



Living Space

Rabbits need daily exercise, and should not be confined to a cage. They need somewhere to eat, hide, sleep, hop run, do their 'business', play, jump and dig! The more space your bunny has, the happier they will be. Our suggested **minimum** living space size is: 4 foot by 4 foot **xpen**, minimum of 24" high, with blankets and/or foam mats underneath for support. Please remember that these are an absolute minimum that we recommend. More is always better. **Rabbits do NOT belong in cages.**

Do not use wood shavings of any kind in your rabbit's living space. Paper fluff bedding such as Carefresh, or **fleece blankets** are recommended.

Dietary Needs

Rabbits require fresh vegetables every single day. A rough breakdown of a rabbit's dietary requirements is as follows: **80% Timothy Hay** (alfalfa hay is too rich in calcium and calories), **15% fresh, rabbit-safe vegetables** (a list is provided later on in this guide), with the remaining **5%** being made up of **kibble (pellets)** and treats. Feeding your rabbit a proper diet will help to ensure a longer, happier and healthier life.

Hay

Should be fed in **unlimited** amounts. The fibre in the hay is essential to promoting proper digestion and the prevention of hairballs. Lack of a proper amount of hay in their diet can lead to GI Stasis, a very deadly condition for rabbits in many cases. Rabbit's teeth are constantly growing, and eating the hay helps to wear down these teeth so that they don't overgrow and cause other health issues.

Be sure to store your hay in a cool, dry place, and discard any hay that may become wet or

damp, due to the possibility of mold forming. You can place the hay in a hay rack, or you can try stuff a toilet paper tube full of hay, creating a puzzle for your bunny to enjoy while they get the nutrition from it that they need. Avoid the use of alfalfa hay in rabbits over the age of 6 months old. Timothy Hay, Orchard Grass, Oat Hay, Botanical Hay and so forth are all delicious options for your bunny to enjoy.

Pellets

Ensure that you are feeding your rabbit a good, high quality kibble. "Lucky Charms" (with the colored pieces) and lower quality kibbles can cause digestive and stomach problems for your rabbit. We recommend **Oxbow brand pellets**. Remember that these should be fed in very limited amounts. Overfeeding pellets can lead to obesity, heart and liver disease, chronic diarrhea, kidney disease and a whole array of other health issues.

The following is a recommended amount of pellets for your rabbit, per day. Even if they finish their pellets, do not refill the bowl until the next day.

Up to 8 months of age is one of the few times a rabbit should receive an **unlimited supply of pellets**. This is due to the fact that they are still growing, and the calories are required. The other instance would be for **pregnant or nursing moms**.

Rabbit Body Weight	Daily Portion of Pellets
2-4 pounds	1/8 of a cup
5-7 pounds	1/4 of a cup
8-10 pounds	1/2 of a cup
11-15 pounds	3/4 of a cup



Vegetables and Fruits

Your rabbit requires **fresh vegetables** on a **daily basis**. These assist with digestive tract functions, and help to keep your rabbit's intestinal tract in good shape.

When you first introduce your rabbit to fresh greens, be sure to start off in small amounts, and gradually increase the amount being given every few days. If at any point adding a new food to their diet leads to diarrhea, remove that item from their diet.

It is recommended that you feed a **minimum of 3 different rabbit-safe vegetables every day**. Rabbits should be fed approximately 1 loosely packed cup per 5 pounds of body weight, twice a day.

Fruits can be fed in **limited quantities, 1-2 times per week** as a **treat**. Fruits such as strawberries, papaya, pineapple, apples, pears and melon are among the favorites for many rabbits.

Common Ailments to Look for

RESPIRATORY: Rabbits have a very delicate respiratory tract. "Snuffles" can be contracted very easily. Snuffles can be acute or chronic in nature. **Symptoms include:** runny nose, watery eyes and difficult breathing.

BONES: Rabbits are very fragile animals, and fractures can occur very easily. Ensure that you are **careful** when picking up and/or handling your rabbits.

Safe in unlimited amounts	Safe in moderation	Avoid altogether
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • romaine lettuce • red leaf lettuce • green leaf lettuce do NOT feed iceberg lettuce! • cilantro • dandelion greens • parsley • clover • carrot tops • beet tops • escarole • endive • basil • mint • raspberry leaves • radicchio • bell peppers • arugula • wheatgrass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • kale • spinach • carrot • strawberries • papaya • pineapple • apples • pears • melon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • broccoli • cauliflower • corn • avocado • potatoes • onions • iceberg lettuce • beans • dried peas • nuts • rhubarb • cabbage



TEETH: As mentioned previously, a rabbit's teeth **never stop growing**. If a rabbit's teeth become too vasty overgrown, it can lead to a wide variety of health problems, including ulcers, abscesses, eye problems and upper respiratory infection. Chewing hay will grind down a rabbit's teeth to a safe level in the majority of cases. Rabbits have about 28 teeth, and they grow a whopping 12cm a year!

GI TRACT: Rabbits have a very delicate GI (gastrointestinal) tract. Rabbits can go into what is called GI Stasis. GI Stasis is a very serious problem, and requires immediate veterinary care. The **first noticeable symptom** of GI Stasis is likely to be that the rabbit suddenly stops eating or pooping properly. Both of these symptoms can be fatal within 24-48 hours, so please seek **immediate medical attention** for your rabbit.

NAILS: Just like dogs and cats, rabbits require **regular nail trimmings**. It is very similar to trimming those of a dog or a cat in that you want to avoid cutting too close to the quick (vein) when doing so. Neglecting proper care of your rabbit's nails can result in sore hocks, foot pain and deformities.

Miscellaneous Information

- Do not keep your rabbit isolated away from your family. Bunnies need **social interaction** just like we do. Keep your rabbit in a high traffic area when at all possible

- Do NOT use clay cat litter in their litter boxes. It is extremely dusty, and can cause a cement-like blockage if ingested. You can use a brand such as Yesterday's News. A much cheaper alternative are **wood stove pellets** from your local hardware store. Both hardwood and softwood will get the job done.
- Rabbits enjoy playing with **toys**. Anything they can push around is a treat for them. They also love cardboard to munch on and play with. You can try taking an empty toilet paper tube and stuff it with hay. It creates a fun little game for your rabbits well getting them the nutrition that they need.
- Rabbits will **chew through cords**, which can cause damage to your house and its contents, fire hazards and can also seriously hurt your bunny! Get your cords up and out of the way or cover them.

Useful Websites

The following websites are some of for taking care of your rabbit!

Zooh Corner Rabbit Rescue mybunny.org

House Rabbit Society rabbit.org

Binky Bunny binkybunny.com

Oxbow Animal Health oxbowanimalhealth.com

Pet MD petmd.com

Bunny Approved bunnyapproved.com

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us!

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