

# RABBIT FAQ *guide*

## THANK YOU

Hey hey!!! I wanted to say thank you so much for considering me as a breeder for your french lop rabbit.

This guide is meant to be a help to you in raising your french lop rabbit. As time goes on I have seen where people have the most questions or come back to me with issues simply because they didn't know what they didn't know.

I am hoping this will bridge that gap.

Anything with an **!important!** ahead of it is detrimental to the health of your rabbit. The pet market is not the rabbit owner's friend. They are pushing things like soft cushy pillows that a rabbit could easily take apart with the snap of its teeth, ingest it, and literally kill your rabbit hours later. Things that say "rabbit safe" simply mean it can be around it and do fine. It does not mean they can eat it and be safe. Which is what rabbits do. They chew things ALL THE TIME. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

I will get to these tips in just a second but I have also created a webpage that I will keep updated with rabbitry supplies and Equipment that I recommend for french lops. Everything from bowls to housing and feed. As well as videos and blog posts I have written that would be helpful to you.

If you have any questions down the road email me at [rabbits@leah-lynch.com](mailto:rabbits@leah-lynch.com)



-- *Leah*

## **{IMPORTANT} Running lose in your home.**

A rabbit will chew on anything it feels like in your home. Even your baseboards are not safe. Chewing is partly how rabbits investigate life and their teeth grow ALL THE TIME so they are also filing them down on whatever is necessary. They are not like dogs where they outgrow it or you can train it out of them.

Not only will your home be at risk, but the rabbit could also die if it ingests parts of whatever it decides to chew.

This is another reason why wire cages are best. They proved the rabbit something to chew on that won't break down and it won't chew a hole in the hutch or cage. I have seen the paint that some rabbit hutches are painted with cause issues with rabbits as well.

## **{IMPORTANT} Pillows, Fabrics, and chewable things.**

Strings, stuffing, or any kind of fabric is deadly to a rabbit. Just because it says rabbit-safe simply means they can be around it. That doesn't mean it is safe for them to ingest whatever it is.

If you are in doubt keep it out of reach. I will often keep old feed bowls and leave those in the cage for the rabbit to throw around in place of rabbit toys.

## **Litter Box's**

The problem with these is it does not keep your rabbit out of the waste.

The rabbit will get material and waste stuck to their rump and be far dirtier than if they were on a wire floor and their waste fell through. I have white rabbits that are spotless when on wire flooring.

On top of that, they rub their face and eyes while grooming themselves causing them to rub dust and litter into their eyes.

The other issue is you do not want them to eat some kind of bedding or litter that gets in their stomach and causes a bowel obstruction.

## Bunny crack is a thing.

If you are not careful rabbits will go on strike if you give them too many treats or sweet foods. I had a doe decide she was only going to eat a feed supplement I was giving which was only two tablespoons a day. It took her two weeks of not more than a few bites before she decided she would stop holding out for the "good stuff". After that, all regular treats went out the door in our rabbitry.

Make it unpredictable and let them forget about the treats before doing it again. Once every two weeks tops.

## {IMPORTANT} Do not feed your french lop hay until 4 months minimum.

I do not feed my rabbits hay at any age and I really encourage you not to. There can be mold that you don't even see in the hay and that can be deadly. Hay can draw damp even from the moisture in the air of your own home on a humid summer day.

It's not hay that is the necessary ingredient. it's FIBER. And if your feed has an adequate amount your rabbit will be fine. (18-20% minimum) French lops have a pretty touchy digestive system and it's not worth the risk.

Blog Post: [Do Rabbits Need Hay? What I Do Instead That Works](#)

## You can expect good behavior.

Rabbits are trainable even though I would not put them in the same category as dogs.. If you see them about to do something you don't want them to do, give them a firm **NO+Their name** will get their attention.

A loud clap with your hands will also get their attention and get them to stop what they are doing.

THINK BEFORE YOU LET THEM DO IT! If you let them do something one time they have already gotten a taste and it will be REALLY hard to break them of it.

## Bowl throwing...

Mercy this is a problem. It's fun and they love to move things out of their way. If they won't stop throwing feed and water around find one that locks down or drill a hole in the side of the bowl and zip-strip it tight to the cage. Don't leave any part of the tie-down too visible because they will just chew it.

## Best age for breeding IF you plan to do so.

Bucks start to show interest in does around 7 months old. It is possible for them to sire a litter sooner than that. But most bucks will be able to sire a litter pretty easily at 8-9 months old. - You will have to get in there and assist. French lops don't have a lot of energy and you don't want to waste it by letting him use it up trying at the wrong end. Remember they are animals. They don't think past hormones.

For the doe it is best to wait until 10 months old AND at minimum weight for the standard which is 11.5 lbs. However, I do not recommend waiting longer than 12 months old because in my experience the birthing does not seem to go as well. (Like litter is born over three days and most of the kits are dead kind of not well)

## Other Quick Tips

- If your rabbit seems to be in a "leave me be" mood for a day just let him be. Don't force it.
- If your rabbit is facing a corner trying to seclude itself it could be not feeling well. Watch it for 24hrs and if it continues look the rabbit over for any signs of something wrong.
- Feed your french lop one time per day and the amount he will clean up in 24hrs. If it does not eat all of its food one day and seems slow watch it the next day. If the same thing occurs two days in a row something isn't right and is probably not feeling well. Try to see if you can detect what is throwing him off.
- Feed your french lop about 1-1.5 cups of pellets per day and adjust as needed. They will likely eat more in the winter and 1/4th to half that amount in the warm months.
- Do not wash or let your rabbit get wet. If you see a clump of fur that looks wet and stuck together dry it off ASAP. Bacteria will grow in that fur clump and turn into an infection that spreads like wildfire in less than a day. It will not kill your rabbit but it can turn into a nasty skin infection.