

# Rabbits

## Instinctive Behaviors

- When threatened or frightened, rabbits will vocalize their disapproval. They might also scratch or bite to show they don't like something.
- If a rabbit is happy, they will do the same thing everyday and if they don't then their mood is off.
- Digging, jumping, scent marking, and postures.
- (Most behaviors linked back to their ancestors' lifestyles).
- They will hide their injury or disease.
- Rabbits will run, jump into the air, twist their body and flick their feet to show joy.

## Learned Behaviors

- Teaching your rabbit to do certain things such as: the action for "I want a pet," or "I give up, just pick me up."
- They will learn how to build a home and to learn what to eat.
- Training your rabbit: you can train them to do mostly anything you want them to do. You just have to do the right things to make them learn. You have to reward them when

they do it right, or you can reteach them if they do something wrong.

### Additional Resources

- <http://myhouserabbit.com/rabbit-behavior/>
- <http://www.rabbitwise.org/behavior.html>
- <http://www.ahwla.org.uk/site/tutorials/BVA/BVA08-Rabbit/Rabbit.html>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDx\\_bEsC\\_Lk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDx_bEsC_Lk)

### Handling Procedure

- Hold rabbits gently but firmly.
- Place one hand to support their back and hind-legs at all times.
- NEVER pick up a rabbit by the ears! It is very stressful on them and can injury them.

### To Restrain a Rabbit:

- Approach the rabbit slowly.
- Grasp the rabbit's scuff.
- While supporting the bottom of the rabbit with your other hand.
- Then cover the rabbit's eyes.