

# Rabbit

Colorado is home to three types of rabbits: desert, mountain and eastern cottontail. Rabbits are mammals with gray-brown fur, white bellies and "cotton ball" tails. They weigh approximately two to four pounds and are about 16" long. Males and females are the same size. Rabbits are a year-round resident.

## Habitat:

Prefer brushy cover interspersed with open areas.

## Diet:

Herbivore - eats plants and plant parts. Diet mainly of grasses, flowers and vegetables.

## Behavior:

Prefer dusk and dawn for feeding. Near 360-degree vision. Run a zig-zag pattern when trying to escape predators.

## Nesting:

Shallow ground nest about the size of a softball lined with belly fur. Up to six litters per year with three to five young per litter. Birthing goes from winter through early fall. Young leave the nest at two to three weeks of age.

## Life Span:

Usually not more than 15 months.



Photo by Kay Konz

## Possible Conflicts:

Rabbits can dig under porches; eat flowers, vegetables, garden materials or seedlings and their urine can burn the grass.

## What to Do:

**Exclusion** is the best method to prevent rabbit conflicts.

- Secure the bottom six inches of your fence with chicken wire buried two inches deep and secured with landscape stakes.
- Wrap seedlings with plastic tubing to prevent rabbits from chewing on them.
- Make garden panels by connecting chicken wire with 1" x 2" sturdy wood stakes that are at least the height of the wire. Secure the stakes into the ground around the garden.
- Excluding rabbits from your front yard is more difficult. Ensuring that they are not living under your porch is a first step. If they are under your porch, you'll need to evict them before you seal up their hole. It's best to not seal their holes during breeding season which can last from late February through September.
- For rabbits killing your grass: rabbits do not like the smell of chicken eggs. Mix one egg with 1.5 cups of water and stir. Apply this mix to the dead grass where the rabbits like to sit. This application will need to be repeated every three to four days, depending on how often you water your lawn.
- Remove brush piles, debris and other cover to make the area less suitable.
- In vegetable gardens: plant crops that rabbits don't like: corn, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, potatoes and some peppers.
- In landscaping: plant vegetation that rabbits don't like such as iris, violets, lavender, butterfly bush, geraniums, milkweed, ragworts.

## For More Information:

Broomfield Wildlife Masters, 303-464-5554

## Wildlife Observation:

**Look** for wildlife. Remember to watch from a distance and don't get too close.

**Listen** for wildlife. Even if you can't see wildlife, you may hear them.

**Learn** about wildlife. Talk to a wildlife master or naturalist, borrow a book about wildlife.

## Love and Respect the Outdoors!

The more we know about wildlife, the less likely we are to harm or fear wildlife.



City and County of Broomfield  
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