

Rabbit Learning Activities

Need ideas for your rabbit project? There are hundreds of things you can do! You are being asked to complete at least **at least five** new activities each year. Use this list, the 4-H *Rabbit Resource Handbook*, and your imagination, then write your ideas in your *Rabbit Project and Record Book*. Have fun!

Beginning

1. Identify and describe five breeds of rabbits, and tell at least two characteristics of each, including their origin.
2. Identify and locate 10-15 external parts of the rabbit.
3. Find information about the American Rabbit Breeders Association and describe five things you
4. learned.
5. Describe seven differences between rabbits and hares.
6. Attend an ARBA rabbit show; watch the show procedure and evaluation of the rabbits; see how many breeds you can identify.
7. Attend a rabbit husbandry clinic and tell what you learned.
8. Learn and practice the steps to properly handle a rabbit and then demonstrate the steps.
9. Describe the characteristics a good quality meat rabbit should possess.
10. Look at your rabbit and list its good points and weak points according to its breed standard.
11. Create a poster on two commercial breeds of rabbits developed in the United States and present this information at a club meeting.
12. Create a poster on two common diseases of rabbits and present this information at a club meeting.
13. Attend a county fair rabbit show and see how many breeds you can find and identify.
14. Briefly describe three careers associated with the rabbit industry.
15. Describe two ways to provide adequate shelter for your rabbits.
16. Participate in a rabbit showmanship clinic.
17. Name, spell, and describe two ingredients that are in rabbit pellets.
18. Exhibit your rabbit at the county fair.
19. Learn how to properly restrain your rabbit for tattooing.
20. Read a label from a commercially prepared feed and identify five of the ingredients.
21. Draw the outline of a rabbit and label the parts. Present this at a club meeting.
22. Ask someone to videotape you practicing to properly handle your rabbit. Study the tape and learn how to improve your handling skills.



23. Learn how to properly examine your rabbit for disqualifications, faults, and general conformation, according to *ARBA Standards of Perfection*. Demonstrate what you have learned.
24. Name the six categories of nutrients for rabbits. Choose two of these nutrients and describe their functions in more detail.
25. Name and describe three disqualifications that cause rabbits not to be placed at an ARBA show.
26. Study the history of at least one breed of rabbit and give a talk on it at your 4-H club meeting.
27. Learn how to properly restrain your rabbit for clipping its toenails.
28. Learn to tattoo your rabbit.
29. Learn to clip your rabbit's toenails.
30. Learn how to properly pose your rabbit for its breed type.
31. Correctly identify the following terms: carcass, dressing percent, wholesale cuts, finish, voluntary inspection, fryers, roasters, stewers.
32. Identify four breeds of rabbits that are excellent for meat production and describe their characteristics.
33. Describe the three classes of rabbits sold for meat. Include their weights and ages.
34. Explain three ways to market meat rabbits.
35. Develop a veterinarian-client-patient relationship with your veterinarian.
36. Demonstrate how to sex a rabbit.
37. Learn how to clean and disinfect a rabbit hutch or cage.
38. Identify and discuss at least four characteristics of a healthy rabbit.
39. Explain how to register a rabbit.
40. Explain sportsmanship and how it applies to your rabbit project.
41. Describe how you provide adequate shelter for your rabbits.
42. Demonstrate that you can identify and spell each of the wholesale cuts of rabbit.
43. Refer to the *ARBA Standard of Perfection* and describe the four factors, in order of importance, for judging meat pens.
44. Describe the proper procedure for care of the doe prior to kindling.
45. Describe the proper procedure for care of a litter once the doe has kindled.
46. Make a nest box.
47. Identify and describe five breeds of rabbits that can make good pets, and tell at least two characteristics of each breed, including their origin (if known).
48. Describe five characteristics to look for in a pet rabbit.
49. Create a poster on two breeds of rabbits that are popular as pets and present it at a club meeting.
50. Describe your pet rabbit's physical characteristics. If it is not purebred, describe which breed(s) it most closely resembles.
51. Rabbits are prey animals. Explain what this means.
52. Discuss why it is important to know your rabbit's baseline or natural body posture.
53. Describe a rabbit's natural or relaxed body posture during a 4-H club meeting; show members this posture using your pet rabbit.
54. Socialize your pet rabbit with people and other safe animals.
55. There are many factors you should consider before owning a rabbit. Name two of these factors and tell why you believe each is an important consideration.
56. Name five factors to consider when buying a rabbit. Describe in detail three of these factors.

57. When buying a pet rabbit, explain whether or not you believe it is important to buy a purebred rabbit. Defend your answer.
58. Rabbit proof a room or area in your home to provide a place for your pet to exercise.
59. Explain why you should never leave your rabbit out of its cage unsupervised.
60. Describe how to litter train a rabbit.
61. Litter train your pet rabbit.
62. Describe three methods of exercising your rabbit.
63. Become a 4-H PetPAL with your pet rabbit.

Intermediate

1. Describe the ideal rabbit according to the ARBA Standard of Perfection for the breed you have, using the correct terminology.
2. Visit a local feed store and compare the feed analysis of three different types of rabbit feed, such as feed for lactating does, market rabbits, etc.
3. Investigate the development of a fetus from conception until birth. Make a display of this for a club meeting or an area event.
4. Spend the day with a local veterinarian.
5. Learn what medications can be given to rabbits orally and by injection.
6. Give a talk on ways to prevent disease in a rabbitry.
7. Give a talk on ways to prevent disease in a rabbit.
8. Discuss the various records that a commercial rabbit breeder should keep and explain why each is useful.
9. Develop a glossary of market rabbit terms and their definitions. Include, for example, dressing percent, carcass, carcass yield, finish, fryer, roaster, stewer, voluntary inspection system, inspection, grading, wholesale cuts, retail cuts, etc.
10. Invite a veterinarian to your club or group to talk on some aspect of rabbit health.
11. Invite a feed company representative (rabbit nutritionist) to your club or group to talk about rabbit nutrition.
12. Show your rabbits at the state fair.
13. Show your rabbits at an ARBA rabbit show.
14. Discuss the various records that a breeding rabbit producer should keep and explain why each is useful.
15. Become a member of ARBA.
16. Name five rabbit by-products and explain their uses.
17. Interview a rabbit breeder to learn the ideal characteristics of his/her particular breed(s).
18. Help a younger 4-H member tattoo his/her rabbit(s).
19. Help a younger 4-H member clip his/her rabbit's toenails.
20. Demonstrate how to read a medication label and calculate dosage needed.
21. Develop a glossary of genetics terms and their definitions. Include, for example, include genetics, heredity, genes, genotype, phenotype, alleles, etc.

22. Give a talk at a club or group meeting or area event about your rabbit record keeping system and the importance of keeping those records.
23. Sell your market rabbits in the county fair sale and send your buyer a thank you note.
24. Give two reasons for losses in newborn litters and measures that will help prevent these losses.
25. Explain the difference between a pedigreed rabbit and a registered rabbit.
26. Explain the nutritional value of rabbit meat.
27. Develop a visual aid showing the five body types of rabbits: semi-arch, compact, full arch, commercial, and cylindrical. Present your visual to your 4-H group.
28. Prepare a meal that includes a rabbit dish.
29. Explain sportsmanship and ethics as they are related to the rabbit industry.
30. Trace the history of the domestic rabbit, develop a taxonomy chart or other visual depicting that evolution, and present it to your 4-H club or at an area event.
31. Describe the steps in processing a rabbit for its meat.
32. Name five skeletal bones of a rabbit and show where they are located on an illustration of the rabbit's skeletal system.
33. Explain the method of breeding a doe with a buck.
34. Discuss what palpation means and demonstrate how you would palpate a doe.
35. Learn how to examine the nest box within 24 hours of kindling to see if any kits should be culled.
36. Help one young person determine if owning a pet rabbit is right for him or her, discussing the factors to consider before getting a pet rabbit.
37. Describe why good temperament is important in a pet rabbit.
38. Volunteer for a local humane society.
39. Research five types of bedding for your rabbit. List the pros and cons of each kind and report your findings at a club meeting.
40. Teach a younger 4-H member how to litter train his or her rabbit.
41. Make a list of appropriate toys for rabbits, as well as a list of toys that are unsafe.
42. Teach your rabbit to walk on a leash.

Advanced

1. Compare the four different breeding programs and discuss which one(s) are applicable to improving your herd.
2. Learn the criteria needed to cull inferior rabbits from your herd.
3. Help organize a rabbit showmanship clinic and/or contest.
4. Help a new or younger member select a rabbit as a project animal.
5. Teach rabbit showmanship at a clinic.
6. Develop cost comparisons of various commercial rabbit feeds.
7. Gather various items from rabbit by-products and give a talk or demonstration on them.
8. Spend a day with someone in a career associated with the rabbit industry.
9. Discuss the differences between junior, intermediate, and senior ages for your breed of rabbit, and explain why not all breeds have an intermediate class.

10. Develop a visual aid showing the four types of fur found in rabbits: angora, rex, satin, and normal. Present your visual to your 4-H club or at an area event.
11. Give either a speech or demonstration on how to select good breeding stock from a litter of rabbits.
12. Discuss necessary changes in management practices in a rabbitry during extreme weather conditions.
13. Develop a breeding, show, and marketing plan for your rabbit herd.
14. Identify the desirable and undesirable characteristics of the bucks and does in your rabbitry. Develop a breeding plan to eliminate undesirable characteristics and to improve the quality of your herd.
15. Explain six disqualifications that can be seen in all breeds of rabbits and learn how to check for them.
16. Give a presentation on rabbit genetics and how you use the principles of genetics with your rabbit herd.
17. Teach a new member some basic information about the principles of genetics. Document what the 4-H member learned.
18. Discuss the nutritional value of rabbit meat. Then compare and contrast that with other types of meat.
19. Describe the housing system for your rabbit or rabbitry and discuss why you chose that system. Give consideration to location, ventilation, lighting, and protection.
20. Thoroughly investigate five rabbit diseases and prepare a presentation about those diseases to show at a club meeting or area event.
21. Select one or more topics about your rabbit project and prepare a display to exhibit at your club meeting, a clinic, and/or the county fair.
22. Explain why it is important to know the skeletal structure of a rabbit when you are raising rabbits.
23. Following the steps outlined for processing a rabbit, process at least five of your meat rabbits.
24. Identify on a live rabbit the location of wholesale meat cuts. Name the retail cuts.
25. Participate in a rabbit judging contest.
26. Organize a rabbit judging contest in your county.
27. Using the Standard and Guide for Judging Meat Classes from the ARBA Standard of Perfection, teach a younger member how to evaluate his or her meat pen or single fryer.
28. Research four of the following reproduction challenges: poor receptivity to mating, birth defects, still births, gender trends in offspring, cannibalism, sterility, milk deficiency.
29. Help a new 4-H member select a pet rabbit for his or her project.
30. Describe the difference between a coat in good condition, poor condition, molt, a loose coat, a slippery coat, and good flesh condition.
31. Research the sport of Rabbit Hopping. Present your findings at a 4-H club meeting.
32. Walk through your house and list all of the potential hazards to your rabbit if it was allowed to roam free.
33. Create a unique, safe environment for your rabbit's living and exercising spaces. Document your creation through pictures and/or drawings and share at a 4-H club meeting.
34. Become a member of the American Hopping Association for Rabbit & Cavies.
35. Create a visual aid of plants and other foodstuffs that are poisonous to rabbits. Attach pictures to this list when possible. Present this at a 4-H club meeting.

36. Build a rabbit hopping course.
37. Train your rabbit to hop for rabbit hopping.
38. Give a rabbit hopping demonstration at a 4-H club meeting, rabbit clinic, or at the county fair.
39. Visit a pet supply store and make a list of all of the equipment, supplies, and food available for pet rabbits. Present this information at a 4-H club meeting.