

ANIMAL FUN FACTS

THE AFRICAN SAVANNA HARE

Although many people confuse them with rabbits, hares are their own unique species that have special traits and behaviors. They can be found all over the world and are known as calm, sweet animals.

Hares are big and extremely fast, so they are not the first food that many predators choose. Some animals that do hunt hares are owls, hawks, and coyotes.

To protect themselves, hares rely on camouflage, speed, and their senses of hearing and smell. If an enemy is near, the hare may freeze, crouching low to the ground. If danger continues to approach, the hare may pop into the air and dash away in a zig-zag pattern where they often hop, skip, or jump to get away.

Hares are herbivores, which means that they only eat plants. Their favorite food is grass, but they will also eat flowers, seeds, vegetables, and fruits.

Because they are born with less protection, hares are fully covered in fur and have their eyes open when they are born.

Hares usually live from four to eight years in the wild. But they can live for as long as twelve years.

The hare gives a shrill scream if in danger, but is otherwise mostly silent.

The hare is nocturnal and solitary, spending most of the day lying in a depression in the ground or under bushes. Hares do not dig burrows like rabbits do.



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Hares eat leaves, buds, roots, berries, fungi, bark, and twigs. And, like rabbits, hares produce two types of droppings—the first is soft and rich with vitamins and is re-ingested for maximum nutrient gain, the second is hard, dry, and pellet-like.

An unhappy, scared hare will usually lay its ears back, but a happy, hopping hare's ears will stand straight up.

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