



February 8th, 2011  
01:15 PM ET

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## Down the rabbit hole

Rabbit meat is delicious. I wish I didn't know that.

Rabbits bond for life. For most, instinct drives them to seek out another creature - usually one of their own kind, but it's been known to encompass cats, guinea pigs, dogs or even birds. They'll groom, cuddle and grieve palpably upon the other's absence or loss.

Claudette, **my nine-ish year old Hotot / dwarf mix** (pictured above) is, as I was informed by my local rabbit rescue guru, bonded to me. She expresses this via chin rubs to shoes I've not previously worn around her (rabbits have scent glands with which they mark territory), a distinct drop-off in the bitchy behavior she demonstrates to nearly all other humans she's encountered, and tooth-grinding purrs as I stroke her silken fur. We belong to each other.

At the same time, I can't pretend that the most astonishing bite of food I ate in 2009 wasn't a smoked rabbit kidney. In my defense, I didn't order it; it was a gift from **the chef of my favorite local restaurant**. The rich, gamey, smoke-soaked flavor built in my mouth and did not ebb for many minutes. It made me grateful to have a tongue.

I debated for a minute or two before I ate it, and I apologized to my rabbits (there is another besides Claudette) upon my arrival at home. Yes, I sometimes anthropomorphize, but I felt genuine guilt when I looked into their faces. I take care of these animals. I enjoy and yes, love them. It is truly unnerving to know, quite specifically what is under their fur and how it tastes.

I gave up cooking and ordering rabbit - my most favorite meat - when I decided to adopt Claudette in 2004. It still shows up on my plate, sent out by chefs and friends who don't know that about me. I'm always conflicted.

I am a dedicated, enthusiastic eater of meat and especially offal - **occasionally from animals I'd known while they were still living**, thanks to some farmer friends who have no use for the heads, organs and extremities of the pigs and cows they



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Down the rabbit hole: why some folks feel funny eating bunny & others say bring on the hasenpfeffer:

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Fame Bites!

[@evilhag](#)

wants to feed Bill Murray arepas.

<http://on.cnn.com/goCjnN>

11:08 pm UTC, February 7 2011



Podcast - some of y'all were lucky enough to grow up around awesome tacos. Rest of us had Ortega & "seasoned beef":

<http://on.cnn.com/gzNyRq>

slaughter for food. I don't have qualms - well, not any more - about enjoying eating these creatures I'd seen walking, wallowing, eating and generally cavorting about. Parts would otherwise going to go to waste, so I eat them.

What gives rabbits more rights than these creatures? Vegetarians would offer me a blanket solution to my quandary - just don't consume any of them. Problem solved. But I haven't been a vegetarian for a very long time, and even then, my reasons were not based in ethics or morality - more just an attempt at an identity. Either way, it's pretty easy to stay away from eating rabbit, and save for the occasional jab from a pal who threatens to fricassee my pets, I haven't had to think about it much. Until recently.

This month ushered in The Year of the Rabbit, according to the Chinese Lunar calendar. It's purportedly a time of tranquility and balance and in no way traditionally calls for an uptick in bunny eating - but it's **shaking out that way in the food community**. Bring up the subject of rabbits, and someone suggests ways to serve them. It's not that way with dogs and other domestic pets, unless someone's in a particularly dark mood. I joke that I've completely given up eating whippet and greyhound since I started living with one of each, but that's mostly to forestall the inevitable.

A December tweet from chef and No Reservations host Anthony Bourdain read: **"Daughter said she wanted a bunny. So I'm making braised rabbit with pappardelle."** Sadistic? Yes. Unexpected? Not a bit - but I can't pretend I didn't wince.

I similarly recoiled when Food & Wine editor-in-chief Dana Cowin tweeted, **"Chefs developing recipes 4 @fandw always suggest rabbit. I always say no. Should I relent? Would you cook rabbit?"**. This was not because I sensed any flippancy on her part; Dana is an exceptionally graceful and conscientious person. Rather, I knew what was likely about to come her way.

When New York Times writer Kim Severson's article **"Don't Tell The Kids"** broached the topic of Brooklyn-based rabbit slaughter classes in March of 2010, she drew tremendous outrage from the online rabbit rescue community. I know, because I am a part of those groups. She wrote thoughtfully and thoroughly about the history and moral ambiguity of using rabbits as a meat animal, but the inclusion of recipes and a photograph of a lovely, live white rabbit galvanized the community. Many began calling for her head.

I didn't participate - I'm in a strange position as a food writer and rabbit owner - but letters to the editor stating calling her "an utterly disgusting human being" and "I would appreciate it if you would publish an article in response on how to butcher Kim Severson" are not helping anyone. They're the flip side of the knee-jerk jokes about making a snack of my pets - but infinitely darker in their disrespect for life. Human life.

That is where I have no grey area. Yes, I would rather spend time with my rabbits and my dogs than a good many of the people that I've met throughout the years. I would never choose their life over a human's. That sounds obvious, but it's not. My own death was called for and I was wished cancer, among other fates, by the readers of a **piece I wrote about ethical pig slaughter**.

I fully understand the passion that many people feel about the welfare of animals. If I didn't, I wouldn't share my home with several of them myself. I knew that putting that article - and in fact this one - out into the world was going to enrage people. That's not a bad thing - it means we get to talk with each other and hopefully get to understand each others' points of view a little bit better. Someone will likely suggest that the world would be better off if I were cooked and the rabbits ate me (I have a sneaking suspicion that I'd be a bit gamey), or that I'm a bleeding heart liberal (yeah, that's probably true) who just needs to grow a pair and munch bunny unapologetically.

All I know is that every night, when I walk into the room where Claudette and Digory live, check their water, bring them hay, greens and pellets, they're happy to see me. It could be just that I'm bringing their provisions, but I have a sneaking suspicion it's something more.

10:48 pm UTC, February 7 2011



5@5!

@heartwine

says think outside the box of chocolates & consider the bottle for the day-that-shall-not-be-named.

<http://on.cnn.com/gqGEGd>

10:38 pm UTC, February 7 2011



In need of some one-dish comfort? Sometimes, you've gotta casserole with it, baby.

<http://on.cnn.com/ik2SEp>

7:48 pm UTC, February 7 2011

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They don't dive directly into the food, but rather hunker down into restive loaves, feet tucked under them, ears tucked back to further streamline their bodies and wait for me to pet them until they purr.

I double dog dare you to try and eat hasenpfeffer after that.

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## soundoff (442 Responses)

### Snowbunny

\*Gasp\* how dare any of you!?

February 8, 2011 at 1:32 pm | [Reply](#)

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### RichardHead@Snowbunny

I've got your back. We just need to dig a Bigger and Deeper Hole that's all.

February 8, 2011 at 1:44 pm | [Reply](#)

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### Esther

Haha :D That's really funny..

My Bunny digs shallow holes and then falls asleep in them. I think he gets lazy and bored then just flops down..

February 8, 2011 at 4:02 pm |

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### Josh Bransden

I love to eat Rabbits. I like them very rare with a little blood dripping out. When I lived in Korea we ate Kittens. Kittens taste the same as a Rabbit. Never eat an OLD cat. OLD cat is no good. I would love to eat a live rabbit some day!!!!!!!

February 8, 2011 at 4:33 pm |

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### CarrotJuicelsMurder

it's no different than the piggie or cow on the farm. I had a rabbit in college. i wouldn't eat a pet. but an animal raised for the purpose of food consumption doesn't bother me.

February 8, 2011 at 4:40 pm |

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### LaraF

Learn to spell, Josh Bransden, before bragging about your "culinary explorations".

Disgusting.

February 8, 2011 at 5:05 pm |

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### Raevyn

@ Lara....go find your sense of humour before commenting. It was obviously a typo...lighten up.

February 8, 2011 at 5:32 pm |

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**Omega rea**

I have 2 adorable pets rabbits, already more than 2 years. They are so innoasant,soft,loving.cute,playfull,beautiful,they use there littery box always,and they love each other,they give love and harmony in my and my hasband life! How anybody can try hurt and eat this wonderfull tender creators?

February 8, 2011 at 5:45 pm |

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**Jefe**

Lara! Its not disgusting, he said "don't" eat old cat!

February 8, 2011 at 5:50 pm |

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**Jim**

-Diseased meat-

Americans should address the fact that they are eating too much meat, whether its rabbit, pig, cow or dog. Putting ethics aside, most Americans eat meat 3x per day, which requires factory farming to keep up with our demand.

Factory Farming provides 95% of meat in America. Sheds can contain up to 20,000 pigs and a Candian factory farm is planned to be the largest, holding up to 80,000 pigs. The animals are so cramped together & so stressed that these farms make the perfect petri dish for disease. In fact, do your research and you will find that disease spreads like wildfire in the sheds.

MRSA (The Staph Virus) is in 5% of US meat. It is transfered to humans (45% of factory farm workers have staph now).

Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) in humans has now been found to be related to heavy turkey/chicken consumption and that the bug that causes UTIs in humans actually originated from turkeys and chickens.

Heard of butcher's warts?

The Avion Swine Flu originated from within 1 mile of the largest pig and chicken factory in the world located in Asia.

E. coli, C. diff - the diseases go on and on. My point: Factory farms are a petri dish for disease. If we can lessen our consumption of animals so that they don't need to be factory farmed, - everyone- (humans and animals) would be a lot happier and HEALTHIER. If you don't believe the facts I've quoted, do your research. It is all available in medical articles.

February 8, 2011 at 8:20 pm |

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**Ya**

Humans are not built to consume meat

February 8, 2011 at 9:33 pm |

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**Guest**

To Jim -

Staphylococcus isn't a virus, it's a bacteria.

Not speculating about the comparable incidence of MRSA vs. S. Aureus specifically in meat workers, but the incidence of persistently colonized S. Aureus carriers in the US population overall is somewhere around 30%; a 45% carrier rate in meat workers doesn't seem quite so significant when you also give this background info.

I'm not arguing about the morality behind factory farming, but it irks me when people supply false facts to try to scare people into supporting their viewpoints.

February 8, 2011 at 9:50 pm |

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**Esther**

Haha. Snowbunny you may be related to my all white bunny 'Bunny'. :p Don't worry I would never eat you.

February 8, 2011 at 3:56 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Alex**

"Bunny" is yummy

February 8, 2011 at 9:53 pm |

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**Kat**

I grew up on a rabbit farm here in eastern Kentucky and ate rabbit all the time. Of course, now that I'm an adult and know better, I'm a vegan.

February 8, 2011 at 4:42 pm | [Reply](#)

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**RH of WI**

I too was raised eating squirrel and rabbit, it was just the way things were. I no longer eat either.

February 8, 2011 at 4:48 pm |

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**Frankly Speaking..**

In case you did not know, plants have life too!..They cry, they feel pain too!..You should start living on air and water alone but then u wud be killing millions of bacteria floating in the air..You see where I am getting at ?

February 8, 2011 at 5:06 pm |

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**Attrib**

Kat... thus speaks yet another self-righteous evangelical disciple of a minor trend. I'm glad your epiphany works for you, but like I tell all the other religious wackjobs: I gave at the Office, now get off my porch...

February 8, 2011 at 5:09 pm |

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**Sheldon**

Plants feel pain?? How can they feel pain if they have no central nervous system? This hippy environmental ethics is baffling.

February 8, 2011 at 5:26 pm |

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**Smurfeater**

@ Frankly Speaking..

Your argument is a logical fallacy... Don't they teach logic in school anymore???

February 8, 2011 at 5:35 pm |

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**MariaOlivia**

Good for you!!

February 8, 2011 at 5:37 pm |

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**Tammy**

growing up in Paducah KY, and surrounding areas, not only did we eat rabbit, we also ate deer, coon, possum, and squirrel.... all taste like chicken, so what's the problem? Now that I have grown up, moved away from home and have lived in MD, TN, AL, AK, Japan, Okinawa, and now in TX I can't say that other places don't eat any different or have any more weird eating customs as what I grew up with.... now can some one please pass me the rocky mountain oysters?

February 8, 2011 at 5:37 pm |

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**detsea**

@tammy

how can you say all of that tastes like chicken? chicken is gross and flavorless. venison is the exact opposite. rabbit is somewhere in between. as for the others, can's say i've tried them or plan to.

February 8, 2011 at 6:44 pm |

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**Matt**

@ Sheldon and Smurfeater

"Don't they teach logic in school anymore?"

Well apparently they don't teach sarcasm either. Frankly Speaking is clearly not implying that plants can truly feel pain. He/She is using that outlandish statement to point out that humans are dependent on the consumption of other organisms in order to survive and that we cannot continue to live without consuming other creatures.

February 8, 2011 at 7:04 pm |

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**Oleg**

Congratulations on making the moral choice. Don't let trolls like Attrib get you down. They couldn't come up with a rational argument to defend carnivory to save their lives.

February 8, 2011 at 9:53 pm |

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**VTGal**

@Kat

I'm happy for you if that's what works for you. To each their own. There's a certain level of psychology involved in there as well... my mother didn't like chicken for almost year after working in a chicken factory for a brief time.

@Attrib

Nice try at the sarcastic analogy, but I think it needed to be a little more obvious, because I'm afraid some people didn't quite get it and just thought you were a loon....or you could be a loon after all....who knows?

@everyone/anyone

The point is, yeah, Americans eat too much meat but the knee-jerk reaction of cutting it out all together is just as stupid. Where do people think all the domesticated animals will go if we all became vegans? Petting zoos? Running free in the shrinking wild-lands that can sometimes barely support the wildlife already there and therefore completely wreck the ecosystem? Yes. we should cut down and limit our meat consumption and increase our intake of fruits and veggies, but don't go shoving veganism down everyone's throats either. Being rude and extreme is a good way to get most people to make in fun of you or just plain ignore you even when what you are saying may be right.

Giving the big picture and being honest is the best way to try to reach people. I agree with one poster's warning about the factory farms...a concept that chills me to the bone. I grew up around family farms, and not massive poop-pits. If you're worried about mass-produced meats (and I wouldn't blame you), then select meats that the store had gotten locally. Macro-diets (local foods) are the new food fad, but not a bad one. The products and produce may not always be certified organic, but it's a start and at least it didn't have to travel very far to get to your table. Less time between the farm and your table can typically relate to fewer preservatives, meats that were possibly raised more ethically and with less stress than on a factory farm, and you might even know the farmer who cultivated your food. Food Coops can sometimes cost a little more, but they can tell you exactly where your food came from, and their organic options are sometimes actually cheaper than the retail stores.

February 8, 2011 at 10:42 pm |

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**Health Teach**

As a farmer/hunter's daughter I grew up eating rabbits, squirrel, duck, goose, quail, turkey, deer, etc...

Of all the things that I ate, I think I hated the rabbit the most, not because of the taste, but because Thumper was my favorite Disney character! It became so traumatic for me that my parents started lying to me from about the ages 6-10 when it came time to eat rabbits. Thankfully my dad gave up the sport when our pet beagle died, but to this day, I won't eat rabbit. Now, as for squirrels...they're rather tasty!

February 8, 2011 at 10:58 pm |

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**Erika**

What a gross article. Ugh and to go into detail about the nasty organs the author eats as well. All I can think is how the authors breath and body must stink. I'm a vegetarian and not just because I love animals. Eating meat is gross, and eating something that you spend some time with is even grosser and makes you less of a compassionate person.

February 8, 2011 at 4:48 pm | [Reply](#)

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**neuroperson**

Erika, let me guess.. you are an anxious person and raised in either an urban or suburban environment, and have never seen where any of the food you have eaten in your entire life, acutally comes from. Ever hunted, milked a cow, or even grown your own crops? But let me guess.. you're all about the environment and stuff?

February 8, 2011 at 4:59 pm |

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**Patrick Lewis**

...From your comfy little world where clean food is plentiful. Biology says there is no difference between an omnivore and a vegetarian; it's only our society that makes the vegetarian smug.

February 8, 2011 at 5:01 pm |

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**Zoe**

I'm vegan and I find eating meat gross, too. But, didn't your mother ever tell you its incredibly rude to comment on how other people eat? I mean, I feel for you, but his description of it (while detailed) was not nearly as gross as your reaction to it. Not to mention, its his article, you read it. I don't mean to be a downer, I just want you to know that if you make comments like that all the time you're a lousy dinner date.

February 8, 2011 at 5:05 pm |

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**Bertie Wooster**

Patrick,

I'm not a vegetarian, I hunt and have eaten rabbit. You said "there is no difference between an omnivore and a vegetarian." That is absolutely false. Aside from the obvious anatomic differences, there is a 90% energy loss at each trophic level. So a vegetarian diet is much more efficient and has a lower environmental impact. There is no denying it vegetarianism is better for the planet and can be healthier for people. And then there are the moral issues, again vegetarians win.

February 8, 2011 at 5:58 pm |

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**Brad**

Plants decay just like meat, plants can make you sick, just like meat. You want to be vegan, go for it, I'll eat pretty much anything, vegetarian or animal, if it taste good and won't make me sick. I love being an omnivor, I love the taste of both. Eating meat vs vegetarian doesn't make you smell worse of better, although, vegetarian dumps smell worse than meaty dumps :p. Point is, don't do something if you don't like it, but don't force your ethics on others when you know there is nothing wrong with what they are doing. If you try to, I will take those ethics and shove them up your bum.

February 8, 2011 at 6:29 pm |

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**O. Really**

And your shyte don't stink?

February 8, 2011 at 6:47 pm |

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**defakto**

@bertie:

True there is a loss as your progress through the trophic levels, the laws of thermodynamics

guarantee that. However, fats and oils from animals are much more energy dense than what you can get from plants. Especially when you consider long term usage. You can get a lot of carbs from plants but those don't typically store as well, with losses to conversion from carbs to fat. Carbs are just a quick, easy energy, not necessarily better or more efficient overall.

Besides, someone has to keep the vegetarian animals in check, otherwise their overpopulation will have consequences as well.

February 8, 2011 at 7:13 pm |

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**cyban**

I always thought vegetarians had some of the worst smells in nature next to skunks.

February 8, 2011 at 7:54 pm |

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**Charlie**

Why do those who choose to avoid eating meat always come off like they are somehow better. You have an opinion that is all. Act accordingly and respect others who do eat meat if you want your opinion respected.

February 8, 2011 at 7:54 pm |

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**Patrick**

I'd hit that.

February 8, 2011 at 4:51 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Truth@Truth**

What a rude comment! Who raised you? It is reprehensible that you would make a sexual connoted comment on a food blog.

February 8, 2011 at 5:13 pm |

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**nick**

Ha! Awesome.

February 8, 2011 at 5:29 pm |

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**Tammy**

too funny! most patrick's are hot, and if the name is any indication you're worth hitting too!

February 8, 2011 at 5:32 pm |

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**Dan**

Mmmmm...Brunswick stew...oh and.....rabbit in mustard sauce.....\*licks lips\*

February 8, 2011 at 4:56 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Dan**

...Brunswick stew is what my frien Tom used to call rabbit fo rthose who were too squeamish to try it.....

February 8, 2011 at 4:58 pm |

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**Pumbaa**

I used to buy rabbit at a local supermarket in Michigan. Where I now live I can't find lamb, goat or rabbit. I have had lamb, goat, rabbit, squirrel, and deer and it is all very good tasting when it is cooked correctly. The fat level in deer is very low. To make deer sausage, deer and pork are usually mixed together as pure deer sausage is very dry.



February 8, 2011 at 9:04 pm |

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**Amber**

Never! For one thing, rabbits are often pets and can be trained to use a litter box like a cat.

February 8, 2011 at 5:14 pm | [Reply](#)

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**RabiaDiluvio**

...and chickens, pigs and cows aren't trainable?

February 8, 2011 at 5:22 pm |

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**katwabba**

The same can be said for pigs. Mmmm... bacon.

February 8, 2011 at 5:48 pm |

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**Hmmmm**

Pigs are more intelligent than dogs. But I bet you eat bacon.

February 8, 2011 at 6:24 pm |

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**Becka**

cows, pigs, goats, rabbits and lots of other animals are smart and can be trained, (btw I had a young goat that I taught to sit) that doesn't mean you can't eat them. Even a chicken can be trained some, and they are eaten.

My first pet was a big black hen and I love to eat chickens.

I raise meat rabbits and milk goats, what do you think happens to all the extra boy goats? They get sold as a pet if someone wants one but most end up in the freezer, but that doesn't mean you can treat them badly. You take care of your animals and be nice to them right up to the end and then they give you your food. You feed them and pet them and just remember what they are for and it's no big deal. At my house when it gets time to butcher the pigs everyone starts to get excited because it means fresh bacon for breakfast.

February 8, 2011 at 7:05 pm |

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**Health Teach**

Just my non-scientific opinion, but I've raised a lot of pigs and had several pet dogs and while I'm not saying that pigs aren't smart, I think dogs are definitely smarter. After all, how many bomb-sniffing, child-locating, seeing-eye pigs have you seen?

February 8, 2011 at 11:04 pm |

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**bill**

I bet Elmer Fudd or TAZ would

February 8, 2011 at 5:19 pm | [Reply](#)

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**RabiaDiluvio**

There's only trouble when the waistcoat or pocketwatch gets stuck in the teeth. Serious floss emergency there.

February 8, 2011 at 5:21 pm | [Reply](#)

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**D**

Are you chasing a White Rabbit??

February 8, 2011 at 7:02 pm |

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**jeff**

tastes like chicken

February 8, 2011 at 5:22 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Smitty**

Nope – tastes like rabbit! If we were meant to be vegans, bacon & rabbit wouldn't taste SO good! But bacon wrapped rabbit is beyond good.

February 8, 2011 at 5:29 pm |

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**Omega rea**

eat dogs and cats than too...

February 8, 2011 at 5:49 pm |

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**Becka**

mmm bacon wrapped rabbit, I think I'm going to try that

February 8, 2011 at 7:07 pm |

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**jujubeans**

tastes like chicken

February 8, 2011 at 5:54 pm | [Reply](#)

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**K Stephen**

I'll share a quick story. I was given a white bunny for Easter when I was 6 or 7. When I was 8, my grandfather died and my parents moved us into my grandmother's large home to care for her. The rabbit promptly gnawed the leg off of an 18th century love seat. The rabbit was relocated to my uncle's father's farm. I visited him a few times over the next year. On the final visit, I asked the farmer where Cotton was. He rubbed his stomach and presented me with a white rabbit's foot he had 'lovingly' crafted into a key chain. I was devastated and my parents were aghast... Quite traumatizing for a child, but that's life.

I eat rabbit myself now as an adult, but not without a twinge a remembrance.

February 8, 2011 at 6:04 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Wayne**

My wife and I raised rabbits for food for years. The kids were only allowed to name the bucks and the does. All the offspring shared one name. That was "Freezer Bunny". Scrumptious

February 8, 2011 at 6:14 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Becka**

funny, that's exactly what we say, but the babies are Dinner

February 8, 2011 at 7:10 pm |

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**Wzrd1**

I HATE alfalfa fed rabbit though, too sweet.

February 8, 2011 at 7:13 pm |

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**Skeeter's mom**

I have had many pet rabbits through the years. I do not eat rabbit, but I understand others that do. Rabbits are

prey animals. That is why they breed so often and typically have a lot of babies at once. I wouldn't dream of eating my rabbit when she passes nor allow anyone else to, but in general that is why rabbits exist, for food. I have a very good friend that raises rabbits for slaughter. It is no different than eating cow, or chicken, or fish. They just happen to be cute and fuzzy on the outside.

February 8, 2011 at 6:30 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **farmboy at heart**

If you raise your own, you have the best of both worlds. You get to cuddle with them when they are young and eat them when they grow up!

February 8, 2011 at 6:37 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Becka**

Exactly! double the fun, a fuzzy critter and a good meal

February 8, 2011 at 7:21 pm |

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#### **Joan**

Not kosher so not an issue. And even though they are far more adorable than rats they resemble them too closely. They look a bit off putting when they're hanging up skinned in the market places of Europe.

February 8, 2011 at 6:38 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Wzrd1**

Well, first you take the rabbit and cut the throat and great blood vessels there. Let the rabbit bleed out and drain.

Then, you slice the belly, cutting around the anus and genitals, and remove the organs and intestines. Remove the head.

I personally rub the inside with koshering salt and work on the offal.

Then, one pulls the skin off of the rabbit, removing the feet. I discard the feet, as I really don't think they were that lucky for the rabbit.

I then spice the rabbit and place on a tray in the oven at 350 degrees.

Once cooked, I cut the rabbit, removing the parts I like, open my mouth, bite it, chew and swallow.

I've cut a few minor steps out, for brevity.

Does THAT answer "How could you"?

February 8, 2011 at 7:12 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Becka**

mmmm makes me want to cook one \*drool\*

February 8, 2011 at 7:29 pm |

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#### **Bramble wood Bunnies**

Our family used to raise New Zealand Whites for our freezer. Much easier to raise, butcher and at almost 10 lbs of meat, easier than doing chickens. The meat has the color, texture and flavor of dark turkey. One Thanksgiving we served turkey and rabbit side by side to our guest, they had no idea that it was different, didn't tell them either that one plate was rabbit, they loved it.

February 8, 2011 at 7:21 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Lynsey Pug**

It will be okay, Snowbunny. Just hide here in this nice big pot and I'll cover you up with some yummy carrots and potatoes. Hope you know how to swim!

February 8, 2011 at 7:23 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **matt**

Sh#@, I'll eat a pig's ass if they cook it right!!!

February 8, 2011 at 7:37 pm | [Reply](#)

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**UseYourBrain**

LOL! You probably already do... in hotdogs!

February 8, 2011 at 8:40 pm |

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**Susy**

I have had rabbit in the past, but didn't care for it. t was too tough and too many tendons on the legs. I personally don't care for it, although I don't see anything wrong for those who eat it.

February 8, 2011 at 7:40 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Tommy**

I'll eat anything that is cook and taste good as long as it's not my own pet and no cat or dog :D

February 8, 2011 at 7:54 pm | [Reply](#)

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**JIMSTER**

"PETS OR MEAT?" - RABBIT LADY IN "ROGER & ME

February 8, 2011 at 7:56 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Jim**

Whether you choose to eat animal or not, there is a problem with over consumption of animals. Most North Americans eat animals 3x per day - which requires heavy factory farming methods (20,000 pigs in a shed cramped so tight they cannot move). Even if you don't believe in ethics, DISEASE is spreading through those factory farms like wild fire. MRSA (the staph virus) is in 5% of all US meat (Google this if you don't believe me), 45% of factory farm workers have the staph virus, the bug that causes Urinary Tract Infections in humans originates from chickens/turkeys and heavy consumption raises UTIs significantly. Where did the Avion Swine flu originate? Within 1 mile from the largest pig/chicken factory farm in the world in Asia. Factory Farms (which make up 95% of farming in the US) is a petri dish for disease. And we're eating it and touching it raw.

February 8, 2011 at 8:03 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Louisa**

True...but utterly irrelevant. Rabbits are almost always raised on small family farms, and are probably the most environmentally friendly meat you can eat. Forget low impact- they're practically no-impact.

February 8, 2011 at 10:36 pm |

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**Phil**

No way. Their back legs ar the same as a house cat. Would you eat cat?

February 8, 2011 at 8:37 pm | [Reply](#)

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**johnharry**

i dare with salt and pepper, knife and fork at the READY!

February 8, 2011 at 8:47 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Tom**

Ssssssssssssssssssssssssssssssssst..... (sounds of sizzling skillet)

Seriously, I can't understand how anyone can stand these things or any rodents for that matter. If Anything a hamster or gerbil is cuter but do these things (ANY RODENT SPECIES) even have emotion? I seriously doubt it. They look cute and may seem to be empathic, but only for survivalist thought. Rodents are one of the most

disgusting creatures there are... If you want to eat it, by all means but cook it well!!! I've had "Hare" and it wasn't bad...

February 8, 2011 at 9:13 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Louisa**

Well, that would be something of a valid comment \*if rabbits were rodents.\* They're not. They're lagomorphs.

February 8, 2011 at 10:37 pm |

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**Health Teach**

Rabbits, gerbils, cows, dogs, etc. are all capable of showing emotions if you watch them, but that doesn't mean that we can't eat the ones we want to either. Personally, I have no problems with consuming animals grown on family farms, though I'll never eat veal nor did my family farm ever sell it, because animals grown on most family farms have a nice life prior to their slaughter. Additionally, that slaughter is usually done in a much quicker/more human way than the animal would have died if left to a natural demise. But, to answer your question, yes I do believe that higher order animals like mammals have emotions.

February 8, 2011 at 11:12 pm |

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**Health Teach**

\*humane\*

February 8, 2011 at 11:13 pm |

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**Bjh**

I really like rabbit meat. Rabbits are also cute pets. I love dogs too, but I don't eat them. I don't get hung up on food, I do find this article interesting, even if it reinforces the fact that people have a lot of silly hang-ups about what they eat.

February 8, 2011 at 10:46 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Tazer**

Ruh Roh....

Cue the raging, nonsensical debate between meat eaters and vegans. READY.... GO!

February 8, 2011 at 1:46 pm | [Reply](#)

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**@Tazer**

I bet you five bucks Kat and SLT secretly sit back and laugh their azzes off!

February 8, 2011 at 2:18 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Tazer@ " "**

Yep, otherwise why would the pet vs. food debate be resurrected? :)

February 8, 2011 at 2:28 pm |

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**@Tazer@Tazer@**

Nice self-talk. Great way to keep the conversation going!

February 8, 2011 at 5:07 pm |

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**Sirius (Not the station but the constellation) @ Tazer**

I wouldn't say self talk my friend their are always people listening and reading just most choose not to reply. >\_> And to be honest I'm actually I shocked that the debate hasn't started, everyone

has been sane today. Y\_Y

February 8, 2011 at 5:15 pm |

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**RabiaDiluvio**

If God didn't want us to eat animals he wouldn't have made them out of meat.

February 8, 2011 at 5:24 pm | [Reply](#)

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**sue**

I think the answer is that there's a difference between a pet and food. That's why people who live/work on farms tell their kids not to name the cows and sheep and pigs. Rabbit is one of the tastiest meats you can eat, but I would never dream of consuming my friend's angora Annie.

February 8, 2011 at 1:57 pm | [Reply](#)

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**abbyful**

I grew up on a farm, my sister and I always named our 4-H project animals, but we named them things like "Hamburger" and "Pork Chop".

February 8, 2011 at 2:43 pm | [Reply](#)

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**polishsausage**

Have you ever had rabbit not prepared by a professional chef? I have and I can say its nothing special, if not inferior to normal farm animals. They used to serve rabbit in the military and people hated it.

A chef at an expensive restaurant can make anything taste amazing, its not a proper way to evaluate how good a certain animal tastes. I would rather that chef make me something even better using regular old chicken.

February 8, 2011 at 4:47 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Lydia**

I was wondering if it was just me. The few times I've had rabbit meat I wasn't terribly impressed.

February 8, 2011 at 4:54 pm |

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**Wzrd1**

Interesting! I spent over 27 years in the Army. I've eaten on Army, Air Force and Navy bases, NEVER had rabbit.

So, whose military serves rabbit?

February 8, 2011 at 7:17 pm |

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**UseYourBrain**

Man, your military cooks must have sucked! All you have to do is salt and "paint" your rabbit with hot Dijon mustard (ie, Maille), then grill it like a chicken. Delicious.

PS: Pet bunnies are adorable, but they are not the eating kind anyway. Those are much bigger. Bon appetit!

February 8, 2011 at 8:49 pm |

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**Lydia**

That's the rule--don't eat anything you've named, or rather, don't name anything you're going to eat. I had a pet rabbit when friends at a cookout served cooked rabbit, and I have to say I never felt that twinge of guilt the author described. Perhaps that's because I grew up in a rural setting where that was just a fact of life, or maybe I'm just wired a little differently from other people. In any case, I can understand where the author is coming from, but at the same time, I don't share her problem.

February 8, 2011 at 4:52 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### Linda

Ranch bred rabbit is very expensive and hard to find in my area. We don't eat wild rabbit due to parasite concerns. I have eaten rabbit in both in Europe and cooked it at home (have had some culinary training) and refuse to pay the high price for what tastes ordinary to me. Now, pheasant is another story and is worth the money. While we eat chicken we don't eat anything we personally "bond" with. We had a pet chicken (an adorable bird) and we promised her that she would never have to get a job as a drumstick or sandwich. As a note – I'm also a former vegetarian and might still be if those darn animals weren't so tasty!

February 8, 2011 at 6:36 pm |

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#### All a matter of perception

You anthropomorphize anything that you care about, and once you do that, you see anything like it differently.

It's why people tend to be horrified when you shoot a deer, but barely blink when it's a moose. In many people's minds, deer=bambi, no exceptions. They care about all deer because they cared about one, never mind that it's a fictional character.

It's really the main, and for some only, reason people don't eat cats, dogs and horses. They've known one. They've loved one, and that love for one becomes an encompassing feature for all the species.

It's normal for you to not want to eat rabbit when you have bonded with with one. For that matter, it's normal for any species, no matter how delicious, to be stricken from the menu once you've become attached. Some of us can separate our individual pet from the whole species and some can't. I think whatever works for you is the way to go with it, as long as you don't become too fanatical or extreme.

I, for my part, have no compunctions eating rabbit, or almost any type of meat. I would have a problem being served a former pet rabbit, however.

February 8, 2011 at 2:15 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### Hmmm...

I agree with Sue about the pet vs food argument. I don't eat rabbit, have never wanted to try it, and it makes me a little queasy thinking about eating it. Not because I'm morally against eating meat, I am a meat eater, there really is no logical explanation – maybe it's because of Peter Cottontail and the Easter Bunny – but I just have no inclination to try it. I will not however judge people for eating rabbits, or for eating anything else for that matter.

February 8, 2011 at 2:17 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### RH of WI

Not so Hummm...my family wasn't really poor but we didn't have a lot of money. Eating rabbit, squirrel were ways to stretch the \$\$\$\$. It wasn't even a question of should I eat it...if you're hungry and it's on the table you eat it. Wouldn't eat my pet, and don't care to eat rabbit now...but when you don't have a lot of money it's mighty tasty.

February 8, 2011 at 4:53 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### LBW

My mothers Aunt raised rabbits during WWII and many times it was the only meat they had. She never wanted to eat it after other foods were available. Just had been served rabbit enough and burned out.

February 8, 2011 at 5:37 pm |

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#### UseYourBrain

I totally agree with you: you get what you get and you don't get upset.

Being picky about food is a luxury many people don't have.

If this were some other country where hunger is prevalent, nobody would even be asking the question "to eat or not to eat?"

February 8, 2011 at 8:57 pm |

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#### Jdizzle McHammerpants

Always wanted to try it, never have. I know this restaurant downtown has rabbit stew, but I think it's a seasonal deal there. Not sure.

February 8, 2011 at 2:41 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Jdizzle McHammerpants**

I heard rabbit was greasy, though.

February 8, 2011 at 2:42 pm | [Reply](#)

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**brent**

not so much greasy unless off course you deep fried the bunny, but my experience was pretty positive if I do say, nice white sauce ...rather good. I would et it any day.

February 8, 2011 at 4:44 pm |

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**A.**

It's actually not greasy at all...

February 8, 2011 at 4:30 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Chris R**

Jdizzle,

Rabbit is a very very lean meat. You often have to cook it with extra fats to make it edible though so maybe it was a poor preparation.

February 8, 2011 at 4:32 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Well Read**

JDizz,

You need to have someone braise one properly for you. A little pork fat does wonders to moisten up some rabbit. As stated above, it is naturally a very lean, and hence dry, meat. Sometimes I'll wrap the the meat in peppered bacon and roast it.

My family has hunted and eaten rabbit since my grandfather was a child (possibly before that in the old country). My dad raised them on the farm while he was in high school to sell for spending money, because he couldn't get an after school job with the farm work he had to do. We still hunt them on Thanksgiving every year. It's a family tradition (Shotguns are for rookies. We use bolt action .22's).

February 8, 2011 at 4:49 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Steve**

I've never tried rabbit. I probably would but they don't have it at my McDonalds.

February 8, 2011 at 2:46 pm | [Reply](#)

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**RichardHead@Steve**

Why do you think they only have McRibb once a year?

February 8, 2011 at 2:49 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Dan**

Try it. You'll like it.

February 8, 2011 at 4:59 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Melissa**

I've never tried rabbit but probably would if given the opportunity. While rabbits are cute and furry, they are also at the lower end of the food chain.



February 8, 2011 at 3:52 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Esther**

I have an all white bunny named Bunny. :p (Really inventive I know)  
He totally bonded with me! He runs up to me when I go outside and begs to be petted.  
I'll pet his little head and he grinds his little teeth in contentment. Such a darling!  
He also runs around the yard like a maniac and then flops on his side like a dog he then picks up leaves in his mouth and flings them in the air. I think Bunny thinks he is a dog. I love him. I don't think I could eat a rabbit because of Bunny.

February 8, 2011 at 3:54 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Frankly Speaking..**

I remember writing a similar essay in my pre-school..

February 8, 2011 at 5:15 pm | [Reply](#)

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**UseYourBrain**

Be patient with her; she's obviously only 6-7 years old! :-)

February 8, 2011 at 9:01 pm |

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**Liam**

Awww. 'Bunny' sounds tasty...um, I mean cute.. yeah, cute.

February 8, 2011 at 5:27 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Erin**

I've never had rabbit but I would probably try it once. I can differentiate between what I am eating and domesticated animals.

The food I wrestle with is duck. It's one of my favorite meals but the ducks are so cute when they are alive!

February 8, 2011 at 4:14 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Shasta**

Chinese eat everything such as roaches, rats, snake, dog meat ect...

February 8, 2011 at 5:15 pm | [Reply](#)

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**JerseyGrrr!Chef**

I have eaten and cooked rabbit. Delicious and not greasy at all. It did not freak me out to cook it, either. And I'm a big animal lover, but I guess I just see food and pets as different things. I would not eat a pet rabbit, or a pet deer, but I'm okay with eating venison or "conejo" as they say in Spanish. In fact, in Spain rabbit is popular. These animals were not created by man (like dogs) to be pets or companions. They were raised for food. Like chicken or beef or pork. That's just my opinion. If it does not bother you, then I suggest trying rabbit at least once.

February 8, 2011 at 4:17 pm | [Reply](#)

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**A.**

Very well said. I completely agree with you that they are not meant to be pets like dogs; therefore, it's okay to eat them. It's food, for God's sakes!!

February 8, 2011 at 4:26 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Matt**

I have eaten rabbit at least twice that I remember. I assume it was a leg/thigh because the meat was dark and flavorful. It was very good and reminded me of dark meat turkey.

February 8, 2011 at 4:21 pm | [Reply](#)

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**StupidWabbit**

ate my cawwots. I'wl teach it a weson or two!

February 8, 2011 at 4:22 pm | [Reply](#)

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**greenbird321**

where's the "I have, and I enjoyed it" option?

February 8, 2011 at 4:23 pm | [Reply](#)

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**A.**

I have eaten rabbit meat many times, but I have not had it for several years now. It is very delicious.

February 8, 2011 at 4:24 pm | [Reply](#)

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**OhioCountryGirl**

I grew up in a family that lived on a farm and hunted. Every year my great uncle would come home for Christmas and ask my grandmother (his sister) to cook rabbit just like their mom had. My great uncle passed away about 10 years ago, but we continue to have a rabbit dinner the day after christmas. It has become one of my favorite traditions because it reminds me of my family's roots.

February 8, 2011 at 4:25 pm | [Reply](#)

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**StupidWabbit**

So how do you slaughter a rabbit? I imagine hunting them with guns would be damaging to any meat in their small bodies.

February 8, 2011 at 4:30 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Louisa**

When hunting rabbits you aim for the head. When slaughtering domestic rabbits you break the neck for fast unconsciousness and then slit the throat to bleed them out. Haven't done it myself, mind...

February 8, 2011 at 4:36 pm |

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**Josh Bransden**

My mom just hit them in the head really hard with a CLAW hammer. That does the trick. We lived in Korea and thats how they killed kittens to. Kittens are excellent. Taste just like rabbit. People who say rabbit taste like chicken don't know what they are talking about!

February 8, 2011 at 4:38 pm |

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**Well Read**

It can certainly be messy if you use a shotgun and are not careful. I've seen some inexperienced hunters come back with pieces instead of an entire rabbit. A 12 gauge does terrible things to a rabbit. There are always pellets to pick out. I prefer to hit them in the head with a .22 rifle. Butchering is prettystraight forward at that point.

February 8, 2011 at 4:59 pm |

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**Case5250**

Remember the movie Bambi.....The little rabbits name was.....wait for it.....Thumper. Thump the rabbit on the head. I'm sure children loved the name while mom & dad were rolling in the isle.

February 8, 2011 at 10:06 pm |

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**E**

When I was a child our families tradition was to hunt rabbit on Easter. Then I married someone who believe rabbits are pets and not food, oh well.

February 8, 2011 at 4:27 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Dave**

I know what you mean. I used to have blacks doing my chores, til I married someone who believed blacks were people, not possessions. Oh well.

I'm not just being silly. The dark (um, no pun intended) analogy is most certainly intended.

February 8, 2011 at 9:30 pm | [Reply](#)

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**bethradd**

I raised and bred Dutch rabbits for years and years when I was in 4-H as a child/teenager. I adore rabbits and actually plan on having one as a pet again in the near future. I have not tried rabbit meat but I would try it in a heartbeat. It actually sounds quite tasty! What I would be eating would not be MY pet rabbit, and there are different breeds of rabbits that are used for pets versus meat. It might seem cold-hearted, but I am a meat eater and will continue to be, as long as whatever I am eating isn't something I personally gave a name to and raised.

February 8, 2011 at 4:28 pm | [Reply](#)

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**bobo von monkeyhowl**

big difference between farmed and wild rabbit, with the latter being far tastier. i assume it's diet not genes.

February 8, 2011 at 4:28 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Shawn**

Well rabbits don't live forever, so you can have a pet and a meal someday and kill two birds with one stone! Burying any meat underground in a casket is a waste, even humans should be fed to sharks or tigers, perfectly good meat going to waste...

February 8, 2011 at 4:28 pm | [Reply](#)

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**A.**

It's actually not greasy at all...

February 8, 2011 at 4:29 pm | [Reply](#)

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**A.**

My apologies, Shawn, that was posted accidentally. It was supposed to go under a different comment...yikes!

February 8, 2011 at 4:31 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Shawn**

Haha I was gonna say as much fat as most of us have we probably would be pretty greasy actually.

February 8, 2011 at 4:32 pm |

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**Burbank**

Or Zombies, they need to eat too...

February 8, 2011 at 4:45 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Chris R**

I've had rabbit on a multiple occasions and have often found it to be a delicious meat. That being said, I've often thought

about owning a rabbit as I also think they are really remarkable animals. I do not see that there has to be an either/or choice between the animals we care about and the animals we care to eat. While I am not, in any way, advocating the consumption of pets I don't see why someone having one individual animal of some species should take every other individual in that species out of the consumption picture. For example, friends of mine raise chickens and they have at least two they consider pets. They eat the others but they have an emotional attachment to the ones they see of as pets and would not eat them. Similarly, a friend of mine has several rats as pets but she has no compunction about putting out rat traps to keep the 'wild' population under her deck in control.

February 8, 2011 at 4:29 pm | [Reply](#)

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**allanhowls**

A reasonable and rational response. You must be new to the internet. ;-)

February 8, 2011 at 4:34 pm | [Reply](#)

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**jennifer**

if it were served to me, then yes, i'd eat it. it may sound weird, but i think not eating it would be disrespectful to the animal. their death shouldn't be a waste. ask or hunt for it myself? no. not unless i was starving in the wild.

February 8, 2011 at 4:30 pm | [Reply](#)

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**LooneyBin**

I don't eat meat, but I have a lot less of a problem with people eating game rather than factory-farmed meat. Game meat means the animal got to live out its days as it should, and it died as it would being killed by any other predator. Factory farmed meat is bad for the consumer, bad for the environment, and bad for the animal. It seems the only ones who win are the ones running the factory.

So in other words, compared to eating factory beef, I'd eat wild rabbit in a heartbeat.

February 8, 2011 at 4:32 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Josh**

I completely agree. I don't eat meat because of factory farming (and the animal rights and environmental issues involved), not because I think eating meat is intrinsically wrong. I'm a most-of-the-time vegan, but I own cats, and they can't live on a vegan diet, so I give them what they need to survive the best way I can. Also, maybe it's just that I've owned cats for so long, but I've always thought of rabbits as a "food" animal rather than a "pet" animal.

February 8, 2011 at 5:13 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Louisa**

Rabbit is one of the more complicated meats for me, ethically speaking. I used to have a pet rabbit named Lincoln- a Hotot like yours, in fact, and I also remain obsessed with Watership Down. But when one of the Amish families at a local farmer's market showed up with rabbit meat, I bought a bunny. I didn't know if I could actually eat it, but I meant to try it out.

I'll admit to being squicked at first. For one thing, when I placed it in the roasting pan on its little foot stumps, it uh...stayed standing. Kind of darkly amusing, but not appetizing. I got it to the table, looking and smelling delicious, but I still had absolutely no idea if I was going to be able to eat it. But I did, and the taste was a revelation- sweet and moist, something like chicken but much more subtle and delicate.

So, will I eat rabbit again? Yes, almost certainly. Will I ever be able to eat it without having a moment of pause? No, I don't think so. But I think that pause is something appropriate, out of respect for a creature I know to have its own inner life who has given its life that I might eat. The one thing I doubt I could ever do is raise and slaughter my own meat rabbits, something I'm considering doing with chickens. I'd wind up, I think, with ten pet rabbits.

February 8, 2011 at 4:32 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Ritaindy**

as a child growing up in the 40's we ate both rabbit and squirrel when it was 'hunting season' for them. It was a source of food and the way my mother prepared them, it was all delicious!

February 8, 2011 at 4:32 pm | [Reply](#)

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**allanhowls**

Remember, cute and tasty are two separate axes.

After all, if you're a practicing Hindu in India, you'd rather eat your own arm than a cow. Here, that feels strange to us.

Don't assume that just because you were raised to think in a certain way, that that way is inherently correct or that others share those same thought processes. We all look at the world (and our dinners) through very biased glasses.

February 8, 2011 at 4:33 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Flora**

If eating rabbit is part of your culture, or just something you simply enjoy, go ahead. But I personally could never eat a rabbit. I actually owned a black bunny once, and no matter how many times it scratched the s-t out of my hands, I still couldn't even imagine eating one. (The same goes for duck.)

But as I said, I wouldn't hold it against you too much if it's something you like. I'm sure there are people who love cows and keep them as pets, but it's not going to stop me from enjoying a nice hamburger once in a while.

February 8, 2011 at 4:33 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Flora**

I know this has nothing to do with anything, but I also couldn't eat a rabbit because my mom's one (her zodiac, I mean). It just feels weird...

February 8, 2011 at 4:44 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Rod Venger**

I've hunted and eaten many many dozens of them and admit they are not my favorite meat. That's mostly due to their diet. These were chaparral-raised rabbits, from Colorado, feeding on sage, mustard, buffalo grass and other stuff that doesn't taste wonderful on it's own. No doubt if I'd been hunting rabbits that were feeding on clover and grain they'd have not been so gamey and wild tasting. I'd guess that when it's on a menu somewhere that they've been farm-raised and therefore a lot milder and more pleasant. The writer is tougher than me if she can still eat rabbit, as there's no way I'd eat a cat...mine or anyone elses. I have 3 Siamese.

February 8, 2011 at 4:36 pm | [Reply](#)

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**mahmoud el-darwish**

Rod

You have to read up on Jugged Hare. wild rabbit needs to be jugged in wine for a couple of days.

February 8, 2011 at 4:44 pm | [Reply](#)

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**driraneK**

How do you 'jug in wine' a rabbit?

I eat wild ones that were taken on a dairy farm so they're effectively corn-fed. They have no gamy taste but there's some chance I'll need to know this someday.

February 8, 2011 at 4:56 pm |

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**Frank**

I will stick to fish.

February 8, 2011 at 4:37 pm | [Reply](#)

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**qanerd**

Probably why people were offended when I served rabbit for Easter dinner at one of my Italian restaurants. People have no sense of humor.

February 8, 2011 at 4:37 pm | [Reply](#)

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**meatasaurus**

hmmm when the dinner this year? lol I think id love to come eat some bunny that someone else cooked for once, and italian food is awesome in general, the two meet, there might be a heaven on earth

February 8, 2011 at 4:55 pm | [Reply](#)

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**HebrewNancy**

My family raised rabbits when I was a kid, and we used to slaughter one for dinner every month or two. They're quite tasty. Of course, the one my sister and I staked out as our pet never got eaten, but several of the others made good meals. I can see you're wondering, one raises rabbits for one or two reasons. First, they crap a LOT, which we sold as fertilizer by the truckload (about a small truck bed per month from 40 rabbits), the other is to sell as pets, which we never did.

February 8, 2011 at 4:38 pm | [Reply](#)

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**HebrewNancy**

ummm...family. Had a Dan Quayle moment there...

February 8, 2011 at 4:39 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Susan**

I've eaten wild rabbit but I wouldn't eat a breed kept for pets. Squirrel is good, too, as is rattlesnake.

February 8, 2011 at 4:39 pm | [Reply](#)

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**cute and Cuddely**

Denis Leary's bit about what animals we chose to eat and use for goods is right on with this article. "I'm a cow. No you're not you're a baseball mit!"

February 8, 2011 at 4:39 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Jax**

...they're just too cute to eat...they're kind of like cats...definitely could not eat one. My husband is a real joker and often asks me if I would eat our dog if I had to...my answer: absolutely not...I'd rather starve to death!

February 8, 2011 at 4:40 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Burbank**

I used to eat rabbit as a kid in the 1950's. Before good quality fake fur came out in the late 60's-70's, rabbits were the primary source of fur trimming on clothing. The meat was actually a by product of the fur industry and was sold in grocery stores. At least the entire animal was being used and not wasted just for the fur like mink is. (I hope they at least use it in dog food. but have never seen it listed on any cans) It's the reverse with cattle, the leather we wear is a by product of the meat and milk industry, but again, at least the entire animal is being used.

February 8, 2011 at 4:41 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Marie**

Yes. Where can I get one?

February 8, 2011 at 4:41 pm | [Reply](#)

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**driraneek**

Chicken tastes a lot like rabbit.

February 8, 2011 at 4:41 pm | [Reply](#)

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**mahmoud el-darwish**

At this very moment, thousands of Egyptians are feasting on Arnab b'Moulouchia. A favored rabbit dish. Millions of others are preparing it in other ways. Would this be a bad time for me to share my recipe for Lapin Vermontoise ?

February 8, 2011 at 4:42 pm | [Reply](#)

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**driranek**

Chicken tastes a lot like frog legs, for that matter.

Sorry - the issue seemed to simple so a bit of confusion seemed in order.

February 8, 2011 at 4:43 pm | [Reply](#)

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**UseYourBrain**

Mmmmm! Frog legs! Love them!

And escargots in butter-garlic sauce too! Although I enjoy rabbit very much, I would rather have escargots anytime!

February 8, 2011 at 9:11 pm | [Reply](#)

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**freetime1**

Bring me my Hasenpfeffer.

February 8, 2011 at 4:43 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Doggydaddy**

Honestly, I just don't know whether I'd eat rabbit or not.

February 8, 2011 at 4:44 pm | [Reply](#)

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**epona**

I would eat rabbit! Things I would rather not eat are any animals that eat meat. It might sound strange, but for some reason the thought of eating another meat eating animal sounds gross to me. Does that make sense?

February 8, 2011 at 4:44 pm | [Reply](#)

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**MB**

I've had rabbit before, it's very good. I think people should be encouraged to eat rabbits because of the damage they can do to local environments when their population gets out of control.

February 8, 2011 at 4:45 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Follow Da White Rabbit**

Don't eat rabbits. Eat people.

February 8, 2011 at 4:45 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Guest**

You know they can smell that rabbit dish on you right? It doesn't even have to rabbit; we once made the mistake of eating beef stew in front of ours. It never trusted us again...

February 8, 2011 at 4:46 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Snowcat704**

People who want to keep pet rabbits, do so as you please and enjoy the company your pets bring. There's no shortage of them, plenty remaining for us carnivores ^^

February 8, 2011 at 4:47 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Litmus**

The way I see it we have enough animals to eat already. Would I, could I? Yes. Will I? No.

February 8, 2011 at 4:47 pm | [Reply](#)

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**UCFknightman**

lol...wait until our population caps 10 billion in 20 years...you may retract that statement.

February 8, 2011 at 4:53 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Steve**

Rabbit is a fine choice for meat. My grandfather raised rabbits for food and I ate it every Sunday. Roasted rabbit with sauerkraut and kugelis.

February 8, 2011 at 4:47 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Isa**

Yummy, they are delicious with polenta!

February 8, 2011 at 4:47 pm | [Reply](#)

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**UCFknightman**

This is new??? People have been eating rabbit for thousands of years. It's good meat. Guinea Pigs also...delicacy of Peru. They taste similar. Wild rabbits, if kept unchecked, can wreak havoc...similar to non-indigenous hogs in some areas. Hunt them all. There's more chivalry in hunting for your food than getting it at a grocery store wrapped in plastic anyway.

February 8, 2011 at 4:48 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Cole**

Rabbits are one of the most destructive creatures in nature, so I've no qualms about eating them.

February 8, 2011 at 4:49 pm | [Reply](#)

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**UCFknightman**

Amen...so are wild hogs.

February 8, 2011 at 4:49 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Dave**

Humans \*are\* the most destructive species in nature. Let's follow your logic...

February 8, 2011 at 10:02 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Louisa**

There is no logic to eating your own species. It's potentially deadly (not all pathogens die when you do, and in cannibalism there is no species barrier to cross), and it doesn't make evolutionary sense, particularly not in a cooperative species like humans.

February 9, 2011 at 1:37 am |

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**Chrissy**

I have tried rabbit and did enjoy it, especially when I lived in Holland for a few years. It was a common menu item at nice restaurants. However, I have rarely had it in the USA. It isn't commonly found in stores, and only rarely found frozen and appearing as a "mystery meat" in cut up chunks.

However, I haven't even attempted to look for it since adopting 2 adorable house bunnies from the SPCA. My buns are bonded to each other and to us, and like others have said, are definitely appreciative of our company and affection, as well as getting fed. They are litterbox trained like cats, and extremely easy to train and learn tricks quickly.

Had I known beforehand how dog and/or cat-like rabbits can be, and that they are actually a very nice pet, with apparent feelings and emotions like those more common companions, I never would have ventured into their edibility!

February 8, 2011 at 4:49 pm | [Reply](#)

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### TheOtherWhiteMeat

Be honest. If rabbit was really that tasty, we'd be eating it all the time (certainly some cultures in the developing world traditionally do). It's not like there's a rabbit shortage, or they're hard to raise. Let's not pretend they're some delicacy because your friend the chef - ou la la - served one up for you. I've had them, and honestly to my rough palette they taste a lot like chicken. There's a few "game" meats I consider worthwhile: pheasant, moose, bison, ostrich - not rabbit though, a waste of time and life (same thing with ducks as far as I'm concerned). I'm told squirrel is good though; maybe you can give that a try and let us know.

February 8, 2011 at 4:49 pm | [Reply](#)

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### meatasaurus

I've raised, butchered, cooked, and eaten rabbit. I have found it to be absolutely wonderful and in portions similar to chicken so I can handle the whole beast alone without needing to bring in an army or buy another freezer. OK that I've got that cleared up, I eat my pets, as long as they aren't carnivores, so dog and cat, that's out, Norman, my calf from 08, now that was some tasty pasture fed, home grown, no preservatives added beef! I have no problem eating my "pets" (mark that Norman Jr) but if you don't want to eat yours, I'm not going to force you, pets are wonderful loving companions, and if you fall for them and decide to sign off on that whole category, good for you, more for me. And hopefully you will help provide a home for another wonderful animal that needs a good home :) bon appetite!

February 8, 2011 at 4:49 pm | [Reply](#)

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### chimingin

A paella without rabbit it's not a paella.. Unfortunately it's quite difficult to buy rabbit out here in the states.. At least in a normal supermarket.. Also rabbit stew is delicious.. I agree rabbits are cute, but to be honest I find all the animals we eat cute and that won't stop me from eating them.

February 8, 2011 at 4:50 pm | [Reply](#)

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### UCFknightman

Soon, we'll need to find all the protein we can get...

February 8, 2011 at 4:51 pm | [Reply](#)

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### driraneK

Hey Mahmoud – I'd be interested in recipes for Arnab b'Moulouchia and Lapin Vermontoise. I've actually got several rabbits in the freezer. I stew them pretty much the same as making duck soup and would be interested in alternatives.

February 8, 2011 at 4:51 pm | [Reply](#)

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### Caroline

Poor Bugs Bunny! It must be wabbit season!

February 8, 2011 at 4:53 pm | [Reply](#)

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### mightaswellbe

Back in 1957 (in California, I was seven at the time) I had some bunnies for pets but had to find them homes when we were transferred to Oklahoma. I procrastinated till mom said 'if you don't get on with it I'll sell'em to the restaurants in town' (Atwater). I wailed 'But they'll eat'em MOM!' So I loaded up my bunnies in a backpack and trudged off to the local farms and found homes for all my bunnies!

It wasn't until years later that I realised why it was so easy to find homes for my bunnies on those farms, bunny stew! Oh well.

When I was in the Navy I was served rabbit on more than one occasion, better than chicken but not something I'd go out of my way to find, tasty enough but I remember my poor bunnies.

The local wild bunnies are jack rabbits (with the occasional Jack-A-lope) and they are prone to rabbit fever due to the heat here in North Central Texas so they aren't hunted for food much, besides jack rabbit cooks up pretty strong.

February 8, 2011 at 4:54 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Greg**

Yeah. Rabbits are cute. So are the chicken, the piglets, the little lambs and the little calves. Either you eat the animals or you don't. (I do.) Cuteness has nothing to do with that.

February 8, 2011 at 4:55 pm | [Reply](#)

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**aa**

I agree... :)

February 8, 2011 at 5:23 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Jett Lee**

I would not hesitate to eat rabbit; I've had it in the past and it is wonderful.

I can't help but wonder why you don't see it in the grocery store alongside chicken, pork and beef; it's easy to raise, doesn't take up acres of land, reproduces quickly with lots of offspring, plus tastes good and is lean and protein-packed.

February 8, 2011 at 4:57 pm | [Reply](#)

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**chan7**

yes i would and i have eaten rabbit fried with salt and pepper very yummy

February 8, 2011 at 4:58 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Al**

Where does wild rabbit fit into all of this??? As a youth , I shot quite a few and my Mom would fry them up. Also, my roommate from Nebraska came back from Christmas vacation with a container of frozen rabbit. We served it to our girlfriends as chicken and they never knew the difference!!

February 8, 2011 at 4:58 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Sara**

@ Kat Kinsman: I've read the articles and even though they made me uncomfortable I thought they were very insightful and tactfully written. I'm a vegan but I don't understand the cruelty behind the comments you recieved. I thought you provided great insight into the animal loving and omnivore position. And kuddos on having bunny babies who love you so!

February 8, 2011 at 4:59 pm | [Reply](#)

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**dave in Ohio**

I love rabbit! Wild rabbit is very gamy tasting, sometimes a bit strong for my taste, but pen raised rabbit is sweet and delicious!

And, it doesn't taste anything like chicken. It tastes like rabbit.

Oh, and before I forget, it makes the best gravy you ever tasted!

February 8, 2011 at 4:59 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Brian Holbrook**

Our pioneer forebears are rolling over in their collective graves to puke into their coonskin caps. Everything below humans on the food chain is fair game. Thumper, Bambi, Donald, even Goofy. Get over it and eat the bloody bunny.

February 8, 2011 at 4:59 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Mikey B**

Glad I'm not your neighbor.

February 8, 2011 at 5:01 pm | [Reply](#)

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**mightsaswellbe**

I might point out that around here in north central Texas (cattle/horse country) rabbits are considered a pest and a hazard (holes) to the live stock. There is no hunting season on rabbits down here. Open season all the time.

February 8, 2011 at 4:59 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Mikey B**

I would love to eat a bunny. A Playboy Bunny, that is.

February 8, 2011 at 4:59 pm | [Reply](#)

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**chimingin**

hmmmm.... Playboy Bunny!! TASTY!! :)

February 8, 2011 at 5:03 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Jessica**

How about one from the 1965 cover?

February 8, 2011 at 5:05 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Dan**

I'd even eat dog. Here puppy, puppy.

February 8, 2011 at 5:01 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Jessica**

I will eat rabbit but not if it is my or someone else's pet

February 8, 2011 at 5:04 pm | [Reply](#)

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**JB21**

I had rabbit stew the other day. That was good.

February 8, 2011 at 5:04 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Lee B**

I ate rabbit as a child, also squirrel, pheasant, deer, fresh caught fish. My dad hunted and fished (Michigan) and we ate what he caught. I am not sure how my mother felt about it. I couldn't (and don't) see myself cleaning or cooking any of those animals nowadays, but it's also not a bad memory.

February 8, 2011 at 5:05 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Kenny**

My daughter had pet rabbits when she was young. I would go hunting for rabbit and my wife would stew the rabbits I killed for dinner. My daughter would go out back and count her pet rabbits before she would eat rabbit for dinner.

February 8, 2011 at 5:06 pm | [Reply](#)

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**A.**

Awww cute :)

February 8, 2011 at 5:07 pm | [Reply](#)

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**NaturesBest!**

"AIIIIIIII Wight you Waabbitt - Come OUTA DARE -- OR I-LL BWAST YOU !!"

Hmmmm

Would'Nt be the first time, better than Chikin! (No Pets Plesae!)

Just my thoughts!

February 8, 2011 at 5:06 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Maria**

I've been told I used to eat rabbit as a young child. When we moved to the States, mine and my sister's pet rabbits were given away. The family son joked that he made them into stew. I haven't been able to eat rabbit since.

Rabbit is incredibly popular in Spain. In fact, paella is supposed to have rabbit and chicken in it, NOT seafood. I opted for vegetarian paella in the paella capital of the world, Valencia, Spain.

February 8, 2011 at 5:06 pm | [Reply](#)

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**A.**

These are some interesting comments! Where would you find (buy) rabbit in the states?

February 8, 2011 at 5:06 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Sarah**

They're only slightly more aware than a peanut. They taste great with gravy and their fluffy little bodies kick, twitch and tremble for about 15 seconds after you blow their heads off with a 12 gauge. They also scream like babies when wounded, this makes for great bait when hunting fox or coyote.

February 8, 2011 at 5:07 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Bugs**

<http://www.squidoo.com/rabbit-recipes>

February 8, 2011 at 5:07 pm | [Reply](#)

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**thank you**

Thank you. I too am astonished at the reactions some have to MANY news articles. Your example being a good one. I find it disturbing, to say the least. Good points in your article.

February 8, 2011 at 5:08 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Walk**

RABBIT SEASON IN ALABAMA

October 1 - February 28

February 8, 2011 at 5:09 pm | [Reply](#)

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**laz4059**

Moralistic and Humanistic attitudes are fine for pets; not for domestic stock raised as food, and not for wildlife in general.

February 8, 2011 at 5:10 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Johann Sebastian Bach**

I couldn't eat rabbit because I've had them as pets, but realize that other people may not have the luxury of a choice of food sources.

February 8, 2011 at 5:10 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Ryan**

Everything is cute and fuzzy until you are hungry and there is nothing in the pantry. Rabbits? Yum!!!

February 8, 2011 at 5:11 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Jorge**

Cue raging debate, indeed. God is either nonexistent or a crappy designer (and I'm leaning way toward nonexistent). I'm no omnipotent being, but even I know that designing a world where there is a food chain is just bad design. With rare (mostly human) exceptions, living things want to stay alive. If you're reading this, be thankful that you're high on today's food chain, and hope that you're not around when we're visited by extraterrestrials who discover the tasty titillations of homo sapien stew.

February 8, 2011 at 5:11 pm | [Reply](#)

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**BERRAHI**

Oh Ya I Love rabbits BUT to EAT with potatoes oh OMG Mmm GOOD MEAT

February 8, 2011 at 5:12 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Glider2001**

Nothing like a good hassenpfeffer!!!

February 8, 2011 at 5:12 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Stefan Stackhouse**

An domesticated animal can be a pet or it can be livestock. Never, ever confuse the two.

February 8, 2011 at 5:12 pm | [Reply](#)

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**LeRoy**

Hi i have raised rabbits off and on since the early 70's and i am not aware of any scent glans . I do know the buck will urinate to mark there territory.The rabbit in the picture is not of the meat class of rabbit it is a rex breed and was used for fur .

February 8, 2011 at 5:12 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Kudu**

I like rabbit, it taste like porcupine

February 8, 2011 at 5:12 pm | [Reply](#)

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**ROFL Waffle**

I think rabbit meat is kinda... bleh. I had smoked rabbit around christmas. It was just weird and gamey tasting. I'd take deer over rabbit any day.

February 8, 2011 at 5:12 pm | [Reply](#)

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**UseYourBrain**

Really??? The last time I had venaison (at a very expensive restaurant, btw), it tasted like roadkill. And I'd eat ANYTHING: boar, emeu, ostrich, kangaroo, snails, frogs, snake, camel... It all depends on where you are, I suppose. When in Rome...

February 8, 2011 at 9:22 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Kosher Dan**

If I am starving, and need the protein, yes, but normally they're just not kosher!

February 8, 2011 at 5:13 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Three Dog Mama**

I tried rabbit long ago and I liked it. It is no different then eating deer. I mean, who hasn't seen Bambi and Thumper!?

February 8, 2011 at 5:13 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Sandy**

Meat eaters do not have respect for other living entities.  
If they are hungry they will cut and eat their children too.

February 8, 2011 at 5:15 pm | [Reply](#)

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**A.**

What a dumb comment.

February 8, 2011 at 5:16 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Ryan**

Wow... you must be like... eight years old or something, right? Honey, please go draw some bunnies. This forum is for adult only, okay?

February 8, 2011 at 5:21 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Jett Lee**

If they had opposable thumbs, rabbits would kill you and everyone you care about!

February 8, 2011 at 7:12 pm | [Reply](#)

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**UseYourBrain**

Yeah, and if I get hungry enough, I'll come to your house, cut you and eat you too!

What an utterly moronic comment!

Rabbit may be dumb animals, but you just proved that some people are even lower in the food-chain than rabbits are!

February 8, 2011 at 9:29 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Justin**

I have eaten rabbit and squirrel and they are very delicious. When I was in Korea I tried Vole (rat) and it was as good as rabbit or squirrel... Probably because they are all rodents. I also tried Kagogi in Korea... google it, I don't want to freak anyone out!

February 8, 2011 at 5:15 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Bob**

All you vegetarians out there- why do you think we have canine teeth, bile, liver enzymes for digesting high protein diets, and small stomachs (relative to small intestine space)- all designed for consumption of meat, and relatively poor at digesting things like grain? We are evolved to be omnivores. That's what we are. Anthroporphizing animals is just a childish game. If you are against factory farming for environmental reasons, thats understandable. But not eating animals for some imagined moral reason is just the product of silly emotional pulls and hippy-derived nonsense.

Pass the steak sauce.

February 8, 2011 at 5:15 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Sara**

In response, humans have more grinding teeth than ripping teeth. ie Molars. Our canine teeth are also much smaller and flatter than other omnivores. Humans also have a very long digestive tract while carnivores have short tracts. And how are our bodies bad at digesting things like grain? I'm curious to see where this information comes from. Even strictly herbivore animals leave some things partially undigested. The fiber helps clean your system out.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying that humans are only supposed to eat this or that. Personally I choose not to eat meat for a variety of reasons including cruelty, the environment and health.

February 8, 2011 at 5:55 pm | [Reply](#)

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**MisterDobalina**

Yes, Bob, we are evolved to eat meat- no argument here. But our highly-evolved brains can make the choice to not eat meat on moral grounds, and that sets us apart from the other omnivorous animals. Further, our plentiful food supply in the US means that we can choose not to eat meat. There are many things that we choose to do, and choose not to do, based on morality, compassion, religion, personal idealogy, etc. All a consequence of evolution. Sincerely, a meat-eater

February 8, 2011 at 6:32 pm | [Reply](#)

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**PS**

Humans are the evil derivation of apes. We will kill and eat just about anything!

February 8, 2011 at 5:16 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Maty**

Sometimes it's called "creativity", and other times "survival".

February 8, 2011 at 5:20 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Mitch**

"Evil" is often just a point-of-view. Bonobos, for example, who are often regarded as the "Peace-Loving Ape" have been known to spear helpless little bushbabies with sharp sticks and then eat them.

As a much wiser man than I once said, "Life feeds on life. This is necessary."

February 8, 2011 at 5:24 pm | [Reply](#)

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**meatasaurus**

Apes eat meat, apes eat other monkeys... ewww... havnt you ever watched the discovery channel?

February 8, 2011 at 5:36 pm | [Reply](#)

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**SURVIVOR**

When I was going to grad school to get my MA at theUniversity of Northern Iowa, I was so poor that I only had ONE meal a day. It was lunch. The Main Street Cafe in downtown Cedar Falls, Iowa had a noon special. Rabbit! It included a rabbit leg, glop of mashed potatoes, one veggie, one slice of bread and a glass of milk. It cost 37 cents. That was summer of 1956. That was all I could afford. I survived and finished my degree during that summer term. I ate it then and I would eat it now.

February 8, 2011 at 5:17 pm | [Reply](#)

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**CHRIS**

I have taken a live rabbit... hung it on a noose till it died.. skinned it... took out all the organs.. cleaned it up.. added spices and eaten it... And then I went for the second one..

February 8, 2011 at 5:18 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Maty**

I remember in the Eighties, someone tried to "re-brand" rabbit as "lapin", the French for rabbit.

February 8, 2011 at 5:19 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Mitch**

I've eaten rabbit, both the wild (hunted, skinned, prepared & cooked by me alone) and domesticated/restaurant varieties. I've also worked on a small farm (owned by a family friend) and have helped slaughter pigs, cows and chickens. If you eat mean, well, there's not much of a difference between killing a rabbit for food and killing a pig for food. Our ancestor's, we all know, had to do much worse things to survive. The only animals I would not eat (unless starving) are endangered species or primates.

As mentioned by others, rabbits are often agricultural pests, and in some places are invasive species that destroy local habitats. In those places the consumption of rabbit should be encouraged. Rabbits are also very tasty, and quite a good change from our usual, limited, American diets of pig, cow & chicken.

Just don't eat people's pets, that would just be rude.

February 8, 2011 at 5:20 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### Dale in PA

I don't see a problem eating any animal raised or hunted for meat. That said. I think any animal raised as a pet should get better treatment. Both personally and legally. There just luckier than there wild and farm raised brethren. Horses, dogs and cats. traditionally aren't raised for meat in the US or most european countries. Plus there service animals to one degree or another. Which gives them a slightly elevated status compared to other animals.

February 8, 2011 at 5:21 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### LoneStar

I love fried rabbit. Growing up we raised rabbits and would butcher and process the young ones (nearly grown...not babies!!!) and Mom would fry them like she would a chicken. Was very tasty! I actually used to prefer fried rabbit to fried chicken.

And again...I think growing up in a rural setting and knowing what is a pet and what is "food" changes one's perception....for the better in my opinion.

February 8, 2011 at 5:23 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### Judith

You're soulless and heartless. You're very simply , the Devil's spawn.....

February 8, 2011 at 5:24 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### Ryan

Silly woman! Eating rabbits doesn't make people soulless, or heartless. It only makes them human.

February 8, 2011 at 5:53 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### taylor

some people are sick wackos and should be committed...

February 8, 2011 at 5:25 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### Fiona

I bred rabbits at one time. They are sweet, pretty and endearing animals, but they are not complex creatures. Yes, they will scent their keepers, but to call that affection or "bonding" is to anthropomorphize to a ridiculous degree. They are claiming you as theirs, the same way cats do. Whether they really like you is up to interpretation, but you are a valuable source of food and grooming - and for a solo rabbit, you are what their instincts tell them is a "mate." It's not personal. Pigs, which are treated as non-sentient beings in factory farms, are far more intelligent, sensitive, psychologically complex than a bunny. But few meat eaters think twice about where their bacon and ham came from.

I don't eat any meat, and I made that choice for humane reasons. Before I went vegetarian, though, I would not eat rabbit for a reason entirely unrelated to the Thumper Effect. I remember seeing skinned rabbits hanging in the markets of Europe, and to me they looked like skinned human babies. To this day i cannot look at a skinned rabbit!

February 8, 2011 at 5:26 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### The Witty One@Fiona

How do you know what "skinned human babies" look like? Should we call the cops?

February 8, 2011 at 5:34 pm | [Reply](#)

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Ajnabee  
LOL



February 8, 2011 at 9:04 pm |

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#### **Rex**

I swear, America is doomed. COME ON PEOPLE !!! Nothing but pampered little cry babies...

February 8, 2011 at 5:28 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Me**

The only meats I eat is organic free range chicken/turkey, free range organic piggy (that is rare) & seafood from a sustainable source. When I go out for dinner and get a meat dish I just get chicken or seafood.

When you have seen your dinner killed at a young age (pig stabbed in the heart at 10yrs old) that kinda changes things. It is only resonly I started eating piggy since I found a local source of organic free range after about 20 years of not eat them but for the few times in the holidays when could not control what was for dinner. I like pigs, they are smart & in a funny way the small pot belly pigs are neat but they also taste great when cooked right.

I would never eat a bunny, deer (venison), whale, dolphin, cat, dog, horse or buffalo, there are others I would not eat, too. Beef I never liked the taste & they are a retarded animal so it is not really fair to eat them organic or not, I have had only 3 steaks in the past 15 years.

But I must say I did buy my cats bunny meat canned cat food when I was in the UK for a trip.

February 8, 2011 at 5:28 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **T3chsupport**

I used to raise rabbits for show and 4-H auction when I was a teenager. Never got around to eating them myself (had 60 of them to care for just for shows, and plenty of other kinds of tasty meat in the freezer). I'd totally like to, though. I've heard that they're all white meat, is that right?

Some of the militant vegans around these parts (Pacific Northwest) like to think they're heroes when they go to someone's house who is raising chickens or rabbits as humanely as possible, and avoiding eating grocery store meat, and they'll go steal all of their animals. These cowards target the people who are actually trying to make a difference, by not supporting commercial ranching and teaching others the same, and taking their animals. One in particular now has a couple of these rabbits living in cages in his BASEMENT. Oh, but they're being cuddled, so it's a better life, right? Effing stupid. In one instance, they stole someone's egg laying hens instead of the chickens they had been raising for slaughter. But those same cowards will pass right by any commercial cattle ranch and not think at all about doing the same to them. The bunnies are more important than cows, apparently. Hypocrites.

If they had half a brain at all, they'd know that there's zero chance that everyone is going to just stop eating meat because THEY think they should. The very VERY best they can EVER hope for is that farming methods change, and meat animals are handled and slaughtered humanely, they have the best lives possible, until the very end of their One Bad Day. Instead they'll hurt the people who are trying their best by the animals and their own natural diet, which just drives them right back to the commercial guys.

"Don't try to argue with idiots. They'll bring you down to their level, and beat you with experience."

February 8, 2011 at 5:28 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **AngelaD**

Of course you don't eat that cute little one in the picture. But my old neighbor in Germany had these huge grey rabbits. They were his roast on many Sundays. Many people still eat in Germany and my mom can make a very tasty version. I have never cared for the taste though. Now a young carrier pigeon on the other hand....mmm delicious!

February 8, 2011 at 5:29 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Smurfeater**

Human tastes amazing... whats the point?

February 8, 2011 at 5:29 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **val**

I am French and we eat rabbits all the time. The ones we eat were raised for consumption, it's not the same as eating "Claudette" or "Snowflake"... It's the same as eating any other meat. It's just a matter of culture. I think it's stupid to think people shouldn't eat this or that before knowing why they do it and that it's part of their culture. In France we also eat horses. I have eaten before, but I don't really like it, so I never ate it again. I love animals, and I will never eat one I have been acquainted with! But meat is good and it's part of a healthy nutrition.

February 8, 2011 at 5:29 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Me**

In France you also do not use deodorant therefore you smell; in France you think any foreign woman is a whore...and that is wrong...so culinary-wise, what you said is also wrong.

February 8, 2011 at 6:02 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Ryan**

What are you? Forrest Gump?

February 8, 2011 at 6:07 pm |

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**Joe**

I agree with Val. BTW Ryan, r u french cuz if u aren't then why do u have so many opinions?

February 8, 2011 at 6:51 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Ashwin**

One man's food is another's poison. I'm sure you've heard of that. Here's something interesting people in Australia associate eating rabbits with eating rats or mice they are disgusted by that. Most people I know are disgusted about Rocky mountain oysters (Fried goat testicles). There's probably a cannibal on some Fijian Island eating human meat. A Plane carrying a rugby team from Uruguay crashed in the Andes, the survivor's ate the dead passengers to survive. Now what do you say about that.

February 8, 2011 at 5:30 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Gretchen B**

I have been eating rabbit for years and I love it. I used to serve it up for Easter dinner every year which caused people to tell me I was twisted. :) I love being a unique soul. :)

February 8, 2011 at 5:31 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Damien**

I guess it's a culture thing, which the article omit to say. I'm french and live in France, where rabbits are eaten just like chickens (or cows, ect) is. I ate rabbit, and I don't care for it, so I don't eat it, but not because I find it gross. I just don't like the taste. Now it's only when I went to the US that I realized it was an exception. I know rabbits are seen more as pets in America, which I understand. Cats and dogs are eaten in parts of Asia (less now than it used to), which I find gross, but, again, I understand, it's a culture thing. Everybody can eat what they want.

February 8, 2011 at 5:36 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Iz**

Rabbit is one of the best meats you can eat. We eat at least a couple a month, but we live on a farm and raise meat rabbits. Not every one can stomach dressing an animal. I also understand that a lot of people don't consume any animals. That's their decision, and i whole heartily respect that. Raising rabbits are just like any farm animal. If you make it your pet, your going to be less likely to serve it for dinner. My kids have pet rabbits and they are not on the menu. They also are very aware of where a hamburger, hotdog, and chicken nugget come from.

February 8, 2011 at 5:38 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Weee**

No one should eat animals. Period. Don't cry when you're loved ones die or when some psycho kills a bunch of people – after all, the average meat eater kills 100 animals a year. 100 lives gone, whats a few humans in comparison? Death is all the same.

February 8, 2011 at 5:38 pm | [Reply](#)

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**The Witty One@Weee**

Are you on drugs?

February 8, 2011 at 5:41 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Damien**

If no one was eating animals, the human race would die out. Study biology, and you'll see that herbivores are the ones that usually ends up being the food of other animals. Other animals eat other animals, but humans shouldn't?

February 8, 2011 at 5:48 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Dave**

"If no one was eating animals, the human race would die out. Study biology, and you'll see that herbivores are the ones that usually ends up being the food of other animals."

Wait...are you seriously trying to argue that if humans stopped eating animals, we'd all become prey to other carnivores and the human race would be wiped out? Awesome.

Other animals eat other animals, but humans shouldn't?"

Other animals throw poop at each other, eat their offspring, etc. Just because some wild animal does something is hardly justification for humans to. Do you rely on the same limited intelligence and basic instincts to survive as some wild carnivore? No, you don't (I'm giving you the benefit of the doubt, here...). Humans are the only species capable of higher reasoning to realize "hey, I actually don't need to go mau and eat that animal to survive. I have the technology and the know-how to survive perfectly healthily in alternative ways". Therefore, we have the responsibility to do so. On the contrary, I hardly blame a lion for not knowing or being capable of understanding how to survive without chasing, killing and eating a gazelle (for example). If you claim you are on the same intellectual level as something like a lion, well...I suppose there would no point in me trying to convey a point to you then anyway.

February 8, 2011 at 9:53 pm |

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**AW**

You realize that you're killing another living organism no matter what you eat; why is a plant's life worth less to you than an animal? Is the plant not cute enough to warrant sparing it?

February 8, 2011 at 5:53 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Dave**

"You realize that you're killing another living organism no matter what you eat; why is a plant's life worth less to you than an animal? Is the plant not cute enough to warrant sparing it?"

I'm never quite sure if people who make this argument are just trolling or are being serious. Obviously, animals have a nervous system, and are capable of suffering – both physical and mental – and also a distinct will to live. Most certainly the "higher" animals we tend to eat en masse. To somehow equate what a cow goes through from life in a factory farm to death in a butchery to harvesting plants is truly ridiculous and intellectually dishonest.

February 8, 2011 at 10:00 pm |

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**Ryan**

You are comparing human lives to lower animals??? Your stupidity is appalling. If your ancestors didn't eat meat you wouldn't be here today to spout ignorant comments.

February 8, 2011 at 6:05 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Dave**

Awesome, another argument of reduction to prehistoric necessity! We should also wield large clubs and take shelter in caves, because it served our ancestors well! In fact, we should all be swinging through trees right now. It served our [even earlier] ancestors well too! Seriously though, surely you must see how what are ancestors did or didn't do or did or didn't have to do has no necessary logical bearing on today's behaviours...

February 8, 2011 at 9:46 pm |

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**Mmmm...Tastes Like Chicken...**

Actually rabbit is quite tasty...so is kangaroo...there are many "taboo" animals that are very delicious, and actually healthy lean protein. Let's face it...as our food supplies dwindle, we will be re-evaluating our morals...but always remember...Soylent Green is People!

February 8, 2011 at 5:39 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Eew**

Given the overall health of most humans, I don't think I'd want to touch Soylent Green.

I'll stick to bunnies.

February 8, 2011 at 5:54 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Thinks2010**

I have eaten rabbit in the past and found it very tasty. I am transitioning toward being a vegetarian, however, I have been struggling to get enough complete protein in my diet. Part of the problem is results from the fact that my house is being remodeled and I do not have a fully functioning kitchen, but once that is completed and I get the guidance I need from a vegetarian nutritionist to ensure I am getting enough complete protein, I will give up meat eating. Until then, rabbit will remain an option for me when I eat out, but I will eat it with a feeling of hesitation.

February 8, 2011 at 5:41 pm | [Reply](#)

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**bwright**

When I was a kid my cousins raised ALL of their own food. Staples(flour, sugar, coffe etc.) were the only things that their father would buy. One of the animals they raised was rabbit. Grossed me out at first, but I admit I grew to LOVE it. I never played with them or watched the slaughter because I knew that would be the end of my meat eating days. I'm glad there are those hard working individuals out there who provide the meat to the store so I can "hunt" it there in nice packages.

February 8, 2011 at 5:42 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Mmmm...Tastes Like Chicken...**

I know a rancher in Southeast Asia...he owns 20 dogs!

February 8, 2011 at 5:42 pm | [Reply](#)

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**indipit**

All the world will be your enemy, Prince with a Thousand Enemies.  
And if they catch you, they will kill you.  
But first, they must catch you..  
Runner, Jumper, Prince with the swift warning.

I love Watership Down. I have had many pets over the years, but I understand the difference between pet and food animal. Rabbits have been raised as food long before they were kept as pets. I'd eat one if served to me.

February 8, 2011 at 5:42 pm | [Reply](#)

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**T3chsupport**

My absolute favorite book.

February 8, 2011 at 6:07 pm | [Reply](#)

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**DCsilb**

[youtube=http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHujwj6RBSM&w=640&h=390]

February 8, 2011 at 5:42 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Tutata**

Who is this tool?

February 8, 2011 at 5:42 pm | [Reply](#)

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**The Witty One**

I haven't had rabbit yet. Don't get me wrong, they are really cute but I still want to try them some day. Maybe I can go to Tony Bourdain's house for dinner.....

February 8, 2011 at 5:43 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Antisocialite**

Yes, we must eat the rabbits before they eat us!

February 8, 2011 at 5:46 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Jeff**

The first time I had rabbit was in college at (what turned out to be) my favorite restaurant in New Orleans, called Jacques-Imo's. I suppose I did have initial reservations about eating it, but those quickly disappeared once I tasted it. Perhaps it's like most other proteins: it has to be cooked right. But if you're ever in New Orleans and have the chance to go to Jacques, I recommend it! Yum!

February 8, 2011 at 5:46 pm | [Reply](#)

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**DP**

It never occurred to me that any person who eats a variety of meats would make an exception for rabbit.

February 8, 2011 at 5:47 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Jayjay**

Tastes like chicken!

February 8, 2011 at 5:47 pm | [Reply](#)

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**al**

I was raised to hunt rabbit as well as squirrel. Both are excellent fried.

February 8, 2011 at 5:48 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Fiona**

Something many people do not know about rabbits: if their nest is disturbed, they will kill and eat their babies.

February 8, 2011 at 5:48 pm | [Reply](#)

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**T3chsupport**

They say the same thing about mice and rats, but I've raised and bred all 3 quite a bit, and handled day old babies for pretty much all of them.

The only time I ever had a doe eat a litter was with her first litter, when she kindled too early and hadn't nested at all.

February 8, 2011 at 6:12 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Jason**

Show me a rabbit and I'll show you dinner. Heck, I'd eat a baby seal if someone cooked it for me. I have no problem eating animals and for those that do, get the vegetarian meal and leave me alone. I don't hound you about your choice of meal so let me eat my rabbit stew with a side of very rare steak in peace.

February 8, 2011 at 5:51 pm | [Reply](#)

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### Squish

Of course I would eat a rabbit. I have so in the past. It has been in my experience that the cuter and fuzzier the animal, the tastier it is!

February 8, 2011 at 5:51 pm | [Reply](#)

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### JasonB

Rabbit is delicious. I will eat rabbit at any moment I'm offered the chance. What I find amusing is the part of this piece where the author tells you about all of the adorable behavioral attributes of cute little bunnies: their social habits, bonding, scenting...etc. As if that is supposed to make me not want to eat rabbit!

All animals have social behaviors and personality traits specific to their species. Most people are so far removed from the source of their food that they don't want to hear about how the meat they consume behaves... or behaved. I suppose, to those people, eating beef is acceptable because they don't have cows in their living room. But as far as the energy put into raising animals goes, pound for pound, eating rabbit or goat is far more efficient than eating beef.

February 8, 2011 at 5:51 pm | [Reply](#)

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### Jason

We used to name the cows on our farm. Didn't matter, they still tasted just fine.

February 8, 2011 at 5:53 pm | [Reply](#)

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### Ed Kribbs

I once hit a rabbit while driving home on a back country road at night. It was dazzled by the headlights and just sat in the middle of the road. I was going too fast to stop or swerve for it. I stopped and picked him up and took him to my Mother. We chopped off his head and feet and skinned him. Mom made Hasenpfeffer and spaetzlies. He was delicious. It would have been a crime against God not to eat him and just leave him there to rot on the road.

February 8, 2011 at 5:53 pm | [Reply](#)

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### Mmmm...Tastes Like Chicken...

Had a similar incident with a quail one evening...clipped it with my bumper on the way to a friend's ranch where we were going to BBQ some chicken anyway. That roadkill was quite tasty!

February 8, 2011 at 5:56 pm | [Reply](#)

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### Mmmm...Tastes Like Chicken...

Let's see...what's for dinner tonight? Thumper Thermadore...or maybe BBQ Bunny Burgers...Rabbit...It's what's for dinner!

February 8, 2011 at 5:53 pm | [Reply](#)

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### wells anne

Yup—the Human race is starting to eat every living thing on this planet!!! Hey maybe someday we can be cannibals again!

February 8, 2011 at 5:54 pm | [Reply](#)

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### Kaye

I love honey curried rabbit. YUM, and actually because of the leanness of the meat, much better for you health wise. I also like horse meat. In Germany you can buy it in the market place. Very lean.

I've also had pet rabbits and I currently own two horses. One has nothing to do with the other.

February 8, 2011 at 5:56 pm | [Reply](#)

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### Liz

The main reason I avoid meat is because of the inhumane factory farming process. If I were sure that an animal lived a decent life and didn't suffer unnecessarily at the end, then I'd eat it. Within reason, of course. No dogs, cats, horses, endangered species, that type of thing. And there's no way to produce veal or foie gras without horrific animal cruelty, so those are out. Oh, and I have had rabbit (the meat, not an organ like the author) in the past and didn't care for the taste.

February 8, 2011 at 5:56 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Me**

I had a rabbit once and did not care for it. Rabbits do not have whole of a lot of meat, so it was just pretty much skin and bones...I prefer chicken and fish...

February 8, 2011 at 5:58 pm | [Reply](#)

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**goldentubeyou**

I thought rabbit hole was really sad... :(

February 8, 2011 at 5:58 pm | [Reply](#)

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**foeey**

Hey Vegans – there are animals in water!

February 8, 2011 at 5:59 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Andrea**

Rabbits have always been used as meat. They are a sustainable source of meat-unlike other meats. Their feces can be applied directly to soil and won't burn plants. Hmmmm...can I say we should be eating more rabbit meat than other meats? ! Rabbits are Mother Earth friendly! I too have had house rabbits, show rabbits, and meat rabbits. They are the perfect animal because they can do it all. And no, I would not eat a rabbit that is treated like a pet.

February 8, 2011 at 6:01 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Mmmm...Tastes Like Chicken...**

Boy...that rabbit in the picture above looks young and tender...throw it in a crock pot with some chicken stock and fresh veggies and I bet it would make a fine rabbit stew! Yum!

February 8, 2011 at 6:01 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Elmer**

Fwicasseeing wabbit?

February 8, 2011 at 6:02 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Jackie Davis**

You know, nearly any creature can lovable and has their own personality if you spend enough time with it to get to know it. This includes chickens, cows, pigs and nearly any "meat" animal. Would I eat a bunny? Sure, if I was hungry enough and had no other choice. The meat I choose to eat has had a decent life and has not been factory farmed. I feel especially virtuous about eating venison, which spent it's life living free, ended by one bad day. We should all be so lucky.

February 8, 2011 at 6:09 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Daniel**

Ok, look. Here's what it comes down to.

Animals are people too.

but

WE EAT NON HUMAN PEOPLE. THAT'S WHAT WE DO.

It is possible to love them both alive and dead. If you don't have silly hangups.

February 8, 2011 at 6:10 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Jett Lee**

Animals are NOT people. Where did you go to school, the Walt Disney Center?

February 8, 2011 at 7:14 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Mike H.**

I raise rabbits for meat , I raise chickens for meat and eggs. I hunt squirrel and deer. I also fish in the river here. Naturally raised meats are better for you, leaner, and don't have the antibiotics and hormones that factory raised meat does. If game meat is properly handled and butchered, it has no "gamey" flavor. My wife makes rabbit or squirrel & dumplings that are awesome.

February 8, 2011 at 6:11 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Alina77**

Oh, anything but squirrel. So, I never had guts to try them, I think its just like eating a cat, eu

February 8, 2011 at 6:16 pm | [Reply](#)

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**T3chsupport**

I've always wanted to try squirrel, but was always put off by the whole 'tree rat' thing. What's your favorite way of eating it?

February 8, 2011 at 6:20 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Alina77**

There are all kind of rabbits, my brother breeds rabbits for food, he has about 40 them in the cages, and they are delicious. There are rabbits that you cuddle with I consider them decorative rabbits, you cant eat them unless you really starving. Why am I feeling like Alf that eats cats on his planet?

February 8, 2011 at 6:12 pm | [Reply](#)

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**JEWELZ**

SICKO !!!

February 8, 2011 at 6:13 pm | [Reply](#)

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**scott**

SHhhhh!! Be very quite Im hunting Wabbits!!

February 8, 2011 at 6:14 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Linda**

Hunting wascally wabbits!

February 8, 2011 at 6:39 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Jeb S Fuller**

Your better off eating Rabbit then a Hot Dog. I have raised just about every farm animal and if you knew what most of the mystery meat you eat is rabbiit starts to look good real fast. We are all Hypocrites, we will eat anything if we are hungry enough.

February 8, 2011 at 6:15 pm | [Reply](#)

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**scott**

EWWW!! I think I got a hare in my food!!

February 8, 2011 at 6:19 pm | [Reply](#)

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**woopooly**

sarah palin did it

February 8, 2011 at 6:20 pm | [Reply](#)

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**mike hunt**

when i was a kid we had all these rabbits. i thought my dad was raising them as pets for us. then one day he brought me and my little brother out to them and began hitting them on the head w/ a board w/ a nail in it, then chopping their heads off. i was horrified them and cried all day. but they did taste good.

February 8, 2011 at 6:20 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Lorraine**

@ Tammy. DESPERATE ?!!!

February 8, 2011 at 6:23 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Jezebel**

I voted 'other' in that I eat wild rabbits that have been shot in effort to protect my gardens. I also raise a large number of English Angoras for fibre and would never consider butchering any of them, nor raising meat rabbits for my own table .

February 8, 2011 at 6:26 pm | [Reply](#)

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**RONNIE**

Only republicans eat rabbits ! Mostly as when they are alive ! Sick people.

February 8, 2011 at 6:29 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Dave**

They also drink babies' blood and were behind 9/11...

February 8, 2011 at 9:41 pm | [Reply](#)

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**donna**

I don't know how she could write that she loves rabbits, her article just killed thousands of them.

February 8, 2011 at 6:32 pm | [Reply](#)

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**scott**

There was a bunny I wanted to eat but Hef wouldnt let me in!

February 8, 2011 at 6:32 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Mmmm...Tastes Like Chicken...**

Wrong Hare Pie, buddy...

February 8, 2011 at 6:35 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Mmmm...Tastes Like Chicken...**

Two nuns fly into New York for the first time...they both wanted to try a hot dog...at the LaGuardia they both order two hot dog cart specials...suddenly one sister becomes red with embarrassment and turns to the other and whispers, "Which part of the dog did you get?"

February 8, 2011 at 6:32 pm | [Reply](#)

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**dynarrhea**

If you want to be ethical about eating rabbits hunt them rabbit farming is kinda gross most of the time also keeping rabbits as pets is gross let them live there lives and if you want to eat them kill them but at least let them be free to be rabbits also read the vegetarian myth by lierre keith

February 8, 2011 at 6:33 pm | [Reply](#)

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**taforrester**

I've hunted and eaten rabbit. About 25 years ago I fell in love with someone that loved rabbits and I promised her I wouldn't hunt them again. A promise I've kept and a meat I no longer eat.

But people are such hypocrites when it comes to eating meat—which we have to do to survive. It's okay to get meat at the store after all the work has been done by others—and then blame people for doing that work.

I guarantee you a deer killed by a hunter is better off than a steer kept in a feed lot, packed in a semi to the slaughter house, and then hit between the eyes with an air hammer. Just because you don't see it, doesn't make it any less cruel.

February 8, 2011 at 6:34 pm | [Reply](#)

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**April**

Humans wouldn't have canine teeth if we aren't supposed to eat meat, and we wouldn't wouldn't have incisors if we aren't meant to eat plant matter too. As for molars... they're good for both. If you find a way to live purely off of one or the other, that's good for you. I admire those who have the dedication to do that; however, don't expect everyone to agree with you. I am personally happy as an omnivore, but I wouldn't eat someone's pet under normal circumstances. During the midst of a severe natural disaster or whatnot, I might consider it. I'd have to be starving, though.

February 8, 2011 at 6:36 pm | [Reply](#)

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**April**

Oops... Somehow typed "wouldn't" twice in the first sentence.

February 8, 2011 at 6:37 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Mmmm...Tastes Like Chicken...**

I wouldn't wouldn't worry about it...really!

February 8, 2011 at 6:39 pm |

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**Lisa**

Rabbit is delicious I've been eating it for years, usually for special occasions. My uncle raises them to eat, not as pets. I suppose you don't have to eat your pet rabbits but nothing wrong with eating rabbit.

February 8, 2011 at 6:39 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Malteser**

In my part of the world, rabbit meat is the national dish, and it tastes good. Takes a bit long to prepare but worth every minute. When I was still a kid mum used to get a live rabbit, kill it, skin it, cut it up, cook it with me and my sisters watching and helping. So I do not find it difficult to eat rabbit. Believe me it's delicious.

On the other hand, a year ago I bought my daughter a Dwarf Lop and named it Pepper. It is so cute and naughty. My daughter has no qualms about eating rabbit, BUT NO ONE JOKES ABOUT PEPPER.

February 8, 2011 at 6:41 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Meat ThePress**

Vegans: Did you know that a carrot screams when you pull it up? O.M.G. We must not tolerate cruelty to veggies no matter what they may be. Quickly now, call the carrot police. Bwaaa hahahahaha.

February 8, 2011 at 6:43 pm | [Reply](#)

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**rtw24**

Of course I would, they are actually pretty good. My grandma used to show me how you kill them and then peel off the skin, let it dry inside out, which you can sell later, then get the guts out and its ready for barbecue :D. But I gotta say the are

sometimes too cute to kill, but ohh well you gotta eat....

February 8, 2011 at 6:44 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### Look into her eyes!

Not sure if anyone commented on this: But look at the rabbit in the picture. Doesn't it just look a little freaked out? I think it's been reading all these comments and just figured out why all its siblings and friends disappeared over the years.. Shhhh.... you're upsetting the rabbit.... And, yes, I'm a vegetarian, but I still (contrary to popular belief) have a sense of humor about these things. Eat what you want! I was very lovingly offered, and keep on my refrigerator, a magnet that says: "Vegetarian: Old Indian word for Bad Hunter." I find it hilarious. And I cook meat for others. I'm not against meat-eaters. I just simply feel physically better when I personally don't have meat. So, for those who think that all vegetarians are squeamish, stick-in-the-mud, holier-than-thou idiots... I'm just a plain ol' idiot who doesn't eat meat. Sorry!

February 8, 2011 at 6:47 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### frogprof

You are my kind of vegetarian! Thank you for your rational, reasonable statements. I don't hate vegetarians, either - even though I eat meat quite happily - because there are many days when I eat nothing but fruit and veg. (And chocolate.)

And I want one of your magnets! :)

February 8, 2011 at 6:53 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### Juju @Look into her Eyes!

Thank you for your clear-minded response! It was a breath of fresh air to read what you had to say. Like previously said, you're my kind of vegetarian!

February 8, 2011 at 8:16 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### Dave

I think there's a moderate difference between vegetarians who don't eat meat for personal/health reasons, and those who don't eat meat for ethical reasons. The latter carries broader implications. If something is wrong, others should be prohibited (or at least persuaded against) doing wrong as well. Obviously if you are just doing something because it makes you, personally, feel physically better – and not for the life and well-being of animals – then you won't care so much about what other people do.

February 8, 2011 at 9:38 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### Dave

And of course this makes for a more "likeable" vegetarian, because not caring what others do will never get you on their bad side. As soon as you try to suggest that someone shouldn't be doing what they want to do, that's where you get into trouble, regardless of the merits of your argument.

February 8, 2011 at 9:40 pm |

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#### frogprof

The only time I ever ate rabbit was in Paris at a resto called "Monsieur Lapin" - "Mr. Rabbit"! The décor was nothing but rabbits, rabbits, rabbits ... I didn't know there were so many ways to depict bunnies. The meal was delicious - rabbit in a mustard and white wine sauce - and it did, sort of, taste like chicken.

But, as with ANY animal meat I eat, I'd rather not see it alive before I eat it. I know that's the coward's way out, but I don't think God did NOT mean for humans to eat meat ... if He didn't, we wouldn't. Plain as that. So I eat meat, and vegetables, and fruits, and grains, and chocolate, with few if any qualms.

February 8, 2011 at 6:50 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### Jim

When I was a boy my family raised rabbits commercially and I still like the taste of the meat especially done over a rotisserie or baked in an oven with a nice homemade BBQ sauce. If God didn't want us to eat animals, why would he have made them taste so good?

February 8, 2011 at 6:51 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Bo**

I was driving in the backwoods of Wyoming years ago and saw a great homemade sign outside of a fairly run-down ranch. The sign read. "Baby Bunnies: Cute and Cuddly, or Just Plain Tasty". Aside from being hilarious, it was clear that for the rancher, rabbit was both a potential pet and a meat animal. I don't see why it can't be both. If someone is raising an animal as food, and they offer it to you, you should eat it. If someone is raising an animal as a pet, you don't. In both cases, don't joke about the other. Seems simple to me.

February 8, 2011 at 6:53 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Mmmm...Tastes Like Chicken...**

So what's up with the Easter Bunny hiding it's eggs? Rabbits don't lay eggs...what message are we giving our children...this is a much more profound issue than whether we eat the Bunny or Not! I had a male rabbit that used to hide his eggs all the time around the hutch...he was the King of his domain! It just doesn't seem right that we celebrate this type of behavior with our children at Easter! What kind of perverted tradition is this? They even dip their eggs in multi-colored dyes before they hide them! This seems just too Fellini-esque! We need to re-evaluate what we are teaching our children!

February 8, 2011 at 6:54 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Wachu Smokin**

W T F ?

February 8, 2011 at 6:58 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Double Ought**

I used my .410 to take one out that was tearing up my garden. Boiled it up with dumplin's. Man oh man was that some kinda good. Payback is sweet... they skin easy too.

February 8, 2011 at 6:55 pm | [Reply](#)

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**rabbiteer**

We usually cut up the rabbit in bits and fry them lightly in red wine and garlic. Then serve some rabbit fried while the rest place in pot and stew. Serve with veggies and oven baked potatoes, and of course carrots. mmmmmmm

February 8, 2011 at 6:56 pm | [Reply](#)

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**rabbiteer**

I forgot to mention that we wash down a rabbit meal with red wine until we can't tell the fork from the spoon.

February 8, 2011 at 7:03 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Tony**

I wouldn't eat Rabbit because Rabbit is extremely low in fat and you can actually get sick if you only subsist on Rabbit meat.

February 8, 2011 at 7:00 pm | [Reply](#)

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**leat**

I don't like eating too much meat because it's not good for you. While I think eating a vegetarian diet can be very healthy, i can't stand people who give these negative comments about people who eat meat. Just to let you know, a lot of organic, all natural fertilizers used on organic vegetables have anchovies and such in them. So technically those veggies aren't raised vegetarian.

So think about THAT!

February 8, 2011 at 7:00 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Andre**

Wait, wait wait. What?

People eat rabbit. I eat rabbit. I thought this was a well accepted thing?

February 8, 2011 at 7:04 pm | [Reply](#)

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**mejazzbo**

Not as good as dog. I'll bet most of you folks don't know anything about real hunger or poverty. Meat is meat!!!

February 8, 2011 at 7:04 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Steve**

How come "I did, and I enjoyed it" is not one of the choices?

February 8, 2011 at 7:10 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Simo Hayha**

I would eat a rabbit faster than I would eat pigs. Pigs are as smart as dogs. Rabbits are like rodents.

February 8, 2011 at 7:11 pm | [Reply](#)

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**dike**

I am indeed glad to be a vegetarian never felt the craving for meat.. and reading all this makes it more disgusting....

Cannibalism... eating your loved ones.

Probably human kids taste real good too and hope you can limit your vices and greed to animals.

D

February 8, 2011 at 7:13 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Dave**

Yeah, articles like this bring out the culinary machismo in people. It's \*ok\* to not claim that you want to eat/try every animal in existence (oh, except humans, because that's bad, right?)...

Cue neanderthalic rants about the food chain and salivary satisfaction.

February 8, 2011 at 9:35 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Neo**

I like to keep things simple. In the grand scheme of things, there's "food", and "not food". My take is that rabbits fall into the category of "food". My family has a pet rabbit, but Bunny has never really warmed up to me. I think she instinctively knows where I stand.

February 8, 2011 at 7:14 pm | [Reply](#)

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**CSnord**

My family has a tradition of eating rabbit at Easter. Yes, we eat the Easter Bunny. I'm a dog lover and have five dogs, but were I served dog in China, I would eat it. It would not bother me at all. I would object to eating MY dogs because I value them more alive than dead, but, really, meat is meat and the only reason ANY organism is placed on the Earth is to be food for something else. That includes people. It is called the Carbon Life Cycle. It is no more immoral to eat animals than it is to eat plants. Some animals taste better to humans than others, but all are fair game. I only draw the line at eating other humans.

February 8, 2011 at 7:17 pm | [Reply](#)

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**HedgedIn**

I love pet rats and don't flinch at the idea of rats being fed to snakes. It's when people torment them first or let them feel the fear and know a horrible death is coming that I don't like or approve of. I don't feel bad eating meat. We're omnivores. Other animals are carnivores. It's natural. I think everyone has a choice as to what they consume. Sometimes humans are killed by animals, sometimes we die and our bodies are scavenged by animals. This is the way of things. Jesus said that it's not what goes in that causes us to sin, but what comes out. I tend to agree with that.

February 8, 2011 at 7:18 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Derek Gardner**

Pasted with Dijon Mustard and baked in the oven delicious..... or Rabbit Stew also fantastic!  
Much better than boring Chicken meat.

February 8, 2011 at 7:21 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Jumpy**

I don't eat rabbit anymore.....it makes me jumpy!

February 8, 2011 at 7:27 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Blessed Geek**

Rabbits are not kosher.

February 8, 2011 at 7:28 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Northview**

I want to be a vegetarian but I love bacon, God help me I feel so ashamed.

February 8, 2011 at 7:34 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **sdlfkj**

I had a rabbit as a pet as a kid. Would i eat the pet? No. Would i eat rabbit, sure you bet.

February 8, 2011 at 7:36 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **jb**

In military survival school we lived off rabbit. OMG it was good! I actually crave in now from time to time...

February 8, 2011 at 7:42 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Elmer Fudd**

Get a 20 Gauge find some public area to hunt or private land, go rabbit hunting from november to february in probably all 50 states. Hunt some wild cotton tails, jackrabbits or whatever kind of rabbits/hares you have in your state. Then you won't have to feel "guilty" about eating one of those pet rabbits. Wild Rabbit is better for you anyways, they don't have all the fat of the couped rabbits. Also they won't have steroids antibiotics and all that other garbage that mass produced animals have. Same thing with squirrel, deer, turkey, turtles, frogs and anything else you can hunt + it's good for the environment, your getting your meat locally and cutting out ALL the middlemen as well as putting revenue straight into the state budget with the purchase of your licenses.

February 8, 2011 at 7:44 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Mike**

I ate rabbit years ago for the first time in the military (SERE school) and had it a few times after that. I would eat it again at the drop of a dime, but it's difficult to come by in major cities.

Rabbit meat really is delicious. I'm just saying if you can get over yourself for a minute and give it a try you'll be SURPRISED. The meat is like chicken... I know, I know. But extremely tender and moist. It's very much like the dark meat from a rotisserie chicken but even more tender. Seriously.... You're missing out.

February 8, 2011 at 7:52 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **T3chsupport**

Hey, notice how the same crazy people that were going nuts about the pigs mostly aren't here, or going as crazy? That's because they know that they've been called out, and they should damn well be ashamed for the things they said on the other article.

Kudos.

February 8, 2011 at 7:52 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **A farmer**

It is a very good and economical meat to raise. Get over it.

February 8, 2011 at 7:54 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Elmer Fudd**

CSnord your an idiot to say you would eat dog as well as the billions in asia who eat it. As well as the muslim nations that fear dogs because they are "unclean". Dogs have 1k uses OTHER than meat. A dog will give up it's life to protect you and your family. You do not eat an animal that is loyal. The same for Horses. The only way it is acceptable to eat a dog or a horse is if you are lost in the wilderness, at sea or some other situation where if you do not eat the animal you and/or other humans will starve. That's the only reason a dog or horse should ever be slaughtered for food. If you own dogs and are a dog lover the loyalty they extend to you should not be taken for granted, it's a two way street and you are obligated to extend that loyalty to the whole family of dogs. Cats on the other hand should be fair game as they are generally useless except as a comfort animal :)

February 8, 2011 at 7:55 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **nimrod**

Actually, Elmer, if you, MY dog , and I are adrift in a boat or stranded and starving in the wilderness, YOU better watch your back. (Ever seen "A Boy and His Dog"?)

February 8, 2011 at 8:06 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **rabbitowner**

I have two pet rabbits that I adopted from animal shelters and who have resided inside my home for about three years. They are cute, if not terribly cuddly, and they enjoy a quiet, healthy existence here. We even paid several hundred dollars for surgery when one of them got sick. Now that I have admitted that I'm a softie, I now state freely and with no guilt that YES, I would eat rabbit meat (just not one of mine, obviously). I've never had occasion to eat it, but I've read that it's an excellent high-protein, low fat meat. Considering the fact that rabbits are not capable of higher thought, I feel confident that my two would not hold it against me.

February 8, 2011 at 7:55 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **vinny**

GET IN MUH BELLY!!!!!!!

February 8, 2011 at 7:56 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **April**

Fat Bastard from "Austen Powers." lol

February 8, 2011 at 11:16 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Bunny Foo Foo**

I'm tasty... just use a tarragon sauce made with sherry and serve over pasta... wait why am I telling you this?

February 8, 2011 at 7:58 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Justme**

Pigs have a similar anatomy to humans and we eat them, we could be more genetically related to a hog than a rabbit. This article is silly. Just because bunnies are cute doesn't mean they aren't on the food chain. Lots of people love venison, even if Bambi is also a beautiful creature.

February 8, 2011 at 7:59 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **DinoMight**

We have a bunny named Hoppy. An adorable interactive mini dutch that is house roaming when we are home and well litter trained. He will nod 'hello' to greet or acknowledge your presence, gives a quick shake of his head with his front body raised when he doesn't want something (i.e. certain food, or to be left to alone or to roam), LOVES to be petted and held most of the time, and enjoys being chased around the christmas tree or our round table. Rabbits are people too :-)) Don't eat them.

February 8, 2011 at 7:59 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **rabbit fingers**

City bylaws around here don't allow backyard chickens unless your land is 2+ acres. Nothing says you can't have rabbits though. Oh, but it does say you can't eat your own animals unless you live in the agricultural land reserve. Hahah, that's too funny... "It is illegal to butcher and eat your own animals for free. Instead, you must spend money on the ones available at your local grocery store." I guess the point is to feed the consumer-based economy and all those dependent of it. Does that make us self sufficient-minded folks the enemy of modern human civilization? I would say yes.

February 8, 2011 at 8:00 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **nimrod**

When I was in grad school, my wife and I practically lived on wild rabbit (cottontail) deer, and dove. The rabbit was delicious, and as .22 rounds only cost about \$.02 ea, cheap. We could have another couple over for a nice dinner of fried rabbit, broccoli we grew in the garden, and store bought rice or potatoes for less than \$5.00 total (especially if the other couple brought the dessert). Rabbit is really tasty, especially when you harvest it yourself.

February 8, 2011 at 8:01 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Maria**

When I tried it, I just didn't like the taste. It was a bit too 'gamey' for me (for lack of a better word.)

February 8, 2011 at 8:07 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Panisse**

Om my way to eat rabbit right now at Chez Panisse! Paired with Pinot Noir.

February 8, 2011 at 8:10 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **truthinrock**

Quit confusing the subject if farm animals and pets.... Rabbits raised for food, never touch the ground, are fed better quality food and are harvested as soon as they reach the appropriate age/size. This article is meant for the ignorant fools who need something to post on.

February 8, 2011 at 8:14 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Jill**

Wouldn't it be nice for the planet, the animals and our health if we started eating FEWER animals (in type and number) rather than more? Leave the poor rabbits alone.

February 8, 2011 at 8:16 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Dave**

And take away one's right to consume any living thing (oops, except for humans) they can? Hah. Just try taking away an American's cheeseburger and see where that gets you. I like to think we've evolved to a higher level of existence, but all around me I still see drooling masses of neanderthals. Neanderthals in suits and large buildings, perhaps.

February 8, 2011 at 10:06 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Sari in Vegas**

I've had rabbits as pets, and eaten rabbit many times. Just not THOSE rabbits that I kept as pets. It's the basic idea of "I don't eat my friends". I always buy from reputable cruelty free sources, or barter from people who I know well who are also cruelty free). It's a rapidly reproducing meat animal, we're omnivores- where's the problem?

February 8, 2011 at 8:17 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Zalmo**

If you eat any sort of meat and would never eat rabbit you are a hypocrite plain and simple. To eat or not eat an animal based on it's cuteness factor or human-like qualities is absurd.

February 8, 2011 at 8:20 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Jamie**

While in SERE school for the air force we had to um. .Bludgeon a rabbit to death and then skin it. .we cooked it over a campfire and chowed down. Yes PETA. The military kills countless rabbits for training purposes. Please film your head exploding. I wanna watch.

February 8, 2011 at 8:24 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Tom The Anthropologist**

Eating rabbit...almost as disgusting as having a Pig for a pet! Ewww! Would you have a chicken for a pet? Ewww no way! How about a cow? No way! But rabbits, they have always been pets to humans right? Like thousands and thousands of years ago they were always pets. People NEVER ate rabbit. Listen, either condemn eating of all animals and be a vegetarian (fine with me) or accept that if eating one kind of animal is okay, its hard to justify outrage when another fuzzy creature is used for survival and culinary enjoyment. You don't have to eat them, but please don't criticize me for eating rabbit when your mouth is full of chicken.

February 8, 2011 at 8:25 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Robert T**

Do I own and love rabbits? Yes indeed!  
Do I love eating them? Most definitely!  
Same goes for sheep and deer.

^\_^

February 8, 2011 at 8:31 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Anita Souschef**

Rabbits raised for food are very different from pet rabbits. They are mean and will scratch and bite. We raised them when I was a kid. After a couple of very bad saber tooth tiger scratches I had no qualms at all about whacking them with a baseball bat, field dressing them and hanging them by their ears on the clothesline. Fried rabbit for breakfast is great. The bones make a good stock. They are easy to butcher. You can do it all on a cutting board. Rabbit stew is terrific. Makes a good coq au vin-type dish.

February 8, 2011 at 8:44 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Scott S**

I regularly hunt snowshoe rabbits (varying hare).

February 8, 2011 at 8:50 pm | [Reply](#)

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**jamesnyc**

tastes like chicken (dark meat). I guess it's a tough notion. I wouldn't think of eating a pet. I wouldn't say no if it's on the plate (I mean it's already dead). We don't hesitate in this country to "harvest" chickens by the millions or cows or fish or turkey. The American Indians probably didn't hesitate except to pray a prayer of thanksgiving to the spirit of the animal for giving its life for his sustenance. Maybe we should do this?

February 8, 2011 at 8:51 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Don**

Everything cute is delicious. I love fish as well as meat, and the last fish I ate was Oreo Dory. I had never tried it before. As it was thawing I made the huge mistake of Googling Oreo Dory. HUGE MISTAKE !!! It did not taste good to me. I could not get over the look of that fish and it ruined my entire meal. I felt like I was eating a character off of Ren & Stympy. The thing looks like a fossil.

February 8, 2011 at 8:57 pm | [Reply](#)

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**T3chsupport**

I just googled it, too. OMG it's terrifying! It would be like eating a nightmare!

February 8, 2011 at 11:04 pm | [Reply](#)

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**John Q. Public Sr.**

rabbit is delicious. Sweet & sour rabbit, roasted rabbit. Bugs Bunny is on my menu.

February 8, 2011 at 8:58 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Thoth2012**

Thats one satanic looking rabbit.

February 8, 2011 at 9:00 pm | [Reply](#)

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**MC**

I've eaten rabbit, but it was wild and I killed it myself with a shotgun. Call me an evil hunter, but that rabbit died quicker and had a more normal life than any farm raised critter full of antibiotics and all the other crap that feed animals on giant factory farms. Either way, I did not care for the taste. I try to stay away from any non-organic farm raised meat/poultry/fish as well. There's a reason why you can get a burger for 99 cents.

February 8, 2011 at 9:02 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Pablo**

they are cute, fuzzy and delicious.

February 8, 2011 at 9:06 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Homecook83**

I have 3 in the freezer!

February 8, 2011 at 9:11 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Lucie**

I wouldn't eat rabbit...I consume red/white meat perhaps once a year if I'm traveling out of the country and really want to get a taste of local cuisine, and eat sushi on my birthday, but having had a pet rabbit as a youngster has made me leary of consuming such creatures. I can't eat beef anymore either, after actually spending time with cows and calfs. Meat should be a special treat if eaten at all, imo...that heifer went through too shitty of a life to be made in to a mcdonald's hamburger. And there would be far more vegans if everyone was required to raise their own meat/dairy.

February 8, 2011 at 9:12 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Terri**

I am the owner of 2 house rabbits and I will probably always have bunnies in my life. I know that rabbits are at the bottom of the food chain in the wild and get eaten by fox, coyotes, & birds of prey. I would never eat rabbit myself but I do understand that they have been a food source for thousands of years for people to survive on as well. My only hope is that with this whole Chinese Year of the Rabbit hype is that people don't foolishly buy rabbits on a whim . People treat rabbits as disposable pets and when they tire of them, they dump them at a shelter, or even release them into the wild. Remember the food chain? Rabbits don't live long in the wild and domestic rabbits dumped at a park live even shorter lives than their wild cousins. If you are going to own a rabbit as a pet, make sure you are educated in the care of rabbits and also make sure that you are committed to providing a lifetime of love and care for them as you would any other pet.

February 8, 2011 at 9:23 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Charlotte**

Terri, I sympathize. I have been volunteering at our local animal shelter for seven years and we get an influx of discarded rabbits, oh, not long after Easter every year. I am not a bunny person but I am good friends with some who are. I think it is as tragic as the cats and dogs and horses that get neglected, dumped, turned out to fend for themselves. Cats are not bunnies – they are carnivorous, predatory megafauna, but in our neck of the woods abandoning a house cat to its own devices is as sure a death sentence as for a rabbit, given the coyotes

and mountain lions and wildcats we have here. Please continue your efforts to raise consciousness about responsible pet ownership and thanks for not being on a rampage about rabbit-eating. :) Recognition of the food chain is important, but as with your rabbits, although I understand the coyotes need to eat, too, they can eat someone ELSE's cat – not mine!

February 8, 2011 at 9:30 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Charlotte**

I have no fundamental problem with eating rabbits, it's no different from eating chickens or cows. That having been said, I have eaten it only once. It was ok. Nothing to write home about. If I were starving I wouldn't hesitate, but I don't eat meat in general although I am not a vegetarian....I just don't. Once in awhile. I do, however, feed my cats (all five of them) raw rabbit on a regular basis and they are extremely healthy as a result. Commercial cat food is full of horrible stuff like grains, that cats cannot digest properly (when is the last time you saw a leopard stalking a corn field?). Raw rabbit is natural prey for them and they do magnificently. If people want to eat rabbit it doesn't bother me, as long as they aren't eating my friends' pet rabbits.

February 8, 2011 at 9:25 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **r**

I used to say to my Grandpa, please go and shoot me some rabbits and cook them so I can eat them. He was a great cook. I miss him.

February 8, 2011 at 9:29 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **louis**

If it were a Playboy bunny, yes, most definitely

February 8, 2011 at 9:34 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **ArrowDog**

Rabbit is delicious. Rabbits are part of the food chain. Eat more rabbit. For those who have imbalanced altruistic notions of "save the rabbit", there are far more important worldly issues to be resolved. There are some beautiful breeds of rabbits that are nearly extinct because of the "save the rabbit" non-sense. The only reason its "O.K." to eat pigs and cows.... they are just so UGLY. Who wouldn't eat a cow! For my part I would much rather eat succulent rabbit – stewed in a tomato base with.... veggies – yes veggies. In all sincerity. Save the rabbits – by eating more of them.

February 8, 2011 at 9:42 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **N**

Here is a good example, If I had a pig as a pet I wouldn't eat him but it won't mean that I won't consume Pig that I bought from the butcher.

February 8, 2011 at 9:50 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **I\_eat\_FoOd**

Rabbit? Ewwwww. I prefer cow, chicken or goat. You know.. standard farm animals.

February 8, 2011 at 9:57 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **T3chsupport**

Most people I know think goat is a weird thing to eat.

February 8, 2011 at 11:08 pm | [Reply](#)

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#### **Case5250**

Love rabbit, squirrel, beef, pig, fish, fowl. My Hunny Bun was a white face, red cow, I bawled my eyes out when she went to market. My dad was the meanest person in the world. A few weeks later dad handed me savings bonds and I went "oh" a year or so later I bought a used flute. Now worth\$\$\$\$. Yes I still eat meat and thank God for these beautiful animals he/she made for us. I'm also a member of the local sportmen's club and our wild game feed is coming up soon. Love those Rocky Mountain Oysters.

February 8, 2011 at 9:57 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Dave**

So killing your favourite cow suddenly became ok when you realized the \$\$ returns... Interesting, I must say.

February 8, 2011 at 10:07 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Nicodemis**

I eat mine raw, like a big apple, with a lot of ketchup.

February 8, 2011 at 9:58 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Janna**

I am a proud rabbit owner, but when people know I have a pet bunny, I \*ABSOLUTELY HATE\* when they talk about eating rabbit. My boyfriend and I get it sometimes with our guinea pigs, too, since they're commonly eaten in Peru. We're well aware of this, and have no problem with what others want to do, but we kindly remind people that in some places people eat dogs. If that doesn't work, we remind them that in some places, people eat people, too.

It's just not polite to joke about eating somebody's pet, whether it's a dog, cat, rabbit, guinea pig, or whatever. I've never eaten rabbit, nor would I, because at an emotional level I feel like eating a rabbit is like eating a dog or a cat. It's a companion animal to me, and although I am perfectly okay with others eating them, I'd appreciate it if they'd respect my feelings as a pet owner by simply not talking about it in my presence.

My boyfriend is especially touchy about this topic, because he really loves his bunny, Sable (who we believe is descended of fryer stock herself, because she's very fat even though she always got half as many pellets as Daisy, my since-passed bunny who was half her size). He's the guy who eats half a pound of bacon in one sitting, who loves the fact that his significant other's father is a meat cutter so he has easy access to delicious meats (often for free!), and who I've had to force to start eating more fruits and veggies so he doesn't die at 40 of a heart attack because he's essentially a meatatarian – and he hates it when people talk about eating rabbit after they know we have one as a pet. Oh, and he was nearly yelling at my grandpa for joking about eating our guinea pigs and not stopping when we repeatedly asked him to. It's really quite cute to me, because I know he loves them so much :) We both love our pets dearly, so we really don't want to think about people eating these animals who are our sweet companions, even if we accept the fact that people do.

February 8, 2011 at 10:04 pm | [Reply](#)

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**NomNomNom**

I like to eat house cats. I've trained my dog to hunt neighborhood cats and he chases them down and brings them to me. They are very tender, juicy, and succulent. I grill them outdoors a lot of the time. They are great barbecued. The old cats are still good eating but you do have to tenderize them 1st. The trick is to use a lot of salt on any kind of meat. Salt makes any kind of meat taste real good. If you're in a hurry just broil it up with no seasonings and eat it with a lot of ketchup. Ketchup would make a toad taste good.

February 8, 2011 at 10:13 pm | [Reply](#)

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**comeonreally?**

blah. blah. blah. you're either compassionate or not. stop the mental masturbation.

February 8, 2011 at 10:13 pm | [Reply](#)

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**T3chsupport**

It really is possible to be compassionate, and a realist at the same time.

February 8, 2011 at 11:10 pm | [Reply](#)

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**ck**

It amazes me that the members of the human race voluntarily choose to lower themselves way down the food chain. I love rabbit and it doesn't taste like chicken...it's much better.

February 8, 2011 at 10:14 pm | [Reply](#)

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**foreal**

I've been so hungry before that I've eaten the backend of a billy goat.

February 8, 2011 at 10:15 pm | [Reply](#)

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**VTGal**

I agree with those who say it's different when it's a pet. I couldn't eat a pet. But animals which are raised for food consumption I have no problem with, regardless of species. People have consumed rabbit for a very long time. It's simply a fact.

I've had a pet bunny that I loved very much. Would I ever have eaten her? HELL noo! Would I then never try rabbit? I'm not a vegetarian, so yeah, I'm open minded to it. I know plenty of peeples in vermont who raise pet chickens and still eat chicken...just not their chickens. A freind of mine raises sheep as pets, and I love her sheep; we both still eat lamb and mutton. I suppose most of us who have grown up in a rural farm community really don't see the issue. You respect animals, and treat them kindly and with good care, be they pets or food animals.

Sometimes I wonder if people who read "A Day No Pigs Would Die" got the real meaning out of it, or just think it's all about "poor piggie" and the "mean" dad who slaughtered his son's pet pig and forget that he did it so that his family wouldn't starve. Just a thought there... And don't spit back statements like "well it isn't like that anymore" because to hell if it aint still like that as food gets increasingly expensive.

I think the world is filled with too many extremists who live in their own personal la-la-land. I don't refer to the article's author, but rather those who criticize such and wish evil things for incredibly weak and stupid reasons.

February 8, 2011 at 10:15 pm | [Reply](#)

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**jmo**

that nasty

February 8, 2011 at 10:16 pm | [Reply](#)

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**franky**

That reminds me of one of the funniest episodes of It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia...just watched it on Hulu yesterday!!

February 8, 2011 at 10:21 pm | [Reply](#)

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**ThemBones**

Bunnies are really cute and make great pets. But...I'd eat one in a gourmet restaurant.

February 8, 2011 at 10:24 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Jackie**

Bunny tastes like pig. I only had it in soup though.

February 8, 2011 at 10:35 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Veronica**

I've had rabbits as pets and found them as intelligent, companionable and loving as my dogs and cats, even to my dogs and cats. Truthfully, as a biologist, I have a hard time with farming animals for food as in most cases it is an act of cruelty, and I know that most mammals are emotional with intelligence to some degree and with their own wants and needs.

February 8, 2011 at 10:36 pm | [Reply](#)

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**David Funk**

I've cooked rabbit and I have eaten it better than chicken.

February 8, 2011 at 10:40 pm | [Reply](#)

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**David Funk**

Chef David Funk

February 8, 2011 at 10:41 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Tree**

Rabbit is not a kosher animal and I had one as a pet. I can't think of eating such a harmless little ball of fur.

February 8, 2011 at 10:41 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Nick**

If you think you are getting to heaven any quicker by not eating a rabbit, good luck.

February 8, 2011 at 10:53 pm | [Reply](#)

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**FRANK**

The writer of this article is the biggest SKANK ever put on this planet.

Best,

FRANK

February 8, 2011 at 11:04 pm | [Reply](#)

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**T3chsupport**

Aren't you a classy individual, with a wide vocabulary and a mature opinion!

February 8, 2011 at 11:12 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Poesy**

Being able to eschew a food source is only possible in a wealthy environment or in a religious climate. I would say that the majority of Americans fall into those that are surrounded by a wealthy environment. My early childhood years were spent on a farm, and food was something we grew or raised so I have no mental blocks eating quite a lot of foods others find offensive. My grandparents were children of the depression and the dust bowl, I was given a firmer appreciation for what wealth of food we have around us.

As for offal, I don't have the palate for most of it. However, rabbit liver is rather mild compared to other types of liver I have tried.

February 8, 2011 at 11:16 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Stephanie Lodge**

I am and have been a vegetarian for about 20 years now. I think everyone has a choice to make and don't look down on those that eat animals in general. My uncles are avid hunters and though I don't care to hear their hunting stories, I can appreciate them using all parts of animals. Having said that, the mere thought of someone killing and eating any of my rabbit "children" makes me ill and overcome with sadness. To each, their own.

February 8, 2011 at 11:40 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Jill**

I've had rabbit once a long time ago. I don't really remember it. I guess it was OK. I have pet bunnies now, and even though I threaten them with the soup pot when they get into trouble, I wouldn't eat them. Judging by how much they shed, they're all fur.

February 8, 2011 at 11:43 pm | [Reply](#)

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**Stellaellaellaehheh**

Kim- Please don't ever leave me at work without "lunchtime poll" again. I was looking for it all day and was soooo bummed out. You and Eatocracy make a difference in my work day as the only website I am able to access is CNN. Plus it's the stinkin best! Your bunny is lovely. XOXO

February 8, 2011 at 11:51 pm | [Reply](#)

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guest

I eat rabbit so that the chicken it taste's like may live another day...

February 9, 2011 at 12:07 am | [Reply](#)

#### Luposian

I've had rabbit and like it. I'll eat it, any chance I get. We own a pet rabbit. I feel no guilt. I'm not planning on eating HER!

I've had duck, frog legs (yum! I recall they taste a bit like chicken), buffalo (like beef), ostrich, emu and yak (don't care for the taste of either), goat (takes a bit like lamb), lamb (loooooove it!), and eel on rice (absolutely LOVE it!).

I've even taste boiled hamster meat! Not tasty. Long story... but needless to say, it was not my fault the hamster was a killed for science... I was just in the class.

February 9, 2011 at 1:17 am | [Reply](#)

#### Faye

My neighbor Xuan used to have a pet rabbit, then one day her grandmother butchered it and served it for dinner ♥

February 9, 2011 at 2:21 am | [Reply](#)

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