

# Contents at a Glance

<b><i>Introduction</i></b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b><i>Part I: Bringing on the Bunny Basics</i></b> .....	<b>7</b>
Chapter 1: Jumping into Rabbit Ownership .....	9
Chapter 2: Choosing the “Right” Rabbit .....	25
Chapter 3: So Many Breeds, So Little Time .....	41
Chapter 4: Hiding in Shelters, Holes, and Shops.....	55
<b><i>Part II: Taking Care of Creature Comforts</i></b> .....	<b>69</b>
Chapter 5: Shacking Up with an Indoor Rabbit.....	71
Chapter 6: Stocking Up on Carrots .....	93
Chapter 7: Cleaning Behind Those Great Big Ears and More.....	105
Chapter 8: Making Fitness and Fresh Air Fun for Your Bunny.....	119
Chapter 9: Nipping Common Health Problems in the Bud.....	133
Chapter 10: Coping with Other Health Woes and Aging Issues .....	157
<b><i>Part III: Rabbit Psychology: Behavior and Training</i></b> .....	<b>173</b>
Chapter 11: Thinking Like a Rabbit .....	175
Chapter 12: Putting Boxing Gloves on Your Rabbit: Training.....	187
Chapter 13: Reckoning with a Bad Bunny.....	195
<b><i>Part IV: Enjoying Your Fun Bunny</i></b> .....	<b>209</b>
Chapter 14: Playing Around Isn’t Just for Dogs .....	211
Chapter 15: Getting Hoppy with Your House Rabbit .....	219
Chapter 16: Hitting the Road with Your Rabbit.....	233
<b><i>Part V: The Part of Tens</i></b> .....	<b>247</b>
Chapter 17: Ten Signs That Require Emergency Action.....	249
Chapter 18: Ten Great Rabbit Web Sites.....	257
Chapter 19: Ten Ways to Make Your Bunny’s Day .....	261
<b><i>Appendix: Rabbit Resources</i></b> .....	<b>267</b>
<b><i>Index</i></b> .....	<b>275</b>



# Table of Contents

.....

## ***Introduction*..... 1**

About This Book.....	1
Conventions Used in This Book.....	2
What You're Not to Read.....	2
Foolish Assumptions.....	3
How This Book Is Organized.....	3
Part I: Bringing on the Bunny Basics.....	3
Part II: Taking Care of Creature Comforts.....	4
Part III: Rabbit Psychology: Behavior and Training.....	4
Part IV: Enjoying Your Fun Bunny.....	4
Part V: The Part of Tens.....	4
Appendix.....	5
Icons Used in This Book.....	5
Where to Go from Here.....	5

## ***Part 1: Bringing on the Bunny Basics*..... 7**

### **Chapter 1: Jumping into Rabbit Ownership..... 9**

Admiring from Afar.....	9
Digesting this information (and that carrot).....	10
Taking advantage of skin and bones.....	12
Taking a whiff.....	13
Putting those ears to good use.....	13
Figuring Out Whether a Rabbit is Right for You.....	14
Asking yourself whether you're rabbit-ready.....	14
Considering the right reasons to own a rabbit.....	16
Knowing What You Want in a Furry Friend.....	18
Providing Shelter.....	18
Feeding Your Rabbit.....	19
Grooming Your Rabbit.....	20
Keeping Up with Chores.....	20
Monitoring Your Rabbit's Health.....	22
Training Your Rabbit.....	22
Thinking Like a Bunny.....	23
Having a Good Time with Your Pet.....	23

### **Chapter 2: Choosing the "Right" Rabbit..... 25**

Pinpointing the Right Age.....	26
Deciding Between a Boy or Girl.....	28
Opting for an Only Rabbit or a Bunny with a Built-in Companion.....	28

Mixing it Up: Bunny Mutts .....	31
Rabbit coat types .....	31
Head shape .....	32
Size .....	33
Living the High Life: Bunny Bluebloods .....	34
Purebred reasoning .....	34
Different breeds, different looks .....	36

### **Chapter 3: So Many Breeds, So Little Time . . . . . 41**

American .....	41
American Fuzzy Lop .....	42
American Sable .....	42
Angora .....	42
Belgian Hare .....	43
Beveren .....	43
Britannia Petite .....	44
Californian .....	44
Champagne d' Argent .....	44
Checkered Giant .....	44
Chinchilla .....	44
Cinnamon .....	45
Crème d' Argent .....	45
Dutch .....	45
Dwarf Hotot .....	46
English Spot .....	46
Flemish Giant .....	46
Florida White .....	46
Harlequin .....	47
Havana .....	47
Himalayan .....	47
Hotot .....	47
Jersey Woolly .....	48
Lilac .....	48
Lop .....	48
Mini Rex .....	50
Mini Satin .....	51
Netherland Dwarf .....	51
New Zealand .....	51
Palomino .....	52
Polish .....	52
Rex .....	52
Rhineland .....	52
Satin .....	53
Silver .....	53
Silver Fox .....	54
Silver Marten .....	54
Tan .....	54
Thrianta .....	54

**Chapter 4: Hiding in Shelters, Holes, and Shops . . . . . 55**

Donning Your Cape: Rescuing a Rabbit ..... 55  
 Presenting the problem ..... 56  
 Seeking the solution ..... 56  
 Saving a stray ..... 60  
 Considering Breeders ..... 62  
 Getting a connection ..... 63  
 Checking out a breeder..... 64  
 Calling the classifieds ..... 65  
 Taking Precautions at Pet Shops ..... 66  
 Selecting the Rabbit ..... 67  
 Watching for signs of an ill rabbit..... 68  
 Keeping character in mind ..... 68

***Part II: Taking Care of Creature Comforts..... 69***

**Chapter 5: Shacking Up with an Indoor Rabbit. . . . . 71**

Getting Serious about Safety ..... 71  
 Taking Health Concerns to Heart ..... 72  
 Bonding with Bunny ..... 73  
 Having Fun with Your Bun..... 74  
 Making Sure That Everyone’s Comfy: Rabbit Essentials ..... 74  
 Craving His Cage..... 79  
 Putting a Pen to Good Use..... 82  
 Rabbit-Proofing Your House ..... 83  
 Identifying trouble spots..... 84  
 Chewing..... 85  
 Digging..... 87  
 When Littering Is Good: The Litter Box ..... 88  
 Encouraging your bunny to go in her cage..... 88  
 Providing 1.5 bathrooms..... 89  
 Cleaning up ..... 90  
 Keeping a Squeaky Clean Home..... 91  
 Litter box cleaning ..... 91  
 Daily cage duty ..... 92  
 Weekly cage cleaning ..... 92

**Chapter 6: Stocking Up on Carrots . . . . . 93**

Supplying Your Bunny with Belly Timber ..... 93  
 Hay Every Day Keeps the Doctor Away ..... 94  
 Going Green..... 96  
 Getting Fruity ..... 97  
 Making the Most of Pellets ..... 98  
 Picking pellets ..... 98  
 Determining the correct amount of pellets ..... 99  
 Coping with a Chubby Bunny ..... 101

Giving Your Bunny Treats .....	101
Popping Pills.....	102
Forbidding Foods.....	102

## **Chapter 7: Cleaning Behind Those Great Big Ears and More . . . . .105**

Stocking Your Grooming Toolshed .....	106
Handling with Care.....	107
Running Down the Grooming Checklist.....	110
Bypassing the Bath.....	111
Breaking Out the Brush .....	113
Brushing short to medium coats .....	113
Brushing long coats.....	114
Clipping It Not Quite in the Bud.....	115
Cleaning Your Bunny's Ears.....	118

## **Chapter 8: Making Fitness and Fresh Air Fun for Your Bunny . . . . .119**

Fitness Matters .....	119
Keeping Your Rabbit Fit.....	121
Indoors .....	121
Outdoors .....	122
Motivating a lazy bunny.....	125
Taking care of outdoor chores.....	126
Rabbit-Proofing Your Yard.....	127
Keeping Wolfie away.....	127
Protecting your rabbit.....	128
Protecting your yard .....	129
Avoiding poisonous plants .....	130
Plants for safe snacking .....	131

## **Chapter 9: Nipping Common Health Problems in the Bud . . . . .133**

Finding Dr. Doolittle .....	134
Evaluating a vet.....	135
Going for an exam.....	137
Spay It, Don't Spray It.....	137
Playing Doctor.....	138
Assembling a first-aid kit.....	140
Identifying signs of pain .....	141
Dealing with Bunny Ailments.....	141
Gastrointestinal problems .....	142
Urinary tract concerns .....	145
Abscesses .....	147
Dental disease .....	148
Ear infections.....	149
Heatstroke.....	149
Head tilt.....	150
Inflammation of the feet .....	150
Obesity .....	151
Paralysis and hind limb weakness.....	152

Banning Pesky Parasites ..... 152  
 Intestinal parasites ..... 152  
 Ear mites ..... 153  
 Fur mites ..... 153  
 Fleas ..... 154  
 Flies ..... 154  
 Encephalitozoonosis ..... 155  
 Baylisascaris ..... 156

**Chapter 10: Coping with Other Health Woes and Aging Issues . . . 157**

Treating Infectious Diseases ..... 157  
 Respiratory infections ..... 158  
 Ringworm ..... 159  
 Myxomatosis ..... 160  
 Tyzzer’s disease ..... 161  
 Venereal disease ..... 161  
 Viral hemorrhagic disease ..... 161  
 Encephalitozoon cuniculi ..... 163  
 Caring for Disabled and Special Needs Rabbits ..... 163  
 Helping Bunny Live to a Ripe, Old Age ..... 165  
 Saying Goodbye ..... 166  
 Letting go: Euthanasia ..... 166  
 Finding a place of rest ..... 169  
 Grieving is good for you ..... 170  
 Bonding with a new bunny ..... 171

***Part III: Rabbit Psychology: Behavior and Training ..... 173***

**Chapter 11: Thinking Like a Rabbit . . . . . 175**

Making Sense of Body Language ..... 175  
 Interpreting Rabbit Sounds ..... 178  
 Preying for Safety ..... 178  
 Showing Others Who’s Boss ..... 179  
 Coexisting Peacefully: Ensuring a Happy Homecoming ..... 180  
 Gaining Your Rabbit’s Trust ..... 181  
 Meeting Fido and Fluffy ..... 182  
 Dogs ..... 182  
 Cats ..... 184  
 Combining Children and Rabbits ..... 186

**Chapter 12: Putting Boxing Gloves on Your Rabbit: Training . . . . . 187**

Training Your Bunny the Right Way ..... 187  
 Giving a Command Performance ..... 188  
 Training with treats ..... 189  
 Here, Fluffy: Coming when called ..... 189  
 Making like Van Halen: Jumping ..... 190

Working on the abs: Sitting up .....	191
Cozying up in his cage: Go in.....	192
Taking a walk on the wild side .....	192
<b>Chapter 13: Reckoning with a Bad Bunny .....</b>	<b>195</b>
Just Say “No!” .....	195
Taming Terrible Teenagers .....	196
Coping with Aggressiveness .....	197
Biting the Hand That Feeds You — Literally.....	198
Food aggression .....	198
Dominance .....	199
Self-defense .....	200
Busting Loose: Kicking.....	200
Boxing Bunnies .....	201
Chowing Down .....	202
Digging In .....	203
Duking It Out .....	204
Pee Marks the Spot.....	205
Barbering .....	206
Shaking in His Bunny Boots: Fearfulness .....	206
<b><i>Part IV: Enjoying Your Fun Bunny .....</i></b>	<b>209</b>
<b>Chapter 14: Playing Around Isn’t Just for Dogs .....</b>	<b>211</b>
Getting Playful with Toys .....	211
Keeping safety first .....	212
Going prefab .....	213
Made from scratch.....	213
Tag! You’re It! Playing Games.....	214
Amusing Themselves .....	216
Making like The Pointer Sisters: Jumping.....	217
Tiny chariots of fire .....	217
Various and sundry other hijinks .....	218
<b>Chapter 15: Getting Hoppy with Your House Rabbit .....</b>	<b>219</b>
Clubbing It .....	219
Regional rabbit clubs .....	219
Signing up with the House Rabbit Society.....	220
Kid-friendly groups .....	220
Rescuing Rabbits .....	221
Being proactive .....	221
Halfway there: Fostering.....	222
Rabbit Hopping.....	222
Getting up to speed (and height).....	223
Taking the plunge .....	224
Putting on the sweatsuit: Training.....	224

Showing Rabbits .....	225
Considering pros and cons .....	226
Attending your first show .....	226
Taking the 4-H route .....	230
No relation to the Swedish band: ARBA.....	231

### **Chapter 16: Hitting the Road with Your Rabbit . . . . . 233**

Keeping Him at Home.....	233
Preparing your pet sitter .....	234
Going the professional pet-sitter route.....	235
Boarding your bunny.....	236
Traveling with Your Rabbit .....	237
Travel dos .....	237
Travel don'ts .....	239
Packing a mean bag .....	239
Carrier comfy.....	240
Bunny you can drive my car.....	241
Flying the unfriendly (for bunnies) skies.....	243
Being a law-abiding bunny .....	245
Staying at a Five-Carrot Hotel .....	245
Booking a reservation .....	245
Being a good guest.....	246

## ***Part V: The Part of Tens* .....** 247

### **Chapter 17: Ten Signs That Require Emergency Action . . . . . 249**

Blood in Urine .....	250
Diarrhea .....	250
Excessive Salivation .....	251
Poisoning .....	251
Heatstroke .....	252
Labored Breathing.....	252
No Stool.....	252
Pain.....	253
Injury .....	254
Bleeding.....	254
Broken bone .....	254
Burns .....	255
Paralysis .....	255
Head Tilt and Seizures .....	255
Sudden Weakness.....	256

### **Chapter 18: Ten Great Rabbit Web Sites . . . . . 257**

www.arba.net .....	257
www.binkybunny.com .....	258
www.bio.miami.edu/hare/etherbun.html.....	258

www.leithpetwerks.com .....	258
www.myhouserabbit.com .....	259
www.oxbowanimalhealth.com.....	259
www.rabbit.org.....	259
www.rabbitnetwork.org.....	260
www.rainbowsbridge.com.....	260
www.veterinarypartner.com.....	260
<b>Chapter 19: Ten Ways to Make Your Bunny's Day .....</b>	<b>261</b>
Get Fresh.....	261
Take a Peek.....	262
Get Fit.....	262
Breathe Some Fresh Air .....	262
Check on Health.....	263
Make Time for Playtime.....	263
Listen to Your Rabbit.....	263
Schedule Spa Time .....	264
Clean Up.....	264
Spend Quality Time .....	265
<b>Appendix: Rabbit Resources .....</b>	<b>267</b>
Educational Organizations .....	267
Veterinary Organizations .....	267
Activity Clubs.....	268
Rabbit Rescue Groups .....	268
Rabbit Publications .....	268
Rabbit Specialty Supply Outlets .....	269
Pet Loss Hotlines .....	269
Travel Guides .....	270
Pet-Sitting Associations .....	270
Pet-Shipping Options .....	271
Rabbit Registries.....	271
National Specialty Breed Clubs .....	271
<b>Index.....</b>	<b>275</b>