

RABBITS



Scientific Name: Oryctolagus cuniculus

For Recommended Ages: 10 & up, with adult supervision

Pet lifespan: Up to 8 years for standard rabbits, up to 12 years for dwarf breeds

Pet Size: Approximately 8" long for dwarf rabbits, 12" or longer for standard rabbits

Nutrition

Staple diet:

Provide your rabbit with free choice of Timothy Hay daily, hay provides the necessary roughage needed to support a healthy digestive system. In addition, a bowl of rabbit pellets should always be available.

Fruits & vegetables:

Chopped fruits, carrots, and dark green veggies like mustard greens, collard greens or kale may be given daily. *Take care not to overfeed these fresh foods. They have high moisture content and too much can cause diarrhea.*

Treats sticks & chews:

These hard and crunchy treats keep your rabbit's front teeth trimmed – always keep one in their habitat.

Water:

Change and fill your rabbit's water bottle with clean water every day.

*Remember that fresh food items require their own dish and should be removed from the habitat after four hours to avoid spoilage. Treats should be less than 10% of total food intake.

Traits & Behavior

Training:

Although rabbits are gentle creatures, most will not do tricks, nor are they as affectionate as a dog or cat. Rabbits will respond to their owners and will enjoy being picked up and petted. Some rabbits even like being walked on a leash.

Like Company:

Rabbits like company; however, two males together may fight. The best combination is two females from the same family. Male rabbits can be neutered by a veterinarian and then can be housed together or with female rabbits. If raised together, they can live together peacefully (house same gender pairs only)

Grooming:

Rabbits are very clean animals and will do their own grooming. However, brushing rabbits with a soft, wire brush will help with any tangles and help with bonding.

Housing

When adopting a rabbit, be sure to provide enough space to house the rabbit as they require a large hutch. Adult rabbits need at least one square foot of cage floor space per pound of body weight.

Bedding:

Line the home with 5 – 8cm of bedding, and change it weekly or more often if needed.

Cage placement:

Place the habitat in a cool, low humidity area, out of direct sunlight.

Supply list

Here's a list of the necessities you'll need to take home to help your new bunny stay healthy and happy. We will be happy to order you any and all supplies you require.

The Bunnies Home:

- Appropriate size and type of cage
- Aspen or other appropriate bedding
- Water bottle
- Food bowls

Food:

- Fortified rabbit diet
- Timothy hay
- Appropriate fresh fruits and veggies
- Treat sticks and chews
- Mineral wheel

Toys:

- Cat toys like balls, and others that roll
- Parrot toys that can be tossed, or hung from the top of the cage that can be chewed or hit

Extras:

- Books and magazines
- Vitamin drops
- Rabbit potty and litter

Cage cleaner and disinfectant (Read and follow label instructions)

Health

Signs of a healthy rabbit:

- Clean, bright eyes
- Soft fur
- Full, slightly-rounded body (but not too fat)
- Alert
- Moves freely
- Eats and drinks normally
- Well-formed droppings with no diarrhea

Things to watch for:

- Overgrown front teeth
- Bare patches in the fur
- Nails overgrown
- Sores on feet
- Lethargic behavior
- Weight loss; not eating or drinking normally
- Blood in the urine
- Diarrhea
- Sneezing; discharge from the eyes, nose or mouth

Things to remember

Lifting & Handling:

Rabbits should not be handled roughly since they are easily excited. They should NEVER be handled by their ears. When picking a rabbit up, place one hand under the rump and back legs, and the other under the chest and front legs. **Do not** let the back legs kick wildly while being held because they can easily get spinal injury.

Spaying & neutering:

Rabbits can be spayed and neutered as easily as cats, so this option allows them to be kept together without the risk of "overpopulation." *Note: A male rabbit is called a buck and a female is called a doe.*

Safety & Cleanliness:

Please remember that all pets may bite or scratch, and may transmit a disease to humans. Keep your pet's home clean and wash your hands before and after handling your pet or cleaning their home. Infants, young children, pregnant women, people with compromised immune systems, and the infirm or elderly are at a greater risk of infections and should use caution when in contact with the pet or its habitat.



Did you know?

Rabbits have a language all their own!

Chinning - Their chin contains scent glands, so they rub their chin on items to indicate that they belong to them. Same as a cat rubbing its forehead on people and objects.



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