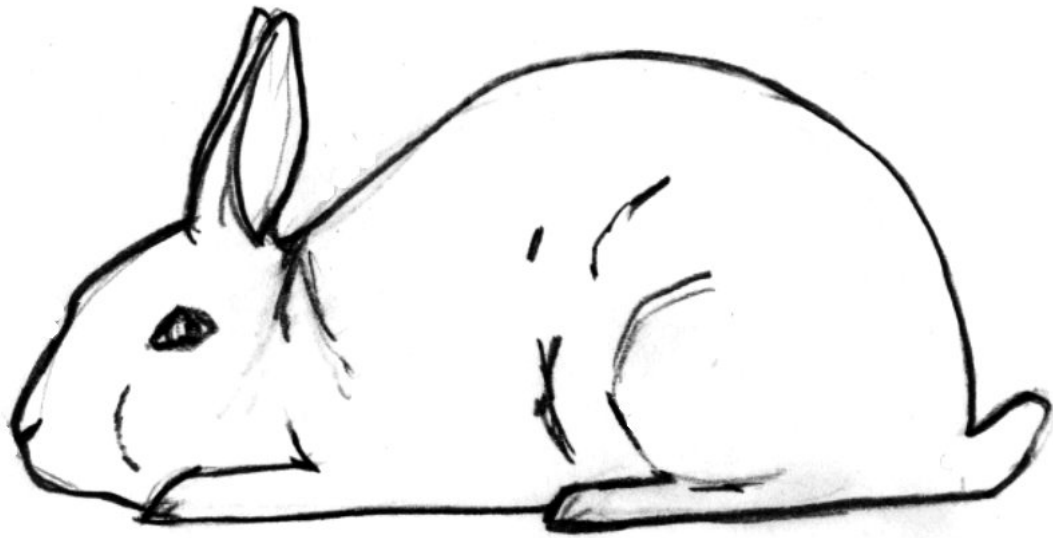


Here Comes Peter Cottontail!



Getting on the Right Bunny Trail!

By Annie Davis—Lomega 4-H—Kingfisher Co.
Illustrations by Mom



Will your bunny be an indoor or outdoor bunny?

**Whatever you choose, your bunny will need a cage.
Rabbits under 6 lbs. need a 24"x24" cage.**

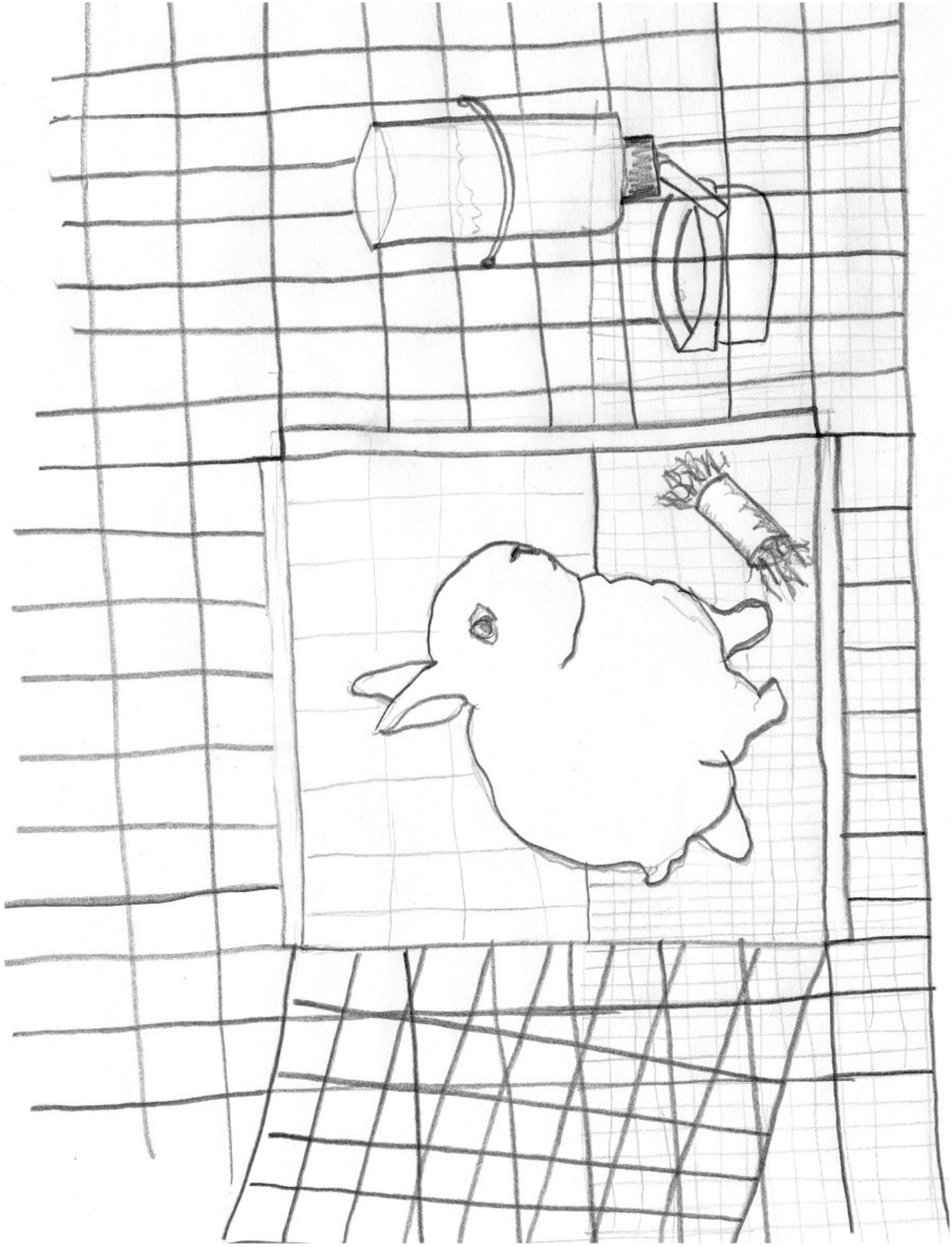
Larger rabbits need a 36"x36" cage.

Giant rabbits need even more.

**Bunnies do not like to share space.
They will often fight if caged together.**

**If there is a boy and a girl (sometimes it is hard to tell)
they can breed. Then you will have unwanted babies
to find homes for.**

**They also need protection from predators such as cats
and dogs. That means sturdy cages or a secure area.**

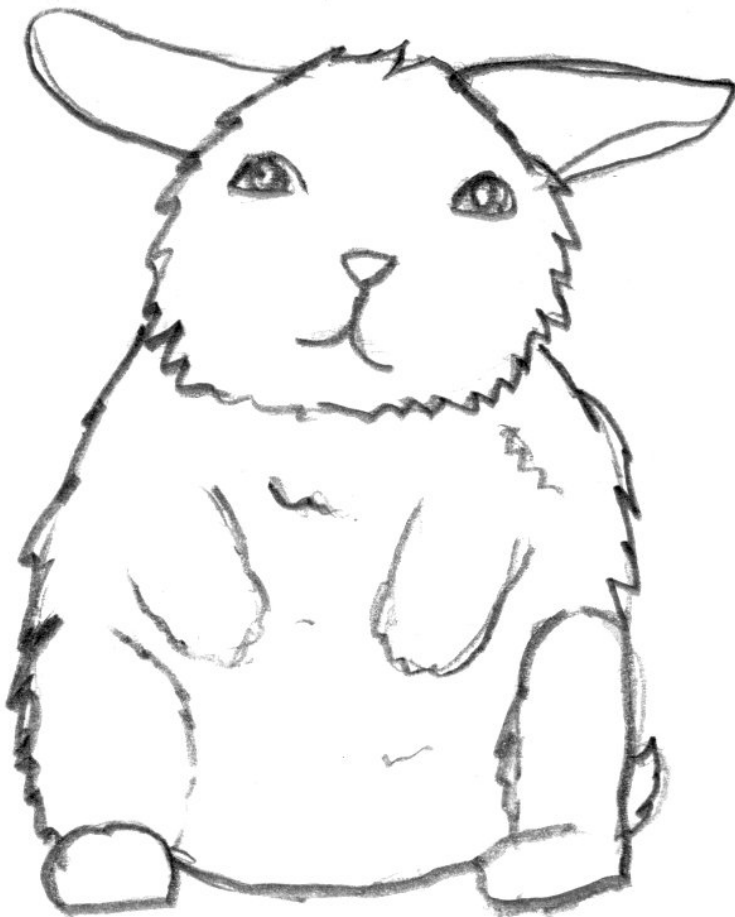


**Rabbits like to feel like they are somewhere safe.
A cage provides an escape for your furry friend.**



How old will your new friend be when you bring him or her home?

Rabbits will make friends with you however old they are.



Don't buy bunnies younger than 8 weeks. Even though they look cute, their tummies aren't ready to be away from mama and they could very easily die.

“Teenager rabbits” often go through attitude problems. Most of the time they outgrow it. Be prepared to live through it.

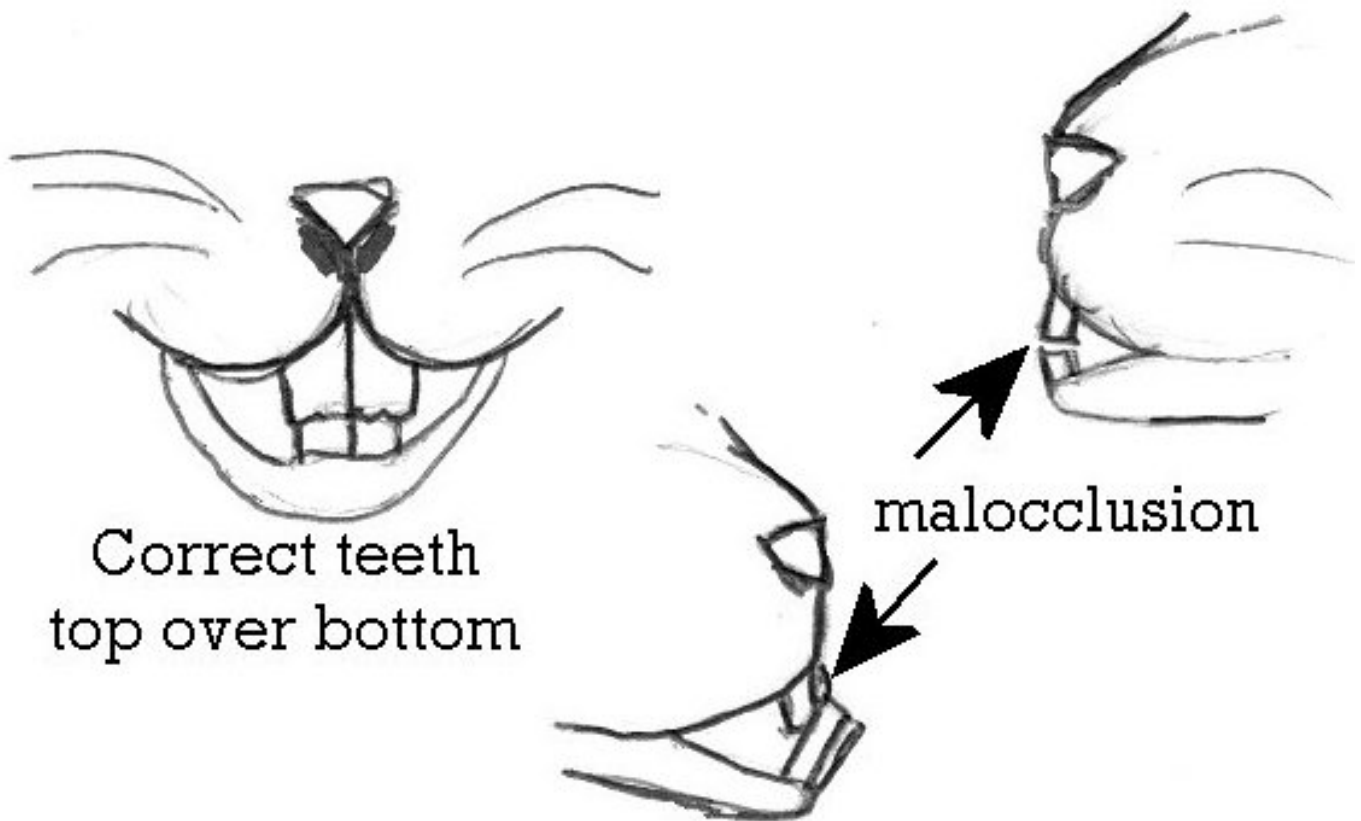
Before you get a rabbit you need to check its teeth, toes, eyes, and nose.

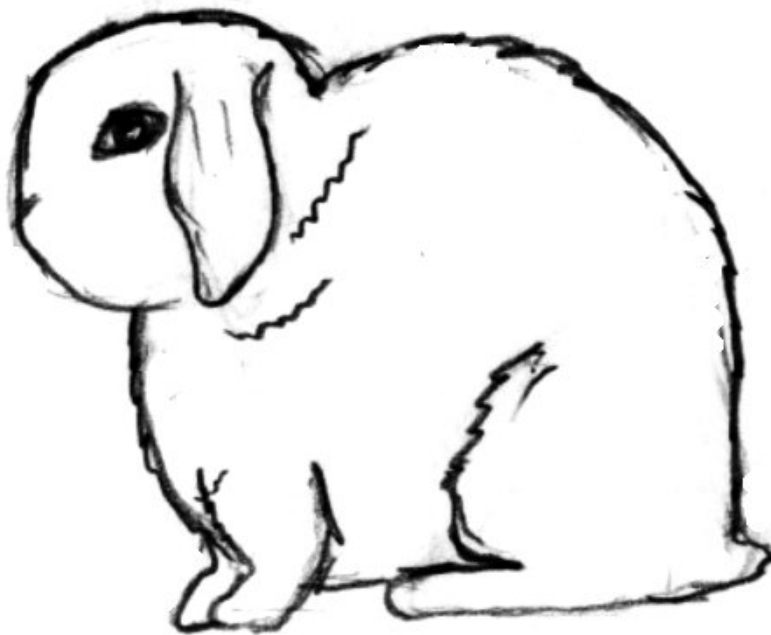
Your friend needs to have 5 toes on the front feet and 4 on the back. All toenails should be the same color or could get disqualified from showing.

The eyes need to be bright and clear.

Nose should not be snotty, also check the inside of the front legs because if they have been wiping their nose this area will be dirty.

The teeth should go top teeth over bottom teeth. If not they have malocclusion. This can cause many health problems for the bunny.





Holland Lop



Netherland Dwarf

These are a few of the dwarf breeds.

They are under 4 pounds.

**They carry the dwarf gene which makes them small.
But, if both parents pass this gene on to an offspring
it will be an extra small baby called a peanut.**

These “peanut babies” usually don’t live.

**Some other dwarf breeds are: American Fuzzy Lop,
Jersey Woolly, Dwarf Hotot, and Mini Rex**

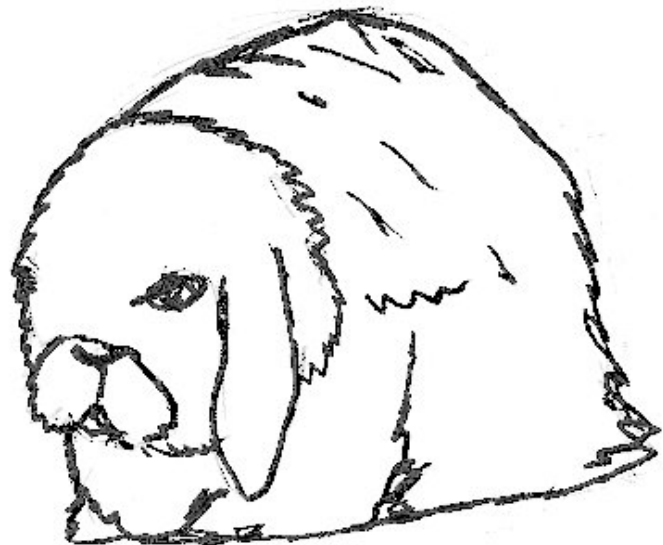


English Angora

**These are wool breeds
of rabbit.**

**They will require
more brushing than
usual because they
have wool.**

**You can spin and
make things out of
their wool.**



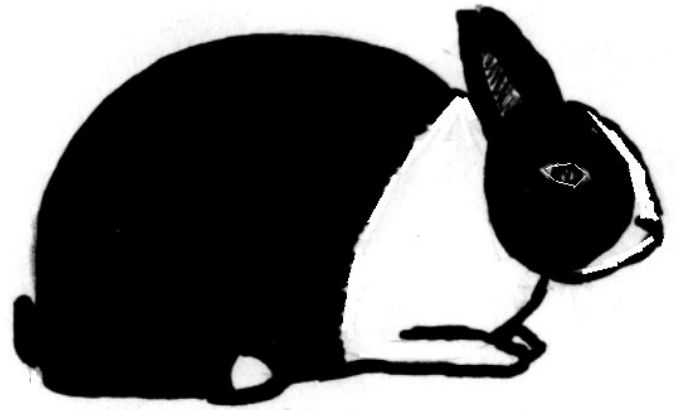
American Fuzzy Lop

I made a hat once!

**Some other breeds of wool rabbits are Jersey Wooly,
French Angora, Satin Angora and Giant Angora.**



Checkered Giant

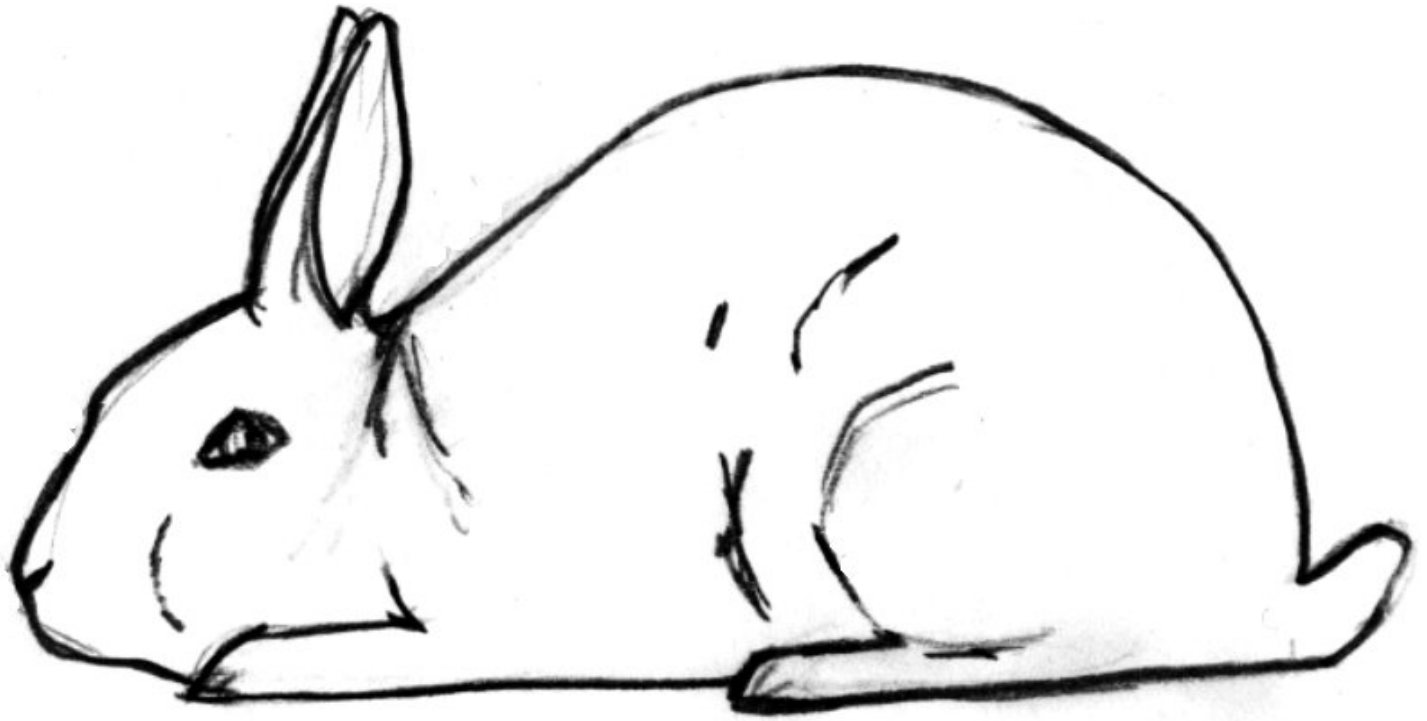


Dutch

These rabbits are judged very heavily on their markings. Some can be disqualified from show for incorrect markings.

You see the Dutch often in pet shops but if you are going to buy a rabbit you need to go to a trusted breeder.

Some other breeds that are judged more than 40% on their markings/color are English Spots, Harlequin, and Himalayan.



Commercial Breed of Rabbit

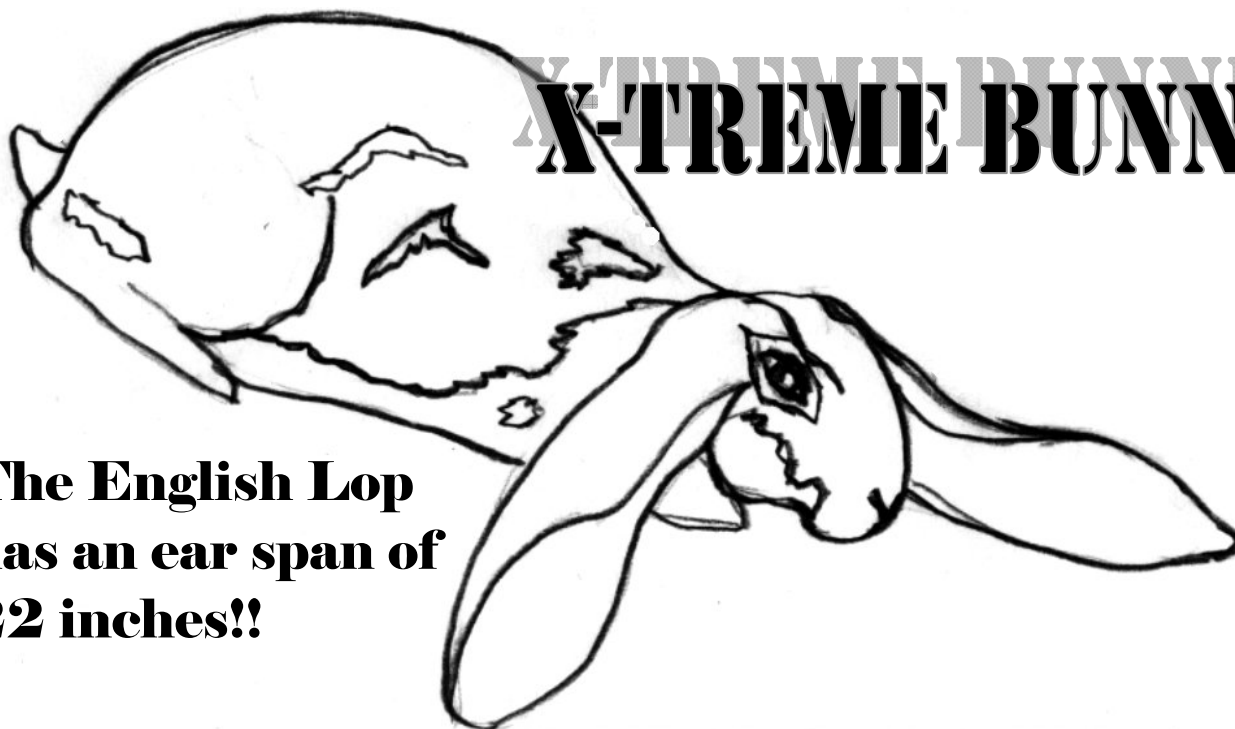
Commercial rabbits are used for meat.

They weigh about 6-15 lbs.

They will eat quite a bit more food than a smaller rabbit.

**Some commercial rabbits are
Champagne D' Argents, New Zealands,
Palominos, Crème D' Argent and Californians.**

X-TREME BUNNIES

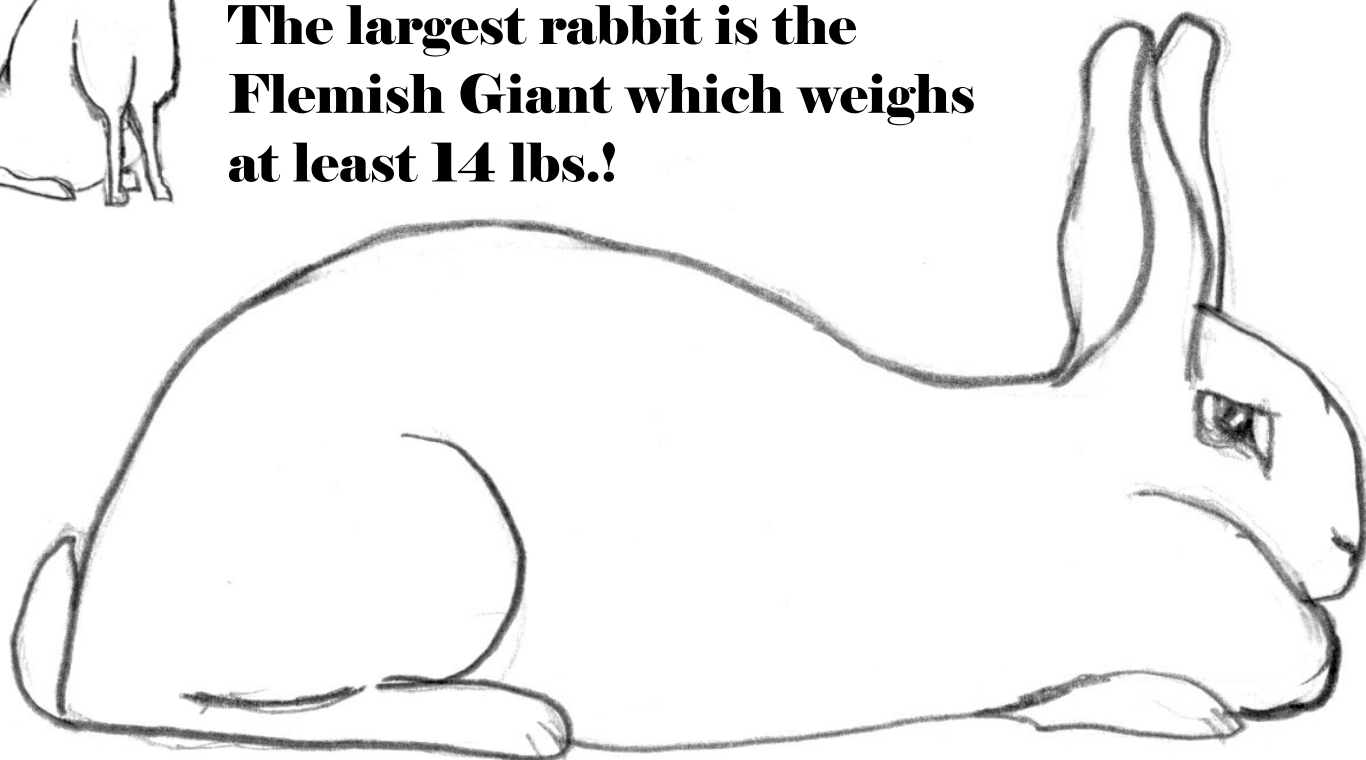


**The English Lop
has an ear span of
22 inches!!**

**The Britannia Petite is one of
the smallest rabbits, weighing
only 2 1/2 lbs. max.!**



**The largest rabbit is the
Flemish Giant which weighs
at least 14 lbs.!**



Bunnies need to eat rabbit pellets for food.

**The rabbit food is made to be a
“health food” for the rabbits.**

**Don’t feed them food with treats in it.
It could make them sick.**

They also need hay.

**We give hay at least once a week,
but they can enjoy it every day if you wish.**

Hay helps furry rabbits digest hair and food .

Bermuda or Timothy are both good types of hay.

They need fresh clean water everyday.



Angora

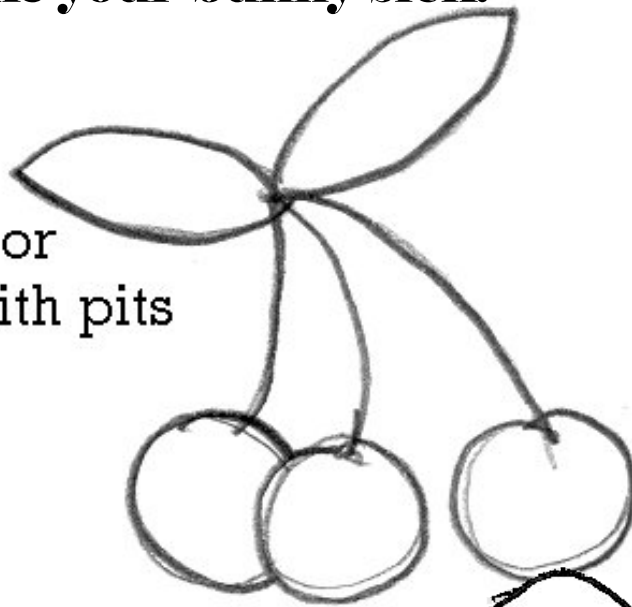
lettuce and
cabbage



**Other Foods Not
Good for Your
Bunny:
Ice Cream, Bread,
Milk Products,
Table Scraps,
Moldy Food**

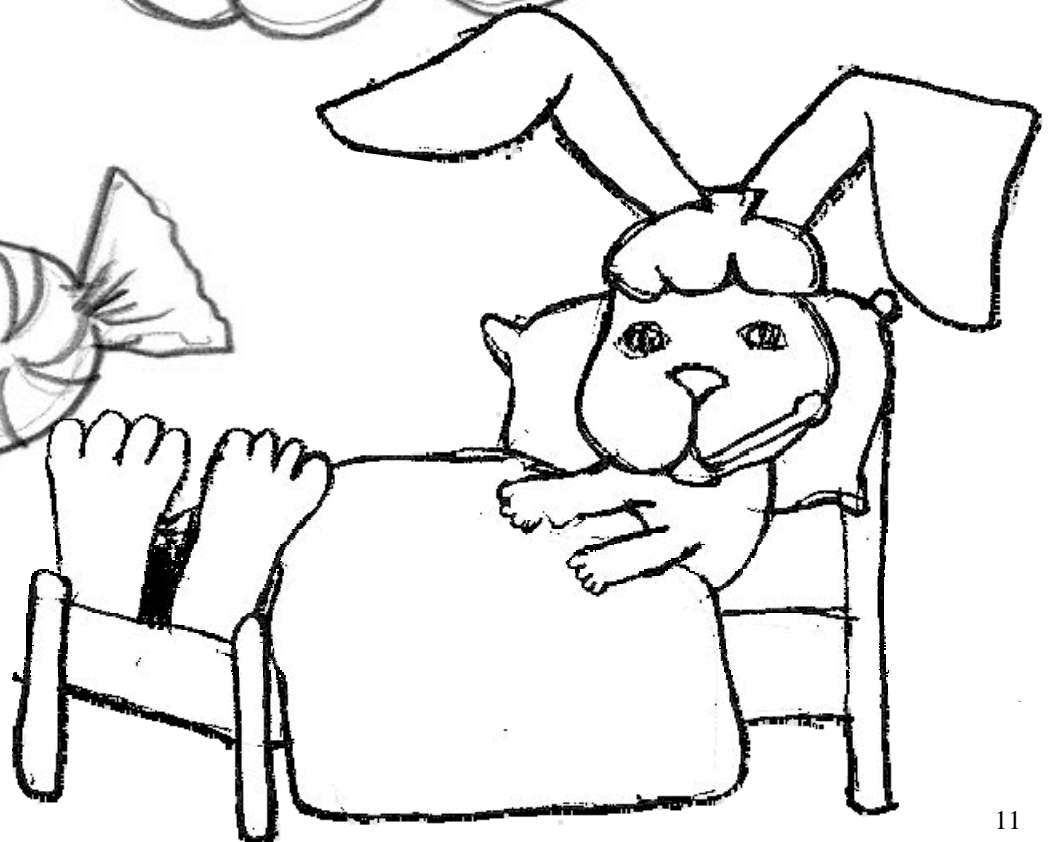
**These are bad bunny foods.
They can make your bunny sick.**

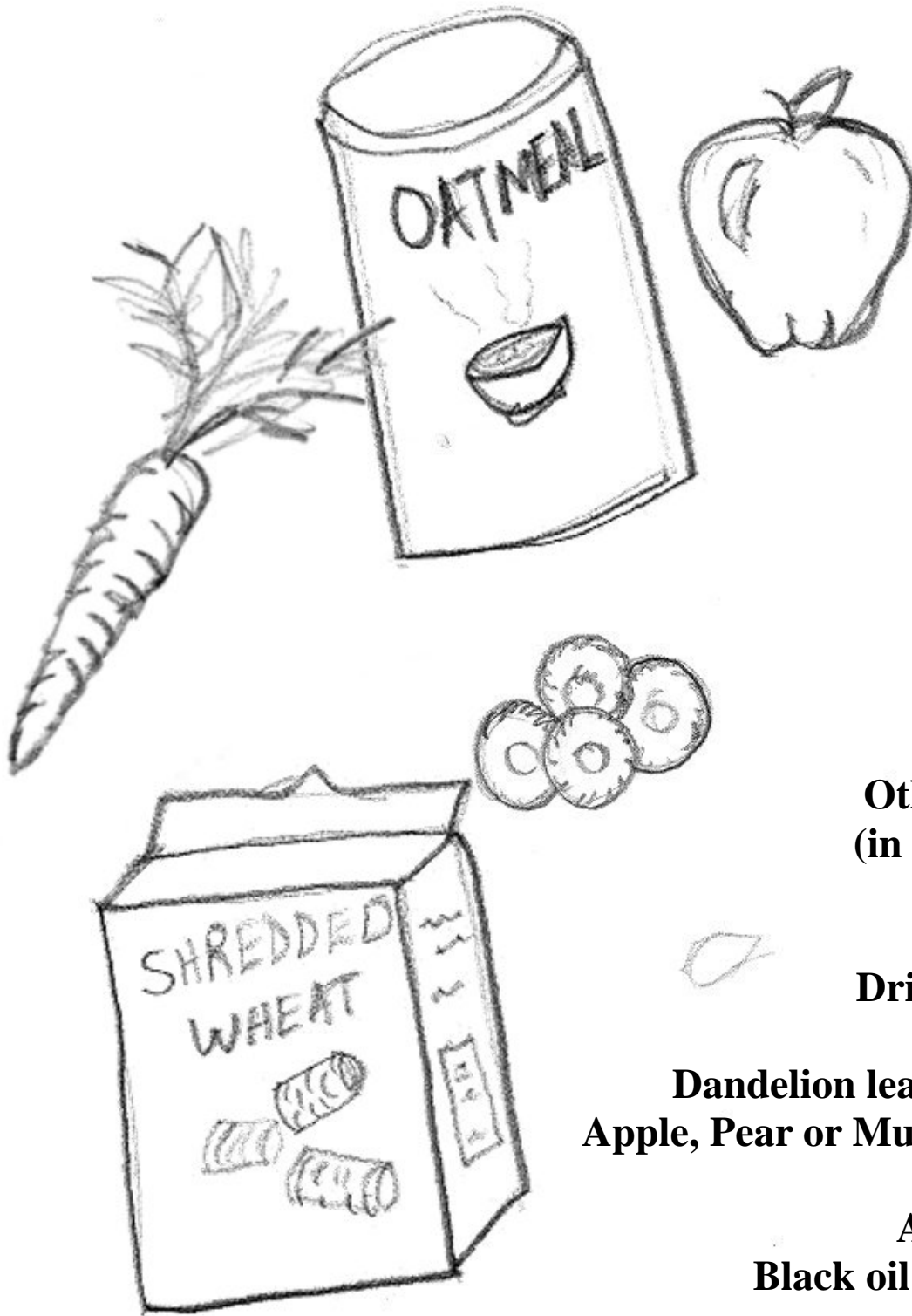
Cherries or
other fruits with pits



**Remember,
rabbits can't
throw up so
they can't get
bad things
out of their
system.**

Candy





**Other Good Treats
(in small amounts):**

**Raw Spinach
Dried Sweet Potato
Cilantro**

**Dandelion leaves (unsprayed)
Apple, Pear or Mulberry branches**

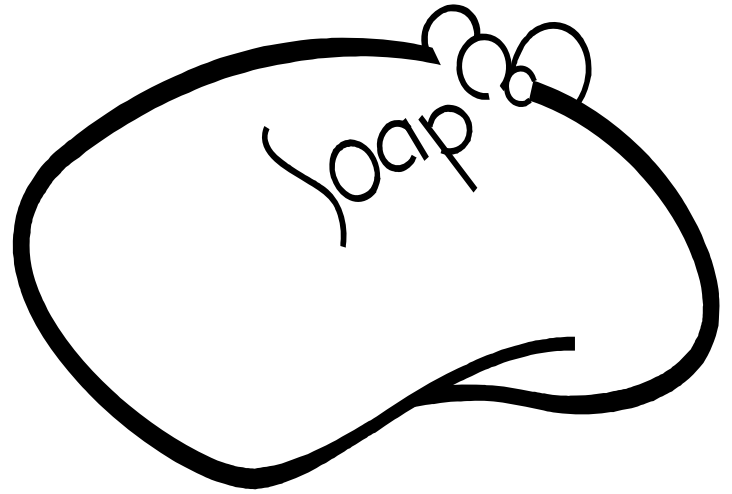
**Cheerios,
A slice of banana
Black oil sunflower seeds**

**These are some good bunny treats, but remember,
don't give them to many! Examples: 2-3 small
shredded wheat biscuits, 2 inch piece of carrot,
one slice of apple, 1 teaspoon of dried oatmeal
(Don't give all of these at once! 1 treat a day is plenty.)**



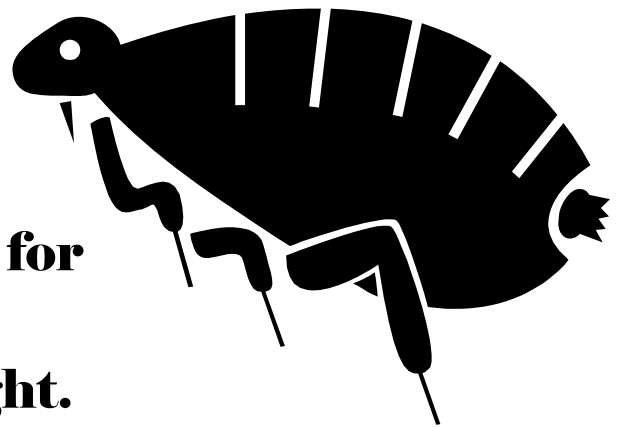
Since rabbit's teeth never stop growing, they like to chew.
You should put a stick of wood in there for it to chew on.
Warning: Don't give any sticks from trees that have fruit with pits
because they contain a poison called cyanide.

Rabbits do not need baths. They clean themselves by licking themselves, just like a cat. Giving them a bath can send them into shock, so brushing is enough.



Rabbits do not need to get shots like cats or dogs. A lot of medicines are not safe for rabbits. You should ask an experienced vet or rabbit breeder about which ones are safe.

Only treat your rabbit for fleas if it gets them. We use Advantage Flea Control made for cats and dogs. The dosage is adjusted to weight. Do not use Advantix.



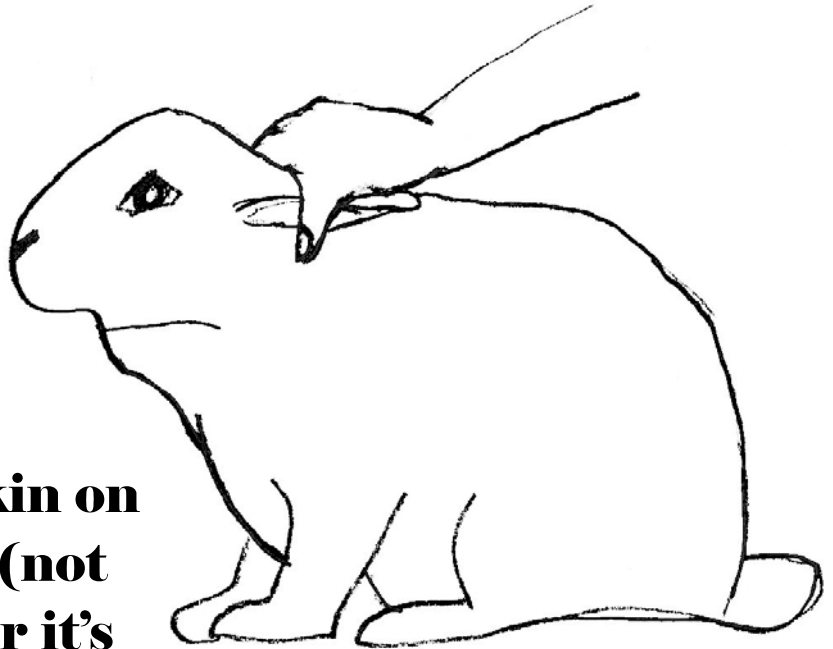
Your rabbit might get ear mites. You can't see ear mites, so look for a red wax. We treat that with Ivomec given orally.

HOLDING YOUR BUNNY

The rabbit should feel like it has support.

NEVER pick a rabbit up by its ears.

To pick it up, grasp skin on the back of its neck (not its hair!) holding over its ears to contain them and scoop from underneath.



YES!

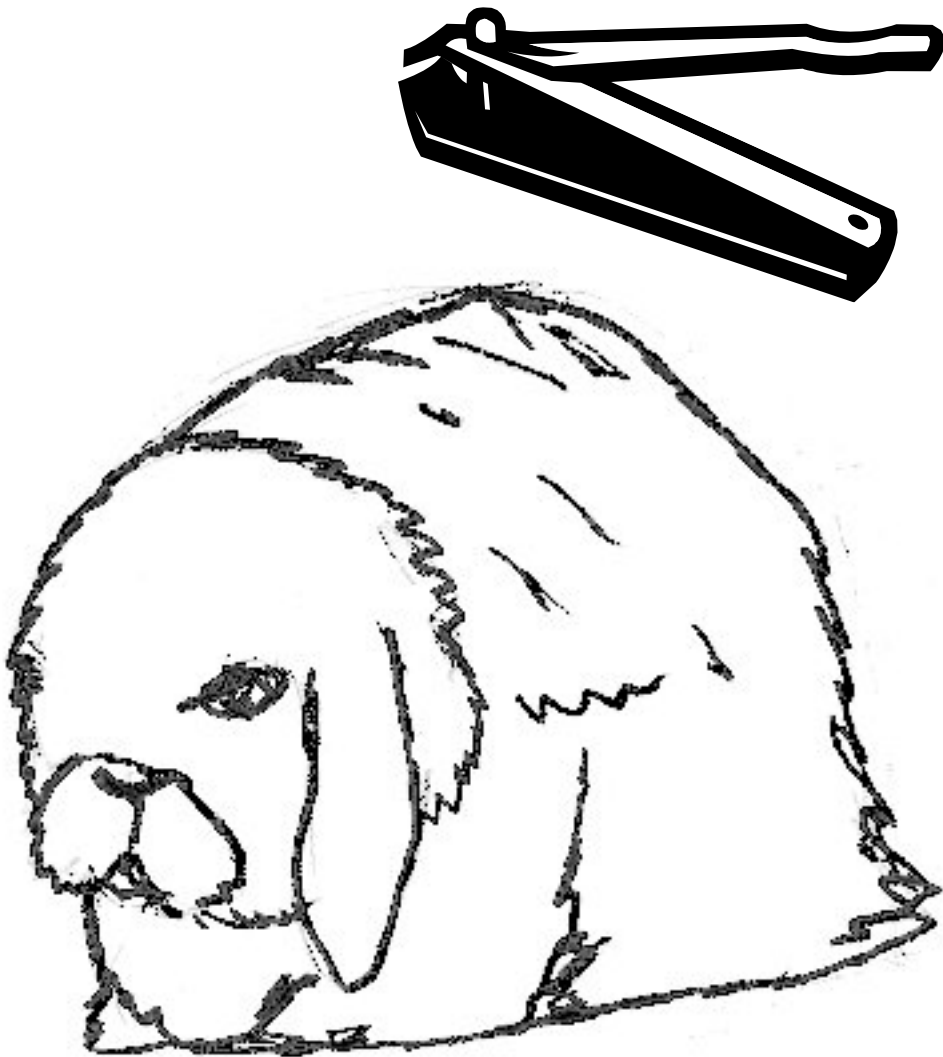


NO!

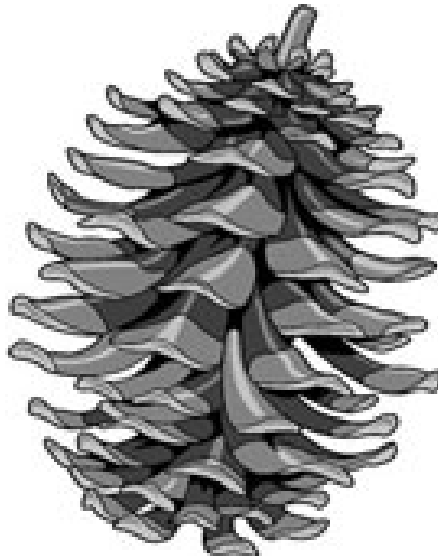
You will need to trim your rabbits toenails about every 6 weeks. This helps to prevent them from getting them caught and breaking a toe or a leg.

You can use a regular pair of fingernail clippers or a pair intended for pets.

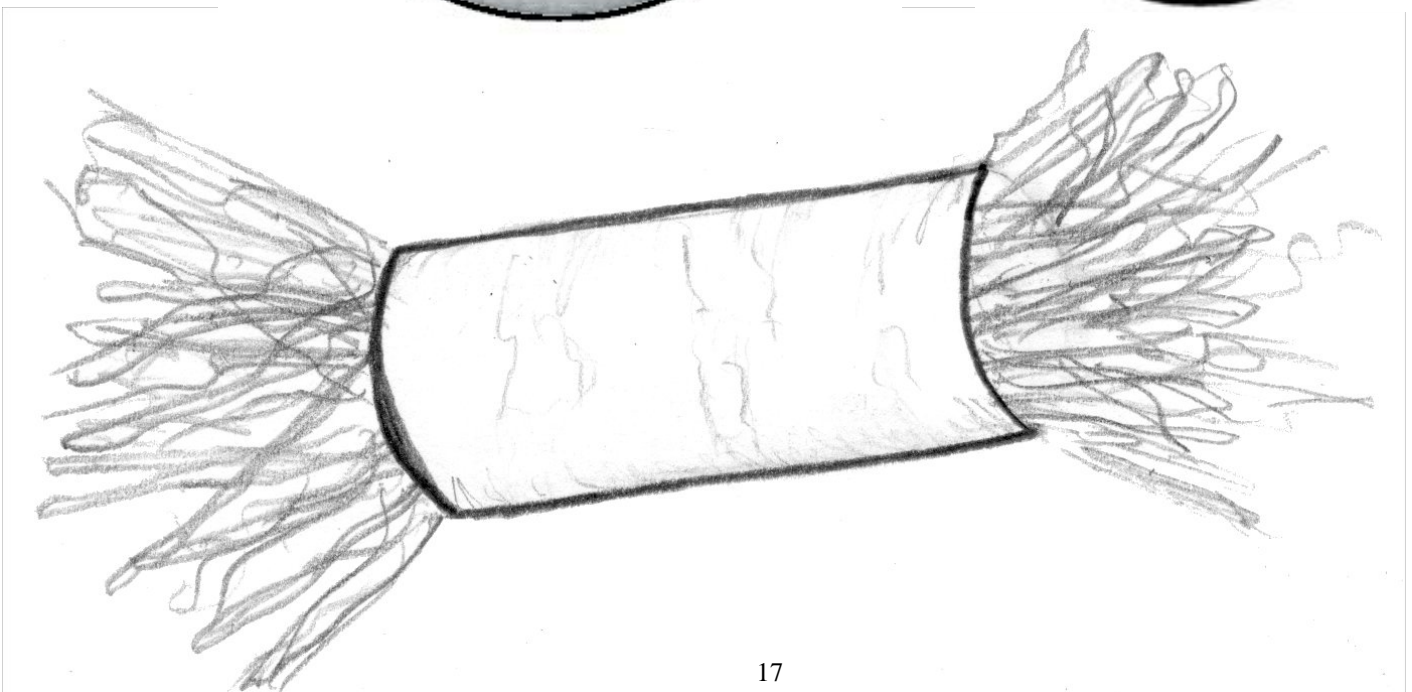
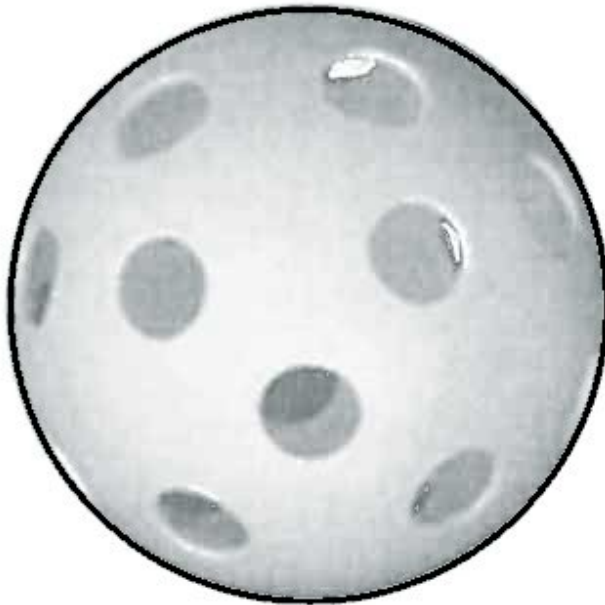
Like cats and dogs you must be careful not to cut the quick (the part of the toenail with blood veins).



These are all good toys for rabbits. Unscented pinecones, whiffle balls, sturdy cat balls, and my rabbits favorite, empty toilet paper tubes stuffed with hay.



Don't give your rabbit soft squeaky toys or things they could get their heads stuck in.



That should be a good start for you and your bunny!

If you have any questions or comments please

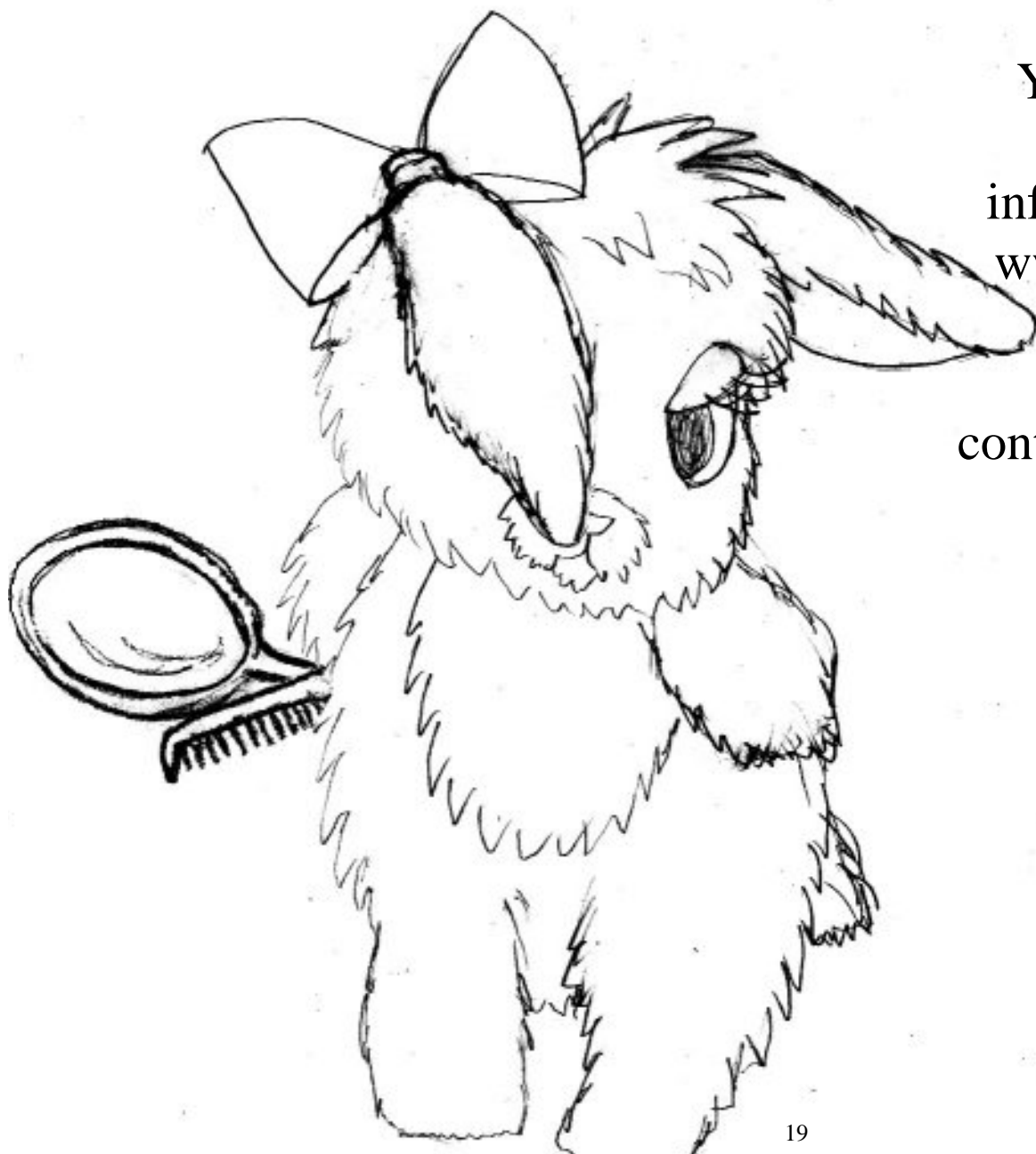
contact Good Hare Daze Rabbitry at

(580)-825-3374

(580)-623-1974

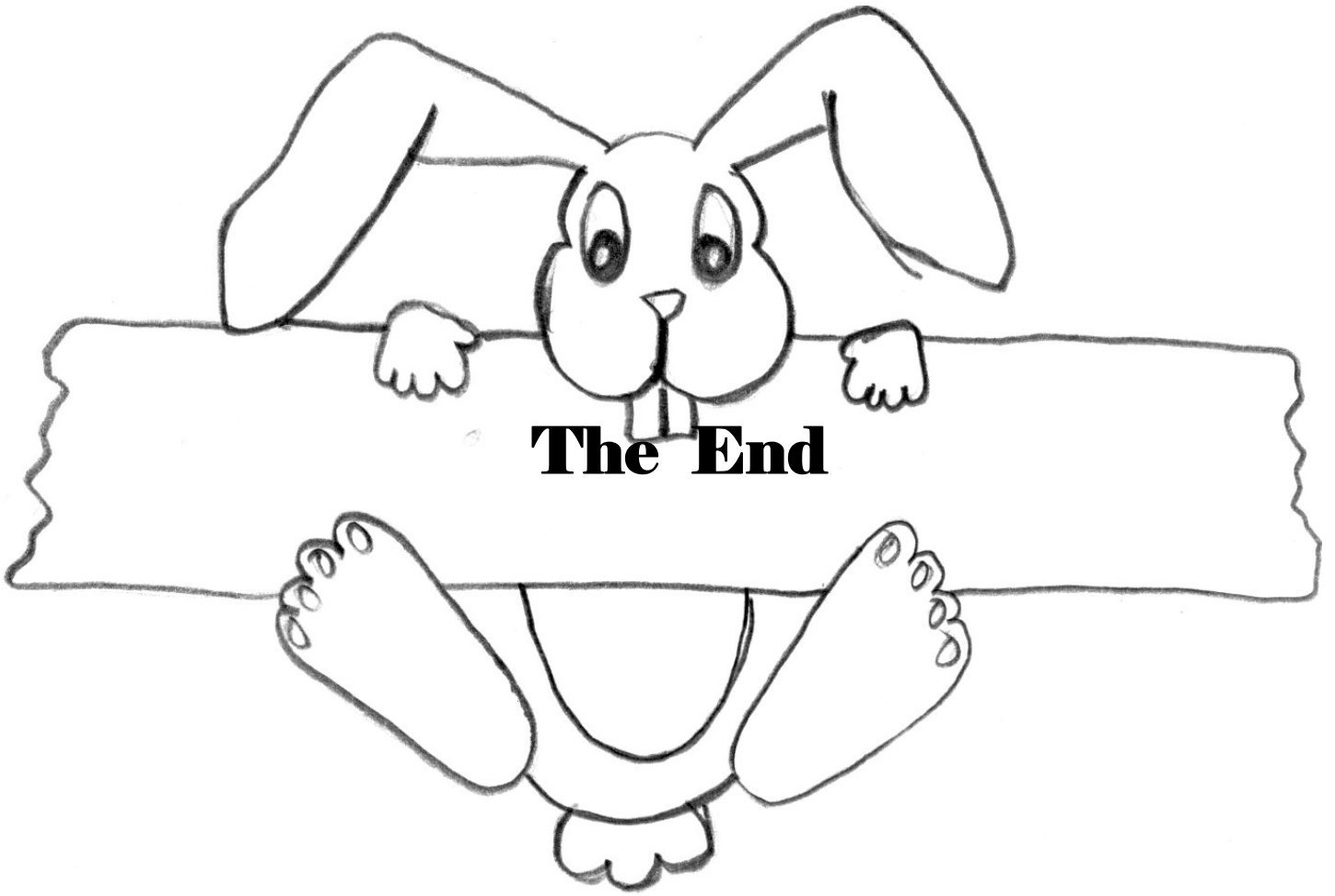
anniebethdavis@sbcglobal.net

goodharedaze.com



You can also
get more
information at
www.arba.net

Or by
contacting your
local 4-H
agent.



The End