



RABBIT DIET SHEET

In the wild, rabbits will predominantly feed on grasses. In captivity, hay or grass should make up the majority (>70%) of the diet, being essential to maintain gastrointestinal & dental health. A rabbit should eat its own body size in good quality hay a day.

Commercial pellets may also be fed as a small part of the diet. (Pellets are better than mixes to avoid selective feeding and obesity!) – feed dwarf and standard rabbits 1 tablespoon daily and Giant breeds 2 tablespoons of pellets daily MAXIMUM.

Vegetables and small amounts of fruit (not fruit high in simple sugar) may be fed twice daily. Please avoid avocado.

Never make any sudden changes to your rabbit's diet as this could upset its digestive system. If the rabbit's eating habits change, the number of droppings gets less or stops, or there are soft droppings sticking to its back end, the owner must talk to a vet straight away as it could be seriously ill.

Water should always be available for drinking from a water bottle or bowl. This should be changed daily and care should be taken to ensure this doesn't freeze if your rabbit is outdoors in winter.

Recommended dietary items to feed:

- Dandelion leaves
- Grass (freshly cut from the backyard)
- Celery
- Spring greens
- Cabbage
- Chickweed
- Rocket
- Various lettuces (avoid very light hearts: Romaine, Butter, Green leaf, Boston, Bibb)
- Chicory
- Spinach
- Peppers (green, red, yellow)
- Radish tops

- Pumpkin leaves

Dietary items to feed in small quantities (high in calcium)

- Alfafa hay (only when growing, < 6 months of age)
- Pellets or treats
- Clover
- Carrot tops
- Goosegrass
- Kale
- Broccoli
- Cauliflower
- Swiss Chard
- Beet greens
- Bok Choy

Good treats (small amount)

- Herbs (parsley, basil, mint, thyme, coriander, chamomile, sage, dill, lavender). Max 2 sprigs/week
- Slice or core of apple or pear
- Berries (blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, cranberries, strawberries). Max 2-4 per week
- Roses and rose leaves, nasturtium, carnation (with no chemicals)

Dietary items to avoid

- Human food (biscuits, bread, cereals, oats, rivita, weetbix, nuts)
- Avocado

Thank you to the Exotic Animal and Wildlife Service, Hospital for Small Animals, University of Edinburgh for the above information.