

Rabbit Diets

All you need to know



Types of hay

Oaten Hay:

The most common and readily available hay. Quality can vary from season to season depending on the rains. Expect to pay roughly \$10 for a 2kg bag or if you can, buy a bail for roughly \$15-\$20 for 16kg.

Bails must be stored in a sealed container or bin as it will attract mice and insects.

Timothy Hay:

An imported hay which is known for its lush colour. Good quality but more expensive.

Lucerne hay:

Not a true hay, Lucerne is a pea shrub that does not contain silica granules for dental health and is very high in calcium and protein which can cause urinary problems and gastric upset when fed in large quantities. Think of Lucerne as a special treat.

Treats and fruits

Fruits and berries are suitable as a treat 2-3 times per week. They are high in sugars and very appealing but bunnies are very prone to weight gain and holding off from their hay if they know they'll get treats if they make a fuss!

They can have in volume the equivalent of a quarter of an apple weekly. This may be equivalent to 8-12 cranberries or ¼ of a carrot.

Typical favorites:

- Apple
- Fresh banana or dried banana slices
- Cranberries
- Carrot
- Pear
- Nashi



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90% Hay

Give unlimited hay.

A good estimate is to give a handful of hay the same size as your bunny in the morning, top ups can be given if this is eaten by the evening.

Why Hay

Dental health:

Grass hay's have small glass-like particles called silica which are essential for wearing rabbits teeth appropriately. In order for both front and back teeth to be kept healthy hay needs to be kept in long strands. Chaff hay is hay but cut up into small pieces and is good for back teeth but does not wear front teeth.

Gastric Health:

The majority of absorbed energy and protein comes not from hay directly but from the fermented products of good digestive bacteria and the bacteria itself. Hay supports this population of bacteria. Feeding too much foods high in carbohydrates/sugars and or proteins causes bad bacteria to overgrow. The fermented products of these bacteria produce a potent acid that causes disease.



5% Pellets

Give 1tbsp morning and night.

It is highly recommended to feed a veterinary formulated veterinary diet such as **Vetafarm, Oxbow or Burgess**. These diets are designed to be used in conjunction with a predominantly hay diet and are formulated for the rabbits long term health.

Pellets containing hard corn, seeds, grains or mueslis are not recommended as these unbalance gut bacteria, can promote dental disease, chip teeth or lead bunny to not eat their hay.

Typical non veterinary brand muesli or pellet diets are formulated based on nutritional requirements for rabbits of the meat industry, these diets are designed for maximum weight gain and do not account for any hay or veggies being included in the diet.



5% Leafy Green Veggies

Give ½ a cup morning and night.

The staple veggies:

- Any Asian greens
- Kai Lan
- Yau Choy
- Baby spinach
- Broccoli

OK in small amounts:

- Carrot
- Kale
- Parsley
- Basil
- Mint

The Veggie Salad

The staple veggies should make up the bulk of the salad mix. It is recommended to slice up the leafy greens into roughly 3cm pieces and mix well.

