



Caring for your BUNNY

Bunnies are amazing pets, but they do have specific requirements in order to live a long & healthy life.

First Few Days

During the first few days, your new furry family member may be timid and frightened so it's important to house your bunny in a quiet/calm area. Make sure to keep your other pets (if any) away from your bunny during this time to reduce stress. Bunnies are prey animals so it's best to allow space until fully acquainted. Babies will be scared & confused so it is normal if your bunny is hiding and avoiding being held. Give them time to warm up to you to result in a lifelong companion!

Housing

There are several housing options that will work for your bunny. They can be contained in a dog pen, bunny condo, or even free roam. If contained, their space should be big enough for them to hop around 4 times in all directions. They should be let out for additional exercise at least 1-2 hours a day. Make sure they will not be isolated away from everyone, as they are very sociable pets. We advise you to not house your bunny outside, as they are prey animals and very sensitive to the elements from outdoors. Bunnies prefer cooler weather. We recommend housing your bunny between 40-70 degrees. Even though rabbits may survive in below freezing temps, water bowls & bottles may solidify.



Hay

Hay makes up 70% of a bunny's diet. It's important to keep your bunny healthy as it maintains digestion, trims down teeth, reduces unwanted chewing, and much more. Hay is high in fiber which is essential to keep your fur baby healthy. However, timothy hay is a very common allergy among most individuals. Other hay alternatives include oat hay, meadow hay, orchard grass, bermuda grass, & coastal hay. We don't recommend feeding your bunny too much alfalfa hay as its very high levels of protein, calcium, & fat. This can cause health issues which can affect the bladder and kidneys.

Fresh Greens

We recommend waiting until your bunny is 4-5 months until you start gradually introduce veggies. Veggies make up 8% of a bunny's diet.

Leafy Greens- Parsley, spinach, mustard greens, mint, basil, watercress, cilantro, carrot tops, radicchio, fennel, dill leaves, beet greens, swiss chard, radish tops, sprouts, arugula, cucumber leaves, endive, kale, red & green lettuce (NO ICEBERG!), romaine lettuce, spring greens, turnip greens, dandelion greens.



Pellets & Treats

Pellets make up 20% of a bunny's diet. We highly recommend a quality timothy based rabbit pellet. A bunny's daily pellet consumption should be 1/4 cup per 5lbs body weight. An adult dwarf rabbit pellet should contain a minimum of 22% fiber, less than 14% protein, & less than 1% calcium. An adult large breed rabbit pellet should contain 16%-18% protein. Pellets are simply an extra source of nutrients & minerals that hay & veggies alone may not provide. Your bunny will go home with a week's supply of the feed they are currently eating. Babies have very delicate digestive systems so it is important to gradually introduce a new pellet. Mix the old & new pellets together until they eventually are weaned from the old pellets. We recommend switching your bunny over to Oxbow or Science Selective pellets.

Treats make up 2% of a bunny's diet. If purchasing pre-made bunny treats, we highly recommend Oxbow. We also offer a variety of bunny safe treats & forages on our Etsy Shop. Stay away from artificial flavors and dyes.



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Etsy Shop QR Code

Non Leafy Vegetables (Use in moderation)- Carrots, zucchini squash, summer squash, broccolini, celery, broccoli, bell peppers, edible flowers, brussel sprouts, cabbage, mushrooms.

Fruits (Use in moderation)- Cherries, pear, apple, peach, plum, nectarine, currants, apricots, berries, papaya, kiwi, mango, pineapple(remove skin), bananas(remove skin), melon(skin & seeds included), star fruit.

Enrichment

Bunnies do get bored easily. Not only do they need space to exercise, they also need mental stimulation. You can provide this by giving them a variety of rabbit safe toys such as rabbit chews, baby stacking cups, as well as dog brand toys/boards that hide treats. Cardboard boxes also are amazing as well. You can DIY your own cardboard tunnels, obstacle courses, and castles which will keep your rabbit busy. Yes, they will destroy them eventually as they love to chew. If purchasing bunny toys, we recommend Oxbow. We also offer a variety of toys and chews on our Etsy Shop. Stay away from artificial flavors and dyes.



Grooming

Nail Tip:
Use a loofa to pull back your bunny's paw fur to reveal the nail more easily!

Bunnies can NOT have baths! Rabbits are naturally clean animals and wash themselves frequently. NEVER bathe your bunny, as this is very dangerous. Rabbit fur is very dense so when it becomes wet, it can lead to shock & hypothermia. If they do have yellow stains on their feet/bottom, it's okay to give them a "butt bath" where the water doesn't exceed 1 inch deep, just enough to submerge their feet. Another option is using natural baby wet wipes or cornstarch to clean the area. Luckily, our lops don't require the most grooming compared to other wooly breeds. Occasional brushing during the molting season will help with the shedding. Mini plush lops & Velveteens require the least maintenance as they have very low shedding and dander, considered hypoallergenic. Regular nail clipping every month is required for all breeds as long nails will get snagged on things and curl under into your rabbit's paw. It also saves you from unwanted scratch marks. You can either clip them yourself (avoid the quick) with regular human nail clippers or small animal nail clippers. For beginners, it may be a 2 person job. Otherwise you may find a rabbit vet or groomer who can do them for you. We offer free nail trimmings if adopted one of our bunnies.





Bunny Language & Behavior

Pet rabbits are different from cats and dogs. It is essential to understand how rabbits think so you and your rabbit can live a happy life together. By understanding your rabbit's natural inclinations, you can build a trusting and fulfilling relationship with your bunny.

- Binkying - Many that are unfamiliar to pet rabbits may not know that bunnies have a very dramatic way of expressing excitement and joy. They love to dance, leap in the air, twisting and kicking their feet out. They always need a running start.

- Zoomies - When rabbits zip around the room in a blur. Their burst of speed also demonstrates excitement.

- Flopping - A bunny at ease will usually flop to their side dramatically. This means that they are happy and feel safe. Be careful as they do try to scare you as they "play dead."

- Licking - Bunnies show affection by licking or grooming. You'll see a pair of rabbits grooming each other, which signifies that they have a strong bond.

- Buzzing/Honking - An excited rabbit may make a honking or buzzing sound while circling. This signifies happiness, or with another rabbit may lead to sexual excitement.

- Purring/Teeth Grinding - Bunnies sometimes show their enjoyment if you're petting them by grinding their teeth. This is a rabbit's way of purring. Teeth grinding could also signify discomfort and pain. You will be able to tell the difference as they may grind louder than normal.

- Growling - Grunting or growling is a sign your rabbit is angry or stressed. You may be invading their territory, and they are telling you to back off.

- Screaming - Rabbits generally only scream when they are dying or in extreme pain. Seek veterinary assistance if this occurs.

- Kicking "Dirt" Up - Displeased rabbits may deliberately kick their feet up as they hop away from you. In a wild setting, this translates to kicking dirt into another animal's face.

- Chinning - A rabbit's way of saying "Mine." They rub their chin, which has special scent glands, on objects to mark their territory.

- Nose Bonking/Nudging - Rabbits explore their environments by sniffing and nudging. It may be a greeting to their first line of investigation. But nudging can also indicate a level of bossiness. Your rabbits might be telling you "You're in my way." They may also be trying to get your attention because you're not petting them. If the nudge is ignored, they might follow with a nip.

- Digging - on your legs or feet is another way rabbits try to get your attention. Otherwise it is just natural behavior for a rabbit to dig up your carpet.

- Nipping - Rabbits often nip in order to get attention. In this case, they don't mean to cause you harm, but nips are at the very least annoying.

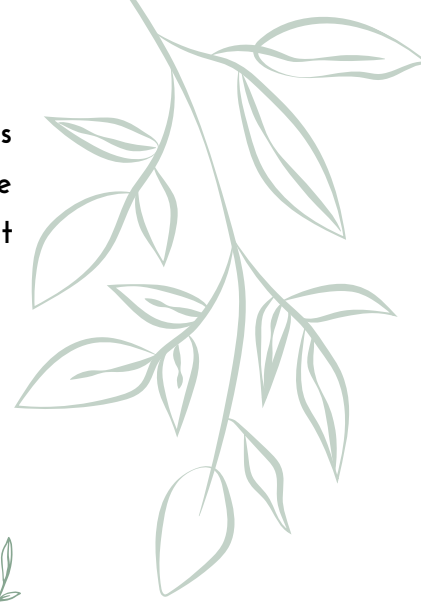
- Thumping - Rabbits thump their hind legs when they sense danger. It serves as a warning signal for others in the area to watch out or take cover.

Vet Visits

It's important to find a rabbit savvy veterinarian for annual checkups on your bunny's behavior and health. We recommend keeping a close eye on your bunny for any illnesses or concerns as they are great at hiding it.

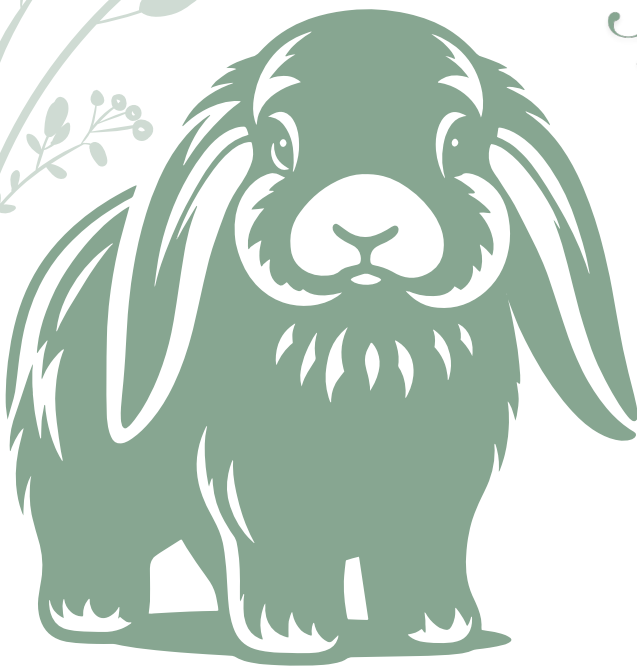
Common signs to look out for:

- Lethargy & lack of energy
- Sneezing or breathing trouble
- Blood in urine
- Lack of appetite
- Infrequent stools
- Sores on paw pads
- Bald spots in fur
- Overgrown teeth



Spay & Neuter

There are so many benefits to fixing your bunny. First and foremost, a fixed rabbit can live a longer, healthier life as the risk of uterine cancer and urinary tract infections are greatly reduced. Second, a rabbit that is spayed/neutered becomes calmer and easier to manage. Their destructive habits subside a bit, yet they don't lose their charmingly mischievous nature. Altered rabbits are also easier to litter train and have less of an urge to spray. Spayed and neutered house rabbits are easier to bond because of their calmer demeanor. And of course, an altered couple will not end up with a litter of baby bunnies.



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