

IT'S A *Fact!*

*What you need to know
..... before you bring a rabbit home*

Rabbits need a rabbit-savvy veterinarian for regular checkups and health care.

Spay/neutering improves behavior, reduces cancer risk, and prevents overpopulation.

Rabbits make excellent indoor companions. They are social animals who desire to be a part of the family to share love and everyday interactions with you.

Rabbits need appropriately spacious housing. A small cage is inadequate to their needs.

Bunny proof your home to keep your rabbit safe from indoor hazards.

Rabbits can be easily litter box trained.

Rabbits need play, exercise, and mental stimulation. This requires your time, care, and attention.

Feeding the correct diet is essential for good health.

Hay should be 75% of your rabbit's diet! It is the most important part of their diet.

Rabbits can live 8-12 years or more. They require a long-term commitment.

Every rabbit has a unique personality.

Some rabbits can get along with some low-prey drive cats and dogs.

MEDICAL *Needs*

Spay/neuter surgery

Vaccinated against RHDV2, a deadly virus

Annual health check with a rabbit-savvy veterinarian

Regular nail trims and scent gland cleaning

Rabbits with fleas, mites, or other parasites need medical treatment

Rabbits conceal illness so *watch for signs of health emergencies*. See a rabbit-savvy vet **immediately** if your rabbit is:

- not eating, drinking, peeing, or pooping
- has difficulty breathing
- lethargic, not moving or hunched over
- limp
- cold or abnormally warm to touch
- shows signs of pain such as grinding teeth
- bleeding
- has diarrhea

ADOPTION *Requirements*

Lifetime commitment

Roomy indoor housing

Proper diet

Veterinary attention

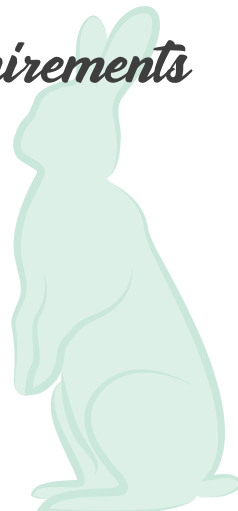
Toys and enrichment

Exercise and play

Routine grooming

Safe environment

Your Love



A QUICK GUIDE TO LIVING WITH *House Rabbits*



RABBIT SUPPLY *List*

Roomy housing such as an **exercise pen** (x-pen), condo, or space of their own, such as a bedroom or multiple rooms.

Rectangular litter box with wood stove pellets, paper pellets or plant-based litter. Don't use clumping cat litter or pine/cedar shavings. Avoid triangular litter boxes because rabbits don't like them.

Heavy ceramic food and water dishes (don't offer a water bottle by itself). Fresh water must be available at all times.

Free-feed **hay** (timothy, orchard grass, or oat for adults; alfalfa for babies).

Fresh leafy greens every day.

High quality, plain **timothy or alfalfa-based pellets**, not muesli-type feed. Measure pellets, don't free-feed.

Toys made from: hard plastic (baby keys, rattles or jingle balls), willow, seagrass, hardwood, cardboard box forts, pine cones, apple branches, phonebooks (for shredding).

Soft places to sit, traction for feet: carpet, **fleece blankets, rugs**, grass mats.

Grooming tools: brushes or combs, nail clippers, Styptic quick-stop.

Hard plastic carrier: top and front-opening types are best.

Electrical cord covers and other **bunny-proofing supplies** as needed to make your home safe.

KEEPING YOUR RABBIT *Happy*

Feed the Correct Diet

Rabbits have sensitive digestive systems. Avoid problems by feeding the right diet from the start. Good nutrition also lowers the risk of disease. Veterinary experts recommend you feed:

Hay: 75-80% of diet. Hay provides fiber, calories, stimulates gut motility, and controls cecal fermentation. A diet of mostly hay is absolutely critical to maintaining healthy teeth and gut.

High Fiber Pellet: 20% of diet. Provides calories, protein, vitamins, minerals, and essential fatty acids. Pellets should be limited. It is easy to overfeed pellets if not measured. Pellets lack the benefits of hay and veggies and should not be fed in isolation.

Green Veggies: 5-15% of diet. A variety of greens provide vitamins, minerals, and water. Consult recommended lists for approved veggies. Rotate weekly as a diversity of nutrient sources is desired.

Treats: should be extremely limited. No more than 1 tsp. maximum daily.

Do Not Feed: yogurt drops, popcorn, bread, nuts, seeds, crackers, or dried fruit with added sugar.

Speaking Rabbit

Chinning — marking with scent glands: "It's mine!"

Binky — joyful jumps and leaps just for fun

Nudging — "Pay attention to me please!"

Licking, nose rubs — sign of trust and affection

Flop — flopping over on the side is a sign of total bliss and relaxation

Soft tooth chattering — sounds of contentment

Thumping (stamping with back feet) — fear or a warning

<https://bunnylady.com/rabbit-body-language/>

Housing for Rabbits

Rabbits should live indoors with the family in the heart of the home. Rabbits in outdoor hutches face danger from predators, parasites, and suffer from life threatening extremes of weather. Your rabbit enjoys spending time with you and prefers to live as a house rabbit.

Your rabbit needs spacious housing — the more space the better! Most pet store cages are much too small for rabbits. Rabbits are happiest in metal x-pens, DIY-built condos, a dedicated room, or free roaming in the house.



A spacious enclosure with things that keep rabbits happy: hay, toys, litter box, hidey house, ceramic dishes, soft traction underfoot.

Caring for Rabbits, Support for People

An adult must be the primary caretaker for companion rabbits. Rabbits are not suitable pets for very young children due to their fragile skeletal system and because they frighten easily.

LEARN MORE at rabbit.org