

Cages and Condos

Before shopping for a rabbit cage or condo, take time to consider where it should be located. Rabbits do best in a relatively quiet area where they will still have frequent human interaction. Avoid placing your rabbit's cage too near a doorway or in a drafty area of your home. Rabbits enjoy natural sunlight, but ensure he is not in full sunlight on hot days — remember, he is wearing a fur coat!

Before you buy a cage for your rabbit, shop around. The cages sold in most pet stores are expensive and **way** too small for most adult rabbits. Even dwarf rabbits should have at least a 2' X 3' cage. If your rabbit will spend much of his day caged, the cage should be at least four times the size of your adult rabbit fully stretched out and should be tall enough for him to comfortably stand on his hind legs. There should be plenty of room for a litter-box in addition to food, water, toys, and a place to stretch out.

Most standard rabbit cages have a wire bottom and either sit in a tray to catch droppings or have a tray that slides out like a drawer. Slide-out trays are more practical until your rabbit is fully litter-box trained — otherwise you have to lift the cage and its contents and find a place to set it while you clean the tray. If your rabbit's cage has a wire bottom, provide a piece of carpet or plywood covered with a soft towel or washable rug so your rabbit has a place to sit without his sensitive feet resting on wire.

KW Cages sells well-built cages in a variety of sizes and styles. You can also contact fence companies in your area to see if they will custom-build a cage for you. Where I live, one of the fence companies will build a cage twice the size of those sold in pet stores for about half the price. If you have a cage custom-built, ask about a top opening for you in addition to a side door for your rabbit to come out and in through. A top opening makes it easier for you to access the cage for cleaning and other maintenance without having to worry about your rabbit escaping. Remember, however, that your rabbit may feel threatened when approached from above, so be sure to talk soothingly to him to help him feel secure.



Puppy training cages, available at most pet stores, come in a variety of sizes and can make good rabbit cages. Their solid bottoms protect carpet from accidents during litter-box training, can be removed for easy cleaning, and have no wire to irritate sensitive feet. Large doors make it easy to use any size litter-box and allow easy access for cleaning.

If you have limited floor space, consider a two- or three-story condo using Neat Ideas or Creative Cubes or similar materials available at office supply stores. These “cubes” are sold as square plastic grids that can be assembled in an almost limitless variety of configurations. Modular design allows you to make the most of the floor space you have available, regardless of its shape!



Of course, if you are talented you can always build a cage that fits into your lifestyle and home décor. Some people take a built-in cabinet or piece of furniture and re-design it into an awesome, multi-story rabbit cage. Others turn their rabbit cage into an attractive piece of furniture such as a coffee table, end table, or nightstand. The possibilities are limited only by your imagination.

Make sure that any enclosure you build for your rabbit is well ventilated. Rabbits should never be kept in an aquarium or any enclosure that is completely enclosed on all but one side.