

So you think your bunny is not bondable..... Meet Jowly....

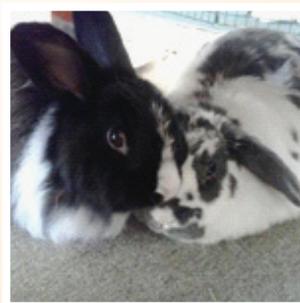
Jowly is a beautiful 5 years old bunny that's human was determined that the bunny would not be bondable. Back in her younger more rebellious days, Jowly had a run in with a so could potential friend....Both were fine but Jowly's human was scarred from the experience... But then they met Howard Pants... Howard was a beautiful bun who had ended up as a stray and looking for a new forever home. Perhaps 4 years after the initial event it was worth trying again??? And this is where the bunny dating service came in!! Bonding rabbits can be a difficult and traumatic experience for both human and bunny if you are not sure what to expect. However it can also be one of the most rewarding experiences for those involved, especially when a homeless bunny has been involved.



Why bunnies should live in pairs:

Rabbits are a prey animal and are naturally nervous in new unfamiliar situations. Many of you will have experienced firsthand that rabbits do not cope well with stress, and something so small that upsets them can end up as a medical emergency!

- Rabbits in pairs are less prone to stress episodes and hence less likely to develop stress induced illnesses such as gut stasis
- Rabbits in pairs are more willing to be flexible about their feeding and housing arrangements
- Rabbits in pairs are usually less upset if their humans go on holidays without them
- Rabbits in pairs will often learn/copy good habits from their partner.... they may also copy some bad habits...
- Rabbits in pairs have instant environmental enrichment and will enjoy throwing toys, digging, and grooming each other



So how to go about friend finding:

Here at the rabbit clinic we strongly support animal shelters and rescue organisations.

The organisation should ideally offer a 'bunny dating service', as, like with humans, not all individuals will get along. Your existing bun should be up to date with their vaccinations, and be desexed prior to bonding. Hormones play a massive part in failed relationships!

Once your bun has been matched up with a potential pal, there can still be a few hiccups along the way. Ideally the initial meeting should occur on neutral territory – that is somewhere that neither bunny is particularly attached to. A car ride home together in the same box is a good way for bunnies to break the ice followed by supervision in the new environment. There is likely to be the occasional difference of opinion in the future but with some love and care, hopefully your lonely bun can too find a perfect match like Jowly and Howard Pants.

Opening Hours

Monday - Wednesday: 9am- 5pm

Thursday: 9am - 8pm

Friday: 9am - 8pm

Saturday: 9am - 3pm

Phone: (03) 9758 9879

Fax: (03) 7958 1193

CURRENT OPENING HOURS!

We apologise for the difficulties we have had with our website and our recent changes in opening hours. We are now open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9-5, Thursday and Friday from 9-8 and Saturdays from 9-3pm. We offer surgery slots on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays. Please give us a call to make an appointment!!! Our only changes to this are over the Easter break when we will be closed March 29, 30, 31 and April 1, and then open again on the second of April. Should your rabbit require attention during this time please contact your closest emergency centre.

EC STUDY

Our EC study is well on the way with a number of spots available still for testing. Enrolling your rabbit in the study involves a questionnaire, a quick blood test and a \$15 donation toward the research. If you would like to be involved please contact the clinic or give us a call at your next appointment!



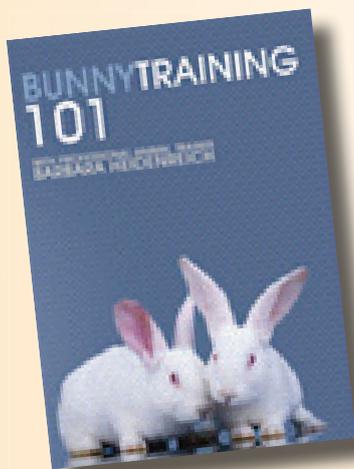
HAY....

We all know that bunnies LOVE to eat hay! Unfortunately from after Easter we will not be offering half bales of hay any longer and only able to offer the full bales. For those of you with chaff bags, we will be accepting return of these until the end of 2013 and still have these available for \$2 if required. You are more than welcome to store your bales in these bags.

Our full bales are compressed and will last the average pair of buns between 3 and 4 months. Hay should be stored in a 'bale bag', chaff bag or a large plastic container with holes drilled for ventilation. Hay should NEVER be stored in an air tight container as this increases your chances of dust and mould.

Please note that hay is a natural product that is not sprayed or sifted. As a result the quality and green colour will vary throughout the year. We try our best to source the highest quality of hay for your bunnies!!!

Please also note that it is unfortunately an OHS issue to have our staff lifting the bales of hay. Our staff are more than happy to help you move your hay, but this is a two person job!



Bunny Training DVD

Melbourne Rabbit Clinic will soon have a Bunny Training DVD By Barbara Heindenreich available for purchase, this DVD will teach you how to train your bunny via positive reinforcement and teach them to be Fun, interactive, well behaved and trusting. It will help build a bond between bunny and owner and also teach you how to keep your bunny mentally stimulated, It even shows you how to teach them to do an agility course.



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