

Did you know?



Rabbits make great housepets.

Rabbits are intelligent, affectionate, inquisitive individuals. Their personalities range from bold to timid, gentle to rambunctious, and all points in between.

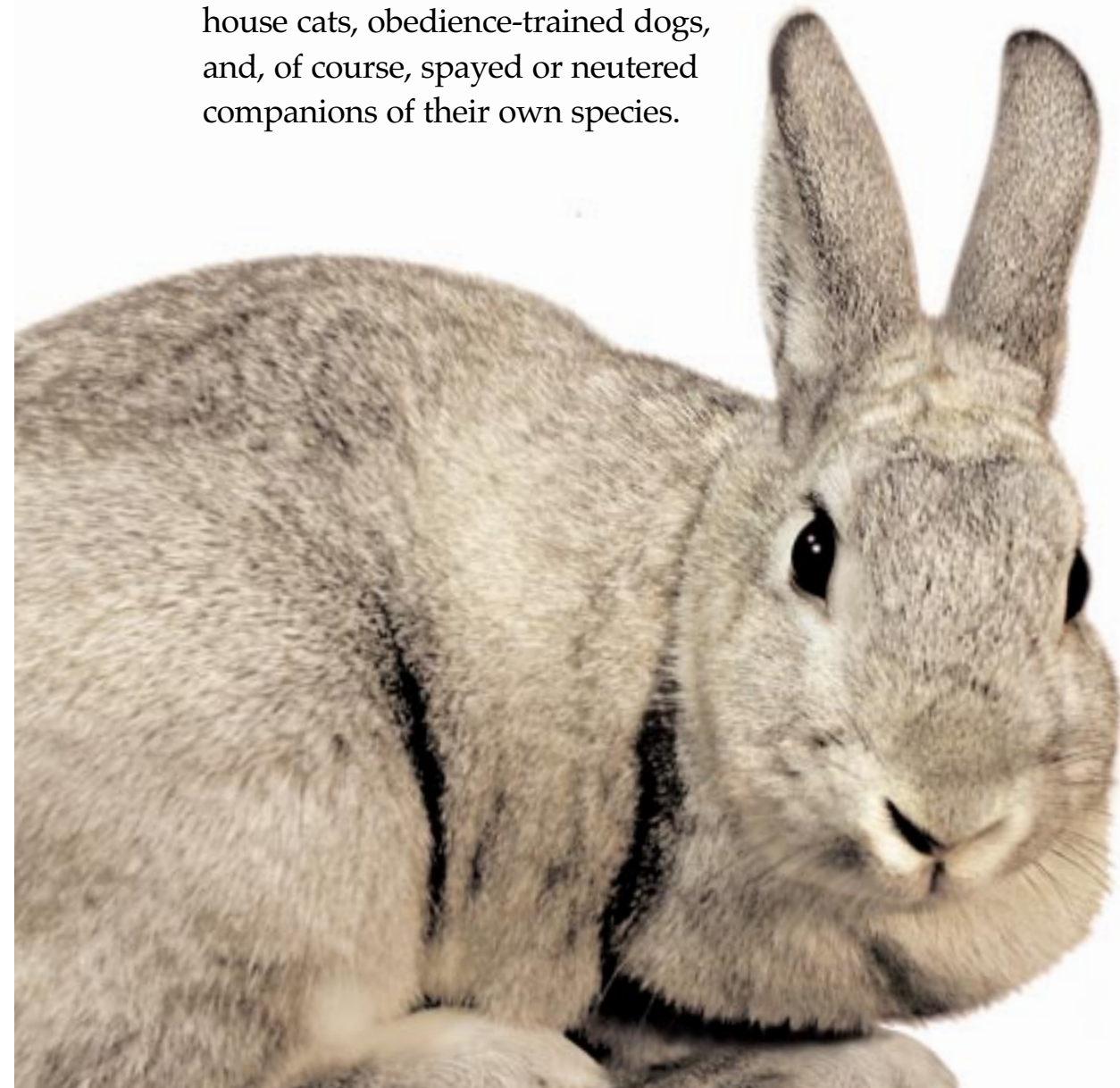
Rabbits can be litterbox trained.

Providing a litterbox with organic litter topped with hay in the corner of the rabbit's space is the best way to train a rabbit. Once he is going to the box regularly, his space can be expanded until he is free-running in an area with one or two litterboxes.



Rabbits can live with domesticated cats and well-behaved dogs.

Rabbits are social animals who thrive in the company of others — humans, house cats, obedience-trained dogs, and, of course, spayed or neutered companions of their own species.



Rabbits are better pets for adults than for children.

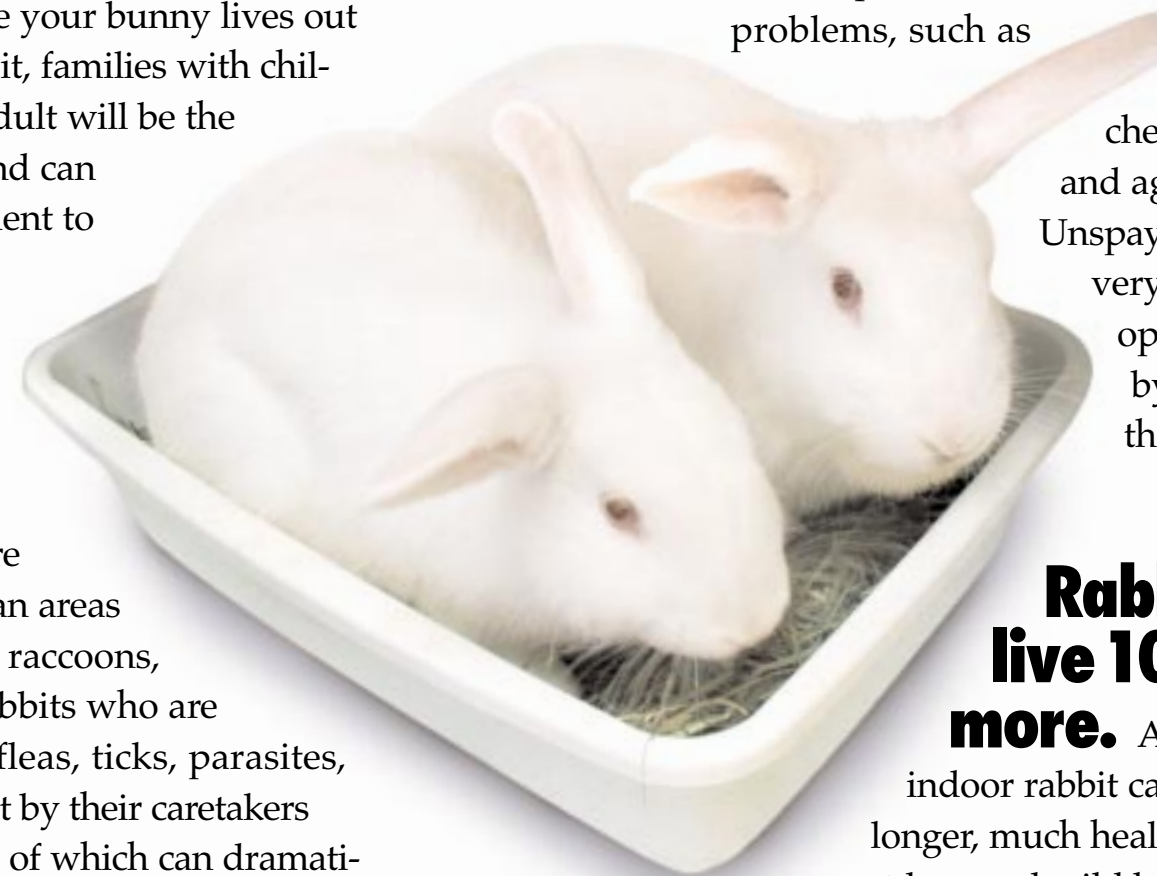
Rabbits are not for everyone. The ideal "rabbit person" is a quiet, gentle individual who is eager to get to know rabbits on their own terms. Noisy households and people who are looking for something they can carry in their arms and cuddle for hours and hours are likely to be disappointed by the subtle nature of the rabbit personality. The natural exuberance and decibel level of even the gentlest young child is stressful for rabbits. Further, children's interests change very rapidly; your 11-year-old may be 21 by the time your bunny lives out his life. When adopting a rabbit, families with children should ensure that an adult will be the rabbit's primary caretaker and can make a long-term commitment to the rabbit's well-being.

Rabbits should live indoors.

Rabbits are prey animals. Even the most urban areas are rife with predators, including raccoons, feral cats, and dogs. Domestic rabbits who are kept outdoors are also subject to fleas, ticks, parasites, extremes of weather, and neglect by their caretakers ("out of sight, out of mind")— all of which can dramatically shorten their lifespan.

Rabbits need more than just rabbit pellets for their diet.

The primary component of a mature rabbit's diet should be good-quality grass hay, such as timothy, brome, or orchard grass. Fresh water and fresh, leafy greens should be given daily. Commercial rabbit pellets, as well as treats (such as fresh fruit), should be given only in limited quantities.



Most rabbits don't like to be picked up and carried around.

As ground-loving creatures, rabbits feel most comfortable on the floor. Rabbits can be taught to accept routine handling, but there is nothing abnormal about a bunny who prefers to sit beside you rather than on your lap.

Rabbits should be spayed or neutered.

Spaying/neutering prolongs a rabbit's life and prevents or solves many behavior problems, such as house soiling, destructive chewing and digging, and aggressiveness. Unspayed females face a very high risk of developing uterine tumors by the time they're three years of age.

Rabbits can live 10 years or more.

A spayed/neutered indoor rabbit can live a much longer, much healthier life than his outdoor and wild brethren.

Rabbits need a stimulating environment and like to explore by chewing.

For their physical and emotional well-being, rabbits should be given lots of chew toys made of wood, cardboard, wicker, and paper, as well as toys to climb on and toss. Because rabbits are chewers by nature, their play-area should be carefully rabbit-proofed.



Rabbits need to see specially trained veterinarians.

Most general veterinarians are not rabbit-savvy, and it can be hard to find a skilled rabbit practitioner.

Rabbits should be adopted from a shelter or rescue group, rather than bought from a breeder or a pet store.

As their popularity increases, rabbits are paying the same price as other companion animals: every year thousands of adorable bunnies are euthanized simply because there are more rabbits available than there are responsible humans to care for them.



Ask us about adopting a rescued rabbit!



HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

Courtesy House Rabbit Society, www.rabbit.org and Harelina Graphics. Photos by Ken Mark and Mary Cotter. House Rabbit Society is an international, volunteer-based non-profit organization with two primary goals: to rescue abandoned rabbits and find permanent homes for them, and to educate the public and assist humane societies, through publications on rabbit care, phone consultation, and classes upon request. To find your closest HRS representative, visit www.rabbit.org. Printing provided by Oxbow Pet Products, www.oxbowhay.com

