

# CANBERRA RABBIT CLUB



## PET RABBITS



There are numerous **benefits to having a pet rabbit**. For example, rabbits do not bark, jump the fence, intrude onto your neighbour's property or annoy people in various other ways. In the past, pet rabbits were underrated but since then their status and popularity has steadily grown and continues to increase.

Rabbits are **quiet and easy to care for**. Their basic needs are very easy to provide. They will live happily either inside as an indoor pet or outside in a sturdy cat and dog proof hutch. People are pleasantly surprised about certain characteristics of a bunny, as many will automatically use a kitty litter tray, follow you around, are cheeky, curious and funny. Pet rabbits are friendly and affectionate particularly when treated with loving-kindness they will gladly return your devotion.

Rabbits are **inexpensive to keep**. They have a basic diet of rabbit pellets, which are readily available from produce stores, supermarkets and pet shops. Supplement pellets with meadow, oat or barley hay and a selection of many varieties of vegetables, grass, weeds and small quantities of fruit. Most reputable breeders will provide you with a written feeding guide at the time of purchase or members of the Canberra Rabbit Club will provide any advice you need.

Rabbits make **wonderful companions** for people of all ages. They will sit and watch TV with you, play happily and amusingly (under supervision) either inside or out, trainable to do tricks or just available for a cuddle when you need one. Scientists are discovering that pet owners suffer less health problems than people who don't have any pets and our rabbits are also valued in "pets as therapy" programmes.

Once you decide that a rabbit is the right pet for you, consider which breed of rabbit you would like. Each breed of rabbit has its own particular 'look' and 'personality'. The best person to advise you about the traits of a pedigree rabbit is an experienced breeder and will also offer you on-going advice on feeding and caring for your rabbit. If you are looking for a rabbit, a good starting point is at a **Rabbit Show**. The Canberra Rabbit Club host six rabbit shows a year. A week before a show we advertise in the Pet section of the Canberra Times or you may request details from committee members listed below. It is also worth coming to a show to see displayed in the one venue a good representation of the variety of pedigree rabbits available in the Canberra region.

You may also like to show your pet rabbit. When purchasing your rabbit, talk to the breeder about the qualities necessary to show your rabbit in the 'rung' rabbit section. If you want your rabbit/s to participate in that section, it is necessary for them to wear a leg identification ring. There is also a pet section (no ring necessary) in each show with lots of fun categories like: Best Pet Rabbit, Cutest Baby, Best Fancy Dress, Fastest Eater, Most Like Owner and much more!

For additional information about pedigree rabbits and where to acquire the breed/s that appeals to you, contact one of the following committee members:

Christine ph 62315862, Sharyn ph 64527568, Susan 0409982364, Nola ph 62314520  
or Sue ph 62317992

Please enjoy browsing our website:

<http://www.home.netspeed.com.au/reguli/rabbitclub.htm>

The CRC website has a splendid collection of photos in 'CRC Hall of Fame' or 'Rabbit Breeds & Colours', a 'Breeder's Directory' plus many informative articles on bunny care as well as a list of our show dates throughout the year.