



RABBIT CARE 101

Rabbit Care 101

1. Pick The Right Location

Pick a good location for your rabbit with plenty of room for them to run around. Exercise pens make the best enclosures if the rabbit cannot be fully free roam.



2. Litter box Training

Rabbits can be easily potty-trained, but they require an appropriately sized litter box. The litter box needs to have enough space for your rabbit to jump in and eat hay.



3. A Healthy Diet

Rabbits need to have a healthy diet to live a healthy life. Their diet should be a balance of unlimited hay followed by limited pellets, a variety of veggies, and very limited treats.



4. Toys/Enrichment

Rabbits are intelligent companions, and they need mental stimulation to keep them out of trouble. Be sure to have a variety of toys that you can cycle throughout the year.



5. Bunny Proofing

Bunny proofing is an important part of keeping your rabbit and your stuff safe. Rabbits will chew on cords, baseboards, and carpet just to name a few, so to keep everyone safe you should bunny proof the area they will be roaming.



Housing

Bunnies need a lot of space to be able to run around and binky, so pick a location that will allow your bunny to do it all.



An exercise pen is actually less expensive than the traditional "bunny cage" they try to sell at major retailers. Ex Pens can be found on websites like Amazon and Chewy, but if you would like to customize what the pen looks like, C&C grids might be the way to go.



Their pen needs to be big enough for their litter box, hay rack, toys, food, and water bowls. It needs to be a place that they enjoy being in if that's where they are going to live. If you are partially or fully free roaming your bunny, then their pen has to be a place they can go and unwind and take a break from causing mischief.

For more information on bunny housing, please do not hesitate in reaching out at info@houstonrabbitresource.org

Litter Training

IMPORTANT NOTE: Your bunny must be neutered/spayed for them to consistently and effectively use the litter box. When they are still intact, they will leave poops everywhere and will spray areas to claim their territory. They can also begin to exhibit aggressive territorial behavior such as grunting, humping, and lunging. In addition, they can develop reproductive illnesses if not spayed or neutered. Here at HRR your rabbit companion will already be fixed which can end up saving you up to \$600!

The best and easiest way to litter train a rabbit is to place hay on one side of their litter box. Rabbits are good multitaskers and will do their business while eating a healthy snack. Some litter boxes that are targeted at bunnies are often too small for them, so a simple cat litter box without a top will do really well, and they're often a lot less expensive.

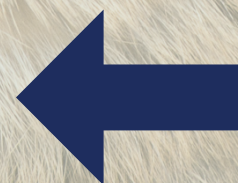


The litter should not contain any baking soda or other fragrances because these can be harmful to your rabbit.

Yesterday's News is a paper pellet litter without baking soda and is a good example of a good value litter. These are other examples of good litter that's safe for your rabbit:



Example of litter box set up



Diet

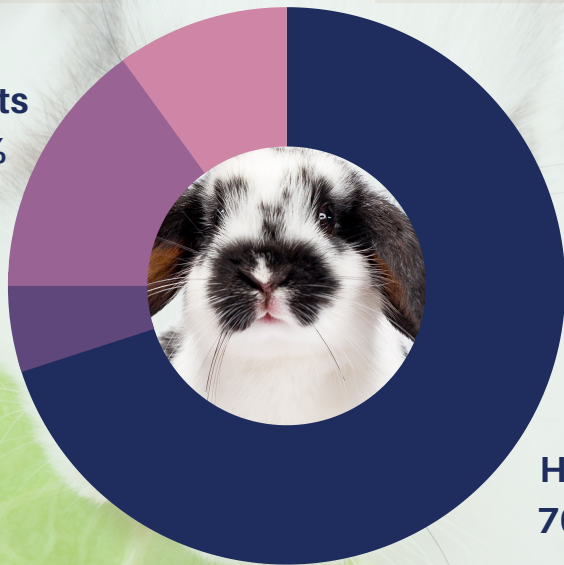


Pellets should only be 15% percent of your rabbit's diet. Above are examples of appropriate pellets for your rabbit. The recommended number of pellets is 1/8 cup for every 4lbs rabbit.

Veggies
10%



Vegetables make up 10% of your rabbit's daily diet, and should include a variety of greens. Examples include, Romaine Lettuce, Cilantro, Bell Peppers, Basil, Parsley, and many more.



Treats should be given sparingly as a treat. They're good for positive reinforcement and training your bunny to do spins or other tricks.



Hay is the **MOST IMPORTANT** part of a rabbit's diet. It should always be available for them to eat. Hay helps keep their gut moving, keeps their teeth short and gives them the necessary fiber to produce healthy poops.

Toys/Enrichment

Rabbits are highly intelligent creatures that need mental stimulation, or they can get bored and depressed. Rabbit can also become more destructive if they become bored and have nothing else to do.



Rabbit Toys

Luckily, in the past couple of years, Rabbit toys have gotten a lot better than they used to be. Oxbow has been leading the charge with a line of rabbit-safe and mentally engaging toys. Puzzle toys, grass mats, tunnels, wood chews, and willow balls are among some of the most popular among the rabbit community. Please ensure that the toys you purchase do not have hazardous materials, and remember that just because something says its "for rabbits" doesn't mean it's safe for them.



Baby Toys

A lot of baby toys have been found to be popular and mentally stimulating to rabbit companions.

- Stacking cups can be used to hide treats.
- Wooden keys are good for bunnies to chew on and toss around.
- Play bowling with your rabbit by placing a treat at the center and see if he can knock them all down trying to get it.

Baby toys can sometimes be easier to find and less expensive compared to the official rabbit toys.



Homemade Toys

Finally, homemade toys are the least expensive, and you can most likely make toys with things you currently have around your home.

- Stuff a toilet paper tube with hay and give it to your rabbit, so they can pull out the strands.
- Poke holes in an egg carton and place treats inside and watch your rabbit try to shake them out.
- Fill a cardboard box with balled up paper and sprinkle a couple of treats inside, so they can dig them up.

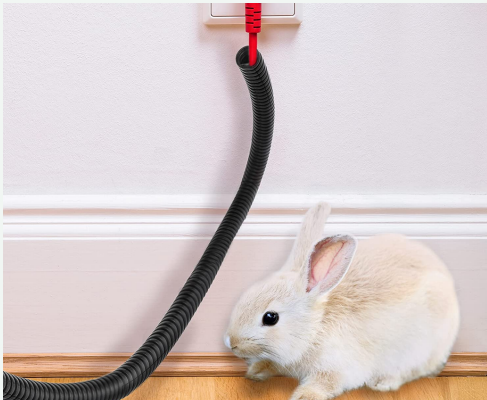
Bunny Proofing

Bunny Proofing is a way to keep both your rabbit and your stuff safe



C&C Grids/Panels

C&C grids are available on Amazon and are an inexpensive way to block any areas that you do not want your rabbit to go to. You can block off cords you don't want them to reach or undersides of couches and beds. You can also use them to block off baseboards.



Cord Covers

Cord covers are also available on Amazon and are a great way to keep your rabbit companion from chewing through phone chargers, internet cables, and power cords that can cause them harm.



House Plants

Placing plants on tables or high stools will keep your rabbit from digesting houseplants that can cause them harm. Some houseplants are poisonous to rabbits if digested, so placing them somewhere they can't be reached will keep them safe.



Tape

Clear tape can be used to cover any corners that your rabbit might chew on. The tape will cause the surface to become slippery to their bite and will discourage them from chewing on that space.

Rabbit Don'ts



Do NOT bathe your rabbit

Bathing your rabbit is dangerous and can cause them to go into shock and die. Butt baths are different and will be prescribed by a veterinarian if they are necessary.



Do NOT feed your rabbit:

- Nuts
- Iceberg lettuce
- Corn
- Seeds
- Cereal
- Beans
- Potato
- Bread
- Anything with dairy including yogurt



Do not pick up by ears or scruff

Rabbits generally dislike being picked up, but there are times when it is necessary. However, **NEVER** pick up any rabbit by the ears or scruff because you can cause serious nerve damage and pain. Instead, learn how to properly hold them by scooping them up towards you and supporting both their front and back paws on your arms to simulate a table.



Do not flip your rabbit on their back "trancing"

When a rabbit is put on their back it brings about tonic immobility which means they act dead as a response to being scared for their lives. When you have to turn them over, **MAKE SURE THEIR HEAD IS HIGHER THAN THEIR HEART** and stay close to the ground in case they decide to jump.



Do not house your rabbit on wire flooring

Rabbits do not have pads on their feet, and their fur is not thick enough to stand on wire or hard surfaces for an extended amount of time. If placed on wired flooring for an extended period of time, they can develop sore hocks that become infected and cause a rabbit to stop eating.

List of Rabbit-Savvy Veterinarians



ABC Animal & Bird Clinic

11930 S Texas 6 Sugar Land, TX 77498 / 281-495-9445

All Pets Animal Hospital

24221 Kingsland Blvd., Katy, TX 79494 / 281-392-7387

Animal Kingdom Pet Hospital

551 A West League City Parkway, League City, TX 77573 / 281-506-0766

Animal Medical Center of The Village

5406 Kirby Dr., Houston, TX 77005 / 713-524-3800

Briarcrest Veterinary Clinic

1492 Wilcrest Dr., Houston, TX 77042 / 713-789-8320

Cypress Lakes Animal Hospital

10920 Fry Rd. Suite 750 Cypress, TX 77042 / 832-220-1582

Gulf Coast Veterinary Specialists

8042 Katy Freeway Houston, TX 77024 / 713-693-1111

Kingsland Boulevard Animal Clinic

20701 Kingsland Blvd. Suite 105, Katy, TX 77450 / 281-578-1506

Paws to Claws Veterinary Care

38015 Spur 149 Rd., Magnolia, TX 77584 / 281-356-2384

Pearland Pet Health Center

10525 Hughes Ranch Road Pearland, TX 77584 / 713-436-2555

Prestonwood Animal Clinic

13720 Schroeder Rd., Houston, TX 77070 / 281-890-1960

VCA Spring Branch Animal Hospital

10109 Long Point Rd Houston, TX 77043 / 713-461-1121

Village Vet at Sterling Ridge

6700 Woodlands Parkway Suite 430 The Woodlands, TX
77382/ 832-813-0000

Extra Resources

House Rabbit Society Links:

- [List of Vegetables](#)
- [Rabbit Food Guide](#)
- [Litter Training](#)
- [Spaying and Neutering](#)
- [Resources to Help Pay Vet Bills](#)
- [Disaster Preparedness](#)

