



# All About the **Dwarf Rabbit**

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# The Dwarf Rabbit

## About the Dwarf Rabbit

There are several species of Dwarf Rabbits with the most popular being the Netherland Dwarf. Netherland Dwarfs are among the most popular show rabbits in the United States. These rabbits were developed in Europe and first recognized as a breed in the United States in 1969. It is important to make an informed pet selection and equally as important to make informed decisions throughout the life of your pet. We will take you through the process of bringing home your new family member and lead you all the way to cherishing your memories of the life you share together. We will provide you with an outstanding number of tips and helpful advice relating to all aspects of your life with your new pet. This complimentary book is packed full of all the information you will need to be a great parent to your new Dwarf Rabbit! You will be given access to checklists and handy medical information to ensure you are taking proper care of your new family member and we will even provide you with beautiful pictures of Dwarf Rabbits like yours. So take a few minutes to read over this information and prepare to embark on a fun, memory filled adventure with your new Dwarf Rabbit.

## Dwarf Rabbit Characteristics

Dwarf Rabbits are happy and friendly animals. They are most active in the morning and at night and tend to sleep during much of the day. Some Dwarf Rabbit breeds tend to have better temperaments than others. The best thing to do is to handle them as well as their parents to get a better idea of their disposition. The average life span of a Dwarf Rabbit is 7 years. Breeding rabbits usually live 5 to 6 years while Dwarf Rabbits that are neutered early can live up to 10 years. Proper health care and cleaning of your rabbit's environment will help him to live the longest and happiest life possible. Dwarf Rabbits are more intelligent than guinea pigs or hamsters and can learn their name and be litter trained. Rabbits make great pets for older children. Children younger than ten years old will need adult supervision in caring for the Dwarf Rabbit. As with any animal, proper diet, exercise, and veterinary attention will benefit you and your Dwarf Rabbit.

Average Weight	Male: 2-3 lbs Female: 2-4 lbs	Temperament	Intelligent, affectionate, playful, differs by breed
Average Litter size	4 kits	Good with Children?	Does well with all children under adult supervision
Coat	Short, thick, soft and shiny	Health Concerns	Dental problems, ear mites, Snuffles



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## Selecting Your New Dwarf Rabbit

It can be a matter of personal preference to purchase your Dwarf Rabbit from a breeder or a pet store. There are important things to consider with either of these options.

### A Few Words about Breeders

Purchasing your Dwarf Rabbit from a reputable breeder may be the best option. They are bred with specific attention placed on health and temperament. Also most breeders breed show rabbits and aim for the best representation of the breed. Always ask to see and handle the parents of your new Dwarf Rabbit. This will give you an idea of the temperament of your rabbit. A breeder will also be able to give you the exact date of birth of your rabbit.

### A Few Words about Pet Stores

Perhaps you prefer to purchase your Dwarf Rabbit from your local pet store. Pet stores usually purchase their Dwarf Rabbits from commercial breeders ensuring that they have a constant supply to meet their needs. The problem with commercial breeders can be that they are raised with more attention to quantity than quality of rabbits. This can leave you with questions as to temperament, health, and date of birth. If you know what to look for you can still make a smart choice when choosing your Dwarf Rabbit.

## How to Choose your Dwarf Rabbit

There are several things to look for when choosing a new Dwarf Rabbit. Make sure the cages are not overcrowded. The rabbits should be divided in cages by sex. This is important because if they are not you could end up with a pregnant female. If the pet shop staff is unsure of the sexes than it is probably best to go elsewhere. The rabbits should have easy access to their food and water in the cage. If one Dwarf Rabbit in the cage appears sick then it is best to choose one from a different cage or store because if one is sick it is likely that others are as well.

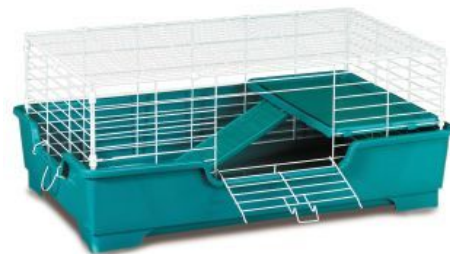
Pet stores are viable options for selecting your Dwarf Rabbit. Of course, finding a good breeder is always a good option too. Make sure you look for the following signs of a healthy rabbit:

- Clean and bright eyes
- Soft fur
- Alert
- Moves around easily
- Well formed droppings with no sign of diarrhea



You'll need these basics before your Terrier comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

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## Before You Bring Your Dwarf Rabbit Home

It is important to be as prepared as possible to provide a safe and secure environment for your new friend. In an effort to prepare for the care of your new best friend you should create a checklist and learn about the special needs of your Dwarf Rabbit. Before you bring your rabbit home you will need the basic necessities of a suitable cage or rabbit hutch, floor covering, nesting material, a water bottle and food. Have the cage in a good location set up and ready for your new rabbit. If you will be keeping your new Dwarf Rabbit indoors you need to place the cage in a safe place away from hazards such as electrical cords that a rabbit can chew through. The pet store or breeder may give you a cardboard carrier to bring your Dwarf Rabbit home in. These will work for no more than 30 minutes to an hour because the Dwarf Rabbit will begin to try and chew its way out of it and the bottom can be weakened or fall out when soaked with urine. Some may not give you anything at all so it is a good idea to take along a carrier of your own. Most pet stores sell plastic carriers for small animals which may be better if you have a longer travel time. Be sure to place a layer of wood shavings and a small amount of food in whatever container you use so your Dwarf Rabbit will be comfortable on the ride home.

Once you get your new Dwarf Rabbit home you will be tempted to want to keep him out and play with him right away. However, it is best to leave him in the cage for two or three days and let him get used to his surroundings to reduce his stress level. After a few days, your rabbit will begin to settle down. This is the perfect time to get him out and the two of you can get acquainted.

Create a list of items that you need for your new pet. At the end of this book you will find a list of recommended items and some suggestions on choosing the right ones.

Being prepared is the most important aspect of introducing your new Dwarf Rabbit to his or her new environment. Purchase books about Dwarf Rabbits, ask questions of the breeder or pet store, read about your pet online or at your community library. Pay attention to the details for true success and your new rabbit will make a quick and happy adjustment to his new home.

## Through The Years

### The Dwarf Rabbit Kit

Baby rabbits are called kits. Each stage of your Dwarf Rabbit's life will be characterized by special needs. Once your rabbit gets used to his new home you have many happy and fun times to look forward to. Enjoy the time you spend with your Dwarf Rabbit. There are many fun toys and extra items you can purchase that will be fun for both you and your new friend.



Can't miss gifts for the Dwarf Rabbit owner:

- [Dwarf Rabbits As A New Pet](#)
- [Rabbits](#)
- [The Guide To Owning Dwarf Rabbits](#)
- [Your First Rabbit](#)



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## The Dwarf Rabbit Kit (continued)

Maintaining a clean cage for your Dwarf Rabbit to live in is the first step in ensuring that they remain as healthy as possible. The cage should be cleaned and disinfected once a week. Make sure to replace all the wood shavings, bedding and food with fresh items. In addition to rabbit mix or pellets, your Dwarf Rabbit should have a constant supply of hay which contains fiber that is crucial to their digestion. Hay also makes up the majority of their diet. You should also give your Dwarf Rabbit small amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables or plants and flowers on a daily basis. It is normal for rabbits to eat their feces to obtain the maximum nutrients from their food. Do not be alarmed if you witness your new Dwarf Rabbit doing this. Any uneaten fruits or vegetables should be removed from the cage the following day to keep them from beginning to rot. Water should be given on a daily basis. A water bottle is preferable to a bowl because the rabbit will likely knock shavings into the water. Food should be placed in a food dish to keep it clean. Heavy ceramic food dishes are best because they will not get kicked around or chewed like lightweight plastic ones. Short haired rabbits do a sufficient job of grooming themselves. However, long haired rabbits will need to be brushed on a regular basis to keep their fur from becoming matted. This will also help to remove loose hairs which will cut down on hair balls.



## The Dwarf Rabbit Adult

Daily well being checks by you will keep your adult Dwarf Rabbit healthy and happy. Check their noses daily. Their noses should be dry and clean and free from any discoloration on the outside of the nose. It is a good idea to become familiar with the breathing patterns of your Dwarf Rabbit. Any rasping or wheezing can be a sign of a respiratory infection. If you notice any changes in their breathing contact your vet immediately as your rabbit may need antibiotic treatment. Check your rabbit's teeth on a regular basis to ensure that they are wearing down normally and there are none that are broken, loose or discolored. If you notice your rabbit drooling or losing weight this is often a sign of dental problems. All these steps can be accomplished in your daily playtime with your Dwarf Rabbit and will insure that he lives a healthy and happy life.

## The Dwarf Rabbit Senior

As your Dwarf Rabbit begins to age you may notice that he begins to slow down which may result in weight gain. Keeping your rabbit active may help to slow this process. You may notice your rabbit having mobility problems with their back legs. This is not uncommon and should be brought to the attention of your vet as there are several different medicines available to help your rabbit and make him more comfortable. Dental problems can also arise in elderly rabbits as a result of a tipping of their teeth. This can lead to cuts or sharp edges. Knowing what is normal for your rabbit will help you to detect these changes as he begins to age. Be sure to consult your vet as there are many things that can be done to keep a senior Dwarf Rabbit healthy and happy. You are about to embark on a wonderful journey with your new Dwarf Rabbit. Enjoy the special moments with your pet and keep them close to your heart. Display pictures of your rabbit around your home or office.



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## Medical Considerations

Dwarf Rabbits are generally healthy but the following are things to be on the lookout for:

- **Ear Mites** – Mites can burrow deep into your rabbit ears becoming very painful and causing a crusty appearance to the ears. If you suspect that your rabbit has mites take him to the vet and have him tested. The vet can give your rabbit an injection that will kill the mites.
- **"Snuffles"** – This is the name given to a bacterial infection that can lead to serious pneumonia. Symptoms of this infection include: heavy breathing, runny nose or eyes, slobbering, diarrhea, teeth grinding and weight loss. If you notice any of these signs in your Dwarf Rabbit contact your vet immediately.
- **Dental Problems** - Dwarf Rabbits teeth are continually growing and are usually kept trimmed down by the foods the rabbit eats. However, some rabbits have trouble accomplishing this. If left untreated, overgrown teeth can be very painful and can lead to starvation. Slobbering and poor appetite are symptoms of overgrown teeth. If your rabbit has this problem you will need to take him to the vet to have his teeth trimmed.



## Necessary Items

The following are items that you will need to keep your Dwarf Rabbit healthy and happy.

- **Floor Covering** – This should be soft and comfortable for your Dwarf Rabbit as well as be able to soak up the urine. Wood shavings are the most common thing used. Fine sawdust should be avoided because it can irritate your rabbit's eyes. You should also avoid cedar and any scented items.
- **Nesting Material** – This is best done with deep amounts of wood shavings and large amounts of hay. The hay should be free of dust or mold. The rabbit will also eat the hay so fresh hay should be added daily. Straw should be avoided as it is too sharp and could injure your rabbit's eyes.
- **Rabbit Runs** – If your rabbit cage or hutch does not have access to the grass then you may want to consider a rabbit run. This is basically a cage with no floor that sits directly on the grass. This will allow your Dwarf Rabbit to graze as well as provide exercise.
- **Water Bottles** – It is best to use a water bottle with a ball bearing on the end to prevent leaking. If your rabbit is kept outside you will need to make sure and insulate the bottle to prevent it from freezing which will leave your rabbit with no water as well as possibly crack the bottle. This is as simple as wrapping it in a cloth of some sort.



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## Necessary Items (continued)

- Food – Your rabbit's diet will consist of a rabbit blend or pellets which can be purchased at most pet stores. They should also be fed small amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables on a daily basis. Your Dwarf Rabbit's food should be placed in a dish to keep it clean. A heavy ceramic dish should be used instead of plastic which can get knocked over and chewed on.
- Toys – There are various types of toys that can be purchased at your local pet store. These will keep your Dwarf Rabbit amused while he is in his cage.



## Popular Products for your Dwarf Rabbit

[Small Animal Cage Liner](#)

[Bi-Odor Small Animal](#)

[Grassy Tunnel](#)

[Bunny Bath Dry Shampoo](#)

[Clip & Trim, Bunny](#)

[Rabbit Vitamins](#)

[Hi-Corner Litter Pan](#)

[Corner Litter Scoop](#)

[Hay Manger](#)

[Petting Brush, Bunny](#)

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