



## Atrium's Ideal Rabbit Care

### Housing:

**Indoor** life! Do not keep rabbits outside!

Provide a room or area of house that is **rabbit-proof** and let rabbit have free roam in that area. **No cage!** Remove or block access to cords/wires, poisonous plants, etc.

Large litterbox with soft **newspaper litter** (Care Fresh) and **hay** on top of the litter

Lots of soft **cotton** bedding to play in and lay on – towels, pillows, natural fiber rugs/carpet. Check for loose strings regularly and remove them. No polyester or other synthetic (undigestible) fibers. Remove items if your rabbit is chewing them a lot.

Untippable **ceramic or stainless steel** water bowl with fresh filtered water provided at all times

### Mealtime:

**Unlimited hay** available at all times – sweet, green, fresh, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> cutting hay. Offer Timothy, Oat, Rye, or Orchard Grass, or other mixes by Oxbow Hay Company. For now, I have been unable to locate a source of really good quality organic hay, but if it becomes available, organic GOOD QUALITY hay is best. If it's available, **fresh cut grass** (no pesticides, no herbicides, cut by hand instead of with a gas mower) is an excellent alternative / supplement.

**Fresh organic greens and veggies** – 1 cup per 5 lbs of bunny per day. (Lettuces, herbs, dandelion greens, carrots/carrot tops, clover, broccoli, bell peppers, celery, cucumber, etc.) Vary according to seasonal availability, buy local if possible.

Small amount of high fiber, **timothy based pellets** daily – ¼ cup pellets per 5 lb bunny per day.

Small amount of **organic fruit** – bananas, apples, berries, pears, etc. 1-2 Tbsp per 5 lb bunny per day.

## **Mental and Physical Exercise:**

**Daily outdoor exercise** at dawn or dusk – either on halter with leash attached or in an outdoor grazing ark. Avoid areas where wild bunnies have defecated. **Supervise at all times**, but it's OK to let the leash drag (hands off) if you have a fenced in backyard.

Plenty of **digging opportunities** – cardboard box filled with hay or paper, seagrass mats, natural fiber rugs

Plenty of **chewing opportunities** – Apple twigs/branches, untreated willow or wicker baskets, cardboard boxes,, old phone books, straw brooms, toys from Busy Bunny

Things to **climb** on and **tunnel** through – vary the environment with man-made tunnels (the space between the sofa and the wall is a good example) and climbing/jumping surfaces. Cat tunnels, cardboard forms, cat trees, ramps, boxes, etc.

Things to **toss** and **roll** – cat toys, baby toys, bird toys, slinkies. Discard if chewing occurs.

Daily **quality time with humans** – brushing, massaging, petting, talking.