

Rabbit Care Quick List

Litter: Carefresh or Yesterday's News (**do not** use cedar or pine as they are poisonous to rabbits, as is cat litter)

Food: Pellets not needed for bunnies over one year of age (unless old, sick or post-op). For bunnies under one year of age, free feed pellets. Good brands are Oxbow and Peter Marshall's. They both have growth formulas designed for growing bunnies. Constant grass hay made available. Use timothy or orchard hay. Do not use alfalfa (unless sick, old or post-op). For bunnies under six months of age alfalfa hay is ok. After six months wean onto grass hay only. Good brands are Oxbow or Kaytee hay. Give 1-2 cups fresh leafies (such as romaine, collards, kale, broccoli) each day. You can use apples, carrots, bits of banana as treats. Do not give iceberg or other lettuces with super high water to nutrient content.

Safety: Rabbits can be chewers. Secure or cover all electric cords. Watch that they do not ingest lead paint from chewing on walls. Watch to make sure they do not eat carpet or fall into vents etc... If you see any changes in bathroom habits (such as diarrhea or going a lot less) take bunny to vet or call us immediately. Bunnies do not linger long without medical attention if they are truly ill.

Cage: Use solid bottomed cage with smaller bar spacing. Give a towel or grass mats or small dog bed for comfort. Fill litter box with carefresh. Keep litterbox arrangement consistent within cage to encourage use and familiarity. Use extra litter boxes as needed around house in corners. Vinegar in spray bottle is a safe and effective cleaner. Can use a hay hopper if you want or place hay in fresh litter box.

Toys: Cardboard boxes with tunnel holes in the sides, phone books, tubes, paper towel rolls stuffed with hay, igloos, balls, small stuffed animals all make fun toys. Colored wood toys designed for parrots are also great.

Grooming: Rabbits mostly groom themselves. Trim nails every about six weeks. Have someone show you if questions. Have Styptic Powder next to you. Use a type that says safe for birds not just dogs and cats. Rabbits shed twice a year in fall and spring. If needed there are specialized grooming combs available for rabbits that are gentler. Rabbit skin is very delicate and this should be done by an adult only.

House rabbit society has information on every possible question or care idea. Go to www.rabbit.org to find out more!