

Pet Care of a Rabbit

Rabbits come in all sorts of sizes and colours. They also have very different characters. They can live for between 9 to 12 years, sometimes longer.



Diet

Rabbits eat hay and sometimes grass. They need pellets which are high in vitamins and minerals. They graze in the morning and evening, and always need clean, fresh water.

Giving rabbits hay helps them digest their food.

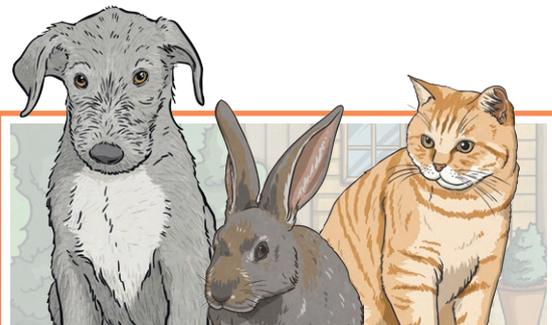
Muesli is dangerous and can cause serious problems for their teeth.

Environment

Rabbits need a large space to live in. They need room to hop, jump, dig and stand on their back legs.

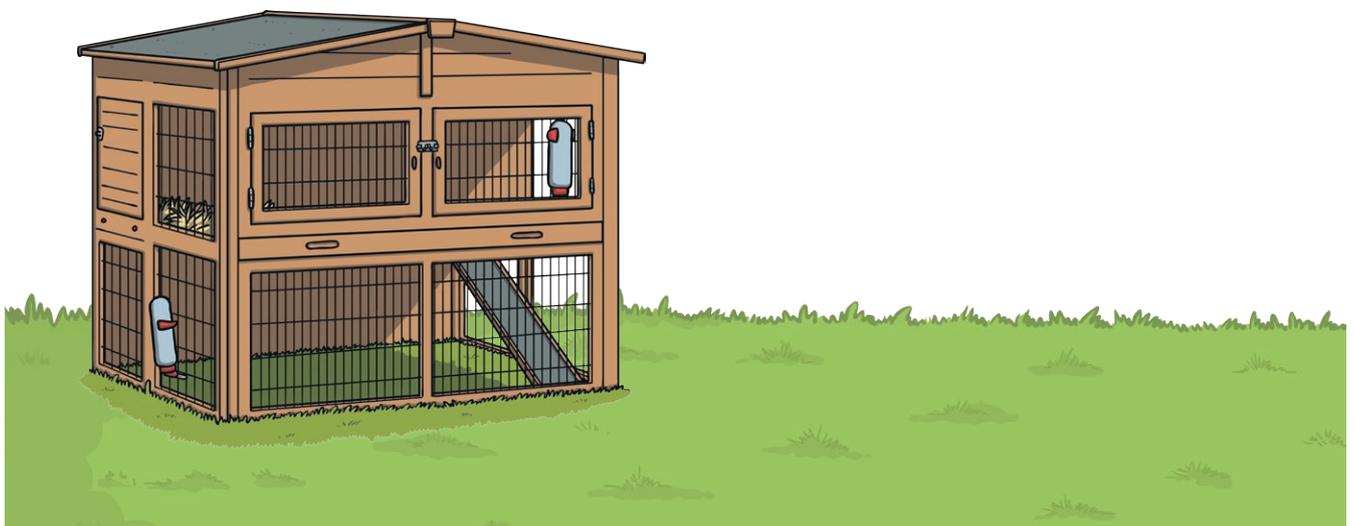
They must be safe from animals like foxes and birds of prey.

They need places to hide, and a dry, clean shelter, which will keep out the bad weather or the hot sun.



Did You Know?

Rabbits will be afraid of cats and dogs, but if they are introduced carefully, they can become friends!



Housing a rabbit

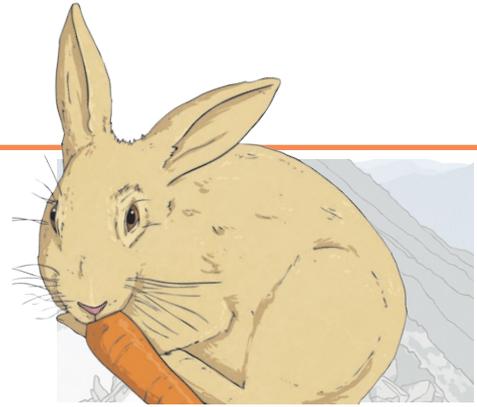
- Rabbits need dust-free hay or straw as bedding.
- All rabbits need to be able to go to a toilet area, which is not near the place they sleep in.
- Rabbits like being with other rabbits, so getting two is a great idea!

Rabbit behaviour

Rabbits are clever and need things to keep them busy. They need:

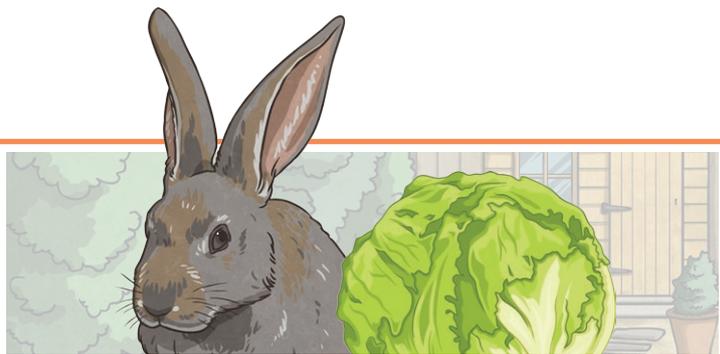
- toys to chew;
- a sand box for digging in;
- places to hide;
- chance to play with other rabbits and people.

You must always pick a rabbit up very carefully.



Did You Know?

Rabbits should not be given carrots very often! They are high in sugar, and rabbits can get overweight. Carrots should only be given as a treat!



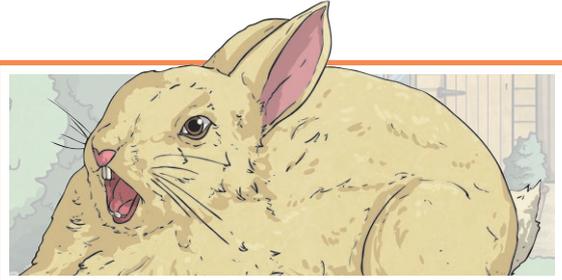
Did You Know?

Some lettuce is harmful for a rabbit. Some types can make them ill.



A Worried Rabbit

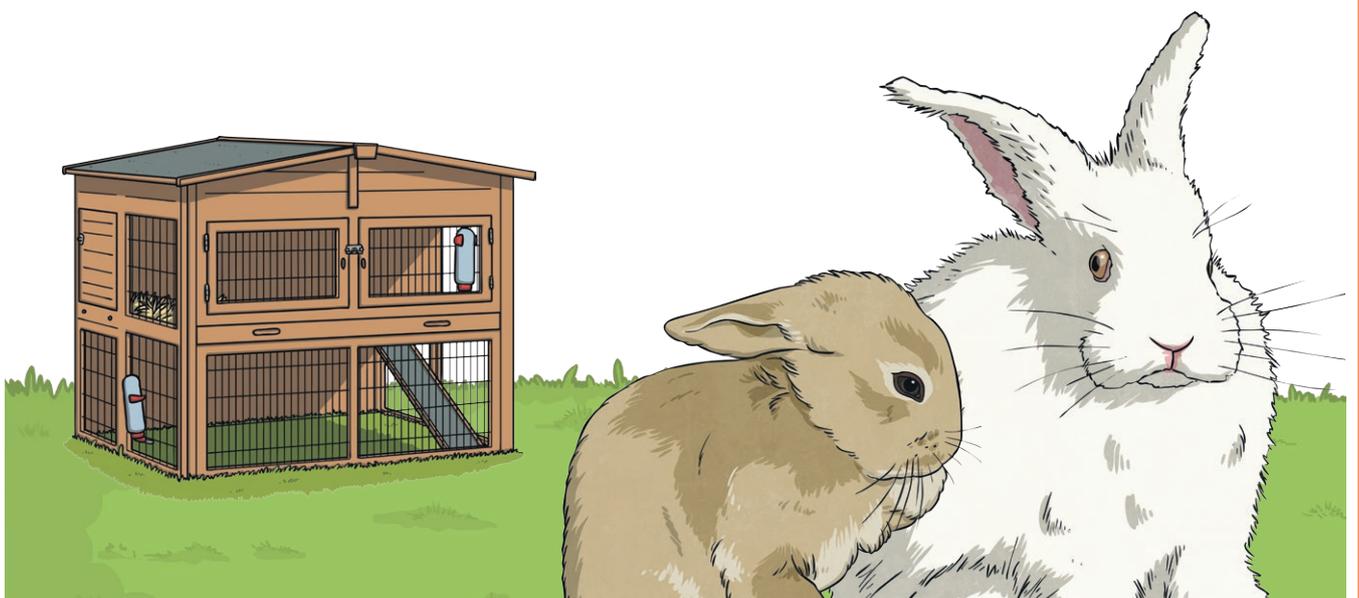
This rabbit is in a crouched position, its head is flat to the ground and its muscles are tense. Its ears are wide apart and flat against its back.



An Angry Rabbit

This rabbit is standing with its body down and its head upwards. Its mouth is open and it is showing its teeth. Its ears are right back and lowered.

Remember: You must always treat your rabbit with kindness and gentleness.



Questions

1. How long might a rabbit live?

2. When do rabbits eat?

3. Why should rabbits not have muesli?

4. Name one type of predator for a rabbit.

5. Would you say a rabbit likes to have company? How do you know?

6. Why could too many carrots be a danger to a rabbit?

Name two things that would stop a rabbit getting bored.

8. How might a rabbit be feeling if it is sitting in a crouched position with its head flat to the ground?

9. How should people treat a rabbit?

Answers

1. How long might a rabbit live?
A rabbit might live for 9 to 12 years.
2. When do rabbits eat?
Rabbits eat at dawn and dusk (morning and evening).
3. Why should rabbits not have muesli?
Rabbits should not have muesli because it causes serious problems with their teeth.
4. Name one type of predator for a rabbit.
A fox or a bird of prey are predators for rabbits. (Accept one.)
5. Would you say a rabbit likes to have company? How do you know?
I would say a rabbit likes to have company because in the text it says rabbits "like to be with other rabbits".
6. Why could too many carrots be a danger to a rabbit?
Too many carrots could be a danger to a rabbit because they are high in sugar and rabbits can get overweight.
7. Name two things that would stop a rabbit getting bored.
**Two things which would stop a rabbit getting bored, are:
toys to chew;
a sand box for digging in;
places to hide;
chance to play with other rabbits and people.
(Accept any two.)**
8. How might a rabbit be feeling if it is sitting in a crouched position with its head flat to the ground?
If a rabbit is sitting in a crouched position with its head flat to the ground, it might be feeling worried.
9. How should people treat a rabbit?
People should treat rabbits with kindness and gentleness.