

- **OUTDOORS: A HUTCH IS NOT ENOUGH!** Hutches must be enclosed within a larger pen so bun has a free-range space. A predator-proof environment is required, yet it must also allow freedom to run. Wire-topped 10 ft x 10 ft chain link dog kennels are perfect. Bury wire in ground around perimeter of fence so predators can't dig in and buns can't dig out. Outdoor kennels should then be covered with BOTH chicken wire to protect against small predators and mesh wire screening to keep bugs out. Take buns indoors for extreme weather like heat waves and freezing temps. Monitor health and behavior closely. It's easy to miss the subtle signs of eating, drinking and attitude changes that indicate illness. Without the use of a chew-proof heated water bowl, water will freeze—so replace it several times per day. A chew-proof electric heated pad provides warmth. In summer heat, buns need extra water and shade as heatstroke kills. Lean a frozen water bottle against them, gently spritz with water, put up a fan and locate them in a shady spot. Hutches can either be heated or covered w/ water resistant styrofoam that bunny cannot chew. Or buy a rabbit hutch cover/hutch snuggle online. Block sides with plastic sheeting and pack inside with straw. Moisture-absorbing hay lacks the insulating properties of hollow straw. HAY is for EATING and STRAW is for INSULATING. Outdoor buns need BOTH. Straw is CRITICAL for winter.

- **THROW THE CAGE AWAY:** A free roam rabbit is a happy rabbit! Bun can free roam the whole house or just one room with a pet gate... If that's not an option, then a puppy exercise pen, placed on top of a cut-to-size piece of floating linoleum is good. If free-roaming, introduce bun to space slowly for optimal potty skills. Adequate space to move around is essential to a happy and healthy rabbit. Living in a cage is like living in your bathroom.. You can survive but you wouldn't be happy. A wire cage is not a suitable habitat for any rabbit. Bun's muscles atrophy from restricted mobility. A rabbit's foot is pure fur, it lacks pads like dogs and cats have and if not given a flat surface to retreat to, wire causes painful "sore hocks."

- **BUNNY PROOF:** Buns will chew wires, furniture, rugs, base boards, etc. Pick up, tape up and cover up exposed wires.
- **HELPFUL TIPS:** Place a FRESH stick where bun was chewing, try rubbing a hot pepper on the area. Hide wires behind a board. Insert wires into a plastic plumbing tube, or wire cover. Plexiglas can protect sensitive areas like baseboards and outlets. Plastic corner guards protect doors from being chewed. IKEA "table leg scratch boards" protect furniture legs.

- **BUNS have FRAGILE BACKS which can BREAK easily:** In nature, when a rabbit's feet leave the ground they know they're about to be dinner. Therefore, buns are instinctively terrified of being picked up. You must earn bun's trust and eventually they won't mind. Take great care when handling a bunny. Pick up and support their bottom, holding their chest to yours. Do not let them kick their legs back. Swaddle them like a baby. Stay low to the ground when picking up and putting down as they can jump. Jumping can result in fatality. Never pick up a bunny by their ears!

- **LITTER-BOX:** Most buns are trainable, but there will always be a few stray poops on floor. Use at least two litter boxes. Avoid cat litter, cedar and pine (harmful to liver.) Aspen, CareFresh paper bedding, Yesterday's News pellet litter or old newspaper with hay on top are all safe. Hang food and hay dishes over litter box so that bun has to be in litter box to eat. They like to poop while eating! If bun pees on floor, try changing litter type. Wire-grated boxes can help. Rearrange all the furniture in the room and then place the boxes in different spots, restricting access to the area where bun was peeing on the floor. Bleach boxes to reduce odor. Boiling water with a paint scraper will clean a stubborn litter box. Best small vacuum for hay pick up is THE BEAST by Vacmaster. PATIENCE is a VIRTUE... It can take as long as six months to train!

- **GROOMING:** Wire flea combs and small shedding blades remove excess fur. Clumps of loose fur can also be plucked or pulled out gently. Long nails are uncomfortable and can scratch you. Trim them yourself or take bun to groomer or vet. Genital pockets (scent glands located on each side of genitalia) can develop a waxy build up that should be cleaned out with a moist Q tip. Check ears to be sure they are smooth and crust-free. Unlike cats, rabbits cannot throw up. Regular grooming prevents fur blockages. Don't bathe your bun—spot clean only if necessary. If bun is indoor/outdoor, be careful of fleas. The ONLY safe chemical preventatives are Revolution and Advantage. FRONTLINE is LETHAL for rabbits.

- **TRIVIA:** Buns are LAGOMORPHS, not rodents. They are CREPUSCULAR (most active at dusk and dawn). They prefer 50 degree Fahrenheit temps. Poop? 200-300 times per day! Everyday buns excrete a nutrient-rich CECOTROPE, which they must eat for health like a multivitamin. Buns communicate subtly and silently and are trainable with practice.

- **NOTE:** We offer bonding, boarding, grooming, advice, energy healing and bunnies-for-event hire. Contact us for info.