

Rabbit welfare needs matrix

RED

Action needed

- Housing too small
- No exercise run
- Not cleaned often enough
- Never given extra protection from heat or cold

- BCS of 1 or 5 and weight incorrect
- Diet unsuitable
- Water not always available
- Inappropriate treats (type or amount)

- Behaviour causing serious problem for owner
- Not sociable and difficult to handle
- No objects to encourage normal behaviours

- Kept on own with no regular interaction with trusted person
- Kept with other species e.g. guinea pigs
- No provisions made if owner away – left in house on own

- **Untreated health problems**
- Not vaccinated or has lapsed
- Not neutered and kept in mixed group
- Infestation of parasites
- Teeth overgrown and causing problems
- Bottom unchecked

AMBER

Room to improve

- Suitably sized housing
- Exercise run not permanently accessible or not big enough
- More cleaning required
- Sometimes given extra protection in heat or cold

- BCS of 2 or 4 and weight not quite correct
- Diet not well balanced between hay, nuggets and greens
- Fed muesli instead of nuggets
- Frequently given treats

- Some problem behaviour that owner would like to change
- Sociable but not happy being handled
- Not many objects to allow normal behaviours

- Kept on own but with regular interaction with trusted person
- Lives with another rabbit, but one or both unneutered

- Not neutered
- Evidence of parasites
- Teeth starting to become overgrown
- Vaccinations overdue by less than 6 months
- Bottom sometimes checked in warm weather

GREEN

Great job!

- Suitably sized and secure housing
- Constant access to suitably sized run
- Ideal cleaning routine
- Always given extra protection from heat or cold

- BCS and weight correct
- Fed a suitable, balanced diet of hay, nuggets and greens
- Water always available, changed daily
- Minimal and healthy treats

- Sociable and relaxed when handled
- Objects given and rotated to allow normal behaviours

- Kept in pair/small neutered group of same species
- Good provisions made if owner away

- **Overall health good**
- Neutered
- No evidence of parasites
- Healthy teeth
- Vaccinated
- Bottom checked daily in warm weather

BCS = Body Condition Score



Environment



Diet



Behaviour



Company



Health



MY RABBIT'S YEARLY CHECK UP

Client's Name: _____ Rabbit's Name: _____
Vet/Vet Nurse Name: _____ Date of MOT: _____

Rabbits have **5 key welfare needs** that must be met to keep them happy and healthy:

Environment
Living in a suitable place with space to exercise

Diet
Having the right amount of high fibre food

Company
Living with a suitable rabbit companion

Behaviour
Being allowed to show normal behaviour

Health
Protected from pain, injury and disease

Welfare need	Comments	Score
 Environment		<div><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Please tick as appropriate</div>
 Diet		<div><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Please tick as appropriate</div>
 Behaviour		<div><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Please tick as appropriate</div>
 Company		<div><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Please tick as appropriate</div>
 Health		<div><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Please tick as appropriate</div>

My top 3 actions are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Check up recommended: ☐ Date: _____

RAW Supporters

