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100% Effective Natural Hormone Treatment
Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances
Impair Healthy Healing In People Over The Age Of 30!

Weather Extremes and Your Rabbit

By Sarah Giers

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Rabbits do well both indoors and outdoors, but they cannot handle certain weather extremes.

Hot Weather

Rabbits do not handle hot weather well at all. To them, 80 degrees is hot. In order to prevent your rabbit from suffering in the heat, there are several things you can do.

1. Make sure it has fresh, cool water throughout the day.
2. Put water in plastic soda bottles or milk jugs and freeze them. Place one in the cage and the rabbit will lean against it to stay cool.
3. Make sure the rabbit's hutch or cage is fully shaded.
4. Set up a mister system or a fan near your bunny's cage.

Those things will generally keep your rabbit cool enough. However, be on the lookout for signs of heatstroke. These include heavy panting and wet mouths.

Another side affect of heat is in regards to breeding rabbits. Bucks may go temporarily sterile, especially older bucks. Does may refuse to breed or loose litters.

Cold Weather

Rabbits usually handle cold weather a lot better than they do hot weather. So long as they are kept out of the wind and are kept dry, they usually do fine. However, if they are not used to cold weather, or are particularly sensitive to it, there are some things you can do to help.

1. Provide hay for them to eat and to dig into. The hay will create extra calories for them to burn, which makes more body heat. They will also nest in it, trapping body heat close to them.
2. Be sure they have fresh water at all times. If the water freezes, get the ice out and give the rabbit fresh water. Ice is not enough for a rabbit. Do not give them warm water, as that actually freezes down

faster than lukewarm water does.

3. If you do bring your rabbit inside, do not put it in a warm room. Keep it in the coolest room you have, or when you take it back outside, the temperature change will be a drastic shock on its system.

4. Place tarps or blankets over the hutch or cage, leaving a corner open for fresh air. This helps retain the rabbit's body heat in the cage, increasing the temperature a bit.

Sunlight

Rabbits cannot handle direct sunlight for very long at all. Just a few minutes in full sunlight can kill them. It causes them to overheat rapidly. Make sure your rabbit always has a shaded area that it can get to.

Rain

A wet rabbit is a rabbit that is more prone to getting ill or dying, especially if there are drafts or there is cold weather. Keep your rabbit out of the rain, and make sure it does not get wet. If it does get wet, dry it off right away. A little water on the surface of the coat will not harm the rabbit, so long as it has not reached the under layer of fur called the "undercoat." If it has reached the undercoat, some serious drying will be needed. If that happens, also watch for signs of illness in the next few weeks.

Wind

Drafts are one of the most common weather-related killers of rabbits. Make sure your rabbit is out of drafts, or at least has a place where it can get out of drafts. Wind chill can be very deadly.

Breeder of show rabbits for 11 years, member of the American Rabbit Breeders Association, and fan of all types of animals.

House Rabbits are fun and cute pets.

By Mike Yeager

House rabbits are a perfect pet for many people, regardless of whether they live on a farm or in an apartment. House rabbits are small, easy to take care of, and don't require any expensive supplies like some other pets do. They are cute, friendly, and playful. They are also safe enough that you can have a child play with a rabbit unsupervised, something that would probably not be safe to do with a dog. Also, rabbits love to play with children. Having more than one rabbit will just add to the fun. However, if you do have more than one rabbit, make sure they are the same sex. Also, while rabbits sometimes get along well with other pets, it is generally best to not mix rabbits with cats or dogs.

Caring for your House Rabbits.

Care for house rabbits is critical for the well being of your rabbit and for your enjoyment of your rabbit. You will not be able to enjoy your rabbit as nearly as much if your rabbit is constantly ill. Also, your

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rabbit will not be very happy if it spends most of its time feeling miserable. Unfortunately, rabbits are very vulnerable to disease. The best way to protect your rabbit from disease is to make sure that your rabbit and its cage are always clean. Regularly clean your rabbit's cage with a disinfectant, and also give your rabbit an occasional bath. If you have a new rabbit, quarantine it from the rest of the rabbits for at least two weeks. If at the end of the two weeks the new rabbit looks fine, it is probably safe to put it in with the other rabbits. If you have questions about rabbit care, ask your veterinarian.

Mike Yeager
Publisher

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