

RABBIT

Project Meeting



EXTENSION

Fur-tastic Rabbits

AGES

All

TIME

1 hour

COST

\$ - \$\$

SKILLS GAINED

Breed Knowledge
Compare & Contrast
Observation
Attention to Detail
Collaboration
Communication
Organization
Evaluation

NOTE TO EDUCATOR

Due to the copyrighted nature of many rabbit materials, definitions in this lesson plan will not match the ARBA book verbatim. And, pictures supplied here are supplied by ARBA, but not copyrighted. Photos in the ARBA book and on their website are copyrighted and may not be duplicated.

WHY IS FUR IMPORTANT

Rabbits are known for their soft, beautiful fur, which comes in a variety of textures, lengths, and qualities. Understanding rabbit fur is a key aspect of raising and showing rabbits, as it plays a major role in breed standards and overall animal care. Each rabbit breed is unique, not only in its appearance but also in the type of fur it possesses, whether it's the luxurious velvet-like coat of a Rex, the shiny satin finish of a Satin rabbit, or the fluffy wool of an Angora.

In this lesson, participants will explore the fascinating world of rabbit fur by learning how to identify the major fur types, their unique characteristics, and which breeds correspond to each type. This knowledge is not only essential for evaluating rabbits in a show setting but also for ensuring proper care and grooming.

Through hands-on activities and discussion, youth will gain the skills to assess fur quality, understand its importance in rabbit health and showing, and develop a deeper appreciation for the diversity within rabbit breeds. By the end of this lesson, participants will be better equipped to recognize fur traits, care for their rabbits, and discuss the qualities of different breeds with confidence.

SUPPLIES

ARBA Standard of Perfection

Rabbits, several varieties (either bring your own or have the youth bring theirs)

Printed and cut out copies of the material below
(enough for one set per youth)

Paper & Writing Utensils



Step-by-Step Instructions

1

Intros: Have everyone introduce themselves, have them include additional details if the group size allows. (Such as years in project, breeds owned, interests, goals, etc.)

2

Touch & Feel: If you were able to get rabbits to the meeting, have every youth pet and brush the fur backwards. Working alone or in groups, have the youth write down the differences they can find in the fur among the rabbits present.

Note: This would also be an excellent opportunity to review behaviors around animals and proper handling of rabbits.

3

Initial Matching: For all the breeds represented in the meeting, provide the corresponding breed cards to each group of youth. Have them arrange them based on similar fur/wool types. *(For youth without much fur experience, don't define fur groups yet)*

4

Definitions & Descriptions: Once all youth have arranged their cards into groups. Hand out the fur/wool definition page. Have the review the definitions page and then work through the definitions and their groupings.

- What criteria did they use to group their rabbits?
- How similar is it to definitions provided here or by ARBA?
- Would they group them differently now knowing this information?

If youth would like to go touch and feel rabbits again, it will help reinforce what they are learning.

5

Working through the breeds: After youth have regrouped their rabbits, then go through each rabbit one by one. Make sure you include the breed and fur type or wool. Go into some detail about the breed to make it memorable.

A good resource if you don't have the ARBA Standard of Perfection book is the club website or the ARBA website, both of which can be found at the following link:

<https://arba.net/recognized-breeds/>

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6

Game: Once all the rabbits have been described, give youth the remaining breed photos (*depending on level, you may want to include the breed on the photo*). Once youth have assigned a fur type to each breed then go through and provide answers. You may add additional breed information here as well. Especially if the rabbit is a popular breed or a breed that youth own but were not represented in the touch and feel portion of the lesson.

7

Discussion: See the discussion topics below to get you started for the age group or groups you are working with. Feel free to add your own!

8

Clean up: Clean up the room and any table that were used. Use sanitizer and put everything back where you found it. Send a thank you note if appropriate for the use of any rabbits or the space.



Fur Descriptions:

Intermediates, Seniors & experienced:

Flyback: Fur that quickly goes back to being smooth when you brush it from the back to the shoulders.

Rollback: Fur that slowly goes back to being smooth when you brush it from the back to the shoulders.

Slow Rollback: Very thick fur that takes a long time to go back to being smooth when brushed from the back to the shoulders. Found in some breeds from Europe.

Rex: Fur where the guard hairs and undercoat are the same length, making the coat feel smooth and even.

Satin: Fur that looks shiny because it lets more light through the outer layer, showing the color underneath better.

Standing: Fur found only on Silver Fox rabbits. It stands up, not laying flat. When you brush it backward it stays upright but still needs to be pet normally to return the fur to it's normal standing up position.

Wool: Soft, fluffy fur made of guard hairs and underwool, with each woolly breed having its own perfect mix.

Additional Terms

Face Wool: Soft, short wool on the face, from above the eyes to the nose, but it's no longer than 1 inch.

Flank Wool: Wool on the sides, hips, and lower back of the rabbit.

Wool Cap: A short patch of soft wool at the base of the rabbit's ears that goes forward on their head.

Fur Descriptions:

Juniors & Beginners:

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Discussion Topics

Junior

- What do you think makes a rabbit's fur soft or shiny?
- Why do you think rabbits need different types of fur?
- How do you think you should take care of your rabbit's fur to keep it healthy?
- What is your favorite thing about how rabbit fur looks or feels?

Intermediate

- What are some differences between Rex, Satin, Normal furs and wool? Why are these differences important?
- How would you decide which rabbit has the best fur in a competition? What would you look for?
- Why might some people prefer certain fur types over others?
- What challenges might you face raising wool breed rabbits over other fur types?

Senior

- Why do you think fur type is such an important part of breed standards in rabbits?
- How does proper grooming impact a rabbit's fur quality and health? What happens to both the fur and overall health if this is neglected?
- What role might rabbit fur play in industries like fashion or crafts? How could this affect the way certain breeds are raised?
- Do you think fur quality is more influenced by genetics or care and why?
- What would you do if you noticed a rabbit's fur was dull, matted, or had bald spots? How could you address these issues?
- What careers are available in the rabbit industry? What qualifications might they require?
- What careers and industries support or work with the rabbit industry?

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Ideas & Evaluations

Do you have a project meeting idea? Submit it here:



**DID YOU LIKE THIS PROJECT?
SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US!**

Adults



Youth





American

Fur: Normal - Flyback



American Fuzzy Lop

Wool



American Sable

Normal - Rollback



Argente Brun

Normal - Flyback



English Angora

Wool



French Angora

Wool



Giant Angora

Wool



Satin Angora

Wool



Belgian Hare

Normal - Flyback



Beveren

Normal - Rollback



Blanc de Hotot

Normal - Rollback



Blue Holicer

Normal - Slow Rollback



Britannia Petite

Normal - Flyback



California

Normal - Flyback



Champagne d'Argent

Normal - Flyback



Checkered Giant

Normal - Flyback



American Chinchilla

Normal - Rollback



Giant Chinchilla

Normal - Flyback



Standard Chinchilla

Normal - Rollback



Cinnamon

Normal - Flyback



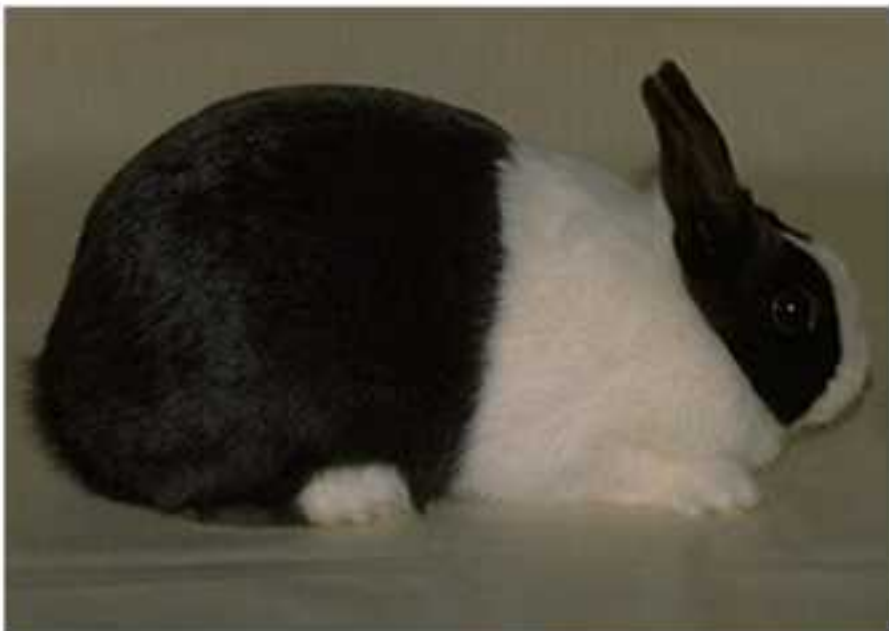
Creme d'Argent

Normal - Flyback



Czech Frosty

Normal - Slow Rollback



Dutch

Normal - Flyback



Dwarf Hotot

Normal - Rollback



Dwarf Papillon

Normal - Flyback



English Spot

Normal - Flyback



Flemish Giant

Normal - Rollback



Florida White

Normal - Flyback



Harlequin

Normal - Flyback



Havana

Normal - Flyback



Himalayan

Normal - Flyback



Holland Lop

Normal - Rollback



Jersey Wooly

Wool



Lilac

Normal - Rollback



Lionhead

Normal - Rollback,
with Wool Mane



Lop, English

Normal - Flyback



Lop, French

Normal - Rollback



Lop, Mini

Normal - Rollback



Mini Rex

Rex



Mini Satin

Satin



Netherland Dwarf

Normal - Rollback



New Zealand

Normal - Flyback



Palomino

Normal - Flyback



Polish

Normal - Flyback



Rex

Rex



Rhineland

Normal - Flyback



Satin

Satin



Silver

Normal - Flyback



Silver Fox

Normal - Standing



Silver Marten

Normal - Flyback



Tan

Normal - Flyback



Thrianta

Normal - Rollback