

YOUR NEW RABBIT

Congratulations on the purchase of your new pet.

This sheet gives you some simple steps and guide lines to follow to ensure that your bunny settles into his/her new home with as little upset as possible.

Housing

You should have your rabbit's 'home' all set up ready for his/her arrival. Make sure there is clean fresh bedding, fresh water and food, as well some hay.

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Handling

Your rabbit will have been handled on a daily basis so will already be used to human contact and should be friendly. However, it is recommended that you do not over-handle your new addition for the first few days. Rabbits can suffer stress quite easily and after being moved away from all siblings and the only home he/she knows, your bunny will be a little spooked so being handled by a stranger will only upset him/her further. Instead, allow your bunny to get to know you, talk to him/her whenever you feed or go near the cage and allow him/her to smell your hand to get used to your scent. Do not be concerned if your bunny is a little timid and nervous of you for the first few days – this does not mean that he/she is unfriendly, it just means he/she needs time to get used to his/her new surroundings. After a few days, your bunnies' character will start to show.

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Feeding and Treats

You have been supplied with some of the food that your bunny is used to. Rabbits have sensitive stomachs so a sudden change in diet can cause upset tummies. Feed the food provided for the first few days and then bit by bit, daily, mix in the food you wish to feed until eventually you are feeding all your own feed.

Your bunny has also been fed hay, so please ensure that you provide good quality hay to eat daily. He/she has also been fed small amounts of vegetables, but it is best to refrain from feeding this type of food until you have completed the changeover of hard food. When you do feed vegetables, only feed small amounts until your bunny is older, to avoid an upset tummy.

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Exercise

After the first few days, you can get your bunny out for exercise. You can either allow him/her to play indoors or you can put him/her out in the run. Your bunny will be used to exercising in the run but his/her time should be limited to 30 mins at a time and then gradually getting longer as your bunny grows older.

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If you follow these simple tips, your bunny should settle into his/her new home very quickly and you will be able to start enjoying your new pet.

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I hope you will be happy with your bunny and that you will provide it with a home for life. However, if you do find yourself in a situation where you are unable to care for your bunny any longer, please contact me and I will see what I can do to help.