

Cape Town Bunny Huggers

# Bunny 101



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# 29 Life Saving Bunny Facts

(the road map to a happy healthy rabbit)



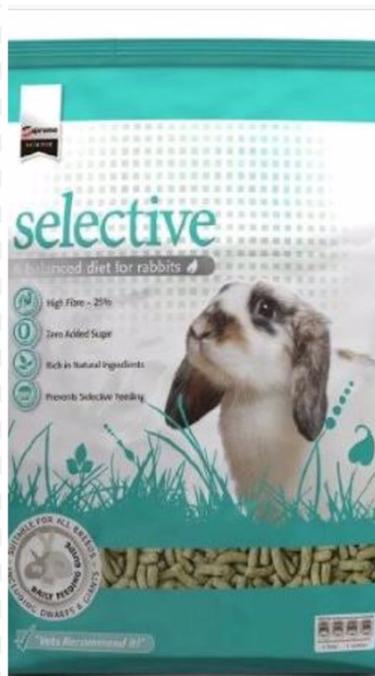
Hay! Hay! Hay! - Rabbits should not go without fresh hay for even one day. All

rabbits should have access to unlimited fresh grass-based hay: Oat hay (most common), teff aka eragrostis, mountain hay, meadow hay, orchard grass & timothy hay (hard to find in SA). Lucerne aka alfalfa is not a grass hay but rather a legume and should only be fed as a treat due to high calcium content. Eating enough hay will ensure a healthy digestive system (prevents intestinal issues and blockage). Bunnies that fill up on pellets, do not eat enough hay – check that your bunny is consuming at least it's body size in hay per day before introducing pellets. Sometimes it is necessary to take pellets away completely to encourage hay eating – your bunnies WILL beg for it, don't give in! They will learn to love their hay and will be happier & healthier for it. Do not mistake straw for hay. Although rabbits may eat straw, it has no nutritional value. An average rabbit's diet should consist of **unlimited hay and grass, 1-2 cups safe veggies/greens, 1-2 tbsp. quality, non muesli pellets, tsp. of occasional fruit/treats.**



Introduce new foods one at a time. Always introduce new food gradually to see if your bunny's system tolerates it. Stop feeding the specific food immediately if your rabbit's poop softens too much (diarrhoea). Only try something new once his stool is back to normal.

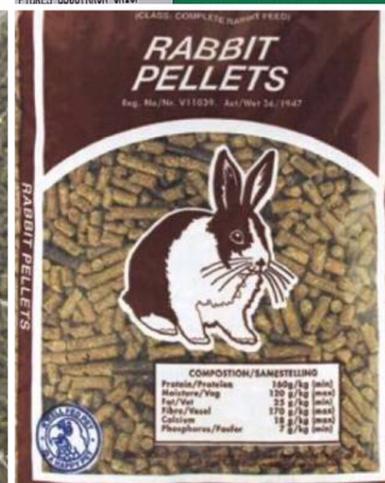
 Limit pellets and do not feed muesli mixes. Rabbits cannot properly digest corn, peas and seeds. Feeding these foods will jeopardize their digestive and dental health. In the long term it can shorten their life span. Muesli mixes also encourages selective feeding (picking out the good bits), which can lead to nutrient deficiency. Stick to the good stuff for a healthy happy bun. We highly recommend the following: **Burgess Excel Nuggets** (+- R300 p.pack), **Selective** (+- R150 p.pack) & **Verse Laga Crispy Snack** (+- R85 p.pack). If you are on a tight budget try Agri Pellets (buy in bulk), Bunny Chow, Perky Pets' or Marltons' plain brown pellets (+- R35 p.pack). Limit pellets to 2 tbsp. per day per bun.



**Please don't feed your rabbits an unhealthy muesli type food mix.**



**For a healthy diet - feed them pellets that are high in fibre**



 **Grazing on fresh grass is essential for dental health.** Rabbits' teeth are constantly growing and need to be worn down by their diet. Most people are under the impression that chewing on wood or mineral blocks wear the teeth down, but in actual fact letting your bun graze on fresh grass is the most effective way to ensure dental health. Grass contains silica which wears the teeth down. When buns eat grass they also grind opposed to chew. If you don't have a garden, plant some grass in a tray for your bun to nibble on.

 **Rabbits must never stop eating.** A rabbit's gut needs to constantly move or else he could get Gastrointestinal (GI) stasis where the digestive system completely shuts down. Rabbits are not like other animals that you only feed once or twice a day, they need to constantly eat. GI stasis is very serious and can be fatal. This is one of the reasons why hay should be available at all times.

 **NEVER submerge a rabbit in water.** Bunnies are self groomers like cats and should never be bathed. Its unnatural and stressful - they can go into shock and even die. If very dirty, use a damp cloth, or do a BBW (bunny butt wash). Many shops often sell bunny shampoo and related products - the only way we can vote against them is not to buy them and to educate others not to buy them. We really want to discourage people from bathing their rabbits. Even if you do find a bunny that tolerates it, its still stressful and not necessary. If your rabbit does get wet for any reason, be sure to dry him properly. Their fur is thick and doesn't dry well - this can cause skin conditions and illnesses. If your bun is heavily soiled with poop that has already dried around the genital area, you might need to have him shaved by a vet (under sedation).

 **Rabbits are not low maintenance pets and live up to 10 years.** Many people are under the impression that rabbits make great starting pets - this is not true. When you adopt a rabbit you need to be in it for the long run. Bunnies need a responsible carertaker who can ensure that: they follow the correct diet, they always have fresh water and hay available, they get enough run time, they are handled properly and carefully, they are acting normal and aren't hiding illness or pain, their litterboxes are clean, they are sterilized to prevent aggressive/hormonal behaviour, they are entertained and interacted with so that they do not go into depression. You also need to bunny-proof your home (or strictly supervise out-time) as they have a natural instinct to chew and sometimes dig.

 **Rabbits are not cheap pets.** In contradiction with what most people think, there are a lot of costs associated with owning a rabbit. Many bunnies have been rehomed due to people realising that they cannot afford their pets.

Costs to consider:

- Hay (R85 per bale),
- Greens/Veg (if R10 per day = R300 p/m) / Pellets (R35 – R300 per pack),
- Large enough cage / playpen / run (R1000+)
- Toys / blankets / litterboxes / treats / food & water bowls / emergency kit
- Vet bills: Chances are that you will visit the vet at least once a year, whether it is for teeth/ear/eye/general check up, digestive illness or sterilization. Vet consult (R170 – R300), Sterilization at a rabbit savvy vet (R650 – R1200), Dental or general surgery (R650 +).

 **Rabbits do not make ideal pets for kids, unless supervised by an educated adult at all times.** Rabbits have very fragile backs and when picking them up, you need to support their back as well as their hind legs - one big kick, while dangling in the air could leave your rabbit paralysed for life. Children's hands are too tiny to hold a rabbit properly, and it is advised to always let kids sit on the floor and interact with them. Rabbits also don't always come when they are called and this could provoke the wrong type of behaviour – a child trying to hold a rabbit down - or cause a child to lose interest in their pet, leaving it lonely, and stuck in a cage for the rest of its life. Rabbits have very sharp nails and teeth and when held down or threatened, will bite and scratch. Even people who are experienced with rabbits will tell you that they have probably been scratched on the chest more than once, by a rabbit that did not feel like being held at the time. The scratches are normally quite painful, and even a little nip (bite) could require a tetanus shot. Please only adopt a rabbit for a small child if you are going to be the main care giver, will ensure the proper diet is followed and can ensure that your children only interact with the rabbit under supervision. Rabbits have amazing personalities, but will only reward you with affection on their terms (much like a cat). What we can confirm though, is that it's totally worth the patience and effort.

 **Angora (long haired) rabbits need daily grooming:** If you have an Angora, please groom daily to avoid matts getting out of hand. When you don't groom enough, matts form and can be very difficult to remove without injuring your rabbit (in severe cases you might need to take your rabbit for a shave under sedation at a vet). Angoras also need to be shaved in the summer to avoid heat exhaustion (not under sedation, but at a rabbit-savvy parlour). You can also learn to groom your rabbit yourself. If you need tips on grooming, please ask our group members or check out our DIY videos on YouTube.



**Short haired rabbits also need grooming during moulting season.** All rabbits will shed hair during the change of seasons. Rabbits digest a lot of this hair when grooming themselves, which cause blockage of the digestive system (rabbits cannot vomit hairballs like cats do). Wet your hands - shake off most of the water and then run your fingers through your rabbit's fur, gently pulling out all excess hair. Do this a few times every day while your rabbit is moulting. You can use a pet brush too, but be careful, their skin is delicate so avoid brushing too much (don't want to brush out all of your rabbit's hair!)



**Trim nails regularly.** A rabbit's nails need to be trimmed regularly, or else they could get hooked and rip out - this is a very painful and bloody experience. Learn to look for the "quick" and trim them yourself with a dog nail cutter, or take your bun to a professional.



**Rabbits are social animals and need company.** Rabbits are much happier in bonded groups or pairs (I cannot stress this enough). Sterilized male/female pairs, female/female pairs or groups with 1 male and numerous females are normally the easiest match. Always remember that unbonded rabbits will fight viciously (till death), so read up on the introduction process first, before attempting a bonding session / bunny date. Hormones also play a massive role in aggressive/territorial behaviour which means sterilizing your bun is highly recommended before adopting a mate (also to prevent unwanted litters). [www.rabbit.org](http://www.rabbit.org) discusses bonding in detail (the most important key being neutral territory). It is also highly recommended to take your bunny on numerous dates and let him choose his own friend – this way you will have the best chance at a successful bond.



**Do not house rabbits with guinea pigs.** Eventhough they seem to tolerate each other, they cannot communicate. A rabbit can easily injure or kill a piggy if a fight occurred. They also have different dietary needs.



**Rabbits need run space - a hutch is not enough.** Rabbits need at least a few hours of runtime daily. They are not cage animals. Permanently living in a cage could cause depression and aggressive behaviour. Rabbits, like most animals, need exercise. To get this exercise ensure that your rabbit has access to a space large enough for them to reach full speed running and with enough room to do a couple of binkies. Think playpens or enclosed runs, or bunny proof an area of your house.

 **Sterilizing your rabbit is HIGHLY recommended.** Not only does it help prevent unwanted litters, it also reduces chances of cancer (which is very common in older females), and reduces aggressive and or territorial behaviour such as spraying and bad litter box manners.

 **Use a bun-savvy vet.** Rabbits are exotic animals and not all vets have the experience or knowledge to treat them. Refer to our list of bun-savvy vets or contact us for more info.

 **NEVER starve your rabbit (even before an operation).** Rabbits cannot vomit and therefore do not need to be starved before an operation. Also increasing the time your rabbit goes without food can cause GI Stasis and other tummy issues. It's important to let your rabbit eat right up until he is sedated, and also encourage him to eat as soon as possible after he awakes. If a vet tells you to starve your rabbit - run for the hills, because then he definitely isn't bun-savvy.

 **Rabbits do not handle heat well and do better in colder temperatures.** You need to keep your rabbit cool and hydrated in summer as they can die from heat exhaustion - anything from 26 Celsius and higher is a danger zone. There are many ways to keep your bunny cool, from ice bottles, to fans etc. Ask members for tips if you haven't done this before. Also if you have a long haired bunny (like an angora or jersey wooly) - have him/her shaved for the summer at a rabbit-savvy parlour.

 **A rabbit's digestive system is more similar to a horse's than any other animal.**  
(Explains the hay!) This is also why they need specialized vet care.

 **You can follow a pellet free diet, especially if your rabbit is overweight.** Many rabbits are so naughty for pellets that they don't eat their hay - if this is your rabbit - I would consider cutting out pellets completely, or just feed them as a treat or to reward good behaviour. You can substitute by feeding more greens.

 **Keep house plants away.** Many house plants are poisonous to rabbits, keep them out of your bun's reach. Better safe than sorry. Visit [www.rabbit.org](http://www.rabbit.org) for a more comprehensive list of safe plants, trees and flowers.

 **Do not feed your rabbit ICEBERG LETTUCE.** This is one of the most common mistakes that new bun owners make. Not only do iceberg lettuce have very little nutritional content, the water content is so high that it can cause diarrhea. There are varieties of better (more nutrient) alternatives.

 **Bored rabbits get naughty.** Keep your rabbit entertained with toys (the wooden parrot kind is normally fine as they are coloured with food colouring). Only use plastic toys made of hard plastic. Spice up the mix with different colours and textures. Use old rugs for your rabbits to dig on. Rabbits also love tunnels, places to jump on and holes to hide in (cardboard boxes work well if your rabbit doesn't chew and swallow the cardboard like mine do). Toilet rolls or paper towel rolls work very well, especially when stuffed with hay. Keeping your rabbit entertained is the best way to keep him from chewing your electrical chords.

 **Know your rabbit's poop!** Yes! Nothing gets a bun-mom as excited as her bun's first poop after illness or surgery. Your bun's poop is the best way to monitor his health. Rabbits have 2 types of stools – the normal round ones that they drop any- and everywhere, and caecotrophes (grapelike, squishy poo that they eat from their bum). Both are normal and it is important to know what they should look like. Caecotrophes are rarely seen (because your bun eats them), but when they are left behind, they are often mistaken for diarrhea. Real diarrhea is very rare in rabbits, but can be fatal. Healthy normal droppings should be: not too hard, not too soft, not too dark (darkness indicates lack of fiber/hay), not too small and perfect round shape, also not stringed together with hair. Poops that stringed together with hair indicates that you need to groom your rabbit more frequently to prevent excess hair from being digested.

NO POOP = VET EMERGENCY!

 **Rabbits can be litterbox trained (more perfectly so when they are sterilized).** To start with litterbox training, place the litterbox in the corner that your rabbit has chosen to do his business. We suggest using eco scentless wood pellets with a layer of hay on top. You can add a piece of toilet paper to the litterbox that has been used to wipe your bun's urine – this will show him that you want him to go there. Be persistent about throwing any odd droppings in the litterbox. Bunnies are creatures of habit and will most likely wee and poop in the same corner. Some buns even take to the litterbox itself, so if they roam in a different room and you put the litterbox down, they will still use it. For some rabbits it takes more effort. If you are struggling it is best to start small (in a cage or playpen) and then let your rabbit “earn” more space as his litterbox habits improve. Sometimes it is necessary to have more than one litterbox, especially in large rooms. Once they've learned the habit they will hardly ever urinate outside the litter box. Just remember that unsterilized rabbits will probably mark territory due to crazy hormones – this means that they may still leave droppings and spray urine all over the place - best to get them sterilized, it helps with the manners.



**White vinegar magic.** Clean litterboxes and urine stains on plastic with white vinegar. Not only does white vinegar work like a charm, it dries odourless and is completely bunny safe. Directions: Spray area with vinegar, let it soak for a while, scrub with a little water and dish washing liquid if necessary, rinse and voila! For soft furnishings sprinkle the area with BiCarb first, let it soak up the liquid and dry. Use white vinegar afterwards.



**House rabbits cannot survive in the wild.** While many people feel that they are doing their pets a favour by “setting them free”. Statistics show that a domesticated rabbit will only survive an average of about 3 - 4 days in the wild. These domesticated pets mostly end up killed by vehicles, or caught by predators. If you can no longer take care of your pet, put him up for adoption on our rehome page and give him a new chance at life. No animal deserves to be left in a box in the wild.



**If your rabbit stops eating and/or pooping it is vet time!** Rabbits are prey animals and it is natural for them to hide any illness or pain. The most common symptom of illness would be if your rabbit seems lethargic (out-of-it), not himself and/or when a rabbit stops eating/pooping or refusing treats. At this point it normally means the issue has already progressed and it is time to see a vet immediately - DO NOT WASTE TIME. Rabbits commonly suffer from tummy gas/bloat/gastrointestinal (GI) stasis, which can be fatal if not treated. GI stasis can also be a secondary symptom of a more serious underlying cause, like infection. Always keep an emergency kit at home and know who your closest rabbit savvy vet is (as well as after hours). Bunnies tend to get sick on weekends or late evenings when all the vets are closed.

# Diet: Basic Bunny Safe Food List

An average rabbit's diet should consist of **unlimited hay and grass, 1-2 cups safe veggies/greens, 2 tbsp. quality, non muesli pellets, tsp. of occasional fruit/treats** in order to maintain healthy teeth and a healthy digestive system.

Always introduce new foods gradually to see if your bunny's system tolerates it. Stop feeding the specific food immediately if your rabbit has runny poop. Only try something new once his stool is back to normal

Here is a basic safe food list to get you started:

## **Grass Hay types available in SA** (feed unlimitedly):

Oat hay, teff (aka eragrostis), mountain hay, meadow hay, orchard grass. Do not mistake straw for hay – straw has no nutritional value (is dry and yellow). Lucerne (aka alfalfa) is not a grass hay but rather a legume and should only be fed as a treat due to high calcium content.

## **Safe veggies/ greens** (1-2 cups per day)

Basil, Mint, Coriander, Rosemary, Thyme, Fennel, Oregano, Sage, Lavender, Carrot Tops, Dandelion leaves & flowers, Roses/Hibiscus flowers (watch out for pesticides), Lettuce (dark green/red leaf – avoid iceberg)

## **Treats** (1 tsp per day)

Remove all SEEDS before feeding, except strawberries:

Apple, Pineapple, Strawberry, Banana, Raisins, Carrot, Grapes, Papaya, Watermelon, Mango

## **Recommended (good quality) pellet brands** (2 tbsp. per day)

Burgess Excel Nuggets (+- R300 p.pack)

Selective (+- R150 p.pack)

Verse Laga Crispy Snack (+- R85 p.pack)

## Budget Pellets:

Agri feeds (buy in bulk), Perky Pets or Marltons plain brown (+- R35 p.p)

Young rabbits (under 6 months) are still developing and have different dietary needs - their diet needs to be adjusted as follows: Unlimited alfalfa (aka lucerne) for bone development, increase pellet allowance and add rolled oats to the diet for weight gain. Babies that were separated from their mother too soon (4-7 weeks of age) need to be supplemented with kitten milk (powder available at most vet shops) and protexin.

# How To Tell If Your Rabbit Is Ill Or In Pain

Most rabbits hide their symptoms well and by the time you realize your rabbit is sick, it may be almost too late - DO NOT WAIT, take immediate action!

Symptoms often include one or more of the following:

- loud teeth grinding
- sitting hunched up,
- laying with tummy pressed against the floor,
- bloating,
- unsocial behaviour – hiding in a corner refusing to come out,
- refusing treats or favourite foods,
- not eating,
- not drinking,
- acting lethargic,
- aggression (towards you or his bonded mate),

any odd behaviour that seems “off”

## Know Your Rabbit's Poop

Nothing gets a bun-mom as excited as her bun's first poop after illness or surgery. Your bun's poop is the best way to monitor his health. Rabbits have 2 types of stools – the normal round ones that they drop any- and everywhere, and caecotrophes (grapelike, squishy poo that they eat from their bum). Both are normal and it is important to know what they should look like. Caecotrophes are rarely seen (because your bun eats them), but when they are left behind, they are often mistaken for diarrhea. Real diarrhea is very rare in rabbits, but can be fatal. Healthy normal droppings should be: not too hard, not too soft, not too dark (darkness indicates lack of fiber/hay), not too small and perfect round shape, also not stringed together with hair. Poops that are stringed together indicates that you need to groom your rabbit more frequently to prevent excess hair from being digested.

NO POOP = VET EMERGENCY!

## CAECOTROPHES – THESE ARE NORMAL AND HEALTHY

This is what caecotrophes look like - yes, they need to eat these straight from their bum for nutrients. Normally you barely see them, but if you do...don't freak out. If your bun leaves excess caecotrophes behind, it could mean he is overweight and can't reach to eat them.



## NORMAL POOP OF A HEALTHY BUNNY

Perfectly round balls. Soft enough to squash easily between your fingers – not sticky. Not too dark of colour (dark indicates a lack of fiber). No excess hair. Should consist of mainly fine hay/grass.



## STRINGY POOP - NOT SO HEALTHY

You need to help your bun digest less hair by grooming him more. Dampen your hands and slide gently over your bun's body while collecting loose hair. Rubber kitchen gloves also work like a charm. Poops that look like this can send your bun into GI stasis if not attended to.



DISCLAIMER: The advice given below is not meant to replace proper vet care. We are not medical professionals - we have compiled this list of guidelines to keep your rabbit comfortable and as pain free as possible until you are able to visit a proper rabbit savvy vet (see our vet list).

## Home Emergency Kit

- **Warm water bottles / blankets / electric pad:** A sick rabbit's temperature drops quickly, keep him warm and comfy. Just make sure that it's not too hot as he may not feel up to moving away from the heat while he is ill.
- **Treats:** Tempt your bun with his favourite treats to encourage eating. This is also how most owners pick up that their rabbit is ill – refusing a favourite treat is very uncommon for a healthy rabbit and this is normally the first sign to look out for.
- **1ml / 3ml / 5ml Syringes:** (without the needles). Have a look at some YouTube videos on how to syringe feed – ALWAYS insert the syringe from the side of the mouth (behind the front teeth), to prevent accidentally squirting food/liquid into your rabbit's airway (choking hazard!)
- **Apple / carrot / banana purity:** Syringe feed 3-5ml every hour if your bunny is not eating to keep the gut from shutting down.
- **Chamomile tea:** Keep your rabbit hydrated with water/chamomile or rooibos tea/apple juice. Chamomile is a good choice as it also manages pain (a little) and has calming effects.
- **Rescue remedy drops:** Keep your rabbit calm by dripping 3 drops on each ear. (Also works well for travelling, bonding and or any other stressful activities)
- **Devils claw herbal drops** (assists with pain management): Available at most health shops, or Dis-chem. Most prescription pain killers can only be given once every 24 hours. These drops can be given much more frequently and will help the bun pull through until his next prescribed medication dose. Safe to give along with prescribed painkillers. Syringe feed 4 drops (0.1ml) every hour for 3 hours, and then 3 hourly.

# Prescription Drugs

Get these from your vet to keep at home in case of emergency. Most dosages depend on your rabbit's weight. Ask your vet to write down the dosage for each of your rabbits on the bottle. If you have the meds, but not the dosage and cannot contact your vet, at least contact one of our admins or knowledgeable members to assist, rather than guessing. Overdosing could be fatal.

- Clopomon aka Metoclopramide (a gut motility drug): Keeps the gut working to prevent GI stasis. Very important for rabbits that have stopped eating/pooping. Dosage is normally repeated every 12 hours.

- Cisapride: This is clopomon's big brother. More effective and normally used in more serious cases.

- Petcam aka Metacam (painkiller): In many cases providing a rabbit with pain relief is the first step towards recovery. Make sure that you know how to read your rabbit's body language – how to tell when your rabbit is in pain. Dosage is normally repeated every 24 hours.

- Baytril or Enrovet (anti biotic): Rabbits are prone to infections which are normally treated with a course of anti biotics. Some rabbit owners give anti biotics straight away (preventatively) when they suspect a sick rabbit.

**Always remember to tell your vet which meds you have already given and when.**

# Rabbit Savvy Vet List

DISCLAIMER: Our vet list is still under construction - if no specific vet is named, you need to request the clinic's exotic/small animal veterinarian. Although we do our best to only recommend rabbit savvy veterinarians on our list, we (admins) have not personally visited each of these clinics/hospitals. We rely mostly on the recommendations of our group members. Should you for any reason feel that one of the institutions should be removed from the list, please contact us so we may investigate.

## WESTERN CAPE

### Cape Town

**Dr. Bernice van Huyssteen** @ Panorama Vet - 021 930 6632

(MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED RABBIT SAVVY)

Runs the exotic clinic, with a special interest in rabbits.

1 Uys Krige Drive, Panorama

Mon - Fri 07:00 - 19:00 / Sat 08:00 - 17:00.

Open 24-hour for emergencies

**Dr. Cathy Wahl** - 021 434 5475

Specializes in Small Animal/Exotic Surgery

86 High Level Road, Sea Point

**Dr. Kim Tutt** @ Cape Animal Medical Center (24 hours) - 021 674 0034

Eye Specialist & Small Exotics

Rosemead Avenue, Kenilworth, Southern Suburbs

**Dr. Vanessa Persson** @ Observatory Animal Clinic - 021 447 1331

Has worked with rabbits in the UK

156 Lower Main Road, Observatory

Mon - Fri 09:00-17:30 / Sat 09:00-12:00

### Helderberg

**Dr. Ingrid Lester** @ Somerstrand Vet Clinic - 021 853 8963

Recommended rabbit savvy vet in Helderberg area.

Shop 8, Little Greece, George Street, Strand.

Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri: 08:30 -10:30 & 16:00 - 18:00

Wed: 16:00 - 18:00 only / Sat: 09:00 - 12:00

Cost: Check-up ±R170,

Special rate on bunny sterilizations: Neuter ±R600 / Spay ±R750

# Rabbit Savvy Vet List

## GAUTENG

### Pretoria

**Dr. Jaco Jacob** @ Val De Grace Animal Clinic - 012 804 8901

Not listed as an exotic vet, but brilliant with rabbits.

75 Watermeyer Street, Val De Grace, Pretoria

Tel: 083 251 8484 (Emergency)

[info@valdegrace.co.za](mailto:info@valdegrace.co.za)

**Dr. Amy Newham** @ Elarduspark Animal Clinic - 012 345 2161

838 Barnard Street, Elarduspark, Pretoria

[epvet@telkomsa.net](mailto:epvet@telkomsa.net)

**Pierre van Ryneveld Animal Clinic** – 012 662 2502 / 0279 / 1845

888 Van Ryneveld Ave, Pierre van Ryneveld, Pretoria / Centurion

[pvrvet@telkomsa.net](mailto:pvrvet@telkomsa.net) / [www.pierrevanryneveldvet.com](http://www.pierrevanryneveldvet.com)

### Sandton

**Dr. King** @ Parkmore Vet Clinic – 011 883 4746 / 2107

124, 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Parkmore, 2196

[parkmorevet@mweb.co.za](mailto:parkmorevet@mweb.co.za)

## KZN

### Durban

**Kloof Village Veterinary Clinic** – 031 764 0588

2 St. Mary's Road, Kloof, Durban

[www.villagevet.co.za](http://www.villagevet.co.za)

Also stocks rabbit food. Not available after hours

**Riverside Veterinary Clinic** – 031 563 6565/6

62 Soofie Saheb Drive, Durban North, Durban

[vet@riversidevet.net](mailto:vet@riversidevet.net) / [www.riversidevet.net](http://www.riversidevet.net)

Also stocks rabbit food and hay. Not available after hours

**Westville Veterinary Hospital** – 031 267 8000

31 Jan Hofmeyr Road, Westville

[www.westvet.co.za](http://www.westvet.co.za)

Also stocks rabbit products.

# Rabbit Savvy Groomers

Grooming includes brushing, trimming and or shaving of long haired bunnies and nail clipping. (Short haired buns only need a little brushing in moulting season)

## WESTERN CAPE

**Jeni's Pet Parlour** (Jen van Litsenborgh) - 021 685 2982  
Newlands

**Happy Tails** (Louise Basson) - 076 742 5130  
Shop 2, Happy Tails, Cape Garden Centre (Luculles Road), Joostenberg vlakte  
<http://www.dog-care-centre.com/About-us.html>

## Durban

**Bunville Rabbit Rescue** (Samantha Lee) – 061 974 0592  
Hillcrest, Westville, KZN  
Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BunvilleRabbitRescue/timeline>

or alternatively...

## **Do it yourself**

Checkout these awesome DIY YouTube videos by our members, Caitlin and Krysia:

How to groom your angora

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fY9tx9ZdsPY&feature=youtu.be>

How to cut your rabbit's nails

<https://youtu.be/UOiOEh18oHI>

How to trim your angora

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAC68CVx4iA&feature=youtu.be>

# Bunny Accommodation (Sitters / Boarding / Hotel)

DISCLAIMER: Although we do our best to only recommend knowledgeable bun-sitters, we (admins) have not personally visited and vetted their premises/services. The following institutions were recommended on the group by members, but we still advise each bun owner to personally visit the institution and decide for themselves whether they are satisfied with the living space, care givers and services offered before booking their rabbit for a stay.

## WESTERN CAPE

- **Pet Buddies** (Claira Hills) - 072 740 7352 / 021 782 9299

Fishhoek

<http://www.petbuddiesfishhoek.co.za>

- **Happy Tails** (Louise Basson) - 076 742 5130

Joostenberg vlakte

<http://www.dog-care-centre.com/About-us.html>

- **Lexi Minutelli** – 082 739 2859

Kenilworth

- **Blaise Canham** - 079 398 2404

Table View

- **Jolandie Elizabeth Hagan** – 073 067 2212

Bothasig

## GAUTENG

- **Viam's Bunny Hotel** – 081 537 1093

Sophia Street, Fairland, Randburg

## KZN

- **Bunville Rabbit Rescue** (Samantha Lee) – 061 974 0592

Hillcrest, Westville, Durban

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BunvilleRabbitRescue/timeline>

Alternatively post to our group and find out if any of the members can possibly bun-sit for you.

## Custom Hutches and Playpens

These 2 businesses have been tried and tested by our members. Both come highly recommended and have been recognized to offer value for money.

### WESTERN CAPE

**Galvanized steel / wire products / panels / cages / playpens (can custom make too)**

Johan Groenewald @ Pet Creations, Somerset West - 079 314 6351 /

[johan@petcreations.co.za](mailto:johan@petcreations.co.za) / <http://www.petcreations.co.za/>

**Wooden Bunny Hutches and Runs / Chicken Coops (can custom make too)**

Deon Wuister – 084 811 0820

[deon-w@mweb.co.za](mailto:deon-w@mweb.co.za)

## Another Informative (Bunny) Website

### The House Rabbit Society Website

For a good read, visit [www.rabbit.org](http://www.rabbit.org) - this is very interesting website, covering many of the aforementioned aspects in detail. We also refer members to this website to read up on rabbit introductions and bonding.

# Join the Cape Town Bunny Huggers (Official Group)



Join our interactive support group to learn more about rabbit care: share pics, links & general rabbit information, download our care guides and recommended vet list, take part in discussions and share your experiences - learn to be the best bun-parent you can be.

## Our Contact Details

Facebook link to our official Cape Town Bunny Huggers Group:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ctbunnyhuggers>

E-mail: [ctbunnyhuggers@gmail.com](mailto:ctbunnyhuggers@gmail.com)

### Emergency contacts (Admins):

Please keep telephonic contact limited to emergencies only as we unfortunately do not have the capacity to answer all queries individually – please post general questions to the group ☺

Nicci Posthumus 078 039 2041 • Krysia Wells-Stoddard 072 260 7240  
Lyn Holm 084 626 8696 • Katherine Morse 074 976 7097  
Jen Gough Pike 061 9899242

Unfortunately rabbits are often seen as disposable pets that people dump, neglect or abandon. In many cases they are also left, irresponsibly, to reproduce litter after litter. There are so many bunnies in need of homes (even babies).

Be part of the solution - **Adopt Don't Shop.**

Our group strongly supports and encourages this initiative.

## Where can I adopt a bunny?

Here is a list of organizations who always have bunnies in need of homes and/or fosters:

### WESTERN CAPE

#### - **The Cape Town Bunny Huggers Rehome Page**

Support our rehome page. We created the Cape Town Bunny Huggers Rehome Page to help network rabbits in need of homes and/or lost and found bunnies. Our page is mainly Cape Town based, but we do get posts from Gauteng or Durban as well.

Make a difference by adopting a bun in need of a loving home.

Facebook Page Link: <https://www.facebook.com/ctbunnyhuggersrehome>

#### - **Blaise Canham (Table View)**

079 398 2404

Private Rescue for Bunnies, Guinea Pigs & Rats

#### - **Michelle Du Toit (Constantia)**

082 780 3955

Barefoot Rescue – Private rescue for Bunnies and other animals.

Facebook Page Link: [https://www.facebook.com/pg/BarefootRescuers/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/BarefootRescuers/about/?ref=page_internal)

#### - **Dominique Roberts (Travels between Ceres and Cape Town)**

083 522 7440

Takes in and rehomes bunnies that we cannot find fosters for due to overflow of rescues.

### GAUTENG

#### - **The Little Critters Rescue Club (Lauren Namer) – Sandton / Riverclub**

072 731 7397 / E-mail: [lauren.namer@iburst.co.za](mailto:lauren.namer@iburst.co.za)

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LittleCrittersRescueClub/?fref=ts>

#### - **The Lonehill Bunnies (Cristina Botef) - Johannesburg**

082 888 5895 / E-mail: [cbotef@gmail.com](mailto:cbotef@gmail.com)

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/lonehillbunnies/?fref=ts>

### KZN

#### - **Bunville Rabbit Rescue (Samantha Lee) – Durban**

061 974 0592

Hillcrest, Westville, KZN

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BunvilleRabbitRescue/timeline>

