



An Introduction to your Rabbit

Congratulations! You are now the proud owner of a rabbit. To help you keep your rabbit happy and healthy we have produced this fact sheet. If you should have any further questions, do not hesitate to give us a call at the farm.



Accommodation

A large hutch raised from the ground will keep the damp and any predators at bay. The hutch should be placed in a sheltered area away from direct sunlight or harsh winds. The hutch will need two sections - one covered in a thick layer of shavings and one which needs to be full of straw or hay for sleeping. The hutch needs to be cleared of droppings daily and totally cleaned and disinfected on a weekly basis. In the winter, it is best to move your rabbit's hutch into a ventilated shed or garage. If this is not possible, cover the hutch with a tarpaulin and add extra bedding. A purpose built run which can be placed in shady places in the garden will allow your rabbit access to grass and exercise. Larger breeds of rabbit will need a larger hutch. If you are unsure, ask for advice.

Feeding

Feed your guinea pig on the specially prepared dry rabbit food available from the farm or any pet shop. In addition, fresh fruit and vegetables and a handful of hay will provide all the necessary vitamins. Clean, fresh water must be given either in a bowl or bottle.



General Care

Ideally your rabbit could have a companion but it is not necessary. If you do not want to breed your rabbits, any combination of boys and girls live happily together provided the boys are castrated. Your rabbit will need regular gentle handling to keep it tame and friendly. Regular gentle brushing will help to keep your rabbit's coat in good condition - especially if it has long hair. Assuming they are well looked after, rabbits will live up 7 years or more and will reward you with years of fun.