

# Rabbit Management

## Tattoo Parlor

Why is it important for a rabbit to have a tattoo? It helps you tell which rabbit is which, and is needed for keeping records and showing a rabbit. You tattoo the *left ear* because the American Rabbit Breeders Association registration number goes in the *right ear*. The best time to tattoo a rabbit is when it is about eight weeks old and ready to be weaned.



**Rabbit Skill:** Tattoo a cardboard ear.  
**Life Skill:** Planning and organizing  
**Success Indicator:** Makes a readable tattoo.  
**Science Standard:** Systems, order and organization

**Photo**  
of kids tattooing  
w/rabbit in a body wrap

### “Hop to it!”

With an adult, gather the things listed below and practice tattooing on a cloth rabbit or piece of cardboard. Plan a system of identification that will help keep track of your rabbits. Check off the things you have. Circle the things to get. Tape a picture of you tattooing a rabbit's ear in the space.

You will need:

- tattoo pliers
- Vaseline
- paper towels
- cotton swab
- Rabbit wrap or towel
- tattoo numbers and letters
- tattoo ink
- cardboard or cloth ears
- alcohol

**The Tattoo Expert**

# Rabbit Rap

## Share What You Did

What were some of the most difficult things about tattooing a rabbit?

## Process What's Important

What system of identification did you decide to use for your rabbit?

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## Generalize to Your Life

Why are planning and organizing important in tattooing a live rabbit?

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## Apply What You Learned

Why are planning and organizing important in doing your homework? Planning a meal? Playing a sport? Taking a trip?

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**Pilot 9/15**



**Did you know**

A rabbit's ears help cool the rabbit and regulate its temperature.

# Rabbit Facts Tattooing Steps

1. Put numbers and/or letters in the tattoo pliers. (A tattoo needle may also be used.)
2. Tattoo a piece of cardboard or paper first to make sure it says what you want it to.
3. Put the rabbit in a rabbit wrap or have someone hold the rabbit in a towel with ears exposed.
4. Clean the rabbit's ear with a cotton swab soaked in alcohol.
5. Carefully tattoo the left ear with the tattoo pliers. Be as gentle as possible.
6. Rub tattoo ink into the puncture holes.
7. Rub a small amount of Vaseline into the tattoo area, then wipe the area clean.



A good tattoo in a rabbit ear.

# Bounding Ahead

1. Make a rabbit wrap.
2. Help read tattoos at a rabbit show.
3. Give a presentation on how to tattoo a rabbit.

# Homeward Bound

It is very important that you consider the environment that surrounds your rabbit housing. Take precautions to ensure the best practice to use as your rabbitry grows.



**Rabbit Skill:** Describe the environmental needs of rabbits.  
**Life Skill:** Planning and organizing  
**Success Indicator:** Evaluates existing conditions around a hutch.  
**Science Standard:** Natural hazards

## “Hop to it!”

Draw a picture of your current rabbit caging and include the following:

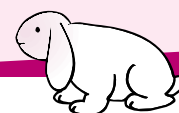
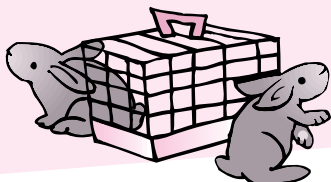
- Location in barn, yard, garage, etc.
- Direction air flows past cage and where it enters your barn, garage, etc. if applicable.
- Location of sun at different times of day, (sunrise, sunset, etc.).



**Photo:**

hutch in good location

## My Rabbit Housing



# Rabbit Rap

## Share What You Did

Describe your rabbit's housing.

## Process What's Important

Why is ventilation important to your rabbit?

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## Generalize to Your Life

How can learning about your environment be helpful to you and your family?

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## Apply What You Learned

What changes will you make in your rabbit's environment as a result of this activity? How do you influence your environment? Inside? Outside?

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**Pilot 9/15**



**Did you know**

A rabbit eats best and gains weight easiest when the temperature is maintained at 60–65 degrees F.

## Rabbit Facts

## Ventilation

One of the most important features in raising healthy rabbits is proper ventilation. This is necessary to provide fresh air, reduce humidity, dilute or kill airborne disease causing organisms and to help control temperature. If the animals are located in an area with a breeze most of the time, you may be able to rely on natural ventilation.

Proper ventilation is important in all types of weather and in all types of housing. Signs of poor ventilation are condensation and a smell of ammonia. The more rabbits there are in an enclosed area, the greater the manure build-up and the greater the need for increased air exchange to keep the ammonia level within safe, tolerable limits.

In enclosed buildings where temperature and humidity are controlled, the desirable combination is 60–78 degrees Fahrenheit and 30–40% humidity.

## Air Circulation

If you have an enclosed building, there should be adjustable side flaps that can be lowered or raised to accommodate the air circulation. In addition, there should be a vent slot in the ridge of the roof to allow the rising warm air to escape from the building. There needs to be 8–10 complete air changes per hour in an enclosed building, whether by natural or forced ventilation.

## Hot Weather

Rabbits can withstand cold weather better than hot weather. They may die if exposed to extreme heat. The temperature in the hutch should not be higher than 85 degrees Fahrenheit. In hot weather, provide the rabbits with shade and any possible breezes. On extremely hot days, place plastic bottles of frozen water in the cage. The rabbits curl up around the bottle to keep themselves cool. An electric fan can help to circulate the air. Situate the fan so that it doesn't blow directly on your rabbits.

## Wet Weather

In cold weather, protect rabbits from wind, rain, sleet, and snow. Rabbits can tolerate low temperatures and excessive cold, but wet and drafty conditions weaken their resistance to disease. Place the hutches where rain will not enter the cages and get the rabbits wet.



## Bounding Ahead

1. Determine the normal low and high temperatures in your area during each season. Determine level of humidity during the seasons. Log your findings.



# Rabbit Rap

## Share What You Did

What did you include in your records? Where do you store your records?

## Process What's Important

Why are financial records important? How do records help you with your project?

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## Generalize to Your Life

What personal records do you keep?

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## Apply What You Learned

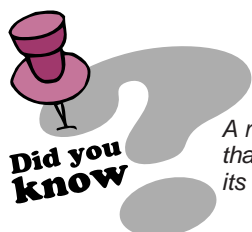
How will you use the information from your rabbit records to improve your business? Design and keep a record of your personal income and expenses.

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**Did you know**

*A rabbit is the only animal that will produce 10 times its own weight in one year.*

# Rabbit Facts

## Examples of Income and Expenses

- Original rabbits purchased
- Building costs
- Equipment purchased
- Feed
- Supplies
- Veterinarian services and supplies
- Show supplies
- Transportation
- Advertising
- Registration fees
- Rabbits sold
- Equipment sold
- Show premiums received
- By-products sold
- Other income
- Other expenses

## Bounding Ahead

1. Explore different record keeping systems.
2. Explore one computer program for financial records.
3. Give a demonstration or illustrated talk about your record system.