

**Damory Veterinary  
Clinic**

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# Damory Veterinary Clinic

## Small Animal Department



### LOOKING AFTER YOUR PET RABBIT

Rabbits can be kept outside in a secure dry hutch or indoors as a house rabbit. A hutch should be large enough to allow your bunny to hop from one side to the other, to stretch out completely and to stand up on its hindlegs.

The hutch should be secure to prevent foxes getting in and your rabbit escaping. It should have ventilation to allow your bunny to breathe normally but be protected from the weather to avoid it getting too cold or wet. Bedding can be provided by good quality straw, hay, paper or shavings which should be changed regularly to prevent the hutch getting wet and smelly. Water should be provided fresh every day in a bowl and/or water bottle.

Please see the handout 'Why Feeding Your Rabbit Properly Will Keep Him/Her Healthy' for advice on feeding.

Rabbits need exercise to keep them healthy and happy and a large secure run or secure garden can provide this, as well as providing the opportunity to eat grass. Indoor rabbits should be allowed to exercise in a room free of dangers such as loose electrical wires as they like to chew and dig. Even indoor rabbits can benefit from going outside so they can absorb sunshine to allow them to produce Vitamin D in their skin to enable them to absorb calcium.

Your rabbit should be picked up and examined twice a day. Hold your rabbit gently but firmly to prevent injury from jumping out of your arms. Rabbits are prone to fly strike (when flies lay eggs on the rabbit and these become maggots). This is a very painful and life threatening condition and large infestations can cause the rabbit to die very quickly. Immediate veterinary attention should be sought if this happens.