



Feeding Your Rabbit

The digestive system of the rabbit is adapted for a fibrous diet and a high fibre diet is essential for their bowel to function. Hay and grass should be the basis of a rabbit's diet. A diet of exclusively 'rabbit food' will lead to obesity and dental problems. Rabbit foods typical of those found in pet shops, in the form of mixtures of cereals and pellets are convenient, but often too low in fibre and too high in carbohydrates. They also allow the rabbit to pick out its favourite bits.

A better complimentary alternative to use is a complete pellet diet, with adequate levels of essential minerals. This type of diet should still only comprise a maximum of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the rabbit's diet, and all rabbit food should be considered as a supplement to hay, grass and greens. A selection of vegetables should also be fed daily and variety is necessary for all nutrients to be gained.

Fruit should not be given regularly, as many are high in sugar and should only be used as an occasional treat. Only add one vegetable at a time and all dietary changes should be made slowly to avoid diarrhoea. Any that cause a mild diarrhoea should not be fed again. Branches and bark should also be available, from trees such as fruit trees which have not been treated with pesticides.

Below is a list of suitable vegetables to feed your rabbit

- Alfalfa, radish and clover sprouts
- Bok Choy
- Broccoli - leaves and stem are the best
- Brussel sprouts
- Carrots - ideally no more than once weekly due to high sugar content
- Cabbage - all types
- Cauliflower - leaves and flowers
- Celery
- Dandelions - greens and flowers
- Green peppers
- Mint, basil, parsley and other herbs - these make for good treats
- Pea pods

- Radish tops
- Raspberry leaves
- Lettuce - Romaine, dark leaves are best. No iceberg or light-coloured leaves
- Spinach - only in small amounts as can be toxic
- Watercress

Cereal treats are extremely high in sugars and carbohydrates and can lead to obesity and its associated health problems. Incorrect feeding is often the cause of many health problems seen at Lanes Vets in rabbits.

Lanes Vets Locations & Contact Information.

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