# Pet Rabbits

by Martin Cohen

Fountas-Pinnell Level I  
Nonfiction

## Selection Summary

Pet stores sell many kinds and sizes of rabbits. Both outside and inside rabbits need cages, water, and good rabbit food. Pet owners should help clean their rabbit and take it to the vet. Rabbits are shy but they make good pets.

## Characteristics of the Text

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Nonfiction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Text Structure | Introduction to different kinds of rabbits as pets  
Six short sections with headings |
| Content | Rabbits as inside and outside pets  
Basic information about taking care of pet rabbits: feeding, cleaning, etc.  
Going to the vet |
| Themes and Ideas | Rabbits make good pets.  
Responsible pet owners learn about their pet and how to care for it.  
Having a pet rabbit is rewarding for both owners and animals. |
| Language and Literary Features | Clear, simple language directed at the reader  
Descriptive adjectives  
Use of comparison and visualization to convey size |
| Sentence Complexity | Mostly simple, short sentences  
A few complex sentences. Example: If a giant rabbit stood up, it would reach the top of your bed! |
| Vocabulary | Words related to animal care such as nest, cage, wire, straw, water bottle, comb, brush, weighed, drooled, collars |
| Words | Mostly short words, with a few longer and/or less familiar words such as vegetables, cabbage, cuddly |
| Illustrations | Photographs support the text. |
| Book and Print Features | Nine pages of text with photographs; text in boxes; text placement on the page varies  
Key words labeled in photographs  
Section headings |

Pet Rabbits by Martin Cohen

Build Background
Help children use their knowledge of pets and pet care to connect with the book. Build interest by asking questions such as the following: What kind of pet would you like to have? How would you care for your pet? Read the title and author and talk about the cover photo. Explain that pet owners can learn a lot about taking care of their pets by reading books like Pet Rabbits.

Introduce the Text
Guide children through the text, noting important ideas and nonfiction features. Help with unfamiliar language so they can read the text successfully. Give special attention to target vocabulary. Here are some suggestions:

Page 3: Explain that there are different kinds of rabbits, and not all rabbits look the same.
Suggested language: Turn to page 3 of this book. Look at the rabbits in the photo. Which rabbit has floppy ears that hang down a bit? The author says that some rabbits have straight fur and some have curly fur. Do these rabbits have fur that is straight? Or do they have curly fur that turns and twists?

Page 5: Read the heading: “An Outside Rabbit.” Look at the photo and read the word label: straw. This photo shows a rabbit that lives outside. Why do you think the rabbit needs straw in its cage?

Pages 7–8: Read the headings on pages 7 and 8. What kind of information about caring for a rabbit will you find on each page?

Page 9: Read the sentence: After the vet has weighed the rabbit, she will check its heart. Pets need checkups at the doctor, just like people. Why do you think the animal doctor weighs the rabbit? Why does she check to see how heavy it is?

Now turn back to the beginning of the book and read to find out how to care for pet rabbits.

Target Vocabulary

collars — bands put around the necks of animals, p. 10
curly — having curves or twists, p. 3
drooled — let saliva drip out of a mouth, p. 9
floppy — hanging down loosely, p. 3
row — a number of people or things arranged in a line, p. 8
stood — was a certain height when standing, p. 4
straight — having no curves, turns, or bends, p. 3
weighed — placed on a scale, p. 9
Read

As children read *Pet Rabbits*, observe them carefully. Guide them as needed, using language that supports their problem-solving ability.

Remind children to use the Infer/Predict Strategy ![TARGET STRATEGY](image), and to use text clues to figure out important ideas.

Discuss and Revisit the Text

**Personal Response**

Invite children to share their personal responses to the book.

**Suggested language:** What did you learn about taking care of pet rabbits? Why would a rabbit make good pet?

Ways of Thinking

As you discuss the text, help children understand these points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thinking Within the Text</th>
<th>Thinking Beyond the Text</th>
<th>Thinking About the Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• People keep many kinds of rabbits as pets.</td>
<td>• Having a pet is a big responsibility. You should learn how to properly care for your pet.</td>
<td>• The author talks directly to the reader.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Rabbits need a cage either inside or outside.</td>
<td>• People and animals need many of the same things: food, shelter, companions, doctors.</td>
<td>• The section headings help readers know what information will be presented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Owners must clean the cage, provide water and food, clean their pet’s fur, and take the pet to the vet.</td>
<td>• Rabbits make good pets because they do not take up much space.</td>
<td>• The photos add visual information, and the labels stress key words and ideas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Choices for Further Support

• **Fluency** Invite children to choose a passage from the text and demonstrate phrased fluent reading. Remind them to pay attention to punctuation, and to pause when they see commas and raise their voice when they see question marks or exclamation marks.

• **Comprehension** Based on your observations of the children’s reading and discussion, revisit parts of the text to clarify or extend comprehension. Remind children to go back to the text to support their ideas.

• **Phonics/Word Work** Provide practice as needed with words and word parts, using examples from the text. Remind children that they are familiar with many high-frequency words in the text, such as *when, you, very, big, tall, good, bad, one, can, need*. Have children refer to the classroom word wall, if possible, and make a list of the words in the text that they already know.
Writing about Reading

Vocabulary Practice
Have children complete the Vocabulary questions on BLM 1.1.

Responding
Have children complete the vocabulary activities on page 11. Remind them to answer the Word Teaser on p. 12. (Answer: row)

Reading Nonfiction
Nonfiction Features: Section Headings and Labels
Remind children that nonfiction has many features to help readers find and understand important information. Section headings and labels are two of these features. Explain that section headings are like titles that help to divide the book into parts. A section heading tells readers what that part of the book will be about. Reading the section headings in a nonfiction book is a good way to preview the book before reading the main text.

Labels point out important information in photographs or diagrams. They help readers understand key vocabulary words, too. Have children look at page 6. Ask what they can find out from the section heading and the photo labels. (This part of the book gives information about keeping rabbits indoors. Rabbits need a cage and a water bottle that hangs on the side of the cage.) Then have children choose a section heading in the book and summarize what information will be on the page. Have them choose an unlabeled photo and write two labels for it, using sticky notes.

Writing Prompt: Thinking About the Text
Have children write a response to the prompt on page 6.

Assessment Prompts
• What word on page 3 is the opposite of curly?
• What does the word collars mean in this sentence? A rabbit does not need special toys or collars.
**English Language Development**

**Reading Support** In Introduce the Text (p.2), use pictures, concrete objects, or demonstrations that will help children understand the concepts and ideas in the text. Don’t ask children to read any text they will not understand.

**Vocabulary** Explain that a vet is a doctor who treats animals. Point out that the word *vet* is a short form of the word *veterinarian*.

**Oral Language Development**

Check children’s comprehension, using a dialogue that best matches their English proficiency level. Speaker 1 is the teacher, Speaker 2 is the child.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beginning/Early Intermediate</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Early Advanced/ Advanced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Speaker 1:</strong> What is this book about?</td>
<td><strong>Speaker 1:</strong> What can you feed a pet rabbit?</td>
<td><strong>Speaker 1:</strong> How should you take care of a pet rabbit?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Speaker 2:</strong> rabbits</td>
<td><strong>Speaker 2:</strong> You can feed it dry rabbit food and fresh fruits and vegetables.</td>
<td><strong>Speaker 2:</strong> You should give your rabbit water and good food every day. You should brush your rabbit and take it to the vet. You should clean your rabbit’s cage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Speaker 1:</strong> Where are two places that pet rabbits can live?</td>
<td><strong>Speaker 2:</strong> When did you see a bone your pet rabbit?</td>
<td><strong>Speaker 2:</strong> Why should you brush your pet rabbit?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Speaker 2:</strong> inside and outside</td>
<td><strong>Speaker 2:</strong> When did you see a bone your pet rabbit?</td>
<td><strong>Speaker 2:</strong> Brushing helps clean the rabbit’s fur.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Speaker 1:</strong> What do rabbits drink?</td>
<td><strong>Speaker 2:</strong> Why should you brush your pet rabbit?</td>
<td><strong>Speaker 2:</strong> Brushing helps clean the rabbit’s fur.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Speaker 2:</strong> water</td>
<td><strong>Speaker 2:</strong> Why should you brush your pet rabbit?</td>
<td><strong>Speaker 2:</strong> Brushing helps clean the rabbit’s fur.</td>
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</table>

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**Responding**

**TARGET VOCABULARY** Word Builder

The letters *-ed* at the end of drooled show that the word means something happened in the past. Copy the chart. Add *-ed* to words and think about their meaning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th><em>-ed</em> form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>drool</td>
<td>drooled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>weigh</td>
<td>weighed</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Write About It**

Text to World Write a few sentences about someone taking a sick pet to the vet. What kind of pet is it? How does the vet find out what is wrong? Use words from the Word Builder.

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**Target Vocabulary**

Complete each sentence with a Target Vocabulary word from the box.

1. The rabbit **TUPPE** up on its hind legs to see over the tall grass.
2. A poodle is a kind of dog with fur that is **DVSMZ**, or wavy.
3. The dog **ESPPMFE** when it saw a bone it wanted to eat.
4. My cat has **TUSBJHIU** fur without any curls or waves.
5. It was hard to make the playful puppies line up in a **SPX**.
6. Meg bought two new **DPMMBST** for her cats to wear.
7. Our dog’s long **áPQQZ** ears droop all the way to the ground.
8. The vet **XFJHIFE** our new rabbit to see how heavy it was.
Pet Rabbits

Thinking About the Text
Think about the questions below. Then write your answer in one paragraph.

On page 10 the author says, “A rabbit will be shy when you first get it.” Why does he tell readers this? What does he mean? If you got a pet rabbit, how could this information help you?

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Target Vocabulary

Complete each sentence with a Target Vocabulary word from the box.

1. The rabbit __________________ up on its hind legs to see over the tall grass.

2. A poodle is a kind of dog with fur that is __________________, or wavy.

3. The dog __________________ when it saw a bone it wanted to eat.

4. My cat has __________________ fur without any curls or waves.

5. It was hard to make the playful puppies line up in a __________________.

6. Meg bought two new __________________ for her cats to wear.

7. Our dog’s long, __________________ ears droop all the way to the ground.

8. The vet __________________ our new rabbit to see how heavy it was.
Pet Rabbits • LEVEL 1

Rabbits are soft and cuddly. They can live in a cage inside or outside. They are easy to feed and clean. You can learn to take care of a rabbit by yourself. A rabbit makes a good pet!

You can find rabbits for sale in a big pet store. Some of the rabbits have tall ears. Some have floppy ears. Some of the rabbits have straight fur. Some have curly fur.

Rabbits come in different sizes. A mini rabbit stays small. You could hold it in one hand.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Selection Text</th>
<th>Errors</th>
<th>Self-Corrections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rabbits are soft and cuddly. They can live in a cage inside or outside. They are easy to feed and clean. You can learn to take care of a rabbit by yourself. A rabbit makes a good pet!</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>You can find rabbits for sale in a big pet store. Some of the rabbits have tall ears. Some have floppy ears. Some of the rabbits have straight fur. Some have curly fur.</td>
<td>◆</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rabbits come in different sizes. A mini rabbit stays small. You could hold it in one hand.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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Comments:

Accuracy Rate (% words read correctly/88 × 100)

Self-Correction Rate (% errors + # Self-Corrections/ Self-Correction)