

Domestic Rabbit Fact Sheet (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

Rabbits are long eared herbivorous (eat only plant matter) mammals with a keen sense of sight and smell and hearing. They have powerful strong legs that they use for hopping and digging burrows.

All the pet rabbits we have today are descended from the European wild rabbit. They live underground in warrens or burrows. Males are called bucks, females are called does and the babies, born naked, deaf and blind, are called kits. Does have many large litters a year. Rabbits have many predators including foxes, raccoons and dogs.

Like rodents, rabbit's teeth continue to grow so they need to gnaw on things to wear them down. They eat grass and hay. I give mine pellets and sometimes carrots as a treat.

Although rabbits in the wild live only about a year, a healthy indoor rabbit will live an average of 5-10 years.

Hares are different than rabbits because their kits are born fully furred and active and they make shallow nests on the ground. This is also true of the Eastern cottontail.

If well cared for, rabbits make an excellent pet because they are quiet, friendly and playful.

