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RABBIT DIET

The most important thing to remember is that in the wild rabbits would eat almost exclusively grass and other wild plants. Only seldom would fruits or vegetables be part of their diet. As a result rabbit's digestive tracts are specially adapted to a high fiber diet in that their teeth are constantly growing and their lower intestinal tract can process pure cellulose. In fact too many easily digestible carbohydrates (starch and sugars) are bad for rabbit's intestines and do nothing to wear down their teeth.

Thus, the best diet for your bunny is as follows:

- 1) Timothy Hay (not alfalfa): All he/she wants. Enough to swim in. Letting him graze outside is fine as long as you don't use Chemlawn or other herbicides.
- 2) No more than 1/4 cup pellets per pound of bunny per day. Pellets are great to balance the diet because they are fortified with vitamins but they are usually made with alfalfa, which can damage kidneys over the long term. Also, all of the fibers have been broken up in pellets so they do little to keep the teeth healthy
- 3) To supplement the hay, offer rabbits at least three different types of fresh leafy green vegetables/herbs etc daily. Suitable vegetables/herbs include broccoli, cabbages, celery, endive, beet/carrot tops, Brussels sprouts, spinach leaves, bok choy, Asian greens, chicory, kale, mustard greens, dark leafed lettuce varieties and herbs (parsley, dandelion, coriander, basil, dill and mint). Offer no more than 1/2 cup per pound of rabbit.
- 4) Only offer treats in small quantities (maximum 1 tablespoon per pound of rabbit per day). Examples of suitable treats to offer include small amounts of fruit, root vegetables (carrot, sweet potato) and sweet peppers. Avoid offering commercial treat foods that are often laden with sugar and fat.
- 5) As an added toothsome bonus get him an untreated fruit log or fruit tree twigs to chew on.
- 6) Fresh water changes daily.

In Addition, in recent years we've found that oils in pine and cedar can cause liver damage. In most cases the best litter to use is recycled paper, straw or Timothy hay litter. They don't cover up the smell as much but they have fewer problems associated with them.

If you have any questions, please call us,

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