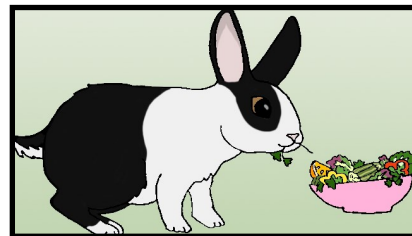




LWAS Animal Care Sheets

Rabbit



Rabbits are herbivores, they require lots of exercise and enrichment to be happy and don't typically enjoy being held.

Quick Facts

Average size: 6 lbs **Diet:** Hay, greens, veggies **Handling:** Experienced

Average Lifespan: 8-12 years **Enclosure:** large pen or free-roam

Housing

Type: Rabbits do not belong in cages or hutches full-time. The best way to keep a rabbit is a large pen such as an "X-Pen", and allow them supervised exercise time outside of the pen daily. For rabbit who can't free-roam, a larger pen is necessary. Rabbits are good at jumping so a fence height of at least 4 feet is recommended.

Population: Spayed and neutered rabbits can live together in bonded pairs and groups, unfixed rabbits tend to be more territorial. Rabbits should be fully bonded before being left alone together.

Substrate: We keep our rabbits on the bare floor with fleece blankets for bedding and a litterbox with paper litter in the corner. Most rabbits will use a litterbox, especially when it is kept in the same corner as their hay. At home, sheets of vinyl flooring can make great floors for a rabbit pen.

Furniture: Rabbits need a hiding spot, which can be as simple as a cardboard box with a hole cut. In fact, rabbits love cardboard as a chew toy and need constant access to chewable materials. Hay bags or boxes can be used to keep hay fresher and cleaner.

Enrichment: Rabbits are smart, busy creatures who need to dig, chew, shred and destroy! If you don't give them things to take out these behaviors on, they will take it out on your furniture! Hay mats, cardboard boxes and tubes, tunnels, and dig boxes are all great rabbit enrichment.

Temperature/Humidity: Rabbits prefer a cool, dry environment. They should never be over 75F and should be kept out of direct sunlight.

Handling

Rabbits are prey animals and most don't want to be handled. A rabbit who is very comfortable at home and with its owners may enjoy snuggling eventually, but they are not typically "cuddly" with humans.

The best way to bond with your rabbit is to sit/lie on the floor and offer snacks and gentle forehead pets. Rabbits enjoy having freedom of movement and a safe space to run to when they are nervous.

When picking up a rabbit, scoop them into your arm like a football with their face in the crook of your arm, supporting the back end firmly. A struggling rabbit can easily break it's spine so handling by children is generally not recommended. Burrito-ing in a towel is a safer way to carry a rabbit.

Grooming

Rabbits groom themselves but require nail trims. Long-haired breeds may require brushing.