

TREATS

The best treats for your rabbit are fresh, aromatic herbs, such as basil, cilantro, parsley or mint. Very small amounts of fruit may be given: apple, pear, blueberries, fresh cranberries, are all good treats for bunny. Quantities should be limited to about 1 tablespoon per day. This equates to a thin, ¼ inch slice of apple, 3 or 4 blueberries, etc. Too many treats can lead to obesity, chronic soft stools, and long term health problems.

DO NOT FEED THESE FOODS TO YOUR RABBIT

Avoid feeding all sugary or starchy foods such as cookies, crackers, chips, corn, nuts, chocolate, cereal or other human foods. Many are very unhealthy and some can even cause death. Also, AVOID PET STORE TREATS such as yogurt drops and honey sticks, as most store treats are full of sugars and starches. DO NOT FEED DRIED CORN! Dried corn has been proven to be the cause of death in many rabbits, due to its swelling and impaction of the intestinal system.

VITAMINS & SALT BLOCKS

When your rabbit is fed a healthy diet of unlimited fresh hay, and plenty of fresh greens, it does not need added vitamins or salt blocks.

WHERE TO FIND THE RIGHT FOODS

Fresh greens can be purchased from your local grocery store or farmer's market. Fresh hays and quality pellets are available from some pets stores and San Diego HRS.

HRS BUNNY SUPPLY STORE

The Bunny Supply Store in Kearny Mesa stocks everything you need for your rabbit, at very competitive prices. Our specialty is large boxes of freshly packed, mixed hays - the best for your bunny's health. We also carry Oxbow Timothy pellets; healthy, hi-fiber alfalfa pellets (for babies and older rabbits); and good quality, healthy treats.

Our boxed hay and CareFresh is available for sale throughout San Diego County. And, when you purchase your supplies from HRS, your money goes directly to help abandoned rabbits within the county.

Purchase our fresh hay at these locations:

- HRS Bunny Supply Store
4805-B Mercury Street, Kearny Mesa
Noon - 3 p.m.; 1st & 3rd Saturdays
- Rancho San Diego Animal Hospital
El Cajon, 619-660-6767
- Diane Calkins' Bunny Shed
Encinitas, 760-633-1564
- Acacia Animal Health Center
Escondido, 760-745-8115



San Diego House Rabbit Society

619-718-7777

hrs@sandiegorabbits.org

Visit us at www.sandiegorabbits.org

SAN DIEGO HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

WHAT TO FEED YOUR RABBIT COMPANION



HRS Bunny Supply Store

4805 Mercury Street, Suite B
(corner of Mercury & Ronson
Road) Kearny Mesa, 92111

Open:
1st & 3rd Saturdays
Noon - 3 p.m.

PROPER DIET MEANS A LONGER, HEALTHIER LIFE

A rabbit's diet is one of the most important aspects of its life. The healthier your rabbit's diet, the more likely he is to live longer and have fewer health problems as he ages.

An unlimited supply of fresh hay is the single most important part of a healthy rabbit diet. Next comes a constant supply of fresh water. A variety of fresh greens will add vitamins and nutrients, and a small amount of high-fiber, low protein pellets can be given, depending on your rabbit's age and individual health requirements.

A high-fiber, low carbohydrate and low protein diet protects your rabbit from health problems of the digestive tract, such as gastro intestinal stasis, enteritis, and enterotoxaemia. All can be deadly to a rabbit and can be caused by a diet too high in protein, sugars and carbohydrates, and too low in fiber.

FRESH HAY

Rabbits should have access to plenty of hay, 24 hours per day. San Diego House Rabbit Society recommends you do this through the use of a hay rack or by

placing hay in your rabbit's litter box (an excellent way to entice bunny to use his litter box). ALWAYS HAVE FRESH HAY AVAILABLE. Don't let your self run out of hay, or your rabbit may suffer digestive upsets that will cause him to need to be seen by the vet. Always store hay in a tightly closed container, in a cool, dry place.

WATER

Your rabbit should always have access to clean, fresh water. San Diego Rabbit Society recommends you use a good sized water crock, to make it easier for bunny to drink plenty of water. Some rabbits may prefer a water bottle, and great care must be taken to ensure it does not leak, the tube does not clog and lead to dehydration, and the bottle is kept clean at all times to prevent the growth of molds or bacteria in the bottle. If the tap water supply in your area has a high calcium content, you may want to give bunny bottled water to promote good kidney health.

FRESH GREENS

The cellulose in fresh vegetables is an additional source of healthy fiber, vitamins, and nutrients required to keep bunny healthy. A variety of greens is best for bunny's health. Providing a nice mix of dark, leafy greens will help to keep your bunny in optimum health. When adding new greens to your rabbit's diet, start with one at a time, watching for any digestive upset. As bunny tolerates that one, then try adding another, and so on.

Recommended quantities are about 1 cup of greens per 5 lbs of bunny's weight, per day. Always wash your rabbit's greens to ensure they are free of dirt or pesticides.

PLAIN GREEN PELLETS

Feed your rabbit only "plain" green pellets. **DO NOT** feed pellets that have other items mixed in, such as dried fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, or most especially, corn. These are all bad for your rabbit and can cause long-term health problems and obesity.

If your rabbit is young (under 8 months old), then you can feed a plain alfalfa pellet. If your rabbit is more mature (over 8 months old) then a Timothy-based pellet is recommended.

Recommended quantities are:

2-4 lb rabbit: $\frac{1}{8}$ cup per day

5 -7 lb rabbit: $\frac{1}{4}$ cup per day

8-10 lb rabbit: $\frac{1}{2}$ cup per day

11 - 15 lb rabbit: $\frac{3}{4}$ cup per day

Of course, your rabbit's individual health and nutrition needs may vary. It is a good idea to check with your vet to determine if your rabbit is over weight and needs fewer pellets. Some rabbits may have chronic soft stools or obesity problems that may require you to eliminate pellets from their diet. Do not be alarmed if your vet recommends this, as rabbits are able to get all the nutrients they need from fresh hays and vegetables.