



The Strawberry Foundation

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Things To Keep In Mind When Adopting A Bunny

1. **Bunnies want to live in pairs** as they bond with one partner for life. Finding that right partner often isn't an easy task. Some bunnies are very choosy. Baby bunnies get along with most other bunnies, but this only lasts until their hormones set in. Adopting a bonded pair is often easier than trying to bond them at home.
2. **Decide on the set-up: indoors or outdoors.** Each bunny needs a **minimum of 3 square meter to run and play.** Wherever they stay, they need to be able to stay up on their hind legs and take 3 consecutive hops. They need proper shelter or cover from weather elements. If you want them to free roam the garden or house, they need to be big enough not to be caught by predator birds. If you want them to live in an enclosure, the enclosure needs to be big enough and cleaned often enough. A hutch is not good enough for a bunny to live in.
3. You'll need **litter trays, food and water bowls, toys and blankets.** You'll also need **proper food and hay** (please refer to our Feeding Guide).
4. **Bunnies need to be sterilised** as soon as possible by an exotic or bunny experienced vet. This can be costly (approximately R1200 for a male and R1500 for a female). Sterilising your bunny will prevent certain cancers, prevent unnecessary breeding, calm their hormones, prevent fighting and improve their potty-training. Males can be sterilised at 3 months old and females can be sterilised at 6 months old. In both cases they need to weigh a minimum of 1 kg. **NO BREEDING WILL BE TOLERATED** when adopting from The Strawberry Foundation.
5. **Bunnies are not good pets for small children** as they have fragile bones that easily fracture. Bunnies can get along with cats and dogs, but it depends on the hunting characteristics of your pets.
6. **Keep in mind that bunnies can live up to 10 years.** They might start out free or "cheap" but bunny care costs can easily add up.
7. **ADOPT – DON'T SHOP!** Find a rescue in your area instead of supporting pet shops that have unethical animal care practises.
8. The Strawberry Foundation has an adoption fee of R600 per bunny to cover the sterilisation.