

POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS

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

- Lunging
- Boxing
- Fighting



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 and patience.



RABBIT HEALTH

- The rabbits should be fixed. This means that female rabbits (does) should be spayed and male rabbits (bucks) should be neutered.
- 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(s). This may save a lot of time and effort in the long run. At Flying Fur we are happy to support this process. Book an appointment for a bunny playdate!

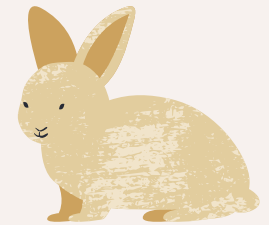
Positive association is important to start the bonding process

- 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!)

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 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.
- An area that can be sectioned off with an X-Pen otherwise you may have escaping rabbits!



Bonding can take a long time. Do not be discouraged. 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!