



**UVHS Behavior Tips**  
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## **Rabbit Care Guide**

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Rabbits are growing in popularity as house pets. Social as well as active and playful, they have the potential to be wonderful pets for the prepared owner.

**Life expectancy:** varies with breed, anywhere from 5 to 15 years. As a general rule, the larger breeds live longer.

### **Pet Qualities (pros and cons):**

- Rabbits are quiet and do not demand a lot of attention, although daily exercise and playtime out of the cage is a necessity.
- Readily tamed, rabbits are social and interactive
- house rabbits are playful and entertaining to watch
- They can be trained (litter trained etc.).
- They do need to chew, so lots of chewable toys should be provided, and any spaces where the rabbit is allowed to run must be carefully rabbit-proofed.
- They need a relatively large cage.
- While they make fairly calm and manageable pets, rabbits are not a good match for active young children who may not be careful enough when picking them up or playing around them.
- Rabbits like to be near their people, but they often would rather not be held.
- They are generally healthy and do not require vaccinations, although they should be spayed or neutered.

### **Where to get a pet rabbit:**

- Please consider adopting an rabbit from a shelter or rescue if you have one nearby. There are many perfectly good pets looking for homes. Don't worry about getting an older rabbit--you can get a good sense of their personality and they will bond with new owners just fine.
- Private breeders--just make sure the breeder takes good care of the animals (visit the breeder and carefully observe where the bunnies are raised), and that the babies are well socialized.

- Pet stores--often the most readily available source, but be careful about health and condition, as well as socialization.