

# CRITTERS: Rabbits



Rabbits are friendly, social animals. They not only enjoy spending time with humans, they require it! If they don't have human interaction or stimulation, rabbits can get bored, lonely or even depressed. You should give your rabbit toys and obstacles he can use to keep his clever brain busy while you aren't around. For example, cardboard tubes, phone books, and rolling things will keep him stimulated. Many rabbits also enjoy having another rabbit of the opposite sex (make sure both are spayed/neutered!) as a friend.

## DIET

Feed your new rabbit high quality rabbit pellets and limitless timothy hay, plus fresh dark greens. Other fruits and veggies are considered treats and should be given in small amounts.

## HABITAT

Indoors is best! Your rabbit's cage needs to have room for him to stand up, space for a litter box, and food bowls. The cage can have a wire floor, but be sure your rabbit has a solid surface to sit on and lie down. Do not use a glass aquarium.

## HEALTH CARE

Rabbits can be trained to use a litter box. However, DO NOT use a clay litter. They do need their nails trimmed and fur brushed occasionally.

## OUT OF CAGE TIME/TIME WITH HUMANS

Rabbits love to be out running around in the house or a "play pen." They will typically return to their cage to use their litter box. Rabbits may chew on electrical cords, so be sure your home is

completely "bunny-proofed" before you let your new friend hop around.

The best way to interact with your rabbit is on the floor. When your bunny is exploring the room, sit still, and he will soon come over to you to investigate. Rabbits can make great companions for children because of their social nature, but may not always enjoy the cuddles and other physical affection that children are tempted to give. Always monitor your child's interactions with the rabbit.

## LIFE SPAN

Up to 15 years

**CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE RELIED UPON FOR TOTAL CARE; ADULTS MUST MONITOR**

## MORE RESOURCES AT

[hsppr.org/resources](https://hsppr.org/resources)



happy tails. happy hearts.™