

PISCES

PET EMPORIUM



Photo by Pisces Pet Emporium

Rabbit

Oryctolagus cuniculus

Lifespan: Up to 15 years depending on breed.

Size: From 2 to 6lbs, up to 20lbs depending on the breed.

Maturity/Breeding: Sexual maturity occurs at different times depending on the breed/size of your rabbit. It can occur from 4 to 8 months of age in smaller rabbits and as late as 8 months in larger rabbits. The gestation period for rabbits is 28 to 32 days. Rabbits will breed year-round. If you do not wish to breed your rabbits do not keep a male and female together unless one has been spayed or neutered.

Enclosure: A wire cage measuring 40" x 20" is suitable for a single rabbit. Pine, aspen, or soft, absorbent bedding should be used. A corner litter box should be used for litter training. A hut should be supplied for security and sleeping.

Heating: The ambient temperature should be 16°C to 27°C (60°F to 75°F). Rabbits are very susceptible to heat stroke if their temperature rises above 27°C. To fight heat exhaustion during summer months you can add ice cubes to your rabbit's water bottle or give your rabbit a frozen 2L water bottle to lie against.

Feeding: Young rabbits up to 6 months old should be offered unlimited amounts of alfalfa hay and pellets. Rabbits older than 6 months should be gradually weaned to ¼ to ½ cup of timothy pellets daily. Gradually switch your rabbit from alfalfa to timothy hay (also provide unlimited amounts). You can offer up to 2 cups of vegetables per day, and a small amount of fruit to your rabbit. Young rabbits must gradually work up to 2 cups. ***Pisces recommends: Oxbow Rabbit Pellets.***

Vitamins, Supplements & Treats: Rabbits can be given a vitamin supplement in their water daily, but it is not necessary if they are eating a proper diet. Rabbits should be given a hairball remedy once or twice a week to prevent hairballs. ***Pisces recommends: Oxbow Natural Science Papaya Support.***

Handling: To pick up your rabbit, put one hand under the chest and use the other hand to support their back legs. Hold your rabbit close to your chest. Always use two hands when handling your rabbit. Rabbits need daily interaction with their owners.

Health Care: Rabbits can be prone to hairballs and stasis (slowing or stopping of the gut), but feeding a proper/balanced diet that includes hay and limits sugar can prevent this. A rabbit's incisors will continue to grow throughout its life. If not provided with enough to chew on, their teeth can grow to unnatural lengths and it will not be able to eat. Provide many wooden objects in their cage as well as one or two mineral blocks for variety.

Grooming: Long-haired rabbits should be groomed daily. Short-haired rabbits can be groomed weekly (groom daily if they are shedding). Nails should be trimmed about every 2 - 3 weeks. Bathe only as necessary.

Exercise/Toys: Your rabbit should be allowed out of his cage for at least one hour per day to exercise in a larger area, but the more exercise the better. If you let your rabbit roam free in your house be sure to pick up all cords or wires and anything else, they can chew. Make sure there is nowhere they can get stuck or fall. Offer a variety of items in your rabbit's cage for it to chew on and throw around such as sisal balls or rattles, chew toys, or wooden logs. Hay or vegetable dispensing balls are also great for exercise and entertaining your rabbit. ***Pisces recommends: Rollin the Hay Dispenser.***

Safe Handling of Small Animals*: As with all living creatures, small animals can carry microorganisms which can make people ill. To reduce the chances of infection, always follow these safe handling steps:

- Always wash your hands thoroughly after you handle your pet, its food and anything it has touched.
- Keep your pet in a habitat designed for it; do not let your pet roam around the home without proper supervision.
- Keep your pet, its food dishes and cage components out of the kitchen.
- Don't nuzzle or kiss your pet.
- Infants, children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with a compromised immune system have a greater risk of infection. Extra caution should be taken when they are in contact with any animal. Children under 5 should handle reptiles only under adult/parent supervision.

Recommended Books: This care sheet is designed to provide you with some basic information on your new pet. To learn more about how to care for your pet ***Pisces recommends: The Rabbit Handbook by Barron's Books.***

Recommended Supplies:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Super Pet large Grassy Roll-N-Ring <input type="checkbox"/> Super Pet Rollin the Hay Dispenser <input type="checkbox"/> Oxbow Young Rabbit Pellet <input type="checkbox"/> Pine, aspen, or Carefresh bedding <input type="checkbox"/> Ceramic dish <input type="checkbox"/> Nail clippers & styptic powder <input type="checkbox"/> Small animal brush <input type="checkbox"/> Timothy/alfalfa hay | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Well-ventilated cage <input type="checkbox"/> Chew toys <input type="checkbox"/> Oxbow Papaya support <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle <input type="checkbox"/> Living World Log (large) <input type="checkbox"/> Litter pan <input type="checkbox"/> Yesterday's News rabbit litter |
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Your New Pet: It is the responsibility of any pet owner to provide their pet with regular veterinary care to maintain their pet's health and to prevent illness.

Should you experience any problems with your new pet, contact Pisces Pet Emporium. We will make every effort to assist you but we may refer you to a qualified veterinarian if the problem is beyond our ability to treat.

A pet is a large responsibility and should not be purchased without due consideration. Pets should never be released into the wild.



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**Safe handling information courtesy of PIJAC Canada*