



## How to Give Pine Cones to Rabbits

Mental Stimulation is important for the happiness and well being of your pet rabbit. Your rabbit should always have toys available to play with, as rabbits that do not get proper mental stimulation often resort to destructive behaviors to pass the time. There are many toys available at pet stores for rabbits, although for a more cost effective toy you can look to the outdoors. Pine cones are ideal for rabbits that love to chew, and can result in hours of fun. It is important that they be prepared and dried before giving them to rabbits in order for them to be safe for chewing.



### Preparing the Pine Cones

- Gather the pine cones from outside and make sure that they have not been treated with pesticides or any other chemicals harmful to rabbits.
- Wash the pine cones in a sink full of warm water and 1 cup of vinegar. Using your hands, make sure that you scrub off any dirt, sap, or bugs on the cones.
- Let the pine cones soak for 20-30 minutes in order to remove any remaining sap or bugs that stuck on them.
- Rinse the pine cones thoroughly with fresh water and place them on paper towels to air dry.
- Air dry for 3-4 days
- Or speed up the drying process by baking them in the oven for 200 degrees for 2 hours—lined with a cookie sheet with parchment paper or aluminum foil in a single layer. Keep a close eye on the oven in case of fire or smoke.
- Remove pine cones from the oven and let sit until they are fully cooled. Treat your rabbits and watch them enjoy their new toy.