

Rabbits

Rabbits have an average lifespan of eight to 12 years.

Follow this guide to make sure your bunny lives a happy life in your home.

Food

Rabbit teeth are always growing so they need food that makes them continuously chew.

There are two important parts of a rabbit's diet:

1. Good quality fresh grass or grass hay (e.g., Timothy, Oaten, Wheaten, Pasture, Paddock, Meadow or Ryegrass hays).
2. Two packed cups of leafy greens and vegetables for each kilogram of body weight. For example, if the rabbit weighs three kilograms, they need to be fed six cups.

Rabbits should eat:

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|--------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------------------|
| ✓ Basil | ✓ Celery | ✓ Dill | ✓ Other Asian greens |
| ✓ Bok Choy | ✓ Coriander | ✓ Endive | ✓ Parsley |
| ✓ Broccoli | ✓ Dandelion | ✓ Kale | ✓ Spinach leaves |
| ✓ Brussels sprouts | ✓ Dark leafed lettuce | ✓ Mint | |

Rabbits can have fruit or small chunks of 'sweet' vegetables as rare treats, such as apple and carrots.

Rabbits should never eat:

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|---------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------|
| ✗ Beans | ✗ Cereals | ✗ Nuts | ✗ Sugar |
| ✗ Biscuits | ✗ Chocolate | ✗ Peas | ✗ Sweets |
| ✗ Breads | ✗ Corn | ✗ Seeds | |
| ✗ Breakfast Cereals | ✗ Grains | ✗ Some garden plants | |

Water

Always provide fresh, clean water. It's best to use a water bottle drinker so the water stays clean.

Shelter

Rabbits will need to live in a hutch that has two parts. One part must be completely covered to protect the rabbit from the weather and predators. It will act as a safe sleeping place. The other part should have mosquito-proof wire mesh that allows fresh air and sunlight pour in.



Inside the hutch, the rabbit will need a 'burrow area' they can hide inside, such as a box or straw. Cover the floor with bedding material, such as straw, grass hay or shredded paper.

Rabbits should never be left in the sun. If it gets too hot inside the hutch, leave frozen water bottles inside to help keep them cool.

Grooming

Rabbits should be brushed regularly, especially if they have long hair. If their toenails are too long, a veterinarian or groomer should clip them.

Hygiene

The hutch should be cleaned out every week and water should always be clean. Make sure to regularly change the bedding, throwing out any poo and leftover food.

Health

Rabbits need to be vaccinated every year to protect them from diseases spread among wild rabbits.

Rabbits should be checked by a veterinarian if they have:

- Any scratches or cuts
- Runny poo
- Sneezing
- Weepy or watery eyes

Enrichment

Rabbits need plenty of exercise so give them lots of opportunities to run, jump and dig every day. Let them out of the hutch into a safe, protected grassy area where they can move around. Supervise them at all times so they don't burrow and escape or be attacked by cats or dogs.

Rabbits can also be housetrained to use a kitty litter tray so they can exercise safely inside your house.

Rabbits should have toys to investigate and play with. Don't put them all in your rabbit's hutch at once and just leave them there. Instead, rotate them so they stay interesting and fun!

Desexing

Rabbits should be desexed so they don't breed unexpectedly! Desexing rabbits reduce the chance of getting some serious diseases, and makes them happier and healthier!

For more information about rabbits, visit kb.rspca.org.au/55/.