2026 Rabbit Skillathon Study Guide

Overview

The Rabbit Skillathon is designed to test exhibitors' knowledge of rabbit breeds, fur types, body structure, rabbit care, sanitation, and safe handling practices. Participants should study the following areas carefully in preparation for competition.

1. Rabbit Breed Identification

- Identify all 53 recognized rabbit breeds
- Determine whether a breed is classified as Fancy or Commercial

Study Tips

- Learn distinguishing characteristics such as ear type and length
- Study body shape, fur type, color patterns, and size classes
- Practice using breed photos and live rabbit identification

2. Fur Type Identification

Exhibitors should be able to identify the four primary rabbit fur types:

Fur Type	Characteristics
Normal / Commercial Fur	Standard flyback, rollback, standing fur texture
Rex Fur	Short, dense, plush fur standing upright
Satin Fur	Glossy coat with reflective sheen
Wool Fur	Long wool coat requiring grooming

Study Tips

- Learn how each fur type feels and appears
- Match breeds with their correct fur type

3. Conformation, Body Types, and Posing

- Identify correct rabbit conformation
- Recognize body types including Commercial, Compact, Semi-Arch, Full Arch, Cylindrical, High Head Mount and Upright Cylindrical
- Demonstrate proper posing techniques for each breed type

Study Tips

- Practice safely posing rabbits on a judging table
- Learn ideal breed standards and body balance

4. Sanitation and Rabbit Husbandry

Exhibitors should understand proper rabbit care practices including:

- Daily feeding and watering
- Cage cleaning and sanitation
- Proper ventilation
- Nest box care
- Disease prevention
- Safe waste disposal

Study Tips

- Learn signs of poor sanitation and unhealthy living conditions
- Review proper cleaning schedules and equipment care

5. Rabbit Wellness and Handling

Exhibitors should demonstrate:

- Safe and humane rabbit handling
- Proper lifting and carrying techniques
- Knowledge of common signs of illness
- Stress reduction practices
- General rabbit wellness care

Important Handling Guidelines

- Always support the rabbit's hindquarters
- Never lift a rabbit by the ears
- Handle rabbits calmly and confidently

Recommended Study Resources

- American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) Standard of Perfection
- Breed identification charts
- Rabbit judging guides
- Hands-on practice with live rabbits
- Local 4-H and FFA rabbit project materials