

Grooming

Daily grooming is essential for keeping your rabbit's coat in good condition. If your rabbit becomes soiled or dirty, it generally means that its living conditions are not clean. As long as your rabbit is clean, you do not need to bathe it.

Have your bunny's toenails trimmed when they get too long. Clip the nails just before the quick (pink vein). If bleeding occurs, apply pressure on the area or use styptic powder to stop the bleeding.

You may consider buying a brush or comb to groom your rabbit's fur regularly, to prevent the fur from getting tangled up.

Recommended Reading

The House Rabbit Society (Singapore) website:
<http://www.hrss.net>

The House Rabbit Society website:
<http://www.rabbit.org>

The House Rabbit Handbook:
How to live with an urban rabbit
by Marinell Harriman, Drollery Press

Rabbit Health in the 21st Century (2nd Edition)
by Kathy Smith

If you do not want your rabbit anymore or if you are neglecting it, please try to find an alternative home for it or bring it to the SPCA. Do not set it free in the parks or gardens; domesticated rabbits are unable to fend for themselves.



Friends of HRSS Membership

For a fixed annual membership fee of S\$25, you can help in saving rabbits and improving their lives.

Find out more about the this programme from our website at <http://www.hrss.net/>.

Contact Details

Name as in NRIC: _____

Date of birth: _____

NRIC No.: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Tel: _____ (Res) _____ (Mobile)

Occupation: _____

How many rabbits do you have? _____

How did you find out about HRSS? _____

Mode of Payment

Please make cheque payable to
"House Rabbit Society (Singapore)"

and send it by post to:

Toa Payoh Central Post Office
PO Box 108
Singapore 913104

Bank/Cheque No.: _____

I wish to make a donation: S\$ _____

All About Rabbits

House Rabbit Society Guidelines



The House Rabbit Society of Singapore seeks to reduce the number of unwanted rabbits and improve rabbits' lives through education.

You may visit our website at <http://www.hrss.net/> for more information.



HRSS is a certified House Rabbit Society Educator. <http://www.rabbit.org/>

Everything you need to know about your pet rabbit

Rabbits belong to a group of animals called lagomorphs. They are crepuscular, which means they sleep during the day and night, but are ready to play at dawn and dusk. Rabbits can live from 8 - 12 years under proper care and before you get any, you must commit to taking care of them for that long.

Rabbits get lonely without company. Male rabbits are known as bucks and females are known as does. Preferably, you should keep a pair or more. **To prevent breeding and increase the lifespan of your rabbits, it is best to sterilize them as soon as they reach maturity.**

Rabbits are territorial animals and unsterilized ones will fight and spray to mark territory.



Housing

The cage should be **at least 4 times** (stretched out) body length of the rabbit. Floor tiles/rubber mats should be provided if you are using wire -based cages. This is to prevent sore hocks, a serious condition that requires immediate medical attention.

Rabbits can be litter-trained. You may place a tray filled with bedding in the cage. **Avoid pine/cedar shavings, corncobs, scented or clumping cat litters**, which may harm your rabbit. Provide toys for them to play as well.

Rabbits need **at least 4 hours of exercise daily**. Initially you should let it out in a room where it may run freely under your supervision. When your rabbit has been litter-trained and when your house has been fully bunny-proofed, your rabbit can be allowed a free run of your house.

Diet

Rabbits need to have a balanced diet. They need **good quality pellets**, fresh hay, vegetables and fruits. Pellets should be fresh and should be relatively high in fiber. Never buy a pellet that contains seeds, nuts, or starch-rich cereal kibble. **Hay is essential** to a rabbit's good health, providing roughage which reduces the danger of hairballs and other blockages. When shopping for vegetables for your rabbit, look for both dark leafy veggies and root vegetables, and try to get different colors. Stay away from beans and rhubarb. **Clean water must be available at all times and stale food must be removed from the hutch/cage regularly.**

Juniors (6 months and below) are given unlimited servings of pellets and hay. Vegetables are not recommended to juniors as it might cause them to have diarrhea. Adults are fed twice daily and the amount to be given depends on your rabbit's weight.

Rabbits have a very delicate digestive system and dietary changes must be made gradually. Only introduce one new type of vegetable at a time. If you are switching the type or brand of pellets in your rabbit's diet, make the transition over 2-3 weeks.

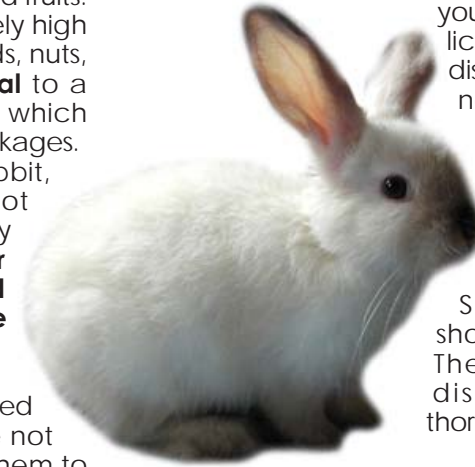
Handling

Regular gentle handling makes your pet tame. **Never pick up a rabbit by its ears.** It would hurt her. Slide one hand under the rabbit's front paws in the direction of her hind end, place your other hand on the rabbit's bottom, lift the rabbit up, supporting the entire body with both hands. Hold her near to your body.

Loud noises or sudden movements can scare your rabbit, and it may kick or bite. Be patient and gentle towards your rabbit.

Common Illnesses

Daily handling of your pets gives you a chance to check for fleas, lice, ticks, sores, wounds, and discharges from eyes, ears and nose.



It is important to keep your rabbit's living quarters as clean as possible. Poor living conditions would cause your rabbit to fall ill. Soiled bedding material should be changed regularly. The cage/hutch should be disinfected and cleaned thoroughly at least once a week.

Health

Your rabbit can become ill without warning. People who live with rabbits need to be particularly attentive to subtle changes. If your rabbit usually greets you with leaps and bounds and he is now lying in the back of the cage when you approach, this could be a cause for concern. If there are no droppings in his litter-box and loads of hay still present from the previous night, you could have a very sick rabbit. **If you observe any abnormal behavior, take your rabbit to a good vet immediately.**

Please do consider sterilizing your rabbit. The recommended age to sterilize your rabbit is 6 months. You do not need to keep your rabbit hungry before or after surgery. Do not allow a vet with little or no experience with rabbits to sterilize your rabbit.

The risk of malignant reproductive cancers (ovarian, uterine, mammarian) is **over 80%** for unsterilised female rabbits. Altered rabbits live longer, are calmer and are much easier to litter-train. Most importantly, sterilizing your rabbits helps prevent unwanted pregnancies.