

Disease Detectives

When it comes to your rabbit's health, you are always on the case. As a Disease Detective you will have to use the clues your rabbit gives to decide the disease affecting it. Pay close attention by examining your rabbits weekly and you will have no problem solving the case.

Rabbit Skill:

Life Skill:

Success Indicator:

Science Standard:

Identifying rabbit diseases.
Problem solving
Uses problem solving skills to recognize rabbit diseases.
Personal health



Eyes must be clear and clean.

“Hop to it!”

Research diseases that affect your rabbit by visiting a veterinarian or experienced breeder. Work with a friend to match the signs of illness to the proper disease. Draw lines from the diseases to the correct symptom.

Diseases

1. Ear Canker (Ear mites)
2. Snuffles (pasteurellosis)
3. Mastitis
4. Sore Hocks
5. Ring Worm
6. Wry Neck
7. Weepy Eye

Symptoms

- a. Nasal discharge, sneezing, coughing, watery eyes, rubs nose with front feet.
- b. The rabbit turns its head to one side and has a loss of balance.
- c. Shake head and flop ears. Scaly crust starting at base of inner ear.
- d. Loss of hair is usually in circumscribed patches, often starts on head but may involve other parts of the body.
- e. Bruised areas under surface of hocks. Often becomes infected or abscessed.
- f. Excessive discharge from the eye and matted fur under the eye. Rubs its eyes with its front feet.
- g. Mammary glands become hot, reddened and swollen—later may appear blue in color.



Rabbit Rap

Share What You Did

- What signs of illness have you witnessed in your rabbits?
- What did you learn about rabbit diseases?

Process What's Important

- How do you look for signs of problems in your rabbits?
- Why is it important to examine rabbits weekly?

Generalize to Your Life

- What problem solving techniques do you use at home? School?

Apply What You Learned

- How will you change the way you examine your rabbits?
- How do you monitor your health?



Explore more at

www.4-hcurriculum.org

National 4-H Curriculum



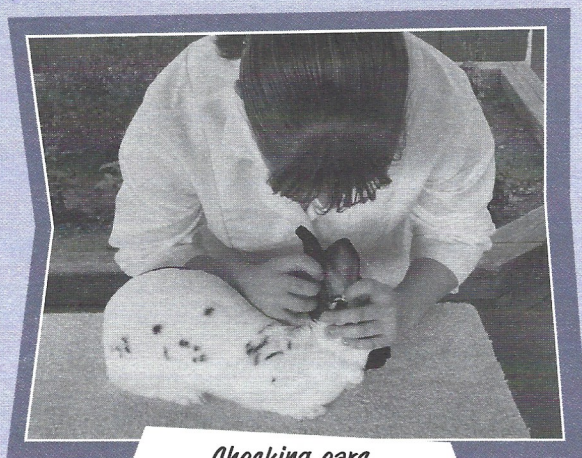
Did you know

Wry neck is caused by ear infections not skeletal disorder.



Disease Prevention Tips

- Buy stock that appears healthy from breeders with good reputations and healthy herds.
- Provide plenty of clean, fresh water.
- Feed a healthy diet of clean, fresh feed.
- Use approved or recommended sanitary practices. Dispose of debris of all kinds.
- Check your rabbits daily and examine in detail once a month.
- Quarantine or isolate new animals for at least two weeks before placing them with your herd.
- Wash thoroughly after completing your rabbit chores.
- In large rabbitries where diseases can more easily be spread, keep visitors out of the rabbit buildings.
- Clean hands prevent disease for you and your rabbit.



Checking ears for mites!

Bounding Ahead

1. Tour your local veterinary clinic.
2. Develop a weekly disease examination checklist for your rabbits.
3. Study and give a presentation about a common rabbit disease.