



Now That You're A Rabbit Person!

To help keep buns happy and healthy, lots of info can be found on the web.

For children, a delightful experience can be found in The Cyberbitz in Kind Planet, www.kindplanet.org/bitz.html

A great resource for youth is the Youth House Rabbit Club, www.houserabbit.org/Youth/

A lot of care info is found on the House Rabbit Society's web site, www.rabbit.org

For support and lots of info we highly recommend two mailing lists. Fellow rabbit people are available to share experiences through House Bun. To subscribe go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HouseBun> Another list is Ether Bun, a very high volume list. To subscribe go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/etherbun/>

The bible of Rabbit Care is the House Rabbit Handbook. This book is a life saver and comfort. It can be purchased at Borders or online where a portion of the sale supports rabbits of The Sanctuary, www.kindplanet.org/rabbits.html

Information is the key to a happy, healthy rabbit. If you have questions, please contact us. We're here to help!

The Sanctuary
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Rabbit Care

Brought To You By



Saving 'Bits And
Other Boos
One At A Time!

www.kindplanet.org

Handling

Generally, rabbits are not fond of being picked up. Some picked up a lot as a baby may tolerate it more than others. Placing a hand on the back of a rabbit sends a signal to the rabbit that she is about to be carried off. As prey animals, this is a danger signal. To gain rabbit's trust, sit in front of her and let her come to you on the ground where she feels safe. Petting her nose and head tells her you are bunny friendly. That is where rabbits most frequently groom each other. Support rear legs when picking up a rabbit to give her a sense of security.

Friends and Neighbors

Rabbits are very social creatures. Though they prefer the company of rabbits, they will bond with other animals. Cats, dogs and guinea pigs have all been known to be the best friend of a 'bit or two. Spay or neuter surgery is necessary to maintain a happy relationship with any species, including other rabbits.

Rabbits are territorial. They don't like intruders. When bringing new animals or people into your rabbit's life, give your rabbit an opportunity to meet them on her own terms. People will win a rabbit over allowing the rabbit to come to them. Introduce animals cautiously. For more tips, please be sure and contact us.



Yes, Rabbits Can Be Houstrained!

House training a rabbit is very possible, though patience is required. Rabbits will automatically choose a section of their cage to be used as the potty. Placing a litter box there is the first step in training.

Choosing the right litter is very important. Cedar shavings release a phenol gas when urine hits it, which causes liver damage. Pine shavings have been linked to cancer and respiratory illness. Safe alternatives include the product Carefresh, Timothy hay and wood pellets.

Supervision is very important when houstraining. Putting a rabbit in her box when she makes a mistake helps her learn good toilet habits. Rabbits may leave droppings about to "claim" the territory. If your rabbit does this, pick the droppings up and place them in the box. She will soon get the idea. If new people or animals move in, rabbits may have a short lapse in toilet habits. She is simply making sure that everyone knows this is her house! Urinating outside the box may indicate a health problem, and a vet visit is called for.

Some rabbits need more than one litter box. If your rabbit chooses a second toilet area, put a box there!

A Happy Home

Whether inside or out, rabbits need a place to call home where they feel secure. The size of the home depends on the time they spend inside. The more time in, the larger the home. If a rabbit is out during the day and housed in a cage at night, an enclosure that is three times as wide as the rabbit and long enough so that the rabbit can lay down, stretched out, three times is adequate. The cage should be tall enough for a rabbit to stand up on hind legs. A cage must be secure and made out of welded wire. Chicken wire can cause injury to a rabbit's mouth. The floor should not be completely made of wire. This causes sores on the bottom of their feet. Some suggest plywood boards. These contain chemicals that may cause illness. Carpet and vinyl flooring will be chewed on, which



can create a digestive block. A safe alternative is sea grass mats. These inexpensive floor coverings can be found at Pier One or Cost Plus. There are many alternatives to cages. Contact us for suggestions. Whatever you choose, add a hide box and toys to make it feel like a home instead of a prison. Letting Rabbit enter and exit on her own to give her a sense of safety. Rabbits with freedom to run about a "bunny proofed" house will often return to the cage when it's veggie time! For tips on "bunny proofing" please feel free to contact us. Bunny proofing protects your home and your rabbit.