

Caring for Your Rabbit in Winter

Rabbits can thrive both indoors and outdoors, but during the winter months, they require extra protection and cozy bedding to ensure their warmth and comfort. By taking the right steps, you can keep your rabbits safe, happy, and snug during the chilly spells.

1. Shelter Them from the Elements

Providing a warm and secure environment for your rabbits is essential in winter. Position their hutches strategically to shield them from harsh winds, rain, snow, and sleet. If your rabbits reside outside, enhance their comfort by covering the front of the hutch with a fitted cover or a thick blanket topped with waterproof tarpaulin. Be cautious not to let your rabbits chew on these materials, and ensure there is adequate



ventilation to keep the air fresh.

2. Keep Them Dry

Rabbits are sensitive to damp conditions, so regularly check their housing to ensure it remains clean and dry. If moisture is seeping into their shelter, consider relocating their accommodation or adding additional protection to keep them safe from the elements.

3. Keep Them Warm

Adding extra bedding is crucial for keeping your rabbits warm during cold spells. Use plenty of soft straw, as it provides better insulation than hay. Ensure your rabbits have a constant supply of hay to munch on, and remember to replace their bedding regularly. You can also invest in pet-safe heat mats, like SnuggleSafe, which provide several hours of warmth. Ensure these mats are covered and buried under bedding to prevent direct contact with your rabbit's skin.

Tip: Cardboard boxes filled with straw make excellent warm retreats. Cut two entry holes to encourage your rabbits to explore and use them.

4. Ensure Their Water Doesn't Freeze



Regularly check your rabbits' water supply, as the small ball in water bottles can freeze easily. Gently press the ball every few hours to keep the water moving. Consider investing in specially made bottle covers, but remain vigilant with your checks to ensure they have access to fresh water.

5. Feed Them a Little More Hay

As temperatures drop, rabbits require more calories to maintain their body heat. Provide ample high-quality hay for them to nibble on throughout the day.



6. Keep Them Together

Rabbits are inherently social creatures, and housing them in pairs or small groups allows them to snuggle together for warmth. Their companionship is vital for emotional well-being, especially during the colder months.

7. Protect Your Rabbit from Predators

With winter approaching, predators like foxes and badgers become hungrier and bolder. Ensure your rabbits' hutch is robust enough to withstand the attention of determined intruders, providing peace of mind for their safety.

8. Provide Access to Their Run

Rabbits still need opportunities for exercise during winter, so ensure they have access to their run. Regular movement is crucial for their well-being and helps them stay warm. As long as your rabbits have been acclimated to outdoor living and have developed a thick coat, they can enjoy their exercise run day and night, especially if it is attached to their warm and dry housing. Interestingly, many rabbits appear to relish the brisk winter air!