



ANIMAL HEALTH CHECKS: RABBITS & SMALL MAMMALS

Quality health checks are the first line of defense for protecting humans and animals from contagious diseases at fairs and other animal events. Use this checklist to confirm that animals participating in an agricultural fair or event are visibly healthy. Health checks should be completed inside the trailer or right outside; do not permit the animal to walk through the fairgrounds, barns or event before confirming its health status. Use gloves and other personal protective equipment (PPE) as appropriate. Disinfect footwear between assessments on animals not housed together. Change your clothes after completing the animal assessments. Wipe down any equipment like flashlights or radios between groups of animals. Certain conditions and observations noted within this checklist may not pose a significant public or animal health risk. In such cases, decisions regarding an animal's eligibility for exhibition should be made in consultation with event leadership and/or the on-call veterinarian. Follow any additional policies provided by event leadership and your state's Department of Agriculture.

Identification

- ☐ Valid health certificate
- ☐ Identification number (tattoo, black marker, or microchip)
- ☐ No recent exposure to contagious diseases

General Appearance

- ☐ Overall thriftiness, including an appropriate body condition for its age, sex, and physiological state, and no hunching
- ☐ No indication of broken bones or injuries
- ☐ No abscesses
- ☐ No signs of fever or lethargy
- ☐ No signs of neurological issues

Nose, Eyes, and Mouth

- ☐ Free of respiratory infection (no breathing irregularities, coughing, or wheezing)
- ☐ No nasal, eye discharge, or excessive salivation
- ☐ Bright clear eyes without signs of injury or infection
- ☐ Ears free of mites

Skin and Hair

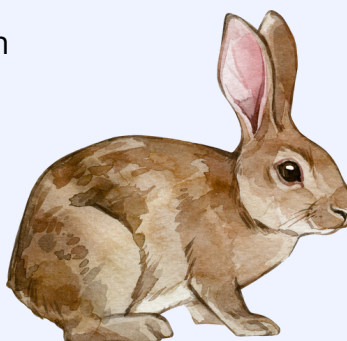
- ☐ Healthy skin and fur
- ☐ No signs of infection, including ringworm, mites, fleas, or lice
- ☐ No open wounds
- ☐ In rabbits: no signs of moist dermatitis

Rear End

- ☐ Free of scours
- ☐ No sexually transmitted disease (i.e., rabbit syphilis)
- ☐ No signs of urine burn

Feet

- ☐ No signs of lameness, injury, or infection
- ☐ No signs of broken digits, sore hocks, or bumblefoot



Nose, Eyes, and Mouth:

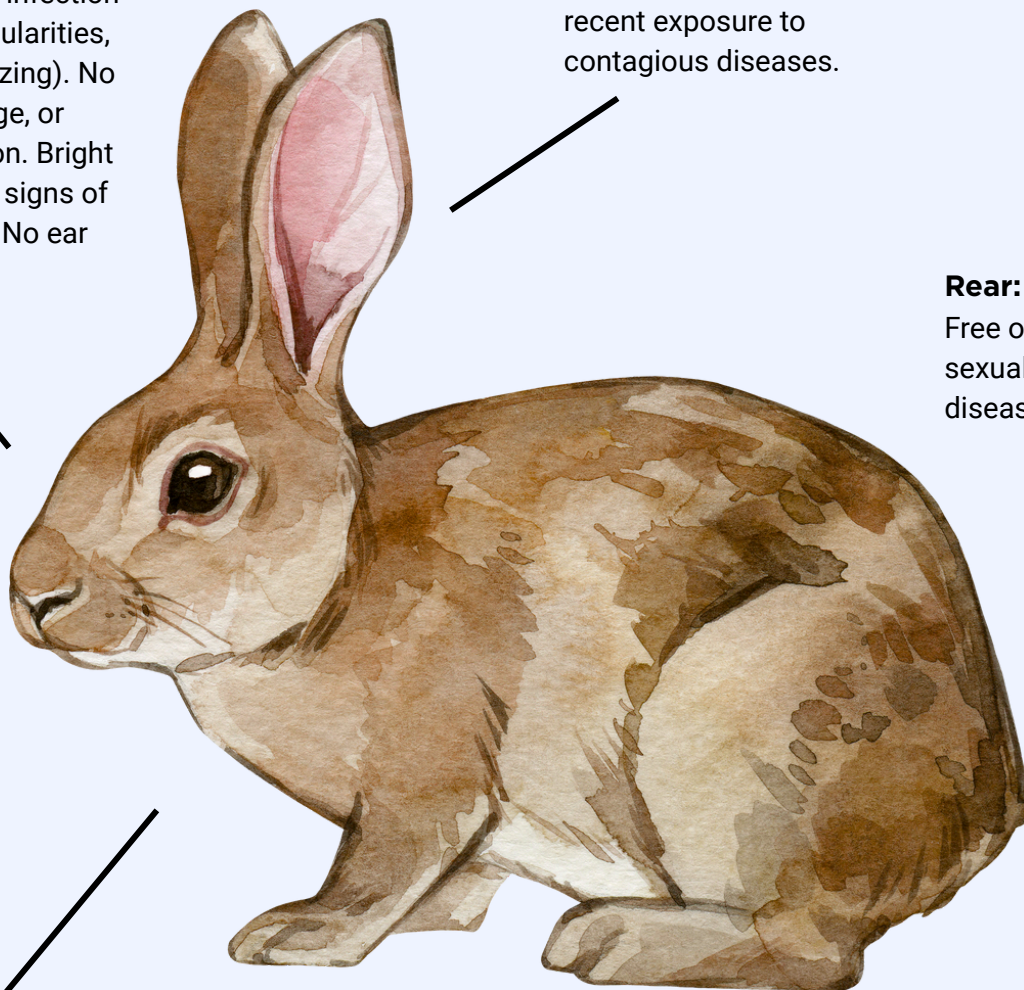
Free of respiratory infection (no breathing irregularities, coughing, or wheezing). No nasal, eye discharge, or excessive salivation. Bright clear eyes without signs of injury or infection. No ear mites.

Identification:

Valid health certificate; identification number; no recent exposure to contagious diseases.

Rear:

Free of scours/diarrhea, sexually transmitted diseases, and urine burn.



General Body:

Overall thriftiness and appropriate body condition. No hunching, broken bones, injuries, abscesses, fever, lethargy, or signs of neurological issues.

Skin:

Healthy skin and fur, no signs of infection or open wounds. No signs of moist dermatitis in rabbit.

Feet:

No signs of lameness, injury, or infection, broken digits, sore hocks, or bumblefoot.

The BE SAFE Project and this fact sheet are supported by Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement. Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement supports programs, projects and events that are intended to strengthen Northeast agriculture, commercial fishing and forest products. This program is a combined effort of Farm Credit East and CoBank.

 **Farm Credit**
Northeast AgEnhancement