

Nutrition Excellence!

December 2011

Free Ranging Rabbits



Indoor pet rabbits are often allowed to have the "run of the house," or at least allowed to roam free in certain rooms. Your pet rabbit will certainly enjoy frolicking in the house. There are, however, certain risks you should be aware of at all times.

Before you get started here are a few points to consider:

- Decide which areas of the house you are designating for your rabbit to roam freely. Rabbits are chewers by instinct, so keep that in mind. If you are choosing only a few rooms, kitchens and bathrooms are ideal for the naturally curious rabbit.
- If you are allowing your rabbit full range of your house, make sure to rabbit-proof your wiring with plastic tubing from the hardware store. You might also want to protect chair and table legs with hard plastic furniture protectors.
- Set up an area with an open cage containing the rabbit's litter box, water and food. This is a place the rabbit will use to feel safe, to rest and to use the bathroom.
- Start with your rabbit in a small area first, such as a kitchen. Get him used to that being where his cage and litter box is. Then gradually allow him access to as many rooms as you like, one at a time.
- Remember, rabbits like to dig, chew and squeeze into small places, so be very diligent when rabbit-proofing your house. Rabbits have a tendency to chew on things and may gnaw furniture, curtains or carpeting.

- Rabbits should always be supervised with other pets, especially dogs.
- It's best to cage a rabbit at night, or contain him in one room once house-training is completed successfully.



PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT: Purina® Rabbit Chow™ Natural AdvantEdge® Show Food

Purina® Rabbit Chow™ Natural AdvantEdge® Show Food is completely balanced and specially formulated to help produce shiny fur, successful growth and optimal reproduction. This blue ribbon winning food contains added vegetable oils for superior fur quality and is designed for enthusiasts who raise and show rabbits and want the winning edge.

- **The Natural AdvantEdge® Formula**—superior, consistent, natural nutrition FREE from all fillers, preservatives and artificial colors
- **Formulated for excellent fur quality**—vitamin A and essential fatty acids for healthy skin & lustrous fur
- **Corn free diet**—created especially for the unique needs of rabbits
- **Complete, natural nutrition**—no additional supplements necessary and great for rabbits of all ages

When changing your rabbits from one feeding program to another, make the change gradually, over a five to seven day period. Mix the new feed with the old, gradually increasing the amount of the new feed. Continue to feed at the same time each day - evening is best. Clean the feeding dish daily so uneaten food does not become stale and moldy. And always provide plenty of clean, fresh water to rabbits at all times.

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