

Bunny Proofing!

Rabbits love to chew, chew, chew!

It's in their nature so you just take steps to protect them and your stuff!

1. Houseplants need to be kept out of reach. Most house plants are toxic when consumed.
2. Wire covers! You don't want bunny to chew a cord and get a burned mouth. Plastic wire sleeves can be purchased at a hardware store (Home Depot) or online. Flex tubing is a great option.
3. Large split flex tubing can also help protect wooden furniture and baseboards as well as corner guards.
4. Puppy pens, baby gates, nic-cube grids are a great way to block off areas too.

Chew toys are great ways to fulfill a rabbits need to chew and deter them from chewing the house!

Sea grass mats, woven grass balls, wooden houses, apply sticks, willow sticks, heavy plastic baby keys, and heavy non-chewable plastic dog toys all make great toys & enrichment!

What Else Should I Know?

Try not to make your head spin with all of the information there is on buns! Here are

some links to help guide you in rabbit ownership.

- www.rabbit.org (House Rabbit Society)
- myhouserabbit.com
- www.oxbowanimalhealth.com
- www.smallpetsselect.com

*Have fun with your
new long eared
companion!*



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House Rabbits 101



Considering a House Rabbit?

1. Rabbits are wonderful companion pets that live an average of 8 – 10 years!
2. They are funny and social animals that require daily interaction, play, and love to keep them from becoming lonely and bored.
3. Rabbits are prey animals, therefore unlike cats & dogs do not like to be held & cuddled. They do love to be petted especially right on top of the head! Nose & head rubs are the best!
4. Your home will need to be bunny-proofed to avoid damage to cords, cables, and baseboards 😊

Let's talk about food!

A rabbits' diet should consist of 80% grass hay, 10% greens (vegetables), 5% pellets, and 5% healthy treats.

1. Grass hays would be: Timothy Hay, Orchard Grass, Meadow Hay, Botanical Hay, Oat Hay, and Alfalfa Hay* (alfalfa is only for babies up to 6 months or pregnant females!)
2. Hay needs to be available 24/7 just like fresh water. A rabbit needs to constantly eat hay to keep their gut moving and naturally keep their teeth trim.

3. A quality **timothy** based pellet without added corn, dried fruits, nuts, or seeds provides them with vitamins & minerals.
4. Healthy Greens such as green leaf lettuce, cilantro, parsley, etc. For a list of recommended foods see: <http://rabbit.org/suggested-vegetables-and-fruits-for-a-rabbit-diet/>
5. Healthy treats such as pieces of apple, carrot, and banana can be given. Not too much though as they are all high in sugar.

Places to find great hay are: www.oxbowanimalhealth.com www.smallpetsselect.com

Your local tractor supply/farm store/pet store also has rabbit food for sale. Be sure to ask for the correct products!

Why SPAY & NEUTER?

Rabbits need to see a rabbit savvy vet year for wellness exams in addition to spay/neutering. Rabbit.org has a list of rabbit experienced vets.

Spaying & neutering rabbits is essential for their health. Spaying prevents the development of ovarian/cervical/uterine cancers in females & helps curb hormonal behaviors.

Neutering in males prevents testicular cancer and territorial behavior such as spraying urine! It also helps curb hormonal behaviors. Spaying & neutering ensures a long healthy & happy life for a rabbit.

Litter Training & Set Up

Yes rabbits litter train! If you provide a nice sized litter box (*same as cat litter boxes*) they will hop right in & do their thing!

Rabbits actually prefer to eat & poop at the same time so stuff hay right into the litter box on one end and they'll do the rest. Some also provide a hay rack right above the litter box for an ample supply of hay at all times.

A proper variety of litters to use are:

- News paper
- Paper based litter: Care Fresh (w/o baking soda), Yesterday's News, Store brand equivalency.
- Equine pine pellets or wood stove pellets w/o any chemicals/accelerants.

**never use clumping cat litter if ingested it can cause a blockage which is deadly*

Rabbits require a space at least 4ft. by 4 ft. to be able to hop, laydown, and move around comfortably. Pet stores cages labelled for rabbits are usually too small. Be sure to buy a cage that meets this space requirement

Great products to contain your rabbit at times when you are aware or sleeping are exercise pens made for dogs. They are flexible, easily movable, and provide an ideal amount of space for bunny's comfort, litter box, water bowl, and some toys

Rabbits prefer to drink water out of a bowl. A good choice is a heavy ceramic crock that they cannot move or knock over.