



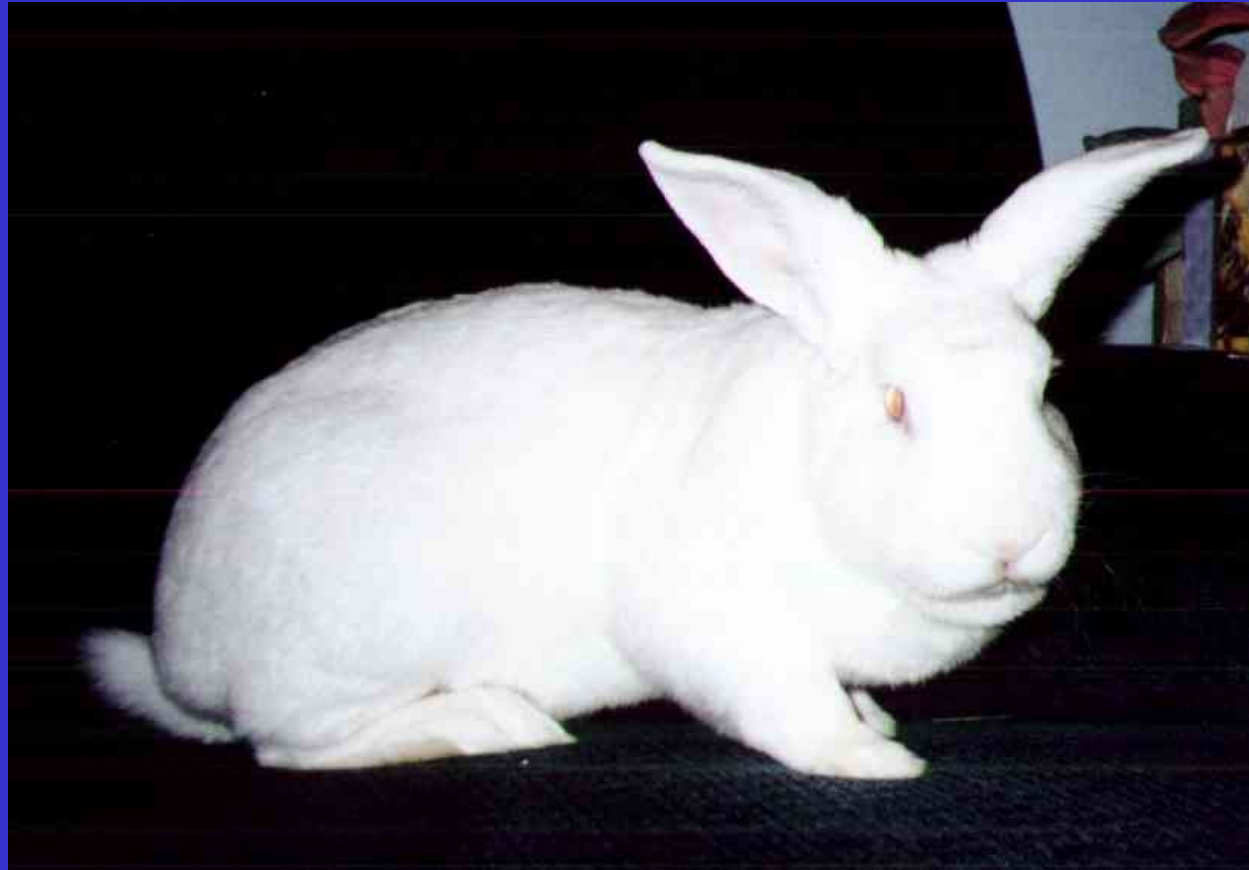
Rabbits



43 breeds recognized by the ARBA



Milo : available for adoption



New Zealand White

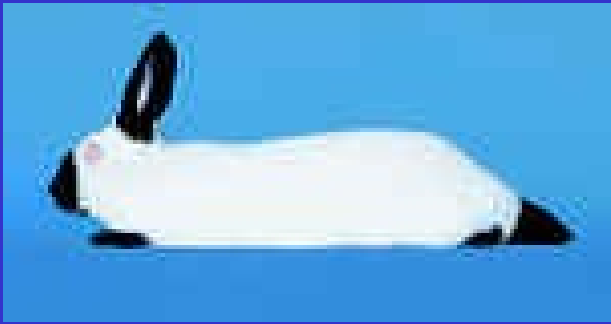
White, pink eyes, used most often for meat production in the U.S. Developed in U.S. (12 lbs.)



Florida White

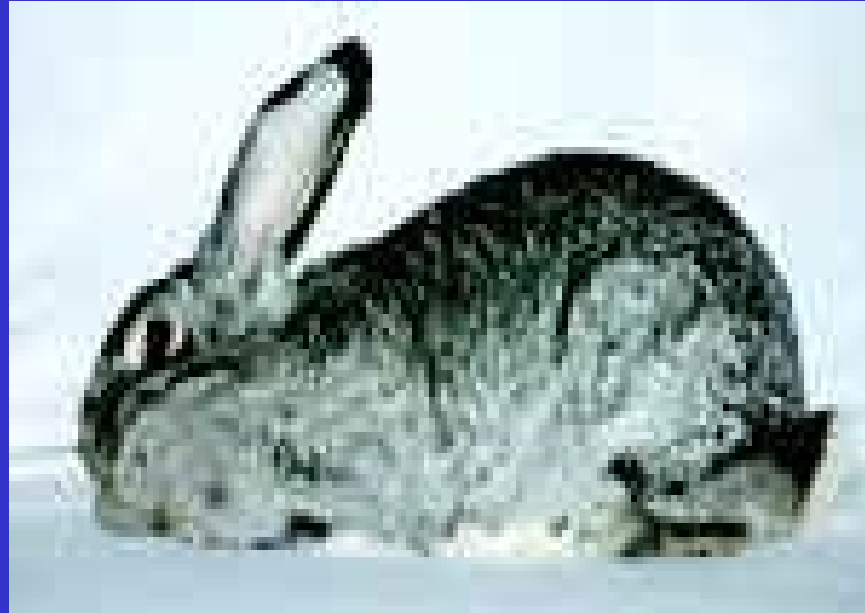
**$\frac{1}{2}$ the size of New Zealand Whites
(6 lbs.). Developed for research.**

Florida White was developed from a cross between an albino American Dutch, a white Polish and a small New Zealand White.



Himalayan

Widely distributed around the world.
From Himalayan Mountain Regions.



Giant Chinchilla (16 lbs.)



Californian

Developed in the 1920's. Second most popular meat breed in the world. (10.5 lbs.)

$\frac{1}{2}$ New Zealand, $\frac{1}{4}$ Himalayan, $\frac{1}{4}$ Chinchilla



Varieties include sandy, fawn, white, light gray, steel gray, black, blue

Flemish Giant – one of the largest breeds and is used as a terminal cross.

U.S. Club started in 1915. Minimum weight for does is 14 lbs.



Rex rabbits - fine silky textured coat
(Max weight 10.5 lbs.) 16 varieties.



Dutch – varieties include black, gray, tortoise, blue, chocolate, and steel.



Ideal weight is 4.5 pounds – max is 5.5 lbs.



Mini-lop – max size is 6.5 lbs.

Mini-Lop Club of America originated from German imports in 1974



French Lops



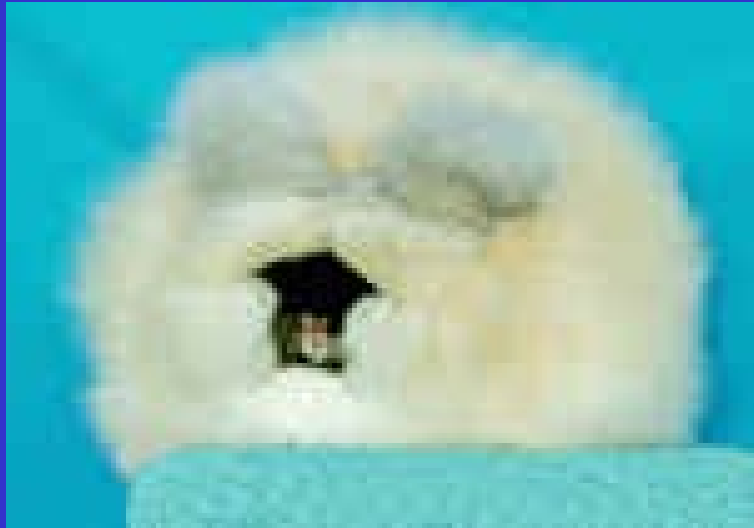
English Lop



Belgian Hare – max weight 9.5 lbs.



Lionhead rabbit



Angora












Manure removal





POSTED AT

 SheChive.com

Twenty-two lb. Herman belongs to a breed called the German Giant, reports the newspaper The Daily Mail.

A spokesperson from the German Rabbit Breeders' Association said: "They are good-natured, reliable and calm. They are, however, because of their size, not very suitable for children."





Darius is 4 feet, 3 inches from his wiggly nose to his puffy tail, and weighs in at 50 pounds. And while he's not quite the size of Wallis and Gromit's were-rabbit, he's still young — and still growing. Guinness World Records has certified Darius' record based on length (2010).

B. Genera – 11 different ones

of

pairs

chromosomes

1. Lepus (hares) : Jack Rabbits

24

2. Sylvilagus: Cottontails

21

3. Oryctolagus: Wild European

22

rabbits and domestic
descendants

If a buck breeds a doe of a different genera the eggs are fertilized but the embryos die early in gestation.



Jack Rabbits are fully haired, eyes open, and can run within a few minutes of birth.



Cottontail Rabbit



www.pet-rabbit-care-information.com/



European wild hares engage in a courtship ritual involving dashing about wildly and leaping into the air. Hence the term – March Madness or “mad as a hare in March”.

II. Domestication

A. Iberian Peninsula – Spain and Portugal

B. Early Roman times kept in walled rabbit gardens

C. Released on islands in sea lanes to be used as a food source

D. 1859; a pair was released in Victoria, Australia. In 30 years multiplied to 20 million rabbits

E. True domestication began in the 1500's at French monasteries.

	<u>Country</u>	<u># rabbits</u>
China		515 million
Venezuela		130 million
Italy		170 million
Korea		103 million
Spain		59 million
In 1996 rabbits numbered		817 million.
	World	1,196 million

IV. Rabbit Production in the U.S.

Arkansas and surrounding states, Pennsylvania and Pacific states have a rabbit meat industry.

2% of households have 5 million pet rabbits.

1,500 sanctioned rabbit shows

600,000 rabbits used in research each year.

Rabbits also raised for fiber.

V. Rabbit Management

A. one buck for 10 to 70 does

B. does can be bred at 4.5 to 5.5 months

C. **mating process:** Rabbits are induced ovulators. A doe's reproductive cycle is 16 – 18 days – not receptive to male on 4 days of cycle. Less receptive in late fall and winter.

a. Doe is taken to buck's cage.

b. Buck mounts doe.

c. Doe raises rear slightly.

d. Buck ejaculates and falls on side.

D. Gestation period: 31 days, palpation for pregnancy at 10-14 days

E. nest box added to cage at day 28-29

F. Kindling at day 31 – remove stillborn or deformed kits. Can foster kits.

G. European litter management:

- a. kits have access to doe 5 minutes per day.
- b. doe bred on day 11.
- c. bunnies have free access to doe day 14.
- d. wean on day 30.

H. Identification systems:

- a. Tattoo numbers in ears
- b. Ear tags – chicken wing bands
- c. Temporary ID – write with felt tip pen in ear.



Advantages and Disadvantages of Rabbits for Meat Production.



Advantages:

1. Relatively cheap to get started on small scale.
2. Can raise in urban back yard without a permit.
3. Easy to handle.
4. Multiply rapidly.
5. Short generation interval.
6. Lean, white meat.
7. Excellent feed efficiency.

Disadvantages:

1. Few established markets.
2. Too cute to eat for some people.
3. Butchering more difficult than chicken.
4. Must be slaughtered young for best quality.
5. Because it is very lean, very easy to over cook.
6. Waste can generate strong ammonia smell.

VII. Sample yearly cash flow for a 50-doe rabbitry

Expense:

housing	\$267
equipment	240
breeding stock	100
feed	2760
utilities	120
insurance	60
misc.	60

\$3607

Income:

fryers	1750 @ \$2.90 = \$5075
stewers	50 @ \$2.00 = 100

\$5175

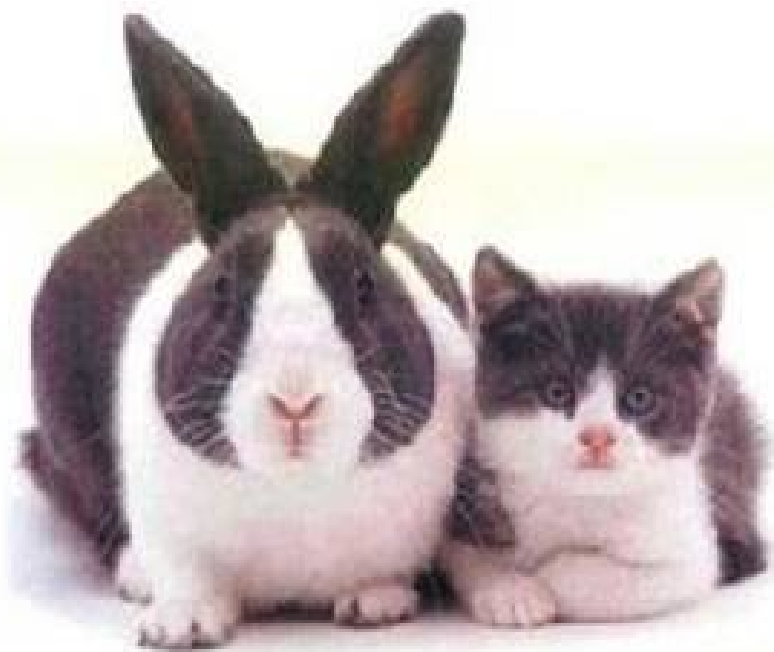
Net of \$1568 for the 50 does.

10 hours of labor are required per doe per year.



**Rare bunny, born without ears,
stepped on, killed at his own press
conference – 3/15/2012, Germany.**





































The End!