

# **Different Breeds Of Domesticated Farm Animals And Their Characteristics.**

Basic Principals & Practices of  
Farm Animal Production

PM 12052

# Group 11

## “Rabbits”

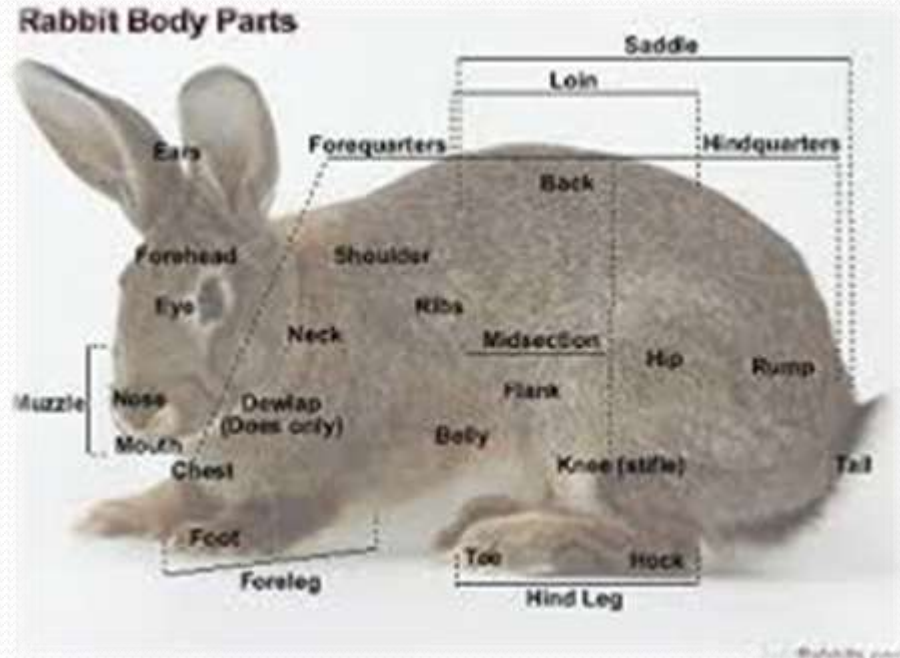


# Scientific Classification

- Kingdom – Animalia
- Phylum – Chordata
- Subphylum – Vertebrata
- Class – Mammalia
- Order – Lagomorpha
- Family - Leporidae

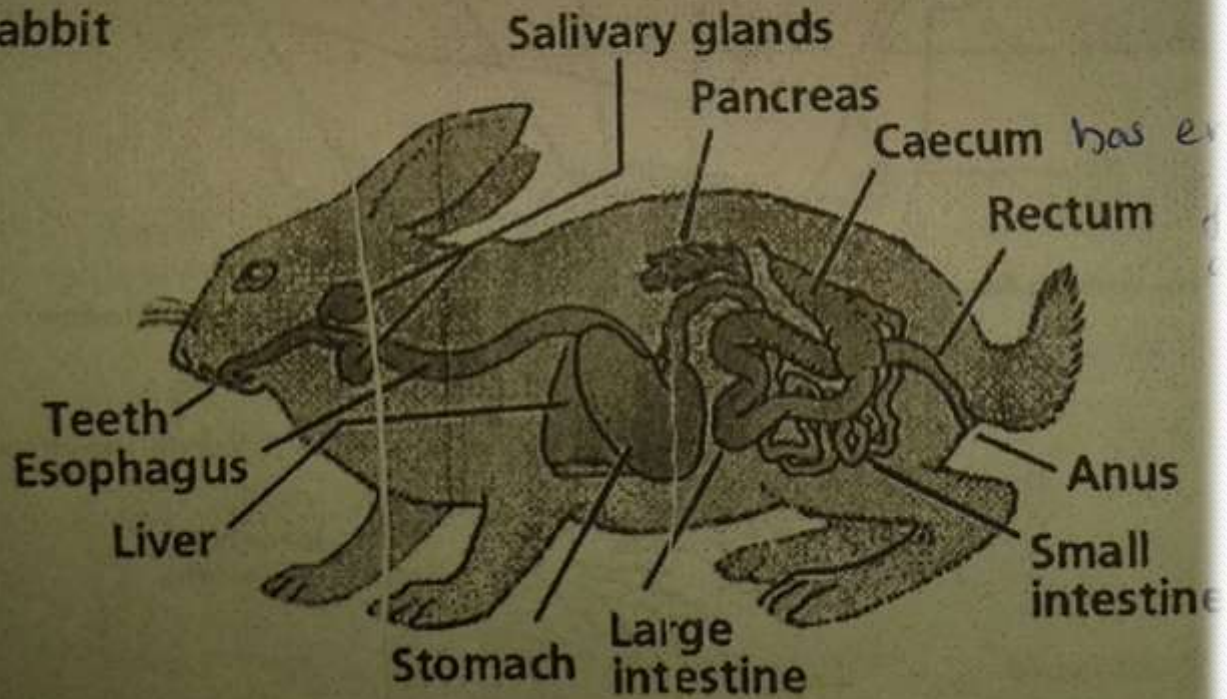


# Rabbit body parts



## Digestive System of a Rabbit

Rabbit





Rabbits are,

- small mammals found in several parts of the world.
- many species of rabbit, and the wild variety is known as “Hare”.
- The male is called a *buck* and the female is a *doe*; a young rabbit is a *kitten* or *kit*.
- There are differences between hares and rabbits.

## Rabbits cont;

- When born the kits of hares can see, can walk, can run after some time of born.
- But, domesticated rabbits haven't this ability and they are blind when born.
- Matured hare has long, strong back legs therefore they can hop and run very fast than domesticated rabbits.
- habitats include meadows, woods, forests, grasslands, deserts and wetlands etc:

## Rabbits cont;

- Has long ears, which can be more than 10 cm long, probably an adaptation for detecting predators
- Has large, powerful hind legs.
- The two front paws have 5 toes. The hind feet have 4 toes.
- Wild rabbits do not differ much in their body proportions, with full, egg-shaped bodies.
- size can range from 20 cm in length and 0.4 kg in weight to 50 cm and more than 2 kg.



# Purpose of rabbit farming,

## Advantages of rabbit rearing,

- Investment on housing and management is less.
- An efficient producer of meat, feed efficiency is high.
- Rabbits breed fast(31 days is the avg: gestation period) and also achieve rapid weight gains around 2kg at 8weeks of age.
- They are commonly fed on leafy plants and vegetables with relatively little concentrate feed.
- Rabbits produce high class protein in meat and excellent fur.

# A wild rabbit/Hare



# Major three domesticated rabbit breeds of rabbits,

- New Zealand white



- Californian Giant



- Vienna Blue



# New Zealand white



- **New Zealand White Rabbits** are a one of domesticated breed of rabbit, which despite their name are commonly known to have been developed in the US.



## **Morphology,**

well-rounded bodies; slender and muscular faces with round cheeks;

large, long back feet; and small, short front pectoral muscles (Rubins).

have long perforated ears that stand straight up.

The thick, snowy fur on their bodies, but their ears have shorter fur that allows the delicate pale pink of their skin to show through.



The most noticeable characteristic of New Zealand White rabbits;

- their bright eyes, which range in shade from pale pink to bright ruby purple.
- have large, broad, and muscular bodies. Bucks (males) weigh between 9-11 pounds, while the does (females) weigh between 10-12 pounds.
- In addition to their greater size, females have a dewlap, which is flap of fur below the chin that is pulled for a nesting box, and stores fat during pregnancies.

# Feeding,

- The diet of a New Zealand white rabbit is no different than for any of other rabbit breeds. A high quality pellet feed (protein ~ 15-16%), along with unlimited timothy hay and fresh water and exercise will maintain a healthy individual.

## Uses,

In the beginning New Zealand white rabbits were not bred to be a domestic pet. Instead they were bred for their excellent **fur** and **meat**.

- New Zealand white rabbits are the number one meat rabbit in the United States.

# Californian Giant



- **The Californian giant** rabbits are another breed of domestic rabbit was developed in the early 1920s by George West in Southern California

## **Morphology,**

The Californian rabbit has big ears, large in size, weighing around 3.5 to 4.75 kilograms.

with a predominantly white body and are black on the feet, nose, ears and tail.

have pink or red eyes due to a lack of pigmentation.



# Feeding,

- Commercial rabbit pellets are often recommended. Pellets are high in fat and protein needed for a healthy rabbit.
- Feed 1/2 cup of pellets per 5 pounds of body weight every day. Ensure a steady supply of fresh water.
- For rabbits under 8 months of age, feed unlimited plain grass pellets.

## Feeding cont:

- House rabbits may be fed 2 cups of fresh rinsed greens, (NO iceberg lettuce) vegetables (stay away from greens high in iron) should be given daily, and fresh fruit sparingly.
- Free choice hay, such as timothy-grass, should be unlimited and changed daily.


## Uses,

The Californian rabbit is the second most popular meat producing breed in the world after the New Zealand rabbit.

The fur quality allows this rabbit to also be classified as a fancy breed.

# Vienna Blue



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- **Vienna blue** is an old breed that originated in Austria, by the method of crossing of Flemish Giant with the local Moravian rabbits.

# Morphology,

- It can weigh up to 4,5 kg.
- Rabbits of this breed have a cylindrical body shape with a well developed frontal part, medium-length upright ears, about 13 cm long, with rounded tips, **blue eyes** and dark nails.
- They grow up quickly and they are well-muscled with very thick fur.



## Morphology cont..

- The color of these rabbits is plain dark steel with a shade of blue, sometimes a bit lighter on the belly and chest.
- The head and ears are the same color as the body.
- This breed is characterized by good health and robustness.

# Feeding,

- Should be given good hay and lots of green vegetables and leaves such as kale, cabbage, carrot tops, spring greens can form basis of its diet.

# Uses,

- This animal is developed for meat and fur.
- multi-purpose Blue Vienna Rabbits have a great personality and they make good pets too.

# Breeding of rabbits..

- A female rabbit (doe) is fertile all year long. The gestation period is around 28–35 days, although most will kindle (give birth) at 31-32 days.
- A nest box should be provided for the new mother two days before kindling.
- The young are called kits and are born hairless, deaf, and blind . Fur begins to grow in by day 5 or 6 and after 10 to 12 days the kits' eyes will open.
- A doe can get pregnant 72 hours after giving birth.

# Rabbit care,

- There are a number of prevalent conditions that affect all rabbit breeds, but the larger animals can be badly affected by sore hocks.
- The skin can easily break on repeated contact with wire or mesh, creating open wounds. This condition is known as 'sore hocks' and can be extremely painful.

## Rabbit care cont...

- All rabbit breeds can experience problems with their teeth. The teeth of rodents grow all of the time and because of this rabbits need to be given a diet that will help keep their teeth healthy.
- Good hay and lots of green vegetables and leaves such as kale, cabbage, carrot tops and spring greens can form the basis of his diet and will provide fibrous material that will require lots of chewing.
- Rabbits can also be offered leaves from the garden such as dandelions and clover, providing they haven't been treated with any chemicals.






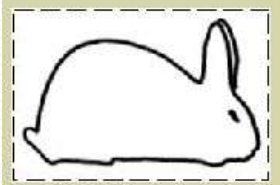
## Rabbit care cont...

- Flies are attracted to the soiled areas of fur(usually around the hind quarters) and will lay eggs there. The maggots will then burrow under the skin, causing open wounds which will certainly require veterinary attention.
- It's vital that all rabbits are treated for ticks, worms and fleas and they should also be vaccinated against myxomatosis and Viral Haemorrhagic Disease (VHD)

## Rabbit care cont...

- And also rabbits should be protected from extreme weather conditions such as dust, too hot or too cold conditions and pollution because rabbits can easily develop respiratory problems.

	<b>New Zealand White</b>	<b>Californian Giant</b>	<b>Vienna Blue</b>
Eye color	Pale pink	Red/Pink	Blue
Weight/kg	4.08-5.44	3.5-4.75	4-5
Coat	Dense medium length hair 	Dense, fine coat 	Silky medium length hair 
Uses	Mainly used for meat production, Laboratory tests and for fur	Most popular meat production, Laboratory tests	Mainly used for meat production, Laboratory tests and for fur
Body type	Commercial	Commercial	Cylindrical



# References,

- *en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\_Zealand\_white\_rabbit*
- *en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California\_rabbit*
- “ **Rabbit**” A MAMMALIAN TYPE by R.S.Tharkur, P.G.Puranik, D.S.Jajurley.
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**Thank you...**