

Rabbit Habits

LITTERBOX TRAINING

Where to start

- ▶ Spaying or neutering your rabbit improves housetraining.
- ▶ Use lots of litterboxes at first — then you can cut back.
- ▶ Restrict your rabbit's freedom to a single room. Increase freedom gradually.
- ▶ Keep one litterbox inside your rabbit's cage.
- ▶ Spaying/neutering your rabbit eliminates the marking of territory with feces and urine — it will improve his/her litterbox habits and behavior.
- ▶ Never scold your rabbit. Prevent accidents (*i.e. "remind" your rabbit to go back to his/her litterbox every 10 minutes until they get in the habit of returning themselves*).
- ▶ Remember there is no such thing as a "perfect" pet.
- ▶ Reward good behavior.
- ▶ Give treats (*small piece of fruit, raisin, vegetable, whole-wheat bread, etc.*) when your rabbit is in his/her litterbox. Also, try putting one handful of alfalfa in the corner of the litterbox each day. Many rabbits will eliminate while eating.
- ▶ Pine and cedar shavings have been shown to cause liver disease in rabbits. ***Don't use these products.***
- ▶ Pelleted pine is safe.
- ▶ NEVER use clumping litter. Dangerous when ingested, even inadvertently during grooming.

Cleaning Up

- ▶ **Puddles**
 - **Fresh puddles:** blot with paper towels/rags. Soak with white vinegar or club soda and blot. Repeat as necessary until stain/odor is removed.
 - **Dried puddles:** same as above or use an enzyme product such as Nature's Miracle™.
- ▶ **Litterboxes**
 - Scoop out soiled litter daily or cover with fresh litter.
 - Scrub box once a week or more often if needed. Use white vinegar to remove urine build-up. Cover bottom of pan with vinegar and allow to soak several minutes or longer. Scrape with a metal scraper or scrub with a wire brush.
 - Disinfect with a mild bleach solution (*2-3 table-spoons bleach to 1-2 gallons water*).
 - Never use Lysol or other similar products, the fumes of which can poison a rabbit overtime even when well-rinsed.
- ▶ **Good Litter Choices**
 - **Woody Pet/Equine Fresh** — found at Tractor Supply Company
 - **Fresh Care** — found at Petsmart/Petco in cat section
 - **Yesterday's News** — found at Petsmart/Petco in cat section

