

## Enclosure Size

Minimum space requirements are to ensure your bunnies have enough space to exhibit natural behaviours such as binkies, jumps and zoomies. They also need enough space to provide adequate enrichment items such as blankets, tunnels, castles and toys as well as their staples which includes litter tray, food, water and bedding.

Below is an example of a well setup enclosure from our own Queen B (Bonnie). Bonnie's enclosure has a floor space of 3 x 1.2m (3.6m<sup>2</sup>), the hutch makes use of vertical space whilst still allowing the overall flooring to remain the same! Lots of enrichment items and space for play.



## Playpens

Playpens are ideal enclosures for bunnies who cannot be house roaming. For a single rabbit an eight panel playpen (60cm wide panels) is required and for a pair this should be extended to a twelve panel.

This is a minimum recommendation, ultimately the more space that can be provided the better the quality of life

The height of the playpen required depends on how high the bunny can jump. In most cases a 91cm high play pen is the most appropriate height.

See some below examples of enclosure setups. Playpens can be arranged in a variety of shapes, just make sure that bunny doesn't end up living in a narrow enclosure.



# Rabbit Housing

All you need to know



Little  
**PAWS** Rescue  
Perth

# Harsh Australian Environment

## Australian Climates:

Being a European species by origin, rabbits are not capable of dealing with the heat and rapid changes in climate seen in Australia. Rabbits do not sweat, they are not able to lose significant heat through their ears as some believe and the main way the feral rabbits in Australia cope is by burrowing several feet down where it is cool. Something our domestic rabbits are discouraged from doing.

## Prominent viruses:

Calicivirus (rabbit haemorrhagic disease) is transmitted by mosquitoes and is still being released by councils to control feral populations of rabbits. Several mutations have developed and some of these are so potent that even vaccinated rabbits are losing their lives from it.

Myxomatosis is the second prominent virus present in Australia and comes in waves every few years. It is a horrifically painful disease with no cure. Infected rabbits must be put to sleep to end their suffering. Again, this is transmitted by mosquitos.

## Australian wildlife and stray cats:

Domestic rabbits are often to the mercy of swooping magpies, roaming cats, local snakes and venomous insects, unable to flee their yard or enclosure.

# Indoor Bunnies

Rabbits, being a prey species are naturally wary. A rabbit that lives indoors with its family acclimatizes to the sounds and routines of people. This means when we live in what bunny considers to be his or her home, bunny then becomes familiar and less likely to be fearful of people - provided the experiences of the rabbit with those in its household are positive, i.e not being barked at, chased or grabbed roughly.

When a rabbit becomes acclimatized to living with the family, bunnies full array of behaviors' and individual personality is revealed - no two bunnies are exactly alike.

Rabbits allowed to settle in to a home can be playful, curious, affectionate and very entertaining. They may also be headstrong, willful, somewhat demanding - these are just the basic traits that rabbits exhibit when comfortable and living with their family and why so many have such endearing love for their bunnies personality.

The House Roaming Bunny is one that has free range of a room or several rooms of a house. Not all bunnies are suitable for this arrangement and it depends on the bunnies propensity to chew cords, timber skirting, carpets and its litter training.

Most rabbits are easily litter trained, however some do like to chew on things. Like with any animal, sometimes a little "house proofing" is necessary. Sometimes certain areas must simply need to be made 'off limits' to bunny.

# The Setup

Bunny will need a litter tray. A good litter tray is one that measures at least 35cm x 30cm and is 15cm deep to prevent bunny weeing over the side by accident.

Litter trays at Little PAWS Rescue have a whole newspaper on the bottom then one side has a few cups of Breeders choice recycled paper pellets and the other side has some hay. Placing hay in the litter tray encourages the rabbit to use the litter tray as bunnies often do their business while eating hay.

Bunny will need a castle, box, tunnel or some sort of hidey hole where he or she can retire to if it is wanting security or comfort, this will be bunnies 'safe place'.

Flooring should not be slippery, this may be difficult if the flooring is tiled or wood and it is recommended to lay a blanket, sheet, towels or a rug on the floor so bunny doesn't slip around.

Soft bedding should be provided, this could be a nice blanket or cushion for bunny to relax and rest on. Keep in mind bunny will likely 'love' its items by chewing and scratching at them so expect that your bunnies favorite things may be somewhat tattered after a while!

Fresh water is essential and should be changed daily, litter trays generally need to be cleaned every third day and a full enclosure clean is needed once a week.