



HOUSING

- Roomy condo/ pen
- washable rugs
- Litterbox(es)
- Pellet bowl/feeder
- Water bottle/crock
- Hay rack/tub
- Chew toys (*baskets, dried wood, straw*)
- Roll-and-toss toys (*balls, rings, spoons*)
- Pet carrier

RUNNING SPACE

- Indoors: bunny-proofed room(s) or hallway
- Outdoors: Enclosed patio/porch or a covered playpen (*with floor*)
- Litterbox(es)
- Large exercise toys (*tunnels, ramps/steps large boxes*)

CONSUMABLES

- Fresh water
- Unlimited grass hay

- Fresh salad veggies (*lots—introduced one at a time*)
- Fresh fruit (*small amounts*)
- Limited pellets

GROOMING

- Flea comb
- Brush
- Flea products (*consult with vet*)
- Toenail clippers
- Styptic powder

SUPPLIES

- Rabbit-safe organic litter (*no aromatic softwood shavings*)
- Storage bins (*for litter and hay*)
- Whiskbroom/dustpan
- White vinegar (*for general cleanup*)
- Hand vacuum
- Chlorine bleach (*for disinfecting*)
- Newspapers

BUY A BUNNY A LITTLE TIME

Time is all it takes for a rabbit to be discovered by the right human. When their time is up at the animal shelters, rabbits with your support can be placed in foster homes until adoptive matches are made.

Your enrollment in the House Rabbit Society and all additional donations help provide needy rabbits with food, housing, veterinary care, and enough time to find them permanent homes.

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

ALABAMA
205/942-9589

ARKANSAS
870/867-0179

CALIFORNIA
510/970-7575
(National)
707/964-7250
619/718-7777
916/863-9690
310/713-2478
650/994-1012

COLORADO
303/469-3240

FLORIDA
305/666-BUNN
813/891-6144

GEORGIA
678/526-8884

ILLINOIS
847/266-0068

INDIANA
317/767-7636

IOWA
563/326-3430

KANSAS
913/897-4412

KENTUCKY
859/291-1141

LOUISIANA
985/649-8990

MD/DC/NO VA
410/889-4104

MASSACHUSETTS
781/665-9962

MISSOURI
816/537-7601
636/349-0606

NEVADA
888/887-4010

NEW JERSEY
732/583-0278

NEW YORK
315/797-9835
914/337-6146

NORTH CAROLINA
910/798-0103

OHIO
740/797-7616
614/895-0004

OREGON
503/617-1625

PENNSYLVANIA/DE
302/683-9009
412/635-0660

RHODE ISLAND
401/623-1340

SOUTH CAROLINA
843/852-0277

TENNESSEE
865/ 856-0371

TEXAS
512/469-9809

UTAH
435/689-1664

VIRGINIA
434/831-1315

WASHINGTON
206/365-9105

WISCONSIN
608/232-7044

INTERNATIONAL

AUSTRALIA
612 9885 0925

CANADA/BC
604/612-7699

HONG KONG
rosy@rosybunny.com
9581-3632

ITALY
333-1234231

NATIONAL WEB SITE: www.rabbit.org

ADDITIONAL LOCAL NUMBER

CHAPTER HEADQUARTERS

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

Includes the semi-annual House Rabbit Journal.

USA: \$18 ___ Outside USA: \$25 ___ National-Local: \$33 ___

NAME

STREET NO.

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Check: U.S. bank only. Credit Card: Phone or E-mail

HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

148 Broadway, Richmond, California 94804



Living with a House Rabbit

Why a House Rabbit?

Perhaps you've just adopted your first rabbit, or maybe you already have a rabbit and would like more information to help you understand her better. The House Rabbit Society, a national nonprofit organization, recommends that you keep your rabbit in the house rather than outdoors. Rabbits are intelligent, social animals who need affection, and they can become wonderful companion animals if given a chance to interact with their human families.

The benefits of spay and neuter

Although most rabbits will use a litterbox, hormones may cause unneutered males and unspayed females to "mark territory." Spaying or neutering your rabbit improves litterbox habits, lessens chewing behavior, decreases territorial aggression, and gives your rabbit a happier, longer life. Have your male neutered at age 3-6 months depending on sexual maturity, and your female spayed at age 6-8 months, by an experienced rabbit veterinarian.

For rabbits more than 2 years old, get a veterinary checkup first.



Housetraining

Rabbits may have free run of the home. However, it's best for most—and necessary for some—to start with a cage or pen. To make cage/pen time learning time, fasten a litterbox to the fencing in the corner that your rabbit chooses for a “bathroom.” As soon as he uses the box consistently, you can give him some freedom. Place one or more large litterboxes in corners of the running area outside the pen.

Use only positive reinforcement (treats and praise)—never punishment

Bunny-proofing

Bunny-proofing your home is part of living with a house rabbit. It is natural for rabbits to chew on furniture, rugs, drapes, and, most deadly of all, electrical cords. Cords must be concealed so that the rabbit cannot reach them. Exposed cords can be encased in vinyl tubing (found at hardware stores). By splitting the tubing lengthwise with a utility knife the cord can be pushed inside it.

Give your rabbit enough attention, safe chewables, and toys, so that she is distracted from chewing furniture and rugs. A cardboard box stuffed with hay makes an inexpensive play box. Young rabbits (under a year) are more inclined to mischief and

require more confinement and/or bunny-proofing than mature rabbits.

House rabbits and other animals

House rabbits and indoor cats can get along fine, as do rabbits and well-mannered dogs. Dogs should be trained to respond to commands before being trusted with a free-running rabbit, and supervision is needed to control a dog's playful impulses (this is especially true for puppies). Adding a second rabbit is easiest if the rabbits are neutered/spayed adults, and they are introduced for short periods in an area unfamiliar to both rabbits.

Major Health Problems

Intestinal blockages: Because rabbits groom themselves constantly, they get furballs just as cats do. Unlike cats, however, rabbits cannot vomit, and swallowed hair along with low-fiber feed may cause a fatal blockage.

If your rabbit shows a decrease in appetite and in the size of droppings, get advice from a rabbit veterinarian.

Prevention: High fiber (hay) diet with fresh produce (add new foods gradually); plenty of exercise time/space—at least 30 hours a week; brushing and grooming so that less hair is swallowed; petroleum laxative if synthetics have been swallowed.

Bacterial balance: A rabbit's digestive tract is inhabited by healthful bacteria. If the “good” bacteria balance is upset by sweet, starchy or stale food or by a sudden change in diet, harmful bacteria can take over the digestive track and kill the rabbit.

Limit sweet treats to small amounts of fruit (no cookies or refined sugar). Keep all



rabbit food in a cool dry place. If your rabbit goes outside, check for pesticides and toxic plants. (A list is available from your local poison center.)

Infectious bacteria: Many rabbit diseases are caused by bacteria, not viruses, and can be treated with antibiotics. If your rabbit shows symptoms of a “cold,” take him to a veterinarian familiar with antibiotics that can be safely used in rabbits. A few drugs, such as Amoxicillin, should *not* be given to a rabbit, since there is risk of destroying good intestinal bacteria.

It's up to you: Find an experienced rabbit doctor before a problem develops. If your rabbit has been harassed by a predator, take him to a veterinarian even if no injuries are apparent.

When it is over 80°, spray your rabbit's ears with cool or place ice-filled containers in his resting area.

Regularly check eyes, nose, ears, teeth, weight, appetite, and droppings.

Danger Signs

Don't waste valuable time Call your veterinarian immediately if you see:

- Diarrhea with listlessness
- Sudden loss of appetite with bloat and abdominal gurgling
- Loss of appetite with labored breathing
- Loss of appetite with runny nose
- Head tilt
- Urine scald (inflamed skin due to wetness)
- Abnormal urine (with blood, mucus or sludge)
- Abscesses, lumps or swellings anywhere
- Any sudden behavior change