



## FACT SHEET - RABBIT

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There are many breeds of rabbits from tiny dwarfs up to the giant breeds. They all require a comfortable, roomy place to live with plenty of space for exercise. Remember though that rabbits like to burrow so make sure their enclosure is secure and escape-proof! Rabbits have very strong hind legs and can scratch you with their claws.

### Rabbit Needs

- Companionship of other rabbits (preferably two females together as two males will fight)
- A daily mixed diet of rabbit cereals, pellets, fresh fruit and vegetables with some good quality hay
- A supply of fresh water in a drinking bottle available at all times
- A large hutch and run including a covered sleeping area of at least 55x60cm per rabbit and a secure exercise area of at least 180x90cm. The height should be enough for your rabbit to stand on its hind legs
- To be kept clean
- Wood to gnaw on



### Rabbit Health

- Teeth and claws can become overgrown. Check often and regular clipping may be required by a vet
- Fly strike can be a problem if you do not keep the hutch and run clean. Flies lay their eggs on any soiled fur on the rabbit and the maggots hatch out and eat into the flesh of the rabbit
- Treatment for parasites such as fleas, ticks, lice or mites can be obtained from a veterinary practice
- If a rabbit is seen to have diarrhoea, nasal discharge or breathing difficulties, seek veterinary advice immediately

### Rabbit Facts

- Average lifespan is 6 - 8 years
- Females can come into season any time - in response to a male
- Gestation period is approximately 31 days
- Average litter size is 6 - 8
- A female is known as a doe and a male as a buck

This is intended as a quick guide only. Further information should be obtained before embarking on keeping this type of pet.