

VetSmiths

More than just vets

RABBITS

So you're thinking about getting a rabbit – a general overview

Rabbits are a popular choice of pet in the UK, but are sadly often the most neglected pets, due to under-education or available information on how to care for them properly.

Rabbits make lovely pets and can be playful, intelligent, inquisitive and loving.

One thing to note - rabbits aren't ideal pets for small children. They're prey animals and can have nervous or timid dispositions. They don't necessarily like to be picked up and/or cuddled.

Rabbits require a good amount of space - a minimum of 3m x 2m x 1m.

They like to have company of their own kind – they're sociable creatures and are happiest when living with another neutered bunny friend or in groups.

Rabbits require regular veterinary treatment to provide annual vaccinations, nail clips and to check their dental health.

Once you've decided you'd like a couple of rabbits, you need to do your research. There are lots of breeders, and pet shops often stock young rabbits to buy, but with the statistics stating that 70,000 rabbits a year are surrendered to rescue centres as unwanted or neglected, it's a good idea to look at adopting.

Rescue centres often stock rabbits from a young age and will most likely come already vaccinated and neutered. Rescues often offer a bonding service too, or you can adopt an already bonded pair.

Summary

- Best kept in pairs or larger groups
- Neutering – both rabbits, even if the same sex, would require neutering
- They need a fair amount of space to enable them to behave as they would in their natural habitat
- Rabbits need annual vaccinations
- They need regular nail trims
- Diet is important – they require a good balanced diet, rich in fibre
- Look at adopting, not shopping

Please note: the above information is a general guide and shouldn't be used instead of veterinary medical advice or diagnosis. If you are ever concerned about your pet, you should seek immediate advice from your vet.

