



## March Hares

When mating season comes, things really get hopping for us hares. That's when the males start looking for mates. When a male finds a female he hopes to be mates with, he chases after her. But if she's not impressed by her new furry friend, she may take off at top speed. Sometimes, she may just stand her ground and punch the male with her front feet! After a while, she will stop "boxing" and allow the male to be her mate.



Usually hares live quiet lives. But during mating season, that all changes. We chase each other around at high speed (left) and even have “boxing” matches (below).

People have an expression, “mad as a March hare,” that describes us hares during the mating season. With all the chasing and boxing that goes on, I guess we do look as if we’ve gone a little crazy!



# Secret Babies

After mating season is over, things start to calm down. The male hares go their separate ways, and we females raise the babies, called *leverets*, ourselves.

Baby hares usually hide in low areas in the grass called *forms* (right). We hope these forms will keep us hidden from enemies. A mother hare leaves her babies alone for most of the day (below). She comes back to nurse them for only five minutes each evening! She's not being stingy; it's for the leverets' own safety. By visiting only once a day, the mom draws less attention to the babies than if she were coming and going all the time. This can help protect them from hungry enemies.





After about a month, the baby hares are ready to be on their own. It's then time for them to hippity-hop away into their new lives.



**NOW THAT'S A  
HOPPY ENDING!**

