



## Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund

This pdf is intended to give some ideas for a basic rabbit set up. This is based on a 6ft x 2ft x 2ft hutch and attached 8 ft run, which is what the RWAF recommends as a minimum for a pair of rabbits. Rabbits are athletic, social and intelligent animals, they should be kept with the companionship of their own kind (neutered opposite sex pairs work best) and be able to exercise or shelter as they please, not be confined to a hutch.



This is the basic set up - covered by a **tarp** which makes it weather proof to a degree, meaning rabbits can exercise even in rain or hot sun. Daisy was very pleased to hear my voice and came to investigate, Buggy was investigating the hutch but he is in there somewhere. There is also:

**A digging pit** - important if the run is on slabs and the rabbits can dig elsewhere

**Toys** - which should be changed regularly

**Hay rack** - so bunnies can forage all day and the hay will stay clean and dry because it's under the tarp. It's essential for rabbits to have access to clean hay or grass at all times. This is known as 'long fibre' and not only helps to prevent boredom, but also keeps their teeth and guts in good order.

**Logs** - to sit on to keep off wet ground if they want to, or as a look out point..



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Same as previous, but with only half the run covered by a tarp, its folded in half so it's easy and quick to pull it out fully in bad weather, but left there permanently, it will offer shade from the hot sun, and also rain showers.

It's also important to note that this run is high enough to allow the rabbits to rear up fully; rabbits that can not do this suffer from painful spinal deformities, making them aggressive and dangerous to handle. Rabbits also like to rear up to look around and satisfy themselves that there are no predators, so it is important that a run is at least 2 ft / 60 cms high to allow them to do both; this run is closer to 3ft / 90cms tall, which gives them plenty of room and means they can sit on toys/ logs and still rear up.



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This shows the Houdini Kit (from The Rabbit hutch shop) which edges the run with wire and makes it more difficult for the rabbits to dig out, or for predators to dig in. My 2 professional escape artists Trouble and Mischief would have got out of here in 3 days tops, but it took much longer for me to be concerned enough to move the run to stop them escaping. It's important that the whole of the run isn't covered in wire, as this isn't good for their feet, unless it is sunk under the turf. This also shows a water bowl which rabbits prefer as they can get a better drink, and a bottle as a back up in case the bowl gets contaminated, or spilled. Remember to check the ball of their water bottle as they do jam meaning rabbits can't get a drink – rabbits that eat a lot of hay, drink a lot of water! Hay rack also in shot, keeps hay clean, and dry because it's under the tarp, and makes it easy for the rabbits to forage.



Another view of the basic set up showing both Daisy and Bugsy, showing they have free access from the hutch to the run. Good view of the digging pit.



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Another shot of the set up, from the open hutch door; Daisy plays in a tunnel while Buggy eats the grass.



A rabbits' view – free access to the hutch or run, and a tarp covering their hay rack and play area, so that they can shelter and play whenever they want.



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This article is brought to you by The Rabbit Welfare Association and Fund (RWF) Reg Charity 1085689

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