

Thank you so much for buying a rabbit from Rolling Fields Rabbitry! Since you are picking up your rabbit, you agree that you have thoroughly read my sales policy in full located on my website at www.rollingfieldsrabbitry.com. Here are just a few tips to ensure a successful transition from our rabbitry to your home, but if you ever have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to email or contact me any time. We want this transition to be a wonderful one for both you and your new pet. If you are no longer able to keep your rabbit for any reason, even if years down the road, it is to be returned to me.

First Few Days:

Please allow your new pet to just settle in for the first few days. They are delicate and can stress very easily. This is a very stressful time for him/her as he/she adjusts to new people, new home, sounds, etc. After the first few days, slowly introduce yourself to your new pet, allow them to come to you for handling. If they are still unsure, pick them up and hold them close to you so they can feel safe.

Feed:

Right now I am free feeding(bowl is always full) your bunny a custom blend mix of food. If you wish not to continue on my food, you can use whatever type of quality pelleted food you'd like but he or she will need to be switched slowly to your food. I recommend Small World (@Walmart made by Manna Pro) or Kaytee(pet stores). Both food without the goodies in them, just plain pellets. As he or she gets closer to 4-5months for smaller breeds(8-9mos for mini lops) I slowly start to cut back on their food and ideally they should get a total of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of pellets per day($\frac{3}{4}$ -1 cup for mini lops). If you feed more than that you're rabbit will most likely become obese and that is not healthy. They have a salt and a mineral wheel in their cage. He or she also gets an unlimited amount of Timothy Hay(from babies through adulthood), this helps their digestive system function properly.

Treats:

Until they are closer to 6months old, I am very limited and careful with the treats I give to my rabbits. At this age, they get a small amount of Quaker rolled oats(plain) and a small amount of black oil sunflower seeds that is mixed in with their food and considered a "treat". Neither will cause diarrhea and are both healthy for them.

Vegetables and Fruits:

I do not give my bunnies any vegetables or fruits until they are at least 6 months old. Young rabbits are very susceptible to diarrhea as their digestive system is very sensitive. With that being said, after 6 months they can have very, very small amounts of vegetables or fruits every other day. Only give one type a week in case of reaction.

Water:

Your new bunny is used to drinking out of a dish. Make sure he or she always has plenty of clean, fresh water. I use a clip on or heavy crock that they cannot tip over. You can transition them to a water bottle if you prefer but do it slowly and make absolutely sure that they are using it and that it is always working(I cannot stress this enough).

Litter Box Training:

Rabbits can be litter box trained and is easiest to do so with a cage with a wire bottom. By nature, rabbits choose one place (usually corners) to deposit their urine and most of their stools. See where the rabbit goes the most and put the litter box there. Some recommended types of litters for rabbits are Carefresh, Kaytee, KayKob, and pine. There are several different types out there, just make sure it is suitable for small animals. I do not recommend cedar as many small animals are allergic to it (some people are also allergic to pine so be aware). It can take young rabbits longer to catch on, don't expect your new baby to get it for at least another month or two. Biggest advice is have patience. Make sure you keep his or her cage door open when out running around. When your rabbit is loose in the house, watch him at all times. Rabbits love to chew on wires, which obviously are extremely dangerous.

Toys:

Your rabbit will get bored, not unlike any other pet you might have. When they are bored, they can form bad habits like chewing on the cage or throwing their food around! It is always a good idea to have toys or safe items in their cages for them to chew. There are all kinds of things out there in pet stores that can be used for your bunny. This will also help them keep their teeth the appropriate length.

General Care:

It is always a good idea to keep your rabbit's nails trimmed. You probably won't need to do this for your rabbit until it is around 4-6 months. After that, it might need them clipped every couple of months. You can use cat nail clippers and take off the sharp points. On a white toenail you can see the pink 'quick'. Don't cut this or the nail will bleed. On a dark nailed bunny, this line can be a bit tougher to see so I recommend just taking off the tips or have your vet trim for you if you are not comfortable with it. If you do cut the quick by accident, styptic powder or blood stop can be put on the nail. This can be purchased at a pet store. You can also use flour and apply pressure with a tissue.

Brushing from time to time, especially during the shedding season, will help to keep your rabbit's coat healthy and prevent hairballs. Rabbits do groom themselves, but if they consume too much hair they can get sick. A waterless rabbit shampoo is ok to use once in a while. Your rabbit will molt around once or twice a year and will require more grooming than usual.

Your baby rabbit may also need to have its bottom checked for the first few weeks. Their fur grows so long and their feces is so small that it will sometimes clog up back there and need to be cleaned. If it is not cleared daily, it could cause infection and back them up.

Turning the rabbit onto its back and stroking the head a bit or covering the eyes will cause your rabbit to go into a type of trance and will allow you to check its ears, teeth, bottom, and nails. This should be done fairly regularly, if not daily. Watch their teeth as they grow. Chewing on salt licks and other things should keep your rabbit's teeth at a healthy length, but if they grow in a way that is interfering with their eating, they may need to be trimmed or filed down by a veterinarian. With that said, I do not have any teeth issues in my rabbits.

Rabbits do not need vaccinations, though it is recommended to take them to a rabbit savvy vet for check ups. All bunnies coming from me have already been de-wormed with Ivermectin as well as Corrid. Find a rabbit savvy vet before you really need one as they are not always easy to find especially in an emergency! If you are planning on having your rabbit as just a pet and not breeding(which I don't recommend if you are not experienced), I highly recommend having your rabbit spayed or neutered, typically between 4-6 months. It makes them a better pet and a healthier rabbit. Make sure you find an experienced rabbit vet. I have heard great things about Fox Valley Animal Welfare League (www.FVAWL.com) in North Aurora as well as they are very, very reasonably priced.

Always feed your bunny at the same time every day Rabbits need consistency and they should have a regular schedule for feeding. How to change from one feed to another feed: Day 1 feed only the old food. Then gradually add a small amount of the new food to the old food and mix it together. Continue this process, slowly adding more of your new feed than your old feed. This should take 4-5 days. Do not change over too quickly!

If your cage has a wire floor, you should have a resting mat somewhere in the cage. This will help keep your rabbit from getting what we call "Sore hocks." Standing all day on the wire can cause your bunny pain. A resting mat can be as official as a store bought one or as simple as a piece of plywood in a corner of their cage.

Some signs of Veterinary Emergencies of bunnies:

Diarrhea or no stools-Diarrhea can kill a baby bunny in a matter of hours!

Not eating

Lethargy

Teeth grinding

Labored breathing, chronic sneezing

Loss of balance or head tilt

Hard and/or bloated abdomen

If your bunny is showing any of the above signs, get it to a vet immediately. I am NOT a vet so please do not contact me first for advice. Rabbits, especially young, can become critically ill very fast.