

# Rabbit Care Sheet

*Because we care !!!*



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**Your Pets Super Store**



**Congratulations on your new pet. Rabbits are intelligent, social animals and make affectionate and rewarding family pets when they receive plenty of attention. Rabbits do need daily maintenance and several hours out of their cage. They can be trained to use a litter box and are more enjoyable, responsive pets when they live indoors as house rabbits. They are very clean animals neither their bodies nor dropping have an offensive odor. Given appropriate care a rabbit can live up to ten years. Rabbits should never be left unsupervised with young children.**

## GENERAL

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Rabbits can be taught to share your home, males or females make equally good pets when neutered. Being intelligent, rabbits can become bored if constantly confined to their cage, which can result in destructive and aggressive behaviors. Hazards around the house such as electrical cords and toxic plants should be removed or made inaccessible to prevent accidents. Indoor exercise pens by Dreamzone that fold when not in use can make your rabbits play time easy and safe. Rabbit's teeth grow up to five inches per year, so provide acceptable items such as wood toys and safe branches to chew on. Super Pet brand Bunny Bites, Critter Carrots, Branch Bites and Sunseed brand Chew Blox are a few to keep in mind. Rabbits are interactive pets and enjoy attention and being pet although most do not enjoy being held tightly or carried around. Falls can be devastating for a rabbits fragile bone structure.

## HOUSING

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Rabbits should live indoors, safe from predators and extreme climates. It is important to choose as large a cage as possible. The cage need not be very high as rabbits are not climbers. You should be able to comfortably reach all the corners of the cage for daily cleaning. Avoid wire floors, which can injure a rabbit's feet. Give your rabbit a litter box filled with safe litter such as Carefresh, never cedar shavings, which contain harmful oils or cat litter, which can block their digestive tract when eaten. Both can harm their respiratory system from strong odors or dust. A hiding box will also be appreciated. Since rabbits need to chew, this box should be made of a safe wood. Super Pet has both the Woodland Get-Away, and Igloo that work well for bunnies. Never keep a rabbit in an aquarium as it does not allow for adequate ventilation. Rabbits are very sensitive to high temperatures; they are comfortable at normal home temperatures, between 59-72 degrees fahrenheit. Chew toys such as untreated wicker, wood blocks and fruitwood branches will keep your rabbit busy. Marchioro's Tommy cages and Preview Hendrix Tubbie cages both have acceptable sizes for rabbits. Ask our pet care specialists which cage would be the best for your pet.

## DIET

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Rabbits are herbivores. A healthy diet is based on good quality fresh rabbit pellets and ample fresh, timothy, oat or orchard hay. Alfalfa hay is good for outdoor and growing rabbits. Fiber in hay is essential to a rabbit's health; it reduces the incidence of obesity, diarrhea and hairballs. One of our pet care

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## DIET - continued

specialists can help you select food, treats and toys suitable for your rabbit. Pellets should be served in a heavy bowl that can't be tipped over or in a hopper. Don't buy more pellets than your rabbit can eat in a month to maintain freshness, 1/4 cup per 5lbs. per day. Kaytee Fiesta Max, Fortidiet, and Timothy Complete are all good choices. Hay should be offered morning and evening in unlimited quantities. Zupreem, Oxbow and Kaytee all have high quality hay options. Small amounts of fresh dark green leafy vegetables (not iceberg lettuce) and root vegetables can be fed daily. Be sure to wash them and remove any uneaten bits daily. Too much fresh food can cause diarrhea. Fresh water in a sipper bottle should be available at all times. Bowls for water are not recommended because they are easily tipped and will soak the bedding. Healthy treats can be found by Vitakraft, Kaytee, Sunseed and Oxbow.

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## CLEANING

Remove soiled litter and bedding and rinse and refill water bottle daily. Water bottles (use a bottle brush), food dishes and the cage bottom should be cleaned weekly with one of our high quality cleaners. Use a damp cloth to wipe the cage wires. Do not wash wooden toys in water as they may form splinters. Always rinse and dry the cage well before replacing litter and bedding and returning your pet.

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## HEALTH

Rabbits are prone to intestinal blockages, due to swallowing hair while grooming. Weekly brushing can minimize this problem. Use a soft brush and be gentle as rabbits have sensitive skin. Avoid putting the rabbit on a table or counter where it could jump off and become injured. Your rabbit will need its' nails clipped on a regular basis for his safety and your comfort. Creature Comforts offers a nail clipping service for a minimal fee. When grooming, check your rabbit's ears, eyes and teeth. Multi-vitamins like Vita Drops or Sun Drops can help keep your pet healthy. If you do not have a veterinarian that treats rabbits, our pet care specialist can make a recommendation. Serious signs of illness or injury such as: lack of appetite, change in droppings, bloated abdomen, runny nose or eyes, labored breathing, head tilt, urinary problems, lumps or bumps should be seen by your veterinarian. Fleas can cause a rabbit to become anemic; if you have cats and dogs be sure to also check your rabbit. Ultra Care Flea and Tick spray made by 8 in 1 makes a flea spray that is safe for small animals. Many plants are poisonous to rabbits; special care should be taken if you put your rabbit in an outdoor run. Antibiotics of the Penicillin family, such as Amoxicillin, are toxic to rabbits and should NEVER be used.

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## FERTILITY

All pet rabbits should be spayed or neutered by an experienced rabbit veterinarian to avoid unwanted babies. Spayed or neutered rabbits live longer, healthier lives and make better companions as they do not develop unwelcome reproductive behaviors. This can also save your pet from developing some forms of cancer.

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## BOOKS

The Rabbit Handbook	Barron's
Training Your Pet Rabbit	Barron's
Dwarf Rabbits	Barron's
Rabbits Practical Pet Care	TFH
Rabbits	Animal Plant

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## CHECK LIST

<input type="checkbox"/> cage, as large as possible	<input type="checkbox"/> water bottle and	<input type="checkbox"/> Carefresh bedding
<input type="checkbox"/> heavy food dish or hopper	<input type="checkbox"/> bottle brush	<input type="checkbox"/> fresh rabbit pellets
<input type="checkbox"/> for pellets	<input type="checkbox"/> safe healthy treats	<input type="checkbox"/> litter box
<input type="checkbox"/> timothy or orchard hay	<input type="checkbox"/> for training	<input type="checkbox"/> hiding / sleeping box
<input type="checkbox"/> variety of wooden chew	<input type="checkbox"/> folding pet play	<input type="checkbox"/> soft brush
<input type="checkbox"/> sticks and toys	<input type="checkbox"/> pen (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> cleaner