

Rabbit Housing Location

Consider these things when deciding to house your rabbit indoors or outdoors.

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Rabbits Pepper and Patches/© Courtesy Scott and Stephanie Potter
Where you place your rabbit's cage can affect its health.

A big part of owning a pet rabbit is deciding on where to house it.

Many rabbit enthusiasts recommend housing rabbits indoors. Outdoor rabbits can be preyed upon or frightened by neighborhood cats, birds of prey and other wildlife, and are more susceptible to parasites like ear mites.

Another outdoor hazard is heat. Rabbits do not tolerate hot weather well and can suffer heat stroke very quickly. A rabbit housed inside the home is more likely to receive frequent attention and interaction with household members — which makes the rabbit a more social pet.

As for the exact indoor location, situate your rabbit's enclosure in an area of your home that receives some foot traffic, but not in a "busy intersection." Your rabbit should be protected from a pet cat or dog, as well as direct blasts from air conditioning or heating units.

If you choose to house your rabbit outdoors, its pen must be fully enclosed and should have a solid top to prevent direct sun exposure and to keep rain out.

Also, offer your rabbit a hiding place, such as a box or tube, where it can feel safe if frightened. (A tall litter box with a large opening, turned upside down works well.)

Your rabbit's enclosure should be easily accessible and visible, not hidden away in a corner of the yard. A pet rabbit requires daily interaction with you, so make time for indoor play, or create an outdoor rabbit run.

Rabbit Safety Tip: Think of a rabbit run as a swimming pool with children — never leave it unsupervised when the rabbit is in it.