

CARING FOR YOUR RABBIT



MerckVetManual.com



HOUSING

- Confine rabbits to safe quarters when unsupervised.
- Select a hutch that is easy to clean, able to withstand gnawing, and equipped with a feed hopper and watering system.

Note: Rabbits can be trained to use a litter box, and can be housed outdoors if provided with shelter from the elements and predators.



DIET

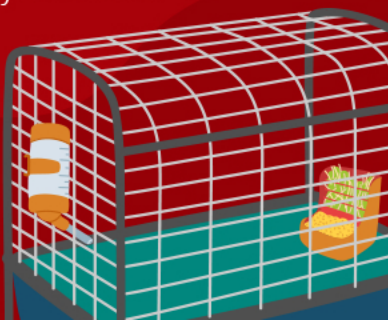
- Provide pelleted rabbit feed for good nutrition at a reasonable cost.
- Have fresh, clean water available at all times.
- Ensure adult rabbits have timothy hay available at all times.
- Offer greens, which should not be the whole diet but are an important addition.

Note: Healthy rabbits eat their cecotropes, or "soft droppings," directly from the anus.



EXERCISE + ENRICHMENT

- Allow your rabbit some time each day to roam freely (under constant supervision).
- Provide a roomy cage with space to move around. This will help maintain physical and emotional health.
- Offer a variety of toys and items on which to gnaw.



HANDLING

Note: Not all rabbits enjoy being handled.

- When picking up or holding a rabbit, support its hind end and legs to prevent injury to the back.
- Never hold a rabbit by the ears.
- Ask your veterinarian about other methods used to handle rabbits.

