General Rabbit Care

**Housing**

Appropriate housing is very important for your rabbit. The cage should be large enough to allow your rabbit to stand on its hind legs. As well, the rabbit should be able to jump forward and backward 4 times. At Carrot Hill Rabbitry we keep our bunnies on wire floors as we believe this is healthier than a solid floor. However, it is important that rabbits are able to have areas to sit where they are off of the wire, as wire can damage their feet, causing a painful condition called Sore Hocks. To accommodate this, we place several cage matts into each cage. We purchase our cages and matts from Grandview Rabbitry in West Montrose. You can check out their website at <http://www.grandviewrabbitry.com/>





Pet enclosures are a wonderful option as they give

the bunnies plenty of room to hop around! A cage can be placed within this if desired, with the door open so that the bunny can go in and out as needed

**Cleaning / Care of Cages**

Cages can be a pain to keep clean if your bunny isn't potty trained yet. If they have peed outside of their litter pan and you just wash it out with water, they can still smell their urine in that area resulting in them going in that same spot again. When we potty train rabbits we clean our their cage a specific way to help them learn. First we dump out their litter pan. You want them to be able to smell their urine in there litter pan only. Next we boil a big pot of water with one cup of ACV (Apple cider vinegar) mixed in. Sprinkle baking soda on the bottom of the cage and pour the hot ACV/ water mixture into the cage. Dump it out, let it dry, and continue with potty training! Convinced yet?! This is a miracle liquid that every animal owner should use!

[www.bluecloverrabbitry.com/blog/adding-apple-cider-vinegar-to-your-rabbits-diet](http://www.bluecloverrabbitry.com/blog/adding-apple-cider-vinegar-to-your-rabbits-diet)

**Cleaning Solution:**

The following solution was recommended to us by CP Rabbitry. We have used this here at Carrot Hill Rabbitry to clean our bowls, toys, bottles, matts and cage trays and find it to be very effective. We apply it via a spray bottle.

1 parts WHITE vinegar

1 part water

Mix together, either in a sink, or spray bottle, depending on what you are washing, and let soak. Rinse thoroughly before use.

**Bedding**

****At Carrot Hill Rabbitry, we use pine shavings in our trays. They can be purchased from TSC or from a furniture mill. As well, we sprinkle areas where the bunnies urinate with Sweet PDZ – a deodorizer, which helps to decrease the odour. We purchase this from Brubachers Harness Shop in Wallenstein, Ontario

<http://www.brubachersharness.ca/contents/en-us/d738_01.html#p5919>

**Grooming**

Rabbits shed roughly every three months, shedding more heavily during the spring and fall. As such, they need to be brushed regularly. Rabbits regularly groom themselves by licking, much like a cat. However, unlike cats, rabbits are unable to vomit. As such, without grooming, they may develop large hairballs, blocking their digestive systems. While shedding, bald spots can occur. However, the hair will begin to grow back within a week or two.

**Never, ever bathe your rabbit**. Bathing a rabbit can cause serious damage to their coats, and be very stressful for them. If you feel you need to "wash" your rabbit, please only use sensitive baby wipes to do the job, and "spot clean" them.

**Nail Clipping:**

Your bunny’s nails should be clipped once a month. We use large nail clippers. Cat clippers can also be used. We trim off only the tips, making sure to not cut into the quicks. While trimming nails, we also inspect the bottom of their feet, ensuring there are not matts, or things caught in the fur. Rabbits are always on their feet, so good foot care is important!

**Ear Care:**

Rabbits normally keep their ears quite clean. However, we do check them quickly each month. Should they require cleaning/wiping, gently clean them with a damp baby wipe. NEVER go into the ear with anything, as the ears are very sensitive.