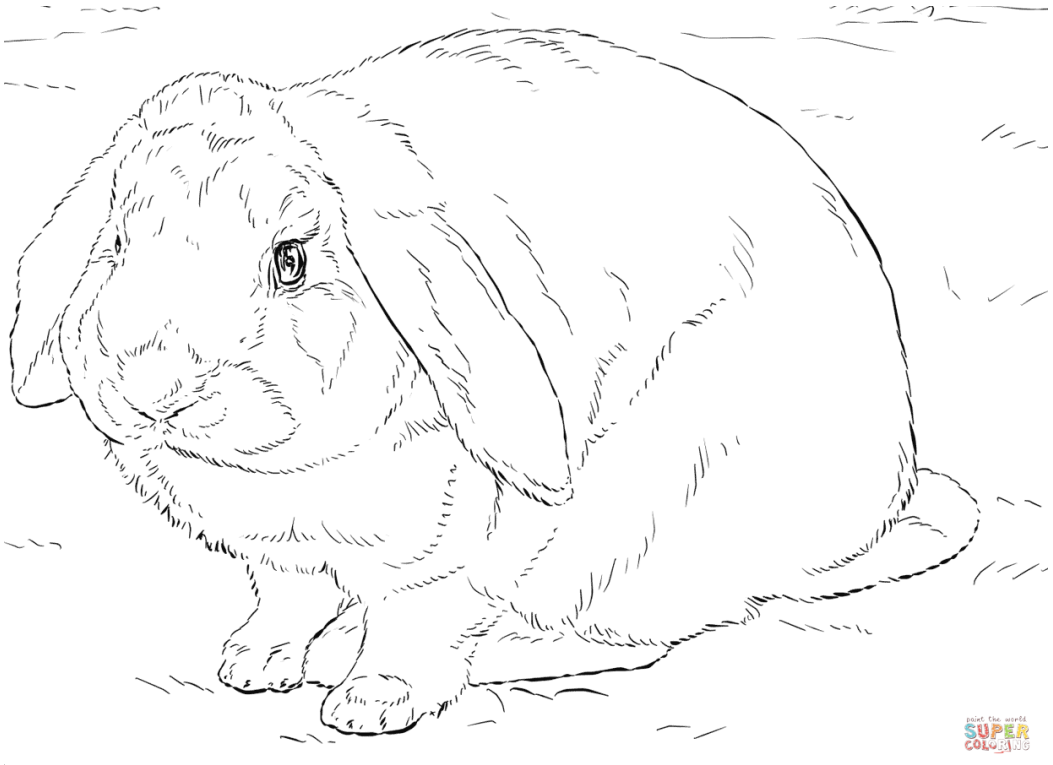
The order Lagomorphs includes about 87 species of rabbits, hares, pika, and jackrabbits, and over 300 recognized breeds of domestic rabbit, and here at ZooMontana we are lucky enough to be the home of one of the largest rabbit breeds in the world: the Flemish Giant Rabbit! Agnes was born in 2016 and has been with us since 2017, and in early 2020, she was joined by Walter, who was born in 2019. These bunnies really live up to the giant in their name: they can weigh up to 15 pounds and be 2.5 feet long! They are a domesticated breed of rabbit, so they have been bred and cared for by people for hundreds of years, and look pretty different from their wild relatives, who live on every continent except Antarctica.



Both domestic rabbits and their wild counterparts share a few adaptations in common, such as strong back legs for kicking and jumping, little noses that have a big sense of smell, and many have large ears for heat regulation, though there are some exceptions. Here are some of the adaptations of the Flemish Giant Rabbit:

- Female Flemish Giants have a large fatty pouch on their neck under their chin called the dewlap, and it helps keep baby bunnies warm.
- Like many other rabbits, Flemish Giant rabbits are mainly herbivorous, meaning they eat plants, but their digestive system is not very efficient and doesn't break down the food well, so they'll sometimes eat their own poo to get more nutrients out of it!
- Their fur is extremely soft, thick, and warm, which helps them to enjoy Montana's cold and snowy winters.



Flemish Giant rabbits have a silky, silvery-black coat; can you color this rabbit?

Flemish Giant Rabbits are in the Lagomorph Order, and they have SO many relatives. From the cute little Pikas that live in high mountains and make hay piles, to the striped Sumatran rabbits of Southeast Asia and Jackrabbits of the southwestern U.S., Lagomorphs come in many different sizes and live in a huge variety of habitats, from deserts to mountains and from forests to plains! Color in some Lagomorphs below.

EdZOOcate
ZooMontana Education Program

Domestic Rabbit



Pika



Jackrabbit



Though Flemish Giant Rabbits are too big to leap forward very far, many of their relatives like Snowshoe Hares and Jackrabbits can leap way longer than their body length! Now you are going to be the rabbit: you're going to see how far forward you can jump from standing. All you'll need is a ruler or a measuring tape and maybe an adult or family member to help you measure your height and leap distance. Write them down as you go, and then compare your height in inches to your leap distances, and then see how that compares to a Snowshoe Hare's length and leap distance!

Your height: _____ inches

Leap #1: _____ inches

Leap #2: _____ inches

Leap #3: _____ inches

Snowshoe Hare body length: 17 inches

Snowshoe Hare leap distance: 144 inches

