RABBIT CARE

FOOD

- The most important component of your rabbit’s diet is grass hay, such as timothy, which keeps the intestinal tract healthy. Unlimited hay should always be available.

- You may wish to supplement with good-quality rabbit pellets (18% fiber). Until your pet is fully grown at around 6 months, he can have unlimited pellets; after that, limit pellets to 1/8-1/4 cup per 6 pounds of bunny. Frail, older bunnies may need more to keep weight up; ask your veterinarian.

- Feed your pet fresh, leafy greens daily, such as dark lettuces, collard greens, turnip greens and carrot tops. We suggest a minimum of 2 cups per 6 pounds of rabbit.

- Clean, fresh water, dispensed in a bottle or sturdy bowl, should be available 24/7.

CAGE & ENVIRONMENT

- Where’s the only place for your rabbit’s cage? INDOORS! Rabbits are highly social, and do best when they have plenty of interaction with family members. Outdoors, they face the threat of attacks from other animals and inclement weather.

- Rabbits should not be housed with other rabbits unless all are spayed/neutered and have been carefully introduced on neutral territory.

- The minimum recommended cage length for one rabbit is 3 to 4 feet, but bigger is always better!

- We recommend a solid-bottom metal cage, large dog crate or puppy exercise pen. Wire-bottom cages can ulcerate a rabbit’s feet. If you do use a wire cage, cover the bottom with wood, towels or carpeting.

BEHAVIOR & HANDLING

- Rabbits are prey animals and timid by nature, so be patient if your pet seems shy at first. Hand-feeding treats is a nice way to get acquainted.

- Pick up your rabbit by supporting his forequarters with one hand and his hindquarters with the other. Handle with care—an accidental drop can result in broken legs and back!

- NEVER pick up a rabbit by the ears or scruff—this can cause very serious injury.

LITTER TRAINING

- Clean by nature, most rabbits will choose one corner of the cage as a bathroom. As soon as your rabbit’s choice is clear, put a newspaper-lined litter box in that corner; cover the bottom with hay or pelleted litter.

- Never use pine or cedar shavings as litter, as the fumes can make your pet sick. Clay cat litter can cause respiratory or gastrointestinal problems.