

Some info on bunnies below if it helps (sorry some might be repetitive):

Watch the videos below for some common misconceptions about owning a bunny as a pet and their needs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLxP8gls0RI> - What to Consider before Buying a Rabbit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXo7BkufNZA> - 8 Common Myths about Rabbits

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pI0o3RMuHc> - Pros and Cons of Owning Rabbits

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_G_5o55nsw - Pros and Cons of Owning Rabbits

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6lIJTgsQrU> - TOP 10 MISTAKES RABBIT OWNERS MAKE

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/9mpv3z/what_should_i_ask_the_shelter/ - read this to know what to ask the shelter staff when you adopt

Congrats on the new addition to the family, and be sure to check out our sidebar and the [Getting Started](#) guide and [New Rabbit Owner Primer](#) if you haven't already

Your primary things to take care of ASAP are - diet, housing, vet check (don't skip this), bonding with your bunny.

If I may add one thing, once you have him settled and basic needs all set, find a good rabbit savvy vet and take him for a check up... this will be inexpensive but you will have the vet info and he will be a patient for if and when you ever need it, plus you will get lots of advice and info from vet and some items for an emergency kit you should have on hand... I honestly find that to be the biggest stress factor for a lot of new parents, when something is suddenly wrong and they just don't know where to turn to... Especially bunnies that come from a store are often mis-sexed and end up pregnant - bunnies get pregnant very young and very fast even if the store told you otherwise. DO NOT keep boy and girl together or let them play until at least one is fixed and healed fully! Only a good vet can properly sex the bunnies if they came from a store...

Often having a good vet who specializes in exotic animals and is experienced with bunnies in advance is literally a lifesaver. I would look for one who is recommended and with a good reputation, money would be a very secondary consideration (often paying a bit more to a vet who is worth it will save money on second opinions and visits and/or your bun's life!).

Diet:

Good summary on bunny diet here:

<https://www.binkybunny.com/BUNNYINFO/tabid/53/CategoryID/2/PID/940/Default.aspx>

1. Timothy or orchard hay should be unlimited and always available and never run out. That is 90% of a bunny's diet. Do not give alfalfa hay at all to an adult bunny as it is too high in protein and fat for them and is only for babies or malnourished bunnies. High quality hay is very important so encourage the bunny to eat more of it. Always have hay in the corner on right near the litter box as bunnies will like to poop and eat at the same time! Hay is critical to bunnies for their tummy and to grind down their teeth which never stop growing. Offer a variety of hays to see which ones they like better, you can buy a sample box here: <https://shop.smallpetselect.com/products/sampler-box>. Timothy hay is the best, but variety is great and will encourage them to eat more. Good source of hay is important to ensure it's fresh, tastes good, and is not dusty for them.. believe it or not all hays are not made equal, so do try to get the good one vs just what's on the shelf of a pet store. Some great info on hays available here <http://www.therabbithouse.com/diet/grass-hay.asp>.

2. Pellets should be given very very limited - 1/4 cup per day per 6 lb bunny. A full bowl is definitely too much. A good brand here is very important - try to get plain pellets without any of the colorful bits like treats, dried fruit, cereals, nuts and seeds. All these for bunnies are like junk food to humans (yes pet stores 100% don't care and just sell the stuff that looks the best to unsuspecting customers) and excess sugar and carbs can cause major issues for bunny's very delicate digestive system by disrupting the bacteria balance. Try to select the pellet brand higher in fiber and lower in protein and fat. Look at the ingredients and select a product that has hay/grass listed at the very top of the list and has as few other ingredients (such as oats, cereals, meals, flour, soy, etc) as possible. All of these are "extra" additives that fill up the space in bunny's tummy and result in less hay consumption also. If your bunny is overweight, you may need to cut down their portion of pellets per day from even this, but best to consult a vet.

<http://www.therabbithouse.com/diet/rabbit-food-comparison.asp> - brand comparison here to select the brands that fit the parameters the best (note that fat should only be 1.5% to 2% for a normal bun, not 5% like they specify).

1. https://www.amazon.com/Oxbow-Animal-Health-Essentials-Food-10lbs/dp/B003SLLF48/ref=sr_1_2?s=pets-supplies&ie=UTF8&qid=1538070583&sr=1-2&keywords=oxbow%2Brabbit%2Bfood&th=1 - these are quite good, easy to find and used a lot of people
2. <https://www.amazon.com/Oxbow-Adult-Rabbit-Garden-Select/dp/B06XX68LM2> - good selection also, even healthier than above but some buns don't like it as much
3. <https://www.farmerdavepetsupply.com/search/?q=pellets> - these are great quality but do cost more and also you have to buy online
4. <https://shop.smallpetselect.com/collections/pelleted-food-for-rabbits> - also very fresh great pellets

3. Green veggie (not carrots) are important but also not unlimited - about 1 to 2 cups or plate-fulls per day (one in the morning, one in the evening)... Try dark leafy greens like arugula, romaine lettuce, spring mix, spinach, celery, carrot greens, bok choy; also, fresh herbs like parsley, cilantro, oregano, dill, mint, basil. Kale (only give in limited quantities). If you can buy wheat grass occasionally they will love it!!! But introduce new veggies a bit at a time to make sure the tummy is getting adopted to them. Avoid iceberg lettuce as well as avocado as those are not good/poisonous for bunnies. Look here for good veggies to feed bunny: <https://rabbit.org/suggested-vegetables-and-fruits-for-a-rabbit-diet/> and here <https://www.binkybunny.com/BUNNYINFO/VeggieList/tabid/144/Default.aspx>
4. Fresh water supply is very important make sure he always has fresh water available (you can also serve his veggies damp after rinsing), preferably in a heavy ceramic bowl he cannot flip as it is a more natural way for them to drink. Always give filtered or bottled water. NEVER plain tap water - high calcium content in it leads to kidney issues over time for bunnies.
5. Too much sugar of any kind should be avoided! Fruit and carrot should not be the source of your bunny's food at all – it should be an occasion treat to make them happy, reward, or encourage behavior. Sugar will do lots of damage to a bunny's digestive system. For the same reason use fruit (like apple - no seeds, banana - no peel, strawberries and tops, pitted cherries, watermelon – all of which can be frozen into ice cubes on a hot day for a nice treat) and carrots sparingly and give only as small portion treats on occasion. And absolutely no cereals, bread or carbs – even a tiny bit, even if they beg!
 1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_wqC_dV2xNE - highlights good treats for bunnies
 2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2TtpvrzZoA> - DIY treats that are good

For adult bunnies do not offer alfalfa hay as it has too much protein and calcium; alfalfa hay is given to baby bunnies. Too much calcium in the urine and in the bladder can lead to bladder sludge and stones. Not good! If your bun has lots of milky pee, they ate getting too much calcium and it time for a vet visit ASAP. A good source of hay is important to ensure it's fresh, tastes good, and is not dusty for your bunny. All hays are not made equal, so do try to get the good one vs just what's on the shelf of a pet store.

Note that natural wood to chew like apple/pear sticks you can get from resources below are great treat for bunnies to chew on. Please do not give mineral or salt licks of any kind as they actively ruin your bunny's kidneys (just like a human would not ever lick salt). Under no circumstances should you feed your bunnies human food of any kind such as cereals, bread or carbs – even a tiny bit, even if they beg! Be sure that any treats you feed have no added/processed sugars (such as yogurt drops are never appropriate) and also does not have any coloring, the same is true of wooden toys the bunny might chew.

Hay wise, if you live in an area with farms, and have the space to store it, try to find square bales of timothy or any grass hay from a local farmer. It's so much cheaper and fresher than buying the bags at the pet stores. Many horse owners grow grass hays and alfalfa hay. A square bale of hay can weigh from 40lbs to 80lbs! If you can buy several bales during hay season and store it in a dry, rodent free location, it will last you until next years hay season. That starts at different times in different places, depending on the season. First cut is more fibrous, but excellent hay. Second is softer and a bit richer and seems to be

the most in demand. Third cut is very rich and soft. You'll generally only see 3rd cut with straight alfalfa hay. Avoid any called "cow hay" or "cattle hay". That's 100% alfalfa.

Storing bales of hay in a dry location is very important. Wet hay molds and in that process generates heat, which can start the bale on fire. Also, beware of hay that has a lot of milkweed or prickly vines in it. Milkweed is very toxic to animals, depending on size and amount ingested. It does NOT lose its toxicity when dried out and in hay. Hay full of a bunch of prickly vines is going to stab you every time you get some. Also, you can, if you choose, grow fodder. Fodder is growing a grain usually, without soil. You soak the grain overnight, rinse, then put into trays that drain and the grain uses the energy stored inside it to grow. It's highly nutritious, super easy and 50lbs of grain yields approximately 300lbs of fodder! It can be fed as a whole food.

Baby Bun diet:

The only difference is that a baby gets alfalfa hay and pellets, while adults do not.

<http://wabbitwiki.com/wiki/Diet> - at what age to feed what

<https://rabbit.org/faq-diet/> - how much to feed at what age

<http://www.therabbithouse.com/diet/diet-baby.asp> - read this for baby bunny diet.

Feed a baby bunny alfalfa hay (vs other hay) until about 4 months old, slowly mix in timothy and orchard hays to transition them to be 100% off of the alfalfa hay diet and on timothy/orchard hay by about 6 months old. A good source of hay is important to ensure it's fresh, tastes good, and is not dusty for your bunny. All hays are not made equal, so do try to get the good one vs just what's on the shelf of a pet store. I can recommend this hay as being really good

<https://shop.smallpetselect.com/products/alfalfa-hay?variant=1163314957> and they also have a sample box that would be a great thing to mix in as you later transition off alfalfa. For adult bunnies do not offer alfalfa hay as it has too much protein and calcium; alfalfa hay is given to baby bunnies. Too much calcium in the urine and in the bladder can lead to bladder sludge and stones.

Pellets are secondary to food and should be given to bunnies in limited quantities. For baby bunnies you have to limit a lot less (for adults it is no more than 1/4 cup per day for a 6 lb bunny), but still better to limit some to encourage them to eat more hay from a small age. I'd say 1/2 to 2/3 cups max per day. [Oxbow young bunny pellets](#) are good (avoid anything with any colorful bits to it and stick to hay/grass based as much as possible. Again you will want to slowly transition them to adult food just like with hay starting right about at the same time, since adult bunny's should not have alfalfa.

Only introduce veggies after 12 weeks of age and in very small amounts! The baby bunny diet linked above talks about how and when to introduce veggies - the key is to do it slowly and let the delicate gut adapt. Watch for any symptoms of issues. If you see any changes in behavior - lethargic, in pain such as moving less, or pressing tummy to the ground, loss of appetite, less poops or abnormal poops, take the

bunny to a RABBIT SAVVY vet immediately don't wait a day to see if it goes away. **Absolutely not fruit or treats until 6 MONTHS OLD!**

Getting the bunny to eat more hay:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_18UccYkmM - great video

The trick to getting the bunny to eat more hay is offering really fresh tasty hay and a good variety. I highly recommend trying this variety/sample box - <https://shop.smallpetsselect.com/products/sampler-box>. It is fresh and has a few different kinds of hay for him to try. I think he will like it and it's worth a try for sure. I know it costs more, but it truly is worth it if he eats it as in the long run the money you save on vet bills will be greater, and of course your bun's health...

The other thing to try is these hay chips - they are just plain hay but crunchy... worth the price if that gets him to eat more hay.

https://www.farmerdavepetsupply.com/15-lb-timothy-hay-mini-cubes?utm_source=google_shopping

You can find both of these through amazon also if that is easier...

You can also try this product from the UK, more expensive in the US but from what I have seen buns love it, so mixing some in his hay I think will help

<https://www.amazon.com/Friendly-Readigrass-Percent-Natural-Feed/dp/B003JRC1VM>

Also, I have seen people rub a bit of banana on the top layer of hay - bunnies love banana so have the hay taste a bit like it may encourage him to try it and hopefully he discovers he actually likes the hay.

When you give him pellet sprinkle them over the hay such that he has to dig them out. Especially if it's the new brand hay that will make him try it and maybe he'll discover it's not so bad.

The other thing to do it to try to offer hay in more "interesting ways" - like mix a few treats into some hay and put it in a paper bag or stuff into a toilet paper roll for him to forage through to find the treats.

Try also hand feeding him strands of yummy hay and give a treat to keep him interested.

Getting the bunny to drink more water:

Be sure to use a heavy ceramic bowl vs a bottle as that is a much more natural way for a bunny to drink. You can even try to get a small animal water fountain which she will likely love using.

https://www.chewy.com/drinkwell-mini-pet-fountain-40-oz/dp/116921?utm_source=google-product&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=hg&utm_content=Drinkwell&utm_term=&gclid=CjwKCAiA007fBRASEi

[wAYI9QAkrL7sIWtWsiOsBaLcN0lu5DHzYg6oULNZNm5E9DwSp0JodURzf1IhoCI2EQAvD_BwE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYI9QAkrL7s)

Be sure you provide fresh clean water a couple times a day even if the dish is still full (btw best to use filtered or bottled water for bunny vs tap).

Try adding just a tad (a few drops really) of unsweetened (no sugar added) juice to make it taste more enticing - you can use apple or pineapple or any juice as long as it says "no sugar added"... you don't want artificial sugar.

Also you can brew/steep some fresh mint (or another favorite fresh herb of his like parsley) in a cup or a glass jar without anything else added and serve that brew as water once cool. It will keep for a couple days in the fridge, but you also have to make sure you change it in the bowl to keep it fresh.

Also try rinsing veggies before you give them and keep them wet for him to eat. This will provide extra hydration.

Health/vet care:

Bunnies eat constantly and also poop constantly. So monitor that. If he suddenly refused his food or stops pooping, it's time for an immediate emergency vet trip. Bunnies can go into GI stasis very quickly and unless very experienced, this requires an immediate trip to the vet, it is very painful and if not treated right away deadly to the bunny. The same is true if his poop is mushy or soft in large amounts. Also do find a good vet nearby who specializes in "exotic animals" and had rabbit experience, not just any vet. Find a local bunny rescue on google (like House Rabbit Society chapter) and give them a call or email, letting them know you adopted a bunny, to ask for vet recommendations. They'll only be too happy to help. Do this in advance to have somewhere to turn in case you really need it one day. Having a good vet (and knowing a 24 hr ER in your area with a rabbit savvy vet on staff) is critical since bunnies can die very quickly after getting sick. **Spaying/neutering is also incredibly important**, it will help with long term health issues (unsprayed females have very high chance of uterine cancer pretty early in life) and teenage bunny hormones which can mean forgetting litter training and becoming aggressive. Also, have a bunny emergency kit on hand; it could really save his life one day when vets are closed

Take your bunny to a vet for a checkup at least once a year – it will help avoid expensive issues down the road.

Here you can find a list of rabbit savvy vets by state:

<https://rabbit.org/vet-listings/>

[http://wabbitwiki.com/wiki/Category:United States](http://wabbitwiki.com/wiki/Category:United_States)

<https://www.chewy.com/petcentral/directory-of-veterinarians-for-exotic-small-mammals>

Also you can google rabbit rescues in your area and often they will have good bunny vet listings right on their website since they get asked a lot, or you can email them.

Bills can get expensive at times, so consider pet insurance – from experience, not expensive but will help with the big stuff for sure. In the US Nationwide offers exotic pet insurance <https://www.petinsurance.com/birds>. The cost is about 12/mo per bunny. Just be sure you read the policy carefully and get it soon to avoid pre-existing conditions.

Also, you can ask the vet's office to set up a payment plan, they understand the sudden expense and may work with you if you are reasonable.

<https://www.carecredit.com/> - this is a credit card specifically for medical expenses, including pet care. Most vets take it, and since it's limited to medical bills the terms on the card are not bad at all, better than a regular CC. This can really help in a bind, and I suggest getting one and just having on hand to use in case you really need to.

<https://bestfriends.org/resources/financial-aid-pets> - this highlights how you might be able to get financial aid, but it will take some work I think.

Bunny Emergency Kit:

[Critical Care](#) food can be kept in the freezer for freshness.

Metacam stored in a dry cool place (get this from the vet and ask about dosage when you pick him up as you need a prescription).

Syringes (skinny and thick).

Baby gas (simethicone) drops.

Some baby food to mix with critical care just in case.

Canned unsweetend pumpkin puree like [this](#)

A heat pack you can microwave for warmth

A thermometer

A carrier with some soft blankets in it

Corn starch will stop any mild surface bleeding (like if cutting a nail too far)

Regular triple antibiotic (brand name Neosporin) - be sure it is WITHOUT pain reliever

Some more tips here:

<http://purelyadoptions.com/bunnys-first-aid-kit/>

http://wabbitwiki.com/wiki/First_aid_kit_for_rabbits

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/af3frc/i_want_to_make_an_emergency_first_aid_kit_for_my/

Bunny housing:

A bunny needs at least 4 by 2 ft of free run space in its enclosure; to that add space taken up by the litter tray, hidy house, and hay feeder, so literally NONE of the store-bought cages would ever be good for a bunny (even if advertised as such)! Bunnies need lots of space, attention and exercise. They are much happier and healthier when they have space to run around. Also a bunny will need at least 2 to 4 hours every day to explore outside of his enclosure to stay happy. Initially you can supervise, but as the bunny is litter trained less supervision will be required.

http://wabbitwiki.com/wiki/Housing#Size_guidelines - housing size guidelines

Try some ideas below:

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00MU2F556/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o07_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1 - fantastic xpen that will be larger and work for bunnies who are jumpers and like to escape

https://www.amazon.com/MidWest-Foldable-Metal-Exercise-Playpen/dp/B000H8YTJI/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1549491467&sr=8-1-spons&keywords=xpen&psc=1 - another great xpen, which is cheaper but not as tall and also smaller

Or you could try this dog crate which would be even easier (be sure to get XXL)

<https://www.chewy.com/midwest-solutions-series-xx-large/dp/102274>

If you have room you could even attach the xpen to the dog crate like this using zipties and put the litter box and hay feeder in there plus hidy house, and he will have the xpen to run in which would be awesome...the idea is to make something like [this](#).

Or use NIC grids like this

https://www.amazon.com/LANGRIA-Storage-Shelving-Organization-Bookcase/dp/B06XR3PMXK?ref_=wbl_hsx_s_ho_web_13643573011. It would be quite easy actually... see this video on how to build a cage with them <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzS82KZ7ADo>

Great wiki DIY cage page for NIC grids - http://wabbitwiki.com/wiki/Housing#NIC_DIY_cages

How to build/setup housing: just some ideas of what to put inside:

Quick video guide on how to set up bunny housing here (more resources toward the end of this guide):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wuv9MX6cA_c&feature=youtu.be

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2AIWHF5sVM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DO69sadBq>

For flooring:

You can use a thick plastic tablecloth - you'll put this on the floor beneath the pen. It will be easy to clean, and protects your carpet from pee/droppings just in case. Over the tablecloth you will place a thick blanket that the bun can run on. Anchor outside pen edges so the bun can't dig it up. You can wash the blanket and wipe the plastic under it. Your bun is happy and floor is safe.

Also try this [indoor/outdoor rug](#) - it is easy to clean, inexpensive, and due to a tight weave hard to chew.

Links on housing examples:

Personally, I love a few examples of homes and cool things in them on reddit I have recently seen, depending on your plans you could combine the best parts of these and use them as examples.

<https://i.redd.it/mjhoy8nzk821.jpg>

<https://i.redd.it/4yv14lstbb821.jpg>

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/bjwmy7/charlie_has_a_new_pedestal_to_watch_over_his/ and

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/b3dt8c/charlies_set_up_many_pictures_i_see_on_here_to_he/

<https://imgur.com/Sp8FdvO>

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/bam2es/and_done_my_poor_husbands_back_lol/ and

<https://i.imgur.com/bXrR719.jpg>

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/9lx8n5/brought_home_an_eight_week_old_netherlands_dwarf/

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/axrr1m/rabbit_habitat_rabbitat_tour/

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/9o6p92/carrot_and_buddys_new_condo_is_ready_for_them_to/

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/9i5swo/built_my_rabbit_a_new_cage_after_moving_half_way/

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/9fobf1/finished_up_my_custom_hutches_for_mochi_and_basil/

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/9o87d3/dustys_pen_all_nice_and_clean_links_to_everything/

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/bwtrix/we_redesigned_our_buns_condo_using_custom_3d/

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/9thfgf/just_wanted_to_share_junos_setup_while_shes/

- <https://imgur.com/a/3n4WO84>
- It's a 54" x 37" dog crate with 2 doors and it's big enough for me to hang out in there with her or lay down. She also likes for me to open both doors and she runs in a circle inside the crate, out one door, around the room, then back into the other door 😊 Luckily the crate is pretty inexpensive as far as dog crates go and it has free shipping!

<https://www.chewy.com/midwest-solutions-series-xx-large/dp/102274>

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/adutog/a_few_people_have_enquired_to_oreos_set_up_so/

Here are some premade housing options you can buy that are also apartment friendly:

https://www.etsy.com/shop/LilFroggyDesigns?ref=l2-shopheader-name§ion_id=22454708 - great size options and reasonable price, well made

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/DutchElves?ref=l2-shopheader-name> – wonderful idea, clean and large, also will protect bunny from other animals in the home, if you have any

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/ClearlyLovedPets?ref=l2-shopheader-name> - unconventional, but could be a nice large set-up that is also good looking for a modern space

<http://www.petwerks.com/condos.aspx> - well made, fantastic size to space ratio, a bit on an investment

<https://www.petsmart.com/featured-brands/oxbow/oxbow-rabbit-habitat-with-play-yard-48749.html?cgid=5000315> - good option

https://www.amazon.com/24-36-Coroplast-Sign-frames/dp/B00YG1PNTW/ref=sr_1_4?s=home-garden&ie=UTF8&qid=1538141593&sr=1-4&keywords=colorplast - colorplast

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B075H3H3BL/ref=crt_ewc_title_huc_1?ie=UTF8&psc=1&smid=A1D36P4IX52ZW - blanket I like

How to bond with your bunny:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3rlWno7B8g> - great video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS9HcoC19h4> - another good video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UA9Y0tgmWqY> - how to bond with an aggressive rabbit

<https://www.sandiegorabbits.org/behavior.php#thumper> - good summary of bunny personalities and how to bond

Bunnies are very social animals, so he needs you to spend time with him. Let him out to play and explore and sniff you. Some bunnies just take longer to warm up to us humans depending on their personality and if they came to you from scary/abusive situations or spend time abandoned on the streets. Don't get frustrated and give up, one step at a time. Also remember that bunnies are not like humans at all, or even cats and dogs, they don't show love and affection in the same ways. But that doesn't mean they don't love you or need you or are not happier when you are around. Sometimes I think with bunnies it's hard to truly notice that they do care for us and like us, but when we are gone the bunny will get sad and depressed... just kind of trust it. They feel love and show it in their own bunny way.

Sometimes you got to bribe your bunny with food to get them to pay more attention to that human feeding box. Hehe. Try feeding him by hand little strips of yummy hay and pet him at the same time gently (back off if she needs space though), give him a little pellet treat when he happens to come close to you or jumps up next to you. He'll start to associate you with yummys and good things and will pop by to spend time with you.

It's really about the amount of time you spend around and with your bunny on his level (the floor) - the more the better.. The food is not a way to bond, but something that initially helps lure him to you to learn more about you and what to expect from - this is it this way... To bond with the bunny, grab some treats (I suggest cilantro or small pieces of dried apple) and sit on the floor in the same room as the bunny. Spend lots of time on the ground with it in spaced out sessions. Just read or watch Netflix, and wait for the bun to come to you. Eventually, he will probably come up and sniff you all over. Sit still and let him do that, then he'll hop away. The next time he comes, offer him treats from your hand. Repeat several times, just sitting and waiting for him to come get treats. When he's comfortable with that, and maybe flopping or binkying in your presence and close to you, reach out and pet his head as he is eating a treat. Almost all rabbits love having their heads pet/massaged. If you're lucky, after a while He'll be coming to you and asking for it by putting his head near your hand.

Do not chase him anywhere or pick him up until she's obviously very comfortable around you, and watch his body language carefully the first time you try to lift him. If he flinches away, stop. If you need to move

him somewhere before he's comfortable being picked up, try to lure him to go there on his own with some food or treats.

As far as discipline is concerned, just remember that bunnies are not like cats or dogs. They do NOT understand at all negative feedback, like yelling or say no or being locked up when they misbehave. That could just undermine the trust between you and the bunny. Instead they do understand positive reinforcement, thus to "discipline" it is best to build positive associations and redirect their behavior to things that are allowed in a way that makes them want to do the good things, vs not want to do the bad things for fear of being punished...See here

<http://bunnyproof.com/living-with-a-house-rabbit/how-to-discipline-your-house-rabbit>.

Remember that a bunny is very fragile and must be handled very carefully not to injure them. If you must pick up a bunny - never by their ears or scruff, always scoop them up and support their back feet to make them feel safe like they are on solid ground. I would watch a youtube video on this for sure. Also as prey animals bunnies hate being picked up and handled as that reminds them being snatched by a hawk. So do resist the urge to pick them up frequently and only do that if absolutely must. Also resist the desire to constantly pet the furry cute bunny and sort of chase them even if they don't want it to make sure you build a good trust bond with you bunny and he doesn't become scared of you expecting to always be handled if you are near. A good way to get him to bond with you and trust you is to get down on his level(basically sit or lay on the floor) while you let him out to play outside the cage and have a few treats in your hand. Put a couple leafy greens nearby also. Sit on the ground and just do what you normally may.. read a book or play a game, surf the web... wait for the bunny to come to you (vs going after him). He will get curious and come over to take the food, eventually he will let you pet him, and he they will trust you. But be patient and don't force it, let it happen on their own turns. With bunnies it can take a while (a couple months, and longer if they were abused or scared by humans). Remember you trying to show the bunny you are nice and kind and good things come from you, not that you will always chase them and want them to be you lap bunny (they are not cats or dogs, and so are not lap animals).

Allow him to roam free around you more often. They love to stick their noses everywhere and see what their humans are up to. If you let him explore around the home he might become more confident and warm up a bit faster also. But basically it is a process and sort of happens on their terms, where humans literary try to interact with them on their level.

In general though bunnies as prey animals don't like to get picked up (reminds them of a hawk), so perhaps try to only pick him up if absolutely needed. Most of the time instead of picking up you can lure him wherever needed with a little treat or pellet... for example if you need to get him into a carrier try putting a leaf of lettuce inside and he will go in and sniff it and get familiar. With time he will know it is safe and will not be scared of it and you will be able to pick him up in it. Or say you need to get him up for something else... lay a box on the floor and lure him in with a treat, then pick up in a box (his feet will still be on solid ground basically). Again with time he will get accustomed to this trick and will know it is safe. The same with his cage, try to lure him in with a small treat or pellet. **NEVER EVER CHASE YOUR BUNNY!** It is a sure way to lose his trust and make him think that anytime you come you will chase him and pick him up. If you instead let him have a treat and come on his own he will begin to associate going

where you want him to go with positive things like treats and with time he will learn to do that so there will be no need for picking up or chasing.

Video on how to properly pick up your bunny:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3d9-SjHXqdk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDQQbxz0Fo4>

Litter training

Bunnies can be easily litter trained, especially once neutered/spayed, and then they can be free roam in your house or have time to run even if you are not watching their every move. Do a bit of research on the proper way to litter train a bunny. Try to get your bun a larger litter pan that would be good for "lounging". It will tremendously help with litter training (bunnies can be litter trained)! Like a plastic one that you can get for cats for example... The litter box should be larger than the bunny, be filled with bunny-appropriate litter (note that pine is toxic to bunnies), and have hay right in it. Some but not all bunnies may prefer a covered litter box as bunnies like to feel safe when they poop and will likely choose a safe spot for that on a regular basis. Bunnies often like to lounge around in their litter box and eat while they poop. So good-sized box and fresh hay in it will always encourage them to use it. Clean the litter box daily (occasionally use vinegar and water to disinfect and get rid of any slight smell). Then to litter train every time the bunny poops or pees, pick those up and put them in his litter box to create the scent... also give your bunny a small treat every time you see him use and in no time he will just start using it. Once the bunny is litter trained you could even let him roam your house and it will be so much nicer and clean for your both!

Then to train him try to use positive reinforcement. Remind him that a litter box is a good thing by giving a tiny treat every time you see him use it for a while. If you are ever there and see him get ready to go (his tail kind of lifts up like in this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ym7-BBY4ep4>) scoop him up gently and put him in the litter box. If you see him make one poop, as soon as you see it place him right in the box so the rest he does in there. Once he goes give that little treat to him as a reward. This reinforcement if done consistently over time will really help. Place any poops you find back into his litter box together with the bunny to reinforce and if he pees outside use a napkin to blot it and again place back into the litter box. The video above has other great tips as well so it's a great thing to watch.

Begin by watching the videos below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0GHRkf5z6EQ> - great video on litter training

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xl1aonqc5Tc> - another great video on litter box set-up

Also some great advice in this thread

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/a53dzf/litter_training/

<https://rabbit.org/faq-litter-training-2/>

<https://www.sandiegorabbits.org/lb.php> - some great step by step on litter training and good litter options for bunnies here.

What you need for set up:

<https://www.amazon.com/Petmate-Open-Litter-Mouse-Sizes/dp/B00JOZ444U> - a good and very cost effective litter box

<https://www.amazon.com/Carefresh-Natural-Premium-Bedding-Liter/dp/B000256DS6> - good recycled paper litter (Carefresh)

Ideas for DIY hay feeders:

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/9mli4c/adopted_this_little_guy_thor_from_our_local/ - see picture here for a great DIY hayrack idea to put next to the litter tray

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/9inag7/rabbit_lifhack_for_those_with_grass_allergies/?utm_source=reddit-android - another great idea

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/a5wbsx/i_made_a_hay_feeder_out_of_an_old_hamper_now_i/ - hamper hay feeder!

Another DIY hay feeder idea https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLouX_cwM40

More DIY hay feeder ideas <https://bunnyapproved.com/rabbit-hay-racks-what-are-the-options/>

Also, bunnies are very clean animals and groom themselves several times a day. They have no odor contrary to what some may think. Please do not give you bunny a bath! Water can cause skin irritation and hypothermia and is very traumatic for them. Use a warm damp towel to clean any spots if needed at all, and of absolutely must say after some dirt play in the yard, wash paws in a very shallow water and dry well.

Some general info:

Bunnies are susceptible to heat and cold! On hot days a frozen tile you can buy at home depot for cheap, and couple frozen water bottles can help them cool off. Heat stroke is very dangerous for bunnies and will have long-term side effects (brain damage) forever. On cold days a warm water bottle will make a nice snuggle partner. Damp conditions will also cause issues such as respiratory issues, so damp

basements are not a good idea. Basically, a bunny should live only where a human could live! Do not keep your bunny outside, or worse yet let out alone to roam the streets or unenclosed yard assuming it will return. Bunnies are prey animals and can be snatched by a hawk in seconds, they will be chased by dogs and other wild bunnies, they can die of fright with an instant heart attack, they can be hit by a car. They can also get flystrike even if in an outdoor hutch, which is deadly. If you want to let the bunny play outside – supervise their play in an enclosed yard where they can't run away/get taken or spooked by another wild animal, or try a leash (but be warned some bunnies hate the leash!).

Don't leave your bunny alone for over 24 hrs, within that time the bunny could die if it suddenly got sick and stopped eating. They are not independent like cats, and will leave all the food you leave for them AT ONCE. So for those vacations and weekend trips, you must find a RELIABLE bunny sitter (do leave proportions veggies and pellets for the person to give the bunny) it's best if they stay at your house to keep bunny company while you gone esp if it's a few days as bunnies get very lonely and depressed and stop eating. Or your local bunny rescue will have a bunny hotel program for a fee – you will know your bunny is safe and cared for!

The bunny is your pet... forever! They can live up to 14 years, so it is a commitment! Don't abandon it or set it free Domestic bunnies will die HORRIBLE deaths outside. No matter what you read or that knowing friend of yours says, they are not wild bunnies and have no instincts to survive outside. They will die – period! Please if you must rehome your bunny, take it to a shelter or reach out to a local rescue (do this in person)! A local rescue, even if they don't have space right away, may take the bunny once space opens and it does open, or help you to facilitate adoption by posting about the bunny on their adoption page as they do for their foster home bunnies.

Grooming:

Bunnies need regular brushing to help them with shedding fur. Unlike cats they cannot throw up hairballs and if those do form, they will create a block in their digestive system which is very dangerous. So it's a good idea to get a bunny brush (look on amazon) and brush their fur regularly. Watch a few youtube videos on how to do it, and you can ask for brush recommendations on reddit. Also don't forget nail trims for your bun (use special tools or take to the vet).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUdq_UhMQAQ - very informative video on brushing

<https://www.amazon.com/Small-Pet-Select-Hair-Buster/dp/B06ZZXF81G> - hairbuster is the best comb for brushing fine bunny care I find

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtHczjBRaql> - great video on nail trimming

<https://therabbithaven.org/rabbit-grooming-basics>

<http://binkyabout.com/grooming-long-haired-rabbits/>

<https://rabbit.org/faq-grooming/>

Bunny Bonding:

Don't attempt to bond bunnies both of whom have not been fixed!

Rescues often allow you to bring your bunny for sort of bunny speed dating where your bun might select a partner she might get along best with ... I would check whether that is a possibility at rescues in your area and if so that would definitely be the way to go. Plus an adopted bun will likely be already neutered/spayed.

It is harder to bond bunnies of the same sex, especially females! I really suggest waiting until both spayed/neutered and healed up! I would keep them separated at all times till they are fixed.. you want to avoid any fights not just to void injuries, but also because they leave bad memories and make it harder later... This is also better for their health as sometimes bunnies when they feel bullied may get scared, stop eating etc etc. It recently happened to one member here who also decided to wait to bond until both ladies were fixed when one stopped eating due to bullying and went into GI stasis. Don't mean to scare you, just FYI... Here is that case

[https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/a1l4pk/since we moved dahlia fanta is 100 recovered](https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/a1l4pk/since_we_moved_dahlia_fanta_is_100_recovered/)
/

Initially keep the bunnies separate in separate enclosures, do not let them together unsupervised until fully bonded. You can over time move their enclosures closer together allowing them to do some of their own boning while you are not there, but they should never actually be together unsupervised until fully bonded. You can also do some pre-bonding by switching their bowls and toys a few time between cages to let them get used to the smell. I would do this for a couple weeks.

Once fixed begin by following all the proper bonding steps including introducing them in a neutral space like the bathroom, having multiple supervised dates there, then when you see progress moving to another space etc etc. It is very important for success to follow the proper steps in bonding from the get-go. Starting in a bathtub as is suggested in multiple resources below is highly recommend as the slippery floor makes them stay still next to each other which is what you want while you pet then and they sniff each other and get used to being together... on top of this the slippery floor and unfamiliar environment crates a type of stress forcing the buns to rely on each other for comfort..

Try to end each date on a high note. Calm the rabbits, pet them and give them a treat. You want them to remember the positive and not the negative.

Check out a few resources below before you proceed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmaH-d1LOxc> - great video on bonding (worth watching for sure)

https://rabbit.org/articles/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Bonding-Bunnies-PPforrabbit.org_.pdf - great presentation overview

<http://www.mybunnies.com/bonding.htm> - a good guide with lots of tips

<http://www.rabbitnetwork.org/education-resources/articles/rabbit-care-articles/love-match-a-guide-to-bonding-your-rabbits/> - general guide but a good one

http://wabbitwiki.com/wiki/Bonding_rabbits_together - great suggestions here.

<https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/9tri9q/-/e8yslhq/> - reddit thread with great advice on hard to bond bunnies!

<https://bunnywhisperersd.com/rabbit-bonding-consulting/> - possible bonding consulting over the phone... might have some good tips if you are out of ideas worth a try

As you go through the process, getting them to groom each other will be major progress that you will need to work up to. I have seen experienced folks at the rescue where I volunteer try to do a mega petting session with the bunnies during bonding. Basically you sit on the floor with them and feed them something yummy together if possible. Then you pet both of them, as long as they will like it, trying to get them super mellow and relaxed, pet pet pet try to give them your hand to get groomed in return (kind of put it in front of their noses) let them groom you and keep petting see if you can move them a bit closer to each other and maybe they will be so relaxed that they'll just start grooming each other too and forget the fights. I have literally seen two buns get so relaxed that they groom everything around including each other. Of course it depends on the bunnies' personalities, but one of our volunteers told me and showed me that it can work a couple of times... might be worth a try.

If you are having real trouble, there is a bonding method called "stress bonding" that might work if used correctly and sparingly - this is when you place the buns in a stressful situation together and thus kind of force them to rely on each other for comfort vs fighting. For example taking them for a car ride together in a box and back to a neutral place.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b367O9WMEpc> - more in this method here.

<https://www.ohiohouserabbitrescue.org/bondingbunnies/> - scroll down to stress bonding

<https://www.cottontails-rescue.org.uk/stress-bonding-what-does-it-mean/> - more on stress bonding

Good resources on all subjects bunny-care:

<https://www.howcast.com/guides/1187-how-to-take-care-of-a-pet-rabbit> - everything how to on bunny care, great videos

<https://rabbit.org/> - This is the House Rabbit Society's webpage and offers information on every question you may have or will have

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUSfEor0VihL4fMt-VILgQ> - Lennon the Bunny: great entertaining and informative videos

<https://www.binkybunny.com/RESOURCES/tabid/67/Default.aspx> - great resources from bonding to care

<http://language.rabbitspeak.com/> - bunny body language, learn to understand your bunny

<https://www.binkybunny.com/BUNNYINFO/tabid/53/Default.aspx> - bunny basics in a concise way

<http://wabbitwiki.com/wiki/Category:Care> - great starter guide on many bunny care subjects

<http://www.medirabbit.com/> - great source of info in many languages

Bunny proofing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbDQfIAVvY0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1-GN3qErFc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGakV2-2C40>

<http://wabbitwiki.com/wiki/Bunny-proofing>

Chew-proof cables/chargers - <https://www.fusechicken.com/>

Wire protectors that work well -

https://www.amazon.com/Flexible-Polyethylene-Wire-Diameter-White/dp/B00DP35VOO/ref=pd_day0_hl_201_6?encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=B00DP35VOO&pd_rd_r=c021fc64-ba21-11e8-b3e1-116141892cee&pd_rd_w=h8PU9&pd_rd_wg=x0pDz&pf_rd_i=desktop-dp-sims&pf_rd_m=ATVPDKIKX0DER&pf_rd_p=a07871c-e646-4161-82c7-5ed0d4c85b07&pf_rd_r=W775QYZB2CW29NAJFPZJ&pf_rd_s=desktop-dp-sims&pf_rd_t=40701&psc=1&refRID=W775QYZB2CW29NAJFPZJ

Also something like this is great if you can make it work in the space config you have... like along the baseboard or floor

https://www.acehardware.com/departments/lighting-and-electrical/boxes-fittings-and-conduit/cable-protectors/3105152?x429=true&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&gclid=Cj0KCQiArqPgBRCRARIsAPwIH0XpaiTU-ba_8zQdPyDh-HqXvYwng1zc93Q7v268DTq2LtCxiEKc6OlaAg73EALw_wcB

I have also seen people slit open a heavy duty garden hose and put the wires inside - works well

Good places to buy food, toys, treats, and things to chew below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3J6uJn0JHco&feature=youtu.be> - things you can buy in IKEA

<https://www.binkybunny.com/STORE/tabid/163/Default.aspx> - tons of things

<https://www.farmerdavepetsupply.com/hay> - healthy hay, pellets, and treats here

<https://shop.smallpetselect.com/pages/rabbits-main> - healthy hay, pellets, and treats here, and great toys

<http://www.bingalingstore.com/crazy-tasty-hay-for-bunnies/> - also recommended hay and other things

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/FaysPetHay?ref=l2-shopheader-name> - more good hay

https://www.chewy.com/ethical-pet-seek-treat-shuffle-bone/dp/56279?utm_source=google-product&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=hg&utm_content=Ethical%20Pet&utm_term=&car-boost=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwrZLdBRCmARIsAFBZIIIG0sQsNiZdMa_Q8wOvVygC0S8qEBHkS9VYaQ_b3Sa6j7AQ6N0UuiLkaAvpAEALw_wcB - so much fun for them to look for treats

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B06XXKWBCP/ref=crt_ewc_img_dp_7?ie=UTF8&psc=1&smid=ASBYXXV74J66Q - bunnies love this treat ball, use it to feed pellets in fun way vs a bowl

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07FWC277N/ref=crt_ewc_img_dp_9?ie=UTF8&psc=1&smid=APMR7WBX7KEK1 - bunnies also love tunnels

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/CritterCastleShop?ref=l2-shopheader-name> - awesome castle!

https://www.amazon.com/AMZNOVA-Scratcher-Cardboard-Scratching-Scratch/dp/B076F367WL/ref=redi_r_mobile_desktop?encoding=UTF8&dpID=41cqNb-v0jL&dpPI=1&keywords=cat%20scratcher%20corrugated&qid=1541451728&ref=plSrch&ref=mp_s_a_1_18&sr=8-18 - great cardboard scratcher for buns to chew, dig and destroy

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/BunsBedsAndBeyond?ref=l2-shopheader-name> - love these guys

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/MissBunnysToys?ref=l2-shopheader-name> – great toys here

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/BunnyRabbitToys?ref=l2-shopheader-name> – nice litterbox/hayfeeder/bowl combinations here, plus toys

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/KraftyCreature?ref=l2-shopheader-name> - great litter box combo here and hidey houses

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/Halkalife?ref=l2-shopheader-name> - nice beds and tents here

<http://www.petwerks.com/toys.aspx> - great quality and not expensive

<http://www.binxbox.net/> - bunny subscription box

<https://www.happybunnyclub.com/> - bunny subscription box

<https://shop.smallpetselect.com/collections/natural-toys-and-chews-for-rabbits> - more toys and chews

https://www.amazon.com/First-Years-Stack-Up-Cups/dp/B00005C5H4/ref=pd_lpo_vtph_21_bs_lp_img_1?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=RP88JKVMP9XM1P0JV9ZK - hide treats in these nesting cups

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/9j3lod/a_couple_people_requested_this_i_wish_i_was_a_ble/ - watch this for how to make a homemade toy for loads of fun. Just hide treats in a toilet paper or paper towel roll and stuff with hay. You can also stuff a paper bag and give to bunny to try to open up and get inside (don't use tape).

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/9n0li2/egg_carton_with_greens_a_great_toy/ - another great toy idea: egg carton with greens or hay inside

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/aah6o5/lets_play_a_little_game_called_who_turned_off_the/ - homemade cardboard castle

I really hope this helps a bit. :) Best of luck to you!

Rabbit is sick/not eating/has GI stasis:

You need to find a RABBIT SAVVY vet (not just a any vet) and take your bunny ASAP even if you have to drive a couple hours. A good rabbit vet is critical for treating GI stasis. You will need xrays to ensure it is not a tummy blockage and to see if there is an underlying condition that is causing this. It could be dental issues that will not go away without a visit to a rabbit savvy experienced vet. I cannot stress enough how critical this is to get him healthy again. Do this ASAP!

Here you can find a list of rabbit savvy vets by state:

<https://rabbit.org/vet-listings/>

http://wabbitwiki.com/wiki/Category:United_States

To help your bunny you need a few things now (aside from the vet) -

1. BABY gas drops - those are 100% safe and can be given anytime a tummy feels gassy (kind of hard vs squishy as usual). They really work and can save her life when you can't see a vet. Liquid simethicone is the ingredient in Baby or Infant gas drops, which are available over the counter in drugstores and many supermarkets. administer between .5 and 1cc of liquid simethicone orally, using a syringe without needle. These can really have saved your bunny's life.
 - a. If you get 40 mg/ml concentration give 0.5 CC, if 20 mg/ml give 1 CC. Pediatric Simethicone can be given orally as often as every hour for 3 hours and then 1cc every 3-8 hours.
2. Metacam - pain meds for bunnies. This is critical as your bunny is likely in pain and a bunny in pain will not eat just making things worse. YOU MUST GET THIS.
3. Keep the bunny warm - provide a heating pack under the tummy or some warm water bottles next to him. Also a cozy fleece.

4. You must try to syringe feed bunny if he is not eating - mix some of his usual pellets with water until liquidy/pasty and slowly feed through a syringe every two hours or even more often. You cannot just wait till he starts eating on his own. Without food he will not get better. If you have a blender you can also mix in some fresh herbs. You can put a touch of banana on the tip of the syringe to make him want it more and make it easier to feed him. You can even mix in a touch of banana or some no-sugar added baby food baby food (like carrot or pumpkin or sweet potato - but not too much since it still has natural sugars). If you have [Critical Care](#) food even better, but if not pellet paste will work in the short term.
5. Also provide water through a syringe the same way. You can also steep some mint and offer that instead of water or add a touch of no sugar added juice to the water to encourage more drinking (use a bowl vs bottle).
6. You can also use unsweetened canned pumpkin puree to supplement pellet paste feeding - feed the pumping through a syringe or even offer it on a plate and see if he might lick it himself.
7. Offer fresh herbs - dill (has great gut mobility portieres), cilantro, oregano, mint, basil, parsley - these have a strong aroma and can help stimulate bunny appetite and get him to eat more. Rinse them and give them wet for extra hydration.
8. Try tummy massage, see here for how to do it
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LbyC6CWbm5M>
9. Once you start seeing some poops again and as appetite comes back offer less pellets for a few days, encourage him to eat more hay as much as possible to be sure that fiber has his gut normal again sooner. You can rub a touch of banana on the top layer to make it more appealing and also handfeed.
10. DO NOT offer any sugar - carrot or fruit for at least a while until all is back to normal.

These videos will help you:

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/9nz8mn/snowy_loves_his_foodand_his_meds/ - how to give meds so bunnies don't mind

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iGZVYVm5Bg> - how to syringe feed (put a bit of something sweet like banana on the tip to get bun to like it more)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QW0Taz0MFWE> - more on how to syringe feed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0dil7iQQCU> - how to syringe feed in a less stressful way (more effort but will work better sometimes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDyqWvjEYil> - GI stasis treatment

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fPKtW5n5R0> - GI stasis treatment

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LbyC6CWbm5M> - How to Help a Rabbit with Gas Pain

Lastly, anytime you see anything abnormal - unusual poop, less eating, less poop, unusual urine, lethargic, aggressive etc go right away to a RABBIT SAVVY vet to consult. This are usually sings that something is wrong and it is much more treatable when you go early. GI stasis can kill a bun quickly...

Bunny won't stop chewing everything, what to do:

What might help is a few things:

1. Positive reinforcement - trying to reward good habits with treats and redirect bad behavior like chewing on furniture to good behavior like chewing on a chew toy with a treat to build positive associations with good behavior. So every time you seem him try to chew or dig on something he should not, don't lock him up, but right away offer him a toy or thing that he can chew or dig on... then reward him with a tiny piece of treat.
2. This brings me to my next point, purchase or make some alternatives for him to chew, dig, keep him entertained and occupied. A bored bunny will usually chew... There are tones of ideas which you can search the internet for and some I like are below, But the point I am trying to get across is that you need to make a bit of an effort to see what toys he likes and get make him things to keep him occupied and entertained
 1. try to make him a dig box - use any box and fill it with shredded paper and see if he likes it - usually they do. you can also purchase some of those soft plastic balls like for kids and fill the box and he might like that too. experiment, but give him an alternative to dig
 2. https://www.amazon.com/AMZNOVA-Scratcher-Cardboard-Scratching-Scratch/dp/B076F367WL/ref=redir_mobile_desktop?_encoding=UTF8&dpID=41cQNb-v0jL&dpPI=1&keywords=cat%20scratcher%20corrugated&qid=1541451728&ref=plSrch&ref_=mp_s_a_1_18&sr=8-18 - try this cat scratcher for him to chew and dig also, he may love it
 3. https://www.amazon.com/Small-Pet-Select-Digging-Platform/dp/B075VV66MQ/ref=asc_df_B075VV66MQ/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=198079906959&hvpos=1o1&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=5911275993940894665&hvpo ne=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9001881&hvtargid=pla-370007460458&psc=1 - another great thing to dig and chew for buns
 4. Small pet select hay awesome toys to keep your bun entertained a bit pricey but will last a while and have great quality
<https://shop.smallpetselect.com/collections/natural-toys-and-chews-for-rabbits>.
 5. <https://store.binkybunny.com/toys--chews-c2.aspx> - great toys here also, try some inexpensive sea grass balls, you can also find playhouses on this site bunnies love, etc

6. <https://www.farmerdavepetsupply.com/chew-sticks> - these chew sticks are great for buns and you can always offer to him as a very yummy alternative to cords!
7. Make your own toys also
 - https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/9j3lod/a_couple_people_requested_this_i_wish_i_was_able/ - watch this for how to make a homemade toy for loads of fun. Just hide treats in a toilet paper or paper towel roll and stuff with hay. You can also stuff a paper bag and give to bunny to try to open up and get inside (don't use tape).
https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/9n0li2/egg_carton_with_greens_a_great_toy/ - another great toy idea: egg carton with greens or hay inside. Also you can put hay or pellets into a paper bag and tie it up and give to bun to figure out how to open. All of these will help keep the bun occupied.
8. Buns love tunnels
https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07FWC277N/ref=crt_ewc_img_dp_9?ie=UTF8&psc=1&smid=APMR7WBX7KEK1
9. Also try giving pellets in this treat ball
https://www.chewy.com/ethical-pet-seek-treat-shuffle-bone/dp/56279?utm_source=google-product&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=hg&utm_content=Ethical%20Pet&utm_term=&car-boost=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwrZLdBRCmARIsAFBZlIG0sQsNiZdMa_Q8wOvVygC0S8qEBHkS9VYaQ_b3Sa6j7AQ6N0UuiLkaAvpAEALw_wcB

Why spaying is essential:

The thing with girls is that if not spayed their chance of developing uterine cancer is really high as that makes spaying not even optional in my opinion. The risk of cancer is very high and that is a terrible way for a bunny to die and at that time the risk of surgery becomes soooo much greater due to poor health.... I have seen it at our rescue! Do not hesitate! It is worth the risk and the cost!

" Unspayed female rabbits have a very high risk of uterine cancer. Our vets commonly see uterine changes and tumors in unspayed rabbits as young as eighteen months. As the bunny ages, her risk increases, and our experienced rabbit vets report that many, if not most, rabbits older than about four years who are brought in for spaying reveal uterine changes and/or tumors. A rabbit's reproductive system is evolved for constant reproduction over a relatively short lifespan. When reproduction is thwarted, but the uterus is left intact, the system can go a little haywire. It's not unexpected. "

<http://www.bio.miami.edu/hare/spay.html>

Having said this, picking a GOOD rabbit savvy vet is really key here. I would not go with the cheapest, not most expensive, but really try to get a good experience vet for bunnies and then ask for the cost (btw they offer payment plans).

Try to google your local rabbit rescues, see what the closest House Rabbit Society chapter is. Dedicated rabbit rescues do a lot of spays and neuters (they never leave the buns unfixed) so they can always recommend a good and well priced vet. Often you can find this info right on their websites (look in different sections there) but if not an email with a question will get you a response. Also here you can also find a list of rabbit savvy vets by state to cross reference the info:

<https://rabbit.org/vet-listings/>

http://wabbitwiki.com/wiki/Category:United_States

Call them and ask about their experience, success rates, how many spays they have done, etc. If you have a good vet, the risks will be minimized. Also, definitely take her to the vet ahead of time to get advice on what age and weight is appropriate and safest for the surgery... you can also talk to the vet and see if you trust them at that point.

The other key to success is knowing how to prepare for surgery and post op, what to ask the vet etc - this thread has a lot of great advice when the time comes -

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/9nz9c3/spay_time/

Why neutering is essential:

Neuter is worth the cost and the risk... It will help with the territorial hormonal behavior you may be seeing for sure but more than anything it will also tremendously improve you boys quality of life... imagine how frustrated you would be if you could not act on your instincts ever, and his are making a lot of little babies and he can never do that.. that is not the best thing for a bun. That in addition to litter habits and long term health (risk of testicular cancer and inflammation) are all reasons why I think neuter is worth it. Keep in mind though that after neuter, it takes about 4 to 6 weeks for the boys hormones to subside, so the behavior change won't be instant, but it will come.

Neutering is a simpler and less risky (less costly) procedure than spaying, which is a big plus for boys. rescue! Do not hesitate! It is worth the risk and the cost!

Take a look at this thread for a great summary of a personal account

<https://bunnyapproved.com/neutering-bunny/>

Having said this, picking a GOOD rabbit savvy vet is really key here. I would not go with the cheapest, not most expensive, but really try to get a good experience vet for bunnies and then ask for the cost (btw they offer payment plans).

Try to google your local rabbit rescues, see what the closest House Rabbit Society chapter is. Dedicated rabbit rescues do a lot of spays and neuters (they never leave the buns unfixed) so they can always recommend a good and well priced vet. Often you can find this info right on their websites (look in different sections there) but if not an email with a question will get you a response. Also here you can also find a list of rabbit savvy vets by state to cross reference the info:

<https://rabbit.org/vet-listings/>

[http://wabbitwiki.com/wiki/Category:United States](http://wabbitwiki.com/wiki/Category:United_States)

Call them and ask about their experience, success rates, how many spays/neuters they have done, etc. If you have a good vet, the risks will be minimized. Also, definitely take him to the vet ahead of time to get a wellness check up to ensure bun is healthy for surgery; you can also talk to the vet and see if your trust them at that point. This won't be expensive.

The other key to success is knowing how to prepare for surgery and post op, what to ask the vet etc - this thread has a lot of great advice when the time comes -

https://www.reddit.com/r/Rabbits/comments/au5hoa/upcoming_neuter/