

Bunny's Worries!

A shocking report published by the PDSA this year, showed that hundreds of thousands of Britain's pet bunnies live lonely, miserable lives in undersized hutches and without suitable exercise, food or company.

Often the owners of these unhappy rabbits are actually very caring people, who truly believe that they are providing a good home for their pet. Animal suffering can simply be a matter of ignorance, so at Willow we are determined to spread the very important message of

'How to Have a Happy & Healthy Rabbit'






Follow the

5 Fact Bunny Code



1 What they eat

More than 50% of Britain's pet rabbits are not fed sufficient hay, and 49% are fed muesli mixes. Dental disease and obesity are both common in pet bunnies and are directly linked to an incorrect diet.

-  Rabbit muesli is **NOT** the most suitable food and should be gradually phased out.
-  Ideally allow rabbits safe ad-lib browsing. A daily pile of hay (at least their own body size), with no more than a tablespoon of quality rabbit nuggets.
-  Also offer small amounts of broccoli, cabbage, carrot tops and dandelion.
-  Grow your own 'Bunny Greens!' Ask for our **FREE rabbit pack**, containing a sample of suitable seeds to grow.
-  Ensure plenty of **FRESH** water is always available in both drinker bottles and solid bowls. Check that water has not frozen solid in cold weather.

Bunny



Winter 2011/12

Willow Veterinary Centres

Bulletin

1 Where they live

Over 150,000 of Britain's pet rabbits live like battery chickens in small hutches.

Watch the video 'A hutch is not enough' on www.rabbitwelfare.co.ukhave a hanky ready! Just think about the huge amount of room that wild rabbits have to run, jump, dig, play and whenever danger threatens, a warm, dry, dark safe place to hide in. Provide a home and exercise area as similar to this rabbit paradise as possible. With winter approaching, ensure that your Bunny has a snug hideaway, which is well insulated against the cold.



3 What they do

75% of Britain's pet bunnies are never given the chance to dig - a basic bunny right! They should have the opportunity to dig, run, jump and play every single day. Be imaginative in giving your rabbit an interesting and fun life. Provide plastic tunnels, large plant plots and planters of earth for digging.

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4 Companionship

A particularly sad fact is that over 1,100,000 of Britain's pet bunnies live alone. Rabbits are a very social species, and in the wild are always in groups. A solitary pet rabbit is no longer seen as acceptable. However, do take advice before introducing a new rabbit to your pet. The ideal mix is a neutered male and a neutered female living together. Neutering stops unwanted baby bunnies, reduces fighting and helps prevent some serious medical problems.



5 Health Over 60% of Britain's pet rabbits are not vaccinated. All pet rabbits should be vaccinated, neutered and checked daily for signs of ill health. If you have any concerns, please bring your rabbit in for a general health check, where we can also show you how to inspect your rabbit to be aware of any problems. Much can be done for bunnies nowadays, so it is worth considering insuring your pet.



Bunny Banter

The world record for the rabbit high jump is 2 metre.

A pet rabbit can live as long as 10 years.

Rabbits eat their own night droppings, which is quite normal behaviour!

... and in our next issue we'll be talking about house rabbits, and what you need to provide for their happiness and safety.

For loads more top tips on excellent bunny care go to
www.willowvet.co.uk
www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk
www.bva-awf.org.uk
www.pdsa.org.uk

We all love to see and talk about rabbits at Willows. Our Vet Richard Rice-Grubb, has a special interest in, and knowledge of rabbit care and treatment. Prevention is better than cure, so why not call us today and make an appointment?



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