

# Burrow Exotic Animal Rescue

## Rabbit Care Sheet

### Enclosure

- The minimum recommended housing size is 12 square feet (for example 6'x2') with the addition of a larger area for exercise. This is just the minimum though; always try to give your rabbit as much space as you can! Multiple level cages are discouraged, as they can cause damage to your rabbits' spine.
- You will need an enclosed sleeping spot, space for a litter box, heavy food and water bowls (make sure they can't tip or throw them), toys, and room to move around and play.
- Wire bottom cages are not permitted. They can cause sore hocks which are very painful.
- For litter boxes, make sure to use a hard wood shaving, paper litter, or KILN DRIED pine pellets. Kiln dried is very important as pine is a soft wood that can be dangerous if not properly dried out before use.
- If your rabbit is free roaming your house or room, make sure to keep all wires out of reach of your rabbit. If that's not possible, cover them with thick plastic tubing. Split it lengthwise and slide the cord through to keep it safe from nibbling rabbits!
- If you have an outside enclosure, it must be entirely predator proof. You will also need to make sure you have plenty of places for the rabbits to hide and shade themselves. It will need heating and cooling as well. We will make a home visit to ensure that the enclosure is safe before you can adopt.
- Rabbits are prey animals and need lots of places to hide and feel safe. Make sure to have at least 2 hides in an enclosure, and if you have multiple rabbits, at least one per rabbit. Do not buy hides that are advertised as "edible". Most of these have unsafe materials in them and can cause stomach upset once ingested. Safe hides are made of fabric, plastic, or straw. If your rabbit starts to eat a hide, remove it immediately.

### Food

- The bulk of every healthy bun's diet is grass hay. Examples of grass hay include timothy, brome, fescue, Bermuda grass, and orchard grass. The most common, and the one we use, is timothy grass hay. Make sure to stay away from legume hays, such as alfalfa, as these are higher in calories and calcium and can cause gastrointestinal issues and straw, as it has no nutritional value. Each rabbit should have a pile of clean hay as large as them available 24/7.
- Hay feeders are highly discouraged as they restrict access to the hay, can cause broken teeth if chewed on, cannot hold the amount of hay needed, and can cause broken bones if the rabbit gets stuck.
- An adult rabbit should have 1/2-1 cup of leafy greens a day. Rabbits under a year old should have half that. For all rabbits, introduce new veggies/fruits one at a time to get their systems used to new foods.
- Vegetables should be 1/4-1/2 a cup given daily or every other day.
- Fruits should be given sparingly, as treats.
- Do not give dried or frozen foods to rabbits.
- Rabbits should also get a 1/2 cup of PLAIN (no extra dried fruit or "cookie" bits) pellets daily. We recommend Oxbow Essentials.

### Toys & Enrichment

- Wood chews are the most important toys you should get for your rabbit. They help wear down your rabbit's teeth which are constantly growing. Loofah slices and pinecones are also a big favorite of the rabbits here at the Burrow!
- Hard plastic baby toys, such as stacking cups, are a favorite of many rabbits as well! They love to have things to throw around and make a mess with, so if you don't have designated toys for that be prepared for them to try and throw everything else they can grab instead.
- Avoid these common toys: Anything made with glue, mineral chews, and salt licks. These can cause gastrointestinal upset to your rabbit.