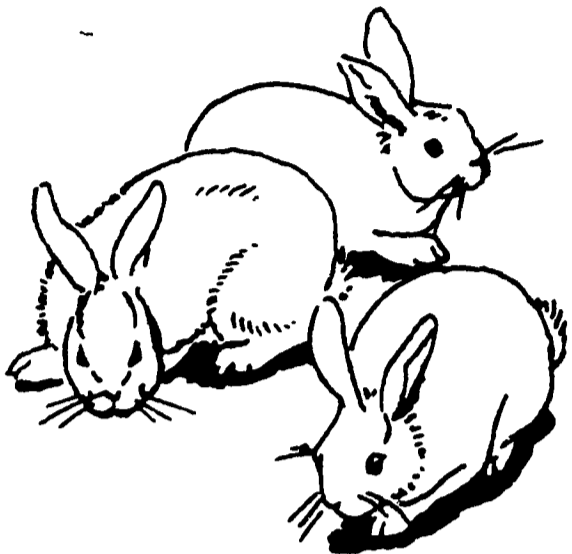


Kid's KOrner

A rabbit makes a nice pet



UNIVERSITY PARK — Rabbits are becoming popular pets. With proper feeding, handling, and health care, these quiet creatures can be quite enjoyable pets, says Herbert C. Jordan, Extension specialist at Penn State.

A well-balanced diet is the most important factor contributing to your rabbit's overall health. Commercially prepared rabbit feeds are probably the best diet for your rabbit because these feeds are prepared specifically for rabbits and provide the proper nutrient quality and balance.

Rabbits love green foods. Lettuce or other garden vegetables

make good treats if fed in small quantities. Your pet also should have access to fresh, clean water at all times. This is especially important when the rabbit is on a dry food diet.

Be careful to always support your rabbit's hindquarters when lifting it from a cage and while holding it. The animals' quick, jerky motions can result in a fractured back if the rabbit is not properly supported. It's best to grasp the loose skin over the top of the neck with one hand and support the hindquarters with the other hand.

Jordan says rabbits are susceptible to a variety of diseases. Three of their more common health problems include ear mites, coccidiosis, and snuffles.

Ear mites live in and around the ear canal and cause irritation to the skin lining the ear. Affected animals will shake their heads and

scratch at their ears. There is usually a heavy build-up of dry, crusty material in the ear canal.

If you suspect your pet has mites, your veterinarian can microscopically examine the ear debris and determine if mites are present. If they are, your veterinarian will prescribe medication and advise you on how to treat and control the problem.

"Snuffles" is an upper respiratory disease in rabbits caused by bacteria. Signs of snuffles include sneezing, difficult breathing and a nasal discharge with mucus.

Snuffles generally occurs when the rabbit's resistance is low. Stress seems to be a primary factor in the development of the disease. Your veterinarian may prescribe antibiotics to combat the disease. This disease can be passed from mother to young so breeding doe should not be allowed to have young if they have snuffles.



This little tyke, distinguished only by the "Boss" on his jacket, enjoys coloring like most of you do. He is the son of Joel and Dane Graham from Evans City. Mr. Graham is the

president of the Butler County Holstein Club. If you enjoy coloring like Boss does, try the picture of the sunflowers below.



"Grab your crayons and color the sunflowers with me. Then color me. I want to look pretty too!"

COLOR THIS!

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. BLACK | 6. ORANGE |
| 2. RED | 7. GREEN |
| 3. YELLOW | 8. LT. BROWN |
| 4. BLUE | 9. LT. BLUE |
| 5. BROWN | 10. LT. GREEN |

COMMON SUNFLOWER:
THIS FLOWER IS ONE OF SEVERAL PLANTS WITH THE UNIQUE ABILITY TO DIRECT ITS FULL FACE TO THE SUN, FOLLOWING IT ACROSS THE SKY EACH DAY. IN 1532, WHEN THE SPANISH EXPLORERS REACHED PERU THEY FOUND THE INCA INDIANS WORSHIPPING THE SUNFLOWER AS A LIVING SYMBOL OF THEIR GOD.



11-5-81