

# Caring for your Rabbit



**beaphar®**

Rabbits make great family pets due to their sociable nature, and are ideal for older children and adults. With an average lifespan of 8–12 years, keeping rabbits as pets requires a long-term commitment, but offers huge rewards, with strong, long-lasting bonds being built between pet and owner. While traditionally kept outdoors, the number of house rabbits has increased in recent years, making rabbits an even more accessible pet to those with limited outdoor space.

## FIVE WELFARE NEEDS

### Being a responsible rabbit owner:

As an owner, it's your responsibility to provide your pet with the following so they live a fulfilled, happy and healthy life:



Companionship



Behaviour



Nutrition



Healthcare



Housing & environment



### Friends for life

Rabbits are best kept in neutered, bonded pairs. As sociable animals they can get very lonely, even when living indoors with people, if kept alone. Keeping rabbits in pairs means they always have company and someone to play with. But, just because they have each other, that doesn't mean there isn't any room for you. Spending time playing with and grooming your rabbits is still important, and helps you build a strong bond. This also makes it easier to give your rabbits those all-important health checks.



### Your rabbits' perfect home

A pair of average-sized rabbits need a minimum living space of 3m x 2m and a run height of 1m. This should

be large enough for them to take three hops, lie fully stretched out, and stand at full height without their ears touching the top. Their home can be outside using a traditional hutch/shed with a run attached, or indoors. Indoor rabbits are usually housed in cages, with either an indoor run or free access to the home. Just remember to rabbit-proof your home, including keeping electrical cables out of reach.

Your rabbits' home needs to provide multiple areas to hide, sleep, eat and toilet. There should be one hiding place for each rabbit, plus one extra, each with an entrance and exit. Each rabbit should also have their own litter tray or toilet area. These areas need cleaning daily, particularly in the summer when rabbits are more at risk of fly strike. Rabbit houses should be cleaned and disinfected, and bedding changed once a week.



### Your rabbits' behavioural needs

Provide your rabbits with toys and enrichment activities to occupy them and allow them to exhibit natural behaviour. Small animal puzzle toys or scatter feeding encourage rabbits to forage for food as they would in the wild. Meanwhile, burrow boxes allow rabbits to express their natural urge to dig.

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## Feeding a healthy diet

Rabbits should eat a portion of hay roughly the same size as their body every day. They can also have a small amount of dry food and leafy greens daily, and treats (including carrots and sugary fruits) in moderation. You should provide fresh drinking water every day.

Pelleted foods are recommended over muesli-style food; this helps avoid selective feeding and prevents rabbits missing out on vital nutrients. It's important to give the correct amount of food for your rabbits' age and weight. This helps avoid obesity, which can lead to dental problems and increase your pets' risk of fly strike.



## Looking after your rabbits' health

Giving your rabbits a daily health check means you're more likely to spot any problems. This is especially important in the summer when rabbits are at greater risk of fly strike. During this time, check your rabbits' bottoms daily and clean if needed.

Rabbits should visit a vet for a check-up at least once a year, and for vaccinations. Both indoor and outdoor rabbits need vaccinating against myxomatosis, VHD1 and VHD2. Vets can also check your pets' weight, their teeth and their claws. If you ever have any concerns about your rabbits' health or well-being, contact your vet.

## Rabbit Products

**FIVE  
MUST  
HAVES**



### Beaphar Deep Clean Disinfectant for Small Animal Housing

- Long-lasting protection, kills bacteria and viruses
- Ideal for hutches, cages and litter trays



### Beaphar Cage Fresh Granules

- Contains friendly microbes that break down odours
- Ideal for litter trays and toilet areas



### Beaphar CARE+® Rabbit

- Nutritionally balanced, pellet food with added vitamins and prebiotics
- Different foods available for junior rabbits, adult rabbits and senior rabbits



### Beaphar Dental Easy Treat

- Supports the natural wearing of teeth
- With a high fibre content and added vitamins

### Beaphar Fly Guard

- One application protects against fly strike for up to 3 months
- Vet strength medicine



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Use medicines responsibly ([noah.co.uk](https://noah.co.uk))