

# Checklist for Rabbits

## Housing

- Indoors is much healthier, safer and more enjoyable for everyone
- Roomy cage--six times the size of adult rabbit
  - Minimum size is 36" x 36" x 24"
  - ***A wire dog crate and/or an exercise pen make an excellent housing setup***
- Resting board of carpet, cardboard or wood (needed if cage floor is made of wire) to cover part of cage floor not covered by litter box; cover resting board with comfy towel
- Litter box fastened inside cage to reinforce litter box training (***never use pine or cedar shavings***)
- Heavy pellet bowl (must be heavy enough so rabbit can't tip over; plastic bowls will not work) or clip-on feeder
- Water bottle or heavy crock (again, to discourage tipping)
- Bird toys (rabbits love to toss things around; don't use toys with loose parts that can be swallowed)
- Stuffed toy companion (someone for your rabbit to groom)

## Running Space

- Indoors is much safer
- Gradually increase freedom to at least ***6 hours daily*** (an exercise pen can be used to introduce rabbits to a larger area)
- Bunny-proof electric cords (cover with protective tubing)
- Place second litter box outside cage (cat litter boxes work well; you can set one up in every room available to your rabbit)

## Consumables

- Hay (a must for fiber and nutritional value)
  - Timothy hay is preferable
  - Oat and grass hay can be used
  - Alfalfa hay is acceptable if no other source can be found but should be the last choice
- Fresh vegetables and fruits (feed fruits very sparingly)
- Rabbit pellets
- Fresh water
- Wood for chewing and recreation (pinecones, fruit tree twigs--no pesticides; untreated wood or reed baskets)
- See pages 2-5 of HRC's *Rabbit Care Guide* for specific amounts and varieties of hay, vegetables, pellets, and fruit

## Grooming

- Nail clippers (most cat and dog clippers will do)
- Brush (flea comb works well)

## Handling

- VERY important: learn the proper way to handle a rabbit. If rabbit is struggling, either restrain against your body or squat down or release immediately. See pages 16-17 of HRC's *Rabbit Care Guide*.

## Veterinary Care

- Schedule a check-up with a rabbit-savvy vet at least once a year
- Consult your vet about the benefits of spaying and neutering; see page 42 of HRC's *Rabbit Care Guide*.

## Companion(s)

- Rabbits are very social animals--consider adopting a spayed or neutered companion for your rabbit

Please contact the House Rabbit Connection if you have any questions or would like more information on rabbit care.

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