

LITTER BOX TRAINING FOR RABBITS

Tips for litter training a rabbit:

- A cat litter box works well as it can accommodate his whole body
- You can use aspen shavings, paper pellets (Yesterdays News), shredded newspaper, cat litter or sand, as litter for your rabbits
- Sand can make a mess; but it is most liked by rabbits and inexpensive
- Line the bottom of the cage with a sheet instead of traditional shavings
- Do not use softwood shavings such as pine or cedar, or clumping cat litter



Litter Training:

Confinement and supervision are key to training a rabbit to use the litter pan. If a rabbit is allowed to urinate and defecate wherever it likes from the beginning, it will be much harder to train the rabbit as it becomes older. At first, keep the rabbit in a cage large enough to accommodate a litter pan.

Place a litter box in the cage in the corner where the rabbit has chosen to urinate or defecate. The rabbit may start using the box straight away, or it may pick another corner of the cage to use. If the rabbit starts doing this, move the litter box to the area the rabbit seems to prefer. Even better, add another litter box so that both corners are covered.

Once the rabbit is using the litter pan in the cage, allow the rabbit out of the cage in a small area. Leave the cage door open with the litter box in the cage, accessible to the rabbit.

The rabbit will soon learn to use the litter box. You can increase the amount of time out of the cage and increase the amount of area that the rabbit can access. This will accommodate the rabbit's need for exercise and enrichment, and will require less clean-up. You may need to provide more litter boxes as you allow the rabbit access to more space. If the rabbit repeatedly chooses one place in the room to urinate or defecate, you can consider putting another litter box there.

Establishing a routine with the rabbit will also help with successful litter box training. Use a consistent daily schedule that includes time out of cage, training, socialization, and cleaning. Once in a while a rabbit will "regress" in its litter box training. Start over again, back in the cage with a litter box; the process will go faster this time.