



Contrary to popular belief (and what your bun would suggest), rabbits need to eat more than just carrots and lettuce. They require a balanced diet of hay, fresh veggies and fruit, and timothy based pellets. Rabbits have VERY sensitive digestive tracts, and GI stasis from improper feeding can quickly kill your best friend, so proper diet is critical.

Hay: The staple of a rabbit's diet!

- 80 to 90 percent of a rabbit's diet should be timothy hay. Alfalfa hay can be given as a treat, but it is too rich to be fed on a daily basis. As grazing animals, rabbits need to have an UNLIMITED supply of fresh hay daily. A great way to do this is to invest in a cheap hay feeder that hangs on the inside of a pen or cage. Or, you can always make your own!
- Buy the freshest hay possible - a great option is your local feed store or Tractor Supply. Hay will be cheaper and fresher there than from a pet store. For the highest quality hay, check out Small Pet Select – they'll ship directly to you!

Pellets: Small quantities of TIMOTHY-based pellets!

- Timothy hay pellets can be given to bunnies in small quantities. An average-sized (6-10 pounds) adult rabbit only needs one-quarter cup of pellets daily. If your rabbit is under five pounds, feed just one-eighth of a cup. Rabbits larger than 10 pounds do not need more than a quarter of a cup, since it's not a crucial part of a bunny's diet. We love Small Pet Select and Oxbow for the best quality pellets.

Vegetables: A rabbit's favorite food!

- Rabbits count vegetables and herbs among their favorite foods. Most greens found in a supermarket are safe for rabbits, with a few limitations and exceptions.
- No more than two cups daily of fresh vegetables should be given to adult rabbits. Dwarf breeds and rabbits under five pounds should get just one cup of fresh veggies per day. A variety of two or three vegetables is ideal. Add one new vegetable at a time, and watch for signs of loose stool or diarrhea because, as mentioned above, bunnies have delicate digestive systems. Certain vegetables can be given every day, while others should be fed sparingly, one or two times a week.
- Do NOT feed your rabbit potatoes, corn, beans, seeds or nuts. These foods are difficult for rabbits to digest and can cause serious digestive problems.

Vegetables that can be fed to a rabbit daily:

- Bell peppers (remove the seeds)
- Bok choy
- Brussels sprouts (remove if loose stool occurs)
- Carrot tops
- Cucumber
- Endive
- Escarole
- Fennel
- Herbs: basil, cilantro, dill, mint, oregano, parsley, rosemary, sage, thyme
- Lettuces: spinach, green leaf, red leaf, Boston bibb, arugula, butter
- Okra leaves
- Radicchio
- Radish tops
- Sprouts: alfalfa, radish, clover
- Watercress
- Wheatgrass
- Zucchini

Vegetables and plants to give sparingly (one or two times a week) to a bunny:

- Carrots
- Chard
- Clover
- Collard greens
- Dandelion greens (pesticide-free)

- Flowers: calendula, chamomile, daylily, dianthus, English daisy, hibiscus, honeysuckle, marigold, nasturtium, pansy, rose
- Kale

Fruit: A bunny's favorite treat!

- Fruit should be given to your bunny one or two times a week. The appropriate serving is one to two tablespoons of fruit (either one kind or a mixture) per five pounds of body weight. As with vegetables, fruit should be introduced slowly and one at a time.

Fruit to feed your rabbit (one or two times a week):

- Apple (no seeds)
- Banana
- Berries: blueberries, blackberries, strawberries, raspberries, cranberries
- Cherries (no seeds)
- Grapes
- Melon
- Nectarine
- Orange
- Papaya
- Peach
- Pear
- Pineapple
- Plum
- Watermelon (no seeds)

Other treats: SPARINGLY!

- Always read the ingredient list on store-bought treats because not all of them are safe for bunnies. Avoid treats that include added sugar, preservatives and artificial coloring, and never give your rabbit human treats.

Foods to avoid giving a rabbit: Some foods are not good for rabbits under any circumstances because they can make rabbits extremely sick. Here are foods to avoid giving your bunny COMPLETELY:

- All human treats
- Beans
- Beet greens
- Cabbage
- Cauliflower
- Cereal
- Chocolate
- Corn or corn-cob treats
- Crackers
- Iceberg lettuce
- Legumes
- Mustard greens
- Nuts
- Pasta
- Peas
- Potatoes
- Rhubarb
- Seeds
- Sugar
- Turnip greens
- Yogurt

And the most IMPORTANT staple of the diet - Fresh water: Unlimited supply!

- Finally, rabbits need to stay hydrated, so they should have an unlimited supply of fresh water, which should be changed daily. The water container should be cleaned with soap and water every few days. Water bottles are not easy to clean and can be difficult for rabbits to use, so heavy ceramic bowls are often better.