

Interesting Facts and Figures about Rabbits¹

Life span 5 -13 years

Birth weight 20 - 70g

Newborn are about 16% fat (about the same as humans)

Mature weight 1.0 - 6.5 kg

Chromosomes 44

Rectal temperature 38.5- 40.0 _C (101.3-104.0 _F)

Heart Rate 200 - 300 beats/minute

Respiration rate 32 - 60 breaths/minute

Nose twitches 20-120 /minute

Chewing rate 120 chews/minute

Eye blinks 10-12 /hour

Have almost a 360_ field of vision, but cannot see directly below the mouth so they cannot see what they are eating

Blood volume 55 - 65 ml/kg

Normal blood pressure 90-130/80-90 mm Hg

Food intake 30 - 50 g/kg/day

Water intake 50-100 ml/kg body weight/day (approximately 2 times the feed intake)

Fasted rabbits may have as much as 6 1/2 times the normal water intake

Digestive Tract	% of Total Tract Volume
Stomach	15%
Small Intestine	12% (in dog, pig or horse, it is about 22%)
Large Intestine	
Cecum	40%
Colon	33% (about 3 feet long)

Urine production 20 - 350 ml/kg body wt/day; average about 130 ml/kg (depends on size, diet, water availability, temperature, etc.)

Feces production per day 30 - 45 gm/day (80% hard feces, 20% soft)

Fecal Composition	Soft	Hard
Dry matter	55.3%	82.5%
Ash ^a	7.7	6.2
Fat ^a	1.3	1.4
Crude Protein ^a	39.7	20.3
Crude Fiber ^a	26.4	47.4

^a expressed as a percentage of dry matter

Dental formula $\{i^{2/1}, c^{0/0}, pm^{3/2}, m^{2 \text{ or } 3/3}\} \times 2 = 26 \text{ or } 28 \text{ teeth}$

(i = incisors, c = canines, pm = premolars and m = molars; The upper number represents the upper jaw, the lower the bottom jaw. Note that there may be 2 or 3 molars in the upper jaw.)

Gestation length 28-36 days (depends on breed and litter size)

Skeleton 8% of body weight (a cat's skeleton is 13% of body weight)

Ears About 12% of total body surface area

Milk production 50-250 g/day (depends on breed, litter size and stage of lactation)

Milk Composition

Water	70-73%
Protein	10-15%
Fat	10-16%
Lactose	1.8-2.0%
Ash	2-2.5%

¹ Mostly taken from Manning, P.J., D.H. Ringler and C.E. Newcomer. 1994. The Biology of the Laboratory Rabbit, 2nd Ed., Academic Press, San Diego.