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A Partnership between *Lepus*, the Iberian Hare Reproduction Centre, and Portugal's National Falconry Association.

Partnership formalisation between Iberian Hare Reproduction Centre in Portugal and the National Association of Falconry.

On 9th January 2022, representatives of the Iberian Hare Reproduction Centre in Portugal (www.lebre-iberica.pt) and many members of the Portuguese Association of Falconry (APF) met in Torres Vedras, Portugal. The objectives of this meeting were: 1. To show the APF the work that had been developed over the two previous years at the Iberian Hare Reproduction Centre; 2. To discuss the status of the species in its wild habitat; 3. To discuss strategies and objectives for the

future and 4. To formalise a platform for discussion and for scientific sharing between the two entities.

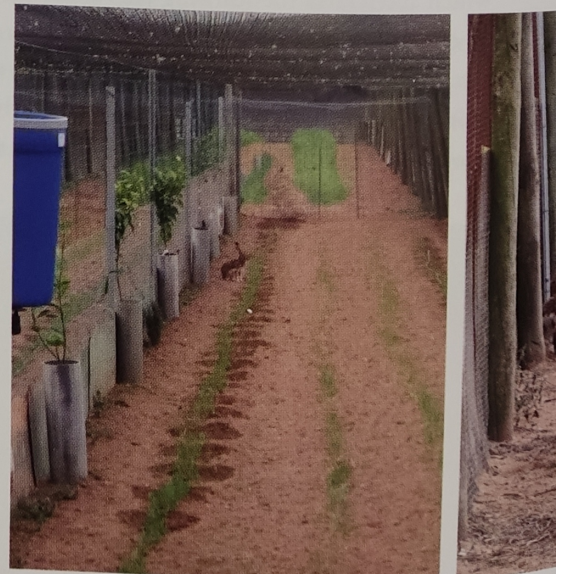
The Iberian Hare Reproduction Centre started its activity as a producer of animals for re-population in October 2021 and has a main breeding nucleus of 24 animals. The production capacity is estimated at 200 hares per year. The centre distinguishes itself from its peers due to the intertwining of its knowledge of both animal production and health and it is in the vanguard of research institutions in this area of activity.

The centre has established several links with academia and I&D institutions (public and private sector companies focused on agriculture, education, and forest/evnvironment) to receive students for their internships, to support fundamental and applied research and to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and experience. We are currently studying vaccination strategies in Iberian hares along with feeding regimens, genetic and behavioural selection and the importance of sympatric species in training animals for re-population. We are also investigating assisted reproduction techniques.

Our motto is "Preparing hares for the wild" and we focus not on the number of animals raised per year, but on ensuring that all animals leaving the centre know



Iberian hares



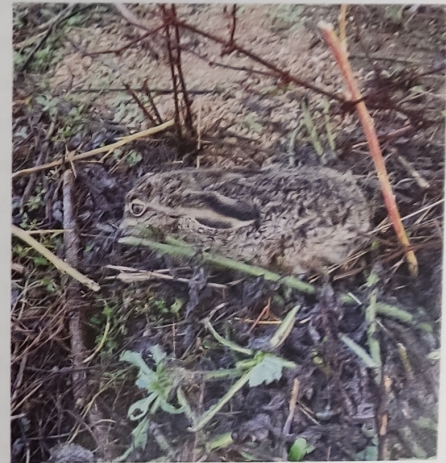


Juvenile Iberian hares born in the breeding centre



Two adult female Iberian hares belonging to the reproductive nucleus

The construction of beds, and exposure to edaphoclimatic factors and their intra and inter-annual variation, are very relevant adaptations to the field.



Scan for Spanish, French and Polish



Scan for Chinese, Arabic and Russian



their sympatric species, can recognise a large number of their predators and are healthy and morphologically fit for life. We frequently assess the morphological conditions of the animals, their speed and their camouflage abilities, bearing in mind that these are their

primary survival strategies. Contact with humans is also minimised as much as possible. Our aim is to have the animals develop a natural or acquired immunity to their main threats and escape and protection strategies that allow them to survive in the wild.



The landscape of the breeding centre varies throughout the year to simulate the reality of the countryside.