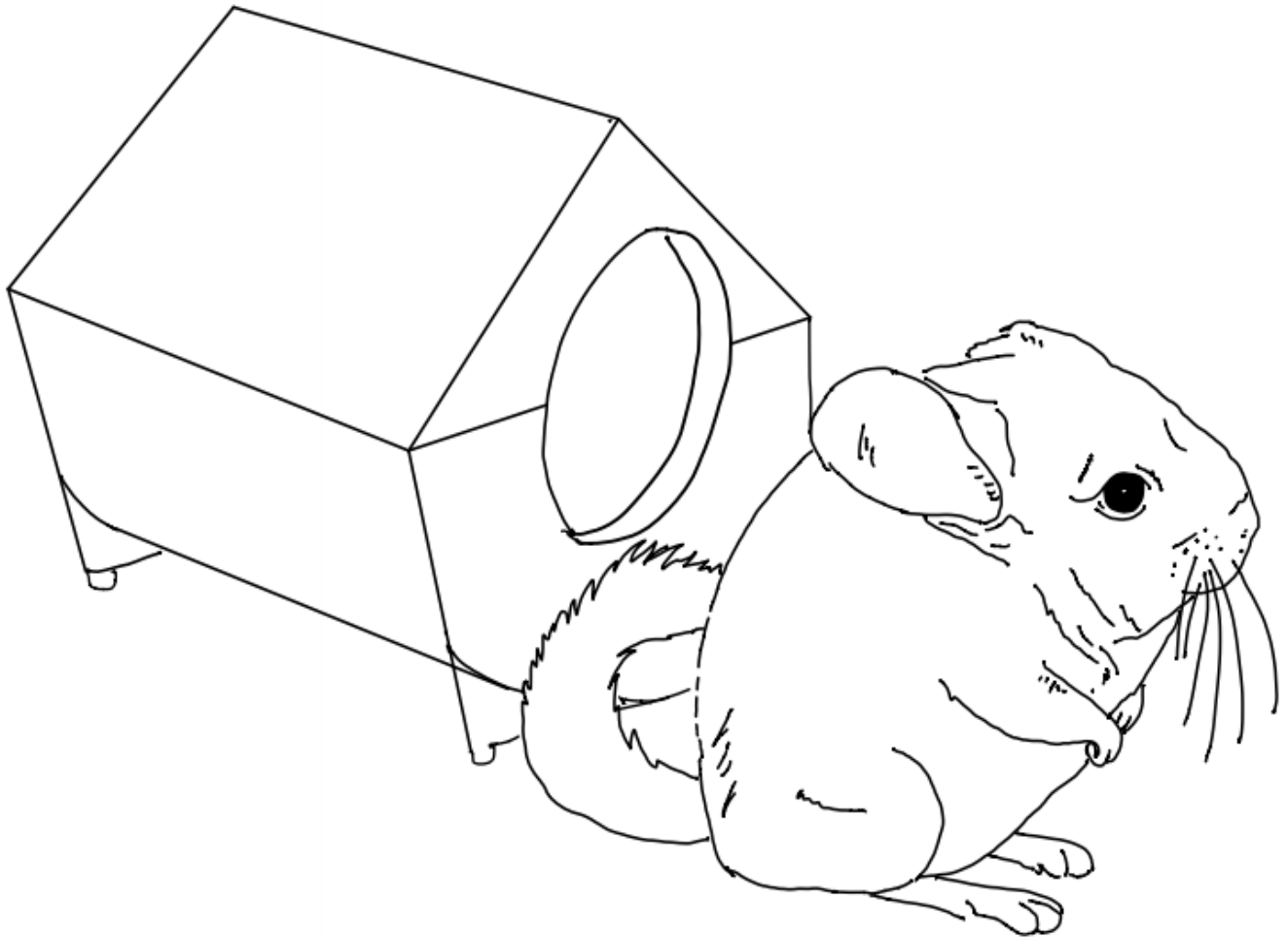


Chinchilla



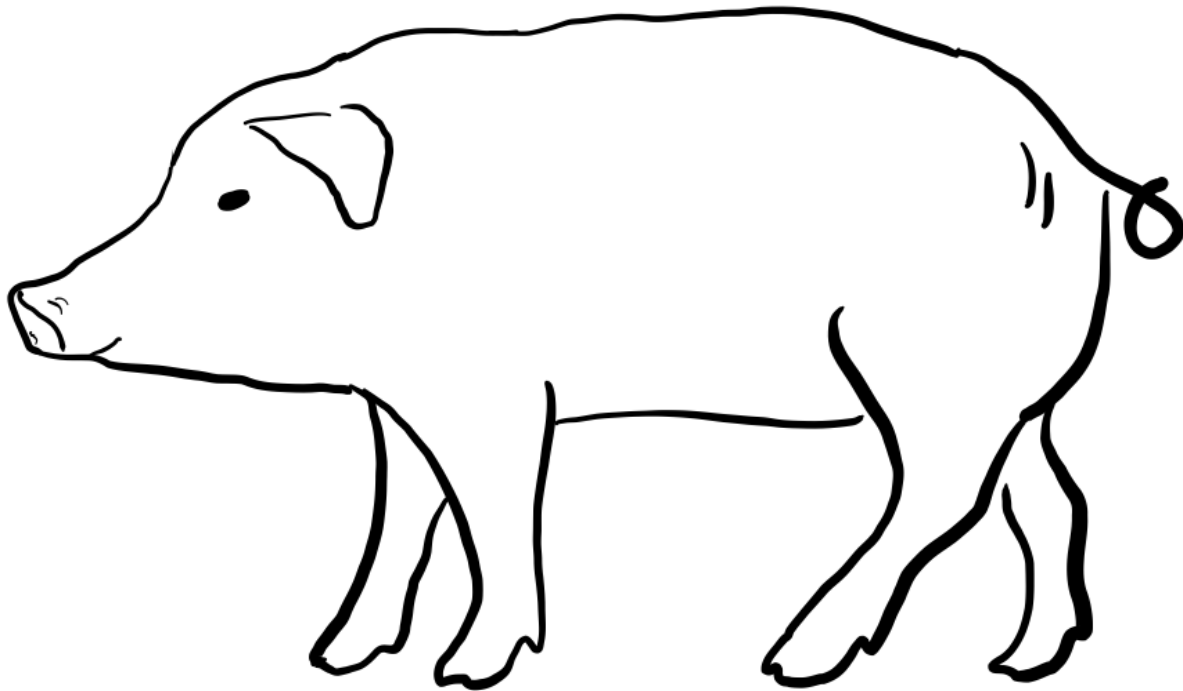
Chinchillas help us understand the physiology, development and function of the auditory system. The inner ear, middle ear and Eustachian tubes of these animals are similar to that of humans. Therefore, studying them allows for advances in auditory and acoustic research. Their differences with humans are also important. They are not susceptible to innate middle ear infections as humans are, so chinchillas have been a useful model in studying these health issues.

Mouse



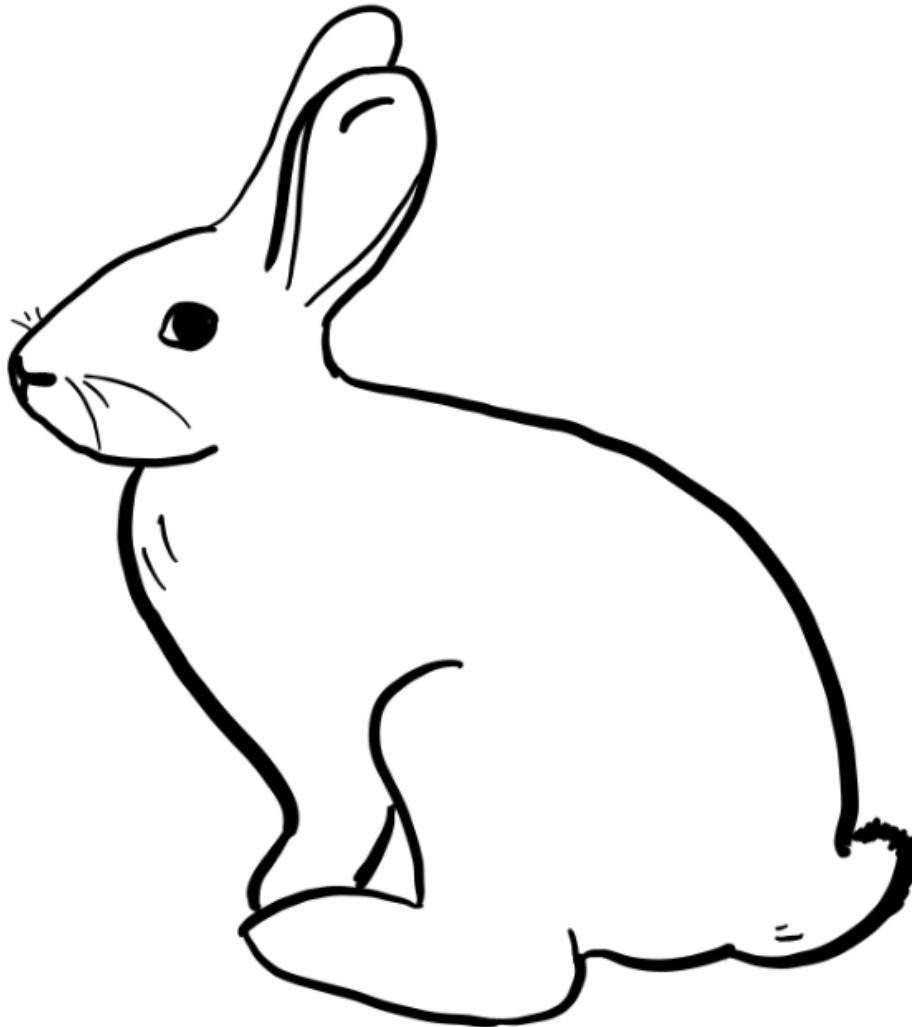
Mice are the most commonly studied species. This is because they are similar to humans in many ways. We share about 95% of the same genes. Mice are also small and easy to care for. They help us learn about countless diseases including cancer, diabetes, heart disease and obesity.

Pig



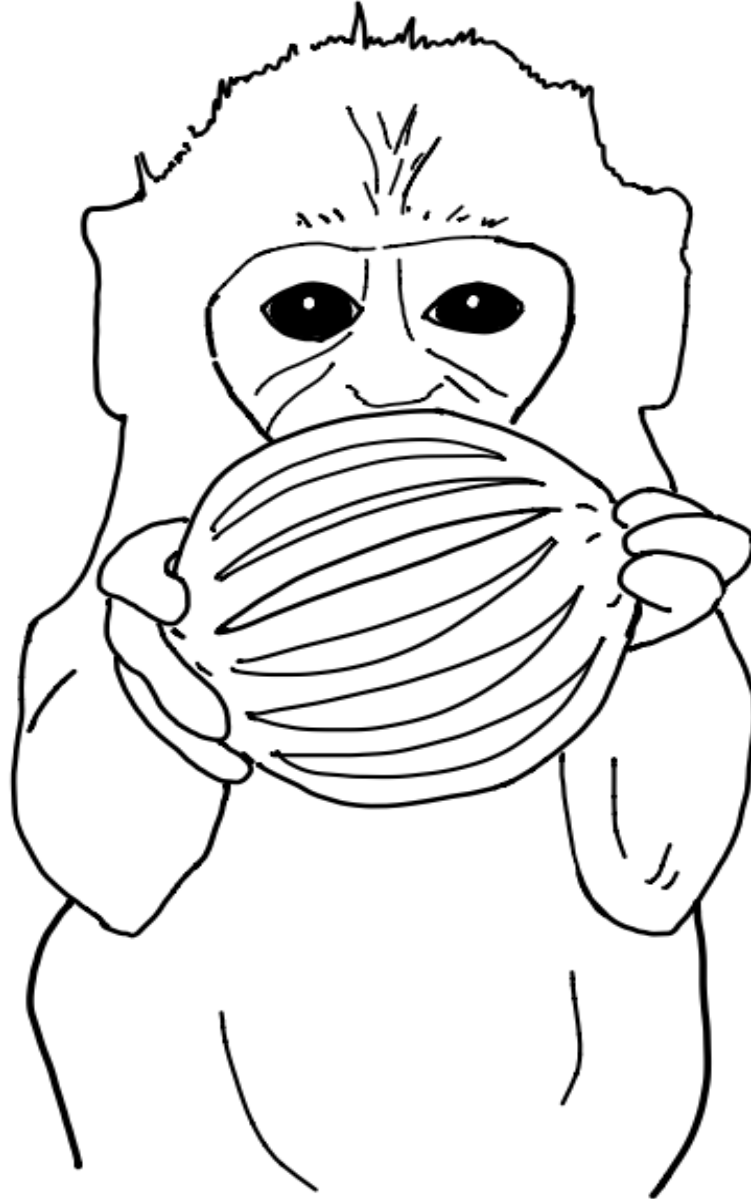
Pigs are similar to humans in many ways. For example, pig and human hearts and their associated blood vessels are approximately the same size and structure. In addition, their organs function in similar ways. Thus, pigs are a valuable model in understanding heart function, disease progression and treatment.

Rabbit



Rabbits help us learn about a variety of health issues including heart disease and blood flow problems. They produce antibodies, which are used to study infectious diseases, like the flu. Rabbits helped scientists develop the rabies vaccine. They also help us battle diabetes and eye and ear diseases.

Rhesus Macaque

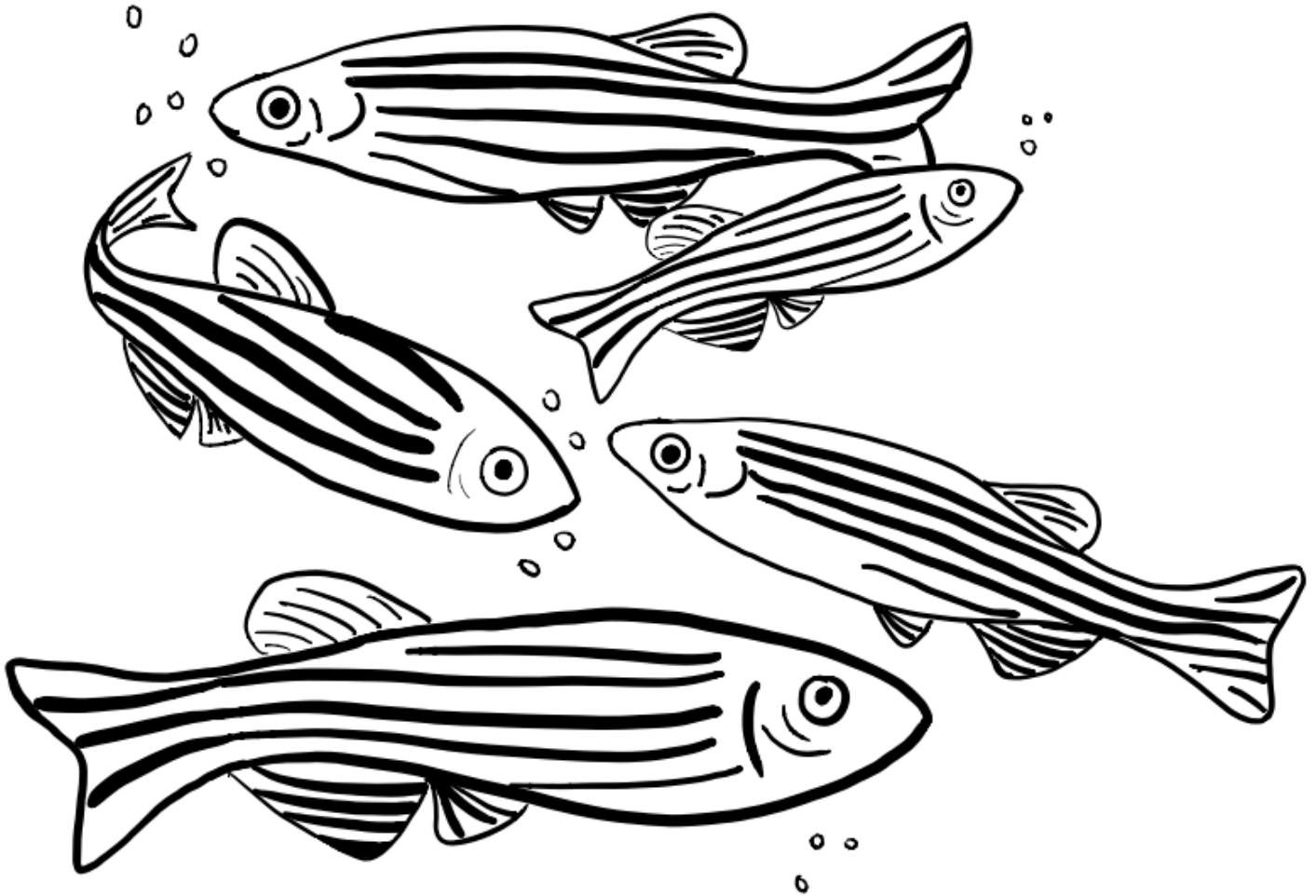


Rhesus macaque, a species of monkey, are an important animal model due to their anatomical, physiological and psychological similarities to humans. Many human health advancements would not have been possible without these special animals, including the development of life-saving vaccines to combat polio, smallpox and rabies.



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Zebrafish



Zebrafish are tiny fish that help us understand development. They're involved in studies to identify what individual genes do. Zebrafish are one of a handful of species that have been studied in space. They also have the amazing natural ability to heal their own hearts, if damaged.