

SO YOU'VE ADOPTED A RABBIT... HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED!

To help you start off on the right “paw,” here are some things your new rabbit should have ready at home! Please note, however, that each rabbit has their own individual needs, so preferences may differ from rabbit to rabbit!

Food

While staying with us, your rabbit has been fed _____ brand pellets, and getting ¼ cup daily. We also provide fresh vegetables and fruits to our rabbits daily. Your adoption counselor will provide you a list of vegetables and fruits that are safe for bunnies to have. Please note that pelleted food is the best food for bunnies, and anything else should be given in moderation. When purchasing rabbit food, we recommend a food that is a basic pellet diet, without any extras such as seeds or dried fruit, which can be high in sugar.

Hay

There are two types of hay given to our bunnies: timothy hay and field hay. Most bunnies enjoy munching on timothy hay, which provides extra nutrients for your rabbit. Field hay is more commonly used in their litter box.

Hay can be purchased at local pet supply stores, some farms, or online from websites such as SmallPetSelect.com.

Habitat

While staying with us, your rabbit has been housed in an exercise pen, also known as an x-pen. Found at most pet supply stores, and online, they are approximately 4' x 4', and come in several different heights, ranging from 3 feet to 5 feet tall. In some cases, we find that a rabbit is able to jump out of their pen (regardless of height), so they may need a lid on their pen so that they don't injure themselves jumping out. We do not recommend using anything smaller for your rabbit, as they need plenty of space. Most pet stores market smaller, plastic habitats or hutches for your rabbit, which are actually most suited for guinea pigs. Ideally, your rabbit should be able to hop three or more times across their pen, and stand all the way up without their ears touching the top of their habitat. Bunnies should also enjoy regular play time outside of their enclosure.

We recommend using ceramic bowls for your rabbit's food and water. Smaller ceramic bowls are great for a rabbit food bowl. Larger, wider bowls are excellent as a water bowl for your rabbit. It's more natural for your rabbit to drink from a bowl, than from a bottle, which is why we recommend using a bowl for your bunny at home. Heavy ceramic bowls also keep rabbits from flipping them over and making a mess!

Most rabbits enjoy having a house or a box to hide in. From plastic houses that look like igloos to simple cardboard boxes, your rabbit may enjoy having a spot to hide in. Cardboard boxes also allow your rabbit to munch to their heart's content without the risk of ingesting a foreign body.

Toys and Enrichment

Rabbits love to chew, so providing them with toys that they can chew on is essential! Because their teeth are constantly growing, bunnies will always need something to chew on to help trim their teeth. Apple tree branches and paper towel rolls are great chew toys. Plastic stacking cups marketed towards children are a big hit with our rabbits here, as well as plastic teething keys! Some rabbits also enjoy plastic ball toys stuffed with their favorite vegetables, that they can have fun rolling them around to get their treats.

Litter box

While in our care, we've been working to litter box train your rabbit. A typical rabbit litter box consists of a large plastic cat litter box, with a layer of wood pellets on the bottom. Next is a layer of simple field hay, and topped off with a handful of timothy hay. Wood pellets are available from most home improvement stores (for pellet stores), online, and even at stores such as Tractor Supply Co. If you choose to, instead of wood pellets, you can line the bottom of the litter box with paper bedding such as Carefresh, Yesterday's News, or any other paper-based litter. We do not recommend using any type of pine or wood shavings, as they can be harmful to your bunnies' health and cause respiratory problems. Smaller litter boxes, such as triangular corner litter boxes are often too small for your bunny, and they may avoid using it.

Optional Items

Critical Care is a great product to keep on hand. Critical Care can be made into a paste and given to rabbits who may be experiencing intestinal distress, and are not eating or making regular bowel movements.