Bunny Survival Guide

From Miss Tay’s Rabbitry

**Water:** Rabbits must have unlimited clean water at all times. Always provide a full water bottle (or bowl) to a new bunny.

**Hay:** Its good to feed your bunny hay daily. This material stabilized the digestive system. I use Orchard hay, but your bunny can have Timothy hay as well.

**Pellets:** Pellets are a good daily source of vitamins, minerals and other nutrients. Be sure to limit the amount of pellets since they will make your bunny fat. For Holland Lops feed 1/3 level cup per day, morning or night. To determine if your bunny if too fat or too skinny is by simply running your back lightly over their spine. If you can’t feel the spine, your bunny is fat. Limiting food intake to 1/4 cup a day can change this. If you can feel the spine, your bunny is too skinny. Increasing food intake to 1/3 twice a day or always keep the bowl full until you no longer feel the spine.

**Treats:** Don’t buy treats from the pet store, as those are too risky. You can feed your rabbit fresh fruit and veggies from the store. Fruit; strawberries, apples, and bananas. Veggies; kale, cilantro, and carrots. Always wash them before feeding your bunny these treats. You can also give 1 tbsp. of old fashioned oatmeal, cheerios, and shredded wheat.

**Minerals:** Even though the rabbit food has lots of minerals and vitamins, your rabbit still needs to have either a salt or mineral wheel.

**Temperature:** Rabbits and heat don’t mix. Don’t let your bunny stay in temperatures 80 degrees and higher. If you can’t move your bunny to a cooler place, simply place a frozen water bottle twice the size of your bunny in the cage with them and put a fan on them. You can also have a spray bottle with the mister part on and spray your bunny down to cool them off. Try to keep your rabbit out of direct sunlight. Rabbits can’t sweat, so they just get hotter and hotter.

**Foot care:** If your cage has a wire bottom separating the rabbit from their feces, make sure that there is some kind of padding or guard to protect the feet. You can put a piece of tile, carpet or even a blanket in the cage for your bunny to stand on and protect their feet.

**Toys and playtime:** Toys are essential for a rabbit. Cardboard and wood is good for your bunny’s teeth. I use an oatmeal tube for their play. This gives them a toy that they can run through the tube, and chew on the outside. Its also essential for a rabbit to have plenty of exercise. Allowing 1 hour of roaming around outside the cage is good.

**Things that I can provide for cheap**

* Food

- Purina Rabbit Show Chow Pellets - $5 for a 5lb bag (last about 30 days)

- Old Fashion Oatmeal - $1/pound

- Orchard Hay - $2 for one flake of hay

* Salt wheel - $1/wheel
* Medications

- Dewormer - $1 (bunny can get this after 6 months of age, unless you can see worms in the feces)

* Trimming nails - $2 (should be done at least every other month)
* Genital cleaning - $2 (this is done every 6 months)