown. They are an excellent meat rabbit.

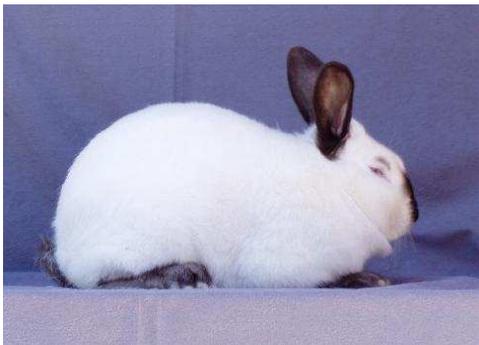
## **Dutch**

The Dutch rabbit is very popular at the shows and fairs. They are white from the neck to a dividing line behind the front legs. This is called the saddle. The front legs are white and only the toes of the hind legs are white. They also have a white streak going up the front of the face called a “blaze.” The rest of the body is black, gray, blue, steel, chocolate, or tort. This is a small breed that weighs only three to five pounds.



## **Californian**

This breed originated in California and was first shown in 1928. This is a very good meat rabbit and very popular at shows and fairs. Californians weigh about nine pounds when fully grown. The nose, ears, feet, and tail are always black, and the eyes are pink.



## **Mini Rex**



This breed was developed in Texas. Mini Rex have a soft velvety coat like the velveteen rabbit. This plushy fur is called rex fur. This is a small rabbit and weighs about four pounds. Mini Rex come in many colors. This one is called a broken black. Broken means white broken up by some color.

## **Satin**

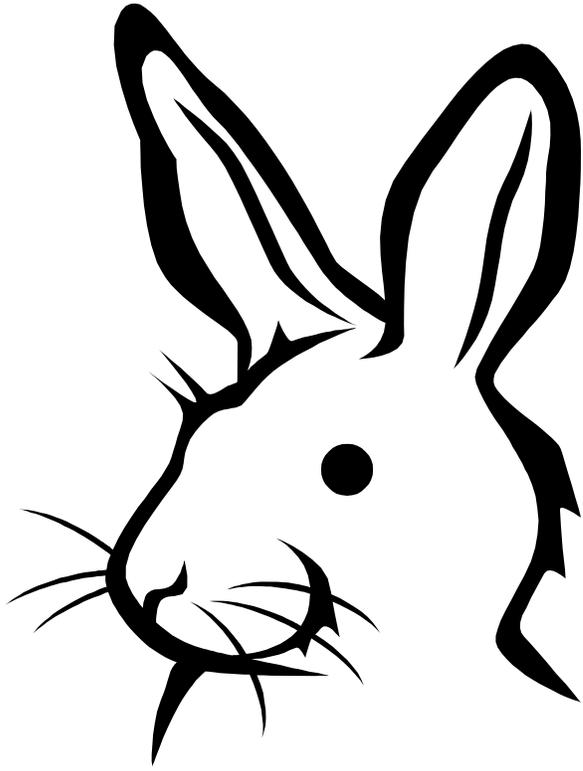


This breed was produced and perfected in America. Satins have a special satin coat. The satin fur is translucent or almost see-through which makes it very shiny. The shiny fur makes Satins excellent show rabbits. Satins weigh about eight to eleven pounds and come in many colors. This one is a red Satin.

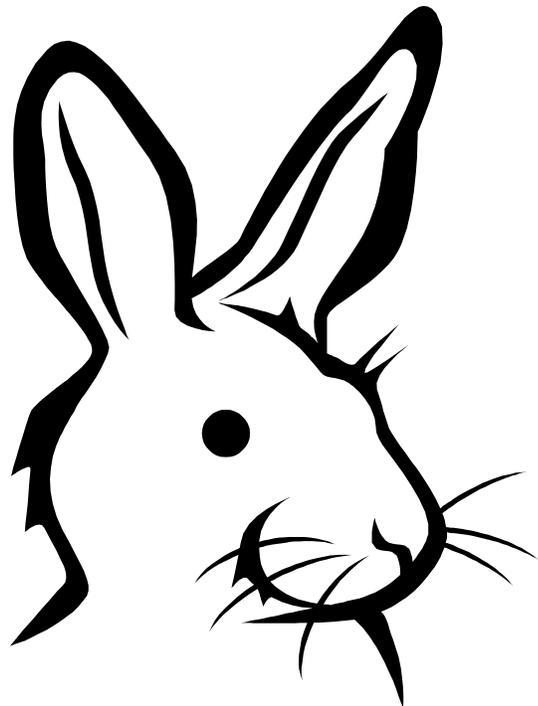


## **Jackrabbit**

The white-tailed jackrabbit is native to the plains of the United States. There are lots of jackrabbits in southern Idaho. They live in meadows and grasslands. They can do damage to crops as they hunt for food. They usually eat between sunset and sunrise. Remember, these are wild rabbits and not pets.



Color this rabbit's face to look like a Dutch rabbit.

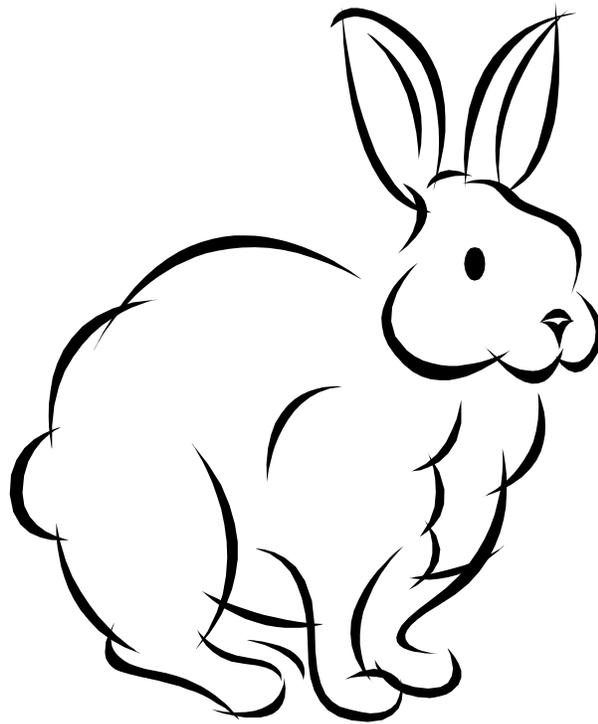


Color this rabbit's face to look like a Californian rabbit.

# Do you know what breed your rabbit is?

Color this rabbit to look like your own rabbit. What kind is it?

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# Body Type Match

There are five different body types. Draw a line to match the picture with the name of the body type.

Most small and medium breeds have **compact** body types. The rabbit sits flat on the floor, sometimes with the front legs propped up a little. The rabbit should have a short compact body and not stretched out. Netherland Dwarfs, Dutch, and Mini-Lops all have compact body types.

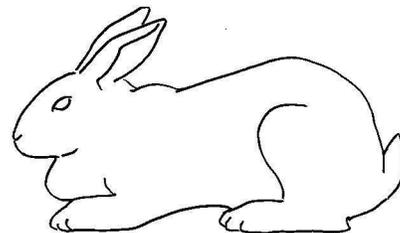
Most large breeds have **commercial** body types. The rabbit is posed much like a compact breed, flat to the floor, but with a much bigger body. Bigger rabbits like Californians, New Zealand, and Satins are usually bred for meat and should have a nice large commercial body type.

There is only one breed that has a **cylindrical or snaky** body type: Himalayan. The rabbit sits flat on the floor but with his body stretched out like a hot dog. The legs should still be tucked under the body.

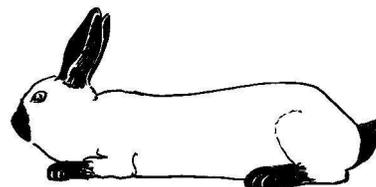
There are only five breeds with **semi-arch** body types. The English Lop and Flemish Giant both have semi-arch body types. They look similar to the commercial but have a slightly arched body. The shoulders sit low and rise to an arched hind end. You may also see a little arch under the belly.

**Full-arch** rabbits don't sit and pose on the table, but run. They have a sleek arched body much like a wild jackrabbit. They don't sit flat on the floor but stand up on all their legs showing a really high arch under the belly. Tans, Checkered Giant, and English Spot all have full-arched body types. There are six rabbits total with this body type. When these rabbits are judged they are allowed to run back and forth along the table!

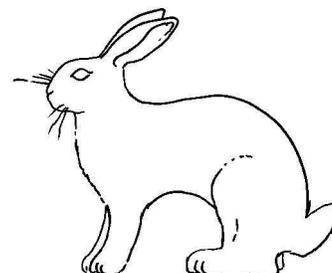
**Compact**



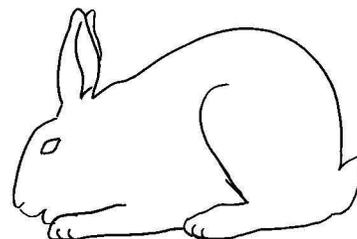
**Commercial**



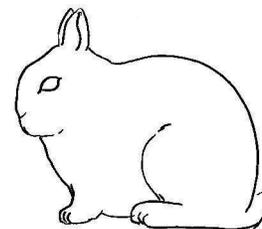
**Cylindrical or snaky**



**Semi-arch**



**Full-arch**



What body type does your rabbit have? \_\_\_\_\_

# Fur Type Match

There are four different fur types: Normal, Rex, Satin, and Wool. Draw a line to match the picture with the name of the type.

There are only two rabbits with **Rex fur**: Mini Rex and Rex. These rabbits have a soft, plushy, velvety soft coat. The fur is very short and dense which makes it very soft. This is a special kind of fur type. Rex fur is used to make fur coats.

**Rex fur**



There are only two rabbits with **Satin fur**: Satin and Mini Satin. The hair in the fur coat is very shiny and translucent which makes it almost see-through. When the sun shines on satin fur, it really makes it shine. See if you can tell which coat is the shiniest!

**Satin fur**



**Wool** is different than the other fur types. It is much longer and very soft. Most wool coats are at least 1½ inches long. Some wool coats are as long as five inches! The wool is cut or groomed from the rabbit and spun into yarn. Then it is used to make cozy wool sweaters, hats, mittens, and gloves! All the Angora rabbits as well as the Jersey Wooly and Fuzzy Lop have wool coats.

**Wool**



# Normal Fur Match

Most rabbits have normal fur. There are three types of normal fur: standing, rollback, and flyback. Normal means the fur has not been changed like Satin, Rex, or Wool. To determine whether the normal fur is standing, rollback, or flyback, take your hand and rub the fur from the rump forward, over the back to the neck.

There are three different normal fur types. Draw a line to match the picture with name of the fur type.

There is only ONE breed with normal **standing fur**: the Silver Fox. Silver Foxes are black with white ticking. When you rub the fur from the rump over the back it stands straight up rather than laying back down.

**Normal, Standing**



**Rollback fur** is usually a little longer than flyback fur. Rollback means when you rub the coat from the rump forward it gently rolls back into place, flat against the body. Netherland Dwarfs, Holland Lops, and Mini-Lops have normal rollback fur.

**Normal, Rollback**



Most rabbits have **flyback fur**. It is usually shorter than rollback fur. Flyback means when you rub the coat from the rump forward it "flies" back into place, flat against the body. Watch carefully, for it is very fast. Dutch, Himalayans, Tans, and New Zealands have flyback fur.

**Normal, Flyback**



Check your bunny's fur type. Is it one of the special types like Rex, Satin, or Wool? Or, is it normal? If it is normal, rub your hand to determine if it is standing, rollback, or flyback.

My rabbit has \_\_\_\_\_ fur.

# Rabbit Model

What you need:

- Base for model such as a plate or piece of wood, or cardboard
- Modeling clay, salt dough (or soap to carve)
- Materials for the “environment” such as paper, plants, soil, rocks

Make a model of your rabbit with clay or soap. Check with an encyclopedia or other books to learn about the environment and what the rabbit needs. Make a miniature environment for the rabbit. Be sure to provide available “food.”

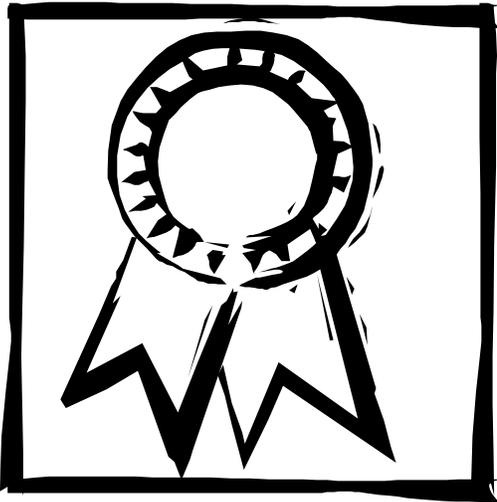


# At the Fair

If you want, you may take your rabbit to the County Fair. You will keep your rabbit in a cage next to the other 4-H rabbits. You must make sure your rabbit has plenty of food and water every day.

If you want, you may show your rabbit during the 4-H Rabbit Fitting & Showing. Be sure your rabbit is tame and that you can pick it up correctly and safely.

The Judge will look at your rabbit and may ask you some questions. Then you will receive a **green** Cloverbud 4-H ribbon.



Color this ribbon the same color as the ribbon you will get at the fair.

What is your favorite color?

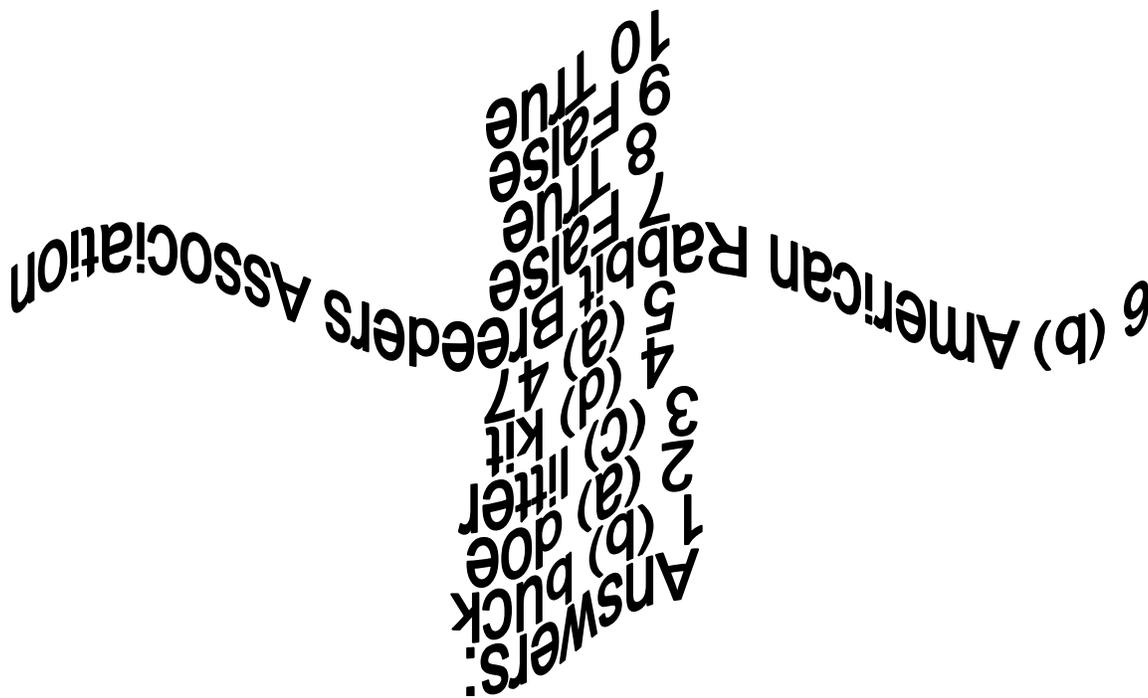
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At the end of the year, before the fair, you should be able to answer this quiz. See how many you can do!

## **CLOVERBUD RABBIT QUIZ**

1. What do you call a boy rabbit?
  - a. doe
  - b. buck
  - c. jack
  - d. jill
2. What do you call a girl rabbit?
  - a. doe
  - b. buck
  - c. jack
  - d. jill
3. What do you call a group of bunnies in a nest box?
  - a. bunch
  - b. batch
  - c. litter
  - d. dozen
4. What do you call one baby bunny under 16 ounces?
  - a. dog
  - b. cat
  - c. kitty
  - d. kit
5. How many rabbit breeds does ARBA currently recognize?
  - a. 47
  - b. 10
  - c. too many
  - d. 1
6. What does ARBA stand for?
  - a. American Recognized Bunny Act
  - b. American Rabbit Breeders Association
  - c. Australian Rabbit Breeders Association
  - d. Awesome Running Bunnies of America
7. True or False: You should carry your bunny only by his ears.
8. True or False: Rabbits should have plenty of fresh water to drink every day.
9. True or False: Dutch have snaky or cylindrical body types.
10. True or False: Most rabbits have normal flyback fur.





Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, H.R. Guenther, Director of Cooperative Extension Service, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83843.

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Material written and prepared by Katherine T. Rickart, Elbert County Extension Director, Colorado, 1/84.

Printed by the Nez Perce County Extension Service – 1989

Updated by the Latah County Extension Office – 2005. New information and photos courtesy of Lance and Kari Higbee.