

Rabbit Relationships

Other Rabbits

Rabbits love the company of other rabbits. If you have one bunny, think about getting him or her a companion. Any combination of sexes (provided the rabbits are spayed or neutered) can work. Introduce your bunny to a variety of different companions, and let him or her choose his/her own mate. Mounting during bonding is common, but bonding should be stopped if one of the rabbits attacks the other.



Other Pets

Rabbits can get along great with other pets – but only with constant supervision. Cats, dogs and rabbits sometimes become good friends. Contrary to expectations, the rabbit is often quite dominant over the cat. Careful control of your dog is necessary, of course, during early introductions. You might not want to combine a rabbit with a dog with any predatory instincts. Rabbits and guinea pigs can play together, but they should be housed separately. There are a few combinations that are not recommended, however: a ferret and a rabbit (rabbits are considered prey to ferrets), and an aggressive bird and a rabbit.

Children

Rabbits prefer gentle, quiet environments. If you have a hectic, noisy family life, a rabbit may not thrive in your household. Rabbits should not be kept as pets for young children or as a way to teach a child responsibility. Don't ever use a rabbit (or any other pet, for that matter) as a reward or punishment. For example, don't give a rabbit as a gift to a child and then threaten to take the rabbit away when the child misbehaves. The end result may be that the child resents the rabbit and, in some cases, the child may harm the rabbit when the adult isn't watching.

All child/rabbit introductions should be supervised by a responsible adult. Rabbits have a fragile bone structure and can be fatally harmed by a clumsy child (or adult). The rabbit's nervous nature and delicate digestive system also make them highly unsuitable to be classroom pets.

This resource was compiled by Liz DiNorma of the House Rabbit Society and rabbit expert Cinnamon Gimness.