



## Rabbit



**Latin:** *Oryctolagus cuniculus*  
**Irish:** *Coinín*

**Size:** Approximately 48cm long

**Months seen:** All year

**Habitat:** Rabbits are widespread throughout grassland, woodland, scrub and sand dune habitats.

**Home:** They live in underground colonies known as warrens. Some warrens can be occupied for many generations.

**Food:** Rabbits are herbivores and eat many types of vegetation including grasses and farm crops.

**Features:** Rabbits look similar to hares, but they are much smaller. They are sandy to brown in colour and are usually more active by night although they are often seen during the daytime as well.

Rabbits are known for their excellent hearing, and their large eyes are positioned to give them a very wide field of vision. This helps to alert them to the approach of predators. Their eyes are also very good at seeing in the dark, and together with their whiskers, this makes it easy for them to move about in their underground warrens.

A female rabbit will produce from 3 to 5 litters each year, with an average of 7 young per litter. The offspring are known as kittens. Rabbits can breed in their first year.

It is believed that rabbits were introduced to Ireland during the twelfth century by the Normans.