

CARING FOR BUNNIES

- **Water**

- Please make sure that the water bottle has plenty of water and that it is secure. Please tap the dripper daily to make sure it is working and that water comes out ok.
- In the fold out hutch, place water in the heavy ceramic bowl

- **Food**

- 80% of a rabbit's diet should be hay – ensure the hay feeder is always full for the rabbit eat whenever they are hungry
- We provide pellets which can be used as a supplement. This has a high fat content and too much will make the rabbit obese. 1/3 cup per day is plenty
- Please supplement this dry food with fresh fruit and veg. See list at the end suitable for rabbits

- **Cleaning**

- How often you will need to change the paper and straw will depend on which rabbit you have. Some mess up the whole cage while some just mess up a corner. Please clean when dirty which is usually every 3 or 4 days.
- In the fold out hutch, they don't require straw as they will use their litter tray. One yoghurt container of will last 3 days. They may occasionally not go in the try, but they can be picked up with a dustpan. The litter can be composted

- **Handling**

- Adults only are to pick up the animal, supporting the body. Rabbits can feel insecure when carried and may wriggle causing the claws to scratch, so make sure they feel supported. Children may pat while an adults hold or they may have the animal in their lap on a towel.
- Do not let the children poke it in the face.
- Do not let the children walk around with the animal, only adults to carry.

- Be careful and gentle, if there is a large group of children the rabbit may be best on the teachers lap or on a towel on the floor rather than being passed around. They can be allowed to hop about the room if supervised.
- Keep the cage in a secure area out of the wind, rain or direct sunlight. Call if you have any questions.
- Please keep a fly net over the cage when you are not around to protect the rabbit from diseases spread from flies and mosquitos.
- We provide toys for the rabbits to play with, they can be filled with grass or hay
- Rabbits must be checked everyday

Toy Ideas

- Fill toilet rolls/paper rolls with hay or grass
- Sticks (particularly branches from fruit trees)
- Plait hay or long grasses together to form ropes, these ropes can be used to hang chunks of fruit or veg from their hutch

FEEDING LIST

Food found in the garden

Thistles
Wire-weed
Dandelion
Chickweed
Plantain (young plants)
Dock (young plants)
Parsley
Sunflower stalks and leaves
Leaves – grapevine, almond, apricot or plum
Kikuyu grass
Couch grass

Vegetables

Lettuce
Endive
Celery and leaves
Spinach
Silver beet
Corn (including husks and silk)
Parsnips
Carrots & carrot tops
Pumpkin
Beetroot
Tomato
Cucumber
Marrow
Zucchini
Choko
Capsicum (green, red or yellow)
Beans
Peas

Fruit (in moderation as will increase urine output)

Apple
Pear
Plum
Nectarine
Peach
Apricot
Strawberry
Banana
Orange or mandarins
Watermelon/rockmelon/honeydew
Pineapple

Treats

Cabbage
Cauliflower (including leaves and stalks)
Broccoli
Brussel sprouts
Turnip
Kohlrabi

DO NOT FEED

Rhubarb (including leave and stems)
Radishes
Potatoes or potato tops
Onions
Onion grass
Bulb plants of any type
Buttercups
Oxalis or sour-sobs
Deadly nightshade
Garden shrubs e.g. oleander