

All about Rabbits

Reading Comprehension

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Rabbits are great animals to keep as pets, and lots of people do. But did you know there are lots of interesting facts about rabbits, one being that they can't survive on a diet only of carrots!

Rabbits are small mammals. There are 305 breeds of pet rabbits and 13 breeds of wild rabbits. Male rabbits are called bucks, and female rabbits are called does, whilst rabbit babies are called kittens. Some people call rabbits "bunnies", though this word should only really be used for young rabbits. A group of rabbits living together in the wild is known as a "colony" or "nest" and a group of baby rabbits born together is known as a "litter".



What do rabbits eat?

Rabbits love food and like to eat lots of different things including:-



Hay

Apples

Pellets

Grass

Carrots

Kale

Dandelion leaves

Herbs



Rabbits should have a varied diet, and their main food should be hay as this is good for their digestion. Rabbits should also have a plentiful supply of clean water that they can drink from regularly.



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Where should rabbits live?

Pet rabbits should be kept in a spacious enclosure with plenty of shelter and things to play with. Some people adapt old sheds or children's playhouses into rabbit accommodation, though these need to be swept out regularly to keep them clean. Rabbits need plenty of mental stimulation known as "enrichment". Enrichment is good for rabbits' mental and physical well-being and allows opportunities for rabbits to do things like run, hop, rear up and jump. Rabbits are very intelligent animals and get bored very easily, which is why they need an interesting environment to keep them entertained.

Most of all rabbits need care, love and attention from their owners. Although rabbits don't particularly like being picked up, they love being stroked, talked to and even sung to!

FUN RABBIT FACTS!

🐾 The teeth of rabbits never stop growing! They are worn down as a rabbit chews, so they never get too long.

🐾 Rabbits sometimes do a "joy jump" when they're happy, by leaping and twisting in the air.

🐾 Rabbits can see almost all the way around them, as their eyes are on the side of their head.



🐾 Rabbits have really long ears that help them listen out for predators.

🐾 Not many rabbits actually like carrots, and actually they can get tummy aches if they eat too many of them!

🐾 Female rabbits are pregnant for between 28 and 31 days, and can give birth to up to 14 babies (kittens) in one go!

