



*Dr. Bhasa Science*

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**The Science Foundation College**  
**Uganda East Africa**  
Senior one to senior six

+256 778 633682 0753 143413

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### **P4 term 3**

**THEME: Science in Human Activities and Occupations**

**Topic 4/4: Keeping rabbits**



Types of rabbits

Local and exotic

Importance/purpose of keeping rabbits

- Meat
- Money
- Manure
- Skin for making bags

## Exercise 1

Give two importance of keeping rabbits

Common terms of keeping rabbit

- (i) Doe – female rabbit
- (ii) Buck – male rabbit
- (iii) Kitten/kit- young one of rabbit
- (iv) Litter – a group kitten born at the same time by the same mother
- (v) Hutch – House of domestic rabbit
- (vi) Burrow – underground tunnel dug by a rabbit
- (vii) Kindling – giving birth to young rabbits
- (viii) Weaning – stopping of breastfeeding of young rabbits
- (ix) Rabbitry – a place where many rabbits are kept or rabbit farm
- (x) Rabbit pile – meat of a rabbit
- (xi) Caniculture – practice of keeping rabbits
- (xii) Pellets – manufactured food of rabbits

Features of Rabbit hutch/house

- (i) Raised above ground to protect rabbits from snakes and dogs
- (ii) Clean and dry to minimize diseases
- (iii) Well – ventilated
- (iv) Strong enough to protect rabbits from dogs, cats and wild animals.

## Exercise 2

Give two features of rabbit house

## Caring for rabbit

### Feeding

Feed rabbits on pellets, grass, tuber such as cassava and potatoes; pellets

Provide adequate drinking water

### Hygiene

Keep the hutch clean and dry to prevent diseases

### Breeding:

Allow a good breed male and female(s) to mix and have birth. Gestation period is about 30days.

Keeping rabbit record

Records include number and stage of rabbits on the farm, cost of feed, cost of treatment, cost of labour, sales, and initial capital.

Uses of records

- To calculate profit
- To budget
- To plan for expansion

## Rabbit Diseases and Their Management

Disease/Disorder	Causes	Management
<b>Flu (Snuffles)</b>	Bacterial infection (often <i>Pasteurella multocida</i> ), poor hygiene, stress	Keep hutches clean, isolate sick rabbits, provide antibiotics from a vet, reduce stress.
<b>Ear canker</b>	Caused by ear mites ( <i>Psoroptes cuniculi</i> )	Apply prescribed ear drops/acaricides, clean ears, isolate infected rabbits.
<b>Coccidiosis</b>	Caused by protozoa ( <i>Eimeria</i> species) in intestines or liver, spread by contaminated food/water	Maintain hygiene, avoid damp hutches, use anticoccidial drugs, provide clean water.
<b>Snuffles (respiratory infection)</b>	Bacterial infection, dusty environment, poor ventilation	Improve ventilation, reduce dust, treat with vet-prescribed antibiotics, keep rabbits warm.
<b>Cold</b>	Viral or bacterial infection, exposure to cold/damp conditions	Keep rabbits warm and dry, improve housing, consult vet for treatment.
<b>Pneumonia</b>	Severe bacterial/viral infection of lungs, poor housing, stress	Provide warm, dry housing, vet treatment with antibiotics, reduce overcrowding.
<b>Fleas</b>	External parasites feeding on rabbit blood	Use flea powders or sprays safe for rabbits, clean bedding, treat environment.
<b>Mites</b>	External parasites causing mange or fur loss	Apply acaricides, disinfect hutches, isolate infected rabbits.
<b>Ticks</b>	External parasites attaching to skin and sucking blood	Remove ticks carefully, apply tick control medication, keep environment clean.

### Key Prevention Tips

- Keep hutches **clean, dry, and well-ventilated**.
- Provide **balanced nutrition** and clean water.
- Avoid **overcrowding** to reduce stress and disease spread.
- Regularly check rabbits for **parasites** (fleas, ticks, mites).
- Isolate sick rabbits to prevent transmission.
- Seek

### Exercise 3

1. Name any two local feeds of rabbits

Cassava, grass, sweet potatoes

2. What is a doe

Female rabbit

3. Name any two diseases that affect rabbits and how they can be prevented

4. Give three qualities of good hutch

(i) Raised above ground to protect rabbits from snakes and dogs

(ii) Clean and dry to minimize diseases

(iii) Well – ventilated

(iv) Strong enough to protect rabbits from dogs, cats and wild animals.

**Thank You**

**Dr. Bbosa Science**