



RABBITS

TIPS FOR REDUCING HUMAN-RABBIT CONFLICTS:

- **Do not feed wildlife.** This increases the chance that the animal will lose its natural fear of humans.
- **Do not move "abandoned" baby rabbits.** Mothers feed babies only twice a day- at dawn and dusk. Baby rabbits found alone are typically not orphans.
- **Look before you mow.** Prevent injury to baby rabbits by checking your yard carefully before you mow.
- **A leashed dog is a safer dog.** When out for a walk, keep your pet leashed to greatly reduce the chance of a negative wildlife encounter.
- **Do not attempt to pet wild rabbits.** They seem friendly, but are wild! Rabbit bites can cause injury and carry disease.
- **Keep them out of your garden.** A well constructed fence is the most effective way to protect your plants.

BENEFITS OF RABBITS

Rabbits play an important role in a well-balanced ecosystem. In their natural habitats, rabbits provide ecological benefits as an important member of the food web.

By consuming plants, rabbits keep plant life in check. They are also an important food source for many carnivorous predators, particularly bobcats.

NATURAL HISTORY

- Rabbits are members of the Leporidae family. They are common throughout the continental United States. They can be found in several habitats, including urban areas, where they are often spotted in backyards and city parks.
- Rabbits are herbivores, meaning their diet consists primarily of plants. They eat a wide variety of vegetation, such as bark, twigs, leaves, fruit, buds, flowers, and seeds. Rarely, rabbits are known to eat arthropods, such as caterpillars, millipedes, and grubs.
- Common rabbits in North Texas, like the the eastern cottontail, are solitary except when mating or raising young. Adults may form social hierarchies, with a dominant male doing the majority of the breeding.
- Rabbits are primarily crepuscular (active at dawn and dusk) and nocturnal (active at night).