

Is it a rabbit or a hare?

HOW TO SPOT THE DIFFERENCE:

Rabbits are restricted invasive animals because of their impact on agriculture and the environment.

By law, affected landholders in Queensland must take all reasonable steps to remove them. Hares, on the other hand, are not restricted invasive animals and there is no requirement to control them. That's why it's important to know the difference.

Quick facts

- Both rabbits and hares are not native to and are established throughout Australia.
- Rabbits are smaller than hares but often force hares out of an area.
- Rabbits and hares are different species and do not interbreed.



Features

European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

European hare (*Lepus europaeus*)

Origins	Southern Europe	Europe and parts of Asia
Pest status in Queensland	Restricted invasive animal	Not restricted invasive animal
Responsibility for control	Landholders	No control required
Tail position when disturbed	Lift tail up (white tail flashed as alarm signal)	Hold tail down (dark tail seen)
Average body length (adult)	40cm	55cm
Typical colour	Grey	Golden brown
Ears	Shorter	Longer with distinct black tips
Legs	Shorter hind legs	Longer hind legs
Shelter	Underground burrows or under above-ground harbour	Above-ground nests in long grass
Average litter size	4-7	2-3
Social organisation	Live in groups	Lead solitary lives except when breeding