



# Paws for Thought Pet Centres

[www.PawsForThoughtPetCentres.co.uk](http://www.PawsForThoughtPetCentres.co.uk)

143 York Road,  
Op. The Irish Centre, Leeds  
LS9 7RD  
0113 2350795

133-137 Crossgates,  
Leeds  
LS15 7DR  
0113 2647031

## **Caring for your Rabbit**

Congratulations on purchasing your new rabbit from Paws for Thought. We hope it will bring you lots of fun, happiness and companionship for many years to come. We pride ourselves on being voted Best Independent Pet Centres in the U.K by "Which" Magazine. We take our animal welfare very seriously and if in the first few days of your rabbit coming home you are concerned about its health or well being, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are open seven days a week and often a quick phone call to one of our experienced staff may alleviate any minor problems, and put your mind at ease.

### **Handling**

Your new rabbit may be nervous at first so you must talk to him and handle him gently. Do not leave him on a table or other high places where he may fall. Support his weight with both hands and do not squeeze him around the tummy.

### **Housing**

As with all animals the bigger the better. This will be determined by where you intend to put the hutch and also by how many you are keeping. If the hutch is to be outside (as most tend to be) then you will need to ensure that it is weatherproofed and free from draughts. During the evenings in the winter months it is advisable to cover the front to stop any snow or bitter winds, (also extra hay and shavings will need to be added for extra warmth.) A piece of polythene or pondliner can work wonders (just make sure it can't be nibbled). Alternatively turn your hutch to face the wall in the evenings or put it inside a shed if possible for the duration of the winter months. Another idea is to purchase an indoor cage, the downfall being they are quite large and finding a place big enough could be rather tricky, although they are so easy to keep clean and fresh. Your rabbit will also require a run for exercise and fresh air.

You must also provide some kind of shelter to hide from both wind and rain, but also from the sun as heat-stroke can kill.

Make sure the hutch is not in full sunlight during the summer. If you are unable to let your rabbit out then move the hutch to a shady area as he will need some escape from extreme heat just as we do.

The floor of the hutch should be covered with a generous amount of shavings, along with a good handful of straw in the sleeping compartment for both eating and sleeping. Fresh water should be supplied every day.

### **Feeding**

There are now a good range of complete rabbit foods available. We do however stock our own excellent mixes, one of which is for rabbits under 6 months old, as it is not so rich on such a delicate tummy. Plenty of hay is a must to make sure your rabbit is getting sufficient fibre. It is advisable to add Vitasol vitamins and minerals liquid to your pet's water to ensure a complete balanced and healthy diet.

Unless you know for sure that your baby rabbit has been brought up with grass or greens in his diet you should always err on the side of safety, and **NOT** give grass or greens to rabbits under 6 months of age, as it can give rabbits diarrhoea which can be very serious and even life threatening!

As your rabbit comes up to 6 months old it will be possible to introduce gradually a small amount of grass, greens or carrots etc. into his diet. Eventually your rabbit will become accustomed to greens and grass and will be fine to go out in his run all day.

### **General Health**

All our animals are given a health check before going on sale. If properly fed and cleaned, he should remain healthy for many years and give you lots of pleasure.

Your rabbit's teeth are growing continuously and it is very beneficial to provide wood gnaws for them to chew on and keep them under control.



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It is not unusual for your rabbits nails to need trimming, We would advise, that you contact the store to arrange a time to bring your pet in for this service to avoid having to wait in busy periods.

**N.B.** In the first few days of your rabbit ownership, and the unlikely event of a medical problem occurring, we would advise you to inform us immediately as often we can prevent the situation from becoming worse. Or in the more serious cases, return your pet as soon as possible to the store where it was purchased. We do work very closely with a local veterinary surgery and therefore can quickly arrange a check up for your pet.

## **VEGETATION AND RABBITS**

Rabbits in the wild may live off wild plants but your bunnies are domesticated. While finding out the basic history of your future pet, please ask details of its current diet and keep it the same.

## **WHAT CAN I FEED MY RABBIT?**

All must be in small portions, fresh, raw and washed thoroughly, making sure it is clean and free from herbi/pesticides.

Corn on the Cob	Strawberry Leaves	Spinach
Artichokes	Kale	Beetroot
Radishes	Savoy Cabbage	Brussels
Swede	Broccoli	Celery
Turnips	Parsley	Clover
Carrots	Spring Greens	Watercress
Rosemary	Cabbage ( in moderation )	Dandelion Leaves ( in moderation )
Chives		

## **WHAT SHOULD I NOT FEED MY RABBIT?**

Lettuce	Evergreens	Too Much Cabbage
Parsnips	Tomato Leaves	Bluebells
Buttercups	Foxglove	Ivy
Poppies	Feverfew	Snowdrops
Tulips	Daffodils	Acorns
Potato Tops	Lily of the Valley	Too Many Dandelion Leaves

