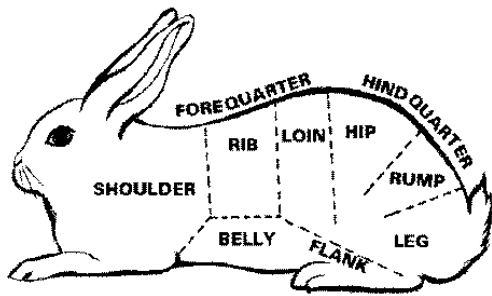


# Choosing a Healthy Rabbit

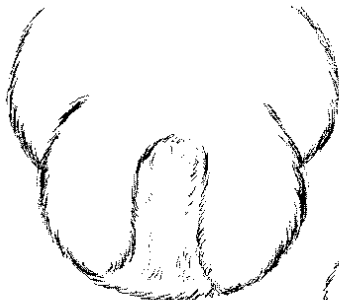


## What to Look For

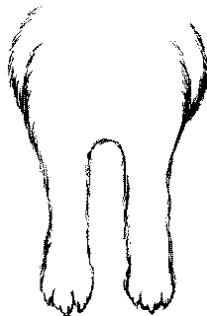
Once you have an idea about what breed you want, it's time to think about two things: body build and fur.

Look at the first figure. Check to see where the hindquarters of the rabbit are located. The hindquarters are not just the hind legs, but the legs and the loin up to the first rib on the forequarters. In order to have good hindquarters, the rabbit must have a wide loin section with well-rounded and full hips.

The forequarters should be full and have a good thickness of meat over the shoulders. Good fur is another thing to think about. According to the fur standard, there are four points to check: condition, density, texture and balance.



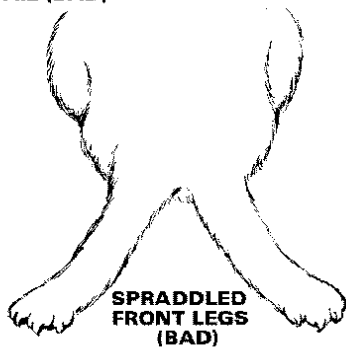
GOOD TAIL CARRIAGE



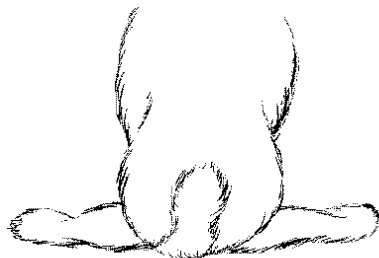
GOOD FRONT LEGS



CROOKED TAIL (BAD)



SPRADDLED FRONT LEGS (BAD)



SPRADDLED HIND LEGS (BAD)

## Condition

Look for a fur that is tight. You do not want a molting rabbit. There should be no breaks in the fur, no mats of fur and no stains. The guard hairs should be supple and glossy. The fur should look alive and brilliant.

## Density

Look for a good thick coat of fur all over the back, sides, chest and flanks.

## Texture

The texture of the coat should not be harsh or wire-like, nor do you want a silky coat or wooliness. Look for fur coarse enough in guard hairs to offer some resistance when you stroke the fur. Guard hairs are heavier hairs that protrude above the undercoat and protect it. The undercoat should be thin and soft.

## Balance

Look for evenness and smoothness in rabbit fur. The fur should be a good length, not too long and not too short. A dense coat of short fur is better than a long thin coat.