

## Ukaleq – the Arctic hare

Actually, the Arctic hare does not like snow. The Arctic hare uses its forepaws to loosen the snow, and if there is too much snow in a mountain area, usually no Arctic hares will be present.

The Arctic hare must survive in the winter in areas where the food is limited. That is why this animal is not fastidious. It eats berries, buds, leaves, roots, twigs and bark of bushes and trees.

The Arctic hare is a fast runner. And indeed the hare has many enemies to escape from. In Southern Greenland, the Arctic hare is hunted by man, by the Arctic fox, by the raven, by the snowy owl and by the polar bears. But researchers have proved that the phenomenon which primarily reduces a stock of Arctic hares is the weather. A winter with much snow, rain and glazed frost in the mountains kills most hares.

In Greenland the hunt for Arctic hares takes place in the period from August to April. Only in the three summer months it is preserved.

Perhaps this beautiful white Arctic hare knows the hunting rules. At least it is kind to sit still and wait for me to get the camera ready on this sunny day of June on the mountain Kvanefjeldet.



The mountain Kvanefjeld,  
South Greenland , June 2014

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