

Proper Bunny Care

Housing

You want to be sure to provide your rabbit with plenty of space and a safe and suitable environment for them to call their own! Even if you plan to build up to having your rabbit free range in your home, it is still important to give them a territory that is all their own within the home. We highly suggest keeping your rabbits indoors because rabbits are not able to properly regulate their temperature in most outdoor environments. Indoors you can set your rabbit up in a play pen (we suggest a minimum of 36" inches for the height to deter jumping), or in a large (preferably two story) rabbit hutch. If you do choose to put your rabbit in a hutch, you want to be sure you give them plenty of play time and exercise each day outside of the hutch. At Wayward Ranch we provide a playpen and hutch for each of our rabbits during the day and then at night close them in their hutch for safety.

Within their indoor environment, whether that is a playpen, a hutch, or free roam in your home, you want to be sure their environment is completely safe. Bunny proofing is very important and making sure there are no wires, cords, houseplants, rugs, etc that the bunny could get into and hurt themselves. Keep in mind these guys are mischievous but an entertained/exercised bunny is less likely to get themselves into trouble! Make you you have plenty of rabbit safe toys, puzzles, and items for them to engage with to stay busy.

Diet

It is very important to have your rabbit on a healthy and adequate diet for them to be their healthiest! They need free access to hay (timothy is best) as well as daily pellets and fresh produce. We suggest feeding mostly leafy green vegetables for the produce but occasional treats of other veggies or even fruit is healthy for them in moderation. Make sure to check our list before feeding your bunny anything new to make sure it is safe! Water should always be fresh and offered to your rabbit at all times.

Veterinary Care

Plan to provide your rabbit with routine veterinary care which at the minimum is yearly check ups with a veterinarian. We highly suggest spaying and neutering your rabbit. This is the healthiest option for them and helps with behavioral problems in most cases. However, there is a higher risk with anesthesia and surgery for a small animal such as a rabbit rather than for a dog or cat, so be sure to discuss any risks of surgery with your vet in detail.

Handling/Grooming

Rabbits are very fragile animals so you have to be very careful when you pick them up or otherwise handle them. Rabbits are also able to break their own backs by kicking their back legs out if they are being held incorrectly. If it were up to your bunny you would probably never pick them up, as it is not something they enjoy even if some may tolerate it. However, in case of an emergency it is important that you know how to carry them. We suggest using the "C" position where you hold your rabbit against your chest with one hand supporting their head/front legs and your other hand under their rump with their legs facing away from you to form the "C" shape.

You also want to make sure you properly groom your rabbit. Most rabbits do not need to be bathed in the lives, and benefit more from brushing with a gentle grooming brush. You also want to make sure you trim their nails every two months or so depending on how quickly their nails grow.

Enrichment

An exercised and enriched bunny is a happy bunny! Your rabbit will need time and space to run around each day. If you choose to do this outside you want to make sure it is in a very secure enclosure out of direct sunlight with your close supervision. You can use tunnels, toys, and puzzles to help them use their brains as they explore their environment as well.