

## Popular Article

**Rabbit Care and Management**Sundita Kumari<sup>1</sup>, Tarun Vaibhaw<sup>2</sup>, RSK Mandal<sup>1</sup>, Bipin Kumar<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup>Department of Veterinary Medicine, Bihar Veterinary College, BASU, Patna-14<sup>2</sup>Department of Extension Education, Bihar Veterinary College, BASU, Patna-14*\*Corresponding author: RSK Mandal, Email: dr.ravi0911@gmail.com***Introduction**

Rabbit care and management are essential for ensuring the well-being and longevity of these gentle, social animals. As pets, rabbits require proper attention to their housing, diet, health, and social needs. With the right environment and care, they can thrive and live healthy lives, often forming strong bonds with their owners. Proper care involves providing them with a balanced diet rich in hay, fresh vegetables, and the right supplements. Additionally, their sensitive nature means they must be housed in a safe, clean, and comfortable environment, free from extreme temperatures and predators. Managing rabbits also requires regular grooming, health checks, and providing opportunities for exercise.

**Clinical signs of illness**

Nasal secretion and eyes secretion, hair loss, red or inflamed skin, dark red urine, loss of appetite, energy, or weight, drooling, diarrhoea or no feces for longer than 12 hours, inability to hop or move properly, and breathing difficulties are all indicators of disease. When a rabbit is uncomfortable, it may squirm or grit its teeth while sitting. Discharge coming from the eyes or nose, loss of fur or red, inflamed skin, urine with a dark crimson colour, diminished vitality hunger and weight loss, abnormal breathing and diarrhoea or longer than 12 hours without stools, not jumping

or moving as usually require veterinary care immediately.

**Dental Care**

Over the course of a rabbit's life, all of its teeth, incisors, premolars, and molars grow. When a rabbit eats, the grinding action of contrary teeth often keeps tooth length in check. However, malocclusion, a condition in which the teeth are arranged irregularly in the jaw can lead to issues with growing teeth. Malocclusion, which causes both the incisor (front teeth) along with molars (back teeth, known as premolars and molars) to overgrow, is most likely the most prevalent hereditary illness in rabbits. Eating and drinking are difficult as a result of malocclusion.

Abscesses can occur when the tissue around a tooth becomes infected. Abscesses can result from a variety of factors, including foreign objects (typically plant material) lodged between the gum and tooth, cuts or sores that open up in the mouth from brushing against the sharp edges of poorly worn teeth, exposure of the pulp, the sensitive tissue inside teeth after tooth trimming, and other medical conditions or dietary issues. Usually, multiple teeth are impacted. To confirm the diagnosis, radiography (x-rays) or computed tomography (CT) scans are needed. A comprehensive dental examination is also necessary. It could be

necessary to extract the infected tooth. The likelihood of healing is low if many cheeks tooth need to be pulled, and abscesses frequently return even after tooth extraction.

## Management of rabbit

Proper handling, breeding, feeding, disease control, cleanliness, are example of good management techniques.

### 1. Handling of Rabbit

The rabbit is an active animal. To prevent it from becoming scared, it needs to be handled with care and gentleness. Typically, to lift a rabbit, one hand is used to grab the loose skin around the neck, and the other is used to hold the weight below the hindquarter. It is not appropriate to lift a rabbit by its ears. If necessary, the ears and the loose skin around the shoulder can be grabbed. Because it will keep trying to get out, careless handling or inadequate security could result in a fracture and other injuries. Its sharp claws could irritate the handler even when they are struggling. A young rabbit can be softly grasped by the loin while being carried in one hand.

### 2. Sanitation

In rabbit husbandry, careful cleanliness procedures are required. Through the spread of infectious microorganisms, poor or improper sanitation practices can result in a number of illnesses. Buildings need to have enough lighting and ventilation. Avoiding overcrowding is advised because many diseases are communicated by touch. It's possible that disinfection cannot provide complete security. However, action must be taken to reduce the spread of infection. In

cages with wire floors or solid floors, it is important to remove waste like as dung, leftover feed, soiled bedding, and nesting material on a regular and frequent basis, ideally daily. This is necessary to prevent the reproduction of flies and the spread of infection via them. Every day, waste needs to be taken out of the premises.

### 3. Transportation

Transport has a major role in small breeds such as rabbits. Due to their sensitive nature, rabbits are susceptible to long distance travel and climatic changes. Generally speaking, they are unable to handle the pressure and stress of an extended, nonstop flight. Young rabbits can be carried in crates or, similar to adults, in specially made travel cases that must be waterproof and resistant to light. Plywood bonded with resin is appropriate for this use.

### 4. Feeding

The rabbit is a true herbivore that consumes one to two meals every hour. It is also a coprophagous mammal. During the day, they excrete dry, hard pellets; at night, they generate softer, smaller pellets. The following categories can be used to group rabbit food items:

**A. Roughages:** These consist of hay, bamboo, banana and other similar materials.

**B. Greens:** Napier, para grasses, legumes, lucerne, berseem, clover, etc.; tubers: sweet potatoes, onions.

**C. Concentrate:** The majority of grains, meats, and agricultural industrial

byproducts.

**D. Compounds:** which are typically whole pelleted feed.

**E. Water:** Rabbit should always have access to fresh water, which should be replaced every day. Bacteria may thrive in an unclean water container. To prevent slanting, use a heavy bowl that is fastened to the side of the kennel or a water bottle.

### 5. Spaying /neutering

Spaying, which involves surgically removing the uterus and ovaries, is particularly crucial because it guards against Uterine adenocarcinoma a malignant tumor that affects 80% of female rabbits over the age of two and is a common cause of death. Once it has progressed quickly to other organs, this cancer cannot be treated. Spaying also protects from uterine conditions like endometritis (inflamed lining of the uterus), uterine aneurisms (blood clots in the uterus), and pyometra (infection of the uterus that causes pus to fill it).

In order to avoid a pregnancy in a home where males and females reside together, neutering would also be essential.

### 6. Environment:

A rabbit's cage should be built of metal or another durable material, provide space for a litter box as well as a comfortable sleeping place, allow the animal to stand on its hind legs without bumping their foreheads on the top portion of the cage, and be easy to clean. It is best to store cages in a cool, well-ventilated place. The cellar is not a good place to keep rabbit because

the humid conditions might lead to respiratory issues. The rabbit may die from heat stroke if the temperature is too high.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, proper rabbit care and management are key to ensuring a rabbit's health, happiness, and long life. Providing a suitable living environment, a balanced diet, regular grooming, and appropriate veterinary care are essential aspects of their well-being. By understanding and meeting their physical, social, and mental needs, rabbit owners can help their pets thrive.