

BUNANZA RABBIT RESCUE

501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization



Basic Bunny Care Guide

Supporting you and your bunny every hop of the way. All bunnies adopted from Bunanza come with lifetime support. If you ever have questions, concerns, or just need reassurance — we're here.

Website:

www.bunanzarabbitrescue.org

Email:

Bunanzarabbit@gmail.com

The 3-3-3 Rule for Bunny Adoption & Fostering

3 Days Decompression

- Feeling overwhelmed, scared, unsure.
- May hide in their litter box, hidey house, or corner.
- Not comfortable enough to eat, drink, or use the litter box normally.
- Very quiet; personality not showing yet.



3 Weeks Settling In

- Starting to feel safer and explore.
- Getting used to environment and routine.
- Becoming more comfortable around people.
- Showing personality and preferences.
- May test boundaries (chewing, digging, marking territory).



3 Months Feeling at Home

- Finally feeling secure in their home.
- Trust and bond growing stronger.
- Confident in exploring and interacting.
- True personality shining through.
- Building lifelong companionship.



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Rabbit Warning Signs !! Any of these signs can indicate a potential illness, infection, parasite or disease, and a veterinary clinic should be consulted as soon as possible.

- **Appetite loss:** Often the first warning sign of GI Stasis and can be fatal if not addressed quickly.
- **Diarrhea:** Rabbit droppings should always be solid and round (can occasionally occur when a rabbit is stressed).
- **Cloudy eyes or discharge from eyes:** Can be a sign of illness or infection.
- **Head tilt:** Must be treated and addressed immediately.
- **Lethargic or refusing to move:** Unless the rabbit is stressed, this is usually a sign of GI Stasis or another illness or disease.
- **Fast, slow, or noisy breathing:** Can be a sign of respiratory illness or disease.
- **Open sores, foul smell, worms, fleas, ticks, or other parasites.**

Housing & Space: Bunnies are active, curious animals who thrive with room to move and explore.

- A minimum 4'x4' enclosure is recommended, plus daily exercise or supervised free roam time. The more space, the happier the bunny.
- Soft flooring with traction (rugs, mats, carpet) helps prevent sore hocks.
- An x-pen at least 3 feet tall works beautifully for safe housing.
- If free roaming, make sure the space is fully bunny-proofed (cords, baseboards, houseplants, etc.).
- Bunnies are highly active animals and need space to run, jump, and explore to stay physically and mentally healthy. Limited space can lead to boredom, depression, and physical issues such as muscle atrophy. Providing enough space allows them to express natural behaviors like binkying (joyful jumps and twists in the air) and zooming around, which helps keep their muscles toned and their minds engaged.

Zoomies and binkies aren't just cute — they're signs of a happy, healthy rabbit!



Litter Box Setup: Yes, bunnies can be litter trained! Good habits start with the right setup.

- Use a large cat litter box with a low entry.
- Paper bedding or paper pellets (Carefresh, Kaytee, etc.) are recommended.
- Litters **NOT** to use: cat litter, clay litter, pine/cedar wood shavings, litter with high dust, scented litters
- Bunnies like to eat while they poop! Place the hay directly in the litter box and ensure they always have access to plenty of it.
- Scoop daily and fully refresh as needed to prevent odor and respiratory issues. A clean litter space encourages consistency and comfort.
- Read more tips at: <https://houserabbit.org/littertraining>.



Hay, Food & Treats (6+ Months): Diet is the foundation of rabbit health. When in doubt — more hay, fewer pellets.

- **Hay:** Provide unlimited Timothy or Orchard hay at all times.
 - Hay should make up about 85% of your rabbit's diet and supports both digestion and dental health.
- **Fresh Greens:** Offer 2–4 cups of fresh greens daily, depending on your rabbit's size, divided into two feedings. Aim for a variety of at least 3 types. Avoid too much spinach or kale, as they can cause gas or digestive upset. Great options include:
 - Romaine, red or green leaf lettuce
 - Arugula
 - Cilantro
 - Mint

- **Pellets:** Choose a high-quality brand such as Oxbow Essentials Adult Rabbit Food. We do not recommend following bag guidelines. Many rabbit-savvy veterinarians now recommend reduced pellet diets for adult rabbits. General recommendation:



- No more than 1/8 cup per 5 lbs of body weight per day
 - 3-5 lbs → 1/8 cup daily
 - 6-10 lbs → 1/4 cup daily
 - Split into two feedings (morning and evening)
 - Many rabbits thrive on even less if they're eating plenty of hay and greens.
 - Too many pellets can contribute to obesity, digestive issues, including GI stasis, reduced hay consumption, and urinary tract issues from excess calcium.
- These are *recommendations*. If you have concerns about your rabbit's weight or diet, consult a rabbit-savvy veterinarian.
 - **Treats:** Avoid store-bought treats with added sugar, seeds, or nuts. Small pieces of safe fruits or veggies (2–3 inches) make wonderful occasional treats.
 - Learn more at: <https://houserabbit.org/diet>



Water and Bowls: Use a large, heavy ceramic bowl that won't tip over easily. Bunnies can drink as much water as a small dog. Avoid using water bottles, as they don't allow for enough water intake, and can strain the neck. A food bowl is optional, as long as the area stays clean. You can use a bowl or plate if you prefer, or make mealtime more enriching by offering pellets in a puzzle toy, baby stacking cups, or a snuffle mat.



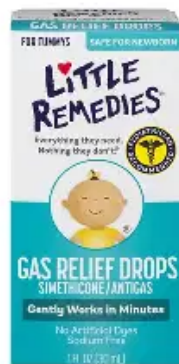
Enrichment & Toys: Rabbits need mental stimulation as much as physical space.

- Toys made from untreated, safe materials such as willow, hay, and wood.
- Tunnels, hideaways, and cardboard boxes are great for hiding and resting spaces.
- Paper towel or toilet paper tubes as DIY toys.
- Without enough mental and physical stimulation, bunnies can become stressed or destructive. Engaging toys and hideouts encourage play and exploration, which helps prevent boredom and keeps their minds sharp.



Health & Emergency Supplies

- **Critical Care:** Critical Care is essential to have on hand in case of GI stasis or other health emergencies. It has essential nutrients and helps support digestion.
- **Infant Gas Drops:** Relieves gas pain.
- **What is GI stasis?**
 - GI stasis is a potentially life-threatening condition where a rabbit's digestive system slows down to the point that it stops functioning completely. This can occur for various reasons, such as stress, pain, dehydration, a poor diet (low in fiber), or an underlying illness.
 - Signs to watch for include loss of appetite (especially refusing treats), reduced or no droppings, lethargy, hiding or hunching up more than usual, grinding teeth, and a bloated or tender belly.
 - GI stasis can progress quickly, and can become fatal if left untreated. The good news? Early intervention dramatically improves outcomes. If you suspect it, contact a rabbit-savvy veterinarian immediately.
 - Learn more about GI stasis here: rabbit.org/care/gi-stasis.



Safe Transport: Use a secure, hard-sided carrier (small dog carrier with a top opening works well) for safe travel to vet appointments or emergencies.



Bunny Essentials Checklist

- Carrier for Transport
- 4x4 x-pen (at least 3 feet tall)
- Large Cat Litter Box (low entry, hooded if desired)
- Paper Bedding or Paper Pellets (Carefresh, Kaytee, etc.)
- Scooper for Litter
- Unlimited Timothy or Orchard Hay (Oxbow, Small Pet Select)
- Oxbow Pellets
- Fresh Greens (Spring mix or other safe greens)
- Large Ceramic Water Bowl
- Ceramic or Heavy Food Bowl
- Toys & Hideaways (cardboard boxes, tunnels, DIY toys)
- Critical Care & Infant Gas Drops

Additional resources: Visit our website to learn more about local veterinary care, reputable rabbit education resources, and recommended places to shop for food treats, and bun-parent goodies!

<https://www.bunanzarabbitrescue.org/caring-for-your-bunny>

Caring for Your Bunny

Rabbit Care Educational Resources



We're here for you! Whether you're celebrating your first binky, adjusting litter habits, or navigating a health concern — you are not alone in this. Please reach out anytime. We truly mean it and we're here to help!



Website: www.bunanzarabbitrescue.org

Email: Bunanzarabbit@gmail.com