



# ADOPTION RESOURCES

## FOR YOUR NEW RABBIT

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# Congratulations on Your Rabbit Adoption



## THE BASICS

**Food:** Fresh food should be provided daily. A rabbit's diet should be 75% hay. Timothy, orchard grass, or oat hay should always be accessible in a hay container or hay net. Rabbits require only one-quarter cup of pellets daily. Choose a high-quality pellet with no colored pieces or dried fruit, and make sure it is a mix designed for rabbits. Provide your rabbit with fresh greens twice daily: green leaf lettuce, cilantro, and parsley are good choices. A rabbit's diet can be 1% treat-based: bananas, apples, carrots, pineapple, cherries, or raspberries.

**Water:** Provide fresh water in a clean bowl daily. Your rabbit should have access to fresh water at all times.

**Housing:** A rabbit's home should be at least four to six times the size of the rabbit when they are entirely stretched out. A good guideline is 8 square feet of enclosed space with at least 24 square feet of exercise space. Rabbits are not designed to live on wire floors; it's hard on their feet. Flat-bottom cages are best. Like all companion animals, rabbits should be kept inside with the family. Since rabbits are particularly susceptible to heat, cold, and dampness, they need to live in a temperature-controlled climate.

**Litter Box Usage:** Rabbits are very clean animals and they prefer their enclosures and litterboxes to be cleaned daily. A good paper-based litter is best. NEVER use clay cat litter or wood shavings (cedar or aspen) for litter. These products can result in respiratory or gastrointestinal problems.

**Chewing:** Rabbits love to chew and need to chew to keep their teeth healthy. Provide rabbits with apple or willow wood chew toys to help with their innate need. Make sure to keep electrical cords out of reach or covered with vinyl tubing to prevent electrocution. You'll also want to keep house plants out of your rabbit's reach because some could be poisonous if ingested.

## CONNECT WITH US!



You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn @mohawkhumane.

# Tips for a Healthy Rabbit



## HOW TO SAFELY HANDLE YOUR RABBIT

To pick up your rabbit, gently slide one hand underneath their body behind their front legs, and with your other hand, support their back end, scooping them up in one motion. Quickly bring them close to your body for added support.

Rabbits can break their backs if not handled correctly. Never pick up the rabbit by their ears or let their body hang. If you have children, be sure they sit on the floor and are supervised whenever they handle the rabbit.

## WHEN TO SEEK VETERINARY ATTENTION

Pets become part of our family and it can be nerve-wracking when it feels like something might be off. Here are some reasons you might want to seek veterinary assistance:

- No poop in the cage or litter box
- Diarrhea
- Sudden loss of appetite
- Labored breathing
- Head tilt
- Incontinence
- Abscesses, lumps, or swelling
- Behavioral changes



# Introducing Your Rabbits

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Keep rabbits in separate locations for the first two weeks after bringing a new rabbit home. The enclosures can be kept in the same room to allow them to get used to each other's scent.

Always introduce rabbits, regardless of sex or age, in a neutral space first. If you're bringing home two bunnies for the first time, any space in your home is neutral. Possible neutral spaces might be a room your rabbit has never been in, or a friend's home or apartment.

Work with the rabbits for at least 20 minutes per day. Make sure to spend some time with the rabbits in one or more neutral spaces every day. When you're not actively working with them, they should be apart if they fight when together. If they don't fight, then they can be left alone while you're not working with them, but not when you're not home at all.

