

## Rabbit Cages/Hutches

A rabbit cage or rabbit hutch is the most costly item required to keep a rabbit whether the rabbit is to be kept outdoors or indoors (even rabbits to be kept indoors as house rabbits should have a cage or hutch where they can feel protected and secure and can rest undisturbed). It is important that the rabbit cage or rabbit hutch provided is as large as possible. As a general rule the cage or hutch should be 4 times the length of the rabbit stretched out when it is full grown and high enough to allow the rabbit to stand on its hind legs without its ears touching the roof. The longer the time periods that the rabbit is expected to remain contained in the cage or hutch or the larger the number of rabbits to be kept together, the larger the cage or hutch should be. Rabbits are playful and enjoying running and jumping and so will also need a safe exercise area with plenty of room that allows them to do this daily.

There are a variety of rabbit cages and rabbit hutches available from pet shops or Online Pet Stores. However, not all rabbit cages and rabbit hutches that are commercially available are large enough and some owners prefer to build their own home for their rabbit.

### Rabbit cages - wooden

Wooden rabbit cages are usually more pleasing to the eye and you can opt to paint them a variety of colors. They also have a 'homier' look about them and makes it look less like a 'cage'. Rabbits have teeth that are growing all the time and they will chew on the wooden bars and edges of the cage so wooden cages don't last as long as wire ones. Wooden rabbit cages are also harder to keep clean as they can't really be disinfected effectively. If you are building a rabbit cage using wood, just make sure you aren't using treated pine because it harbors toxic chemicals in the wood which when ingested isn't healthy for your rabbit.

### Rabbit cages - wire

You can have the ones with the plastic tray on the bottom or ones that have a wire mesh tray on the bottom (with a plastic base) so that the rabbit droppings fall to the bottom of the tray and makes for ease of cleaning. There are also ones with 2 tier facilities - kind of like a play gym for your rabbit.

For those rabbit cages with a wire mesh base, a good suggestion would be to add bedding in the form of straw, shredded paper, a board, or provide a section of the pen where you can place a solid floor for them to stand on. Rabbits raised purely on wire mesh cages tend to get 'bumble foot' or sore hocks which are sores on their feet because of the pressure placed on their feet by the wire mesh.