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# Rabbits at a Glance

Difficulty of care: **Intermediate**

Average lifespan: **10+ years with proper care**

Average adult size: **12+ inches long, depending on breed**

Minimum habitat size: **24" L x 24" H for small to medium breeds; 36" L x 36" H for large to giant breeds (at least four times the size of the rabbit)**

Temperature: **Cool temperatures between 60-70 F**

**Fun fact ↗** Rabbits like to go to the bathroom in the same spot and you can train yours to go in a litter box.

## Habitat Setup & Maintenance

- Rabbit enclosures should be at least four times the size of your rabbit. Try giving your rabbit—or rabbits, if you have more than one—the most room to freely move around.
- Rabbits have few sweat glands, so do not put the enclosure in direct sunlight.
- Line the habitat with a solid flooring to keep their feet safe, then layer the bottom with 1-2 inches of paper-based bedding.
- If keeping more than one rabbit, make sure they are both the same sex. For opposite-sex habitats, both rabbits should be spayed or neutered.
- Add toys and fun activities, like chew toys, a hideaway box, and cardboard dig boxes. Spot clean the bedding and litter box every day.



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## Supply Checklist

- An enclosure of at least 24" L x 24" H for small to medium breeds or 36" L x 36" H for large to giant breeds
- High-quality pelleted rabbit food
- Timothy hay or a similar grass hay
- An assortment of fruits, veggies, and treats
- Bedding and toys
- Food bowl and water bottle
- Hideaway or hiding house
- Hay rack
- Wood chews
- Litter box and litter
- Indoor playpen
- Soft brush and nail clippers
- Styptic powder

## Diet

Rabbits are herbivores, with diets rich in unlimited fresh hay, high-quality food pellets, fruits, and veggies. Timothy hay or another grass hay is best. Alfalfa hay is good for younger, breeding, or lactating rabbits.

Feed rabbits  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of pelleted food per 5 pounds of body weight daily. Veggies and fruits should be 10% of their daily diet. Too much fruit harms their GI tract, so offer more leafy greens, carrot tops, and chopped veggies.

Water should be available constantly in a non-tippable water bowl or bottle.

**Fun fact ↗** Rabbit teeth are constantly growing, so giving them an endless supply of hay helps wear down those chompers.

## Handling

Rabbits should be held and have playtime every day outside of their habitat. When handling your rabbit, secure their whole body with special attention to their hind end.

Never hold a rabbit by their ears or keep them on their back. Without strong support, rabbits can injure their spine with their powerful legs.

## Health

Stay on the lookout for signs of an unhealthy rabbit, including:

- Eye or nasal discharge
- Uneven or overgrown teeth
- Lack of appetite
- Changes in their stool

## Fun fact ↗

Don't call them rodents! Rabbits are lagomorphs, just like their cousin, the hare.

