

THE Bunny Times

Volume 2 Issue 1

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2010 UPDATE

Hi Everyone. I'm sorry we've been out of touch for awhile and also not releasing a story each month. So you know, there are only two of us running Silver Bunny Books and lately it's been just too much to balance creating the stories with earning a living. We've now done some soul-searching and adjusted our goals.

EASTER BUNNIES

by Summer Fey Foovay

It is traditional to buy cute little chicks, ducklings, and bunnies as gifts for children around Easter time. Nothing wrong with that – as long as you keep in mind that these cute baby animals will grow up and live through many more Easter holidays, requiring care: food, space and time.

The easy solution is not to buy a live animal at all, but one of the wonderful plush toys instead. In general, giving a live pet as a gift is a poor idea. If it is for your own child, consider the animals needs as far as care and whether or not you are able and willing to provide for it. If it is for someone else's child, consult with the parents first about whether they would welcome a new addition to the family.

However, if you do have the time, space, love and money to care for a new little member of the family and are willing to take the responsibility of doing so, here are a few care tips to give you a start.

Rabbits do make wonderful pets. However, they are not typically good pets for children, especially young children. If you are prepared and want to add a rabbit to your family, there's certainly nothing wrong with deciding to do it just in time for Easter. If someone just dropped by and handed your child an Easter bunny (a live one), you might have a bit of a problem! Yes, it happens.

We hope to create as many stories as we can (because we love it!!!!) but realistically we can only publish a few a year. Not yet sure how many that will turn out to be...we will let you know when we can. Thank you to all of our loyal readers & do trust there will be more stories to come. Happy Easter!

Fortunately, most pet stores now carry all the things your new pet will need for his or her health and happiness. Basic needs for rabbits are the same as for all pets – shelter, food, and water.

You will first want to decide if he or she is going to live indoors or outdoors. Domestic rabbits are not as hardy as their wild relatives. A pet rabbit really should live indoors, with or without run of the house. An outbuilding, such as a shed or garage is not ideal – ventilation and temperature must be considered, as well as whether other animals are able to get into the building. A rabbit can actually die of fear from the presence of a predator animal – such as the family dog. A caged rabbit will still need at least few hours a day of playtime a day in a larger area.

Indoors or out, you will still need to purchase a cage, or hutch. Even an indoor rabbit should have a cage for their own security and for times when you may need to confine them. A rabbit's cage should be at least five times the size of the rabbit. In the case of a baby rabbit, you'll either want to buy a cage based on his adult size, or plan on buying larger cages as she grows. Your rabbit should be able to stretch out and lay down, and their head should not touch the top of the cage when they stand.



Depending on the type of cage you purchase, you will also need bedding. Cages with wire floors are very common, but also hard on little bunny feet. If you purchase this type of cage, you should layer some cardboard over the wire to make it more comfortable for your bunny.

When you purchase the cage, keep in mind the type of feeder and water supplier you plan to use. The ones fit onto the cage in such a way that they remain clean and sanitary. Thus it is probably easiest to purchase the cage, feeder, and water supplier at the same time and place. Most pet stores and feed stores will have all of those items available for you.

Your rabbit will also appreciate a place to hide – or have a little privacy. A simple cardboard box with a door cut into that fits in the cage is fine, or you can buy something fancier if you wish.

Commercial feed, as well as treats, are readily available for rabbits these days. However, these foods should be considered supplemental to hay (timothy hay, or grass hay is better for rabbits than alfalfa), and dark, green leafy vegetables. As with any pet, fresh food and water should be provided daily.

If you are keeping the rabbit indoors and giving them the run of the house, you can train them to use a litter box. You will want to make sure you have “bunny proofed” the house.

Rabbits chew – a curious nibble of an electrical cord could have terrible consequences. Rabbits are



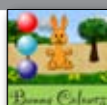
Our inspiration! His name is Hal.

social animals. Even if you, or your child, spends lots of time keeping bunny company – they would be happier with another bunny friend. Consider adopting two bunnies rather than one. They will be happier for it.

If you are adopting a bunny, please plan on keeping it for its own life span. If someone just surprised you with a gift bunny, and you cannot or do not want to keep it, you will find many rabbit rescue groups listed online. Many local shelters also have facilities for rabbits.

Pets are really not suitable surprise gifts for anyone at any time. This goes for Easter chicks, Easter ducklings, and Easter bunnies. They are all cute babies, but they grow up and live from ten to fifteen years. They have needs and require suitable care. If someone “surprised” you (or your child) with an Easter bunny or chick, I hope you will either step up to the responsibility (and perhaps be surprised by how rewarding they are!) or take the proper steps to find them a good home.

More Apps!



Bunny Colors



Bunny Count



Birth Date



Pet Date