

e) It seeks protection on **rocky** areas (*Psalms* 104:18, *Proverbs* 30:26 and *Bereshit Rabba* 12:9).

This is true of rabbits. Rabbits dwell in a variety of habitats,^{124 125} ...[its] lifestyle in different **habitats** emphasizes the species’ **marked adaptability**.¹²⁶



Rabbits in rocky holes

Following some illustrative quotations:

Rabbits [European rabbits or *Oryctolagus cuniculus*] are **often** found around **rocky outcrops**, buildings, wood heaps, fence lines, waterways, weedy areas.¹²⁷

Although it thrives best on dry but rich pastures, the rabbit [**in Britain**] may be expected wherever a blade of grass can

¹²⁴ Terry A. Vaughan, J. M. Ryan, N. J. Czaplewski. *Mammalogy*. Fourth Edition. New York: Brooks/Cole, Thomson Learning. 2000. Chapter 19, p. 331

¹²⁵ *Enciclopedia de la Vida Animal*. “Conejo americano”. Editorial Bruguera. 1974 Tomo 5. Pages 725-728

¹²⁶ Chapman Joseph. *Rabbits, Hares and Pikas*. IUCN/SSC. Lagomorph Specialist Group. Information Press, Oxford, U.K. 1990. p. 116

¹²⁷ <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/pest-animals/invasive-animal-management/established-invasive-animals/integrated-rabbit-control-for-rural-and-natural-landscapes> accessed 15/jan/19

grow... **It plants its colonies on almost inaccessible turf ledges on the sides of sea cliffs** and precipices.¹²⁸

Cottontail rabbits [*Sylvilagus genus*] **typically** live in two places in Utah, USA — areas that have brushy... **and areas that have lots of rocks and rocky outcroppings...** Cottontails **usually hide under rocks** or brush.¹²⁹

Nuttall's cottontail [*Sylvilagus nuttallii*] is **commonly** associated with **rocky**, brushy and wooded areas.¹³⁰

The pygmy rabbit [*Brachylagus idahoensis*] also uses holes in **volcanic rock**, rock piles and around abandoned buildings.¹³¹

Volcano rabbits [*Romerolagus diazi*] are found... inhabiting pine forests with dense undergrowth of bunch grass ("zacaton") and **rocky** substrates.¹³²



¹²⁸ A History of British Mammals by G.E. Hamilton, Barrett-Hamilton and M. Hinton, 1910, p. 117.

¹²⁹ <https://wildlife.utah.gov/wildlife-news/2148-winter-is-great-for-hunting-cottontails.html> accessed 4/jan/19

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 105.

¹³¹ *Ibid.*, p. 113.

¹³² *Ibid.*, p. 143.

Eastern cottontail rabbit on rocky areas¹³³European wild rabbit hiding behind a rock¹³⁴Cottontail rabbit on its **typical** rocky area¹³⁵

Some rabbits specifically prefer rocky habitats as the *Pronolagus rupestris*¹³⁶ (and similar species¹³⁷) and the *Poelagus marjorita*. Some of the latter are found closely

¹³³ <https://mountainscholar.org/handle/10217/52613>

¹³⁴ http://www.shutterstock.com/pic-94025098/stock-photo-european-wild-rabbit.html?src=same_artist-95803933-2

¹³⁵ <https://wildlife.utah.gov/wildlife-news/2148-winter-is-great-for-hunting-cottontails.html> accessed 4/jan/19

¹³⁶ Sekine, R. 2000. "*Pronolagus rupestris*", *Animal Diversity Web*.

http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Pronolagus_rupestris.html accessed July 16, 2006

Although many of these genera include species commonly referred to as hares (for example *Pronolagus*, *Poelagus*, etc.) they are all true rabbits.

Chapman Joseph. *Rabbits, Hares and Pikas*. IUCN/SSC. Lagomorph Specialist Group. Information Press, Oxford, U.K. 1990. p. 1

The common names "rabbit" and "hare" are used interchangeably in the United States and are sometimes misleading; the popular breed known as the Belgian hare, for instance, is actually a variant of the European rabbit. *Britannica Encyclopaedia* DVD 2001

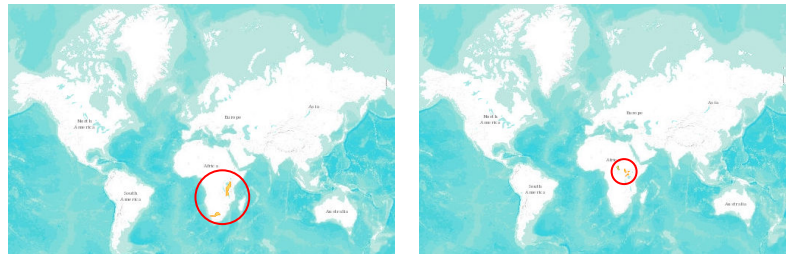
¹³⁷ *Pronolagus rupestris* (Smith's red **rock rabbit**), *Pronolagus saundersiae* (Hewitt's red rock rabbit), *Pronolagus randensis* (Jameson's red rock rabbit), *Pronolagus crassicaudatus* (Natal red rock rabbit).

Matthee CA. *Syst. Biol.* 2004;53(3):433–447, page 434.

associated with the hyrax and possibly share natural crevices in the rocks for shelter.^{138 139}



Pronolagus randensis in its original rocky habitat¹⁴⁰



Present-day distribution¹⁴¹ of *Pronolagus rupestris* and *Poelagus marjorita*

f) It is **not strong** (they are a feeble folk) (*Proverbs* 30:26 according to *Targum Yonatan ben Uziel*).

This is true of the rabbit. It is the most widely hunted small game (by humans) wherever it is found.¹⁴²

¹³⁸ Kingdon Jonathan. *East African Mammals*. Volume IIB, “Hares and Rodents”. University of Chicago Press. 1974. Page 353

¹³⁹ Chapman Joseph. *Rabbits, Hares and Pikas*. IUCN/SSC. Lagomorph Specialist Group. Information Press, Oxford, U.K. 1990. Pages 123, 124

¹⁴⁰ http://www.birdholidays.co.uk/namibia%20pix%202010/jameson's%20red%20rock%20rabbit%20Namib%20desert%20Whk%20to%20Walvs7674a_RJ.jpg accessed 4/jan/19

¹⁴¹ See below Chapter 5 (b and c).

¹⁴² *Britannica Encyclopædia* DVD, 2001