

Adopting a rabbit is an incredibly exciting experience, but for your new pet it can be a big adjustment. Follow these tips to help ease you and your rabbit's transition into your new life together.

1 manage expectations

Your new rabbit has just had their world turned upside down! A new home is a wonderful thing, but it can take some time for them to get adjusted. Don't worry if your rabbit is skittish, nervous, hesitant to be pet, or has a few accidents while they are getting used to their new environment. Rabbits are prey animals, which mean they are naturally nervous and skittish, and it can take time and patience for them to trust you. But don't worry, you have your whole lives ahead of you to build a beautiful friendship!

2 setting up for success

The way you set up your rabbit's home can greatly affect how they adjust to their new space. If you can, try to replicate the set up they had prior to adoption. Putting their litter boxes, food and water in a similar layout will help your bunny get adjusted to where their most important things are. Make sure your bunny has a litter box that is big enough for them to hang out in (as some rabbits choose to do so), and give them two to start if space allows or if accidents are persistent. If your bunny is going to be allowed outside of its enclosure, make sure you have "bunny proofed" your space and that it is free from chewable wires or other dangers. Giving your rabbit lots of space will make it feel less threatened when someone enters it, as rabbits can be territorial at times. More space will make your bunny feel comfortable and secure!

3 go slow

Remember, rabbits tend to be skittish by nature, so going slow will help you to gain your rabbit's trust. To start, bring a book into your rabbit's pen and have some reading time, or watch a movie on your tablet! This will give your rabbit a chance to explore you at their own pace. Rabbits are curious, so they will often give in to temptation and come to sniff you if you are quiet and patient.

