

# **Hello Rabbit Lover,**

You're receiving this letter because someone is concerned about your pet rabbit. So here are some specialist tips about looking after your pet from the team at Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund. It's quite tricky to find the right advice about giving your rabbits their best lives. And it's not always given when you become a rabbit owner. So, here's some up to the minute professional information.



### **Bunnies are better together**

Rabbits are really social animals. They naturally live together in groups. Research proves they suffer from stress when kept alone. So, have you thought about a companion for yours? If you have, remember they should be neutered and kept in pairs of opposite sexes or in compatible groups.

### They need plenty of space

As athletic animals, rabbits need to run, jump, dig and forage to keep healthy and happy. Sadly, rabbits confined to hutches can develop painful spinal deformities. A rabbit suffering this health problem is difficult to handle, which can result in injuries to your rabbit or you.

A large shelter or hutch and permanent access to a large safe exercise run is perfect. At the Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund, we recommend a minimum area of 3m x 2m x 1m high.





## Hay is the key to good health

Endless clean hay or grass, is vital. The specific chewing action wears rabbits' teeth down naturally and avoids serious dental problems. It's also great for gut health. Plus, chewing hay all day keeps the boredom away.

#### **Better care in Summer**

In warmer months, it's really important your rabbits have plenty of fresh water and a shady area in their run to keep cool. You should also check for fly strike every day. This means making sure their bottoms are clean and free from flies. Fly Strike can be fatal so keep checking your rabbits are safe.





#### **Extra care in Winter**

When the temperature drops and the weather's wet and windy it's really important your rabbits have a covered, dry area in their run. They'll also need plenty of fresh, unfrozen water and lots of clean, dry bedding to snuggle up in. You could also move the hutch and run nearer the house so that you can keep a closer eye on them. Even better, put them in a shed for extra weather protection and warmth.

#### Remember...

It's stressful, even cruel to keep a rabbit alone, confined to a hutch. If you have a single rabbit in a small space, please invest in better accommodation, get him or her neutered and adopt a neutered friend from a rescue centre.



## Let's help rabbits live their best life

At the Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund, we believe sharing accurate, up to date information will massively improve the lives of pet rabbits nationwide.