



POCKET PET CARE



Rabbit Diet

Rabbits are herbivores and require a large proportion of fibre in their diet. They have a special digestive system designed to eat low energy food. Somehow they can turn that dry grass and weeds into enough energy to be the vibrant, active little things. This makes them very easy and cheap to feed, but also makes them very easy to spoil. Healthy sweets are great for training or just for a treat; including, apple, banana, berries, grapes, carrots, peaches and pears. All of these foods should be fed in small amounts.

The main food source should be good quality grass or oaten hay. They should eat constantly and never be fasted. Your rabbit should be allowed to eat as much of this hay as they like. Leafy green vegetables are also important and should be fed daily, with a quantity of approximately 1 cup of vegetables per kilo of rabbit a day. Remember to start new foods slowly. A bunny's favourite vegetables include:



Beet tops	Endive
Bok Choy	Radish tops
Broccoli	Strawberry tops
Brussels sprouts	Spinach
Cabbage	Dandelion flowers & leaves
Choy Sum	Herbs; parsley, coriander & mint
Kale	Swiss chard
Silverbeet	Many grasses & weeds

NEVER give iceberg lettuce, beans, corn, rhubarb or potato peels to your bunny

There are lots of pellets and rabbit mixes on the market, but many of these are quite unhealthy when fed in large amounts. They have insufficient fibre, are high in carbohydrates and can easily lead to obesity. We recommend using Oxbow pellets, which are much higher in fibre and do not contain grains like these pre-mixed foods do. Pellets help to prevent 'selective feeding'; however they still need to be fed sparingly.

All diet changes must be done slowly and we strongly recommend discussing this with your veterinarian before going ahead.

Rabbit Body Condition Score Chart



1. Very Thin

Hip bones, ribs and spine are very sharp to the touch. Loss of muscle and no fat cover. The rump area curves in.



2. Thin

Hip bones, ribs and spine are easily felt. Loss of muscle and very little fat cover. Rump area is flat.



3. Ideal

Hip bones, ribs and spine easily felt but are rounded, not sharp. Ribs feel like a pocket full of pens! No abdominal bulge. Rump area is flat.



4. Overweight

Pressure is needed to feel the ribs, spine and hip bones. Some fat layers. The rump is rounded.



5. Obese

Very hard to feel the spine and hip bones - Ribs can't be felt! Tummy sags with obvious fat padding. Rump bulges out.