

Homework Assignment
Cottontails

1. When do Cottontails typically feed in the wild? **at dusk and dawn and are active at night**
2. How long after birth are cottontails fully furred? **In a week**
3. Name some foods that can be used in the weaning process: **Provide timothy hay, alfalfa hay, Old Fashioned Quaker Oats (not instant) and rabbit pellets or rabbit chow**
4. Overfeeding can cause diarrhea. Name 2 other causes of diarrhea:

Overfeeding

Abrupt changes in diet or room temperature

Unclean feeding instruments (sterilize daily)

Parasites such as worms or intestinal bacteria

Spoiled formula

STRESS!

Frequent loud noises causing stress

Excessive handling causing stress

Exposure to predators leading to stress

Seeing people, no privacy barriers/cage screens

Exposure to pesticides from fruits or vegetables

Exposure to other chemicals (chlorine in water, perfumes, cigarette smoke, cosmetics, etc.)

5. Describe how you should pick up/hold baby bunnies: **When holding use two hands, one to support hind quarters to prevent fracture of the spine that can occur if their legs dangle or they kick with hind legs.**
6. How often should you prepare the formula? **Once a day, once a week or once for the 9 weeks for the duration of rehab? Mix fresh daily, refrigerate between feeding, heat only amount used per feeding, discard unused warm formula**

Answer TRUE or FALSE for the following:

7. Cottontails are in the rodent family of mammals. **False**

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|----------|-------------------|
| Kingdom: | <u>Animalia</u> |
| Phylum: | <u>Chordata</u> |
| Class: | <u>Mammalia</u> |
| Order: | <u>Lagomorpha</u> |
| Family: | <u>Leporidae</u> |
| Genus: | <u>Sylvilagus</u> |

8. Cottontails' nests are shallow depressions on the ground lined with fur. **True.**
9. If possible, you should use mom's nest when you bring babies in. **False, nest may have parasites, fleas, mites, ticks**
10. Once eyes are opened and they are fully furred, you can combine bunnies of different litters. **False**