



**PET SUPPLIES "PLUS"**

Your pet's favorite store.

# DWARF RABBIT

*Oryctolagus coniculus*

**ORIGIN:** Your rabbit was born in captivity in the USA. Dwarf rabbits are 1 of the smallest breeds available in many color varieties. Rabbits make great pets because of their curiosity, sociability and they rarely bite unless provoked. Most rabbits can be taught to jump over little hurdles or stand up on command with a little training.

**LIFESPAN:** 7-8 years

**GESTATION:** 31-33 days. It is recommended that spay/neutering your rabbit will calm their overall behavior.

**SIZE:** Dwarf rabbits are the smallest rabbit breeds and should not exceed 3 pounds. They have large rounded heads and bold eyes, topped off with small well furred ears on a short compact body.

**CAGING:** Dwarf rabbits will thrive in a variety of commercially available cages with the following basic requirements: solid flooring (not wire), secure lid, protection from heat, cold, and drafts, and hiding area. A cage with 2 square feet of floor space is large enough for one Dutch rabbit. For each additional rabbit that is kept, the cage should be 1 square foot larger. Most rabbits may be successfully kept outdoors provided they have protection from extreme temperatures and are acclimated.

**SUBSTRATE:** Dwarf rabbits can be successfully kept on a variety of substrates including pine shavings, pelleted and processed bedding. Most rabbits can be successfully litter trained by putting the litter box in the same corner your rabbit has already soiled in.

**TEMPERATURE:** Dwarf rabbits prefer temperatures between 47°F and 64°F. However, they will tolerate temperatures up to 84°F before there is a risk for heat

exhaustion. The cage should be placed in a location that is free from drafts and direct sunlight.

**DIET:** Dwarf rabbits will thrive on a variety of available pelleted foods which should form the foundation of their diet in addition to a constant supply of timothy hay. The diet can be also be supplemented with fresh fruits and vegetables, especially dark leafy greens. A mineral block should also be hung in the rabbit's cage. Some of a rabbits favorite treats are: parsley, carrots with tops, a slice of any fruit. Do not give your rabbit these items because they can cause gas: cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower or any lettuce. Young rabbits have a very sensitive stomach; therefore a strict diet must be followed. Upset in their diet can cause dehydration from excessive diarrhea. It is important that chew items are available so that the teeth are kept worn down. All rabbits must have access to fresh, clean drinking water at all times. A sipper bottle is preferable to a water bowl because it is typically cleaner and easier to maintain.

## RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES

- Secure cage
- Water bottle
- Ceramic or metal food bowl
- Hanging hay rack
- Substrate as detailed above
- Literature about rabbit husbandry
- Nest box
- Mineral block
- Vitamin fortified rabbit pellets
- Timothy hay
- Wooden chew toys
- Play pen

## SMALL ANIMAL & BIRD REPLACEMENT GUARANTEE

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- Pet Supplies "Plus" guarantees the health of all animals for 7 days. Please bring in the animal along with the original sales receipt should any problems arise within the seven day period.
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*NOTE: The information contained in this caresheet solely represents the opinions of the author. It is not intended as a complete guide to your animal..*