

Rabbit care guide



woodgreen

Helping pets and their people

Introduction to rabbits

If you're a rabbit owner, or you're thinking about getting rabbits, we're here to help – every step and hop along the way.

In this guide you'll find everything you need to know to keep rabbits happy and healthy. And if you don't already have rabbits, we hope you'll feel better equipped to answer the question: "Are rabbits the right pet for me?"

Whilst rabbits are incredibly cute and a popular choice for a pet, they have a variety of specific needs which many people aren't aware of. They love (and need) a spacious environment to explore, a rabbit friend for company, and tasty, healthy food to graze on.

Rabbits are also adventurous and inquisitive, but they like their independence and don't enjoy being picked up and handled. Although, with time and patience, they're known to form bonds with their owners. If you're lucky, they might even hop onto your lap occasionally for a tasty treat!



Fast facts

Male name: Buck.

Female name: Doe.

Life expectancy: 8-12 years, plus.

Companionship: Rabbits need to be housed as a neutered pair, or more.

Accommodation: They need lots of space to keep them fit, healthy and happy. And they can live indoors or outdoors (although each rabbit's specific needs may vary).

Diet: Rabbits are herbivores and their diet should consist of 85% hay/grass, 5% nuggets, 10% vegetables and safe plants, with fresh drinking water always available.

Health: They need two vaccinations a year – one which covers myxomatosis and rabbit viral haemorrhagic disease (RVHD1 and RVHD2). The other vaccination covers the new more highly virulent strain of RVHD2.

Family-friendly: Many rabbits enjoy the companionship of humans and will approach you to take food from your hands. But it's important to know they do not enjoy being handled. In fact, they may kick and scratch if you try!

They're also quite fearful of loud noises and sudden movements, so you'll need to take this into consideration if you have young children – especially if they've not experienced owning a pet before. If you feel confident that you could give rabbits the sort of home and life they need, they could still make a wonderful addition to your family.



Accommodation

Rabbits are active animals – they love to run, dig, hop and jump. As they're most active at dawn, dusk and overnight, it's important to provide them with spacious housing to use 24 hours a day. This will help to keep them active, happy and healthy.

The minimum size requirements for a pair of small to medium-sized rabbits

Outdoor enclosure:

This must be 1.5m x 1.5m or 1.8m x 1.2m (or larger) wooden shed/ Wendy House, or a 1.8m (6ft) single level hutch. This must be attached to (or the hutch could be placed within) a 3m long by 2m wide by 1m high wooden framed run with a removable/hinged lid, or a secure lid with a doorway into the run.

Indoor housing:

There should be 24 hour access to a rabbit-safe room, which measures at least 3m long by 2m wide by 1m high. They will also need access to an outdoor



run for the warmer months, which needs to be 3m long by 2m wide by 1m high with a removable/hinged lid, or a secure lid with a doorway into the run.

The minimum size requirements for a pair of large-sized rabbits

Outdoor enclosure:

This must be 1.5m x 1.5m or 1.8m x 1.2m (or larger) wooden shed/ wendy house, attached to a 3m long by 2m wide by 1.2m high run with a removable/hinged lid, or a secure lid with a doorway into the run.

The minimum size requirements for a pair of giant-sized rabbits

Outdoor enclosure:

This must be 1.5m x 1.5m or 1.8m x 1.2m (or larger) wooden shed/ Wendy House, attached to a run that's at least 4m x 4m. Depending on the size of the rabbit, it may need to be larger to allow them to do 3 consecutive hops in any direction.

Indoor housing:

There should be 24 hour access to multiple rooms.

Rabbits can live indoors or outdoors – and there are pros and cons to consider with both options.

Indoor pros	Outdoor pros
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your rabbits are likely to become more confident around you and being hand-fed. There's a better chance you'll spot health concerns quickly. They'll be safe from wild predators and extreme weather. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's a calmer, quieter area away from household noises and other indoor pets. If anyone in your home suffers from allergies, it's safer for them. The rabbits will have a natural temperature all year-round.
Indoor cons	Outdoor cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They can be litter trained, but you may still find their faeces, urine (and lots of their hay!) scattered around. They're likely to chew and gnaw on any wooden furniture, skirting boards and even wires if they're not moved out of reach. They'll have less opportunities to graze on grass. If they're given this option from time to time, they'll need time to acclimatise to the outside temperatures. You may be allergic to their bedding, and this is no fun at all! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There's less opportunity for you to socialise with your rabbits. They're more likely to have health issues that go unnoticed for longer periods. They'll be at risk of wild predators such as foxes and stoats if their enclosure is not secure. They will need extra protection from extreme weather – both hot and cold.

Shelter

Hutches

You'll find many rabbit hutches available in pet stores and online. But many are very poorly made and often fall apart within the first two years. So, if you can, you should consider investing a little more with a product produced by a welfare-approved company. A good hutch is one made of strong wood, with secure bolts fitted on the doors and sturdy wire mesh.

Double-level hutches

These are not ideal for rabbits. These have ramps which are usually very steep and not long enough to allow your rabbits to gain enough momentum to hop up them safely. They can also be at risk of falling down the ramp or floor hole when they are elderly and less mobile. If you already have a double-level hutch, remove the ramp and

replace it with a sturdy log or box, securely covered in an old towel or blanket to provide some grip. They will find it much easier and more natural to hop up onto this and then up to the top level.

Wooden Wendy Houses or garden sheds

These can make an ideal home for your rabbits. A shed or wendy house provides more floor space, and makes it easier to socialise with them, whatever the weather. You can easily convert a shed or Wendy House.

Metal folding runs are not suitable for rabbits. These often don't have a secure lid and don't offer great protection from predators and extreme weather. Rabbits can also get trapped or injured due to the large mesh spacing in these runs.



Chicken coop and hutch/run combinations

These are also unsuitable. It's very unlikely that you'll find one meeting the minimum size requirements for the sheltered sleeping area and the run. They can also be very tricky to clean, and make socialising with your rabbits difficult.

Predator-proofing your outdoor run

Rabbits are very active animals, particularly at dusk, dawn and overnight, so it is important that they have 24hr access to their run if they are living outdoors. The run will need to be well-built (we recommend having a wooden framed run with a wooden framed lid), to prevent predators from getting in, as well as preventing the rabbits from escaping.

The run can be placed on either grass (not artificial grass), or on a level concrete/paved area.

If you choose to place your run on grass, you'll need to do one of the following to make it both rabbit and predator-proof:

- Dig the run 1-2ft into the ground, ensuring it is still 3-4ft tall above ground.
- Bury a layer of mesh a few inches underneath the turf.
- Place paving slabs all around the inside or outside edges of the run.
- Secure a wire mesh strip or 'skirt' the same width as a paving slab (around 40cm) all around the outside of the run.

Indoor housing

Whilst rabbits can live indoors, you'll need to consider this decision carefully as it can have quite an impact on your home. Your rabbits will still need as much space indoors as they would outdoors – an area at least 3m x 2m in size. The easiest way to achieve this for a pair of standard sized rabbits is to convert a room into their own rabbit haven – and you'll have a lot of fun getting creative with it! Giant breed rabbits may need multiple rooms, depending on their size.

Things you'll need to consider with indoor rabbits

- Choose a quieter room for them to live in – living rooms and kitchens tend to be very noisy and busy, which most rabbits will find stressful.
- Be prepared for chewing of furniture, as well as faeces and urine stains on flooring.
- All electrical wires or plastic water pipes will need protection from being chewed.
- All household plants will need to be removed.
- Use a baby gate or similar to keep them secure in the room, but also enable them to see out.
- Unless the floor is carpet, you should consider rugs or plenty of 'hop to' areas – slippery flooring can cause muscle wastage or back damage.
- Your rabbits will need a room with plenty of natural sunlight.
- Indoor rabbits tend to moult (shed) more frequently than outdoor rabbits.
- You'll still need to provide lots of toys and activities for them to dig in, hide in and jump on top of, as well as plenty of items for them to gnaw.
- In order to provide your rabbit with the natural sunlight they need on their skin to produce vitamin D, a secure outdoor enclosure with shelter and hiding options meeting the rabbits size requirements is also recommended.



Building yourself?

If you're considering building your own outdoor rabbit accommodation, it's vital you use the right materials. **Here are a few things to keep in mind before you hop to it:**

- The run will need placing on a level base.
- Chicken wire is not suitable for animal housing as it's too weak and makes it easy for predators to enter. It's also possible for some rabbits to chew through it.
- Use small gauge, strong welded mesh. The minimum we recommend is 16g, but 12g is even better. The smaller the number, the stronger the mesh.
- Nail or heavy-duty staple the mesh on to the inside of the run to prevent your rabbits from chewing the framework.
- Create a step-over barrier in front of the door to help prevent the rabbits from rushing out when you open the door.
- Use suitable wood screws to secure the run panels together – cable ties are not suitable.
- Place secure bolts on doors of outdoor hutches, sheds and runs – predators and young children can easily open swivel latches or flimsy bolts.
- Run lids will need to be strong enough to withhold a predator or windblown items landing on them. Ideally, make it in three sections with a supporting beam to aid the strength and prevent dipping in the middle.
- Consider a waterproof roof for the run using corrugated plastic or polycarbonate sheets, so their area remains dry.

Bedding materials

Like us humans, rabbits like a comfy bed – and it's what they deserve! The wrong bedding for rabbits can have a negative effect on their health. **Wood shavings, sawdust and straw** often contain fur mites, cause respiratory conditions and can give humans an allergic reaction too!

The only way is hay

The most suitable bedding for your rabbits is green sweet-smelling hay. As you may know, it also makes up a large chunk of their diet, so it has multiple uses!

Top tips:

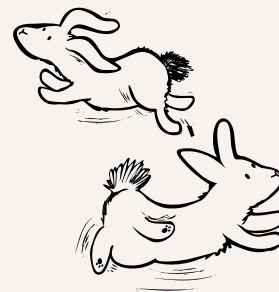
- Place vinyl or lino under newspaper and hay in hutches or sheds to make it easier to wipe clean.
 - Line multiple rectangular litter trays with newspaper and place lots of hay on top.
 - Place large piles of hay around their enclosure.
 - Or cover the flooring of any hutches or sheds with a good layer of hay.
- It's often more cost-effective to purchase hay from a local farm or equine shop by the bale. You can then pick a nice, green bale and reduce the risk of it being old stock and possibly contaminated or filled with sharp thistles. For examples of different hay to use, [see page 18](#)
- Fun (but serious) fact:** some people can be allergic to hay, mistakenly thinking they are allergic to the rabbits themselves.



Cleaning

Keeping your rabbits' accommodation clean is key to preventing serious health conditions. Here's how to keep it as immaculate-looking and safe as possible:

Daily – spot clean	Weekly – refresh clean
<p>This is vital in the summer months to help prevent flystrike (a painful and life-threatening condition).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Empty any used litter trays and remove any other soiled bedding.2. Replace dirty bedding with fresh hay.3. Change their water.4. Remove any greens/vegetables they have not eaten from the previous day.	<p>As well as keeping your rabbits' home in tip-top condition, this also helps with the prevention of flystrike.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Place your rabbits in a secure plastic cat carrier with plenty of hay. Keep this in a safe, quiet space away from where you are cleaning.2. Remove any used litter trays, bowls, bottles and any regularly used enrichment/hiding spaces. Clean with a pet-friendly disinfectant.3. Set aside all of the clean, unsoiled hay and sweep out their enclosure. Wipe any soiled areas with pet friendly disinfectant.4. Replace the hay you saved in step three and add fresh bedding and place the enrichment back in, and throw in some new toys if you can. Make sure some toys and enrichment remain in the enclosure that have not been cleaned to help with the rabbits settling back in.



Rabbit companionship



Rabbits are very social animals who depend on the companionship of other rabbits to live their best life. Human companionship is not enough, so they should always be kept in pairs or groups. If you find yourself with a lone rabbit of any age, contact Woodgreen or your local rescue centre to help find your rabbit a companion.

Suitable combinations:

- **A neutered male and neutered female rabbit.**
- **Same-sex pairs can work, but it's important they're neutered as early as possible** – ideally between three to six months – to prevent potentially fatal fights as they mature.
- **You can bond different breeds together, but take care** when considering a giant with a smaller breed. While many mismatched-size pairings can work, there's always a risk to the smaller rabbit during the mixing process.

Unsuitable combinations:

A rabbit and a guinea pig should not live together. Although some owners have found success with this type of pairing, there's a big risk that the guinea pig will be accidentally kicked when the rabbit is running or hopping about. Guinea pigs are also vocal communicators, while rabbits are mostly silent. This can be upsetting for both the rabbit and guinea pig.





Introducing your rabbits to each other

Before we get started on this topic, don't forget, if you find yourself with a lone rabbit, please contact us! We have an onsite mixing service and we could match them with a companion either by mixing onsite or by providing you with advice on how to mix them at home.

Preparing to mix

Like us humans, there's no guarantee that sparks will fly when two (or more) rabbits meet for the first time. But there are things you can do to increase the chances of success!

First, you'll need to make sure that the rabbits are neutered, as it will not only prevent any unwanted litters, but will also help with their bonding.

When introducing, this needs to be done in a neutral space which doesn't contain the scent of either rabbit. There are a few different mixing methods you can try which are split mixing, larger space method and smaller space method.

[Click here](#) to find out more about the different mixing methods.

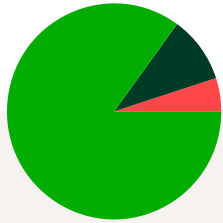
We also recommend watching our video on choosing the right companion for your rabbit, how to mix them, and behaviours to look out for [here](#).



Food glorious food: feeding your rabbits

To help your rabbits live a long and healthy life, their diet should be as natural and varied as possible.

Rabbits in the wild spend their days grazing, and they need a full tummy of fibre at all times. A healthy daily diet should include the following:



85%

– soft, long, green sweet-smelling hay or grass.

10%

– selection of safe plants and vegetables.

5%

– good-quality, rabbit pellet food.

Hay

Place this in large piles around their enclosure, in large trays, inside/on top of hiding spaces and in hay racks. Rabbits need constant access to hay/grass, as they will continuously eat. It's also great for helping to keep their teeth healthy.

Offer a mixture of varieties such as:

- Baled mixed meadow hay.
- Forage treat hay by Burgess.
- Timothy hay.
- Small amounts of Readigrass.

Avoid short, brown or yellow, dusty "or mouldy" smelling hay as it's not very nutritional and may harm your rabbits.



How much to feed your rabbits



Nuggets

Give approximately 15g of nuggets per kilo of bodyweight to each rabbit daily. Although this will depend on their age, weight and current health. Rabbits should not be fed muesli mixes as they are high in sugar and can lead to selective feeding which can lead to dental problems. Here at Woodgreen, we feed our rabbits on Burgess Excel Nuggets, which you can buy online or from most pet shops.

Safe plants and vegetables

A large handful per rabbit, per day. Give them a variety of different fresh foods each day. You can even pick and grow your own foods to feed them – see our list of safe foods on the next page, and click here to find even more ideas.

Water

Daily fresh water is extremely important. Many rabbits prefer to drink from a bowl. Bottles are suitable but can often leak and be tricky to clean. Provide one water source per rabbit.

Forage to pick and grow

As well as the food and snacks, there are all sorts of other natural foods – or forage – you can give your rabbits. And, if you fancy getting out into nature, you can go foraging to pick and collect lots of them yourself, for free!



What is forage?

Forage is food you can gather from where it grows naturally, and it doesn't cost you anything.

It's more natural and closer to the diet these animals would have in the wild.

It's also:

- Healthy and lower in sugar than vegetables and fruit.
- A good way to make sure your pets are getting enough fibre, vitamins and minerals.
- Great for adding variety and enrichment to your pets' diet.
- A brilliant way to naturally wear your pets' teeth down and help prevent dental diseases.

Here are some ideas on what to feed your rabbits:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Blackberry bramble | • Goosegrass | • Meadowsweet |
| • Chickweed | • Grass | • Nettle |
| • Clover | • Greater stitchwort | • Nipplewort |
| • Cow parsley | • Ground elder (before flowering) | • Plantain (rib and broad leaf) |
| • Common agrimony | • Hawksbeard | • Prickly lettuce |
| • Cranesbill | • Hawkweed | • Shepherd's purse |
| • Dandelion | • Hawthorn | • Silverweed |
| • Dead nettle (white or red) | • Herb bennet (Wood avens) | • Sow thistle |
| • Dog rose | • Herb robert | • Willowherb |
| • Golden rod | • Mallow | • Yarrow |
| • Good King Henry | | |



Where can I get it?

You'll find it in hedgerows, footpaths, fields and woods.

Here are a few tips for success:

- Don't collect it from the roadside – it may be contaminated with exhaust fumes.
- Avoid areas which may have used weedkiller, fertilizer or other chemicals.
- Avoid paths and verges used by dogs or near poop bins.
- Don't trespass on private land!

Different types of forage

Wild plants

You can find all sorts of edible plants in fields and hedgerows – and you can feed your pets most of them fresh. But there are some, like nettles, that are better dried.

Garden plants and herbs

You can feed your rabbits plenty of different garden plants and herbs when they're in season.

Here are some examples:

- Basil
- Bay borage
- Calendula
- Chamomile
- Chervil
- Common mallow
- Coriander
- Cornflower
- Dill
- Fennel
- Hollyhocks (leaves)
- Lavender
- Lemon balm
- Lovage
- Marjoram
- Mint
- Nasturtium
- Oregano
- Parsley
- Roses
- Sunflowers (not the seeds)
- Thyme
- Wallflowers
- Wild geranium



Fruit and vegetables

Although you may not be able to 'forage' for fruit and vegetables as easily, here's a list of what's safe for your pets:

Vegetables

- Broccoli
- Brussel sprouts
- Cabbage
- Carrot tops
- Cauliflower
- Celery
- Courgette
- Curly kale
- Fennel
- Pak Choi
- Peppers
- Pumpkin
- Radish tops
- Rocket
- Spinach
- Spring greens
- Swiss chard
- Squash
- Watercress

Fruit

As an extra, occasional treat, you can give your pets a small piece of apple or pear.

Rabbits also love to eat strawberry leaves, blackberry leaves and raspberry leaves (not the fruits).

Trees and shrubs

The twigs and branches of several trees are a great source of enrichment for your rabbits. You can put large branches inside their run and bundle up the smaller twigs and tie them to the sides of the run.

Here are some examples:

- Apple
- Birch
- Hawthorn
- Hazel (not the nuts)
- Pear
- Willow – check with your vet first if your rabbits are on medication.



Pick carefully!

Never collect protected plants or plants you don't recognise.



Handling your rabbits

Whilst rabbits are known to be a popular children's pet, they're only really suited for families who are happy to give them plenty of space. That means socialising with them by sitting on the floor nearby and not cuddling them. But they can still make a wonderful addition to a family!

Rabbits prefer to have all four paws on the floor and find being picked up and cuddled extremely stressful. This can lead to you being scratched, kicked or bitten as they try to struggle to break free. This is not an aggressive behaviour; it's a natural way for them to escape from a potential 'predator', like they would in the wild.

You may expect that the more you handle a rabbit, the calmer they will become. Sadly, this can actually have the opposite effect. In fact, it can lead to them being even more fearful and warier of humans. The best way to spend time with your rabbit is to sit on the ground in their run area and offer tasty treats. If you're able to do this with your rabbits daily, you'll soon find they happily choose to hop and sit on your lap or follow you around.

Transporting your rabbits

It's important that you always have a suitable pet carrier available in case you need to rush your rabbits to the vet. These are also handy for when you need to clean out their enclosure. Cardboard boxes can quickly and easily be chewed through, leading to escapees – so avoid these!



Hard plastic cat carriers like this one are perfect for your rabbits. To keep them relaxed and happy, make sure the carrier is large enough for both rabbits, so they don't need to be separated. Place some newspaper on the bottom with lots of hay on top for them to munch on.



Keeping your rabbits healthy

Make sure you health check your rabbits every week, and look out for any changes in their behaviour every day. Unfortunately, they can be very good at hiding any health issues until they're really suffering.

Sometimes, even the smallest thing can be a sign your furry friend is poorly. Like not rushing out to

receive fresh food straight away, or their poo looking a little smaller, darker, harder or softer than normal. If you have any concerns, act quickly and contact your rabbit savvy vet.

Watch our video on how to health check rabbits and what to look out for [here](#).



Health checking your rabbits

Ideally, bring your rabbits indoors and sit them on a towel so they are comfy.

Eyes – should be clean, clear, with no cloudiness and bright with no wetness or discharge around the eyes.

Ears, nose and mouth – Ears should be clean and free of any discharge, flaky or scabby patches. Nose and mouth should be clean and dry, free from any discharge, scabs, and no signs of dribbling. Their jawline should be free of any lumps.

How to check their skin, coat and tail are healthy:

- clean and healthy-looking.
- no fur loss or matting.
- no red, flaky skin/dandruff.
- no wounds or scratches.

Teeth – their top and bottom incisors (front teeth) should be white, smooth and wearing evenly against one another.

Body – this should be free of any lumps, bumps or wounds.

Weight – use small scales such as bathroom scales to monitor their weight. Look out for unexpected or consistent weight loss/gain.

Feet and toes – should be free of any sores.

Nails – these should be a regular length and in line with their fur. These may need clipping every 6-12 weeks. Watch our video on how to do this safely [video](#).

Bottom and genitals – these should be clean and dry with no redness or swelling.

Finding a vet

It's really important to find a vet in your area who has lots of experience with rabbits. Most vets will see cats and dogs on a daily basis and will have extensive knowledge of their needs. Other species such as rabbits may not be seen very frequently by most vets. So finding someone who has lots of experience of seeing, diagnosing and treating rabbits is vital.

- **Look for an Exotics Veterinary Practice** – they may have more experience and be cheaper in the long term than other vets. Look here to find a rabbit-friendly vet in your area: [Recommended Rabbit-Friendly Vets | Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund \(RWAFF\)](#)
- **Talk to friends and family who own or have owned rabbits** to see if there are any vets they recommend.
- **Talk to veterinary practices** to find out if there are any rabbit savvy vets within the practice. Don't be afraid to ask them how many they see and treat on a weekly basis. This can help you decide whether they are the right vet for you.

Vaccinations

Your rabbits will need vaccinating twice a year – one to help protect them against Myxomatosis and RVHD1 and 2 (Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic disease), and the

other for the newer highly virulent RVHD2 strain. All are fatal and easily contracted.

RVHD is very much a 'silent killer', with little or no symptoms. The virus can reach your rabbits via your clothes and footwear if you've unknowingly been in contact with it, or through another rabbit in the early stages of the condition.

Myxomatosis is spread by mosquitos, fleas, and can also reach rabbits via your clothes and footwear.

For these reasons, both outdoor and indoor rabbits are at risk.

Signs of myxomatosis:

- Puffy, red or swollen eyes and genital area
- Small bumps and lumps in the ears and across their body
- Noisy breathing
- Sitting hunched
- Crusty lump on the nose
- Eyes shut with a glue-like appearance.

Signs of RVHD1 and 2:

- Jaundice
- Sudden collapse where death follows within hours
- Projectile diarrhoea followed quickly by death
- Loud scream followed by death
- Sudden death with no symptoms.





Dental health

Did you know that poor dental health is one of the most common killers in rabbits? This is often because of an incorrect diet or due to genetics. Rabbit teeth continually grow, so a diet of at least 85% hay/grass is essential in helping to reduce the risk of dental disease.

Signs to look for include:

- One or both eyes weeping or blocked tear ducts
- Weight loss
- Drooling
- Mucky bottoms or regularly finding soft stools within the accommodation
- Lumps/abscess along the jawline

- Lack of appetite, choosing not to eat particular foods that they enjoyed previously, or choosing to eat softer foods over harder foods
- Flystrike disease
- Overgrown front teeth with matted fur wrapped around them.

Sadly, dental disease is rarely treatable, only manageable. It can lead to a very slow and painful deterioration of your rabbit. So it may be kinder to put them to sleep sooner rather than later, with the support of your rabbit-friendly vet.

Dental disease cannot always be prevented but ensuring your rabbits have a good diet, full of fibre can help to keep their teeth in check.

Gut stasis

As the name suggests, this is when the rabbit's gut slows down or stops moving, and it's a symptom of something else going on. Rabbits always need to have food passing through their gut to help keep the bacteria in them healthy and working. Being a prey species, they tend to hide that they're feeling unwell for as long as possible.

It's important to look out for the following symptoms:

- Lack of appetite or stopping eating altogether
- Appearing hunched with a bloated belly
- Appearing to struggle to get into a comfortable position
- Producing very few, if any, droppings, which are smaller and darker in colour than usual.

If you notice any of these, **please take them to a vet immediately.** If not treated quickly enough, these symptoms can be fatal.

Sometimes, owners decide to wait until the next day to see if they improve. Sadly, it's often too late at this point. Once treated, your vet can then investigate the cause of the gut stasis and discuss with you the ways to prevent it from reoccurring.

There are some things you can do to help prevent gut stasis. Make sure your rabbits have a diet consisting of 85% hay/grass, 10% safe plants and vegetables, and 5% nuggets. You should also groom your rabbits when they moult as this can help to prevent them from ingesting too much fur, which could cause a blockage. Long-haired rabbits will need to be groomed more regularly.

Stress, loud noises, living alone or living with an incompatible rabbit, can all cause gut stasis too.



Did you know?
A healthy rabbit should produce 200-250 droppings every day.



Looking for more expert pet advice?

We cover a range of different topics on our website – and not just for your small furry friends, but cats and dogs, too!

Not only that, but we also offer phone appointments, workshops, training classes, webinars and courses.

Find out more at [woodgreen.org.uk](https://www.woodgreen.org.uk), call **0300 303 9333** or email info@woodgreen.org.uk



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