INSIDE FLAP • KEEPER HABITS

4 Keys to Long-Term Health

Small Daily Habits That Prevent 95% of Vet Visits

Never Bathe or Trance a Rabbit

Submerging a rabbit in water can cause fatal shock and hypothermia, and flipping them onto their back ('trancing') triggers a terrifying tonic-immobility prey freeze.

Keep Critical Care on Hand

Every rabbit first-aid kit should include a pouch of **Oxbow Critical Care** herbivore recovery food, baby gas drops (simethicone), and an exotic vet's phone number.

Brush Heavily During Molts

Rabbits cannot vomit hairballs! Brush them daily during spring and autumn coat blows and keep hay flowing so swallowed fur passes right through.

Ask an Exotic Vet About RHDV2

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHDV2) is present in the Pacific Northwest — ask your Oregon exotic vet about the annual RHDV2 vaccine, even for indoor bunnies.

Why Spaying & Neutering Matters So Much for Rabbits: Unspayed female rabbits have up to a **60–80% risk of uterine cancer by age 4**, and unneutered rabbits spray urine and fight when puberty hits (4–6 months). Spaying/neutering makes litter box habits 10x cleaner and lets you bond two rabbits for life!

BACK COVER • TAKE THIS TO THE AISLE

Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

X-PEN, FLOORING & LITTER SETUP

- [ ] 30"–36" Tall Exercise Pen (X-Pen) or Extra-Large Home Base
- [ ] Cat-Sized Litter Box + Unscented Paper Pellet Litter (No Clay!)
- [ ] Non-Slip Washable Rug or Fleece Floor Mats
- [ ] Split Plastic Cord Protectors (for bunny-proofing rooms)

HAY, PELLETS & RECOVERY KIT

- [ ] Large Bale/Bag of Oxbow Western Timothy & Orchard Grass Hay
- [ ] Oxbow Essentials Adult (or Young) Rabbit Pellets (Plain Timothy)
- [ ] Oxbow Simple Rewards Baked Treats & Papaya/Digestive Support Tabs
- [ ] Large Hay Feeder Rack / Bag

BOWLS, HIDES & ENRICHMENT

- [ ] 2 Heavy Ceramic Bowls (1 for Water, 1 for Pellets/Greens)
- [ ] 2-Door Cardboard Castle or Wooden Arch Hideout
- [ ] Willow Balls, Applewood Sticks & Seagrass Mats to Shred
- [ ] Small Animal Nail Clippers + Grooming Brush

MY RABBIT'S INFO & FEEDING LOG

Name / Morph: _____

Gotcha Date & Weight: _____

Current Diet & Daily Routine: _____

Critter Cabana & Cascade Pet Supply

Questions about habitat setup, nutrition, or bonding? Stop by or call our animal care team anytime — we're here for the full 8–12+ year commitment!

CRITTER CABANA & CASCADE PET SUPPLY • CARE GUIDE

Domestic Rabbit

Oryctolagus cuniculus



The Quick Version: Rabbits are smart, quiet, cat-like house companions that naturally use a litter box and do joyful mid-air twists ('binkies') when given room to run! They are **8–12 year companions** that need an **exercise pen (X-Pen) or bunny-proofed room (12–16+ sq ft)**, **85% unlimited Timothy hay**, and gentle floor-level affection rather than being carried around.

QUICK VITAL STATS AT-A-GLANCE

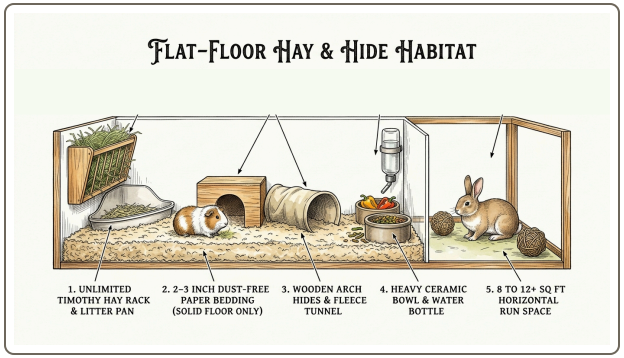
LIFESPAN **8–12+ Years**	ADULT WEIGHT **3–12+ lbs (By Breed)**
SOCIAL RULE **Best in Spayed/Neutered Pairs**	MIN HOME BASE **12–16+ Sq Ft X-Pen**
ROOM TEMP **60°–72°F (Overheats >78°F)**	

OPEN FOR TANK SETUP, TEMPS, FEEDING & SHOPPING LIST →

STEP 1 • HABITAT & CLIMATE

Spacious Exercise Pen (X-Pen), Litter Box & Bunny-Proofing

12–16+ Sq Ft X-Pen Home Base + Cat-Sized Hay Litter Pan + Cord Protectors!



Ideal Indoor Temp
Rabbits wear a thick fur coat — they love cool rooms!
60°–72°F

Heatstroke Danger (>78°F)
Freeze water bottles for them to lean against in summer
Never >78°F

Floor Traction
Use washable rugs or fleece mats — slick wood slides!
Non-Slip Rug

Litter Box Setup
Paper pellets on bottom + huge pile of Timothy hay on top
Cat-Size Pan

Active Hours
Most playful at dawn & dusk (Crepuscular)
Dawn & Dusk

Thermostat & Gauge Rule: Stick-on dial gauges can be off by 10°F+! Use a digital probe thermometer/hygrometer and always plug heating mats and heat emitters into a **digital thermostat**.

STEP 2 • STOCKED STORE OPTIONS

Two Ways That Work

Pick Option A or Option B Based on Your Home Setup

Home Base: 4×4 Exercise Pen (X-Pen) vs. Small Hutch/Cage

A rabbit needs to take 3–4 full hops in a straight line and stand flat on its hind legs without its ears touching a ceiling:

OPTION A: 30"–36" TALL DOG EXERCISE PEN (X-PEN) OVER A WASHABLE RUG (OUR TOP PICK!)
Gives 16 sq ft of floor space, walks right open for easy sweeping, and fits a full-sized cat litter box, cardboard castle, and lounge mat!

OPTION B: LARGE CAGE WITH DOOR LEFT OPEN INTO AN X-PEN YARD
If you use a standard cage as a bedroom/bathroom station, leave the front door open into an attached pen + give 3–4 hours of supervised room exercise daily.

Effortless Litter Box Training & Cord Bunny-Proofing

Rabbits naturally poop while they munch hay — making them almost as easy to litter train as a cat!

OPTION A: CAT-SIZED LITTER PAN + PAPER PELLETS + HAY PILE
Put 1" of unscented paper pellet litter in a large cat pan (**never use clumping or clay cat litter!**) and hang your hay rack right over one end.

OPTION B: PROTECT BASEBOARDS & "SPICY HAY" (ELECTRICAL CORDS!)
To a rabbit, phone chargers and lamp cords look just like tree roots! Wrap all floor cords in split plastic cord tubing and give plenty of willow & applewood chews.

Floor-Level Bonding & Safe Two-Handed Support

Because rabbits are ground-dwelling prey animals with light, fragile skeletons, being lifted high off the floor feels like being caught by an eagle:

OPTION A: SIT ON THE FLOOR AND LET THEM HOP INTO YOUR LAP
Rabbits bond fastest when you sit on the rug with cilantro and let them nudge your hand for forehead rubs! When happy, they softly purr by clicking their teeth.

OPTION B: ALWAYS SUPPORT THE HINDQUARTERS (NEVER LIFT BY EARS!)
If a rabbit kicks out in mid-air without back-leg support, it

STEP 3 • DIET & NUTRITION

High-Fiber Herbivore Diet (85% Hay + Greens + Limited Pellets)

Unlimited Grass Hay 24/7 Is the #1 Secret to Healthy Teeth and Preventing Fatal GI Stasis!

85% of Diet
24/7 Unlimited
Oxbow Western Timothy, Orchard, or Oat Hay: Refresh a pile as big as your rabbit's body twice a day! (Babies under 6 months eat Alfalfa hay; adults eat Timothy/Orchard).

Daily Greens
1 Cup Per 2 lbs
Romaine, Green/Red Leaf, Cilantro, Basil, Bok Choy & Dandelion Greens: Rotate 3 leafy greens daily — wet veggies also help hydrate their gut!

Plain Pellets
1/4 Cup Per 5 lbs
Oxbow Essentials Adult Rabbit Pellets: Adults only need a small measured scoop of plain Timothy pellets! Fruit/berry treats should be no bigger than 1 tsp a day.

Gut Health & Cecotrope Facts Every Bunny Owner Should Know:

- **Two Kinds of Poop!:** Dry round cocoa puffs + soft blackberry-shaped 'cecotropes' they eat directly for B-vitamins
- **Heavy Water Bowl:** Rabbits drink way more water from a heavy ceramic dog bowl than a sipper bottle!
- **Skip Muesli & Corn:** Seeds, corn, nuts, and yogurt drops ferment in a rabbit's cecum and cause fatal bloat
- **12-Hour Stasis Rule:** If a rabbit refuses treats or doesn't poop for 12 hours, go to an exotic vet immediately!

First-Week Rule: Give your new Domestic Rabbit **5 to 7 days of peace and quiet** with fresh food, hay, and water right away! Speak softly by the cage and offer hand-fed treats so they quickly learn your hands mean good things.