

## Different Breeds

There are 47 different rabbit breeds recognized by the ARBA. They range from the 2.0 pound Netherland Dwarf to the 15+ pound Flemish Giant. To look at a picture of each breed, go to <http://www.arba.net/photo.htm>. Here, I will provide a brief outline of some of the more popular pet breeds. I highly recommend buying from a breeder rather than a pet store because the rabbits will be well cared for, probably handled since birth, and you can be assured to have a purebred and not end up with a 15-pound “dwarf”! Also, a breeder will be sure of the sex so you won’t be surprised with Leo having a litter of five!

**Dutch:** Around 4 ½ pounds, they are a nice small breed that come in black, blue, chocolate, gray, steel, and tortoise colors. All Dutch have the same striking pattern of a white blaze on the face, white boots, and a white band around their body.

**Mini Lop:** Larger than the Dutch at around 6-7 pounds, they would be harder for young children to hold due to their. However, they are very gentle and calm and come in many colors. The ears are lopped.

**American Fuzzy Lop:** This breed has long angora-like fur, however, since it has the thicker guard hairs the fur does not matt easily and it does not require clipping like an angora would. Gentle yet playful, they make for a fun pet and again come in a wide array of colors. They are only about 4 pounds and the ears are lopped.

**Holland Lop:** The smallest of the lop eared breeds, usually 3 ½ pounds. This breed is normally curious and playful, and loves attention. Most common colors are tort and black, but other colors are available.

**Jersey Wooly:** A tiny breed around 2 pounds, but looks larger because of the wool. The fur is the same as the Fuzzy Lop, it does not require heavy maintenance.

**Mini Rex:** At about 4 pounds, this is the plush toy of the small rabbits. The fur is very short and velvety soft.

**Lionheads:** While this is not a recognized breed at this point, it is a popular pet breed due to their small size of about 2 ½ pounds and their unique look. They have normal fur on the majority of their bodies and head, but around the neck is longer angora-like fur resembling a lion’s mane. Hence, the breed’s name of Lionhead. They are usually sweet and gentle and a good substitute if you are nervous of the rumors of Netherland Dwarfs being mean.

**Netherland Dwarf:** This breed comes in more colors than any other listed here. The tiniest of all rabbit breeds, coming in at 2 pounds. Some people claim they have nasty attitudes, however responsible breeders do not breed any “mean” ones and they are perfectly sweet little rabbits. My first rabbit was a Netherland Dwarf, she was my birthday present when I was 5 years old ☺