You Will Need...

A positive and calm attitude

- Time
- Lots of patience
- Ability to supervise at all times

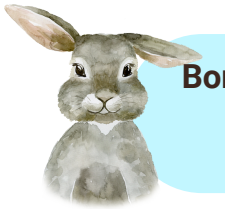


Protection

- Oven mitts or thick gloves
- Dust pan to place in between rabbits to stop scuffles / chasing / fights etc.

Neutral Ground

- An unclaimed area that is neutral and new to the rabbits. Consider using a bathroom, the garage, or an area they do not explore.
- If your rabbit has been free roaming and 'owns' everywhere, you'll need to limit their access to these areas for at least two weeks prior to introductions. Make sure you clean the area thoroughly with vinegar to get rid of any scents.
- An area that can be sectioned off with an X-Pen otherwise you may have escaping rabbits!



Bonding can take a long time and takes a lot of dedication. It's unlikely you'll experience "love at first sight"!

Struggling? Reach out to us at admin@vifluffle.ca and we can offer guidance and support!

VI Fluffle

Educate • Support • Advocate



Bonding THE BASICS

Informational Brochure

"BONDING" RABBITS IS THE PROCESS OF RABBITS BECOMING PARTNERS SAFELY

Rabbits are naturally social animals. They are also very territorial! Introducing rabbits to one another is a process that requires time, dedication and patience.

RABBIT HEALTH

Rabbits should be spayed and neutered before any bonding process begins or it could end poorly. The rabbits should be in good health, with no communicable disease. **If your rabbit has a long-term health condition that affects movement, for example, then take this into account when looking for partners.

WHERE TO START

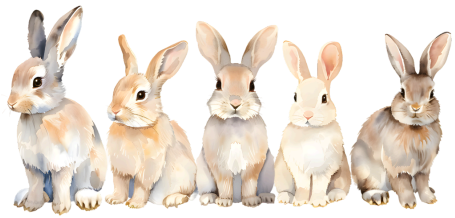
It's best to let your rabbit choose their partner. This may save some time and effort in the long run. At VI Fluffle we are happy to support this process, by offering bunny speed dating! Housing your rabbits next to each other in seperate expens allows them to get used to the smell and sight of each other before moving to the step below. It is important to keep the expens far enough apart to avoid any nipping.

Positive association is important to start the bonding process

Place the rabbits in a small area right next to each other and offer treats, praise and pets. The area should be small enough that they are essentially squashed together, unable to start any trouble! (Laundry baskets work great for this!)
Do this at least twice for 10 minutes before moving to neutral ground (read on for more info!)

POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS

- Ignoring each other
- Self-care such as grooming and washing their faces.
- Mirroring - one rabbit will do something and then the other rabbit will follow suit.
- Eating hay
- Foraging
- Flopping / Loafing
- Sniffing one another
- Sleeping
- Grooming one another



NEUTRAL AND NORMAL BEHAVIOURS

- Thumping - offer calm reassurance
- Ignoring one another

MONITOR: INTERVENE AFTER 20 SECONDS

- Chasing
- Fur pulling
- Mounting (humping!) - a dominance behaviour

STOP IMMEDIATELY
USE A DUST PAN IF THERE IS:

- Lunging
- Boxing
- Fighting





To avoid being bitten we suggest no to use your hands to break up fights.