Holistic Pet Care
Exotic Animal Guide – Rabbits

Basic Information

- Average size: 10-12 inches long
- Lifespan: 8-10 years (depending on breed)
- Average weight: (depending on breed)
  - Small Rabbits: 2.5-5.5 lbs.
  - Large Rabbits: 10-14 lbs.
- Herbivores

Habitat and Toys

- Large pen/habitat generally 4 times the size of the rabbit.
  - Have plenty of space for rabbit to exercise and play.
  - Make sure “escape-proof.”
- 1-2 inches of shredded paper/crumble paper/small animal bedding for comfort and play.
- Litter pan (can be trained to use)
  - Small animal water bottle and food bowl
- Clean wet spots and litter pan daily. Deep clean weekly.
- Untreated wood blocks, boxes with shredded paper, soft ball toys, sturdy chew toys/sticks

Diet/Treats

Proper diet: Daily
- Grassy/Timothy Hay
- Clean, fresh, filtered water

Treats: Offer once or twice a week
- Vegetables: Cucumbers, carrot tops, zucchini radish tops, bell peppers, basil, oregano, parsley, rosemary
- Fruits: Banana, kale, spinach, apples without seeds, pears, grapes, peaches, carrots

[Diagram of Rabbit Food Pyramid]
Health Guide

Positive Health Qualities:
- Active, alert, sociable, playful
- Eats and drinks daily
- Soft fur and clear eyes
- Breathing unlabored
- Walks/hops normally
- Teeth are short/trimmed.

Red Flags of Concern:
- Weight loss
- Eye/nose discharge
- Excessive Hair loss
- Skin lesions
- Loose stool
- Overgrown Teeth
- Lethargic
- Difficult breathing

1-4 years old
Physical examinations annually
Consider Spay/Neuter options
Fecal testing annually
Trim nails every 3-4 weeks
Brush coat weekly

5 years and older
Physical examinations twice a year
Fecal testing once a year
Trim nails every 3-4 weeks
Brush coat weekly

Common Health Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Concern</th>
<th>Symptoms</th>
<th>Actions to Take</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td>Loose stool from poor diet, parasites, unclean housing or illness</td>
<td>Veterinary visit to determine issue. Bring stool sample on visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heat Stroke</td>
<td>Overheat from warm environment; panting, seizures, loss of consciousness.</td>
<td>Potential emergency condition. Bring to Veterinary immediately to determine proper treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malocclusion</td>
<td>Overgrown teeth</td>
<td>Have teeth trimmed by specialized exotic animal specialist or veterinarian. Once trimmed, provide rabbit with proper chew toys.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mites</td>
<td>External parasites causing hair loss</td>
<td>Consult veterinarian to determine type of mites and treatment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tumors</td>
<td>Abnormal lumps</td>
<td>Consult veterinarian.</td>
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