



MAMMALS <http://www.peoriazoo.org/mammals.html>

Domestic Rabbit

Oryctolagus cuniculus

Peoria Zoo Exhibit **Education Programs**

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/education.html>

Habitat: Originally found in grasslands or deciduous forests, now domesticated they are found worldwide.

Range: Originally from Europe, now found worldwide.

Activity Cycle: Nocturnal-more active at night.

Size: Size varies from one individual to another. Range from 2-36 pounds and up to 3 feet long.

Social Structure: Males do not help raise the young and should not be left with the young. Females do not sit with the babies, just like in the wild they will watch the nest from a safe distance and only nurse 1-2 times a day when they feel it is safe. Wild rabbit burrows have been found to house over 100 individuals together.

Distinguishing Features: Eyes located on the side of their head allow them to see a wider area, but doesn't allow depth perception. They use their sense of smell and hearing to spot predators. Large ears aid in hearing and also keeping the rabbit cool. Large back legs allow them to hop.

Diet: Grasses, clover, bark and grains.

Life Span: Live up to 15 years in captivity.

Did you know?

Breeds of domestic rabbits have been produced since the 18th century.