



# RABBITS & CHILDREN

## *Is my child ready for a bunny in the home?*

If your child is psychologically mature enough, a bunny can enrich family life and help children to learn important lessons of caring, loving and respect of animals. If a bunny is introduced too soon for the child, this addition can be detrimental to families as well as the bunny. If your child is calm, easy going, gentle and cooperative you might be ready for a bunny!

Here are a few things you should be aware of when introducing a rabbit into the family:

### **CHILDREN CAN LOVE TOO STRONGLY.**

Bunnies, especially small ones, are fragile animals. Simply hugging a bunny too tight can break their backs.

### **BUNNIES DON'T LIKE BEING HELD.**

Children love to carry the things they love with them. As cute as it is, most rabbits hate being held and will take any opportunity to get back down to the ground where they prefer to be. Mishandling is one of the largest causes of rabbit injuries. Instead of picking up the bunny, children should sit calmly next to a bunny and give pets.



## BUNNIES SHOULD NEVER LIVE IN A CHILD'S BEDROOM.

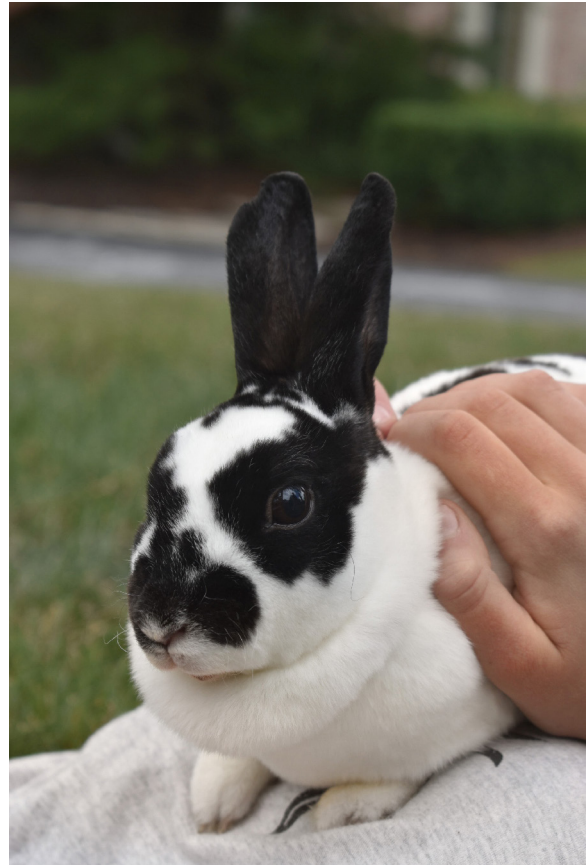
Rabbits thrive when they can be a part of the family in the main living space. Rabbits are also coprophagous and they need to chew at all times. Simply put, whomever's bedroom they live in, won't sleep a wink.

## ADULTS SHOULD ALWAYS BE THE PRIMARY CARETAKER.

Rabbits are a big responsibility and require consistent attention throughout their life. A child's attention span is short and proper bunny care takes a lot of time and knowledge.

## TEACH THE FOUR BASIC BUNNY RULES.

1. Gentle petting
2. Leave the rabbit alone when he hops away or goes in his cage.
3. Don't touch droppings and litter.
4. We pet, but don't pick up the rabbit.



*An article from House Rabbit Society*  
<https://rabbit.org/faq-children-and-rabbits/>

