



Breeds of Rabbits

Learn different breeds of rabbits and what each breed of rabbit is raised for.



Background

When showing rabbits, it is important for youth to be knowledgeable about the breed of rabbit in which they show, but also it is beneficial to know about other breeds as well. Often times during showmanship, the judge will ask about information about the youth's rabbit. They may even ask about a different breed.

There are typically two classes of rabbits: four class and six class. Breeds of rabbits are put into the two classes based on weight. Rabbit breeds that are under 9 pounds are defined as 4 class rabbits, and rabbit breeds that are over 9 pounds are defined as 6 class rabbits.

There are currently a total of 49 rabbit breeds recognized by the American Rabbit Breeder's Association (ARBA). With so many different breeds, youth have many options to choose for the breed they will show, and the extra knowledge about their breed and other breeds will help them in the show ring.



Activity I Instructions: (50 mins.)

1. Have youth make a poster about the breed of rabbit they have. If they do not have a rabbit yet, have them pick one out of the American Rabbit Breeders Association Standard of Perfection Book.
2. Youth can access information about the breeds they have chosen by using either the American Rabbit Breeders Association Standard of Perfection Book or the internet.
3. Have youth create posters with the following items on them:
 - a. Breed Name
 - b. Picture of Breed
 - c. Rabbit classification
 - d. Two disqualifications for show
 - e. Minimum and maximum weight
 - f. One fact about the rabbit breed (For example: why is it raised, where did it come from, etc.)
4. After 30 minutes of work time, have youth members present their posters to teach the other members about the different breeds.



Reflect and Apply Questions

1. How many rabbit breeds are recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association? Out of those, which is your favorite breed and why?
2. What are the two classifications of rabbits and what do they mean?

Time

Total 90 minutes

Activity I Materials

- American Rabbit Breeders Association Standard of Perfection Book
- Pictures of Different Breeds of Rabbits
- Computers with internet access (example: county library)
- Poster Board (enough for each youth to have one)
- Markers
- Construction Paper
- Scissors (a couple pairs for youth to share)

Activity 2 Materials

- American Rabbit Breeders Association Standard of Perfection Book
- Matching Game Cards with a picture of each rabbit breed on one set and each breed name and a fact about each breed on the other.

Space Required

Meeting space with multiple tables and computer and internet access.



Before the Meeting

Have markers, pictures of different rabbit breeds, construction paper, scissors and poster board available. Create the Matching Cards by using the pictures of each breed of rabbit, and the cards of each breed name and facts. *(Continued on next page)*



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During the first activity, have a table set up where youth can pick their breed of rabbit, and gather the materials needed- picture, poster board, construction paper, scissors, and markers. Then have youth use computers and tables as necessary to create their poster board.

During the second activity, have a couple of sets of matching game cards spread out across a couple different tables. Have youth partner up and start playing the matching game.



Activity 2 Instructions: (40 mins.)

1. Have matching game cards spread out on the table. Explain to youth that they must match the picture of the rabbit to the breed and the card with the breed name and fact about the breed.
2. Give youth time to play the matching game a couple of times.



Reflect and Apply Questions:

1. What are the purposes rabbits are raised for?
2. What does it mean if a rabbit has a disqualification? Why is it important to know this?



Other Resources

The America Rabbit Breeders Association Standard of Perfection 2006-2010 addition
Various websites or books that youth might use to find information



References:

www.arba.net/breeds.htm

The American Rabbit Breeders Association Standard of Perfection 2006-2010 addition















	<p style="text-align: center;">American</p> <p>Varieties: Blue, White</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Buck Ideal– 10 lbs.; Sr. Doe Ideal– 11 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Extremely large bone or short legs.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">American Chinchilla</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Buck– 9-11 lbs.; Sr. Does– 10-11 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: overly fat or flabbiness. Narrow head; extremely pointed nose. Fur shorter than 1 inch; showing a tendency toward wool; harsh and wiry. Salt and pepper; even appearance; faded undercolor; narrow pearl; cloudy, or smoky ring color</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">American Fuzzy Lop</p> <p>Groups: Agouti, Broken, Pointed White, Self, Shaded, Wide Band</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Buck Ideal: 3 1/2 lbs.; Sr. Doe Ideal– 3 3/4 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: General toenail color disqualifications apply on Solid pattern animals. Wool on front feet from the toes to the first join of the leg.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">American Sable</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Buck Ideal– 8 lbs.; Sr. Doe Ideal– 9 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: White toenail (s); unmatched toenails on the same foot or corresponding foot. Eyes lacking the ruby glow.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Argente Brun</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks & Sr. Does– 8 to 10 1/2 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Dark or too long of ears, too dark of muzzle or washy undercolor. White topped or very dark exhibits are discouraged. White toenails.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Belgian Hare</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Buck & Sr. Doe Ideal– 8 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Any suggestion of broad hips; blocky or bulldog type; thick spoon shaped ears; short, heavy boned legs; mahogany color, grayness or white hairs in any section; ticking, light bars, or blotches on feet or legs; eye circles too large; ticking on chest, feet, or legs; heavy ticking on checks</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Beveren</p> <p>Varieties: Black- - Blue- -White</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal– 10 lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal– 11 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Extremely long or short body length; flat, lacking arched outline. Narrow, pinched head; lack or curvature in profile; excessive dewlap. Thin ears; very heavy ear; weak ear base. Soft, wooly fur.</p>

<p>Blanc de Hotot</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal– 9 lbs.; Sr. Doe Ideal– 10 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Any colored toenail(s). Fur that is too short; guard hairs partially visible; thin coat. Irregular eyebands or wide eyebands.</p>	<p>Britannia Petite</p> <p>Varieties: Black– Black Otter- -Chestnut Agouti– Ruby Eyed White– Sable Marten</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Buck & Sr. Doe Max– 2 1/2 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Protruding or undercut hips; long or snaky body; wide or flat shoulders. Failure to display a taper from hindquarters to the shoulders.</p>
<p>Californian</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal– 9 lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal– 9 1/2 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Racy, mandolin, or any type away from a plump, firm meaty body. Cut severely for shoulders wider than hips; long, narrow head; extra long neck; flatness over back, especially over hips; rough, bony, protruding hips. Long or heavy bone.</p>	<p>Champagne D’Argent</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal– 10 lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal– 10 1/2 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Narrow, flat, pinched or chopped; weak loin; rough over spine or hips; protruding hip bones. Narrow; flat; lacking flesh or flabby flesh. Lack of jet black hairs; brassiness; faded undercolor; butterfly too dark.</p>
<p>Checkered Giant</p> <p>Varieties: Black—Blue</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Minimum– 11lbs. Sr. Does Min– 12lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Flat; lack of arch; short coupled frame; cut off hindquarters. Short legs, weak ankles; hind legs carried close together. Numerous stray white hairs in markings. Unbalanced side markings. Faded tail.</p>	<p>Cinnamon</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal– 9 1/2 lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal– 10lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Narrow or flat shoulders; chopped, rough, or pinched hips. Long, narrow head. Heavy or bell ears. Splotchy color on black; white hairs; faded eye color; lack of smoke gray ticking on the back, indistinct markings.</p>
<p>Creme D’Argent</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal– 9lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal– 10 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Chopped, rough or pinched hips; extremely heavy bone. Fault severely for mandolin type. Extremely long or narrow head; too dark in color. White hairs; light undercoat.</p>	<p>Dutch</p> <p>Varieties: Black– Blue– Chocolate– Gray– Steel– Tortoise</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks & Sr. Does Ideal– 4 1/2 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Large protruding hips that lose smoothness and roundness. Potty, flat bodied, narrow, or racy specimens are undesirable. Cut severely for pinch, undercut, or chopped hindquarters; prominent dewlap.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Dwarf Hotot</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks & Does Ideal– 2 1/2 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Long neck; narrow shoulders; pinched hips. A long, narrow head shall be faulted. The animal shall be faulted for a pointed or weak muzzle. Thin ears, with little fur covering, shall be a fault. Dull, lifeless, or thin fur should be faulted.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">English Angora</p> <p>Groups: Agouti; Pointed White-Self; Shaded; Ticked; Wide Band.</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Buck Ideal– 6 lbs.; Sr. Doe Ideal– 6 1/2 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Complete absence of bangs or side trimmings. Complete absence of ear fringes or tassels. Normal fur on either front or hind feet. Wool hat is excessively coarse. Wool less than 2 inches. Any color not in the list of Recognized Angora Colors. Eye color other than listed.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">English Lop</p> <p>Groups: Agouti; Broken; Self Shaded; Ticked; Wide Band</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal– 9+lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal 10+lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Ears less than 21 inches in length. Tears, holes, or blemishes which noticeably detract from the appearance of the animals. Extremely light bone.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">English Spot</p> <p>Varieties: Black– Blue– Chocolate– Gold– Gray– Lilac– Tortoise</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal– 6 lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal– 7lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for Show: Cut severely for flatness; lack of arch; short coupled frame; chopped hindquarters. Short legs; weak front ankles; hind les carried close together, or not parallel with the body.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Flemish Giant</p> <p>Varieties: Black– Blue– Fawn– Light Gray– Sandy– Steel Gray– White</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks– 13+ lbs.; Sr. Does– 14+lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for Show: Pinched rump; paunchy; over fat; flabby; narrow. Thin ears; weak base. Medium length; medium bone. Thin or very short coat; long or short coat; flying coat.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Florida White</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks & Sr. Does Ideal– 5lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Narrow shoulders; flat spot at shoulders; shoulders too wide, spoiling balance; narrow loin, failing to blend with hindquarters; flat or rough over top of hips; pinched or undercut in lower hip; rough spine; depth of body failing to balance with width throughout; dewlap in bucks; large dewlap in does.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">French Angora</p> <p>Groups: Agouti; Broken; Pointed White Self; Shaded; Ticked; Wide Band</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks and Does ideal: 8 1/2 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Pear shaped head; pointed muzzle; heavy trimmings; short blocky head. Excessive wool on hind feet below hock joint.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">French Lop</p> <p>Groups: Agouti– Broken– Self Shaded– Ticked– Wide Band</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks– 10.5+ lbs.; Sr. Does– 11+lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Complete absence of any head marking(s) on Broken Pattern animals. Broken with less than 10% coloration. Fine bone.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Giant Angora</p> <p>Variety: Ruby Eyed White</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks– 9 1/2+ lbs. Sr. Does– 10+ lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification from show: Rounded, cobby body. Short, blocky head; lack of head furnishings.. Wide V spread ears or ears that are too short for balance. Wool that is not balanced in length or wool that is yellow casted or stained.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Giant Chinchilla</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks– 12-15 lbs.; Sr. Does– 13-16lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification from show: Chopped off rump; pinched hips; undercut hips; protruding hip bones; rough spine. Narrow; absence of rise; not well filled out. Long, narrow head. Lazy, thin, open or extremely long or short ears. Weak ear base; ears lacking distinct jet black lacing.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Harlequin</p> <p>Groups: Japanese– Magpie</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal– 7 1/2lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal– 8 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Excessive dewlap; massive or wedged shaped head; short body; short ears. Excessive brindling, mottling or specking. Poor balance of color.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Havana</p> <p>Varieties: Black– Blue– Chocolate</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks & Sr. Does Ideal- 5 1/4 to 5 1/2 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Narrow, long or flat in body; flat spot at shoulders; narrow loin which fails to blend with hindquarters; pinched or undercut in lower hip; rough over the top of the hips. Long neck or head.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Himalayan</p> <p>Varieties: Black– Blue– Chocolate– Lilac</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks & Sr. Does Ideal– 3 1/2 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Short; close coupled; any indication of an arch of topline or taper; heavy hips; large bone; potty, fat or large specimens. Full head; bulldog type; pinched muzzle.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Holland Lop</p> <p>Groups: Agouti– Broken– Pointed White Self– Shaded– Tan Pattern– Ticked– Wide Band</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks & Sr. Does– not over 4 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Lacking depth throughout the body; long, low or narrow shoulders; chopped, pinched or undercut hindquarters; flatness over the hips; large dewlap in does.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Jersey Wooly</p> <p>Groups: Agouti– Aov– Broken Self– Shaded– Tan Pattern</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks & Sr. Does Ideal– 3 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Long or narrow body/ midsection; narrow shoulders or hips. Long or narrow head; pinched muzzle. Extremely fine bone. Thin or poorly furred ears; poor ear carriage.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lilac</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal 6-7 lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal– 6 1/2 to 7 1/2 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Long and narrow in body; hindquarters showing pinched or undercut. Broad or open ear appearance. Thin or uneven coat.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Lionhead</p> <p>Varieties: Chocolate– Stable Point– Seal– Siamese Sable– Smoke Pearl– Smoke Pearl Point</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks & Sr. Does– 2.5lbs. no more than 3.75lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Ears longer than 3.5 inches. Lack of any mane or a mane that is in such poor quality that it shows loss of wool in some areas.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mini Lop</p> <p>Groups: Agouti– Broken– Pointed White Self– Shaded– Ticked– Wide Band</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal– 6 lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal– 6 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Long, narrow body; flatness over shoulders or hips; chopped off or undercut hindquarters. Long, narrow head; pointed nose.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Mini Rex</p> <p>Varieties: Black– Blue– Blue Eyed White</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal 4 lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal 4 1/4 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Narrow, long, rangy body; potty belly. Shoulders that are too narrow, too wide, too low or too flat. Head that does not balance with the body.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mini Satin</p> <p>Varieties: Black– Blue– Broken– Californian– Chinchilla– Chocolate– Copper– Otter– Red– Siamese– White</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal– 9.5 lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal– 10 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Fur lacking a glossy sheen. Ears over 3.5 inches.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Netherland Dwarf</p> <p>Groups: Self– Shaded– Agouti– Tan Pattern– Any Other Variety</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks & Sr. Does Ideal– 2 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Narrow shoulders lacking depth or width equal to hindquarters. Ears that are too thin, bent, bowed, or lacking furring.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">New Zealand</p> <p>Varieties: Black– Red– White</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal 10 lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal 11 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Narrow, flat or low shoulders; swayback or mandolin type. Long, narrow head. Stray white hairs; brownish cast. Light or dark ticking, when sufficient to produce a frosty or smudgy effect.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Palomino</p> <p>Varieties: Golden– Lynx</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal- 9 lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal– 10 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Long, narrow body. Open or weak ear carriage. Cut severely for dark, brassy, red, or reddish surface color.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Polish</p> <p>Varieties: Black– Blue– Broken– Chocolate– Blue Eyed White– Ruby Eyed White</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks & Sr. Does Ideal 2 1/2 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification for show: Long in body, protruding hips; flat, broad hips; not well rounded. Long, narrow head; pointed nose or pinched muzzle; flat or concave between the eyes.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Rex</p> <p>Varieties: Black– Black Otter– Blue</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal– 8lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal– 9 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification from show: Narrow shoulders; long, narrow body; pottiness. Narrow head; pointed nose; small head that does not balance with body. Thin ears; large ears that do not balance with body.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Rhineland</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal- 8 lbs. & Sr. Does Ideal– 8 1/2 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification from show: Short and close coupled in body type; chopped hindquarters. Snipey or bulldog type head. Thin ears; poorly furred; poorly carried. Long coat; long guard hairs; soft coat. Unbalanced sides; white spots in colored spots; congested side markings; brindled spot.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Satin</p> <p>Varieties: Black– Blue– Broken Group– Californian– Chinchilla– Chocolate– Copper– Otter– Red– Siamese– White</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal– 9 1/2 lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal– 10 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification from show: Shoulders narrow, flat, shallow, or wider than hindquarters. Short, thin, flat coat.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Satin Angora</p> <p>Groups: Agouti- - Pointed White- - Self Shaded- -Ticked- -Wide Band</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks and Sr. Does- ideal 8 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification from show: Round, short coupled body. Short, blocky head. Ears that are too short for balance. Heavy trimmings on ears. Excessive wool on the hind feet and below the hock joint or wool that is coarse and hairy in appearance or touch.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Silver</p> <p>Varieties: Black– Brown– Fawn</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks & Sr. Does Ideal– 6 lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification from show: Racy; too much taper on sides; flat or long in body; long in neck; rough or protruding hips. Long, slim head with pinched nose; small, lack-luster eyes; blocky or bulky head.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sliver Fox</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal– 9 1/2 lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal– 10 1/2lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification from show: Narrow body; dewlap in bucks; shoulders wider than hindquarters. Cut severely from long, narrow head or neck. Fine in bone; extremely heavy bone; lightly padded foot pads.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Silver Marten</p> <p>Varieties: Black– Blue– Chocolate– Sable</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal– 7 1/2lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal– 8 1/2lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification from show: Long, narrow head; long in neck. Long, thin ears; not well furred. Long in bone. Silky texture; extra long coat, lacking density.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Standard Chinchilla</p> <p>Weight: Sr. Bucks Ideal– 6 lbs.; Sr. Does Ideal– 6 1/2lbs.</p> <p>Disqualification from show: Excessive dewlap. Molt; hutch stain; fur shorter than 1 inch; fur showing a tendency towards woolly; harsh or wiry coat; flyback fur. Salt and pepper appearance; faded undercolor; narrow pearl, cloudy or smoky ring color; too light or dark surface color; white eye circles.</p>

<div>Tan</div> <div>Varieties: Black– Blue– Chocolate– Lilac</div> <div>Weight: Sr. Bucks– 4 to 5 1/2 lbs.; Sr. Does– 4 to 6 lbs.</div> <div>Disqualification from show: Flat; lack of arch; broad or chopped in hindquarters; too long and rangy in body.</div> <div>Wiry, thin, long, or dead coat; lack of luster or gloss; ears not well covered; any condition that would spoil the color.</div>	<div>Thrianta</div> <div>Weight: Sr. Bucks & Sr. Does– up to 6 lbs.</div> <div>Disqualification from show: Pure white on foot pads, underside of the tail, or on the belly. Fine bones. Over sized dewlap that distracts from the firmness.</div>



Breeds of Rabbits

Learn different breeds of rabbits and what each breed of rabbit is raised for.



Activity 1 Reflect and Apply Questions

1. **How many rabbit breeds are recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association? Out of those, which is your favorite breed and why?**

49 rabbit breeds; answers will vary on favorite breeds, but help youth work through the process of why the breed they chose is their favorite (is it because it is a meat breed, because of the variety of colors it can come in, etc.)

2. **What are the two classification of rabbits and what do they mean?**

The two classifications of rabbits are four class and six class. Breeds that are described as four class usually weigh under 9 pounds, and breeds that are classified as six class usually weigh over 9 pounds.



Activity 2 Reflect and Apply Questions

1. **What are the purposes rabbits are raised for?**

Rabbits are raised for meat, show, and fur.

2. **What does it mean if a rabbit has a disqualification? Why is it important to know this?**

If a rabbit has a disqualification, it means that it has a fault that is not acceptable to have at an America Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) show. It is important to know this, because disqualifications can mean that your rabbit may be marked down at the show because of that trait or fault.



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