

Bunny Care 101



Diet and Nutrition:

The health of a rabbit revolves around the proper diet. This diet varies from other companion animals like dogs and cats for one major reason. HAY! Fresh hay (timothy, grass, or oat hay) is essential to keep their digestive tract balanced and moving. But that's not all! Hay also keeps a rabbit's teeth at the proper length. That's right! A rabbit's teeth continue to grow during their whole life. Eating hay is a great natural way for rabbits to stay healthy and happy.

Rabbits should have access to hay and water at all times. Their whole diet should be 80% hay, 15% fresh vegetables, and 5% age appropriate food pellets (without any dried fruits, nuts, or seeds). Also, not all rabbit "treats" are actually safe for bunnies, so always double check with a rabbit savvy veterinarian first. For more detailed information on a rabbit's diet, check out the care section on Rabbit.org.



Fun Fact: A rabbit's teeth never stop growing!



Rabbits like to "periscope" and should be able to within their "home base".

Space for Your Bunny:

Your rabbit should be kept indoors. Domestic rabbits are not the same as wild rabbits and need better shelter from weather and predators. Rabbits can make great indoor pets if you take the time to set up a space for them properly. They need enough room to comfortably lay down, stand up, stretch out their hind legs, and hop around. Rabbits need to be able to get their energy out, and if they have enough room to do it, they make for a better companion to your family. A great "home base" set up for a rabbit is a doggy play pen. Within this play pen, the rabbit should always have access to water, hay, and a litter box with rabbit friendly litter. (Yes, rabbits can be litter trained!) This home base will give your rabbit a place that is theirs. NEVER let a rabbit live on a wired floor cage. This will cause problems with their feet which can be very painful. The home base is great to keep a bunny in while you are not home, however, they should have access to much more room in a bunny proof environment so they can explore and feel like part of the family. Please remember, a rabbit is considered a "prey" animal so don't be discouraged if your bunny takes some time before they fully trust you.

Veterinarian Care:

Rabbits do not require vaccinations like cats and dogs, but it is still important to get a rabbit savvy veterinarian to ensure your bunny is healthy. These veterinarians are considered "exotic" because they specialize in species other than cats and dogs. The main concern an exotic veterinarian will help you with is the importance of keeping some emergency care items in your home like Oxbow's Critical Care. This product will help you in the case your rabbit is not eating, which can be considered a medical emergency.

Another important reason you will need an exotic veterinarian is to get your rabbit spayed/neutered. Even if you only plan on having a single bunny, your rabbit will live a longer, happier life if they get spayed/neutered. It reduces chances of some diseases and reduces their instincts to spray and defend their territory. It also helps with litter box training, biting, grunting, and an assortment of other issues.



Rabbits can be litter trained!!!

***Please do your research before you get a bunny as they require more care than a dog or cat. All of this information can be found at www.rabbit.org. That is the best resource for the proper care of having a House Rabbit as a pet.