



Rabbit Care Basics

Contents

- Housing
- Food & Water
- Enrichment
- Free Roaming
- Veterinary Care

- Grooming
- Shopping List
- Trouble Shooting Part 1
- Trouble Shooting Part 2



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Housing



Providing a safe home and environment will make your rabbit comfortable and happy!

At a minimum:

An **x-pen** provides a safe space for your bunny if free-roaming is not ideal in your home.

Providing a **full size litter box** with rabbit friendly litter such as pine pellets, paper, etc.



Use **heavy ceramic food and water dishes** as bunnies like to flip bowls!

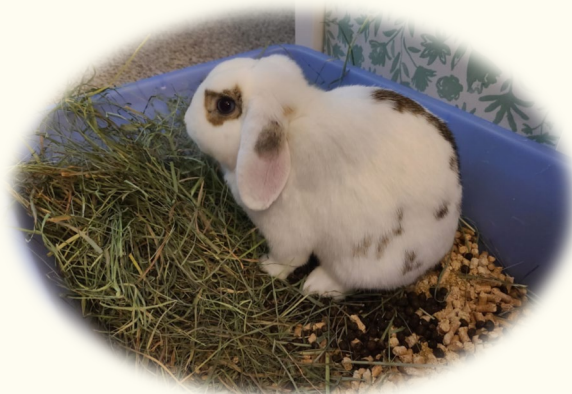
Flooring needs to be solid such as **carpet or padding** as needed.

Temperature controlled room with adequate lighting, but not direct sunlight! Ceramic tiles may also help for your bunny to have a cool place to lay.

Offer **hiding places** such as a box, cat house, etc.

Bunnies require enrichment including **toys and interactive activities**.

Bunny-proof areas that could pose a danger such as electrical cords and toxic plants, but also to protect furniture, baseboard, carpets, etc.





Keep your rabbit healthy and hydrated with these diet tips!



Food & Water

Absolutely no pellets with fruits, seeds, or other treats!

A proper diet includes:

Timothy-based pellets

1/4 cup per day depending on weight
(follow instructions from your exotic vet)

Example pellets include Oxbow Essentials, Sherwood Adult, and Mazuri

Hay

Provide hay 24/7

Examples of hay types includes Timothy, Orchard, and Oat

Water

Provide access to fresh water at all times

Leafy Greens

Daily serving of fresh leafy greens





Enrichment

Give your bunny some toys and activities to keep them entertained and stimulated for both their physical and mental well-being!



Providing a variety of toys, activities, and environments helps prevent boredom, destructive behaviors, and stress.

Rabbits should not be confined to cages all day.

They need at least **3 to 4 hours** of supervised free-roam time daily to hop, stretch, and explore. This exercise is crucial for maintaining a healthy weight, preventing joint stiffness, and encouraging natural behaviors like digging and foraging.



- You can buy toys or make them! Examples include:**
- ❖ Cardboard Boxes
 - ❖ Toilet/paper towel rolls
 - ❖ Blankets and towels
 - ❖ Untreated wood
 - ❖ Wicker balls/baskets
 - ❖ Timothy rope
 - ❖ Stackable baby cups
 - ❖ Other rabbit safe toys

Always make sure materials are free from toxins, small parts, or anything that could harm your bunny if chewed.

Free roaming also encourages mental stimulation as rabbits explore their surroundings!

Cardboard Boxes



Stackable Cups



Snuffle Mat



Free Roaming

Letting your bunny free roam is a great way to let your rabbit's personality bloom!

Free roaming is a wonderful way of experiencing the joys of being a rabbit owner!

At a minimum, if kept in an x-pen, rabbits need several hours of supervised exercise in a rabbit-proofed room.



Where your rabbit is allowed to roam, make sure it to cover all the bases including covering or removing any exposed cords, blocking off restricted areas using gates or an x-pen, covering carpet corners using plastic mats or tile.



Ceramic Tile



While supervising your rabbit, if any additional areas need to be protected, additional materials include plywood, cardboard, PVC piping, or anything you may have on hand that is rabbit safe!



X-Pen



PVC Piping



Cord Protectors



Veterinary Care

Rabbits must see a rabbit-savvy exotic vet!

Annual Exam

A yearly exam is necessary to ensure health and wellbeing. This includes any vaccines, bloodwork, teeth checks, etc.



The RHDV2 vaccine is due annually!

When to visit a vet outside of normal exams

- Has not been eating or drinking
- Displays bowel changes such as reduced or no droppings, or small/misshaped droppings
- Lethargy or any unusual or different behavior
- Any injuries or infections
- Even when you are just unsure why your rabbit is acting strangely

GI Stasis is the most common medical emergency in rabbits. (reduced/halted gut motility)

This may be a visit to your regular rabbit vet or an emergency vet as necessary!



To keep your rabbit comfortable on the trip to the vet, make sure your rabbit is in a secured carrier with a blanket/towel for stability and some hay to munch.

*When in doubt,
call your vet!*



Don't forget to ask your vet questions!



Good hygiene will keep your rabbit healthy and looking good!

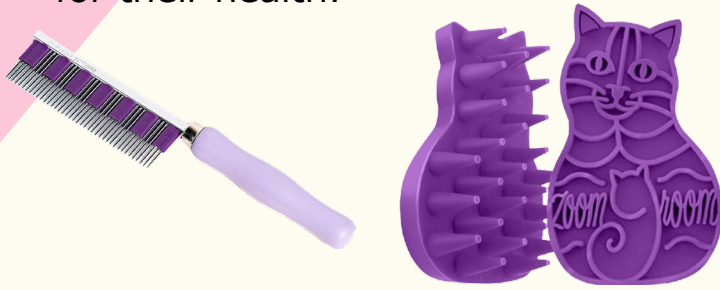
Grooming



Brushing

Rabbits fur need to be brushed or combed frequently! Rabbits clean themselves and can ingest their hair so routine brushing will help keep them from ingesting too much.

Additionally, longer hair such as angoras may need to be shaved and or brushed daily. Keeping their fur clear of mats and knots is very important for their health!



See which brush works best for your bunny's fur!

HoppyHomes4Bunnies offers a grooming service for an additional fee if you are not comfortable grooming them on your own!

Nail Trimming

Nails should be trimmed about once per month or every other month depending on how fast their nails grow.

If you are not comfortable cutting your rabbits nails, please ask a rabbit savvy vet to show you or HoppyHomes4Bunnies can provide assistance with trimming!



Using a nail trimmer with a light helps to see the quick before trimming!

Rabbits should never be submerged in water! Spot cleaning only as needed!



Shopping List

Having the basics ready before you bring your rabbit home will help them feel safe and comfortable!

- Exercise pen (at least 12 sq ft)
- Large litter box (*cat box is best*)
- Litter (*paper litter or pine pellets, no pine shavings!*)
- Food and water dishes (*heavy ceramic*)
- Hay (*Timothy, Orchard, or Oat Hay*)
- Timothy-based pellets (*Oxbow Essentials, Sherwood Adult Rabbit Food, Mazuri*)
- Leafy greens
- A variety of toys (*untreated wood, wicker balls, timothy rope, blankets, towels, paper towel/toilet paper rolls stuffed with hay*)
- Hiding place
- Nail clippers
- Comb



Trouble Shooting

Part 1



WE GOT OUR BUNNY AS A BABY AND
NOW THEY'VE GONE WILD

If your once sweet bunny has suddenly turned into a zooming, grunting, nipping ball of chaos.....

they've probably hit puberty!

Most rabbits reach sexual maturity between 3-6 months old, and with it comes a burst of territorial, hormonal behavior that can feel like your bunny has a whole new personality.

But don't worry ~ it's normal, and it's manageable.

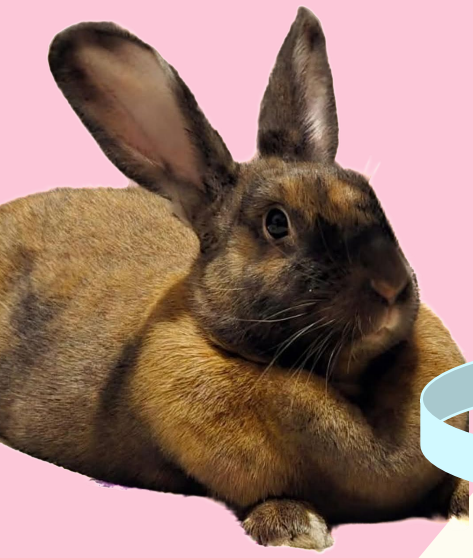
*Sometimes it's another medical issue, but more often than not it's time for your bunny to be **spayed/neutered!***

Talk to an exotic vet about spaying/neutering!

Metro Richmond Area:

Wellesley Animal Hospital	Henrico, VA
River City Veterinary Hospital	Midlothian, VA
Helping Hands (<i>low-cost surgery</i>)	Richmond, VA
John Rolfe Animal Hospital	Henrico, VA
West End Veterinary Hospital	Richmond, VA
Broad Street Veterinary Hospital	Richmond, VA
Varina Veterinary Clinic	Henrico, VA





Trouble Shooting

Part 2

Someone in the household allergic?



Don't panic! Many bunny lovers manage allergies and still keep their pets.

Check the source: It's often not the bunny but the hay (especially timothy). Try orchard hay—it's gentler for many.

Keep it clean: Vacuum with a HEPA filter, wash hands after handling, and create bunny-free zones, especially in bedrooms.

Filter the air: Use an air purifier and groom your bunny regularly (preferably outdoors or in a well-ventilated area).

Protect yourself: Wear a mask and gloves when handling hay or cleaning.

Talk to a doctor: We're not medical professionals. If symptoms are serious, always consult your doctor.



Many of us at Hoppy Homes live with mild allergies and still enjoy our bunnies--- you're not alone!

