

# Rabbits

Rabbits can have a bacterium that shows no symptoms in rabbits but can be fatal to guinea pigs so handle guinea pigs first.



<b>Room Whiteboard</b>	Animal ID # and cage number of each rabbit (update when rabbit come and go). Draw map of cages (showing cage #'s).
<b>Owner Equipment</b>	Label all owner equipment. List owner equipment on the Animal Care Schedule.
<b>Housing</b>	No wire mesh on the floor. Straight-sided litter boxes.  Make sure there is space between cages so rabbits cannot touch their noses, or separate cages with cardboard (to prevent fighting).  They are sensitive to heat. If it is hot (over 80 degrees F (27 C)), put them in an air-conditioned room, although not with cold air blowing directly on them.  Paper-based litter or wood stove pellets (not clay-based or wood shavings).
<b>Handling</b>	<b>No handling unless necessary!</b> Always wash hands well before and after entering the Exotics room. • <u>Use disposable gloves and change if handled.</u>
<b>Dietary Needs (Owner Feed)</b>	<b>Follow owners' dietary instructions. Label any owner feed.</b> • Timothy hay (adults), alfalfa hay (rabbits under 8 months old, nursing females and pregnant females). • Pelleted Food: Use Oxbow adult rabbit food (adults) or Oxbow young rabbit food (under 8 months, pregnant, nursing). • Wash all greens thoroughly. Treats: very small treat, for example one baby carrot. Greens: romaine lettuce, green leaf lettuce, red leaf lettuce, parsley, cilantro ( <i>no iceberg lettuce</i> ). • Put 1/2 cup (100 ml) (or unlimited for young) of food pellets into food bowl. For food a heavy ceramic crock (4"-5" (10-13 cm) diameter) is best. Put the food bowl away from water. • <b>**Nothing in the cabbage family as it causes gas, which can kill a rabbit (e.g., no kale, broccoli).</b>
<b>Water</b>	• Heavy ceramic crocks (4"-5" (10-13 cm) diameter) with hangers are best. • Fill the water bottle to the top. Tap the end of the water bottle tube to make sure it is functioning. For water bowls, dump water, wipe down, fill.
<b>Daily Cleaning</b>	• <u>Always use disposable gloves and change between each cage, aquarium, etc.</u> • Remove poop and urine soiled litter. Add more litter as needed. • Use a paper towel with water for any additional cleaning.
<b>Health Issue</b>	<b>Contact the Shelter Lead</b> , if there is a rabbit with a medical issue. • Lethargic, not eating, etc. • Document on Animal Care Schedule (and highlight it). • Attach cage card (Vet Needed) on clipboard and note on whiteboard. <u>Veterinary staff may not be activated.</u>
<b>Demobilization</b>	• Remove Animal ID # from whiteboard, once the animal is released to owner. • When a cage is no longer needed (Exotic has left), put cage card (Dirty) on clipboard. • If appropriate, take the cage / kennel to the wash station. After cleaning, spray with Rescue Solution, and let sit for 5 minutes. • Clean food, water bowls/bottles, and housing. Rinse well with water and return to Exotic room. • Put cage card (Clean) on clipboard.