



DOMESTIC RABBIT

(Oryctolagus cuniculus domesticus)

ANIMAL FACTS

WILD LOCALITY:

(European Rabbit) Throughout Europe & NW Africa (invasive on other continents)

HABITAT:

Grasslands, Forests, & Wooded Areas

LIFESTYLE:

Terrestrial & Subterrestrial (ground-dwelling or underground)

DIET:

Grasses & Other Vegetation (herbivore)

LIFE EXPECTANCY:

Domestic Rabbit ~ 6-12 years,
European Rabbit ~ 2-4 years

ADULT SIZE:

Widely varies by breed (for example, Flemish Giant ~ 8-10kg)

ACTIVITY:

Crepuscular (mostly active at dawn & dusk)

CONSERVATION STATUS:

(European Rabbit) Endangered in its native territory, Invasive in other areas

THREATS:

Habitat Loss, Invasive Species, Disease, Pollution, Climate Change, Fires & Other Natural Disasters

FUN FACTS:

There are many known breeds of Domestic Rabbit, and they are all derived from their wild cousin, the European Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*.) Rabbit breeds vary from the smallest Netherland Dwarf, to the largest Continental Giant. Rabbits are a fairly new domesticated species, but are now a very common household pet. They can be a great addition to the right family, but are not a good choice for everyone. Rabbits do well indoors, with lots of room to roam. They require the proper diet of hay, vegetables and pellets to remain happy and healthy. Unfortunately, many rabbits are purchased as gifts for small children, then abandoned either when the novelty wears off, or when families discover that they are not as low maintenance as they originally thought. Those who are interested in bringing a new Domestic Rabbit into their lives should do all the proper research before doing so, and look to adopt one of the many available homeless animals first before purchasing a new pet.