



## Hay & Vegetable Diet

Large, unlimited amounts of fresh hay (Missouri House Rabbit Society recommends American Pet Diner hay, they can be contacted on the web at [www.americanpetdiner.com](http://www.americanpetdiner.com)) should be offered daily. Young bunnies should be introduced to hay as soon as they can eat on their own. 2<sup>nd</sup> cut Timothy hay is preferred because it is lower in calories and calcium than alfalfa.

Feed a minimum of 1 cup vegetables for each 4 lbs. of body weight. Select at least three types of vegetables daily. A variety is necessary in order to obtain the necessary nutrients, with one each day that contains Vitamin A, indicated by an \*. Add one vegetable to the diet at a time. Eliminate if it causes soft stools or diarrhea.

Limit fruits to 1-2 tablespoons per 5 lbs. of body weight (none if dieting) from the list below of high fiber fruits. Sugary fruits such as bananas and grapes should be fed only sparingly, as occasional treats. Bunnies has a sweet tooth and if left to their own devices will devour sugary foods to the exclusion of healthful ones.

### Vegetables:

Alfalfa, radish & clover sprouts	Mustard greens
Basil	Parsley*
Beet greens (tops only)*	Peppermint leaves
Bok choy	Raddichio
Broccoli (mostly leaves/stems)*	Radish tops
Carrot & carrot tops*	Raspberry leaves
Celery	Romaine lettuce* (no iceberg or light colored leaf lettuce)
Cilantro	Spinach (!)*
Clover	Watercress*
Collard greens*	Wheat grass
Dandelion greens and flowers* (no pesticides)	Endive*
Escarole	Green peppers
Kale (!)*	Mint

### Fruits:

- Apple
- Blueberries
- Melon
- Orange (including peel)
- Papaya
- Peach
- Pear
- Pineapple
- Plums
- Raspberries
- Strawberries

\* = Good source of Vitamin A. Serve one portion daily, if possible.

! = Use sparingly. High in either oxalates or goitrogens and may be toxic in accumulated quantities over a period of time.

Absolutely NO Kaytee-brand treats. And NO chocolate cookies, crackers, breakfast cereals, bread, pasta, yogurt drops or other "human treats." There is research to suggest these items may contribute to fatal cases of enterotoxemia, a toxic overgrowth of "bad" bacteria in the intestinal tract.

The House Rabbit Society has discovered the easiest way to provide a maximum amount of hay to our bunnies is to combine litter and hay in one large box. Rubbermaid bus-boy trays or giant cat litter boxes are preferred. Place ½" to 1" of litter in the bottom of the pan and fill with lots of hay. Typically, only a corner of the box is used for toilet purposed, while the rest of the box is enjoyed as a bed and convenient place to munch hay and must about how lucky they feel to have been rescued from certain death of abandonment.