



# 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



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
- >Excessive Hair loss
- >Loose stool
- >Lethargic
- >Eye/nose discharge
- >Skin lesions
- >Overgrown Teeth
- >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

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