



bunny love

10 easy ways to get your bunny to fall in love with you
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easy treats

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HOP TO IT

BUNNY BUNCH
RABBIT RESCUE

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JERRY WANG/HOP TO IT

Rabbits are social creatures and can get lonely when their owners aren't around. They should have at least one bonded bunny companion.

HOW TO BOND YOUR BUNNIES

Caroline Charland
President

Some call it bunny bonding, others call it bunny dating, and it is also known as the bonding ritual.

No matter what you call it, it is something most of us need to go through at one time or another if you are a rabbit lover.

Because rabbits are such social

creatures, they should always live with at least one other rabbit. Once your rabbit is bonded to another rabbit you will enjoy hours of watching them cuddle, groom, play, and sleep together. Also, your rabbits will have each other for companionship, especially in illness and old age.

The fact is that you can not just

“If you already have a rabbit, then you should seriously consider getting him a friend.”

Caroline Charland
President of Bunny Bunch
Rabbit Rescue

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The newsletter is free to all patrons and donors of The Bunny Bunch of Orange County.

BONDING: HOW TO BOND YOUR NEW BUNNIES



CHAN SWAN/HOP TO IT

Rabbits are more comfortable with the bonding process in neutral territory starting with lots of short meetings until they have gone through the usual bonding behaviors.

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put another rabbit with your rabbit though, as they are very territorial, and usually a serious fight will break out.

If you do not have any rabbits and are considering adopting a rabbit or two, it is best to get a bonded pair or threesome, that way the bonding is already done for you. This way you can spare yourself the time of match making and daily bonding sessions that you would otherwise have to go through.

Your local rabbit rescue or shelter will often have many rabbits that are already bonded. Rabbits like to live in groups, so you could consider getting two or more that have been living together, as they are already bonded.

If you already have a rabbit, then

you should seriously consider getting him a friend.

Rabbits that live alone often get very sad and lonely. Even if you are able to spend time everyday with your rabbit, he will still be lonely at night or when you leave the house. Rabbits, unlike some other animals, will stay bonded to their human even when you get them rabbit friends of their own. Just think, now instead of one rabbit adoring you, you will have two or three!

The rabbits must be spayed or neutered before starting the bonding process. If your rabbit is not already fixed then you should find a rabbit knowledgeable veterinarian to spay or neuter your rabbit.

I have found that male/female is the easiest to bond, but I have also bonded male/male and female/female.

GETTING STARTED

Once your rabbits are both spayed or neutered, you will need to set up two areas for each rabbit to live until bonded.

An exercise pen works nicely as you can put in a litter box, food and water crocks, and lots of toys.

If the two or three rabbits you are going to bond have never met, it is best not to let them see each other until you start the bonding.

WHEN STARTING THE BONDING PROCESS

First, it is very important to introduce the rabbits in neutral territory (somewhere neither rabbit has been before). The reason for this is because rabbits are very territorial and they will try to protect their territory from another rabbit by fighting.

It is best to have lots of short meetings with the rabbits. Try to schedule

two ten-minute bonding periods per day to start with, increasing each meeting by about five to ten minutes, depending on how well they are getting along.

There is such a thing as love at first sight, when two rabbits just meet and never go through all of the usual bonding behaviors. Rabbits can be bonded in about seven days, but it may take weeks.

SOME RULES TO REMEMBER

Never leave the rabbits alone for even a second, if you are not controlling the situation a nasty fight, resulting in serious injuries, could break out when you are not there to stop it. Always do the bonding in neutral territory and in a small space.

Learn your rabbits' body language so you can detect their actions before they happen.

Be patient.

10 ways to wrangle your rabbit

Caroline Charland

President

Does your rabbit come to you when called? Can you pick up and hold your rabbit? Does your rabbit sit still to be groomed? Can you get your rabbit into a carrier for a trip to the vet? The answer I often hear is "No". It seems to me that most rabbits have their humans under a spell.

Almost everyday people tell me they cannot pick up their rabbit, that their rabbit just won't cooperate. At our weekend adoption and education events we have a line of people with their rabbits in carriers waiting to get a nail trim, because their rabbit won't let them do it at home. The stories I hear about how long it took to get the rabbit into the carrier or how traumatic it is for the rabbit to be picked up are endless. To tell you the truth, half the time I think it is the people who are having

the hard time and the rabbits just have them fooled.

Rabbits are built to be low to the ground; even though they jump up onto the couch or onto a bed, they are not climbers like cats are. Therefore, they prefer to have all four feet on the ground and that is part of the reason they may resist being picked up.

It is important to spend time with your rabbit at their level, meaning lying on your tummy on the ground. Your rabbit will come up to you after a while and settle down by you hopping for head and ear strokes. This will start a growing trust between you. It is also important to know how to pick up and hold your rabbit, groom your rabbit and how to put your rabbit into a carrier. If your rabbit is sick or injured and needs a trip to the vet, or if there is an emergency such as an earthquake, fire or flood, you need to be able to do this quickly and safely.

TOP 10 TIPS TO GET YOUR RABBIT TO COOPERATE

1. Get your rabbit to trust you
2. Give veggies or healthy treats from your hands
3. Use a clicking sound when you feed
4. Pick your rabbit up in a safe, calm manner
5. Provide a safe and secure carrier for travel
6. Provide a safe, adequate indoor living area
7. Protect your rabbit from unsafe animals or people
8. Never discipline your rabbit
9. Give your rabbit praise
10. Respect your rabbit



PETER WENDT/HOP TO IT

Bunnies need a daily diet rich in leafy greens, fruits and other vegetables.

Feeding your rabbit 101

A quick and easy shopping guide for on the go

Bunny Bunch Rescue

Digital Team

Feed a variety of three types of leafy greens a day. Feed two packed cups of greens per four pounds of body weight.

Leafy Greens

- Arugula
- Beet Greens
- Boc Choy*
- Carrot Tops
- Chicory
- Cilantro
- Collard Greens
- Cucumber
- Leaves
- Dandelion
- Greens
- Endive
- Escarole
- Frisee Lettuce
- Kale*
- Mustard Greens*
- Parsley
- Radicchio
- Radish Tops

- Red & Green Leaf Lettuce
- Romaine Lettuce
- Swiss Chard
- Turnip Greens
- Water Cress

Non Leafy

Greens (feed sparingly)

- Bell Peppers
- Brussel Sprouts**
- Broccoli**
- Carrots
- Celery
- Cabbage**
- Chinese Pea Pods
- Grape
- Pumpkin

- Summer Squash
- Tomato
- Zucchini

Fruits***

- Apple
- Banana
- Blueberries
- Kiwi
- Melon
- Mango
- Orange
- Papaya
- Peach
- Pear
- Plum
- Strawberry

*High in Oxalates. Use only 1 to 3 times a week

Introduce veggies at four months old. Unless you know the baby was eating veggies while nursing from the mother

** May cause stomach upset in some rabbits

***Feed fruit sparingly as it is high in sugar which can cause problems for the intestinal flora in rabbits. Feed about two teaspoons a day per four pounds of body weight.



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stamp
here