

## Litter box training? Agility? Rabbits make fun pets.

- ❖ Rabbits are **extremely social and affectionate** and need daily interaction with their families.
- ❖ Like cats, rabbits can be **house-trained** to a litter box and allowed to roam freely (note: at SAS, we only adopt to those who will commit to keeping their bunnies in baby-gated areas indoors; **no cages**).
- ❖ ‘Rabbit Hopping’ is a **performance sport**



where rabbits run through courses outfitted with jumps that range from 4

to 20 inches high. ‘Rabbit Agility’ features obstacle courses with **jumps, ramps and tunnels**. Both are extremely fun for rabbit and owner alike--including kids. The American Hopping Association for Rabbits (AHARC) can direct you to resources for classes and events. Google ‘**Rabbit Agility Olympics**’ for some very cute videos.

- ❖ If properly socialized, many rabbits enjoy **walking on leash**.
- ❖ The average life span for a domestic rabbit is 10 years.

## Rabbits: not just for Easter!



*(exercise for pets, continued from pg. 1)* but some very active breeds, like Border Collies, Australian Shepherds, and Jack Russell Terriers, need closer to 2 hours of non-stop activity. Given that dog parks and doggie day care are closed for social distancing, here are some tips for getting them healthy-- and tired--at home.

**Tug of War:** Playing tug of war is a great way to exercise in a small space but many owners fear it can encourage bad habits. Most experts agree that if done correctly, it can be a great, at-home exercise. The first rule: you must be the one to initiate the game, not your dog. You should also work on a ‘drop it’ command so that you can discontinue the game on your schedule, including every 30 seconds or so of play. During the break in play, give your dog commands to execute prior to re-starting the game. Dogtime.com has great tips on how to train your dog to safely play.

**Indoor Fetch:** Try taking this outdoor game indoors, using something soft, such as a Nerf ball or rolled up socks. Many owners find that throwing the ball up the stairs, forcing the dog to run up and down multiple times, is a great way of tiring them out.

**Work for Food:** If you feed your dog kibble, you can use food dispensers that encourage them to move around the room during meals. A low-tech solution: throw individual pieces of kibble across the room and make your dog chase each one!