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Website: www.tsvcpets.com

Rabbit Healthcare

Your rabbit should never go without eating. If your pet hasn't eaten for 8-12 hours, take it to a rabbit-savvy veterinarian immediately. A vet must see at least 2 rabbits a week to be considered rabbit-friendly.

Regular vet visits are a must! If you rabbit is not examined routinely, health problems will be very difficult to detect before they are very serious or even deadly. We recommend full exams at least every 6 months. Yearly blood work is also very helpful in determining the internal health condition of your pet.

Common rabbit health problems: overgrown teeth, ear infections, upper-respiratory infections (commonly known as snuffles), and gastro-intestinal upset/stasis.

Clip nails monthly. If a rabbit's nails are not clipped monthly, they become overgrown and may snag on carpet or cage material causing the nail to tear, break, and bleed.

Rabbits overheat easily! You can keep your pet outdoors, but make provisions so it can stay cool during Arizona's hot summers. Temperatures above 85° are not safe for you pet. See the <u>Rabbit Housing Sheet</u> for more information on how you can keep your pets cool.

Rabbits are prey animals. If you have your rabbit outside, remember that it is prey to numerous species such as hawks, owls, cats, and coyotes. Keep your pet safe by building an appropriate rabbit enclosure, or don't leave it outside unsupervised.

Spay or neuter your pet! Altering your rabbit increases its life expectancy and betters its overall health. It also reduces behavioral problems such as spraying/marking territory, fighting other rabbits, cage aggression, and producing additional bunnies. Spaying eliminates chances of uterine infections, ovarian cysts, and cancers of the uterus or ovaries. It also helps prevent breast cancer.

Never keep intact males together. They are very territorial, and will likely attack and kill each other.

We recommend adoption. There are numerous rabbits in shelters such as the AZ Humane Society and various rabbit rescues. Ask a staff member for a