

FREE SAMPLE

Rabbit Care Package

The first 4 pages of the 40-page printable manual, free to keep.



In this sample: What's inside, How to Use This Package, Quick Profile & Cost Overview. The contents page shows every one of the 40 pages, so you can see exactly what the full package covers before you buy it.

Not in this sample: the 36 pages that follow, which are the full care guide, the health section, the quick reference cards, and the owner tools, checklists and logs.

The full package is \$8.99 at beastlyfacts.com/care-packages/rabbit/. One purchase, and every corrected edition is a free re-download from your library. The free rabbit care guide it was built from is at beastlyfacts.com/guides/rabbit/, and stays free.

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What's inside

Every page is written to be used, not just read once.

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START HERE

How to use this package

Three ways to get value from it, depending on where you are right now.

If you haven't set up yet

Read pages 4 through 10 in order before buying anything, and read page 16 before you buy the rabbit. Two decisions cost the most to reverse: how much space the rabbit gets, and whether it is spayed or neutered. The pet aisle will sell you a cage that is a fraction of what a rabbit needs, and an unspayed female carries a cancer risk high enough that vets treat the surgery as close to routine. Get both right first, then use the Budget & Shopping List on page 28.

If your rabbit is already here

Go to the Setup Checklist on page 26 and audit what you have. If hay is not unlimited and not the bulk of what the rabbit eats, fix that this week: it is the single most protective habit available to you, and it prevents most of Section 03. If your rabbit is off its food right now, do not read further. Go to page 18, then call a vet today.

Print these first

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| ☐ Page 26: Setup Checklist & Targets | ☐ Page 34: Pet-Sitter Sheet |
| ☐ Page 27: Emergency & Quick Targets Card | ☐ Page 35: Owner Log |
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WHY THIS PACKAGE EXISTS

Rabbits are sold as a starter pet and kept like a hamster, and almost everything that goes wrong follows from that one mistake. They are not a cage animal, they are not a low-contact animal, and they are not a cheap animal once the vet is counted. This package reflects current House Rabbit Society space standards and the peer-reviewed companionship and space research on page 14, cross-checked against veterinary sources listed on page 39.

NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR

A rabbit-savvy exotic vet. This matters more here than for almost any species in this series: a general small-animal clinic can genuinely miss or mishandle the conditions in Section 03, and rabbits are fragile under anaesthesia in ways dogs and cats are not. Find one before you need one, ideally through a rabbit rescue or the House Rabbit Society, and write the number on page 27.

SECTION 01

Quick profile

Everything at a glance before you read the detail.

Scientific name	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> , the European rabbit, ancestor of 300-plus breeds
Adult size	Highly variable by breed, from 2.5 lb (1.1 kg) dwarfs to 20 lb (9 kg) giants
Lifespan	7 to 10 years indoors, some past 12. Outdoor rabbits average closer to 2
Native range	Iberian Peninsula, spread by the Romans and now worldwide
Diet type	Hindgut-fermenting herbivore. Grass hay is 80 to 85%, unlimited (page 8)
Space minimum	8 sq ft (0.75 m ²) enclosure plus 24 sq ft (2.2 m ²) exercise, 5+ hours a day
The one hard rule	No food or droppings for 8 to 12 hours is an emergency, not a wait-and-see (page 18)
Housing	Indoors. A bonded, neutered pair beats a single rabbit (page 15)
Handling difficulty	Beginner to intermediate. Fragile spine, so support is not optional (page 11)
Conservation status	Endangered in the wild (IUCN), despite being invasive where introduced

Cost overview

First year

\$1,000 to \$1,500 all in: \$150 to \$600 of setup, \$150 to \$500 for a spay or neuter, then food and litter. Adoption fees of \$25 to \$100 often include the surgery already.

Every year after

\$500 to \$800. Food and litter run \$60 to \$100 a month, plus two wellness exams at \$60 to \$100 each.

THE NUMBER THAT CATCHES PEOPLE OUT

A GI stasis workup alone can exceed \$1,500, and rabbits need an exotic vet whose rates are higher than a general clinic's. Keep \$500 to \$1,000 set aside separately from the routine budget. Rabbits hide illness well, and when something goes wrong it goes wrong within hours.

Fun facts worth knowing

- They eat some of their droppings on purpose. Cecotropes are soft pellets produced overnight and taken directly from the source, carrying B vitamins the gut bacteria made on the first pass. A rabbit that stops eating them is telling you something (page 25).
- Their teeth never stop. A rabbit's teeth grow as much as 4 to 5 in (10 to 13 cm) a year, which is why the diet has to do the filing. Hay is not a bedding material with a nutritional bonus, it is the dental equipment.
- Rabbit milk is so rich that mothers nurse once, occasionally twice, a day for 2 to 10 minutes. Kits go roughly a day between feeds, which is why an unattended nest is usually normal rather than abandoned.