

# Information about Sinkkola animals

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## Information about rabbits



**Feeding the animals is forbidden!**

(No hay, bread or anything else)

**Please behave calmly around the animals.**

**It is allowed to pet the animals.**

Please do not feed the animals. The grass can be spoiled and dirty so animals can get ill if they eat it. Also feeding by hand could teach the animals to bite or nibble. It is difficult for the animal to understand that not everyone offer food so they might bite your hand. Animal keepers feed the animals at their feeding time with suitable food for each species.

Rabbits are naturally easy to take care of and they are clean animals. Keeping rabbits include proper and sufficient feeding as well as taking care of exercise and other care.

**When buying a cage is good to remember that the larger the cage the better it is for the rabbit.** In the wild rabbits have large territories, so there is no point stuffing a rabbit into a small cage to become bored. If it is possible to keep the rabbit free in a room, it is a good option to get a cage with a door on the side where the rabbit can jump out itself.

When placing the cage in a room it is better to locate it about 10 – 20cm from the floor as there is usually draught. Do not place the cage in the same room with the TV as high pitched sounds are disturbing to the rabbit. Also, if possible do not place the cage in the bedroom as rabbits are most active during the night and can disturb you when you are sleeping.

Inside the cage the rabbit needs a food bowl and **fresh water bottle or bowl**. In the cage there always needs to be hay, one can either put it inside the cage or in a special hanging hay rack. It is also good to have salt and calcium stones.

Do not use newspapers as litter as ink is poisonous for rabbits. One can find suitable litter material from pet stores or use f.ex. carpet pieces with a separate toilet of cutter dust. **One must clean the cage often enough because as a clean animal rabbit suffers from a dirty cage. Also make sure there is something hard to chew on as the teeth grow constantly.**

**Handle your rabbit every day.** Hold it in your arms, check the nails and teeth, brush it, and talk to it and so on. Get it used to also strangers handling it. For those participating to rabbit shows it is good to teach the rabbit to sit still on a table and turning it to their back.

One can brush the rabbit especially when it is fur shedding time. Suitable brushes are shop bought cat brushes and combs as well as soft human's brushes and tooth brushes. There is no need to wash the rabbit unless it is really dirty for example from diarrhea.

**One should cut the nails about six times a year** (every other month), preferably more often. Suitable nail scissors are shop bought cat/dog nail scissors. When cutting the nail one must remember that the blood vein is at the bottom of the nail so be very careful not to cut to the vein. If the nail is very dark it is good to hold it against the light. If cutting the nails is very difficult ask help to hold the rabbit or take it to a vet or other professional.

When feeding the rabbit remember that rabbits are vegetarians, and their main diet is dry hay. **The basic diet is fresh water and dry hay, which should be on offer all the time. In addition there should be given seed blend or forage pellets.** Pellets, small green pressings, are more suitable for use as the rabbit gets all the necessary fiber, vitamins and minerals from it. Make sure you buy the right ones for your rabbit. **In addition to this main diet one can give as side dish some dry unseasoned bread, carrots, apples, cucumber, salads and other fresh food.** Cabbage and red clover are not recommended as they cause indigestion problems. Most rabbits also enjoy dry treats such as raisins, papaya, banana and others found from shops.

**Rabbits' teeth grow constantly so one must give them something hard to chew on.** Good options are tree branches from aspen, willow and birch. During summer one can dry some young nettles, dandelion leaves and so on. Can you believe how happy the rabbit will be when it is given in the middle of winter a dried tree branch with leaves on it! Also good option is to give blueberry's and cowberry's stems.

During summer one can give some fresh grass, but accustom the rabbit little by little if its stomach is sensitive. Do not give any plants you do not know if they are poisonous or not. Fresh food never replaces hay, there has to be hay always on offer!

Never offer bad quality or rotten food, nor citrus fruit or onion. Unsuitable are also greasy treats such as nuts, sunflower seeds and so on, as well as unnatural foods like candy and sausages. Beware foreign fruit and veg if there is some residue from poisonous pesticides.

**By taking good care of your rabbit you can get an affectionate friend, who greets you happily and consoles you by licking.**

# Sinkkola's bunnies

Meri & Lusmu

born 19.2.2017

Sinkkola's bunnies are mixed-breed.

As a pet a rabbit needs a lot of space and attention. A Rabbit is not happy if it has to live only in a small cage. Letting the rabbit to jump around outside the cage and interacting with it every day is very important.

Pet rabbits have lots of character differences, that are influenced by for example their breed. Others are very social like dogs when others prefer to be alone.

Rabbits are raised as pets but also for meat, leather and wool production as well as for animal testing.

In the olden days farms had rabbits mainly for human food. Nowadays this is less popular but it is trending.

Meri and Lusmu have come from a farm that raises rabbits for human food.