

Rabbit Guide



The following list outlines necessary and additional items you will need for your small rabbit weighing up to 6 pounds.

Housing

Because rabbits are prey animals, we **strongly recommend** housing them indoors away from natural predators and extreme weather. Sharing living spaces also helps your rabbit get comfortable with you and become more social. Rabbits do **not** have to live in a cage and are much happier when allowed plenty of space to hop around and play. However, if a cage is necessary, rabbits should be allowed a few hours (ideally at least 4) each day to roam around. The standard rule of thumb for cages is that it should be at least four times the size of the rabbit and permit the rabbit to stand on its hind legs. **For your small rabbit, this is 24” by 36”.** Housing should be equipped with rugs or towels as flooring. Rabbits do not have padding on their feet (only fluff!) and therefore do not have grip. In addition, all housing arrangements should incorporate a shelter for the rabbit to hide in. As prey animals, it is important that they are able to hide when they feel threatened or afraid.

Food

Rabbits are considered grazers, meaning they eat continuously. They digest food quickly and have sensitive stomachs, so be slow to introduce new foods. A rabbit’s diet should primarily consist of grass-based hay (at least 80% of diet). This should be supplied daily in generous amounts. In addition, this can be supplemented with fresh greens and vegetables, fruits, and timothy-based pellets. For your 0-6 pound rabbit, it is recommended to feed your rabbit no more than ¼ cup of pellets per day. For more information about what you can feed your rabbit and which foods to avoid, download our **Rabbit Diet Guide** (https://www.bunnybrigadesc.org/uploads/1/2/2/9/122907610/bbsc_diet_guide.pdf).

In addition, your small rabbit will consume about a cup of water per day. Water bottles are an acceptable method to give your rabbit water, but the water should be replaced daily and the bottle should be cleaned thoroughly at least once a month. Small bowls that do not tip easily or automatic water dispensers can also be used to supply water.

Litter box

Yep. You read that correctly. Rabbits can be litter box trained! As naturally clean animals, rabbits tend to use one corner of their home as a bathroom. However, most litter boxes that can be found in the rabbit section of the pet store are way too small. Litter boxes should be large enough for the rabbit to sit comfortably and turn around in. A hooded litter box can be used for your small rabbit, but make sure the rabbit can hop in and out comfortably, as many hooded litter boxes have a deep base. There are many safe options for bedding, such as paper pulp bedding, kiln-dried pellets, and pine shavings. Litter boxes can be lined with plastic liners as long as your rabbit doesn’t eat the plastic. For more information about litter box training your



rabbit, download our **Litter box Training Guide** (https://www.bunnybrigadesc.org/uploads/1/2/2/9/122907610/bbsc_litter_training.pdf).

Enrichment

Rabbits are active and intelligent creatures that need sources of entertainment to keep them mentally stimulated. This includes toys that simulate foraging and digging, appropriate environments for hopping and zooming and opportunities to interact with people and other friendly rabbits. Make sure to only purchase toys that are non-toxic to rabbits and have smooth, rounded edges. Common materials safe for rabbit toys include: paper, cardboard, untreated wood, sticks, untreated straw and sea-grass. Solid plastic baby toys and balls can also be used as long as your rabbit does not ingest the plastic.

Health and Welfare

Rabbit teeth and nails never stop growing. While their teeth are kept in check with a healthy hay-based diet, nails can grow sharp quickly, so it is important to establish a regular nail-clipping routine. Nervous about trimming your rabbit's nails for the first time? No worries! BBSC has you covered. We provide free nail trimming training to all of our new and returning rabbit owners as well as resources for those who prefer to have their rabbits professionally groomed.

It is also recommended to invest in a slicker brush for regular rabbit grooming. Brushing your rabbit is an important activity to prevent ingestion of fur (can cause gastrointestinal blockage) and to improve the bond between you and your rabbit. Some rabbit breeds with longer fur such as the Angora and the Lionhead require additional grooming to prevent matting. Be gentle when grooming your rabbit, as they have very sensitive skin that cuts easily.

Rabbits should NOT be given a bath. They do not like the water and can easily catch a cold since they dry slowly. If your rabbit is soiled, wet a towel with warm water and apply to soiled area. Gently massage the area and slide or brush the mess out. If absolutely necessary, use a rabbit-approved dry shampoo.

Additional Items

A few other essential items you should invest in for your rabbit include a hay feeder, a small pet carrier, neutralizing pet spray and accident cleanup supplies, storage bins for hay and litter, and a broom and dust pan.

<http://a.co/7Ir9Mg6> : Our amazon owner idea list!



Small Rabbit Supply Checklist

Save and print this checklist to use when shopping for your rabbit. For your convenience, we have created a list on amazon of our recommendations and favorite rabbit-friendly toys here.

Hoppy shopping!

Housing

- Exercise pen (30" H) or cage (24" x 36")
- Rabbit-proofing materials
 - Cord protectors
 - Baseboard protectors
 - Baby gate
 - Corner protectors
- Flooring rugs or blankets

Food

- Timothy hay
- Timothy hay-based supplement pellets
- Water bottle or dish
- Food dish for pellets
- Hay feeder
- Treats

Litter box

- Litter box
- Litter box liner (optional)
- Litter

Enrichment

- Chew toys
- Hidey house
- Logic Toys

Health and Welfare

- Nail clippers
- Slicker brush
- Styptic powder
- Pet Carrier

Additional Items

- Hay Storage bin
- Litter storage bin
- Paper towels
- Neutralizing pet spray
- Hand scoop for litter
- ¼ cup measuring cup
- Pet bed (optional)
- Pet cam (optional)

Our owner supply list on Amazon: <http://a.co/7Ir9Mg6>