

A warm welcome to Save A Bun Education



We are so excited for you to seek our education with this handbook.

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This manual/handbook has been created and made available by Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue.



Rabbit Manual

Introduction

Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue (SABRR) is recognized as a 501(c)3 nonprofit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to ending rabbit homelessness.



SABRR purpose is to rescue unwanted rabbits in the Treasure Valley and surrounding areas and to educate the public on responsible rabbit ownership.



We take in abandoned and surrendered rabbits. Have them spayed/neutered with a licensed veterinarian and find them new loving homes



We rescue the most vulnerable of all animals (rabbits) by giving them the voice they do not have.



Our passion is to end the dumping, surrendering and misunderstanding of Rabbits by educating the public on how to take proper care of rabbits and to not purchase rabbits commercially.



Our Objectives; to end bunny homelessness, foster rabbits and get them into more permanent homes that are prepared for all the commitments of keeping a rabbit, rehabilitation and placement of abandoned rabbits, giving the public free education regarding correct rabbit care and the importance of spaying and neutering to help prevent the overpopulation problem



Our strength lies in our dedicated Volunteers and ability to run our rescue by having loving, caring, non judgmental, patient and kind people that have agreed to work not just as volunteers but as a family unit. 5 star service and non judgment of potential surrender's situations.



Rabbits can not make noise to show problems. We are sometimes the only advocate that they will ever have.



Our Mission; Rescuing rabbits in the Treasure Valley through adoptions and education, rabbits are the third most dumped animal and are often misunderstood.



Our Motto; "Giving a rabbit a lifetime of love"



Our Vision; To create a community of people who are knowledgeable of the care and keeping of rabbits and to make a dent in ending bunny homelessness.



The organization will come to an end when the overpopulation and abuse of rabbits has been eliminated.



Our Values; We believe that every single rabbit deserves a fair chance at life and finding their perfect home, We make our greatest attempt to give every rabbit a great life, We love to promote the special human and rabbit bond that can be made, We work on mending and cultivating the behavioral, medical, social, mental, and emotional needs of the rabbits in our care.



Where Do The Rabbits Come From; Community dumping and human surrenders, overbreeding, and livestock stores.



CONTACT US

- 208-971-9401
- www.saveabunrabbitrescue.com
- Meet us at Petco, Petco dates are on the website
- saveabunrabbitrescue@gmail.com

"THE DAY IS ARRIVING WHEN YOUR FOSTER/ADOPTED RABBIT IS READY TO TAKE HOME. QUESTION IS, HOW DO I EVEN BEGIN TO PREPARE FOR THE ARRIVAL OF MY NEW BUNNY?"



PREPARING FOR THE BUNNY ARRIVAL

This manual is to help you with the education of the care and keeping of rabbit(s). Included in the manual is lots of information about the care and keeping of your new rabbit.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call, text, or email Save A Bun rabbit Rescue at (208)971-9401 saveabunrabbitrescue@gmail.com



SAVE A BUN RABBIT RESCUE

Our volunteers work very hard to counteract rabbit education perceptions.

Most rabbits are either bred and slaughtered or kept in laboratories. Even as pets, rabbits bear a heavy load of abuse. Typically kept alone in small outdoor hutches or indoor cages, these animals spend their lives in lonely isolation, deprived of exercise, medical attention, human or animal contact, and, often, appropriate food, or freshwater. Many other rabbits are dumped in parks, forests, and by highways when their humans are tired of them; an uncountable number are also euthanized in animal shelters.

We owe our success to our volunteers and our donors and supporters of the rescue. Without our volunteers, who without pay and on the side of their "regular" jobs, put tons of hours of work into educational and rescue work, we would cease functioning. But equally important are our members, who support us financially from year to year.

HOW TO ADOPT

View rabbits

We urge you to take some time to consider the type of rabbit that will best fit your lifestyle and to remember that rabbit ownership is not a decision that should be taken lightly. Owning a rabbit means taking on the responsibility of caring for the rabbit through its entire life, which in many cases can mean a 12-year commitment.

Talk to adoption coordinator

You will talk to a Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue adoption coordinator about either adopting or fostering a rabbit from the rescue.

Come meet the rabbits

You can meet us at Petco, the rescue, or we can come to your home and bring rabbits to you.



Looking for the new
love of your life?

ADOPTION POLICY

PRIMARY CAREGIVER

When a rabbit is adopted from Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue, the primary caregiver must be a responsible adult. The rabbit should be treated as an integral part of the family. No group ownership (such as classroom pet).

SOCIAL REQUIREMENTS

If the rabbit is going to be alone (example; without the company of people and of household pets for long periods of time) we then recommend that the fosterer foster a second rabbit as a companion to the first rabbit they are adopting

RETURNS

If there are problems with the adopted rabbit(s), the adopter is required to return the rabbit(s) to the rescue immediately. We do want you to know that the adoption fee is then to be seen as a donation to the rescue.

EXCHANGES

Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue does not exchange rabbits.

EDUCATION

It is a requirement to go through the education program.

ADOPTION FEE

Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue's adoption fees cannot be refunded, since we are federally organized as a tax-exempt, non-profit organization.

Adoption fees are;

1 rabbit - \$125.50

Bonded pairs - \$230

Three rabbits - \$350

Each additional rabbit another \$100

ADOPTION POLICY

SPAYING AND NEUTERING

All rabbits are spayed and neutered prior to the time of the adoption. This service is provided by the rescue's vet Eastgate Clinic. Save A Bun RR does not do their own spays and neuters.

PERMANENT ADOPTIONS

*Your adoption(s) is presumed to be permanent. However, if you are unable to keep your adopted rabbit due to unforeseen circumstances, it is **REQUIRED** to return the rabbit to the rescue immediately.*

ADOPTION

I will allow a reasonable amount of time for the rabbit to adjust to a new environment

If the rabbit is lost or stolen I am to notify Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue and I am to make every attempt to recover the rabbit.

I will NOT give or sell the rabbit(s) to another person, relative, or any other individual, or another rescue/shelter.

I will not remove the rabbit's microchip

I will immediately notify Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue in the event of the rabbit's death if it were to happen.

I will immediately notify Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue of any changes to address, phone number, or email address.

I will immediately notify Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue if I need to return the rabbit(s) to the rescue for any reason.

I agree to adopt the rabbit(s) at my own risk, and indemnify and release Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue of any and all liability arising from damages to person(s) or property caused by the adopted rabbit(s).

If Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue is forced to take action to enforce this agreement, I agree to indemnify Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue for all court costs and attorney's fees connected to such action.

FOSTER POLICY

PRIMARY CAREGIVER

When a rabbit is fostered out by Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue, the primary caregiver must be a responsible adult.

SOCIAL REQUIREMENTS

If the rabbit is going to be alone (example; without the company of people and of household pets for long periods of time) we then recommend that the fosterer foster a second rabbit as a companion to the first rabbit they are fostering.

RETURNS

If there are problems with the foster rabbit(s), the fosterer is required to return the rabbit(s) to the rescue immediately.

EXCHANGES

Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue does not exchange rabbits.

EDUCATION

It is a requirement to go through the foster education program.

FEES

Daily costs to care for the rabbit is the responsibility of the fosterer. Vet care will be covered by the rescue as long as the rabbit is taken to the rescue's vet, Eastgate Clinic at (208)336-3278

FOSTER PERIOD

The foster period is three months long. At the end of the three months it is required for the fosterer to make the decision of either returning the rabbit or to go forward with the adoption, at that point of choosing adoption the adoption fee is to be paid.

FOSTER

I agree that I am fostering the rabbit for Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue and that I do not have any rights of ownership over the foster rabbit.

I will allow a reasonable amount of time for the rabbit to adjust to a new environment

Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue will cover any veterinary expenses for the rabbit, provided that the care is pre-approved by Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue. The bunny is then taken to Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue's vet. I agree that in the case of an emergency, I am to make every attempt to contact Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue.

If the rabbit is lost or stolen I am to notify Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue and I am to make every attempt to recover the rabbit.

I will NOT give or sell the rabbit(s) to another person, relative, or any other individual, or another rescue/shelter.

I will not remove the rabbit's microchip

I will immediately notify Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue in the event of the rabbit's death during the foster care period, if it were to happen.

I will immediately notify Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue of any changes to address, phone number, or email address.

I will immediately notify Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue if I need to return the rabbit(s) to the rescue for any reason.

I will immediately return the rabbit(s) in my foster care to Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue at the request of Save A Bun at any time and for any reason.

Should I decide to adopt the rabbit(s), I will notify Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue and follow the adoption process.

FOSTER

I agree to foster the rabbit(s) at my own risk, and indemnify and release Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue of any and all liability arising from damages to person(s) or property caused by the foster rabbit(s).

If Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue is forced to take action to enforce this agreement, I agree to indemnify Save A Bun Rabbit Rescue for all court costs and attorney's fees connected to such action.

I understand that after the 3 months is up I am required to make the decision of either returning foster rabbit(s) or adopting the rabbit(s).

R A B B I T I T E M S

price list

ITEMS ESTIMATED COSTS

CAGE/HUTCH.....	\$30-200
WATER BOWL/CROC.....	\$0.50-5
FEEDER.....	\$1-10
GARBAGE CAN/ FOOD CONTAINER (OPTIONAL)	\$10
FOOD SCOOP (OPTIONAL).....	\$0.50-\$2
FOOD (50LBS BAG).....	\$25-50
HAY (1 BALE).....	\$18-30
TREATS.....	\$7-10
CARRIER.....	\$20-30
NAIL CLIPPERS.....	\$4-6
LITTER PAN.....	\$2-20

****THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE SPECIAL
CIRCUMSTANCES LIKE VETERINARY CARE****

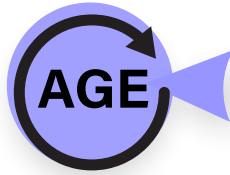
BASIC FACTS

LIKE CATS AND DOGS RABBITS NEED TO BE SPAYED AND NEUTERED TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND BEHAVIOR



Rabbits can be litter trained

Just like cats, bunnies can be litter trained, which is why so many bunny owners are able to let their buns run free in the house. Most rabbits prefer to do their business in one spot, and so litter training comes naturally.



They can live 5+ years old

Rabbits generally live for 5 to 8 years depending on their environment and breed, but they can live for as long as 12 years. If you decide to purchase a rabbit, make sure you are prepared to care for them that long.



They can make wonderful companions

They make wonderful, intelligent companions for wonderful, intelligent people! Each rabbit has a different personality just like each person does. A new rabbit owner should be willing to learn a new language when she brings home a rabbit as a companion. A rabbit will teach you a new way of looking at the world!

Rabbits can chatter when content



Rabbits like to play with toys, such as cardboard boxes, wire cat balls, hard plastic baby keys, and untreated willow baskets.



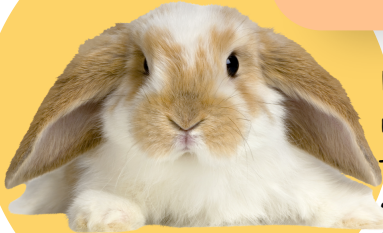
Rabbits need to have things of their own to chew on (or they might nibble/chew on your things)



RABBITS NEED ACCESS TO WATER AT ALL TIMES

RABBITS NEED TO BE PROTECTED FROM PREDATORS, POSIONS, EXTREME TEMPERATURES SUCH AS HEAT, ELECTRICAL CORDS, AND ROUGH HANDLING.

Quick facts about rabbits



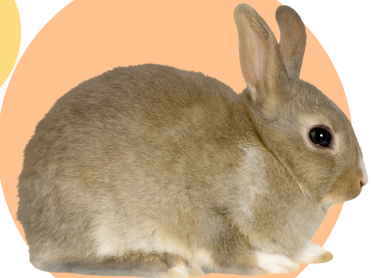
Rabbits are not good starter pets for children

Rabbits are delicate, ground loving creatures. Most rabbits do not like to be held or handled, and may try to escape a well-meaning child's arms by biting and scratching. In addition, a rabbit's back may easily be broken as a result of improper handling.



Rabbits are interesting and have personalities

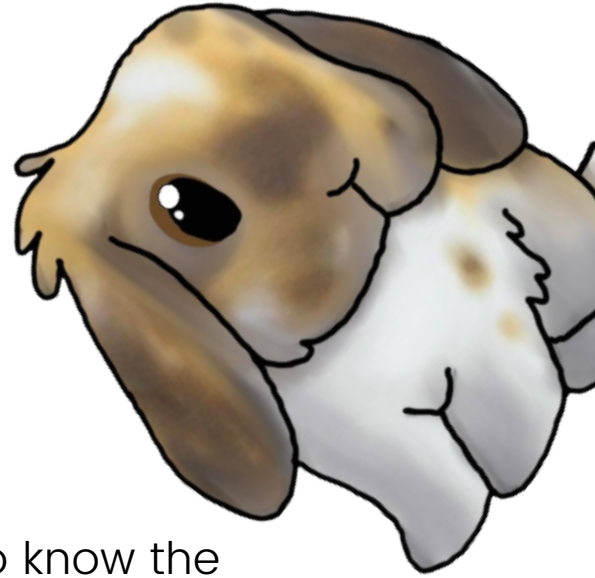
Simply placing a rabbit in an outdoor hutch with minimal interaction does result in a boring pet. However with regular interaction from you and plenty of running space for a bunny to binky and play, a rabbit then is a great fun-loving pet to have.



Myth: Rabbits are low-maintenance pets and don't live long

Rabbits have similar needs to other household pets. A sick bunny needs medical care from a vet. Rabbits have special diet needs. A properly cared for rabbit can live 5-14 years. They are quite a commitment.

How do I choose the right breed?



The importance of breeds: it is important to know the different breeds of rabbits because breed affects size, temperament, and maintenance.

These are some examples, there are a lot more breeds.



XLarge breeds: Flemish, and Continental giants



Large breeds: New Zealand, Californian, and Satin



Medium breeds: Polish dwarf, Netherland dwarf, Mini lop, Holland Lop, Dutch, and Rex



Wool breeds: Angoras, American Fuzzy Lops, And Jersey Woolies

Xlarge breeds, averaging 18 to 55 lbs. have personalities as a docile. However they only live 2-3 years

Large breeds, averaging 9 to 12 lbs, are generally calm and require an average amount of care, so they make good pets for older children, because of their larger sizes. But they generally cost more to maintain.

Small Breeds and medium breeds are most often kept as pets. They are fairly calm and have a medium food intake. Most require an average amount of care. The smaller breeds may be less calm and more feisty.

Wool Breeds are high maintenance. Their wool requires daily grooming. They are moderately calm and have a fairly low food intake.



I Hay

Hay is high in fiber and the most important part of a rabbit's diet



- Hay helps prevent serious gut problems
- Chewing hay wears down a rabbits teeth, stopping the teeth from overgrowing
- Hay also provides vitamins, minerals, and protein

A rabbit should always have hay

       available        

Good quality hay should be green, smell sweet and not be dusty.

Using a hayrack prevents hay from being soiled on the floor.

You can also buy it in bulk with our Hay Lady.

Contact our Hay Lady at (208) 867-4084

• NUTRITION •

How unhealthy are these foods for rabbits?



=



An **apple** is equivalent to a **cupcake**:
both are very high in sugar



=



A **carrot** is equivalent to a **chocolate bar**:
both are very high in sugar



=



Iceberg lettuce is equivalent to **cardboard**:
neither have any nutritional value



=



Muesli Mix is equivalent to **Candy**
rabbits only eat the bits they like



=



Yoghurt drops are equivalent to **Cookies**
both are very high in sugar



=



Bananas are equivalent to **bunny crack**:
both are very addictive



=



Pineapples are equivalent to **crystal meth**:
they can cause backflips off the doors & walls

If you want to treat your rabbit, try these!



Dandelion
or clover
leaves

Basil

Rosemary

Thyme

Mint

Sage

Pear or apple
tree branches

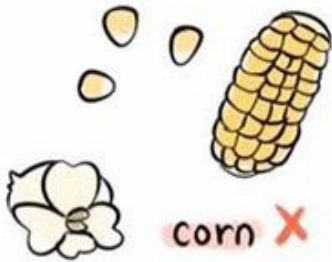
ALSO: Commercially available treats designed for rabbits,
containing no added sugar, artificial flavours or colourings.

* Modified * RI

• NUTRITION •

Unsafe Rabbit Food

unhealthy - even deadly



SAFE ALTERNATIVES



RABBIT APPROVED GUIDE TO PLANTS

DIET DAILY NEEDS

80% fresh hay

10% veggies/herbs

5% food pellets

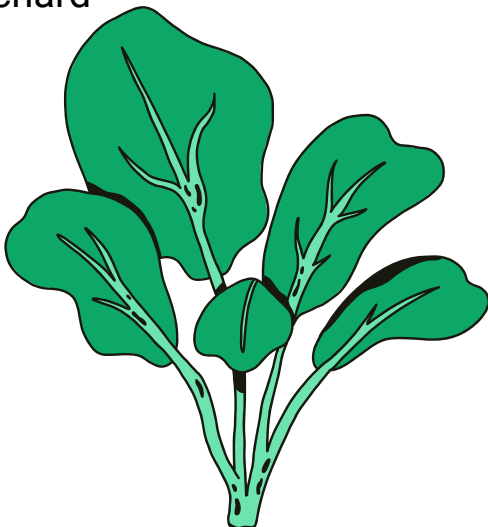
5% flowers/fruit



LEAFY PLANT GREENS

High in oxalic acid (to be given in small amounts)

- Beet greens
- Mustard greens
- Radish tops
- Spinach
- Sprouts
- Swiss chard
- Kale



LEAFY PLANT GREENS

Low in oxalic acid

- Arugula
- Bok choy
- Chicory
- Carrot tops
- Cucumber leaves
- Dandelion greens
- Endive
- Fennel
- Friese lettuce
- Mache
- Radicchio
- Raspberry leaves
- Red or green lettuce
- Romaine lettuce
- Spring greens
- Turnip greens
- Watercress
- Wheatgrass
- Yu choy



RABBIT APPROVED GUIDE TO PLANTS

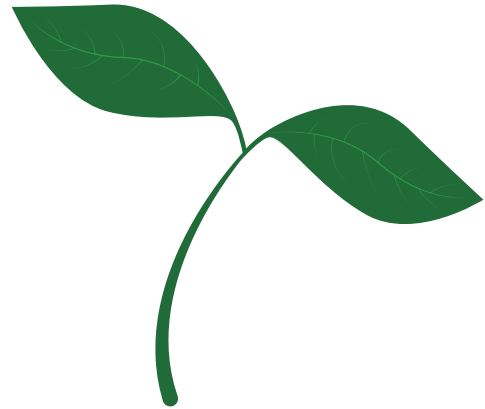
NON- LEAFY VEGETABLE PLANTS

- Bell peppers
- Brussel sprouts (to be given sparingly)
- Cabbage
- Carrots (to be given sparingly)
- Celery (cut into small pieces)
- Summer squash
- Chinease pea pods
- Kohlrabi
- Zucchini squash



HERB PLANTS

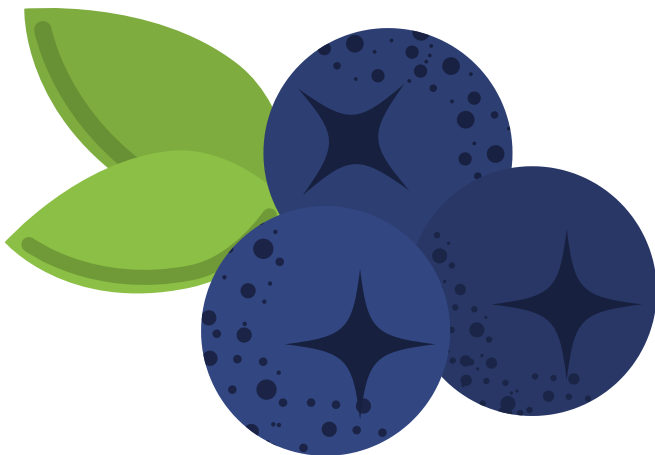
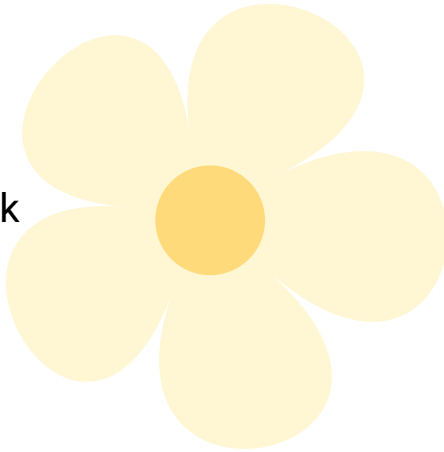
- Basil
- Cilantro
- Coriander
- Dill leaves
- Lemon balm
- Mint
- Nettle
- Oregano
- Parsley
- Rosemary
- Sage
- Tarragon
- Thyme



RABBIT APPROVED GUIDE TO PLANTS

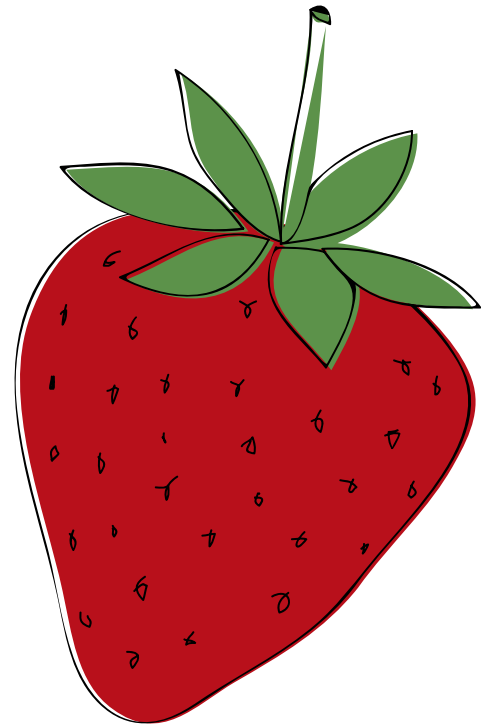
FLOWERING PLANTS

- Borage
- Caraway
- Chamomile
- Chervil
- Clover
- Comfrey
- Hibiscus
- Lady's Smock
- Lavender
- Lovage
- Nasturtiums
- Pansies
- Roses
- Salad Burnet



FRUIT BEARING PLANTS

- Apple
- Apricot
- Banana
- Berries
- Cherries
- Currants
- Kiwi
- Papaya
- Pear
- Peach
- Pineapple
- Plum
- Mango
- Melons
- Nectarine
- Star fruit
- Strawberry
- Blueberries



RABBIT APPROVED GUIDE TO CHEWING

DID YOU KNOW?

Rabbits teeth never stop growing?? Chewing is normal, natural, and necessary for rabbits. Please provide safe chewing options for your rabbit(s).

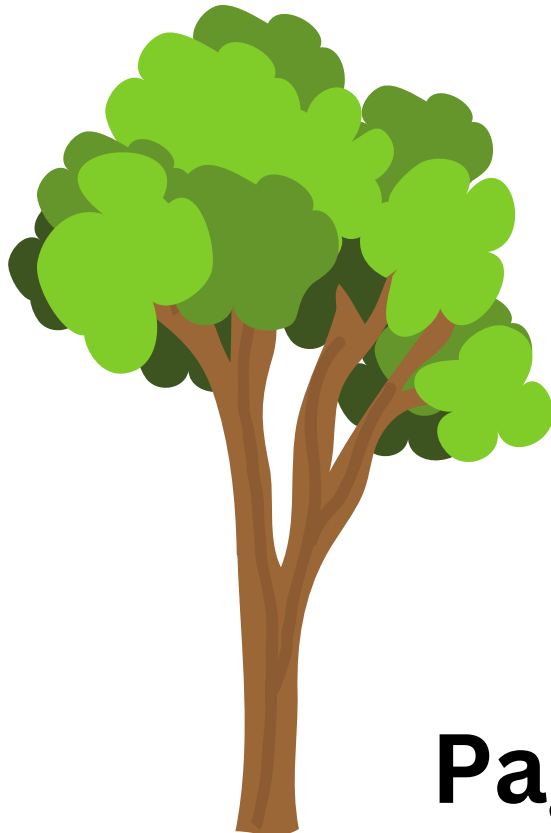


HAY

RABBITS SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE ACCESS TO UNLIMITED HAY. GREAT FOR TEETH AND DIGESTION

TREE/BUSH BRANCHES

- APPLE BRANCH
- ASH
- ASPEN
- BIRCH
- CRAB APPLE BRANCH
- HAWTHORN
- HAZEL
- JUNIPER
- MAPLE
- PEAR
- POPLAR
- ROSE
- SPRUCE
- WILLOW



RABBIT APPROVED GUIDE TO CHEWING

WOOD ITEMS

- DRIED PINE CONES
- WOVEN MATS
- BASKETS
- TUNNELS
- WOOD TOYS
- WICKER
- WOODEN SPOONS



OTHER

- CLEAN CARDBOARD
- PAPER TOWEL ROLL
- TOILET PAPER ROLLS
- BRAIDED GRASS
- ALFALFA BLOCK
- ROUND OATMEAL CONTAINER
- TIMOTHY HAY BLOCKS
- WOVEN TIMOTHY PRODUCTS
- SEAGRASS PRODUCTS





PICKING UP A RABBIT

Walk calmly to your rabbit

Don't chase or corner your rabbit. Speak softly to them. If you're calm, they'll be calm, too.



If your rabbit thumps their leg, it's a warning. Leave them be, and try another time.



Bend or kneel down and slide a hand under the rabbit's belly and one under their bum

Make sure you have a good hold on your rabbit, without squeezing them.



Keep one arm under their bottom and one on their neck



Turn your rabbit to your chest

Your rabbit will feel most secure when they're leaning against you while you're holding them.



Lift your rabbit up

Hold your rabbit securely and comfortably.



Sit down with your rabbit

To make sure your rabbit is comfortable, it's best if you sit down with them.



Stroke their head and ears

Rabbits enjoy pets on the head and ears. They don't like their back, bum, and belly to be touched.



Get an adult to help you

To make sure your rabbit stays safe, and you can enjoy cuddles together, ask an adult to help you.



Never pick a rabbit up by their scruff or ears. These are old practices that can hurt the rabbit. Also never turn your rabbit on its back, because it scares them a lot.

When purchasing a rabbit, a health check is an easy way to see if the rabbit is in good health. In addition, a health check should be done at least once or twice a year on the rabbits that you own.

The Health Check:

Ears

The ears should be clean inside. A brown, crusty appearance would suggest ear mites. You can get rid of ear mites by placing a few drops of mineral oil in the rabbit's ears and then cleaning the ears with a cotton swab. Do this daily for three days and then wait ten days. Repeat if necessary.

Eyes

Check to make sure that there is no discharge, which would mean the rabbit has weepy eye and that there is no cloudiness, which could mean the rabbit is blind.

Nose

The nose should be clean and dry. A discharge from the nose and crusty fur on the front legs would indicate that the rabbit has a cold. It can also indicate a serious disease called snuffles.

Teeth

The front teeth should line up with a slight overlap present. If one set of teeth is longer than normal, it indicates that the rabbit has malocclusion or buck teeth. Rabbits with this condition will have to have their teeth trimmed regularly by a veterinarian.

Front/Hind Feet

A rabbit's legs should stretch out straight and have five toenails on the front feet and four toenails on the hind feet. Also check the bottom of the front and hind feet for redness, which would indicate sore hocks. Sore hocks are treatable with udder balm, but can be an indicator of poor cage sanitation.

When treating a rabbit with sore hocks, place a board in the rabbit's cage to keep sore skin up off of the wire.

Stomach

By running your hand over the rabbit's belly, feel for any abscesses that may be present. An abscess must be drained to prevent further infection. Check genitals for discharge or malformations.

Tail

The tail should also stretch out straight. The presence of a crooked tail would indicate a wry tail. The tail should also be clean from any urine or droppings.

Body Condition

Overall the body should be clean, smooth and firm

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: THEY NEED MORE THAN JUST CARROTS

The number one most important thing to feed your rabbit is grass hay. Unlimited amounts of timothy, oat, or orchard hay should be supplied 24 hours a day. Legume hays such as alfalfa and clover hay contain large amounts of calcium and protein which can cause health problems when fed in excess to rabbits over 6 months of age, and should only be used as treats. Feeding hay provides large quantities of fiber without unneeded calories, and helps to prevent intestinal problems such as trichobezoars (hairballs) and stasis (slowdown or complete stoppage of the intestinal system).

Pellets should be offered in limited amounts to rabbits over 6 months. Pellets should be of high quality with high fiber (18%), low fat (1 - 2 %), low calcium, and low protein. Do not feed pellets with nuts, seeds, dried vegetables or other "treats" in them! These pellets are low in quality and very high in fat. Plain, high quality pellets are the best thing for your rabbit.

Vegetables should also make up a large amount of your rabbit's diet. Try to introduce at least eight different types of vegetables, and of these, at least three should be fed daily. Leafy greens such as romaine, dandelion greens, endive, parsley, cilantro, basil, peppermint leaves, carrot tops, beet tops, radish tops, collard greens, and escarole are good, as well as vegetables such as carrots, celery, and broccoli. Kale and spinach can be fed in limited amounts. Generally, one heaping cup of vegetables per five pounds of body weight can be fed per day. Introduce new vegetables gradually, one at a time. If any diarrhea or intestinal upset is noticed, discontinue that vegetable. If after a week your rabbit has no problems, introduce another vegetable. Be sure to wash all vegetables thoroughly.

Treats such as apple, pear, raisins, melon, papaya, or banana can also be fed (about a tablespoon a day). Grains such as rolled oats or barley can also be fed in small amounts.

Fresh water should always be available to your rabbit. This can be provided in a tip-proof ceramic dish (lead free only) or in a hanging water bottle. Change the water at least once daily and clean crocks and bottles often with a mild dish detergent.



Other items you may want to consider feeding your rabbit include papaya enzyme (papain) and acidophilus/lactobacillus. Papaya enzymes help promote motility of the intestinal tract. Fresh papaya or dextrose free papaya tablets can be fed. Acidophilus/lactobacillus is thought to help maintain a good balance of microorganisms in the intestinal tract.

Bunny Dietary Guidelines

UNLIMITED HAY EVERY DAY!!

(Get it from Oxbow or American Pet Diner online or through our co-op.)

Timothy is the best

Orchard Grass is also good

Alfalfa

Oat Hay

entices all but the pickiest bunny

this is a seasonal item though

great for young bunnies, but too rich for regular use in adults (use as a treat)

another great treat hay!

HIGH QUALITY TIMOTHY PELLETS

There are many varieties available at feed stores and pet supply stores; look for high fiber and low protein. Do not buy the kind with the added seeds & colored bits—it is junk food for bunnies!

2-4 lbs.— $\frac{1}{8}$ cup daily	5-7 lbs.— $\frac{1}{4}$ cup daily	8-19 lbs.— $\frac{1}{2}$ cup daily	11-15 lbs.— $\frac{3}{4}$ cup daily
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Young Rabbits

Rabbits up to six months of age can have free access to pellets. Feed alfalfa pellets then slowly transition to timothy pellets at six months. After this growing stage, pellets should be limited based on the weight of the rabbit.

SAFE VEGGIES

Maintain a variety in the diet, at least 3 types a day to ensure adequate vitamins in the diet. 5 or more types a day is even better. Introduce new veggies slowly, watching for signs of diarrhea, gas, or upset stomach. Feed at least one heaping cup of raw veggies per 5 pounds of bunny—some bunnies eat a lot more.

The veggies on this list are all safe, but each bunny has different tastes! Limit the ones highest in calcium.

Most herbs are considered quite tasty by many bunnies, too.

Raw Vegetable	Calcium Content mg/1 cup serving	Raw Vegetable	Calcium Content mg/1 cup serving
Alfalfa Sprouts	10	Lettuce, Romaine	20
Asparagus	28	Lettuce, Loose-Leaf	38
Beet Greens	46	Mustard Greens	58
Broccoli	42	Mustard Spinach	315
Chinese Cabbage	74	Okra	82
Carrots & Carrot Tops	30	Parsley	78
Cauliflower	28	Peas, Edible Pod	62
Celery	44	Peppers, Sweet	6
Chard, Swiss	18	Pumpkin	24
Chicory Greens	180	Pumpkin Leaves	15
Collard Greens	218	Purslane	28
Coriander (Cilantro)	16	Radishes & Leaves	28
Cress, Garden	40	Spinach	56
Dandelion Greens	103	Squash, Summer	26
Eggplant	30	Squash, Zucchini	20
Jerusalem Artichoke	21	Turnips	39
Kale	94	Turnip Greens	105
Kohlrabi	34	Watercress	40

FRUITS & TREATS

A small amount of fruit can be fed daily: banana, apple, pear, orange, mango, plum, peach, berries, grapes, etc. BEWARE: apple & pear seeds, fruit pits, banana peel, & orange rind can be deadly or dangerous! Don't risk it! Don't encourage your bunny to be a junk food junkie with human cereals, chocolate, or seed treats. Frozen fruits are especially yummy in the summer-time: try freezing fresh papaya chunks or grapes.

MEDICAL CONCERNS FOR PET RABBITS

Whenever you notice that your rabbit is not eating, urinating, defecating, or behaving normally, consult a veterinarian experienced in rabbit care. Rabbits seem to get ill suddenly and their health can deteriorate very rapidly without proper veterinary care.

There are many diseases common to rabbits, all of which need to be diagnosed and treated by a veterinarian. The purpose of this section is not to help diagnose illnesses on your own, but to illustrate signs and symptoms that indicate your bunny may be ill. This information should be used to supplement—not replace—the advice of a qualified rabbit veterinarian.

Some rabbits, especially Netherland Dwarfs or other rabbits bred for round-shaped heads, often have maloccluded teeth. This is a condition in which the rabbit's teeth do not line up properly and overgrow into "tusks." This can happen either with the front teeth or the rear molars. These teeth will need to be clipped or filed periodically, or may need to be extracted altogether in some cases.

Sore Hocks is a condition in which the fur on the bottom of the rabbit's feet is worn away. The exposed skin is subject to cracking, ulcerations, and infection. Rabbits with sore hocks need a soft, dry resting place at all times, and extra care should be taken to clean their litter boxes more frequently to help keep their feet dry.

Fleas, flies, mites and other pests may infest your bunny. If you note any small specks, dry flaky skin, or crusty material in your rabbit's ears, contact your veterinarian.

Respiratory diseases are very common in rabbits. If you notice runny nose or eyes, labored breathing, mucous on the insides of the front paws (from the rabbit wiping his nose), or excessive sneezing or coughing, take your rabbit to a veterinarian immediately.

Of course, keeping an eye open for symptoms and catching any problems in their early stages decreases the chance of a minor problem turning into a major catastrophe. Preventive measures such as feeding unlimited hay, regular grooming, proper diet, and exercise help your rabbit live a long and healthy life.

Symptoms of Illnesses

Other physical symptoms and signs to watch for are:

- ♦ Inactivity—bunny is hunched up and not sociable ♦ lack of interest in food or water
- ♦ tilted head, loss of balance or coordination ♦ bloated or distended abdomen
- ♦ loss of consciousness or convulsions ♦ any sores, abscesses, lumps, or tumors
- ♦ loss of movement in hind legs or any apparent broken bone, serious cut, or injury
- ♦ runny nose or eyes (can indicate serious respiratory problems)
- ♦ diarrhea (liquid stool or normal stool surrounded with mucous) If you see soft droppings shaped like bunches of grapes, do not panic. These are normal in small amounts.
- ♦ bulging eyes coupled with loud grinding of the teeth indicate severe pain
- ♦ drooling (may be caused by maloccluded molars) ♦ lack of urine or feces in the litter box
- ♦ excessive gurgling digestive sounds

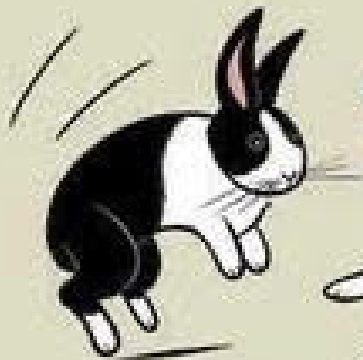
HEALTH CHECKS

In the United States there are no vaccines that are approved or recommended for rabbits. However, it is still a good idea to take your rabbit(s) to the vet for a yearly check-up. It is also important that you examine your bunny every week for possible health problems. Rabbits are fragile and tend to hide signs of illness. Do not delay in getting your rabbit to a veterinarian experienced with pet rabbits immediately if anything seems in the least bit wrong. Look out for:

- red or scaly brown patches inside the ears (ear mites)
- flaking skin anywhere; looks like dandruff (fur mites)
- acting lethargic
- loud stomach noises
- loss of appetite or failure to have normal bowel movements (in regard to size, consistency, or quantity)
- a discharge from the eyes or nose, or persistent sneezing (rabbits do not get colds, so these symptoms can indicate serious illness)
- wet chin
- overgrown teeth
- wet fur on the inside of the front paws
- loss of fur and sores on the bottom of the rabbit's feet
- overgrown nails (these can be trimmed with a cat nail clipper)
- wounds, swellings, bumps and signs of parasites
- a dirty bottom
- head tilt, paralysis of a limb, unsteadiness, white spots or cloudy area(s) in eye
- anything unusual in your bunny's appearance or behavior (e.g. unwilling to move, glazed look, loud grinding of teeth)

Is yours a happy bunny?

All this body language suggests your rabbit is a happy bunny...



A rabbit 'binky'

A jump with a mid-air twist before landing.



Relaxed Rabbits

- Lying in a relaxed posture
- Eyes partially closed
- Paws pointed forwards



- Legs tucked under their body
- Ears facing slightly backwards and pointing out.



- Lying relaxed fully extended with legs outstretched backwards.

