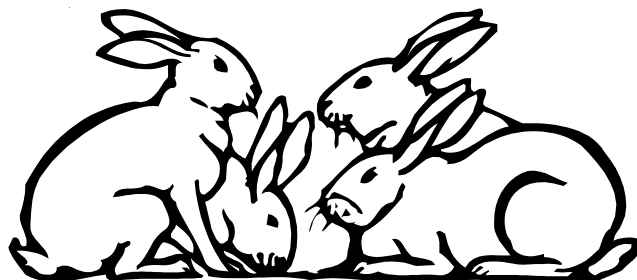


Basic Information on **Housetraining Rabbits**



Housetraining a rabbit is not difficult, but it is time consuming. It is best to start with a young rabbit that is between 6 and 13 weeks old. This age group adjusts to house living more easily than an older rabbit.

Here is a list of items you will want to have on hand before you purchase your rabbit.

- Cat litter box (appropriate size for the rabbit) (ferret litter boxes work well too!)
- Litter scoop
- Non-appetizing cat litter or dry sand
- Taste deterrent spray or cream
- One spray bottle – filled with water
- Dust pan and whisk broom
- Indoor wire cage complete with water bottle and feed dish
- Enzyme stain & odor remover (Carpet Clean, Simple Solution, Nature's Miracle, etc.)

Step 1

Place the new rabbit in the new cage for 24 hours. During this period do not disturb or handle the rabbit. Observe which corner the rabbit urinates in. Once a rabbit has scented out one spot to use as it's toilet, it will always use the same spot.

Step 2

Put your litter box over the toilet corner. Once you are sure the rabbit is using the box, you may start handling your new pet. Start by removing the rabbit for 10 to 15 minutes several times a day. If the rabbit is treated in a gentle manner it will soon come to enjoy trips outside of it's cage. Always supervise small children when they handle their pet.

Step 3

You may now leave the rabbit out of it's cage for longer periods of time. Watch carefully and return it to it's cage if it shows signs of lifting it's tail to urinate. If you catch your pet lifting it's tail, spray it with water from the water bottle and return it to it's cage. By the end of the third week you should be able to leave the door of it's cage open when you are home.

Step 4

If you catch the rabbit using your favorite rug for a litter box, clean the area with enzyme stain & odor remover and it will not return. **Never** hit your rabbit. This will only make your pet mean and aggressive.

Step 5

Rabbits love to chew. They chew on lamp cords, alarm clock cords, T. V. cords, chair legs, carpets and unattended feed containers. We suggest you spray or apply the taste deterrent product such as Canopy Scientific's "Better Bitters", or Bitter Apple© on the cords and other items your rabbit may chew. Do not spray electrical outlets or appliances! When you discover the rabbit chewing, use your water spray bottle and soak the animal. Rabbits do not like to be sprayed with water. This is a great training tool.

Step 6

When you leave home for the day or even a few minutes, put your rabbit back in it's cage. **Never** leave a rabbit unattended.

Step 7

The rabbit will still leave small fecal droppings here and there. Whisk them up with your dust pan and broom. Do not leave droppings on the floor. This will only encourage the rabbit to keep using the same area for a toilet.

House rabbits will enjoy a trip out to the back yard to run and dig. If you do not have a fenced yard, your pet may be trained to a harness and leash. Trips to the park can quickly get both you and your pet attention from other people. After all, how many people walk their rabbits in the park?!

Please note: The information on this handout is meant to provide basic information on house training only. There are several good books available on the care and maintenance of rabbits.

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