

INTRODUCING YOUR RABBIT TO OTHER RABBITS

Rabbits, like people, enjoy the company of others. Companionship helps to fill the hours while owners are away at work or out of the home. A bored rabbit may get into more mischief than a rabbit focusing attention on a companion.

The first step is finding a companion for your rabbit. Spayed and neutered rabbits are introduced more easily, since they are less territorial. The easiest introductions are between a neutered male and a spayed female, or between two spayed females. Introducing two unspayed females or two unneutered males have a lot more potential for serious fighting, so you will have the best chance of success if you have your existing rabbit spayed or neutered and introduce a younger, spayed female.

When the time comes to introduce your rabbits, locate the two rabbits in adjacent cages in a neutral room (where neither rabbit has ever been) where they can see and smell each other. Let them get used to the presence of another rabbit for several days before actually letting them meet.

Once they are familiar with each other's presence without obvious stress, you can introduce them on neutral territory for short periods of time; 20 to 30 minutes during the first few sessions.

Newly introduced rabbits may fight. You should have a water spray bottle and towels handy to break up any fighting. Do NOT break up fighting with your bare hands.

If they appear uninterested in each other or groom themselves, this is a good sign. If all is going well, you can extend the meeting sessions and eventually begin to house them together. You will need to have two litter pans as rabbits can take ownership and fight over just having one litterbox available. It is a good sign if they will eat from the same bowl together without any sign of aggravation. If the rabbits engage in grooming behavior, you've hit the jackpot!



Introducing two rabbits is not easy and may take from a few days to a few months before you can leave them completely alone at all times. If no fighting occurs when they first meet, your chances of success are high. However, if persistent fighting occurs in the first day or two, the chances are poor.



Founded in 1868, the Oregon Humane Society fosters an environment of respect, responsibility, and compassion for all animals through education, legislation and leadership. With your support, we take care of the homeless, defend the abused, and fight with unrelenting diligence for the recognition of the integrity of all animals.