

How to Take Care of Your Adopted Rabbit



HOUSING

Your new rabbit is not like the wild rabbits that you see living outside. Your indoor rabbit needs you to provide for them and give them everything they need to live a happy and healthy life. Housing is an important aspect of your indoor pet's life, and there are some things you need to prepare for their new home.

Your rabbit's home should include:

- A solid floor, not a wire floor. A wire floor can harm your rabbit's feet.
- Space for at least 3 good hops & the ability to stand on it's hind legs and not hit the top with it's head.
- The cage should be a minimum size of:
 - 24" x 24" x 18" for a small rabbit
 - 36" x 36" x 24" for a large rabbit
- A litter box with litter for rabbits
 - **No cedar bedding!** This can cause respiratory or gastrointestinal issues.
- A space to hide, such as a tunnel or bungalow
- A secure, safe exercise area in the house or outside



FOOD

Your rabbit is an herbivore, so their diet consists entirely of plants, fruits, and vegetables. Their most important food source is grass hay, which makes up 70% of their diet; however, your pet does not get the nutrients it needs from just a hay diet.

20% of your rabbit's diet should be fortified food (pellets) to get the nutrients that they would not get from grass hay. Because the pellets are important to the health of your rabbit, any fresh greens or treats should be given to them after their basic foods have been eaten. If they have too many fruits and vegetables, they may refuse their pellets, so they will be missing out on important nutrition for their health.

The remaining 10% of your rabbit's diet consists of fresh greens and treats.

Fresh greens, **such as romaine, bib, and red leaf lettuce**, should make up 8% of your rabbit's diet, with 2% being treats such as fruits and alfalfa. Fresh greens and treats are an important part of a healthy diet for your rabbit, but should be given in moderation in order to prevent picky eating or pellet aversion. You can find which foods are safe and unsafe for your rabbit at WWW.RABBIT.ORG

GRASS HAY

A great option of hay is Timothy Hay. Your bunny should have unlimited access to grass hay. To prevent your pet from becoming a picky eater, you should only replace their hay when it becomes soiled. You can set the hay in your bunny's enclosure next to their food bowl or in a completely separate large bowl as long as the bunny always has access to it. As another option, you could purchase a **hay feeder rack** to prevent the hay from getting soiled.



HEALTH

Your rabbit, like cats and dogs, requires regular care and maintenance. Your rabbit should be:

- Receiving annual veterinary check-ups
- Spayed or neutered
- Brushed regularly
- Getting their nails clipped as needed

Be on the look-out for "snuffles." This is an upper respiratory infection and the symptoms are sneezing, nasal and ocular discharge, and staining of front feet due to rubbing their faces. A second health issue to look out for is ear mites, which can cause the rabbits to shake their heads and hold their ears "down." You can see redness and crusting inside the ears. Both of these conditions should be treated by a veterinarian right when you notice the symptoms.

Rabbits, though a small and easy to pick up animal, do not usually like to be picked up or carried. When you do have to pick up your rabbit, it is important to carry them properly. **When you pick up your rabbit, support their forequarters with one hand and their hindquarters with the other hand to prevent spinal injury.**

Your rabbit, like all animals, requires daily exercise. They should have several hours of **supervised** exercise outside of their cage daily. If exercising your rabbit outdoors, **do not leave your rabbit unsupervised for even a few minutes.** Your rabbit could dig under a fence, or a predator animal could break in and take them.

REASONS TO CONTACT YOUR VET:

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| • Loose, soft, or lack of stool | • Overgrown front teeth |
| • Small, dry, or infrequent stools | • Observed difficulty with chewing |
| • Blood in the urine | • Bald patches in the fur |
| • Sneezing or trouble breathing | • Sores on the feet |
| • Hunching in a corner or lack of activity (lethargy) | • Abnormal eating or drinking |



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SUPPLIES CHECKLIST

- Fortified age-specific rabbit food
- Two or more varieties of grass hay
- Treats for healthy bonding & enrichment
- Leafy greens & veggies
- Water bottle with holder & heavy food dish
- Large habitat with solid, non-slip flooring
- Large play yard for safe exercise out of habitat
- Hiding space in habitat
- Safe wooden rabbit toys
- Litterbox
- Litter & bedding material
- Nail clippers & brush



NEARBY SUPPLY STORES

PetSmart

1760 Apple Glen Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46804

10035 Lima Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46818

10260 Maysville Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46835

Pet Supplies Plus

6326 W Jefferson Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46804

4714 Coldwater Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46825

6101 Stellhorn Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Petco

315 E Coliseum Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46805

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING ADOPTION!

Give our adoption staff a call at (260) 427-5502 if you have any further questions about your adopted rabbit.

To learn more about rabbit care, visit www.oxbowanimalhealth.com