

Kid's KOrner

Rabbits are becoming popular pets

LANCASTER — Rabbits are becoming popular pets. With proper feeding, handling, and health care, these quiet creatures can be quite enjoyable pets, says Nancy M. Kadwill, county agent, Montgomery County Extension.

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.

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 rabbits' 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.

Kadwill, 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.

Coccidiosis is a disease in rabbits that is caused by several species of microscopic parasites that invade the intestinal lining, or the liver. The disease is usually more severe in young rabbits, Kadwill says. Symptoms include

diarrhea, poor appetite, weight loss, and an enlarged abdomen. Death can result.

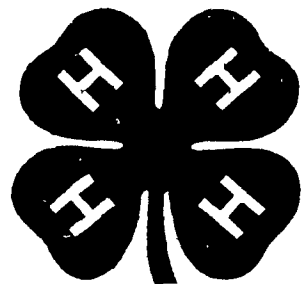
Coccidia are transmitted by ingestion of eggs passed in fecal material. Your veterinarian can diagnose the problem by examining a fecal sample with a microscope. He will then prescribe medication and control measures.

"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.

Most county 4-H programs have a rabbit project. If you are interested in joining, check with your county Extension office.



CHRIS CLEVER

FINDIT!

Along with balls for sports, there are other kinds as well. Find 15 balls. Words run across, down or diagonally in any direction. Word list below.

P	S	I	N	N	E	T	L
O	I	B	E	A	C	H	A
P	M	N	A	M	U	G	T
C	E	R	G	S	E	I	S
O	A	W	T	P	E	E	Y
R	T	O	L	O	O	P	R
N	V	N	D	D	O	N	C
B	A	S	K	E	T	F	G

Word list: Base, beach, basket, crystal, cue, eight, foot, gum, meat, odd, pingpong, pool, popcorn, snow, tennis.



COLOR THIS!

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

IDAHO. THERE ARE ONLY 13 STATES LARGER THAN IDAHO. "Eedah how" IS THE INDIAN WORD MEANING "THE SUN IS COMING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN." THE EARLY SETTLERS NAMED THEIR NEW HOME IDAHO. HELL'S CANYON, THROUGH WHICH THE SNAKE RIVER FLOWS, IS DEEPER THAN THE GRAND CANYON OF THE COLORADO. IN 1890 IDAHO BECAME THE 43RD. STATE TO JOIN THE UNION.

STATE BIRD MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD



☆ BOISE

STATE FLOWER SYRINGA