



# White-tailed Jackrabbit



For more information on urban wildlife in Saskatoon, visit [saskatoon.ca/wildlifemanagement](http://saskatoon.ca/wildlifemanagement) or contact City of Saskatoon Urban Biological Services at 306-975-3300.



# White-tailed Jackrabbit Characteristics

## Appearance

- Dark brown or greyish-brown on upper side and pale grey or white on underside.
- Long ears with black tips and white tail.
- They shed in the autumn and become white except for the ears.
- Long powerful hind legs.
- Body length is 56-65 cm (22-26 in), including a tail measuring 6.6-10.2 cm (5.5-4.0 in).
- Weight between 2.5-4.3 kg (5.5-9.5 lbs).
- Females are slightly larger than males.
- Snowshoe hares are slightly smaller and occasionally found in Saskatoon.

## Behaviour & Habitat

- Native to the Prairie provinces and common in urban areas.
- Often described as nocturnal but can be seen at any time of day.
- They can have multiple litters per season consisting of 4-11 young.
- The young weigh about 100 g (3.5 oz). Small white-tailed jackrabbits can be mistaken for cottontails.
- Young start to forage around 2 weeks old and are weaned by 4 weeks.
- They are sexually mature around 7 or 8 months, but do not normally breed until a year after their birth.
- They have a number of predators in Saskatoon, including coyotes, foxes, badgers and birds of prey.

## Diet

- Feed on grasses and other green plants.
- During the winter they feed on buds, twigs, and bark of trees and shrubs.

# Co-existing with White-tailed Jackrabbits

## Advice for Residents

Jackrabbits are well adapted to urban areas and are commonly found in Saskatoon. To prevent rabbits from entering your property consider these tips:

- Fix open gates or broken fences to prevent easy access to the property.
- Install smaller fences or barriers around gardens, shrubs and trees in open areas such as front yards.
- Consult home and garden centres for more advice on managing rabbits on private property.

## Rabbit & Human Interactions

Young jackrabbits are often left unattended and mistakenly assumed to be abandoned. In most cases the mother will return and it's best to leave the young rabbit undisturbed. If a rabbit is injured, trapped or diseased, call Urban Biological Services at 306-975-3300.

