Who can resist?

Big ears, wiggly nose, cotton tail...who can resist a cute rabbit? Buying a pet on an impulse is never a good idea. First, you need to educate yourself on what it takes to care for an animal, or your pet ownership experience could be bad for both you and your pet.

Rabbits may be small in size, but they can have a big impact on your life. Here are some things to consider before you become a rabbit owner.

Rabbits need room

Rabbits can be raised both indoors and outdoors, and you’ll need room for a fairly large cage called a rabbit hutch. These can be bought from pet stores, online or built at home.

Your rabbit needs a hutch that’s at least four times his size while stretched out—not his baby bunny size—his full grown size. Rabbits need space to move around in the hutch and stand upright.

If you have a small rabbit breed that will get no larger than 8 lbs., the hutch should be at least 24x36 inches. Medium or large rabbits need a 30X36 inch hutch. If your rabbit stay in the hutch the majority of the time, you may want to get an even bigger one.

DO NOT house male and female rabbits together unless you want lots of baby rabbits!

Remember that the type of flooring matters, too. Hutches with wire floors are generally easier to clean because the manure falls through the wire.

There are many hutch designs, so choose the one that will make your rabbit the happiest.

Did you know?

- Rabbits and young children are usually not a good mix.
- Rabbits require safe, gentle handling and a quiet environment.
- Rabbits are easily startled and stressed by loud noises and fast movements typical of kids.
- Pets are ultimately a parent’s responsibility...are you ready to care for a new pet?
- Rabbits can live past 10 years of age!
What’s your budget?

While most rabbits are cheap to buy, the cost to care for a rabbit can add up. Here are costs to consider:

- Large Hutch—$100 or more
- Water Bottle—$10
- Chew Toys—$10
- Hay—$2-5 a bale
- Vegetables—$5 a month
- Fruits/Treats—$5 a month

Do you have time?

Rabbits are crepuscular—this means that usually sleep during the day and night and are most active at dusk and dawn.

Rabbits need interaction with you to stay happy and socialized. A happy rabbit needs to spend at least an hour out of their cage every day for play and exercise.

A healthy diet includes fresh vegetables and fruit. This means grocery shopping once a week.

You also need to clean up your rabbit hutch once a week.

Check it’s water bottle daily to make sure it’s working properly and feed bowl to make sure it’s full.

Learn more about rabbits

http://www.florida4h.org/projects/rabbit.shtml

Florida 4-H’s rabbit project is all online!

Rabbits, Rabbits, Rabbits has online reading, activities and games to teach you all about rabbits!

Popular rabbit breeds

http://www.arba.net/Breeds.htm

This website will help you learn more about each breed.

- Dutch
- Mini Satin
- Rex
- English Lop
- Mini Rex

Different rabbit breeds have different personalities and grow to different sizes.

Do your homework and find the rabbit that will be the best fit for you and your family!