

A Guide to Basic Bunny Behavior

- ✚ **Bunny hop or dance-** A sign of pure joy and happiness. The bunny's "dancing" can include leaping, spinning, and racing around.
- ✚ **Bunny flop-** A bunny flop is very comical and indicates a content, tired bunny
- ✚ **Chinning-** Rabbits rub their chins (which contain scent glands) on items to get their scent on them. This behavior indicates that the items belong to them and also defines their territory. The scent is undetectable to humans.
- ✚ **Thumping or stomping-** The bunny is frightened, mad, or sensing danger (real or imagined).
- ✚ **Teeth Grinding-** Rabbits may softly grind their teeth when they are content (such as when you're petting them). Loud teeth grinding, however, can indicate that the rabbit is in pain or is ill. Take your bunny to a vet if you hear loud teeth grinding.
- ✚ **Circling your feet-** This usually indicates sexual behavior (even when your rabbit is neutered) but basically means "I love you."
- ✚ **Playing-** Rabbits like to push and toss objects around. They may also race madly around the house; jump on and off the furniture, and act like children who have had too much sugar. Rabbits love toys and will play with a favorite toy for hours.
- ✚ **Grunting-** If your rabbits grunt, it means he/she is angry and possibly feels threatened. Grunting sometimes is followed by a nip or a bite. Some rabbits do not like when their cages are rearranged as you clean. They are creatures of habit, and once things are just right, they like them to remain that way.
- ✚ **Nipping/biting-** A nip is gentler than a bite. A rabbit might nip to get your attention or to politely ask you to move out of their way. Rabbits generally do not bite, but if one does it does not mean he/she hates you. Rabbits can bite if you grab him/her by surprise. Your rabbit might accidentally bite while tugging at your pant leg. Lastly, a rabbit might bite because they have poor vision, and could mistake your finger for a predator.
- ✚ **If your rabbit bites let out a shrill cry. Your rabbit does this when they are hurt. Since it was probably not his/her intention to hurt you, they will stop the behavior immediately.**
- ✚ **Spraying-** Unneutered males will mark female rabbits and their territory with urine. Unspayed females can also indulge in this behavior.
- ✚ **Territorial droppings-** Droppings that are not in a pile, but scattered about, are signs that this territory belongs to your rabbit this behavior occurs when the rabbit enters a new territory or another bunny enters the home.
- ✚ **Shrill scream-** This is an indication that your rabbit is hurt or dying. Please seek immediate medical attention.