

Fruit Treats

Small amounts of fruit (about 2 Tbs per day per 5 pound of rabbit) can be and healthy and enjoyable treat for **most** rabbits. A few rabbits, however, experience GI upsets any time they are offered fruit. Since fruit is high in natural sugars, it is important to limit amounts no matter how much your rabbit begs for more. Safe fruits include:

- Apple
- Blueberries
- Cranberries (fresh or dried)
- Melon
- Orange
- Papaya
- Peach
- Pear
- Pineapple
- Plums
- Raspberries
- Raisins
- Strawberries

Always wash fruits thoroughly and never feed seeds.

Bananas and grapes are higher in natural sugar and should be used only as **occasional** treats. However, you may want to determine whether your rabbit likes bananas. Many people have found that the easiest way to give their rabbit medicine is to hide it in a small slice of banana.

As with all changes to your rabbit's diet, introduce fruits one at a time and carefully watch for GI changes. Some rabbits produce excess cecal pellets or have soft stools when fed certain fruits. If this happens, discontinue the fruit, allow a few days for the GI to return to normal, and try a different fruit. With this approach you will eventually learn what fruits your rabbit likes best and can tolerate. Since fruits should be viewed as a treat and kept to small quantities, offer only those your rabbit truly enjoys.

Treats can be a great way to encourage your rabbit to return to his cage, pen, or room when exercise time is over. Smokey loved bananas and I could get him to return to the kitchen at bedtime by calling out "Nana 'Mokey" as I walked toward the kitchen. Murray always received a few dried cranberries as a reward for taking his medicine. He let **me** know when it was bedtime by sitting in "apple position" — the carpet sample by the sink where he received his nightly apple.