



Rabbit Quality Assurance

Learn about quality assurance when caring for and working with rabbits. Youth will learn about the terms associated with the rabbit industry and rabbit project, about identification of rabbits, about rabbit nutrition, animal handling practices, and about diseases and prevention methods.

Time

50 minutes (2.5 hours)

This lesson could be split into two meeting times

Activity I Materials

- Computer
- Projector
- Jeopardy Questions (either PowerPoint or cards if computer and projector are not available).
- Coin

Space Required

A meeting area with tables and a "blank wall" to project off and a meeting area where the youth can have their rabbits. Meeting area with a kitchen, if possible.



Before the Meeting

Place cards up on the wall to create a Jeopardy Board, or set up computer and projector and turn Rabbit Lesson 2 Jeopardy on the wall.



Background

Rabbits can be raised for a variety of reasons (showing, fur, meat, etc.), and because the project offers such a variety of breeds and reasons to raise rabbits there are numerous terms associated with the project. Youth should familiarize themselves with the terms associated with the rabbit project over the course of their time in the project, as many of these terms will be used frequently both in and out of the show ring in the rabbit industry.

Tattooing is a permanent way to identify your rabbit, making it ideal for finding lost pets. In a show environment, this virtually eliminates all confusion if the animals get mixed up. Tattooing is also useful when breeding; if a system is used, the tattoo provides a quick way to know the rabbit's family history just by looking at the ear. In order to compete in a sanctioned show ARBA show, rabbits must be properly tattooed in the left ear. Tattooing is similar to having your ears pierced, and it is always best to do it in younger animals. The younger animal will have thinner cartilage and hence not only will it be easier to tattoo, but it will heal faster and hurt less. A tattoo is also a permanent record that will clearly identify the rabbit and you can use to identify your rabbits in its other records such as breeding cards and health sheets.

No matter which animal project we are talking about, there are key quality assurance items that youth should be following to be sure that they are providing the best possible care for their animals. Rabbits are often raised for their meat, which means that there are people consuming the animals for food. Any livestock producer needs to provide a promise to the consumers that they are providing good, wholesome products. Quality assurance covers items like daily care and management, prevention, animal handling, and health and treatment. There are numerous diseases that rabbits can get. As rabbit project members, it is good for youth to know the different types of diseases a rabbit can get, how to prevent them, and how to care for them once a rabbit has contracted them.



Activity I Instructions (30-40 mins.)

1. Break youth members up into two teams: "A" team and "B" team.
2. Have a coin toss to see which team will go first.
3. Have a parent or another leader be the score keeper.
4. Whichever team wins the coin toss will be the first team to pick a question off of the Jeopardy board.
5. Continue to play Jeopardy for youth members to learn the terminology of the rabbit project.
6. Hand out the Jeopardy questions and answer sheet to youth members to take with them to study for when they practice showmanship.



Reflect and Apply Questions

1. Why is it important to know the terms associated with the rabbit industry?



Lesson 2:Activity I Jeopardy Board

Classes	General Rab-bit Knowledge	Fur and Wool	Diseases	Confirmation
10	10	10	10	10
20	20	20	20	20
30	30	30	30	30
40	40	40	40	40
50	50	50	50	50



Lesson 2: Activity 1 Jeopardy Questions and Answers

1. **What defines a 4 Class Rabbit?** Weighs Under 9 Pounds
2. **What defines a 6 class rabbit?** Weighs over 9 pounds
3. **What are the classes for 4 class rabbits?** Senior Buck/Doe 6 months and over, Junior Buck/Doe under 6 months
4. **What are the classes for class 6 rabbits?** Senior Buck/Doe 8 months and over, Intermediate buck/doe 6-8 months, Junior buck/doe under 6 months.
5. **Name other classes that may be available at some shows:** Pre junior, meat pen, single fryer, roaster, stower, breed fur, and wool.
6. **How do you ID a rabbit?** Tattoo. Left ear is the ID Number of the Rabbit, right ear is the ARBA Number of the Rabbit.
7. **When a doe gives birth, it is called:** Kindling
8. **What is the normal body temperature of a rabbit?** 100-104 degrees Fahrenheit; 103.1 degrees Fahrenheit is average.
9. **How much feed should small breeds and large breeds receive per day?** 2-3 ounces per day for small breeds; 4-8 ounces per day for large breeds.
10. **How much light per day do rabbits need?** 14-16 hours
11. **What is flyback fur?** The fur returns quickly to its natural position, fly's back.
12. **What is rolled back coat?** When it is stroked from hip to neck, it returns to its normal position more gradually.
13. **What fur reflects light?** Satin
14. **How much wool can a rabbit produce in 1 year?** ½ to 1 ½ pounds
15. **What is a dyed rabbit fur called in trade?** Lapin
16. **What is ear canker?** Ear mite causing inflamed, swollen, cabby condition of the lower inside ear of rabbits.
17. **What is snuffles?** Pasterellosis, contagious infection of the nasal passages, respiratory organs, usually terminating in chronic illness.
18. **What is weepy eye?** Excessive discharge from the eye and matted fur under the eye.
19. **What is wry neck?** Rabbit turns its head to one side and has a loss of balance.
20. **What are buck teeth/wolf teeth?** Protruding or long teeth in either jaw caused by improper alignment of the front teeth.
21. **What is finish?** The desired condition of flesh and coat for market on show rabbits.
22. **What is choppy?** Condition where a rabbit is not well filled out and rounded in the loin and rump area.
23. **What are show faults?** Imperfections, conditions or characteristics that are unacceptable and will result in a lower show placing, but not disqualification.
24. **Name a breed of rabbit that is Cylindrical.** Himalayan is the only breed that is Cylindrical.
25. **Name the rabbit types:** Full arch, semi arch, compact, commercial, and cylindrical.

Activity 2 Materials

- Supplement B: Pieces of soft leather (enough for each youth to have one piece)
- Rubber Gloves
- Q-tip
- Rubbing Alcohol
- Animal Tattoo Kit (clamp, digit, etc.)
- Ink
- Vaseline
- Rabbits (optional)



Activity 2 Instructions (20-40 mins.)

1. Hand out one piece of soft leather to each youth member.
2. Load the tattoo kit with a code of your choice, while explaining to youth members that the codes are a tattoo system that will work best for them. Also explain what the tattoo clamp, digits, etc.
3. Pass the tattoo gun around and have youth tattoo their piece of leather.
4. Pass out the Supplement B Tattooing Rabbits: How to Tattoo Your Rabbit
5. Have youth put gloves on
6. Have youth “clean” the piece of leather with a q-tip and rubbing alcohol
7. Have youth cover the points of the tattoo digits with ink
8. Have youth examine the site of where the tattoo will be placed and place the tongs over the site.
9. After positioning the tattoo instrument properly, have youth firmly squeeze the tattoo tongs—be sure to have them squeeze the tongs until they are completely closed.
10. Have youth vigorously rub more ink into the puncture holes with more ink using their fingers.
11. Have youth removed the excess ink using a swab or q-tip
12. Have youth apply a light film of Vaseline over the tattoo
13. If you want, have rabbits available to tattoo.



Reflect and Apply Questions

1. Why do we ID rabbits?
2. How do we ID rabbits?
3. What are the steps to tattoo a rabbit?



Lesson 2:Activity 2 Supplement B:Tattooing Rabbits: How to Tattoo Your Rabbit

Why a Rabbit Would Need to be Tattooed

Tattooing is a permanent way to identify your rabbit, making it ideal for finding lost pets. In a show environment, this virtually eliminates all confusion if the animals get mixed up. Tattooing is also useful when breeding; if a system is used, the tattoo provides a quick way to know the rabbit's family history just by looking at the ear.

In order to compete in a sanctioned show ARBA show (and most county fairs), rabbits must be properly tattooed in the left ear.

Tattooing is similar to having your ears pierced, and it is always best to do it in younger animals. The younger animal will have thinner cartilage and hence not only will it be easier to tattoo, but it will heal faster and hurt less.

A tattoo is also a permanent record that will clearly identify the rabbit and you can use to identify your rabbits in its other records such as breeding cards and health sheets.

How to Tattoo Your Rabbit

There are many successful procedures for tattooing. You should feel free to explore different options and find one that works best for you. This is one highly recommended procedure:

Materials:

Gloves Vaseline
Cotton/ cloth swabs
Alcohol
Ink
Tattoo kit (clamp, digits, etc.)

Instructions

1. Prepare your location for tattooing. Find a site that is comfortable for you to tattoo the rabbit (an area with plenty of room and ample lighting).
Use a table covered with carpet or burlap so the animal does not slip and become frightened. The height of the tattooing table should be comfortable for you and your helper. A grooming table can also make an excellent tattoo table.
2. Gather the necessary equipment. Have an area to place the tools and ink that will be used for tattooing. It is important that the equipment is placed in such a way that it will not get knocked onto the floor. Many of the types of "tongs" are fragile. If the tattoo digits fall on the floor, it is very difficult to find the materials.
3. Select clean tattoo figures for placing in the animal's ear. All of the digits must be free of contaminants to prevent the transfer of diseases.
4. Check the tattoo number. Be sure that all digits are in the proper sequence and placed in the tattoo "tongs" properly. This may be done by practicing on a piece of cardboard/foam.
5. Place animal in the tattooing position. Here your helper can aid by holding the animal down as you prepare the ear for the tattoo.
6. Cleanse the ear thoroughly. Use a swab with alcohol to remove oil and debris from the ear. Allow time for the area to air dry.
7. Make sure you are wearing gloves. Before you touch the ink, make sure that you are wearing gloves. If the ink contacts your hand it will be very difficult to remove.
8. Cover the points of the tattoo digits with ink. Use a small amount of ink that has been thoroughly mixed to coat the digits.
9. Examine the site of where the tattoo will be placed and place the tongs over the site. Remember that the position of the tattoo should be deep in the ear where it will not be covered by the fringe area of the fur. Make sure that there are no folds in the ear itself prior to the tattooing. The tattoo should be placed in the ear so that it is legible when observing the ear from the side of the animal. Be careful to not place the tattoo upside down!
10. After positioning the tattoo instrument properly, firmly squeeze the tattoo tongs. Be sure to squeeze the tongs until completely closed. When you first squeeze the tongs, the animal will respond, but do not release the tongs. The tongs must be completely closed for the tattoo to take. During this time, your helper must grasp the rabbit more firmly so it does not struggle.
11. Vigorously work the ink into the puncture holes. Rub in a bit more ink with a soft surface, such as a soft brush, or with your finger tips (make sure you are wearing gloves!)
12. Remove the excess ink. After the ink has been "rubbed" into the puncture holes, you may remove the excess ink from the surface of the tattoo with a swab. The new tattoo should be distinct and legible.
13. Finally, apply a light film of Vaseline over the tattoo. The vaseline will keep the ink particles from "washing out" of the tattoo.

Activity 3 Materials

- Rabbit Nutrition PowerPoint Handout
- Wyoming 4-H Youth Quality Assurance Daily Care & Management Activity 3: Feeding and Watering Rice Krispie Treats
- Two batches of Rice Krispie Treats- one batch with salt; one without (Or ingredients to make two batches of Rice Krispie Treats if you have access to a kitchen)



Before the Meeting

If kitchen space is not available in meeting location, pre-make two batches of Rice Krispie Treats as outlined on the UW Youth Quality Assurance Daily Care and Management Feeding and Watering worksheet. Add salt to one of the batches, and clearly mark which batch has salt in it.



Activity 3 Instructions (10-15 minutes)

1. Hand out the PowerPoint Slides on nutrition, and have a discussion with youth about them.
2. Highlight the importance of providing good quality feeds to youth members.
3. If kitchen space is available, have youth make Rice Krispie Treats based off the UW Youth Quality Assurance Daily Care and Management Activity 3: Feeding and Watering Worksheet.
4. If kitchen space is not available, hand out pre-made Rice Krispies- one of each kind (salt and no-salt), and then ask youth to compare their Rice Krispies and how it compares to feeding good quality ingredients to animals.



Reflect and Apply Questions

1. How do you make sure that you have the proper amount of each ingredient when you are cooking at home?
2. Why do you need to measure the proper amounts of ingredients when mixing feed for animals?
3. What if you only feed feeds that are already mixed for you—is it still important to measure them? Why?
4. Does the location of where you store your ingredients make any difference in the quality of the end products you make at home? What about in the feed you feed your animals?



Lesson 2: Activity 3 Rabbit Nutrition: Daily Care and Management Feeding and Watering: Youth Worksheet

RICE KRISPIES TREATS RECIPE

- 3 tablespoons margarine
- 1 package (10 oz., about 40) regular marshmallows or 4 cups mini marshmallows
- 6 cups Rice Krispies or other crunchy rice cereal
- Vegetable cooking spray

STOVE TOP DIRECTIONS

1. Melt margarine in large saucepan over low heat. Add marshmallows and stir until completely melted. Remove from heat.
2. Add Rice Krispies cereal. Stir until well coated.
3. Using buttered spatula or waxed paper, press mixture evenly into 13 x 9 x 2-inch pan coated with cooking spray. Cut into 2-inch squares when cool.

INSTRUCTIONS

Follow the directions from the leader as to the recipe preparation and cooking. Answer the questions below as the treats are being made.

MICROWAVE DIRECTIONS

1. Microwave margarine and marshmallows at HIGH 2 minutes in microwave-safe bowl. Stir to combine. Microwave at HIGH 1 minute longer. Stir until smooth.
2. Add Rice Krispies cereal. Stir until well coated.
3. Using buttered spatula or waxed paper, press mixture evenly into 13 x 9 x 2-inch pan coated with cooking spray. Cut into 2-inch squares when cool.

1. How do you make sure that you have the proper amount of each ingredient when you are cooking at home?
2. Why do you need to measure the proper amounts of ingredients when mixing feed for animals? What if you only feed feeds that are already mixed for you—is it still important to measure them?
3. Does the location of where you store ingredients make any difference in the quality of the end products you make at home? In the quality of feeds for your animals?

Two Nutritional Directions

From the Rabbit's Point of View



From Our Point of View



We'll go with the rabbit's for now.

Rabbit Nutrition Starts with YOU!



YOUR Role with THEIR Nutrition

- Feed and check water daily
- Develop a routine
- Be consistent
- Purchase and properly store quality feeds
- Spend time in the barn
- Be observant
- Keep feeders and watering system clean
- Keep good records

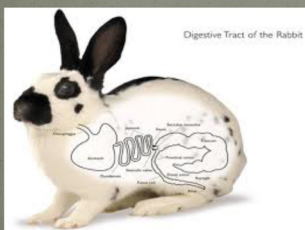


Feeding Domestic Rabbits

- Accounts for 75% of production costs
- Most are fed pelleted rations, grass hay, and water
- Strong influence on breeding, fertility, conception, kindling, nursing, growth, and resistance to disease
- Ideal feed conversion of growing rabbits – 4:1
- If necessary, switch feeds gradually

Rabbit Digestive Anatomy

- Monogastric (single stomach)
- Herbivorous (eat plant material)



science.widener.edu



harrisonpet.com

Physical Check Points

- Teeth
 - Beginning of nutritional tract
 - Malocclusions (cull animal when found)
- Body fat
 - Over vs. under conditioning
- Signs of illness or injury
 - Will likely eat/drink less



Lesson 2:Activity 3 Rabbit Nutrition

Nutritional Needs of Rabbits

TABLE 1. NUTRIENT REQUIREMENTS OF RABBITS*

Nutrient	Growth	Maintenance	Gestation	Lactation
Crude protein (%)	16	12	15	17
Digestible energy (kcal)	2500	2100	2500	2500
TDN (%)	65	55	58	70
Crude fiber (%) ^b	10-12	14	10-12	10-12
Fat (%) ^c	2	2	2	2
Calcium (%)	0.4	c	0.45	0.75
Phosphorous (%)	0.22	c	0.37	0.5

*Consult publication listed at the bottom of Table 2.

^bMay not be minimum but known to be adequate.

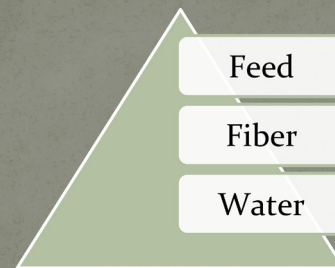
^cQuantitation requirement not determined, but dietary need demonstrated.

You can use a single feed for all rabbits, so long as the minimum protein needs are met. Protein is typically the most expensive ingredient, so feed costs will likely be higher.

During periods of increased performance (breeding season), bucks and does¹ should be placed on a 15% protein ration.

<http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/lvstk2/6547.pdf>

What to Feed Daily



Fiber found in pelleted feeds may not be of the proper length to promote a healthy gut, so hay is a must. (https://www.bbc.com/1/health/diet_him1)

How Much to Feed

- Water – Unlimited
- Hay – Free choice or hand feed
- Pelleted Feed
 - Small breed – 4 oz.
 - Large breed – 6 oz.
 - Giant breed – 8 oz.
 - Adjust as necessary
 - If feed is left over from the day before, cut back
 - If body condition is lessening, increase feed



Age or Condition

Growing rabbits (After weaning)	3 to 4 ounces
Resting Does	2 to 5 ounces
Does in Gestation	4 to 8 ounces
Nursing Does (until litter is 3 weeks of age)	6 to 8 ounces
Does with litter of 7 or 8 (3 to 8 weeks)	1 to 2 pounds

Amount to Feed Daily

<http://www.agscience.msu.edu/learn/psw/psw.cfm?pswload=feed.htm>

Which one holds 4 ounces of feed?



They all might, but it may depend on the feed. The only way to know for sure is to weigh your feed. Remember the old question, "which weighs more a ton of lead or a ton of feathers?" They both weigh the same, but have far different volumes. The same is true with feeds. One brand of feed may be heavier than another.



The Feed Tag

GUARANTEED ANALYSIS

Crude Protein (Min).....	16.00%
Crude Fat (Min).....	1.50%
Crude Fiber (Min).....	17.00%
Crude Fiber (Max).....	20.00%
Calcium (Ca) (Min).....	0.60%
Calcium (Ca) (Max).....	1.10%
Phosphorus (P) (Min).....	0.40%
Salt (NaCl) (Min).....	0.50%
Salt (NaCl) (Max).....	1.00%
Vitamin A (Min).....	4,650 IU/lb

INGREDIENTS

Dehydrated Alfalfa Meal, Wheat Middlings, Ground Soybean Hulls, Dehulled Soybean Meal, Ground Corn, Wheat Bran, Cane Molasses, Ground Oat Hulls, Lignin Sulfonate, Salt, Monocalcium Phosphate, Calcium Carbonate, DL-Methionine, Choline Chloride, L-Ascorbic Acid, L-Lysine, Sodium Selenite, Vitamin E Supplement, Niacin Supplement, Riboflavin, Vitamin A Supplement, Dried Aspergillus Niger Fermentation Extract, Vitamin B12 Supplement, Dried Yeast, Dried Enterococcus Faecium Fermentation Product, Dried Lactobacillus Acidophilus Ferment Product, Vitamin D3 Supplement, Cobalt Carbonate, Manganese Sulfate, Ethylenediamine Dihydrochloride, Zinc Sulfate, Dried Yucca Shidigera Extract, Copper Chloride, Dicalcium Phosphate, Monocalcium Phosphate.

Keep your feed in a sealed container to prevent exposure to moisture, insects, rodents, and excessive heat.

<http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/lvstk2/6547.pdf>

Seasonal Feeding?

Cold

- Burn energy to stay warm
- Consider increasing feed when heading into winter to provide additional nutrition for hair growth and body condition

Hot

- Burn energy to stay cool
- Consume as much as 4 times as much water as feed
- Provide unlimited water
- Maintain feeding according to body condition



Lesson 2:Activity 3 Rabbit Nutrition

Q&A by Dr. Fairies, DVM – Professor and Extension Program Leader for Veterinary Medicine

Question: What seasonal modifications should be made to feeding schedules? Does increasing carbs help rabbits in winter as metabolism just kicks up higher, or should fiber instead be increased?

Answer: Rabbits housed in a cold environment will have an increase in their metabolism to mobilize (burn) stored fat to maintain normal body temperature with the energy (heat) produced from the increased metabolic rate. Increased energy intake by the diet is accomplished by the rabbits eating more in self-feeding or owner hand-feeding the rabbits a commercial pelleted rabbit feed. Sources of energy are fatty acids (fats and oils), carbohydrates, protein, and fibers (with grains being the highest, and fiber plants being the lowest).

Increasing fiber intake will decrease intake of commercial pelleted feed and cause negative effects.

Do not increase fiber or carbs alone. Increase the amount of feed to match increased metabolism.

Cold, growth, exercise, pregnancy and lactation kicks up metabolism.

Q&A - continued

Question: Is there any real benefit to blending in barley, rolled oats and other such supplements with pelleted feed? Do certain grains and oils make any difference in flesh and fur?

Answer: Grain supplements added to the diet increases quantity and decreases quality of the commercial pelleted feed by decreasing the protein and fat percentages of the total ration and can cause negative effects. There are no benefits to such supplements.

Question: What about oil? Many breeders use flaxseed oil or other oils in the feed mix. Is there evidence that this promotes a healthier hair coat?

Answer: Oil supplements are unnecessary in feeding commercial pelleted feed. The essential quantity of fatty acids is incorporated in good quality pellets. There are no benefits for hair coat; only for laxative effects.

Closing Advice from Dr. Fairies

People should rely on good quality pelleted feed for rabbits from good reputable feed companies who have balanced the ration. People should not unbalance the ration developed by research. The people add and add to make themselves feel better...but making the rabbits feel bad. The balance ration includes 16% protein, 2-4% fat, and 14-16% fiber. Any added vegetables or fruit must be small treats only, not to affect required intake of pellets.

There are not benefits to change it by increasing these percentages; there are benefits to increase intake of pellets without changing the percentages. The message: "Depend on balanced pellets and don't get the total ration out of balance with supplements."

So what works?

1. Genetics
2. Quality Feed / Hay from reputable suppliers
3. Fresh, Clean Water
4. Consistent feeding program
5. Clean, well-ventilated facility
6. Saving your supplement money to spend on improving genetics

Now, Nutrition from OUR Perspective!

Nutritional Values of Common Meats¹

Meat (edible portion, uncooked)	Percent Protein	Percent Fat	Percent Moisture	Calories per Pound
Rabbit (fryer, with giblets)	20.8	10.2	67.9	795
Chicken (fryer, with giblets)	20.0	11.0	67.6	810
Veal (medium fat)	19.1	12.0	68.0	840
Turkey (medium fat, with giblets)	20.1	20.2	58.3	1190
Lamb (medium fat)	15.7	27.7	55.8	1420
Beef (fat)	16.3	28.0	55.0	1440
Pork (medium fat)	11.9	45.0	42.0	2050

¹Taken from Circular No. 547, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.



Sources

- http://web1.msu.edu/4h/anisci/416440Kibbitracks-SumRabN_09.pdf
- <http://homepage.mac.com/mattlocks/morfe/rabrefe.html>
- http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=35&page=3

Activity 4 Materials

- Assuring Quality: A program for youth livestock producers—Prevention Activity (one per member)
- Pencils (one per member)

Before the Meeting

Make copies of the Assuring Quality: A program for youth livestock producers—Prevention Activity and the Prevention Plan Activity: Youth Worksheet



Activity 4 Instructions (15 mins.)

1. Have a short discussion with youth about what prevention means, and why it is important to have a prevention plan.
2. Hand out to youth members the Assuring Quality: A program for youth livestock producers—Prevention Activity and have youth members complete the activity.
3. Discuss what each members Prevention Plan is, and what information they would find helpful if they were to help take care of someone's animals.



Reflect and Apply Questions

1. What are items that you would include in a prevention plan?
2. Why is it important to have a prevention plan for raising animals?

Assuring Quality: A program for youth livestock producers Prevention Activity

Resources Needed:

Copies of worksheet Prevention Activity: Instructions Youth Worksheet (one/ youth)
Pencils

Procedure:

- A.** Introduce the topic by discussing that the best way to avoid problems is with prevention. "Sometimes problems with livestock can occur when the person that usually takes care of them is gone, and someone else is taking care of the animals. The way to avoid problems is to properly prepare the people that will be taking care of the animals. Anticipate what could go wrong and by planning for it and preparing the people, you will likely not have any problems."
- B.** Discuss whether any of the youth have had someone else care for their animals. Who was it? Why was someone else taking care of them? How did you prepare those people?
- C.** Discuss that we are going to do a list of instructions, or a "prevention plan". Explain the situation on the top of the worksheet and have youth complete the worksheet. Actually have the youth complete the worksheet.
- D.** Go through the worksheet, calling on different youth for different questions.
- E.** For the questions at the end, some things to consider are:
 - Information they should know is what is on this sheet. If not provided, they should ask these questions.
 - Items that are special about animals may include their disposition, how to handle them, whether they like their nose scratched, etc. Possibly if some are in the habit of being able to get out of their pen, where they would likely go if not in there pen, etc. Also, if any are prone to lameness or other problems.
 - Sharing the information helps prevent potential problems. Although someone may be able to follow your instructions on how many buckets of corn to feed, he/she may not be prepared to deal with other situations. Listing the other information helps he/she to deal with whatever may happen.



Lesson 2:Activity 4 Prevention Plan Activity:Youth worksheet

Whenever leaving for vacation or staying at an after school event, there are times when you are unable to care directly for your animals. Pretend you are going to go on vacation with your family for a week. Who is going to care for your animals while you are gone? Using the ideas below, list your response as you would need to write the instructions out for someone that really was caring for your animals while you were away.

1. Who is going to watch over my animals? _____
2. The number and the type of animals they will be responsible for is: _____

3. The feed is located at: _____
4. We give each animal (pen or herd) _____ amount of _____ feed (what kind of feed) each time we feed them.*
5. The animals need to be fed _____ times a day; we usually feed them around _____ (time) each day.*
6. We feed them at _____ (location).*
7. The animals need to be watered _____ times daily. The water tank is located at _____ and the faucet/bucket/hose is located at _____.*If the tank is full, be sure to clean it.
8. There are _____ animals on medication. (Make a detailed list of the animals, what medications, how and when to give the medication, medication location and storage, and any other information needed.)*
9. Our vet is _____ and can be reached at _____
10. We will be home _____ (date).
11. We will be staying at _____ and can be reached at _____, if you need to contact us.
12. Our neighbors _____ can assist if necessary. They can be reached at _____
13. Provide any other important information that may be needed.

*Do this question for as many animals or different responses that are needed.

If someone asked you to watch their animals, what information would you like to know before they left? What questions would you ask to be better prepared? What other items are special about your animals that you would want people to know? How will sharing of information help to ensure that your animals remain healthy?

Activity 5 Materials

- Rabbit Showmanship Steps (one per member)
- Youth member's rabbits

Before the Meeting

Make copies of the Rabbit Showmanship Steps. Have a rabbit that you can use to demonstrate how to pick up, hold, and carry a rabbit.



Activity 6 Materials

- Disease Matching Cards

Before the Meeting

Have a couple of sets of matching game cards spread out across a couple of different tables. During the lesson, have youth partner up into and play the matching game.



Activity 7 Materials

- University of Wyoming Cent\$ible Nutrition Program Penny A Day Calendars (a copy of each calendar per member)
- Pencils (one per member)

Before the Meeting

Make copies of the two University of Wyoming Cent\$ible Nutrition Program Penny A Day Calendars.



Activity 5 Instructions (10 mins.)

1. Hand out the Rabbit Showmanship Steps paper.
2. Go over with youth members and demonstrate how to handle, pick up, and carry rabbits.
3. Have youth practice on their rabbits.



Reflect and Apply Questions

1. Why is it important to never grab a rabbit by its ears?
2. Why is it important to always support a rabbit's weight by placing one hand under its rump?
3. Why is it important to tuck the head under one arm when carrying a rabbit?



Activity 6 Instructions (20 mins.)

1. Have youth members get into groups of two or three.
2. Have youth member flip over cards playing the matching game for 20 minutes.
3. Have youth match the name of the disease to the description, symptoms, and preventative measures cards.



Reflect and Apply Questions:

1. What is a common way for diseases to spread?
2. What is a good way to keep your rabbits from catching diseases?



Activity 7 Instructions (10 mins.)

1. Ask youth members if they would consider working for one month if they received 1 cent for the first day and the amount double each day after that. Let them answer.
2. Then hand out the first University of Wyoming Cent\$ible Nutrition Program Penny A Day Calendar (the one without all of the figures in it).
3. Have youth members figure out the math for the remainder of the days in the calendar.
4. Then share the second University of Wyoming Cent\$ible Nutrition Program Penny A Day Calendar (the one with all of the figures in it).
5. Share with the youth that every time bacteria passes from one organism to another, it doubles in size. This is how fast bacteria can travel.

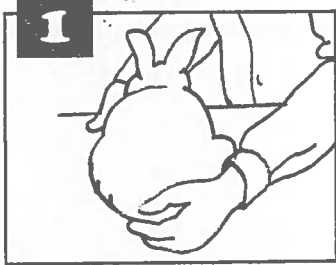


Reflect and Apply Questions

1. Why is it important to know how fast bacteria travels?
2. What is something that you can do for your rabbit if you have more than one rabbit in your rabbitry?

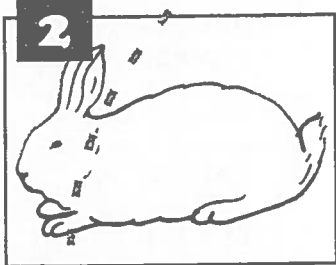


Rabbit Showmanship Steps



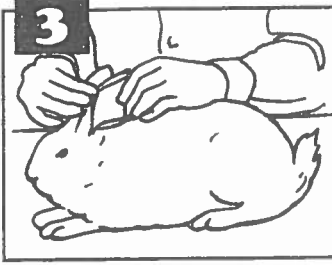
Carry a Rabbit

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.



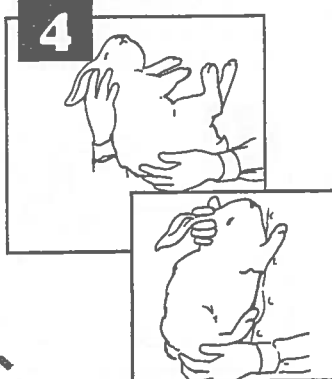
Pose Rabbit

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,



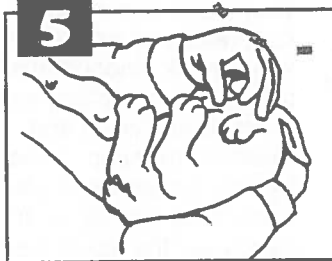
Checking Ears

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.



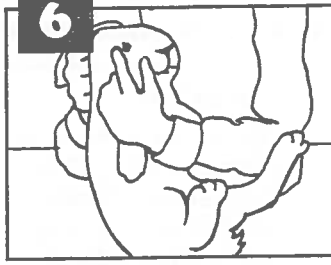
Turn Rabbit Over

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.



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.



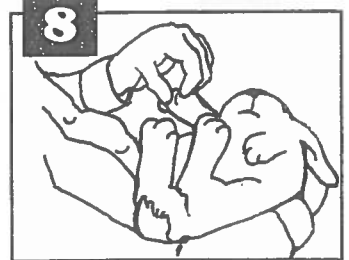
Check Eyes

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.



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.



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.



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.

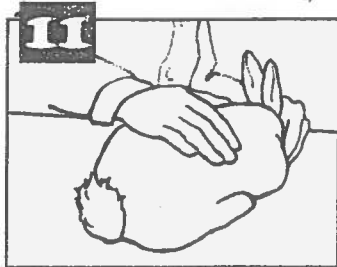


Check Legs

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.

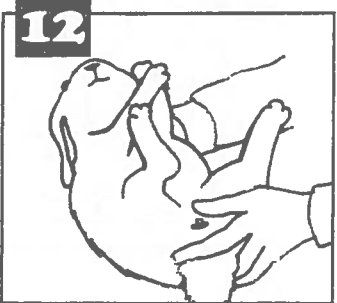


Lesson 2: Activity 5 Rabbit Showmanship Steps



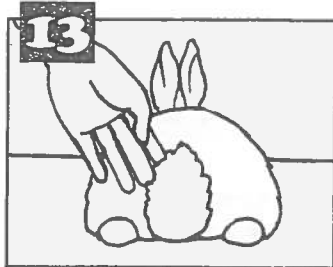
Check Body for Ruptures and Abscess

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.



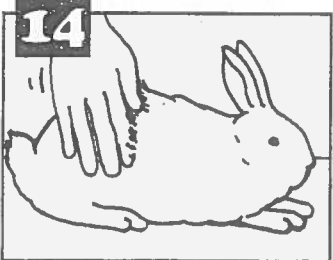
Check Sex

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.



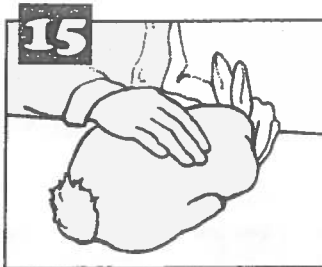
Check Tail

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.



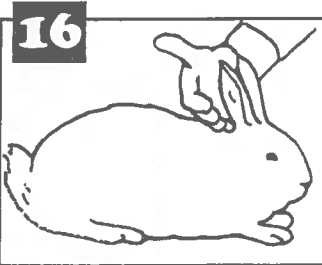
Check for Surface Color, Undercolor, Ring Color, Foreign Spots, or Smut

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 a showman.



Lesson 2:Activity 6 Rabbit Diseases Matching Game

Snuffles	<p>This disease is one of the most common illnesses in rabbits. Also called Pasteurellosis, it is caused by bacteria that are transmitted from doe to litter or between breeding rabbits. The most common problem caused by this disease is a respiratory condition, although the nose, eyes, and other areas of the body can also be affected. The disease can become chronic or lead to death if untreated or improperly treated. This is contagious.</p>
Cold	<p>Similar to the human version, and is a general term used to describe such symptoms as runny nose, runny eyes, and sneezing. Unlike the human version, in rabbits it is usually called by bacteria rather than a virus, and can be treated with antibiotics. Some bacterial infections may lead to a much more serious respiratory illness, rabbit pneumonia, which in turn can lead to death. This is contagious.</p>
Wryneck	<p>A condition also called torticollis (twisting of the neck), which can cause head shaking, head scratching, or loss of balance. This is contagious.</p>
Ringworm	<p>A fungal condition that is transmitted easily through contact with an infected rabbit's coat or living quarters. It usually causes multiple hairless areas with slightly reddened skin around the head, ears, and forelimbs. These hairless areas are often covered with a slight or sometimes heavy crust. It can be transmitted to humans. The spores from the fungus can live in an animal's environment for more than 18 months. This is contagious.</p>



Lesson 2:Activity 6 Rabbit Diseases Matching Game

Ear Mite Infestation	Also called ear canker or ear mange. They are external parasites that cause a build up of a brown crusty material near that rabbit's ear canal. The area usually becomes very raw and irritated. This is contagious.
Cheyletiella Mange	Also called walking dandruff. This parasitic infestation of the skin, also caused by mites, often goes unnoticed by owners, especially during the early stages. If the condition worsens, there will be an accumulation of what looks like dandruff within the rabbit's fur and the animal may lose clumps of hair. This is caused by mites and is contagious.
Flea Infestation	External parasites that can infest pet rabbits. You can use a specific comb to reveal the presence of the parasites or their waste products. They feed on blood and can cause anemia if present in large numbers. Over-the-counter control treatments and special soaps are available to treat an infestation, but it is recommended you first consult a veterinarian. This is contagious.
Coccidiosis	A parasitic illness caused by a protozoan (a one-celled organism) that affects the rabbit's liver or intestines. Rabbits can become infected if they consume food or water that is contaminated with feces from an infected rabbit. If coccidiosis infects the liver, symptoms could be a loss of appetite, diarrhea, and even death. If located in the intestines, symptoms include weight loss, soft or watery feces, mucus or blood in feces, a soiled anal area, dehydration, increased thirst, and possibly death. Occasionally, this parasite may also infect the nasal passages and cause a respiratory disease called nasal coccidiosis. This is contagious.



Lesson 2:Activity 6 Rabbit Diseases Matching Game

Abscesses	<p>A collection of pus that may form at the site of a bacterial or parasitic infection. In rabbits, they often form at the site of a wound that has gone untreated. They should be treated by a veterinarian. These are not contagious.</p>
Hairballs	<p>Rabbits groom themselves by licking their fur and they will swallow hair in the process. This results in balls in their stomach. Unfortunately, a rabbit will not be able to cough these up, and it will remain in the stomach. It can grow to a significant size. Initial signs include a rabbit's unwillingness to eat pellets and preference to eat more greens and treats. Later signs include loss of appetite, smaller fecal pellets passing, weakness, weight loss, and eventually death from starvation. To help prevent, brush your rabbit's fur daily. These are not contagious.</p>
Sore hocks	<p>Infected wounds that develop on the bottom of a rabbit's feet. They can be caused by frequent thumping of the rear feet when frightened, excessive body weight, lack of movement, pressure or abrasions from improper cage flooring, or chronic contact with soiled bedding. You can help prevent sore hocks by providing a smooth surface for your rabbit to stand on in its cage and keeping its cage clean and dry.</p>
Malocclusion	<p>Also called buck teeth or dental disease. Improper alignment of a rabbit's teeth brought on by abnormal tooth growth and wear. It usually results in overgrown teeth, particularly the incisors. Rabbits' teeth grow continuously, and it is very important that they eat hard foods in order to maintain a perfect bite. Signs include a rabbit's failure to chew or swallow food properly and heavy salivation. It will prevent the rabbit from eating because the teeth will grow so long that they lose the ability to chew. This is not contagious.</p>



Lesson 2:Activity 6 Rabbit Diseases Matching Game

Overgrown Claws	<p>Can hurt both the rabbit and the owner. They can easily become caught in objects such as cage flooring or your clothing, causing pain to the rabbit, or a panicked rabbit can scratch and injure itself. It is important to have a rabbit's claws clipped.</p> <p>Declawing a rabbit is not recommended. This is not contagious.</p>
Heat stress	<p>Also known as heat stroke. Rabbits can get it if the rabbit is in an environment that is over 85 degrees Fahrenheit or if they are exposed to a combination of high heat and high humidity. Rabbits can also experience heat stroke if there is inadequate shade or ventilation. Housing many rabbits together can also contribute to heat stroke. Signs include excessive panting and salivation, ears turning red, weakness, and refusal to move. Heat stroke can cause death. Adequate shade from the sun, proper ventilation, and an abundance of cool, fresh water can help prevent heat stroke. This is not contagious.</p>
Muroid enteritis	<p>This is a type of diarrhea that is influenced by nutrition. Signs include dehydration, bloating of the abdomen, and a jelly-like secretion in the feces.</p> <p>Rabbits with severe enteritis produce a sloshing noise in the stomach when shaken. Stress and overcrowded areas play a major part in the triggering outbreaks. To prevent, provide a feed that is high in fiber and low in protein along with regular feedings of long-stem hay. Discuss rations with your veterinarian. This is not contagious.</p>



Family & Consumer Sciences

Cent\$ible Nutrition Program

Helping Families Eat Better for Less



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Lesson 2:Activity 7 Cent\$ible Nutrition Program Penny A Day Calendar

Penny A Day Calendar

Would you consider working for one month if you received 1¢ for the first day and the amount doubled each day after that?

1	1¢	2	1¢ <u>1¢</u> 2¢	3	2¢ <u>2¢</u> 4¢	4	4¢ <u>4¢</u> 8¢	5	8¢ <u>8¢</u> 16¢	6	16¢ <u>16¢</u> 32¢	7	32¢ <u>32¢</u> 64¢
8	64¢ 64¢ \$1.28	9	\$1.28 \$1.28 \$2.56	10	\$2.56 \$2.56 \$5.12	11	\$5.12 \$5.12 \$10.24	12	\$10.24 \$10.24 \$20.48	13	\$20.48 \$20.48 \$40.96	14	\$40.96 \$40.96 \$81.92
15	\$81.92 \$81.92 \$163.84	16	\$163.84 \$163.84 \$327.68	17	\$327.68 \$327.68 \$655.36	18	\$655.36 \$655.36 ?	19		20		21	
22		23		24		25		26		27		28	
29		30											

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Family & Consumer Sciences

Cent\$ible Nutrition Program

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Lesson 2: Activity 7 Cent\$ible Nutrition Program Penny A Day Calendar

Penny A Day Calendar:

Would you consider working for one month if you received 1¢ for the first day and the amount doubled each day after that?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1¢	1¢ <u>1¢</u> 2¢	2¢ <u>2¢</u> 4¢	4¢ <u>4¢</u> 8¢	8¢ <u>8¢</u> 16¢	16¢ <u>16¢</u> 32¢	32¢ <u>32¢</u> 64¢
8	64¢ <u>64¢</u> \$1.28	\$1.28 <u>\$1.28</u> \$2.56	\$2.56 <u>\$2.56</u> \$5.12	\$5.12 <u>\$5.12</u> \$10.24	\$10.24 <u>\$10.24</u> \$20.48	\$20.48 <u>\$20.48</u> \$40.96
15	\$81.92 <u>\$81.92</u> \$163.84	\$163.84 <u>\$163.84</u> \$327.68	\$327.68 <u>\$327.68</u> \$655.36	\$655.36 <u>\$655.36</u> \$1,310.72	\$1,310.72 <u>\$1,310.72</u> \$2,621.44	\$2,621.44 <u>\$2,621.44</u> \$5,242.88
22	\$20,971.52	\$41,943.04	\$83,886.08	\$167,772.16	\$335,544.32	\$671,088.64
29	\$2,684,354.56	\$5,368,709.12				

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Rabbit Quality Assurance

Learn about quality assurance when caring for and working with rabbits. Youth will learn about the terms associated with the rabbit industry and rabbit project, about identification of rabbits, about rabbit nutrition, animal handling practices, and about diseases and prevention methods.

REFLECT AND APPLY ANSWER SHEET



Activity 1 Reflect and Apply Questions

1. Why is it important to know the terms associated with the rabbit industry?

It is important to know the terms associated with the rabbit industry, because by being in the Wyoming 4-H Rabbit Project, and raising a rabbit, you are a member of the rabbit industry. It is also beneficial to know the terms associated with the rabbit industry for showmanship questions the judge may ask during county fair.



Activity 2 Reflect and Apply Questions

1. Why do we ID rabbits?

We ID rabbits so that we can know which rabbit is ours on the showmanship table, and also so that we can keep accurate records for the correct rabbit.

2. How do we ID rabbits?

We ID rabbits by tattooing the rabbit's ear.

3. What are the steps to tattoo a rabbit?

Prepare your location for tattooing. Gather the necessary equipment. Select clean tattoo figures for placing in the animal's ear. Check the tattoo number. Place animal in the tattooing position. Cleanse the ear thoroughly. Make sure you are wearing gloves. Cover the points of the tattoo digits with ink. Examine the site of where the tattoo will be placed and place the tongs over the site. After positioning the tattoo instrument properly, firmly squeeze the tattoo tongs. Vigorously work the ink into the puncture holes. Remove the excess ink. Finally, apply a light film of Vaseline over the tattoo.



Activity 3 Reflect and Apply Questions

1. How do you make sure that you have the proper amount of each ingredient when you are cooking at home?

By using a measuring cup or a measuring spoon.

2. Why do you need to measure the proper amount of each ingredient when mixing feed for animals?

A: To give the animals proper nutrition, and make sure that the right amount of ingredients are being fed.

3. What if you only feed feeds that are already mixed for you- is it still important to measure them? Why?

A: It is important to still measure the feed, so that you are not giving the animal too much or too little of feed.

4. Does the location of where you store your ingredients make any difference in the quality of the end products you make at home?

What about in the feed you feed your animals?

Yes, the location of where feed or ingredients does make a difference in the quality of the feed. You want to store feed or ingredients in a dry, dark place, and it needs to be where rodents cannot get to it.



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Rabbit Quality Assurance

Learn about quality assurance when caring for and working with rabbits. Youth will learn about the terms associated with the rabbit industry and rabbit project, about identification of rabbits, about rabbit nutrition, animal handling practices, and about diseases and prevention methods.



Activity 4 Reflect and Apply Questions

1. What are items you would include in a prevention plan?

Answers may vary, but should have a combination of where feed is located, where animal housing is located, how much to feed, how much to water, where to find a water source, when youth will be gone, phone numbers to reach youth and family at, phone numbers to reach veterinarian, and phone numbers to reach someone who might be able to help the person taking care of the animals.

2. Why is it important to have a prevention plan for raising animals?

It is important to have a prevention plan for raising animals, so that if you need to take a vacation or have something come up, someone else can take care of your animals for you. It works towards preventing anything bad from happening.



Activity 5 Reflect and Apply Questions

1. Why is it important to never grab a rabbit by its ears?

A rabbit's ear carry a lot of blood vessels in them, and if you grab a rabbit by the ears there is a good chance of breaking the rabbit's ear drum.

2. Why is it important to always support a rabbit's weight by placing one hand under its rump?

By supporting the rabbit's weight, and placing one hand under its rump, the rabbit will feel less likely to be dropped and will feel supported.

3. Why is it important to tuck the head under one arm when carrying a rabbit?

By tucking the head under one arm when carrying a rabbit, it will feel less likely to be dropped.



Activity 6 Reflect and Apply Questions

1. What is a common way for diseases to spread?

When animals are together, it is easy for diseases to spread from one rabbit to another.

2. What is a good way to keep your rabbits from catching diseases?

Follow routine animal care practices, and if one animal gets sick isolate it from the others.



Activity 7 Reflect and Apply Questions

1 Why is it important to know how fast bacteria travels?

It is important to know how fast bacteria travels because if one rabbit shows symptoms, you can know approximately how fast it will affect other rabbits around it.

2. What is something you can do for your rabbits if you have more than one rabbit in your rabbitry?

You can isolate a sick rabbit, so that the others don't get sick.

REFLECT AND APPLY
ANSWER SHEET



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