

**Eastern Shore Rabbit Rescue & Education Center, Inc.**

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## **Advice for Potential Adopters**

Rabbits make wonderful companions for the right person. To help determine if a rabbit is the right choice for you; and to best succeed at having a healthy rabbit and happy relationship with your bunny, please consider the following information and requirements:

**HOUSING/CAGE:** Rabbit's cage needs to be at least six times the size of an adult rabbit (six times the size if he is going to be in it for large amounts of time). Cover part of the cage floor (if wire flooring) with wood, a rug, or some other type of resting material. Place toys, food and water, and litterbox inside. Clean litterbox once a day — clean cage tray and floor covering once a week or as needed.

**RUNNING AREA OUTSIDE OF CAGE:** Indoors: gradually increase freedom. Bunny-proof electric cords. Place second litterbox outside cage. Let rabbit have access to cage (leave door open with water and food inside).

**OUTDOORS:** Outdoors: fenced patio, porch or wire playpen (with floor), daytime only, with supervision. Dangers when outdoors alone, or at night, include: predators, theft or teasing by humans, moldy or poisonous plants, toxic pesticides or fertilizers, exposure to sun, heat, wind, or wet, bacteria contained in dirt, and diseases spread by flies and mosquitoes.

**DIET:** Rabbit pellets (observe amount eaten daily) and fresh water should be available daily. Fresh vegetables and fruit should also be a part of the daily diet, along with hay, (for fiber and nutritional value): alfalfa, grass, clover, oat. Provide straw for chewing needs, and wood, cardboard, grass mats, untreated wicker, and other safe chewables for chewing and entertainment. No sudden dietary changes.

**RESPONSIBLE GUARDIANSHIP:** Includes a commitment to provide necessary veterinary care when needed. Never abandon a rabbit "in the wild." He will surely die of starvation or be killed by a predator.

**RABBITS AND SMALL CHILDREN:** This is not a good match. Rabbits prefer a calm, quiet environment and don't enjoy being chased. Most children want a pet who enjoys being held and carried around, which most rabbits don't like. Too often children lose interest in the animal and he is left ignored and neglected. Households with children are fine as long as it is the parent(s) who wants the rabbit.