

Recognizing Rabbit Types

Do you know the different body types of rabbits? As a rabbit raiser you may already know most of them. In this activity you'll have fun helping others learn them.

Rabbit Skill:
Life Skill:



Identify rabbit body types.
Communicating with others

Success Indicator:

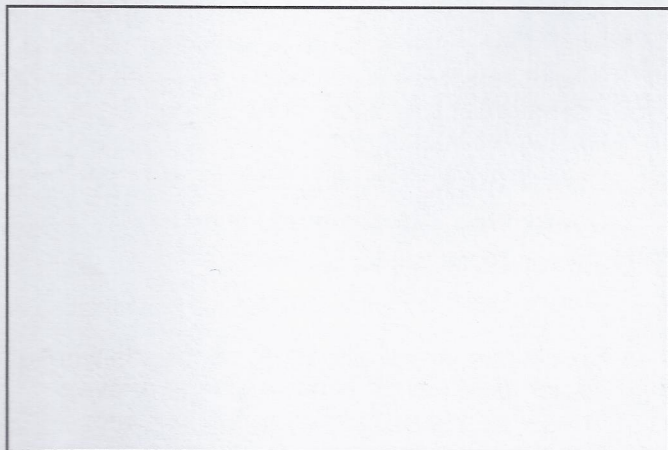
Helps others learn two breeds for four of the five body types.

Science Standard:

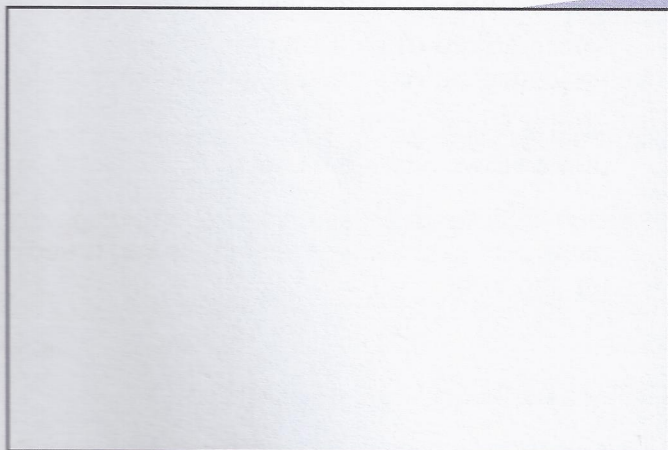
Form and function

« Hop to it! »

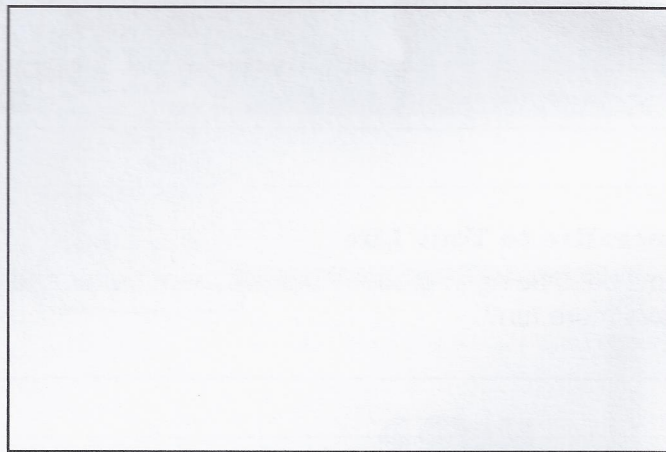
Collect pictures of at least 1–4 breeds for each of the five body types listed under Rabbit Facts and Tips. Make a matching game or some other type of fun way to help others learn to associate breeds with their types. Place your favorite breed of each body type in the spaces on this page.



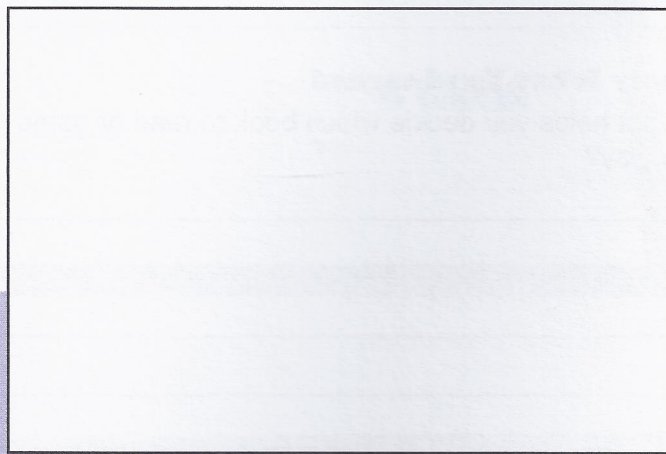
Full Arch



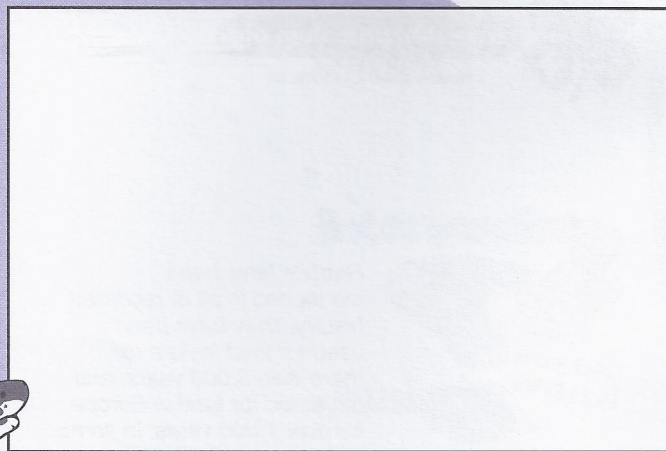
Cylindrical Type



Semi-Arch



Commercial



Compact



Rabbit Rap

Share What You Did

- What is the difference between the various types?
- Which type is most difficult to identify? Why?

Process What's Important

- How did you help others learn the types?

Generalize to Your Life

- What did you learn about helping others learn?

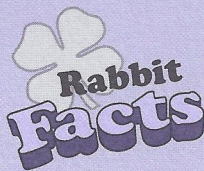
Apply What You Learned

- How does knowing the type help you select better rabbits?
- Where, in your daily life, might you use this learning strategy? How?



Rabbits can be bred all year.

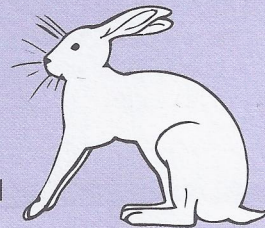
Acknowledgments: Adapted from Kansas 4-H Rabbit Curriculum Notebook



Rabbit Types

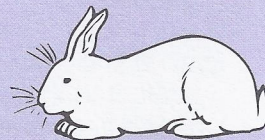
Full Arch

This group is easily recognized by an arch which starts at the back of the neck to the base of the tail. Full arched rabbits are much deeper in body height than width. They have long limbs and a long body. Full arched rabbits have a racy appearance. **Full arched breeds:** Belgian Hare, Checkered Giant, English Spot, Rhinelander, Britannia Petite, Tan



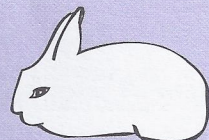
Semi-Arch

These rabbits are sometimes referred to as Mandolin type. They are well arched, but starting behind the shoulders instead of the back of the neck and continuing to the base of the tail. **Semi-arched breeds:** American, Beveren, English Lop, Flemish Giant, Giant Chinchilla



Compact

These rabbits are considered good meat type but are smaller than commercial. Some are round or tubular, while others are the conventional broader type. The width, depth and length are controlled by differences in weight. **Compact breeds:** English Angora, Standard Chinchilla, Dutch Florida White, Havana, Lilac, Netherland Dwarf, Polish, Silver, Dwarf Hotot, Jersey Wooly, Mini Rex, American Fuzzy Lop, Mini Lop



Commercial

Most of the meat producing breeds belong to this group. These breeds excel in width and depth of body, fullness of loin, roundness of hips and rump and hardness in flesh. Commercial type rabbits have the smallest amount of waste when dressed. Most are medium length rabbits. **Commercial breeds:** French Angora, Champagne D'Argent, Creme D'Argent, Californian, Cinnamon, American Chinchilla, French Lop, Harlequin, Hotot, New Zealand, Palomino, Rex, Sable, Satin, Silver Fox, Silver Marten, Satin Angora, Giant Angora



Cylindrical

The body is slim, round and long enough to show off markings. Head rather slim and long; legs fine in bone and long; body should lie snake like upon the judging table. The only breed of this type is the **Himalayan**.



Bounding Ahead

1. Attend a rabbit show and talk with one breeder of each of the five types of rabbits about the characteristics of their favorite breed.
2. Use flash cards of breed pictures to identify types.

