



Domestic Rabbits

Oryctolagus cuniculus

Description: When found in the wild, normal coloration is grayish with black and brown and sometimes red sprinkled throughout but their color can vary as much as a domestic cat. They can weigh anywhere from 2.2 lbs to 15.4 lbs. There are about 80 varieties of domestic rabbits that stem from this one species. They vary tremendously in size, fur type, coloration and general appearance.

Habitat: Rabbits can be found in all types of climates but all live in burrows under the ground.

Range: Rabbits originated in Europe, isolated to the Iberian Peninsula and small areas of France and northwest Africa. However, due to human influence and the creatures' incredible adaptability, the species exists in the wild on every continent except Asia and Antarctica and the domesticated species exists worldwide.

Natural Diet: Rabbits will forage for fruits, vegetables, nuts and berries.

Zoo Diet: At the zoo our rabbits receive pellets and fresh fruits and vegetables.

Life Span: Average lifespan of 6-8 years.

Behavior: Rabbits mainly forage most of the day and sleep at night, they live in large groups under ground in burrows. Many people find them to be good pets because of their lifespan and relatively low maintenance.

Reproduction: Rabbits have a very fast reproduction rate. Females will often have up to 6 litters a year and can have up to 12 in a litter.

Conservation Status: Domestic rabbits are listed as least concern. However, the IUCN list 13 species of rabbit and hare as endangered, threatened, or vulnerable.

