

Caring for your Rabbit

Your rabbit can have a long and healthy life if cared for properly using the guidelines below.

- Have your rabbit desexed (both male and female) around 4 months of age.
- Vaccinate your pet rabbit around 10-12 weeks of age for the Calicivirus (RCD) which occurs in wild populations and causes death. Pet rabbits should also be vaccinated for Calicivirus each year after the original vaccination.
- Rabbits have delicate skeletons and need to be handled with care. Ask your Veterinarian, pet shop owner or rabbit association for advice regarding diet, housing, grooming, exercise needs and correct handling.
- If you are no longer able to care for your rabbit, find it a good home and **do not dump it**.

Pet rabbits can be a problem if allowed to mix with wild populations as they interbreed and compete with native animals for food and shelter. Wild rabbits damage lawns, gardens and playing fields and destroy native vegetation by eating seedlings, cause erosion and their warrens may undermine houses.



Photo by Richard Ali

WHERE TO TAKE UNWANTED RABBITS

Porche's Small Animal Rescue, Thornleigh ph
9481 8517// 0403 155 810

Animal Welfare League, Ingleside ph 8899 3333//
9913 8731

R.S.P.C.A Animals Shelter, Yagoona ph 9770 7555

Some facts about *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (European Rabbit)

The European Rabbit is the ancestor of all domestic rabbits. These rabbits can breed year-round.

Pregnancy lasts 30 days and the average litter is 5-6 young (kittens). Young are weaned at 4 weeks of age, with the young attaining sexual maturity around 6-8 months, although they may breed from 4 months. The life of the rabbit depends on the breed and varies from 5-15 years.

(Tislerics, A. 2000. "Oryctolagus cuniculus," Animal Diversity Web, University of Michigan).

**This brochure was produced by the Urban
Feral Animal Action Group Sydney North.**