

Bunny Palooza

Feeding your Pet Rabbit

Unlimited Fresh Water At All Times

Preferably supplied in a bowl.

80% Fresh Hay

Fresh hay should make up about 80% of your rabbit's diet and should be available at all times. Adult rabbits should be fed mainly timothy hay, although other hay types can also be fed, for example orchard grass and mixed field hay. Very young rabbits should be fed alfalfa hay which has a higher protein and sugar content, and then gradually transitioned to timothy hay. Adult rabbits should only be fed alfalfa hay very sparingly as it can lead to obesity, digestive upset and other health issues. Hay is very important because it provides essential fibre for digestive health and helps wear down a rabbit's teeth. Hay should be located at one end of the litter box as bunnies poop while they eat.

Hay should be fresh and not be too brown or moldy. If it doesn't smell fresh to you it won't be appetizing to your rabbit either. Hay needs to be properly stored, with sufficient air flow to stay dry. Storing hay in an airtight container, or in a damp space, causes hay to take on moisture and become moldy. Hay can be purchased from pet stores or specialized small pet suppliers. If cost is an issue, reach out to your local farmer. Hay is usually available as 1st or 2nd cuts. Your rabbit may have a preference for one or the other.

15% Fresh Vegetables

Fresh vegetables are an important part of your rabbit's daily diet. Ensure that you only feed vegetables that are safe for them to eat. Wash off any dirt and pesticides before giving fresh produce to your rabbit. Vegetables low in oxalic acid are best for rabbits, for example: **arugula, bok choy, carrot tops, chicory, cilantro, cucumber and their leaves, endive, fennel, frisee, romaine, red or green lettuce, kale, mache, parsley, radish leaves and roots, radicchio, spring greens, turnip greens, watercress, wheatgrass and yu choy.**

When introducing new veggies to your rabbit, it is best to start with one at a time, and small amounts to see how their digestive systems react. Overloading with new foods can upset a rabbit's GI tract and may lead to runny poops.

5% Pellets

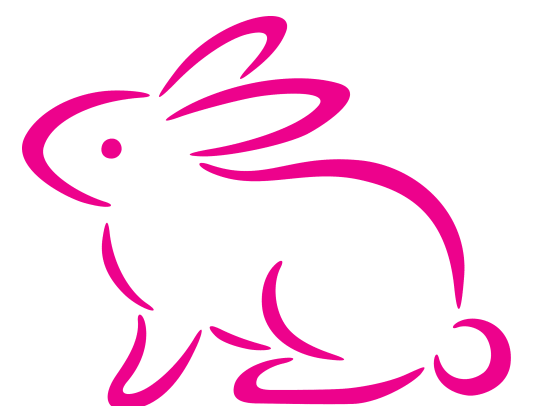
Pellets can be a part of a healthy diet but are not necessary. It is very important to read the ingredients on a bag of pellets to make sure there are no additives such as corn and seeds which can cause gastrointestinal distress. Pellets should be high in fibre and low in protein. Too much protein can cause obesity. High fibre timothy pellets are the best kind for adult rabbits. Talk to your veterinarian for recommended brands of pellets and for the ideal quantity to feed.

Treats

Treats should only be given occasionally as they can be high in sugars which can lead to weight issues and GI trouble or gas/bloating. **DO NOT** feed your rabbit treats that are high in carbohydrates, nor any human snacks. Always read the ingredients when buying treats and make sure they don't include anything unsafe for your rabbit.

Small pieces of fruit and some veggies are good treat options, however most fruits are high in natural sugars so should be given sparingly. Here are some fruits most rabbits like: **banana, strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, pineapple, and apples.**

Note that, contrary to popular belief, rabbits should **NOT** have a diet of carrots as they are very high in natural sugars which are not healthy for your rabbit. Small pieces of carrot can be given once in a while as a treat.



Bunny Palooza

Rabbit Food Pyramid



Unlimited
Water



Treats



5% Pellets



15% Fresh Vegetables



80% Hay

Foods To Avoid:

Beans, Nuts, Corn, Seeds, Iceberg Lettuce, Avocado,
Potato, Bread, Cabbage, Citrus, Milk or Milk products,
Chocolate and all Human Snacks