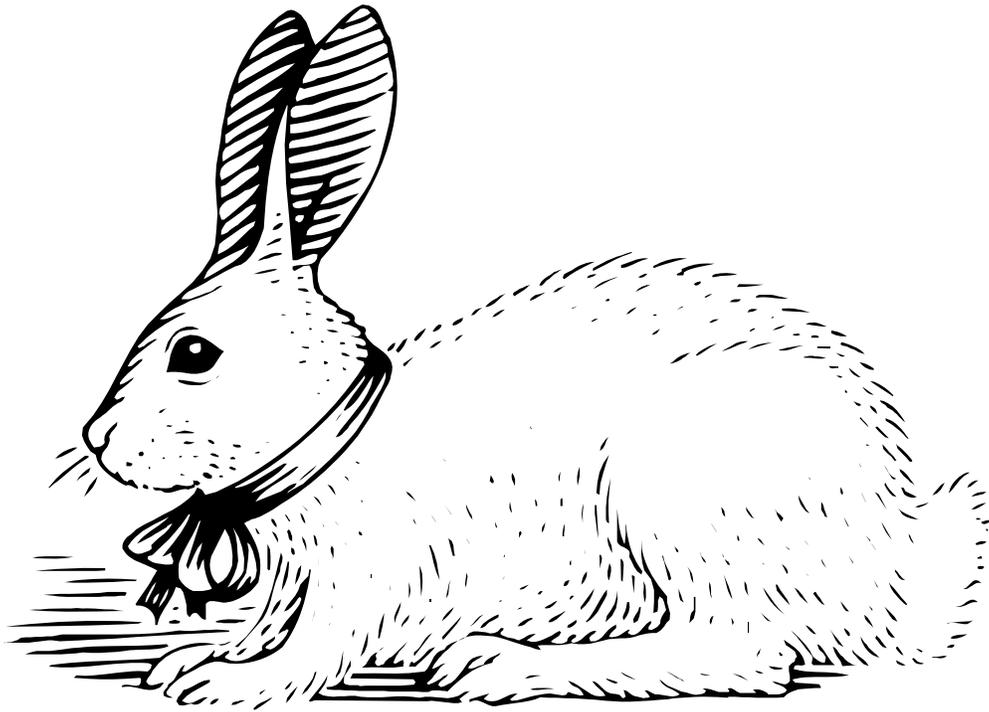


# **RABBIT DECATHLON**

## **STUDY PACKET**



# RABBIT DECATHLON - NOVICE DIVISION

## Anatomy and Physiology

1. On a doe, what do the mammary glands produce?

**(Answer: milk)**

2. The loose skin that hangs from the throat and is most common in does is called what?

**(Answer: dewlap)**

3. What does the mouth do in digestion?

**(Answer: mechanically breaks down the food; begins digestion)**

4. Where would you find a rabbit's mandible?

- a. on its head
- b. on its backbone
- c. on its tail
- d. on its belly

**(Answer: a - on its head (specifically, the mandible is the rabbit's jawbone))**

5. Throughout a rabbit's lifetime, its teeth continue to do what?

- a. break off
- b. get stronger
- c. grow
- d. get soft

**(Answer: c – grow)**

# RABBIT DECATHLON - NOVICE DIVISION

## Nutrition

1. Rabbits need twice as much water as \_\_\_\_\_?

- a. Sunlight
- b. Food
- c. Hay
- d. Attention

**(Answer: b - food)**

2. What happens if you give your rabbit all the food it wants?

**(Answer: It gets fat.)**

3. True or False. A rabbit will eat pellets even if it does not have water to drink.

**(Answer: False)**

4. What is a plant-eating animal called?

**(Answer: Herbivore)**

5. Which of the following is not necessary in a balanced rabbit pellet?

- a. fiber
- b. protein
- c. vitamins
- d. seasonings

**(Answer: d – seasonings)**

# RABBIT DECATHLON - NOVICE DIVISION

## Housing and Equipment

1. How often should water and feed dishes be cleaned?

- a. Once a year
- b. Once a month
- c. Once a week
- d. Once every few years

**(Answer: c – once a week)**

2. Why are water bottles better to use than crocks?

**(Answer: The water stays cleaner; rabbits can't dump the water. "Your Rabbit," pg. 52)**

3. Give 2 reasons why a rabbit should not be kept on the ground.

**(Answer: May ingest too much grass/greens; it can be attached by other animals; it will be harder to clean; it can pick up fleas for other parasites from the ground.)**

4. Where does a breeder place a rabbit's identification tattoo?

- a. Left ear
- b. Right ear
- c. Tail web
- d. Upper lip

**(Answer: a – left ear)**

5. What should you put in the cage with a doe when she is going to have kits?

**(Answer: Nest box. "Your Rabbit")**

# RABBIT DECATHLON - NOVICE DIVISION

## Health and Diseases

1. The normal lifespan of a domestic rabbit is\_\_\_\_\_?
- a. 1-2 years
  - b. 3-4 years
  - c. 5-10 years
  - d. 12–15 years

**(Answer: c - 5-10 years)**

2. What is one of the first signs that a rabbit is sick?

**(Answer: It stops eating and drinking.)**

3. Rabbits defend themselves most often by:

- a. Running away
- b. Biting
- c. Scratching
- d. Attacking

**(Answer: a – Running away. “Your Rabbit: A Kid’s Guide to Raising and Showing,” pg. 21)**

4. Why should you keep rodents and birds out of the rabbitry?

**(Answer: Because they carry diseases into the rabbitry.)**

5. How do rabbits remove heat from their bodies?

**(Answer: Breathe; air movement, ears)**

# RABBIT DECATHLON - NOVICE DIVISION

## Reproduction and Genetics

1. The time between breeding and birth or kindling is called?

- a. Muzzling
- b. Gestation
- c. Lactation
- d. Weaning

**(Answer: b - gestation)**

2. The process of separating the kits from their mother is called?

- a. Kindling
- b. Gestation
- c. Lactation
- d. Weaning

**(Answer: d - weaning)**

3. When a doe has more than one bunny, the group of bunnies she kindles is called what?

**(Answer: Litter)**

4. What is a male rabbit called?

**(Answer: Buck)**

5. When a doe gives birth to young, it is called what?

- a. Kindling
- b. Gestation
- c. Suckling
- d. Weaning

**(Answer: a - kindling)**

# RABBIT DECATHLON - NOVICE DIVISION

## Terminology

1. A subdivision of a breed based on color is called what?

**(Answer: Variety)**

2. What is a permanent identification mark inside a rabbit's ear using special tools and dye called?

**(Answer: Tattoo)**

3. If your rabbit is mealy, how would you describe its coat?

**(Answer: Off-colored stray hairs in a colored pattern, giving the appearance of being powdered or sprinkled with meal.)**

4. What is a broken rabbit?

- a. A solid-colored rabbit
- b. A senior rabbit
- c. A white-and-colored rabbit
- d. It has a broken bone

**(Answer: c - a white-and-colored rabbit)**

5. When a hair shaft has 3 or more bands of color, the color of the rabbit is called what?

- a. Broken
- b. Steel
- c. Agouti
- d. Self

**(Answer: c – Agouti. (SOP))**

# RABBIT DECATHLON - JUNIOR DIVISION

## Anatomy and Physiology

1. Which of the following is not part of a rabbit's digestive system?

- a. cecum
- b. esophagus
- c. large intestine (colon)
- d. heart

**(Answer: d – heart)**

2. What is the act of eating feces called?

**(Answer: Coprophagy)**

3. True or False – You can tell a rabbit's age by its teeth.

**(Answer: False)**

4. The condition where the rabbit cannot hold the front or hind legs under the body is called what?

- a. Slobbers
- b. Racy
- c. Splayed
- d. Pigeon breasted

**(Answer: Splayed)**

5. Is the average body temperature of a rabbit higher, lower or about the same as yours?

**(Answer: Higher. The average normal body temp of a rabbit can be between 101 – 103 degrees F. Human avg. = 98.6)**

# RABBIT DECATHLON - JUNIOR DIVISION

## Nutrition

1. What serves as energy for body functions?

**(Answer: Fat)**

2. Which type of nutrient is a source of bulk in the diet?

- a. Vitamins
- b. Minerals
- c. Protein
- d. Fiber

**(Answer: d - Fiber)**

3. What is the most common nutritional problem of both show rabbits and humans in the US?

**(Answer: Too much fat or sugar, which causes weight problems.)**

4. A substance containing nitrogen found as a vital element in all living organisms is what?

**(Answer: Protein)**

5. Which of the following is not a mineral?

- a. Calcium
- b. Sodium
- c. Potassium
- d. Niacin

**(Answer: d - Niacin is a vitamin. All the rest are minerals.)**

# RABBIT DECATHLON - JUNIOR DIVISION

## Housing and Equipment

1. What are two things you can do for winter protection for an outdoor rabbit hutch?

**(Answer: Move the hutch closer to a building; cover the sides with heavy plastic; attach a flap of plastic to the front of the cage that can be brought down in very severe weather; give the rabbit lots of straw; put a box in the hutch and move into a sunny area. "Your Rabbit: A Kid's Guide to Raising and Showing," pg. 28.)**

2. What is the recommended depth of a drop pan and why?

**(Answer: 2 inches. Allows the droppings to pass through. "Your Rabbit: A Kid's Guide to Raising and Showing," pg. 45)**

3. If you used 2 different-sized dishes to feed and water your rabbit, which would you use for water – the larger or the smaller one?

**(Answer: The larger one.)**

4. Which is the better type of self feeder to use for your rabbit – one with a solid bottom or one with a screened bottom – and why?

**(Answer: The feeder with the screened bottom is better because it allows more fines to fall out of the feed.)**

5. At what temperature are rabbits most comfortable?

**(Answer: 60-65 degrees F, without sudden changes or overcrowding.)**

# RABBIT DECATHLON - JUNIOR DIVISION

## Health and Diseases

1. Snuffles (Pasteurellosis) is one of the most common diseases that strikes domestic rabbits. Which of the following describe the disease?
- a. the disease is very contagious
  - b. the disease can affect the respiratory system, the eyes, ears and other organs
  - c. if left untreated, it can be fatal
  - d. all of these

**(Answer: d – all of these are true statements.)**

2. Which medicine would you use to treat conjunctivitis or weepy eye?

**(Answer: Ophthalmic antibiotic ointment. “Rabbit Production,” pg. 208)**

3. What is a parasite?

**(Answer: An organism that lives on, or within a host animal. An example might be a worm.)**

4. The inflammation of the inner membrane of the eyelid is called what?

- a. Coprophagy
- b. Malocclusion
- c. Abscess
- d. Conjunctivitis

**(Answer: d - Conjunctivitis)**

5. What are the signs of a healthy rabbit?

**(Answer: The rabbit will be alert and active with bright eyes and a shiny fur coat. It will also be eating and drinking regularly.)**

# RABBIT DECATHLON - JUNIOR DIVISION

## Reproduction and Genetics

1. True or False. Buphthalmia (also called Blue Eye, Moon Eye or Infantile Glaucoma) is a heritable disease for which there is no treatment. Animals with this condition should not be bred.

**(Answer: True)**

2. True or False. Color and fur type are both traits that are genetically inherited.

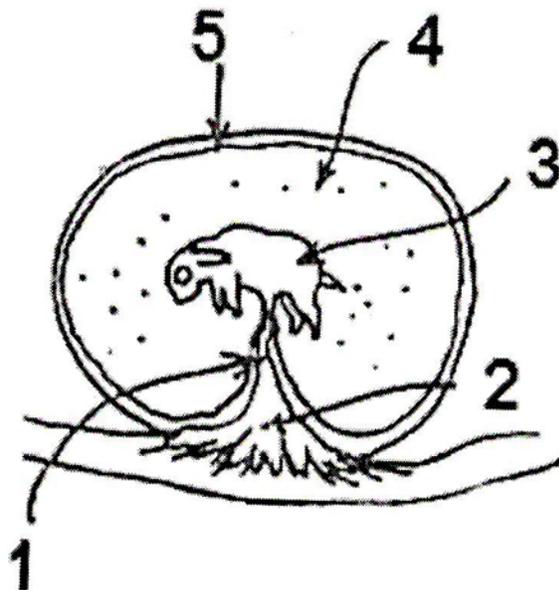
**(Answer: True)**

3. When an overweight doe dies suddenly, just prior to or just after kindling, what disease should you suspect?

**(Answer: Ketosis or pregnancy toxemia; usually seen around kindling time in does that are excessively fat. "Rabbit Production," pg. 226)**

4. Match the parts of the picture to the term that best describes them.

- |                             |
|-----------------------------|
| a. Embryo                   |
| b. Amnion                   |
| c. Umbilical cord           |
| d. Wall of the uterine horn |
| e. Placenta                 |



**(Answer: 1 = Umbilical cord; 2 = Placenta; 3 = Embryo; 4 = Amnion; 5 = Wall of the uterine horn)**

5. Is the gestation period for a rabbit longer or shorter than a human?

**(Answer: Shorter)**

# RABBIT DECATHLON - JUNIOR DIVISION

## Terminology

1. In a female rabbit, what is the barren period?

**(Answer: The period during which a rabbit does not reproduce.)**

2. A trio consists of what?

**(Answer: A buck and 2 does of the same breed.)**

3. Name 2 places you might find follicles.

**(Answer: 1) Small enlargements on the surface of the ovary that contain egg cells;  
2) also, the roots of the hair in the skin (RP).**

4. A rabbit between 6 and 8 months of age is also called what?

**(Answer: An Intermediate)**

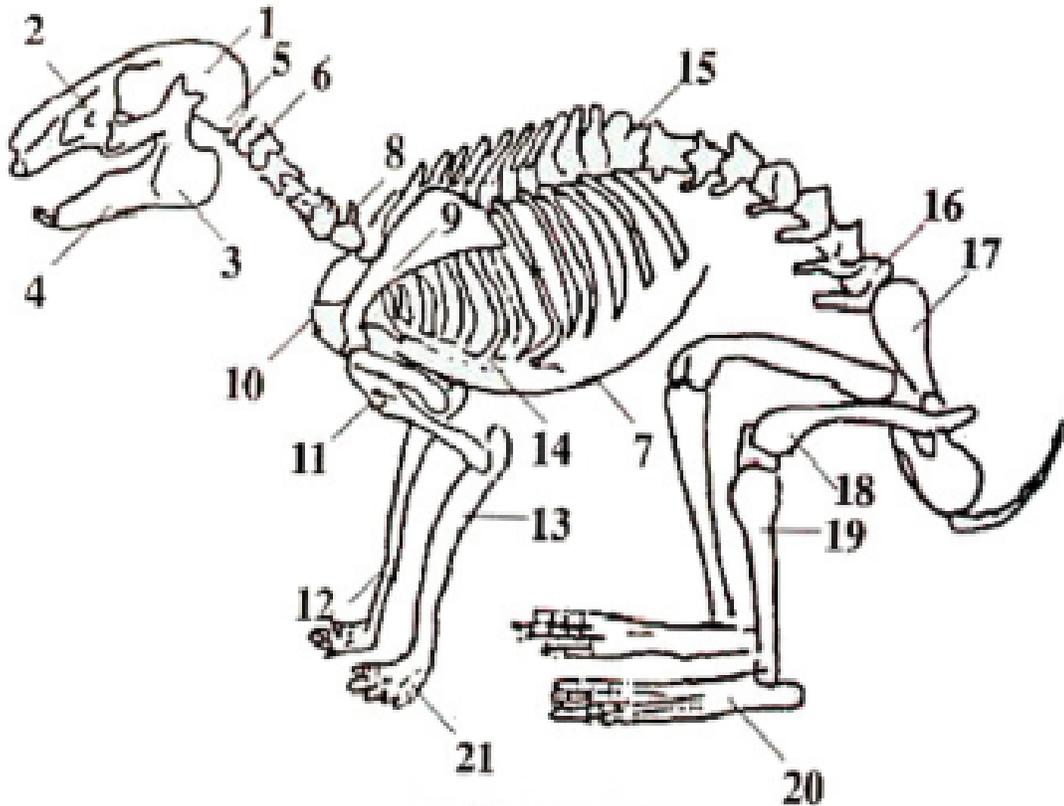
5. What is fur called when it moves gently back into position when stroked up?

**(Answer: Rollback)**

# RABBIT DECATHLON - SENIOR DIVISION

## Anatomy and Physiology

1. Using the skeleton diagram, point to the Pelvis.

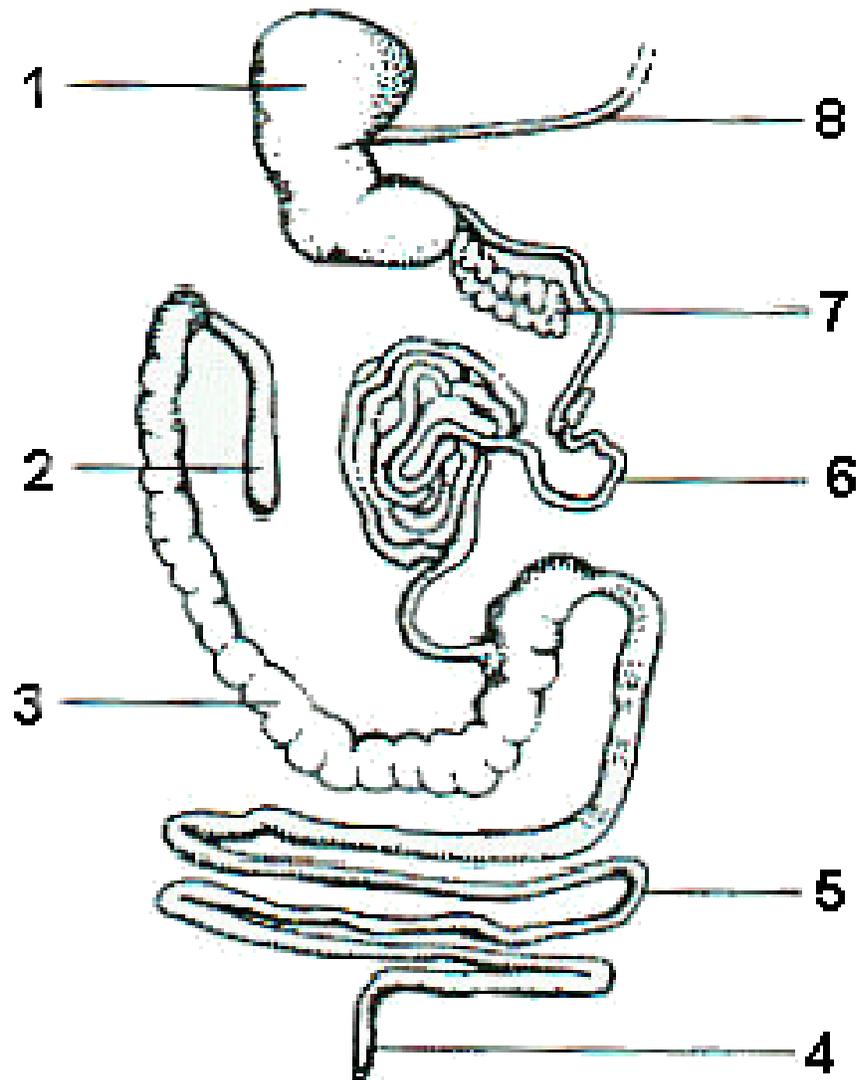


(Answer: #17. Image taken from "Kansas 4-H Rabbit Curriculum, Rabbits, Level III, Recognizing the Rabbit's Bony Parts, Handout I," pgs. 1 and 3.)

## RABBIT DECATHLON - SENIOR DIVISION

### Anatomy and Physiology (Cont.)

2. Locate the part on the diagram where most of the digestion takes place.

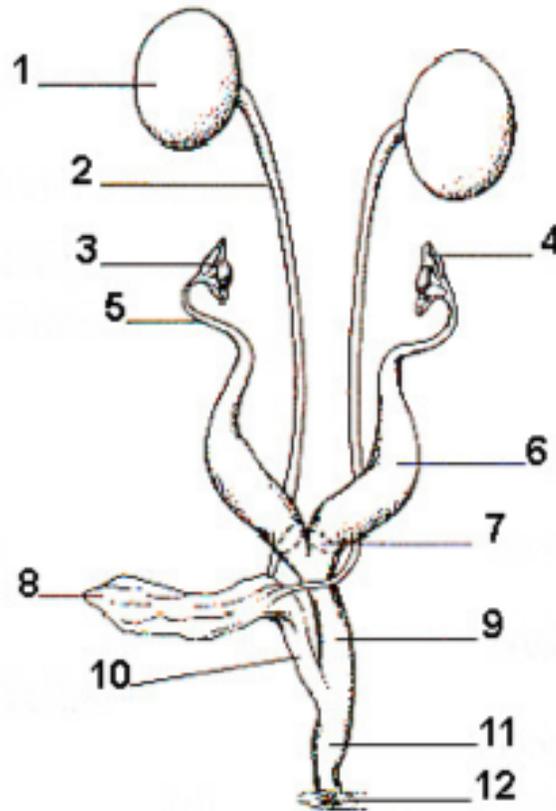


(Answer: #6, small intestine -- "Rabbit Production," pg. 141)

## RABBIT DECATHLON - SENIOR DIVISION

### Anatomy and Physiology (Cont.)

3. From the numbered diagram, point to the organ that is responsible for producing eggs (or ova) and hormones. What is it called?



(Answer: #3, ovary – Shown Figure 11-3 (a) of the reproductive tract of the female rabbit in “Rabbit Production,” pg. 249)

4. Yes or No. Do rabbits have molar teeth?

(Answer: Yes)

5. Which of the following is not part of the rabbit urinary tract?

- a. kidney
- b. bladder
- c. aorta
- d. urethra

(Answer: c – aorta)

# RABBIT DECATHLON - SENIOR DIVISION

## Nutrition

1. Name 5 water soluble vitamins.

**(Answer: B<sub>1</sub> Thiamine; B<sub>2</sub> Riboflavin; Niacin; Pyridoxine B<sub>6</sub>; Pantothenic Acid; Biotin; Choline; Folic Acid; B<sub>12</sub>; Vitamin C)**

2. True or False. Angora or long-haired rabbits need more protein in their diets than short haired rabbits.

**(Answer: True. They require more protein than short haired rabbits because all that extra hair is protein, and it takes lots of energy and protein to make it.)**

3. There are 10 essential amino acids needed in a rabbit's feed. Amino acids are the building blocks for what nutrient?

**(Answer: Protein. "Rabbit Production," pg. 171)**

4. Which of the following is not a mineral?

- a. Selenium
- b. Calcium
- c. Phosphorus
- d. Folic Acid

**(Answer: d – Folic Acid – is a vitamin)**

5. What is the protein supplement of choice in rabbit rations, is highly palatable and digestible, and has a good amino acid balance?

**(Answer: Soybean meal. "Rabbit Production," pg. 171)**

# RABBIT DECATHLON - SENIOR DIVISION

## Housing and Equipment

1. What supplies should you have available when you have a quarantine area?

**(Answer: Separate clothing and foot covers, disinfectants, and hand washing facilities.)**

2. Name 2 reasons why an outdoor hutch should have an enclosed area.

**(Answer: Protection from the elements: rain, wind, drafts, and direct sunlight.)**

3. The size of a hutch should be determined by what? In other words, how do you know how big your hutch should be if you have a 3-pound rabbit?

**(Answer: A hutch should be at least 1 cubic foot per 3 pounds of rabbit.)**

4. Why should you put drainage holes in the bottom of a nest box?

**(Answer: Damp nest boxes can contribute to diseases in young rabbits. "Your Rabbit," pg. 82)**

5. What would be an advantage of installing an automatic waterer?

**(Answer: If you have more than 6 does, it cuts down on labor and spread of diseases. "Rabbit Production," pg. 69)**

# RABBIT DECATHLON - SENIOR DIVISION

## Health and Diseases

1. What is Hutch Burn and what is an appropriate treatment for Hutch Burn?

**(Answer: Hutch Burn is a condition caused by exposure to urine in a wet, unclean hutch. Symptoms may include irritated vent and genitals will be red, chapped looking, and may have brownish crusts over the area. Keeping hutch floors clean and dry and applying an antibiotic ointment to any lesions hastens recovery.)**

2. Coccidiosis is a common and worldwide disease of rabbits. It is a \_\_\_\_\_?

- a. Protozoal disease
- b. Bacterial disease
- c. Viral disease
- d. Fungal disease

**(Answer: a – protozoal disease)**

3. What is young doe syndrome?

**(Answer: After a healthy litter is 4-10 days of age, the doe dies. Sometimes diarrhea is observed. It usually is more common in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> litter does but can occur in does of any parity.)**

4. This disease is a bacterial disease of rodents and lagomorphs transmitted by bites of fleas, flies, ticks, and lice. It is contracted primarily by people handling infected wild rabbits. What is it?

- a. Tularemia
- b. Rabies
- c. Pasteurellosis
- d. Dermatitis

**(Answer: a - Tularemia)**

5. Which of the following is not a cause of respiratory problems in rabbits?

- a. Poor ventilation
- b. High humidity
- c. Too cold
- d. Poor sanitation

**(Answer: c - Too cold. Rabbits are cold tolerant.)**

# RABBIT DECATHLON - SENIOR DIVISION

## Reproduction and Genetics

1. Which is bigger, a gene or a chromosome?

**(Answer: A chromosome is bigger.)**

2. If a rabbit carries both Dwarf genes, will it be able to reproduce?

**(Answer: No. This is a lethal combination, and the rabbit dies shortly after birth. "Rabbit Production," pgs. 305)**

3. The largest unit of inheritance that is found in the nucleus of the cell is what?

- a. Gene
- b. DNA
- c. Chromosome
- d. Allele

**(Answer: b - DNA)**

4. If Humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes, for a total of 46 chromosomes, how many chromosomes do rabbits have?

**(Answer: 22 pairs, for a total of 44 chromosomes)**

5. If a rabbit is spayed, can it reproduce?

**(Answer: No. Female rabbits are spayed (ovariohysterectomized) to prevent unwanted pregnancy and uterine cancer. Uterine tumors are the most common type in female rabbits and often are associated with serious blood loss. Spaying female rabbits may also help to prevent or reduce territorial aggression among females.)**

# RABBIT DECATHLON - SENIOR DIVISION

## Terminology

1. What is a hybrid rabbit? (Hint: It's not a new kind of German automobile).

**(Answer: A hybrid is the offspring of parents of different breeds, varieties, species, or genera. (RP))**

2. What is a pheromone?

**(Answer: A volatile hormone or chemical produced by one individual that is perceived by and stimulatory to another individual of the same species.)**

3. What is a slipped crown?

**(Answer: Placement of the crown too far forward, or too far back, on the head of some lop breeds, causing the ear carriage to be misplaced. (SOP))**

4. What is a nick?

**(Answer: A nick is a mating that produces offspring superior to either parent. (RP))**

5. Define prolific?

**(Answer: Fertile, reproducing freely, producing large litters. (RP))**