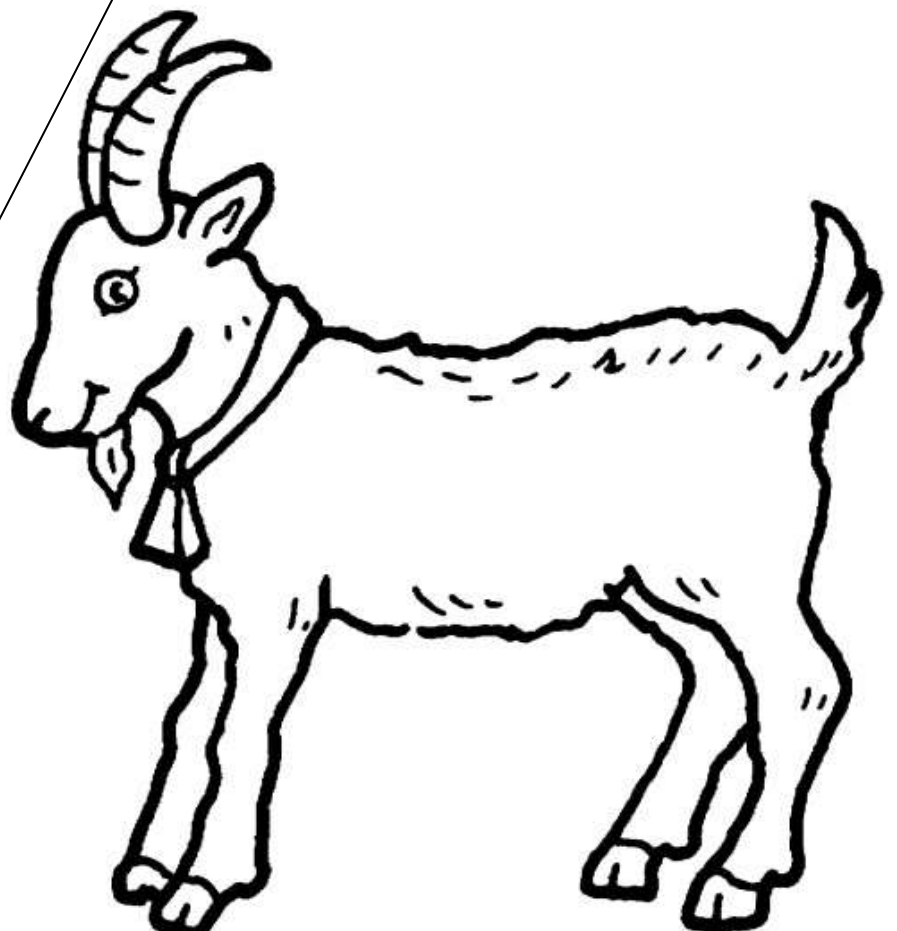


Education Pack

Rodents, Rabbits, Ferrets
and Small Birds.

Here at Belmont Farm we have lots of different animals. In this booklet you can find out about small animals such as the rodents, rabbits, ferrets and small birds. Most of these you can find in the small animal barn.
Happy learning!



Rabbits!

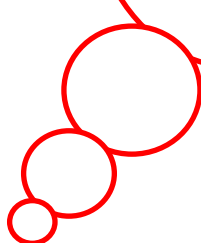
We have so many rabbits here at Belmont farm, but they aren't all the same. The only thing they have in common is that they are super cute!!!

Rabbits live on a diet of mixed vegetables and hay. Many people think that cabbage and lettuce is good for them, it's not!! If rabbits eat too many green leaves, gases build up in their tummy and they become very poorly.

Rabbits are hunted by a lot of animals; therefore they need to be well prepared. They have big ears for listening, big feet for running and hopping, and eyes on the top and slightly to the side of their head to give them almost 350 degree vision.

We have 5 different breeds of rabbit here at Belmont Farm.

Himalayan
Caster Rex
Mini Blue Rex
Lion Head
And GIANT Flemish



FUN FACTS!

Rabbits can breed very quickly. A female rabbit can have up to 20 babies a month in breeding season.

Wild rabbits live under the ground. They make lots of tunnels that lead to one big hole in the middle. This is called a warren.

A female rabbit is called a Doe.
A male rabbit is called a Buck.
A baby rabbit is called a kit.

Rabbits make cute pets but in the wild are seen as pests because they eat all the farmer's crops and destroy the fields.

Guinea Pigs

Guinea pigs are not related to pigs!! They are a super cute rodents that lots of people enjoy having as pets.

Guinea pigs are very docile, that means they are calm. They love being stroked and handled. They make fantastic pets.

Guinea pigs talk A LOT! They make all kinds of different noises and talk all the time. They will let you know if they are excited, nervous, scared or just happy!

Guinea pigs have very good memories. They can remember complicated paths and their way through mazes; especially if there is food at the end!!!

Here at Belmont farm we have 1 guinea pig... his name is Tom.



FUN FACTS!

Like rabbits, guinea pigs front teeth never stop growing so they have to nibble on hay and wood to file their teeth down and stay healthy.

In ancient times it is believed that in some parts of Peru, South America, guinea pigs were worshipped like gods! !!

They need to eat a lot of fresh vegetables because they do not produce their own vitamin C, a very important part of any diet, including in a humans diet.

A guinea pig will be pregnant for 70 days, that's 2 and a half months.

Chinchillas.

They look like fluffy fur balls! But these cute little things are all over Belmont Farm!

Many people think that chinchillas are related to rats and mice but they are not! Chinchillas are actually related to porcupines and guinea pigs!!

Chinchillas have rounded ears, bushy tails, and thick soft fur. You can get white, silver, beige, black or bluish grey chinchillas!!

Chinchillas are crepuscular; this means that they are most active in the morning and in the evening. Normally they do not like to be handled during the day.

Baby chinchillas are born with their eyes open and covered in fur. They can run around and play after just a few minutes.



Fun Facts.

In the wild chinchillas live in burrows in the ground. They normally live in very cold environments so are unable to sweat.

Chinchillas do not take baths in water because it affects their fur; instead they have dust baths to get rid of dirt and excess fur.

Chinchillas are named after a South American Indian tribe called the Chincha People.

Chinchillas used to be hunted for their fur in order to make clothes. Now, in some countries people farm chinchillas for their fur.

Ferrets!

Not a lot of people know much about ferrets, so here are some handy facts.

Ferrets love to sleep! They will sleep for almost 18 hours of the day!!!

Ferrets are very playful, they love to dance and move! Males will perform a “war dance” in front of the women to try and win them over!

Ferrets are known for being a bit smelly! They can't help this, the smell comes from glands in their skin and is kind of a musky smell. They will release the odour if they feel threatened or scared.

A female ferret is called a Jill and a male ferret is called a hob. A baby ferret, like rabbits and chinchillas, are called kits.



FUN FACTS!

Ferrets have been domesticated (used as pets) for around 300 years. They were popular in North America to begin with then in the 1970's became very popular in the UK

Ferrets live between 6-8 years normally. Sometimes if they are very well looked after they can reach the age of 11.

The name "ferret" comes from the Latin word for thief! Ferrets love to steal anything they can get their hands on and carry either in their mouth or push along! Cheeky little rascals!!

Cockatiel, Budgerigars and Peach faced lovebirds!

We have grouped these together because although from different families they have a lot of things in common!

All three of these birds are very sociable; they like having friends around them. Without a partner or a friend they will get very lonely and bored and you will probably never hear them sing.

Cockatiels and budgerigars are very good at copying sounds and noises. They can mimic phrases of songs, car alarms and even telephone ringtones!!



Cockatiels and Budgerigars come from Australia originally. The lovebirds come from the Namib desert in Africa. That's where they live in the wild. They are kept as pets all over the world these

If these birds are handled from a young age they can make fantastic pets. Lovebirds especially get very attached to their owners.



Fun Facts.

Budgerigars are one of the smallest species of Parrot in the world.

Cockatiels like to sleep; they should have between 12 and 14 hours a night!

The cockatiel has a crest on it's head that moves to different angles depending on how it feels. For example when it is alarmed or excited.

Female lovebirds tend to be bigger than the males, and greener in colour. The males are