

Where should I house my pet rabbit?

INSIDE THE HOUSE



OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE



Gets attention, love and affection.	Gets overlooked (out of sight out of mind).
Lives with family and gets human interaction.	Lives in isolation with limited human interaction.
Healthy & Happy.	Neglected & Bored.
Gets exercise and socialization.	Cage bound with limited movement.
Lives cage free - many have free run of the house or a safe room or play/exercise area.	Lives on wire cage - High risk for sore hocks, and hutch burn.
Indoor rabbits have safe toys, tunnels and enrichment.	Outdoor rabbits have very little toys and enrichment.
Safe play area in house can be bunny proofed and all hazards and dangers can be removed or eliminated.	Outside play area is full of hazards and dangers that are impossible to control or eliminate entirely.
House rabbits are litter box trained because house rabbits use a litter box that is changed daily - the owner is aware of possible issues such as urinary tract infections, bladder stones, kidney stones, diarrhea, and GI Stasis. The greatest benefit of the litter box is that the owner notices changes in daily habits. This can and does help catch life threatening medical issues early enough to save their rabbit's life.	The majority of cage bound rabbits do not use litter boxes. And if they do they are rarely changed daily. Because of this the owner is not aware if their rabbit is not pooping and peeing. The result could cause the owner to miss the opportunity to save them from life threatening medical conditions.
Very low risk for developing illnesses such as upper respiratory illnesses and other potential deadly conditions.	High risk for upper respiratory illness such as E. Cuniculi, or Pasterurellosis, Bordetella, Staph, and Strep, Also at greater risk for abscesses, conjunctivitis, runny eyes, snuffles, ear infections, head tilt, chest cold, pneumonia, and possible death if left untreated or ignored.
Zero risk for depredation. Wildlife and stray animals getting to house rabbits is generally not an issue because they are kept indoors away from predators. Domestic rabbits do not have the same instincts that a wild rabbit has.	High risk for depredation. Common predators include owls, eagles, hawks, foxes, coyotes, raccoons, stray cats & dogs, and sometimes crows. Out-door rabbits often have shorter life spans due to depredation by stray animals and wildlife.
Low risk for eating toxic plants (don't forget to check your houseplants) or ingesting pesticides that are treated in yards. Domestic rabbits do not know toxic plants from safe plants, unlike the wild rabbit.	High risk for eating poisonous plants or ingesting toxic pesticides on the grass. Rabbits that have access to the ground will eat these things because they lack the instincts to avoid them.
Zero risk for heatstroke in the summer or freezing in the winter. House environments are climate controlled and the rabbit is comfortable year round.	High risk for heatstroke in the summer, and freezing in the winter due to lack of proper precautions and/or a properly constructed shelter.
Very low risk for not catching hidden illnesses early. If the rabbit is ill the owner will generally take notice because the owner is interacting daily with the rabbit.	High risk for not catching hidden illnesses such as overgrown teeth and GI Stasis. These are often overlooked because the owner is not interacting daily with the rabbit. Most outside rabbits are cruelly ignored and neglected. When a medical issue arises they often are left to go untreated which they suffer until they ultimately die - alone.
Low risk for pest infestations. Rabbits kept indoors do not generally have issues with the many parasites and pests that outdoor rabbits have to deal with.	High risk for pest infestations such as Fleas, ticks, fly strike (warbles), intestinal worms, ear mites, ringworm, & mange.

The Choice is yours... Make the right one!

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