

Your New Rabbit

Handling and Training

Approaching and lifting your new rabbit:

Start by stroking your rabbit on the head gently. Some rabbits see the gesture of offering your hand (as you would to a dog) as a threat. Move slowly and let your new friend get to know you.

The next step is lifting and carrying the rabbit, never pickup or carry a rabbit by its ears or scruff. Gently and slowly start by petting, then slip one arm around the rabbit and hold to your chest to lift. Rabbits are often fearful if “suspended” in air; always hold them close to your body and fully supported.

Litterbox Training:

The first step of litterbox training is selecting the correct box and litter. The box should be to scale of the rabbit; a large rabbit needs a large box. Litter should be designed for use with rabbits. Examples of proper litter include Carefresh, Feline Pine, and Yesterday’s News. Avoid Pine and Cedar bedding.

Second, observe your rabbit’s behavior. Most rabbits select a corner or spot in its cage to go to the bathroom; place the litterbox over that spot. Place your rabbits hay in the box, this will motivate them to hop in and spend time in the new box.

Empty the box daily, and clean it regularly. White vinegar is a safe and effective way to clean bunny odors.