

## Rabbits!

The rabbit is characterized by its long ears, long legs, large hind feet and a short bushy tail. Don't get rabbits confused with hares! Hares have longer ears, are larger in size, run faster and their young are born with fur and open eyes. Rabbit babies are born with no fur and are at first, blind! Their fur can range in color from spotted patterns, white to brown, grey and black. They are known for their fast birthing rate and do not mate for life.

Wild rabbits are ground dwellers that can live in many environments all over the world. Most are found in forests and live underground in burrows or in dense cover. The wild rabbit tends to stay in the area of their safe hiding place. If they see a predator, they will thump their hind feet in warning to the others. A rabbit's large eyes provide a nearly circular field of vision that allows them to detect motion and helps them avoid predators. They also have the ability to detect odors and communicate through their sense of smell. Wild rabbits are herbivores grazing on grasses, clover and dandelions, etc.

There are many different breeds of rabbits that are farmed for many different reasons. They can be raised for meat, for their fur,



and for pets. In Europe, South America, North America, parts of the Middle East and China, they are a meat source of high quality protein. Rabbit meat is leaner than beef, pork and chicken.

Rabbit fur can be used for clothing and accessories. Some people spin rabbit fur and use it for knitting. The fur is extremely soft.

Rabbits are also raised as pets. Pet rabbits are kept in hutches or in homes. Rabbits can be trained to use a litter box and can learn to come when called. Their diet consists of pellets, hay and fresh vegetables.

Some famous rabbits are Br'er Rabbit, Bugs Bunny and let's not forget the Easter Bunny!

COLOR ME!

