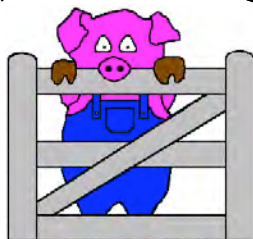
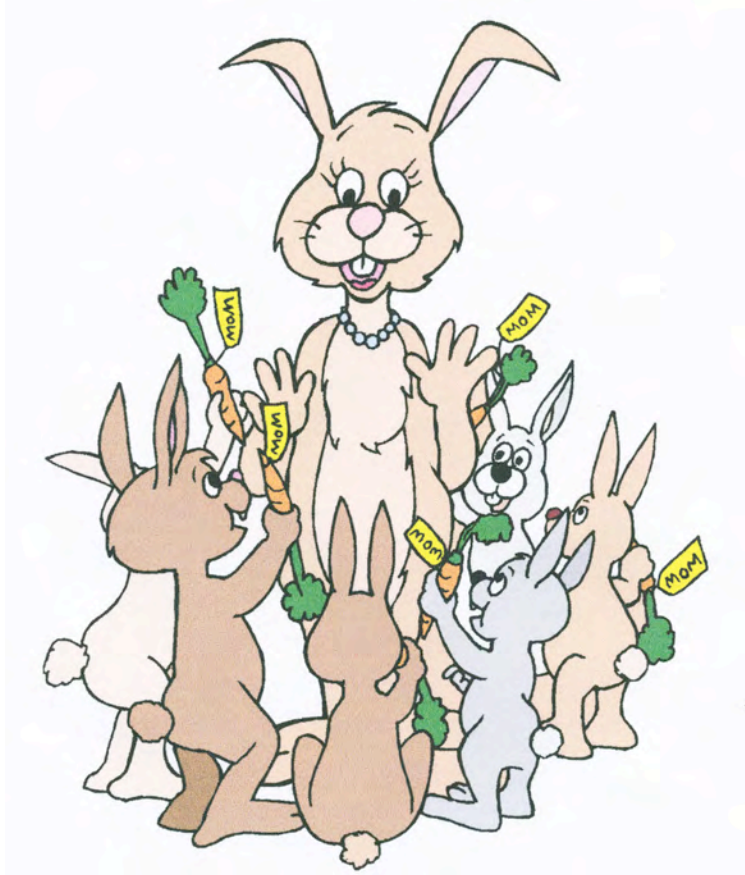


ANIMALS ON THE MOVE



Rabbit Rearing

MANAGEMENT MANUAL



ABN 30858542995
76 Collie Rd, Gembrook , 3783
Tel: (03) 59681616 Fax: (03) 59681143
www.animalsonthemove.com.au

AIM OF THE PROGRAM

To teach children about responsibility and taking care of animals

The aim of this new program is to introduce children to the responsibilities involved in taking care of animals and experiencing and learning about the life of rabbits and changes that take place in their 1st month of development.

Children will be able to observe the development of new born rabbits (kittens) over a period of 4 weeks. In this time they will see dramatic changes taking place from them being totally dependant to independence by approx. 5 weeks of age.

SHOULD YOU REQUIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION DURING THE PERIOD OF THE PROGRAM PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL A STAFF MEMBER AT 'ANIMALS ON THE MOVE' ON THE FOLLOWING NUMBER:

(03) 59681616

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please insist children **do not** poke their fingers in the rabbits mouth.
THEY HAVE TEETH !!!!

It is a good idea to put a barrier or a line with masking tape on the floor around the cage, about 2 feet out so that children can't put their fingers in to tempt the mother rabbit

Sudden loud and unfamiliar noises can cause stress in a rabbit, consider placing rabbits in another room whilst vacuuming

We ask that the children do not handle the babies until after the 2nd week they are with you.

Once the babies are furred and mobile (at approx. 3 weeks of age your group will be able to handle them and chart their progress through weighing and measuring etc.

After 4 weeks we will return and collect the rabbits and accessories.

Should anyone in your group wish to keep any of the rabbits, they can be purchased along with any accessories required. Please refer to the price list

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CARE & MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

For the first 2 weeks your group will partake in the care of the rabbits by providing food, water and cleaning their hutch and equipment, whilst daily observing the rabbits growth and changes in their appearance and dependence.

1. A lactating Doe (female) should eat about 350g of Pellet food(large breeds) and 250g (dwarf breeds) per day

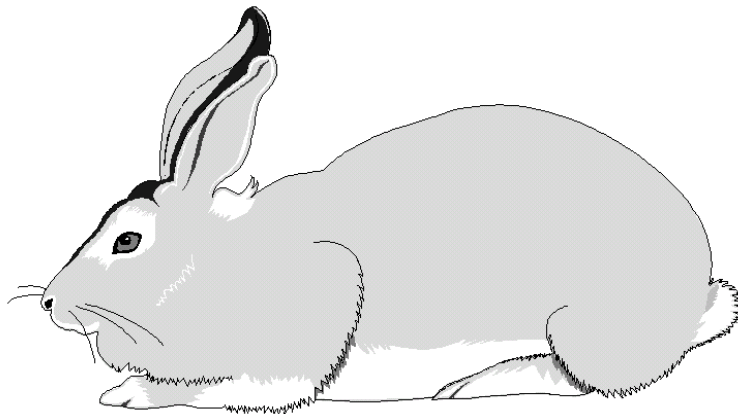
PLEASE NOTE: As rabbits are particularly fussy about changes in diet and variation in food supply can cause major problems with diarrhoea.

Do not offer extras such as cabbage or lettuce etc.

A small carrot every couple of days would be quite OK

2. Water should be available **at all times**
3. Sawdust in rabbit cages should be changed completely 2 x per week
4. Droppings, especially in the corner where they choose to do their poo should be cleaned DAILY

As rabbits teeth continue to grow throughout their lives they like to have something hard to chew on. A small branch or piece of wood should be left in the cage for this purpose.



Keeping Rabbits As Pets

BEST PLACE TO KEEP THEM

In a sheltered outdoor position such as a porch or garden shed. They can be kept outside in the open air if they have a suitable weatherproof hutch. They usually get on well with guinea pigs and if introduced carefully they will run around quite happily with a cat or even a dog.

DIET

Providing grain, pellets ' rabbit mix, and a constant supply of hay and fresh water is very important. As rabbits are constant feeders, it is natural for them to be nibbling away at something all the time. Some greens may be fed in moderation. I.e: cabbage, cauliflower, celery, carrots, etc but should not be used instead of "rabbit mix" which has been properly formulated for a rabbits diet. A mineral lick is appreciated and it is important to remember to place a piece of wood for gnawing (this prevents the front teeth from growing too long).

Water is best provided in the form of a drip feed bottle securely fastened to the wire of the cage.

HOUSING

Make sure you have a good hutch available for your rabbit and that it is fully weatherproof. It is also a good idea if keeping it outside to provide an extra cover to protect it from the driving rain and provide shade in summer. It should also be dog proof. Wooden floors should be painted with a protective sealant. Make sure you also give your rabbit some exercise time (a daily run for about an hour – inside or out.)

Give them plenty of hay or straw for bedding, preferably over a thick sawdust base. The enclosure should be cleaned out thoroughly once a week, also clean and move pen as necessary.

HEALTH

Given a good routine, you should have no trouble. Check that the hay or straw is never mouldy, as this can cause respiratory troubles.

Try to avoid damp, draughts and too- strong sunlight. Long haired rabbits will need some grooming

MORE RABBIT FACTS.....

A female Rabbit is called a **DOE**

A male Rabbit is called a **BUCK**

A baby Rabbit is called a **KITTEN**

A group of Kittens is called a **LITTER**

Gestation Period (the time they are pregnant for) is
32 days

Kittens are born blind, hairless and weigh 50 –
80grams.

Growth rate is approx. 15 – 20g per day to 8 weeks of
age

Average litter size is 4 – 10 kittens

Young open their eyes at 7 – 10 days and start to eat
solid food at 3 weeks

They are weaned from their mother at approx. 4 – 6
weeks

Does are fertile 24 hours after kindling (giving birth)

Life span of a rabbit is approx. 5 –10 years

BIRTH OF THE KITTENS

Gestation of a rabbit is 1 month (can vary from 28 – 33 days). Towards the end of her gestation period the Doe will start to carry nesting material around in her mouth and put it all in one corner of the hutch (usually the darkest corner). She will also pluck fur from herself to add to her nest a few days before kindling.

After giving birth she will cover her young with her fur and nesting material to keep them warm.

Unlike cats and dogs, rabbits do not spend much of their time with their young. They only return to the nest to feed them...So don't be too concerned if the Doe seems to be ignoring her litter, this is normal!!!

The newborn kittens are blind, hairless and weigh less than 100 grams. Over the first 6 days the kittens double their weight and grow a good covering of fur. As most Does have 8 teats and frequently give birth to large litters, there are usually a few dead kittens. (Remember – in nature only the strongest survive) The dead kittens should be removed from the nest box as soon as possible. – Daily checking of the nest box is essential.

It is a good idea to check first thing in the morning before the children arrive.

The kittens open their eyes between 7 – 10 days. At about 10 days of age they start to jump out of their nest box and within 2-3 days all will come out.

Kittens can be weaned at about 5 weeks.





Where are the rabbit words?

C	A	R	R	O	T	R	Q	Z	B	U	C	K	F
R	O	A	F	M	P	L	S	M	N	S	D	K	H
T	P	B	B	H	F	U	R	L	E	S	S	T	L
Y	I	B	Z	U	C	X	D	I	S	E	R	T	I
V	K	I	T	T	E	N	B	T	H	G	R	P	P
H	J	T	S	C	W	A	W	T	E	X	O	A	S
Y	I	P	G	H	F	H	R	E	C	K	D	O	E
K	I	N	D	L	I	N	G	R	T	G	Y	D	B
J	P	R	A	Q	B	D	M	C	T	Z	F	Y	M
O	X	N	I	B	B	L	E	N	P	L	H	G	P

CARROT

BUCK

KITTEN

RABBIT

KINDLING

FURLESS

DOE

LITTER

HUTCH

NIBBLE



Carrot Cake



Ingredients

- 1 Cup Flour
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp bicarb soda
- 1 cup grated carrot
- ½ cup drained and crushed pineapple
- 1/3 cup ground sesame seeds
- 2 oz. Coconut
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup oil
- ½ cup milk
- ½ cup sugar

Directions

- Pre heat oven 350 degrees F
- Beat in a large bowl eggs, oil, milk and sugar
- Mix carrots, pineapple, nuts, sesame seeds and coconut separately
- Add carrot mixture, then add flour, cinnamon and bicarb soda
- Put in patty pans and bake in oven for 25 minutes



Rabbit Rearing

EVALUATION FORM

Thank you for having booked the Animals on the Move – Rabbit Rearing Program.
We trust your group has enjoyed the experience of interacting with our Mother Rabbit and her Babies and have gained an understanding of the responsibility involved in caring for a pet.

We would greatly appreciate if you could take a few moment to evaluate the program by answering the questions below. As this program is only new, any feedback would be welcome and assist us in improving the running of this program.

What did your group learn from the program?

.....

What activities did your group undertake involving the rabbits?.....

.....

How did it fit in with your curriculum?.....

.....

Was 4 weeks too long/to short?.....

.....

Where you provided with enough information and advice at the start?.....

.....

During the program.....

.....

Was all the equipment provided satisfactory? Ie Hutch/Food etc.....

.....

How could this be improved?.....

.....

Where the pick up and drop off arrangements satisfactory?.....

.....

Do you have any suggestions or recommendation for improvements?.....

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Any further comments.....

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Please fax this form back to us on 59 681143.

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