

The Bunny Lover's

Complete Guide To

House Rabbits

The Ultimate Handbook for
Successfully Living Indoors with a Pet Rabbit

By:

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Edited by:

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To my Mom, who will always be missed.

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I will always miss her.

My wife, Denise, deserves recognition for her dedication and loyalty to her passion for all animals. She instilled in me the notion that most misery amongst animal species is caused by humans and therefore only humans can help alleviate it.

All of my pets have always been considered part of the family, and each and every bunny that I have had has contributed to this book with what they have given me. The one thing that you can always count on is if you give love to your pet, you will certainly receive something in return.

A thousand thanks must also go to the San Diego House Rabbit Society volunteers. They directly and indirectly taught me almost everything I know about rabbits and helped lead me to be a voice for lagomorphs everywhere. I know I was blessed to live in a place with such an amazing, active chapter of this important rabbit-centric organization.

There must also be gratitude expressed to all the rabbit-rescue volunteers everywhere who have discovered that they can make a difference, one bunny at a time. I hold in the highest esteem the many thousands who have supported their local chapter of the House Rabbit Society or other rabbit-rescue organizations. You are all heroes in my book. Your work will eventually help make things better for all rabbits in the future.

Chapter 1: Why a Book About Rabbits?

It is not because rabbit owners out there intend to be cruel or to mistreat their pets, but I discovered from my own experiences that it is mostly due to ignorance that four out of five pet bunnies do not receive the proper care in regard to their diets, living conditions, exercise, and interaction. I completely understand how this can happen, since I made all of the common mistakes myself in my first years living with rabbits.

People frequently refer to me as “The Bunny Guy,” but I was not always an expert with rabbits. It is surprising how many rabbit owners know very little about their charges, but I, too, was totally ignorant about how to properly care for bunnies, even as I had my first several as pets. When I realized that I was part of the large majority of rabbit owners who loved their rabbits but who did not really know how to properly care for them, I decided to go on a mission.

My quest became to learn all that I could about rabbits, and to share that knowledge with as many other bunny lovers as possible. I began by volunteering at an animal shelter and attending classes given by my local House Rabbit Society chapter, San Diego House Rabbit Society (SDHRS; www.sandiegorabbits.org), so that I could obtain as much hands-on instruction as possible. I also applied to become an educator for SDHRS, and began talking to hundreds of folks about proper house rabbit care and welfare.

How to care for and interact with a house rabbit is not intuitive, especially if you were raised with cats or dogs. Everything from feeding to housing to petting your bunny has very little in common with how you may have cared for and played with other types of pets. Most of the information about how to do all these things in regard to house rabbits has not been readily available in the past. Also, many of the things I have read online or been told by a vet were not completely true or factual; there are just so many myths and misunderstandings about house rabbits.



Rabbits cleverly do unexpected things, such as Scotty, who likes to climb this tree during exercise time at the shelter.

This is why I decided that I needed to share all of the knowledge I have accumulated about rabbits with you, and to tell my story about how I came to be known as “The Bunny Guy.” I hope you will learn many new things from this book, and will come back to it again and again for reference. There is so much to learn about bunnies that it is really an ongoing process; even veterinarians who specialize in treating rabbits are constantly learning new things about lagomorphs (that’s the scientific name for rabbits).