



## pets in the classroom



# CARE SHEET

## RABBIT

### Housing

A rabbit's habitat should be at least four times its size and be escape proof. It is best to provide the largest habitat possible with plenty of room for exercise and play. If you decide to have more than one rabbit, they may be kept in mixed sex pairs if they have been spayed or neutered, or in same-sex pairs if they have been raised together. Spayed or neutered rabbits tend to be healthier, live longer and are better companions.

### Environment

A rabbit's environment should be placed in an area that maintains average household temperatures and that is away from direct sunlight or drafts. There should be an area that has a solid surface and an area with 1–2 inches of bedding. Proper bedding includes high-quality paper bedding, crumbled paper bedding or hardwood shavings. Cedar-based products are not recommended. Care of the habitat includes removing wet spots daily, changing bedding at least once a week, and cleaning its contents at least once a week with mild soap and water. After cleaning, rinse and allow to dry completely before placing the rabbit back into the habitat.

Rabbits are intelligent, affectionate and social; they need daily interaction with humans or other rabbits.

### Care

A rabbit should receive a well-balanced diet consisting of rabbit food, timothy hay and limited amounts of fruits and vegetables. Provide your rabbit with chew sticks as rabbits chew to maintain their teeth, which grow continuously. To prevent hairballs and shedding, brush your rabbit's hair one to two times a week and clean outside the ears frequently with a cotton ball. Rabbits generally stay pretty clean, so only bathe when needed using shampoo designed for rabbits. Clip nails often so they don't become curled. Proper veterinary care and handling will keep your rabbit healthy and happy.