

## housing

Rabbits are fun loving, energetic and curious creatures that require adequate space to meet their needs. As domestic rabbits are different than wild rabbits, they are not equipped to live outdoors and should live inside, with you! Most rabbit cages on the market today are unfortunately not large enough to appropriately house rabbits, unless used in conjunction with a pen. The ARLNH recommends the use of an 4x4 foot exercise pen, as this allows for space for your rabbit to jump, stretch and play. Giving your rabbit more space allows for larger separation between litter box and living space, which will help your rabbit keep their space clean! Using a waterproof table cloth or childrens play mats at the bottom of your pen can protect your floors from any accidents. Be sure not to leave slippery surfaces in your enclosure, as rabbits do not have paw pads! The ARLNH recommends heavy ceramic water bowls over water bottles, as most available water bottles are too small for adult rabbits.

## diet

Timothy hay is the most important part of an adult rabbit's diet. Hay should be available to them at all times. Rabbits also need 1-2 cups of leafy greens daily. Spinach, kale, romaine or greenleaf lettuce, chard, parsley, collard or carrot greens, and bok choy are all acceptable leafy greens for rabbits to munch on. Rabbits can also have a small amount of fruit as a treat, but be careful, rabbits can get overweight too! Carrots and bell peppers are heavy in sugar too, so only feed them as a small treat! Rabbits can also have 1/4 cup of food pellets once a day. Please make sure you purchase a food pellet that does not have dried fruit, nuts or seed mixed in, as these are not as nutritious or healthy for rabbits. Look for plain, green pellets! Pellets are the leading cause of obesity in domestic rabbits, so if your rabbit begins looking a little too round, speak to your veterinarian about switching to a hay and vegetable diet.

## litter box

Make sure to start with an appropriately sized litter box. Rabbits must be able to sit and turn around comfortably in their litter boxes, so corner boxes are often too small. Cat litter boxes are most often the perfect size for rabbits! Fill your box with a paper or wood based litter or pellet and cover with a layer of fresh hay. Rabbits poop where they eat, so keeping their food in their litter box helps keep your bunny clean! Don't worry, it is not unsanitary and it works for them. A hay feeder can also be clipped to your pen above the litter box, so that your rabbit still sits in their litter box while eating.

## enrichment

Rabbits are intelligent creatures and love a challenge or a new experience! It is important to give your rabbits toys, they love wooden chew toys and small plastic stacking cups. Food puzzle toys can work great for rabbits, try feeding your bunny's pellets in a treat ball! Hide small treats in your rabbit's litter box or in a crumpled up blanket and watch them find it.

## health

Yearly vet visits are never a bad idea for pet rabbits. Dental health and gut health are the most important things to keep an eye on for domestic rabbits. Rabbits should be eating and pooping all day long, so if they are not, a vet visit is in order. Drooling and eye watering can be signs of dental problems, which need veterinary attention. Critical Care is a wonderful product to keep on hand to help rabbits with a lack of appetite.