

Call Breeders in
September

bunnyrabbit.com

Best
Equipment
Catalog

Rabbit Orders

(August-September)

Breed in October → November bunnies →
January shows

- Order early
- Purchase 5 or 6 for a pen (better chance to match 3 rabbits).
- You can still raise a good pen with 4.

Cages and Housing:

- Each rabbit should have its own pen, 24 x 24 is the recommended size or 18 x 24.
- Hang and support cages from a frame, make sure cages are supported at all four corners, top and bottom (excess movement will scare them and they will not eat).
- 1 qt. water bottle with ball nipple or 1 qt. crock*
- Feeder- Fine X feeder (do not use a crock or bowl, because they will either sit in the bowl and soil the feed or spill the feed by tipping the bowl over).
- Keep cage clean at all times.
- Do not put bedding in the cage (hay, shavings, etc.). Rabbits will soil the bedding and this will lead to stained feet and coat.
- Clean under the cages daily. Build up of urine and waste attracts insects.
- Keep your rabbits dry and out of the wind.
- Keep rabbits out of the direct sun.
- You can keep them in a well ventilated shed or keep them outdoors, but use a tarp or other covering to protect them (if using a tarp to cover cages let your rabbits know your there and slowly lift tarp so not to startle rabbits).
- Radio- Keeping a radio on 24/7 will help get them used to noise (I keep the radio on a Country Music station) and also helps to keep varmits away.
- Pets- Keep pets away from your rabbits.
You will not believe how many pens of rabbits are lost because of the family/ neighbors dog or cat.
- Talk to your rabbits it keeps them from being startled when approaching the cage.

- rabbits do not need light @ night

Rabbit Carrier

- Transport rabbits home from breeder.
- Transport to/from stockshow.
- Never transport rabbits in the back of a truck.
↳ cover if you have to do that

- Can hang cages in rally on add a tarp

- good to talk to rabbits to not spook them if you are approach them and they are not under the tarp

- Pet Carriers are okay, but remember that rabbits will soil themselves.

garden totes @ Sam's

→ help kids carry in rabbits & eliminates

→ best to feed separately

Purina show
mana Pro

possibly
100%

Feed and Nutrition:

- Feed meat pen rabbits a good quality brand of pellets containing 16% protein.

- Scale- This is a very important tool!

1) Purchase a quality digital scale. I purchased a postal scale at Harbor Freight. To keep the rabbits on the scale I use a plastic bowl.

2) You will use the scale to weigh your rabbits (2 to 3 times per week).

3) You will use the scale to weigh your feed (daily).

be consistent in weighing (time)

- Store feed in a cool, dry rodent proof container.

- Ask the breeder if you can purchase a small amount of feed for transition to new feed, or talk to your breeder to see what brand of feed they are feeding. If not available in your area, ask if the breeder will sell you a bag or two of feed.

- Feed- Once a day (evening). Feed a maximum of 8 oz. per day per head and in the 1st week it will probably be 4 or 5 oz. feed (remove any feed that is left the next morning).

Timothy / Coastal Hay can be
fed on first day to help
transition

Example: 2.0 lbs. at start

They can gain 10 ½ oz. Per week if you have them 6 weeks. Check weights Twice a week and feed can be adjusted up if necessary or down if they are gaining too fast. For example if they gain 8 oz. In five days that would be a 1.6 oz. per day gain. Multiply that time by the days left to show and then add to that weight to see where they are going.

- Grain Supplements- 3 lbs. crimped oats
3 lbs. crimped barley

feed this in morning

2 lbs. Black Oil Sunflower Seeds (to increase weight gain)

Feed 1 tablespoon when 6 weeks of age until show. daily

(If not eating all their pellets, then cut back a little on the grain.)

- Water- Fresh water at all times. If they do not have water they will not eat.

Fresh water daily (even if there is water in the water bottle)

Numerous breeders have said that you need to keep the barn area above 45 degrees, because the rabbits will not drink if the water gets cold and if they are not drinking water they won't eat.

weight

- Weigh rabbits twice a week.
- Keep a record of the date and weight of each rabbit.
- Weigh rabbits every 2 days as show day approaches.

ask breeder what they are
feeding to lessen the transition

Selection

- **Rabbits should be within 2 oz. in weight.**
- **Pen within 2 to 3 oz. from the top weight to the bottom weight.**
- **3 Peas in a Pod- weight**
 - shoulder width**
 - depth**
 - loin**
 - rump**
- **you want the rabbit to start rising right behind the neck.**
- **Wide shoulder**
- **Slight taper towards hindquarter to the midsection and across the hips without catching on the hip bone.**
- **Round over the rump to a full lower hindquarter.**
- **Pick your pen the night before the show.**
- **When selecting your pen:**
 - Ask someone with experience to help**
 - Wear long sleeves**
 - If tired take a break**
 - Take a break if you are having a difficult time choosing a pen**

Handling

- Wear long sleeves.
- Pick your rabbit up under the front legs around the upper body.
- Carry your rabbit like a football with your hand over their eyes.
- When you pick your up do not let him kick (you could get scratched, drop your rabbit, or seriously injure your rabbit)
- Never pick you rabbit up by the fur at the neck (this pulls the skin away from the meat).
- Never pick your rabbit up by the ears (this can damage the ears).

Fur

- When weighing your rabbits take a few minutes to work the fur.
- Set your rabbits on a table covered with a towel or indoor outdoor carpet.
- Dampen you hands with a damp (not wet) wash cloth.
- Gently rub in the direction of the fur 5 or 6 times.
- Remove any loose fur from your hands.
- Gently rub against the fur 5 or 6 times.
- Remove any loose fur from your hands.
- Again, gently rub in the direction of the fur 5 or 6 times.
- Never use a brush on the fur.
- Never cut or pull on the fur.

work hair
these times
to - against - to

yellowed feet is not an issue

Health Management

- Rabbits have a sensitive digestive track.
- When you pick up your rabbits give them coastal or Timothy hay along with fresh water the first day.
- Give them feed for the first couple of days that the breeder was feeding where you picked them up.
- Third day gradually change them to the feed of your choice.
- Earmites: 1 to 2 drops injectable Ivomec into each ear (do not inject it into their ears) 5 to 7 days prior to show.
- Sniffles (runny nose)- cold or allergies. See Veterinarian.
- Diarrhea- feed coastal hay and no pellets for at least one feeding. See Veterinarian.

- Have Fun!!
- Know your Show Rules.
- Talk to your Extension Agent.

Cage supplies

- www.bunnyrabbit.com
- www.bassequipment.com
- www.klubertanz.com
- **Tractor Supply**
- **Walmart (water bottles)**

TOP & END VIEWS OF GOOD AND BAD TYPE FEATURES



Narrow in shoulders, hips lacking roundness, pinched and sloping off at top.



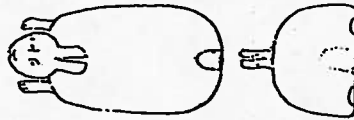
Shoulders too wide for pinched back end. Slightly undercut in hindquarters.



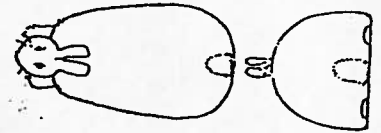
Narrow in shoulders and mid-section. Valley or low at center of hips.



Weak at mid-section and loin. Rough and protruding hip bones.



Trifle beefy in shoulders, nice, full width rump, but flat over top of hindquarters.



Very well balanced throughout, showing nice taper from front to back, full back end, with well rounded top.

BASIC HANDLING AND BREEDING FAULTS FOUND IN COMMERCIAL AND OTHER BREEDS

(See specific breed standard for posing and handling suggestions)



Tucked under too far spoiling basic type. Head trifle small.



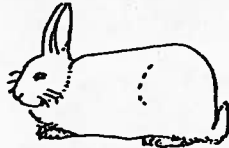
Stretched out too far to rear, making rump slope off, spoiling depth and type.



Low over mid-section (sway-backed).



Low in shoulder, good depth of hip, but ruining balance.



High point behind center of hip, causing hips to chop off. Rather flat top line.



High point forward of center of hip causing hip to slope off instead of rounding off.



Cow-Hocked Hind Feet



Good Parallel Hind Feet



Side Carried Tail



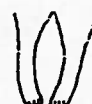
Screw Tail



Good Tail Carriage



Bowed Limbs, Outward



Bowed Limbs, Inward



Good, Straight Limbs