



Muggins Rocko Rabbit editing his work

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Muggins Rocko Rabbit received his Ph.D. in Interspecies Communication from Lagomorphs University, Philadelphia. He is widely published and sought after as a lecturer on a variety of topics pertaining to rabbit and human interactions. He lives in the metropolitan Washington, DC area with his human and rabbit companions.

ABOUT FRIENDS OF RABBITS

Friends of Rabbits is an all volunteer, non-profit organization whose goal is to rescue rabbits and promote responsible pet ownership of rabbits in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. We attempt to do this by educating the public about proper rabbit care. Members are eligible for subsidized hay, litter, toys, and other rabbit supplies, as well as invitations to educational programs, rabbit spa days, Bunny 101 classes, and help with matchmaking and bonding rabbits. To become a member, please send a \$20 check to us at P.O. Box 1112, Alexandria, VA 22313.

Estimated Annual Costs

Initial Expenses:

Rabbit	\$70
Housing	\$100-120
Utensils	\$20-\$60
Litter	\$25
Litter boxes	\$20
Rabbit care books	\$25
Toys	\$30-\$50
Initial Vet exam	\$60-\$80
SUB TOTAL:	\$350-\$450

Subsequent Expenses:

Food	\$730
Litter	\$120
Routine Vet care	\$75-\$200
SUB TOTAL:	\$925-1125

TOTAL: \$1275-1500

These are annual estimates based on our guidelines and membership discounts. All rabbits adopted from us are spayed or neutered, in good health, and litter-box trained. The \$70 adoption fee includes membership. Prospective adopters must undergo a Bunny 101 class, a home visit, and sign a legal adoption agreement. Please contact us if you're interested in adopting a rabbit.

Friends of Rabbits

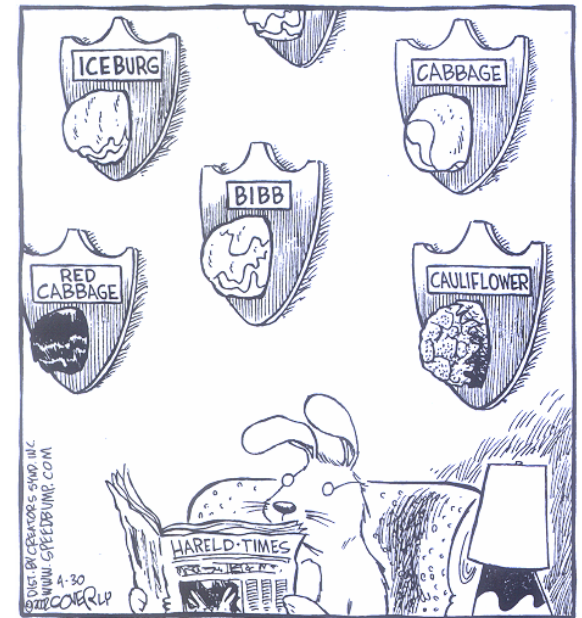
P.O. Box 1112

Alexandria, VA 22313

www.friendsofrabbits.org

Information@friendsofrabbits.org

§ Alexandria (703) 548-6793



With special permission of Dave Coverly

Introducing

✚ The
Companion
Rabbit ✚

By
Muggins Rocko Rabbit



Rabbit Facts

Congratulations on your interest in my brethren. I wish you both a long and happy life together. But I fear that we'll have a premature parting of the ways because of misunderstandings and unrealistic expectations. To avoid another rabbit ending up in a shelter consider this:

- House rabbits can live from 8-12 years. We like upholstered furniture and well-appointed condos, so please don't house us outside or in small cages.
- We are easily litter-box trained. Some of us may mark territory with urine and "bunny berries." These are pea-sized, easy to pick up and don't leave a stain. Urine can be cleaned with white vinegar.
- We sometimes communicate by what humans misinterpret as biting, nipping, or scratching. Children and some adults may find this frightening, but we're telling you we need you to put us down or move out of our way.
- Our skeletons are fragile, making us easily injured by mishandling. We are not appropriate companions for young or unsupervised children.
- We have finicky digestive systems and are happiest on a high-fiber diet of unlimited Timothy hay, vegetables,

and a small helping of Timothy pellets. No Alfalfa pellets or hay, please.

- Because we are prey animals, many of us fear being picked up. We prefer sitting by your side or playing with you on the floor. Some of us may cuddle.
- We like chewing on electrical cords, computer cables and your favorite antique furniture, so you'll have to "bunny-proof" your home. Conceal cords in plastic tubing or keep them out of reach, and give us plenty of safe chewable toys. To keep our nails trimmed, you'll need to take us to Friends of Rabbits Spa Days. (Declawing is not an option.) Throw in a massage and we'll love you forever.
- We need periodic veterinary care.
- Female rabbits can get pregnant with a new litter before they have delivered the litter they are currently carrying. Humans think this makes a good argument for spaying and neutering.
- We bond with our primary human caretakers with whom we like to play and manipulate for treats. We'll show our appreciation by grooming you.



Living with a Rabbit

⊕ In an environment where we are free to explore, we reveal ourselves as intelligent, creative beings with individual personalities. We respond to our names, usually come when called, and are affectionate in ways that humans appreciate (few things beat bunny kisses on the neck and ears.)

⊕ Consummate decorators, problem solvers and engineers, we entertain ourselves by rearranging furniture, figuring out how to open closed doors, and devising construction projects. Industrious types, we love being busy. Insatiably curious, we are happy to supervise your projects as well.

⊕ Throw away your paper shredders because we can do that for you. We are experts at recycling books, newspapers, telephone directories or catalogs.

⊕ Natural athletes, we'll be happy to teach you rabbit games such as the Bunny 500. That's where we run through an obstacle course in the living room at top speed and you chase us. If we're in a show-off mode, we'll throw in some binkies. Haven't ever seen a binky? It's a jump straight up in the air, often accompanied by a half turn and a twist. I've never seen a human do one, but you do seem to take great delight in watching us binkying.

⊕ We have a good sense of humor except when our human has been unfaithful to us and snuggled with another rabbit. Our sense of smell is far more acute than yours so don't even think you can get away with it.

⊕ We don't need to be walked and can coexist with the family dogs, cats, and other small mammals as long as we are properly introduced. Fortunately, our benefactors at Friends of Rabbits can help you with blending your multi-companion family.

Recommended reading:

✦ Harriman, Marinell (1995). *House Rabbit Handbook: How to Live with an Urban Rabbit* (3rd ed.) Alameda, CA: Drollery Press.

✦ Smith, Kathy (2001). *Rabbit Health in the 21st Century: A Guide For Bunny Parents* (2nd ed.) Kansas City, MO: krsbunny@worldnet.att.net.