



# 2021 Revised Rabbit Food Pyramid

\*1/4 to 1/3 cup pellets per 5 lbs. of body weight per day.

Dietary changes should be made gradually.

*A rabbit's diet should consist of portioned, good-quality pellets, unlimited "grass" hay (timothy, oat, brome, orchard grass, etc.), fresh water and portioned leafy green vegetables. \*\* Anything beyond that is a "treat" and should be given in very limited quantities.*

### **Babies**

- Birth to 3 weeks--mother's milk
- 3 to 7 weeks--mother's milk, alfalfa and pellets
- 7 weeks to 7 months--unlimited pellets, unlimited hay
- 12 weeks--introduce vegetables (one at a time, quantities under 1/2 oz.)

### **Young Adults** (7 months to 1 year)

- Introduce timothy hay, grass hay, and oat hays, decrease alfalfa
- Decrease pellets to 1/2 cup per 6 lbs. body weight
- Increase daily vegetables gradually
- Fruit daily ration no more than 1 oz. to 2 oz. per 6 lbs. body weight

### **Mature Adults** (1 to 5 years)

- Unlimited timothy, grass hay, oat hay, straw
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup pellets per 6 lbs. body weight
- Maximum 1 cup leafy green vegetables per large rabbit. About a half cup for small rabbits under 5 lbs.
- Fresh fruit daily ration no more than 2 oz. (2 tbsp.) per 6 lbs. body weight

### **Senior Rabbits** (Over 6 years)

- If sufficient weight is maintained, continue adult diet
- Frail, older rabbits may need unrestricted pellets to keep weight up
- Alfalfa can be given to underweight rabbits, only if calcium levels are normal
- Twice-annual blood workups are highly recommended for geriatric rabbits

*\*\* Note we now recommend adult rabbits be served no more than 1 cup fresh leafy green vegetables per day. This is a smaller portion than previously recommended. We also advise that some rabbits cannot tolerate vegetables well, and these rabbits should be fed NO VEGETABLES WHATSOEVER.*

### **Suggested Vegetables**

*Select at least three or more different vegetables daily. Variety is necessary to obtain optimal nutrients, with one each day that contains Vitamin A, as indicated by an (A). Introduce vegetables one at a time. Eliminate if you observe soft stool, diarrhea, or refusal to eat, and contact your rabbit-savvy vet.*

Alfalfa, radish & clover sprouts  
 Basil  
 Beet tops (A)  
 Bok choy  
 Carrot tops  
 Celery (must be chopped)  
 Cilantro  
 Chicory  
 Clover (no pesticides)  
 Collard greens(A)  
 Dandelion greens/flowers (no pesticides) (A)  
 Endive  
 Escarole  
 Green peppers

Kale (!)(A)  
 Mint  
 Mustard greens(A)  
 Parsley(A)  
 Spear/Peppermint leaves  
 Radicchio  
 Radish tops  
 Raspberry leaves  
 Red or green leaf lettuce  
 Romaine lettuce (no iceberg or light-colored leaf) (A)  
 Spinach (!)(A)  
 Turnip greens  
 Watercress(A)  
 Wheat grass

(!)=Use sparingly. High in either oxalates or goitrogens and may be toxic in accumulated quantities over a period of time