

Indoor Housing for Rabbits

By Debby Widolf

All rabbits love a special place of their own where they can retreat and yet still be a part of family life. Here are some guidelines to follow when considering housing for your bunny:

- Many rabbit cages are too small to provide humane housing. A rabbit's home or enclosure should be large enough for the rabbit to stretch out all the way, with the back legs extended times one.
- The home should be tall enough to allow the rabbit to stretch to his full length when standing on his hind feet.
- Provide a wooden shelf that the rabbit can hop up on. This gives your bunny a bit of exercise even when confined inside her home.
- The home needs to have an opening or door large enough for a litter box to pass through and for you to bring the bunny out of the house without injury.
- Wire bottoms are uncomfortable for rabbits and can lead to sore feet. If your rabbit's house has a wire bottom, cover at least half of it with Plexiglas, a wood platform, or washable towels or blankets. Consider getting a home with a solid metal or plastic tray bottom – it's healthier and more comfortable for your rabbit.
- Besides the litter box, you'll need to equip your bunny's house with a food dish, a ceramic bowl for water and lots of bunny toys. Even with all these items in his house, your bunny should still be able to stretch out comfortably.



One option for bunny housing is a dog pen. Pens provide spacious enclosures that have room for all the necessities, including toys and a wooden or cardboard house so your rabbit can “take a break.” One advantage of pens is that they can be easily moved from place to place. One note about pens: Some rabbits love to jump, so they may need a taller pen.



How elaborate you make your bunny's house is limited only by your imagination and your pocketbook. Many people create and build their own “bunny palaces.” There are companies that sell double- and triple-level condos with ramps connecting the floors. Whatever type of housing you choose for your bunny, make sure he gets supervised time outside his house to exercise and interact with you.

Debby Widolf is the manager of the Bunny House at Best Friends. She oversees the care of 110 rabbits and educates the public about the care and behavior of rabbits.