



Irish Hare



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Latin: *Lepus timidus hibernicus*
Irish: *Giorra*

Size: The Irish mountain hare can measure up to 56cm.

Months seen: All year

Habitat: Farmland, especially in pasture fields and cereal crop fields, along hedges, and ditches.

Home: Unlike rabbits, hares do not live in burrows underground but live above ground in a form. This is a shallow shelter of flattened grasses and mosses.

Food: The main diet consists of grasses, herbs, heather and other vegetation. They also used their large, strong front teeth to gnaw at young tree shoots.

Features: The Irish mountain hare is recognised as a unique sub-species of the mountain hare, which turns completely white in winter to help it stay hidden in the snowy weather. The Irish mountain hare pales during the winter but does not turn white, and in Ireland lives in lowland areas.

Like all hares, the Irish mountain hare has very good eyesight and is known for its ability to run fast. This helps it to avoid any predators.

The breeding season for the Irish hare is in springtime. Females can produce up to three litters, with 2 to 4 young in each. The young are known as leverets.