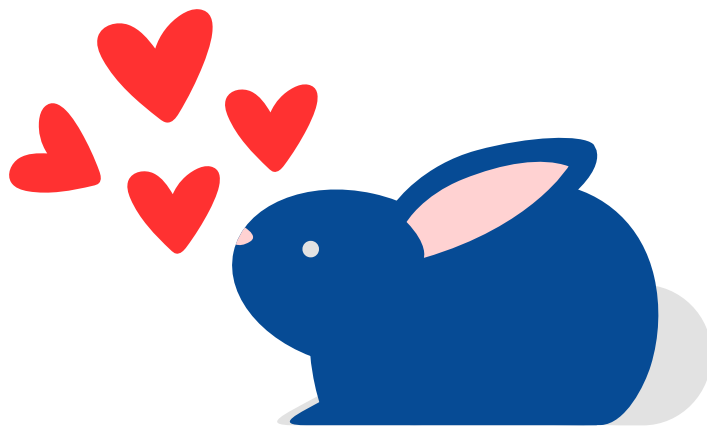




**RSPCA Manchester
& Salford Branch**

Registered Charity No. 232255

TOP RABBIT CARE TIPS



Get ready for your new
family member

WHAT YOUR RABBIT COMES WITH:

- Electronic adoption pack which includes vet history.
- Adoption fee payment is by bank card at the centre or bank transfer (for animals in foster homes). Our bank details will be included in your adoption pack.
- 4 weeks free pet insurance from Petplan.
- Guide to Common Health Problems.
- Our Feeding Plan and Fresh Food Guide.
- They will also have hay/toys/box with their scent on to help settle them into their new home.
- Our help and guidance throughout the life of your new furry friend.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?



PRIORITY TO DO LIST:

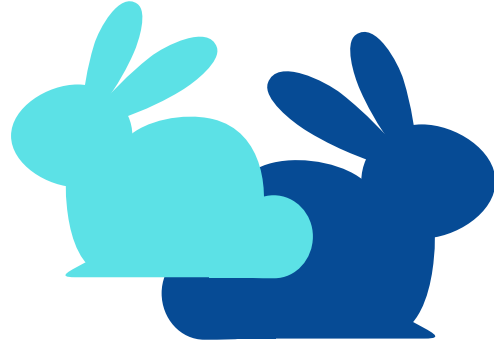
- Find and register with a local 'rabbit-savvy' vet now, this can normally be done over the phone without taking your rabbit. **See: Vet Stuff page.**
- Check you have all the items on our **Rabbit Shopping List.**
- Send us photos of your new rabbit's home all set up.
- Send us photos of any existing rabbit's home (if applicable).
- Send us vaccination records of any cats, dogs, rabbits or ferrets in your home.
- Send us proof of ID e.g copy of Driver's license or passport.





RABBIT SHOPPING

LIST



Food stuff

- Ceramic/pot bowl per rabbit for water.
- Good quality hay
(not supermarket/petshop bought).
- Suitable veggies

Entertainment

- Things to leap on/off ie. logs, boxes
- Tunnels to run through (solid or nylon non- crinkly).
- Cardboard boxes (remove any tape).

Out and about

- Pet carrier, ideally with top and front opening (avoid fabric designs).
- Soft bedding blankets to line carrier.

Litter stuff

- 2 Litter trays (ideally plastic dog bed style).
- Newspapers or paper-based litter to line trays.

Housing stuff

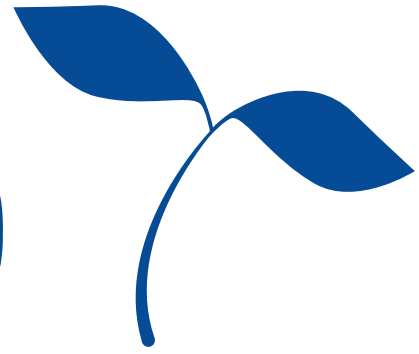
HOUSE RABBITS

- A pen to contain your rabbit
(min. height 90 cms) if they aren't free range.

OUTDOOR RABBITS

Please speak to our team before purchasing any outdoor set up, so we can advise.

HEY! YOU NEED HAY!



Hay should be 90% of your rabbits diet but not all hay is good hay! Avoid feeding hay from a shrink-wrapped plastic bag. Hay should be long stemmed, fresh smelling and lush looking.



- Avoid alfalfa hay entirely, it is too high in calcium, instead choose Meadow Hay from bales or Timothy Hay.



Retailers that sell hay bales/loose hay:

Shentons in Handforth

Cheshire Pet Supplies in Altrincham

Creature Comforts in Heywood

Google 'farm feed suppliers'

Online retailers that sell hay:

www.timothyhay.co.uk

Hay Experts

Happy Hay Company

Hay Box (allows you to set up a regular delivery!)



Top tip: Farm shops and horse feed shops often sell bales of hay (generally around £10) just make sure it's hay and not haylage or straw!

FEEDING TIME



We will provide a copy of our feeding regime at the centre to keep things simple. Please stick to the veg recommended, as there is a lot of misinformation on the internet about what fresh food a rabbit can eat!

The most important thing to express is that rabbits need to be fed a diet that is mainly good quality hay/grass (constantly available) and leafy green veg, such as kale, romaine lettuce and suitable herbs.



We provide a measured portion of pellets in puzzle feeders daily or 2 Fibasticks - this provides enrichment and mimics natural feeding.

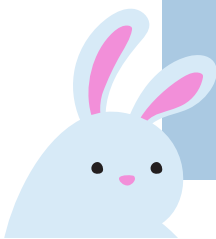
DANGER – GUT STASIS



Gut stasis is a silent killer and we like everyone to be aware that if a rabbit goes off their food this requires immediate veterinary attention as they can become critically ill within hours.

For more info have a look here:

www.rabbit.org/gastrointestinal-stasis-the-silent-killer-2/



Top tip: Always avoid fruit, as it is not natural for a rabbit's digestive system to cope with such sugary food items, this includes carrots and celery too!

VET STUFF



Rabbit-savvy vets

The best type of vet to use is an exotic vet specialist as they have additional training to treat rabbits.

Exotic vets in the area include:

Ashleigh Vets in Chorlton
Cheshire Pets in Holmes Chapel
Liverpool University Small Animal Vets
Rutland House in St Helens



For further information visit:

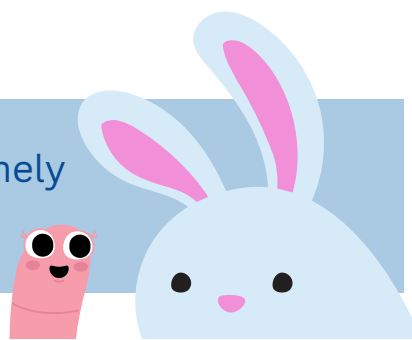
www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk/rabbit-welfare-association-fund/our-work/rabbit-friendly-vets/

Vaccinations

- Your rabbit has been vaccinated against Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease strain 1 and 2 and myxomatosis. This vaccination needs to be repeated annually to maintain immunity.
- The adoption pack contains your rabbit's vaccination card and will tell you when the next vaccine is next due.



Top tip: Rabbits do not need to be routinely treated for fleas and worms!



HOUSING



Setting up in 10 steps

- 1** Provide one litter tray per rabbit plus an extra one.
- 2** Make sure the litter tray is at least twice the size of your rabbit and has high sides (when they wee they raise their bobtail!).
- 3** Ensure the rabbit cannot feel the substrate on their paws by covering it with a thick layer of hay.
- 4** Provide hay in multiple places to promote foraging, which is how a rabbit in the wild would source their food.
- 5** Make sure you provide fresh hay daily, no less than twice the size of their body in hay per day.
- 6** Provide multiple places to hide with two entrance/exit holes e.g. stools, tunnels, enclosed cardboard box.
- 7** Provide platforms/leaping ledges e.g. wooden boxes, up turned banana boxes etc
- 8** Things to chew, e.g. willow, sea grass, cardboard boxes, grassy tunnels, twigs/branches of fruit trees.
- 9** Things to pick up and throw, e.g. small plastic plant pots, stacking cups, solid plastic baby toys.
- 10** Scatter feeding veg, rather than delivering it in a bowl, is another way to make a bunny work for their food!

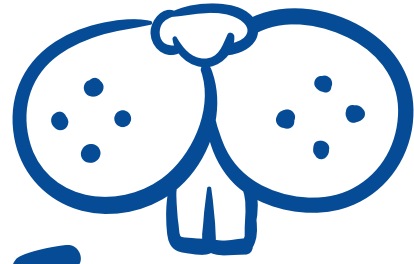
Check out this little video for inspiration!

youtu.be/3NnUebVD4KA

Top tip: Cheap plastic stools from discount shops make great platforms to jump on and places to hide under!



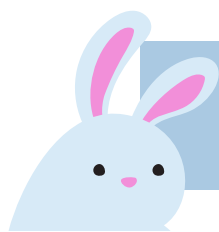
RABBIT PROOF YOUR HOME



Tips from those in the know!

Rabbits naturally like to chew so you'll need to protect items in your home like wooden furniture, sofas and skirting for their safety and your sanity!

- You can protect furniture with guards/covers/boxing but the best deterrent is to keep bunny out of the room unless supervised.
- Use cable tidies or boxing to cover any wires within nibbling reach.
- Block off areas you don't want them to hide in. They can squeeze into very small spaces!
- Keep house plants out of reach, rabbits do not know what is poisonous to them.
- If you want to prevent access to upstairs or different rooms in the house use a baby gate. NB Some bunnies can fit through the gaps so cover with mesh too.
- Place carpet tiles or carpet off-cuts in areas your bunny has a penchant for digging.



Top tip: Baby gates can often be found second-hand online and in charity shops!

GOT A QUESTION



Our team are highly trained in rabbit welfare and behaviour, if you have a query they are here to help! It doesn't matter how long ago you adopted from us.

Contact us:

adoptions@rspca-manchesterandsalford.org.uk

SOCIALS

We love to hear about ex-residents in their new homes, share your pictures with us on Facebook and Insta:

www.facebook.com/RSPCAManchesterandsalford

https://www.instagram.com/rspca_mcr_salford/

