

Mini Lop or Netherland Dwarf?

The Netherland Dwarf and the Mini Lop are the two smallest breeds of rabbit generally available in Australia. Their show quality maximum weights are 1.134kg and 1.6kg respectively but you can expect a lot of pet quality bunnies to weigh around 25% more.

The Mini Lop is more docile and cuddly, and generally speaking makes a better pet for young children.

The Netherland is more independent in nature with a wilful personality which I refer to as “character” and can be a good and amusing trait.

They both love company and attention and can learn things such as litter training and their name and basic commands when part of a routine. There isn't one that is easier or harder to look after than the other.

It all depends on what you want in a rabbit, I like to compare them with cats and dogs – the Netherland is the cat (tells you what it wants to do) – the Mini Lop is the dog (unconditional love and just wants to please you).

However:

- There will always be exceptions!
- Temperament in either breed can vary immensely. A reputable breeder will be able to tell you honestly if a particular baby Mini Lop has a skittish temperament or if a Netherland has a nice calm and friendly nature
- Because the Netherlands are so little they can be much easier to handle for small children
- Netherlands can make cleaner indoor pets just because they can be half the size of a Mini Lop and therefore half as much poo & wee!

But generally speaking I wouldn't recommend a Netherland Dwarf to children under 6 years of age or for a first rabbit.



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