

HOW TO POTTY TRAIN YOUR DWARF RABBIT

We are getting many more requests from buyers who live in confined places, for rabbits. The lack of space means keeping the rabbits indoors. Two things at risk with this move...cables (phone, keyboard etc), and rabbit wee and rabbit poo.

What to get:

- A litter tray – let's say two would do. They must look the same and you have to prepare them the same way. If you have a choice between a shallow tray and a deep tray, take a deep tray. A dwarf rabbit running through a shallow litter box is not the best way to go.
- The litter itself – the choice is yours for shredded newspaper (or even shredded paper from your office shredder) sawdust or cat litter. Some cat litter is fragranced etc. So do not get these. Oh, and if your rabbit eats some paper, that is not too bad. Eating lots of shredded paper may mean you have to get something else. You can buy grass at your pet shop for this as well. Rabbits do their business and eat at the same time.

Setting it up:

- Find an area where you can isolate your rabbit. A confined area will do best. If you cannot mark out a confined area in your house then use a place where you can close the door, e.g. a spare room or spare bathroom. This is only for a few days. If the area has a toilet, close it! Rabbits can jump and we do not want the rabbit to drown.
- Prepare the litter trays with spread out, shallow cover, so no bunched up shredded papers etc. Gravels are probably nice and you want to start with a 1-layer thin gravel. As rabbit gets better you can deepen the litter.
- Place the same looking litter trays into this confined area with your rabbit. A confined area is best (bathrooms are great) because your rabbit must not have a choice as to where it is going to do its business.



A tip here is to, in your confined space (perhaps a big square inside your house) place a sleeping towel (hand-towel) inside for what will be it's house. Then you place the trays at points furthest away from the crate or sleep area.

Observing the Rabbit

- Your rabbit must be flicked out of it if they chose to sleep in the trays....but the idea is that they need to learn that this is not a bed but for littering
- A rabbit that eats the litter must only be discouraged if it is scented crystals or something not organic. Try other litter then (so another Tip is start with the cheapest material first).
- Even in the tray the rabbit may chose a corner of it as “the place” and ignore the rest of the tray. It’s normal.

Correcting the Rabbit

- OK so your rabbit will wee in the tray most times and occasionally outside it. You still won. The same goes with your rabbit’s poo. It’s dry so sweep it up and place in the litter tray. Rabbit wee is ammonia-rich so smells like it. The poo is mostly odorless.

Finishing Off the Process

- Once your rabbit is corrected you can enlarge the area to let’s say adding a passage on day-1 then another room on day-2 etc.
- Keep both trays available in different parts of the house if you rabbit roams widely.
- After 6-8 weeks remove the litter tray that is not used (if you are keeping the rabbit to a small area in your house) and continue with the one that your rabbit does use.
- If you have the whole house open to the rabbit then still keep the second tray out.

Potty training your rabbit will take some time and some patience

Let us know if you find any other tips that you think may be of use.