



BEFORE YOUR BUNNY ARRIVES:

Think about the sort of rabbit you'd like to have - a house rabbit or one who lives outside in a spacious hutch with access to a large run. There are many different breeds and sizes and it's a good idea to talk to other owners to get a feel for what's involved.

You can also find advice from the **Rabbit Welfare Association and Fund** at www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk

Rabbits can live for over 10 years - please do make sure you can commit to the costs of feeding, bedding, housing and general veterinary costs for the duration. Insurance will help if your rabbit becomes ill or suffer an accident.

Rabbits should always be bought from a reputable breeder or rescue centre (such as RAWF, RSPCA, Blue Cross), where you have seen the bunny being well looked after. Ask if the rabbit has had any vaccinations or other treatment before you take him / her home. Ideally bring a few days' supply of the current food home so that you can gradually move to a new diet.

Bringing your bunny home:

Your rabbit may be a little overwhelmed at first - if you are at all worried please do call us.

- Rabbits are sociable creatures and should live with another rabbit – ideally a male/female pair who will both need neutering. We don't recommend rabbits living with Guinea Pigs.
- Introduce your rabbit(s) gently to their new home. Remember that rabbits are prey animals in the wild - they are programmed to watch out for foxes and will be frightened of sudden movements and loud noises. If scared they may bite and scratch, and so careful and gentle handling is always recommended.
- Move your bunny around in a box - not by carrying.

Our First Steps Bunny package costs just £45 and includes vaccination against new variant RHD2, Supa Excel rabbit food, a junior check up at 6 months and lots of advice!



Vaccination: This can begin as early as five weeks old, and thereafter an annual booster injection maintains immunity. Vaccination protects against two potentially fatal diseases:

- **Myxomatosis** - common throughout the UK, it spreads from the wild rabbit population, usually via blood-sucking insects such as the common rabbit flea. The disease is widespread and is seen all year round, although the biggest risk period is late summer and autumn.
- **Viral Haemorrhagic Disease.**

Diet: It is important to feed a diet that consists mainly of hay or grass, supplemented daily with leafy greens. Rabbits only need a very small amount of packaged/pelleted food.

Neutering: This is usually carried out from 5¹/₂ months of age for both males (castration) and females (spaying).

Insurance: Insuring your rabbit will give you peace of mind that if they have an illness, accident or injury, he / she can always receive the best possible care without you having to worry about the cost. The best policies offer 'lifetime cover', but there are many policies available giving different levels of cover.

Paws Club: the smart way to keep your pet and your purse healthy. You can budget monthly for your pet's healthcare and save 10% on your vet bills, along with free annual vaccinations and free Rearguard protection against flystrike.



Please speak to any member of the Ark House team for more information on any aspect of your rabbit's care. Call 01525 373329 to make an appointment or register online at arkhousevets.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you!