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## Basic Rabbit Facts

**Lifespan:** 7-10 years

### Diet:

- Grass or timothy hay: Free choice (90% of diet; alfalfa is not preferred).
- Green leafy vegetables: A loose pile the size of the rabbit's head; good choices are: kale, turnip greens, parsley, broccoli leaves are best.

### Housing:

- 24" x 24" x 18" - high for small breeds
- 36" x 36" x 36" - high for larger breeds
- A solid floored area is needed but solid walled cages should be avoided.

**Temperature:** 60-70 degrees Fahrenheit, keep humidity low.

**Litter training:** Start with a small area and place your litter box in a corner (it's best to pick a corner where the rabbit has already used). Reward your pet when it uses the box and never punish him when he is in the litter box.

### Schedule of Care:

- Annual physical examination
- Spay/neuter at 3-6 months of age
- Nail trims as needed if unable to trim at home

### Common Medical Problems:

- Cancer in female rabbits: Prevent by spaying your rabbit at a young age.
- Aggressiveness and urine spraying: Prevent by neutering your rabbit at a young age.
- Overgrown teeth due to malalignment: Trim teeth every 3-8 weeks if malaligned.
- Diarrhea: True diarrhea is uncommon but soft stools are common. Intermittent soft stools are normal, with the soft stool occurring at night and hard stools occurring during the day. Rabbits may eat these stools, which is normal behavior. Sudden diet changes or a low fiber diet may cause persistent soft stools. Introduce new food slowly and follow the diet recommendations listed above.



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- Pasteurellosis: *Pasteurella multocida* commonly inhabits rabbit sinuses. When stressed, these bacteria can overgrow and cause infection throughout the body. With any signs of illness, have your rabbit examined. Commonly seen signs are runny nose, loss of appetite, decreased activity, abnormal head posture, and skin lesions.
- Chyletiella (Fur mite): Causes excessive hair loss and dander. A veterinarian's treatment is needed.