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# TREMAIN VETERINARY GROUP

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Treating your pet like one of the family

## Advice Note 15.0

# RABBIT HOUSING AND EXERCISE

### Indoor housing

- It is best to house indoor rabbits in a secure cage when you aren't around. This is because they love to chew and can be destructive to carpets and furniture if not fully supervised. If your rabbit is loose in your house you must take measures to ensure that it does not chew electrical cables.
- House rabbits can be kept on soft towels or shredded paper. Indoor rabbits must have access to a run to ensure they obtain grass and exercise. A harness can sometimes also be of benefit.
- A rabbit can easily be litter trained. Ensure the litter tray is large enough for the rabbit to fit in.

### Outdoor housing

- Outdoor rabbits may be housed in a hutch but should always have access to a grass run.
- The hutch should be raised off the floor to allow air to circulate and prevent surface water being absorbed into the floor. It should also have a waterproof roof.
- In the summer you need to consider the position of the cage i.e. in a shady area. No hutch can be too large, the bigger the better! Cages should be tall enough for your rabbit to stand on its hind legs and wide enough for at least three consecutive hops.
- The hutch should be divided into a sleeping area and an area for daytime use. Outdoor rabbits may be kept on wood shavings or straw.
- The hutch will need to be cleaned out daily from wet bedding and faeces and disinfected once a week with hutch cleaner (particularly in the summer).
- Ideally the run should be connected to the hutch to enable the rabbit to go inside if necessary.
- The run will need to be secure to prevent predators and also secure underneath, as rabbits do like to burrow!