Petware House

Your Neighborhood Pet Store Since 1991

House

Rabbit

Scientific Name: Oryctolagus Cuniculus

Brief Description:

Rabbits are intelligent, affectionate and social animals that need daily interaction with humans or other rabbits. However, chewing is a rabbit's favorite hobby, so make sure you home is rabbit proofed. Rabbits should be spayed or neutered by a veterinarian, which helps them live longer and become better companions.



Average Size: The average size of a rabbit is approximately twelve inches in length.

Life Span: Rabbits, with proper care can live ten or more years.

Feeding:

- Fresh food and water should always be available.
- Rabbits love to eat pears, grapes, strawberries, dates, raisins, sprouts and carrots.
- Fruits and vegetables, not consumed within twenty-four hours should be removed.
- Many house plants are toxic and grass may contain pesticides, do not feed these to your pet.
- Treats should not exceed ten percent of total intake.
- Do not feed chocolate, alcohol or caffeine.
- Provide fresh, de-chlorinated water, changed daily.
- Use a high-quality rabbit food containing a minimum of twelve—to-sixteen percent protein, two percent fat and a maximum of twenty-percent fiber.

7747 Lima Road. Fort Wayne, Indiana. U.S.A. 46818

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Telephone: (260) 489-5151 Email: infoapetwarehousefw.com

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Housing:

- -Rabbits acclimate well to average household temperatures.
- Avoid extreme temperature changes
- Habitat should not be left in direct sunlight or drafty area.
- Enclosure should be at least four times the size of the rabbit, escape proof and have a solid surface.
- Provide the largest possible enclosure for your bunny.
- We suggest using an indoor play yard, if your home Is not bunny proof.
- One-to-two inches of bedding should be placed in the habitat.
 - o Use pelleted or recycled products, cedar-bedding may cause harm.
- -Rabbits can be trained to use a litter box.
- Do not house your rabbit with different types of animals.

Maintenance:

- Remove wet spots daily.
- Change bedding weekly or as required.
- Wash all items in the habitat, regularly.
- Clean the habitat once a week by scrubbing it with mild soap and water.
- Rinse habitat and any washed items and return to enclosure.

Temperatures: Stable room temperature is adequate.

Humidity: No special requirements.

Lighting: use room lighting as needed.



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Basic Reproductive:

- Keep your buck and does separate.
- Three or hour does can be kept together in an appropriate size hutch.
- Use one buck per ten does.
- Breed does at their maturity.
 - o Six months of age for small to medium breeds
 - o Nine months-to-twelve months of age for large or giant breeds.
- Pick the doe to be bred and place her in her own hutch for two weeks before mating.
- Place the doe in buck's pen for mating. Place her with the buck twice, in the morning, then the evening.
- Remove the doe after each mating.
- Place a nest box in the nutch for twenty-eight days after breeding.
- Gestation period is about thirty-two days.

Notes and Comments:

Rabbits are most active during the day and prefer to be handled on the floor. They like to rub their chin on objects as a way of marking things. They also thump their legs to signal danger.

Rabbit's noses constantly twitch so they can smell even the weakest scents. A male and female rabbit will produce offspring unless they are spayed or neutered.

Finally, a male rabbits should not be housed together. Rabbits Molt or shed their coat, at least twice per year.

