

Apr 30 - Written By Sophia Uhlenhoff

11 Things that Annoy Bunny Parents



Lionhead rabbit inside a toy tunnel.

There are many, many joys of having a pet bunny, from cuteness overload to the wonderful companionship they provide. But, there's also a few things about the bunny-parent life that can just get on our nerves. Whether you know someone with a bunny and want to avoid stepping on their toes, or if you have a bunny and are looking for validation, read on to discover some of rabbit owners' top pet peeves.

1. People saying they want to eat your bunny

If I had a nickel for every time someone said, "Rabbits are good to eat," after I told them I had pet bunnies, I would have \$1. Which isn't a lot of money, but considering how often I talk to people, it sure is a lot of times people have implied they want to eat my fur babies. No matter what your view on eating rabbits, or animals in general, saying you want to eat someone's pet is just plain rude.

2. The bunny tax

I can get a 70 lb bale of Timothy hay meant for horses/cows for \$18, but if I try to buy a 50 lb box of Timothy hay marketed for bunnies, it's \$80. The same thing goes for litter. A 20 lb bag of bunny litter/bedding is \$20. But a 40 lb bag of pelleted horse bedding (which works great in a bunny's litter box) is only \$6. It's the "bunny tax." Also, a word of advice, whenever you try to buy stuff for your bunny, pretend it's for a horse.

3. Asking why you have a pet bunny

People rarely interrogate you on why you got a dog or cat, but once you say you have bunnies, it's all, "Why a *bunny*? They don't *do* anything. They're a *children's* pet." This question is especially likely to come up if it's a man saying he has bunnies (just ask my husband). And to answer the question, if you take the time to get to know them and don't keep them cooped up in a cage all the time, bunnies are very affectionate, silly, quirky, charming, intelligent, and entertaining little creatures. I can't imagine not having them in my life.

4. Hay EVERYWHERE

One of the most important rabbit-care facts is that [buns need an unlimited supply of fresh, high-fiber hay](#). It's recommended to put the hay in the litter box because bunnies like to eat and poop at the same time, but the hay never seems to stay there. Every time one of my bunnies jumps out of the litter box, they drag some hay with them. This hay ends up absolutely everywhere. All over the carpet, in rooms the bunnies aren't even allowed in like the bathroom, on the bedsheets... I've even found hay on my underwear shelf! Needless to say, many bunny parents have to sweep and vacuum almost every day.

Using a high-sided litter pan can help minimize this (not recommended for senior buns or bunnies suffering from arthritis), as can covered or hidden litter boxes, and we've had good luck with using mats to catch some of the hay.

5. Finding bunny poop in unexpected places

Bunnies are [very easy to litter train](#), but because they poop [300 times a day](#), they can't always make it to the litter box. Luckily, since we're already having to do so much vacuuming to keep up with the hay, this usually takes care of the stray poops too. But bunny poop has a habit of turning up in inconvenient places, like on your pillow, in your shoes, on the couch when you have a guest over... And how did it get on the ceiling?

6. The grocery store not having good produce

It's not like I'm trying to feed a pair of picky divas who've never had a hard day in their life here. Oh, wait, I am. And this romaine is browning, the kale is limp, and the store's out of Italian parsley and they don't *like* the curly kind. Guess I'll be getting the bunny butt for days.

7. Bunnies being considered livestock

Bunnies miss out on so many privileges dogs and cats enjoy because many people think of them as a farm animal. Just try looking for an apartment when you have bunnies.

"Ring ring."

"Hello, this is Birch Property Management."

"Yes, hello. I see your apartments are marked as pet-friendly on Apartments.com. Do you allow bunnies?"

"I'm sorry, ma'am. We don't allow livestock. Dogs and cats only."

Which is pretty ridiculous if you compare bunnies to dogs and cats. They don't bark and wake the neighbors at 1 am, their pee won't destroy floorboards, they don't smell (as long as they're spayed/neutered and you do the bare minimum of changing their litter box ever couple days), and they won't attack the neighbor's dog/cat/child. Yes, you do have to do some bunny proofing to keep them from chewing baseboards and the like, but you also have to keep your cat from scratching the walls and your dog from destroying the blinds. So all in all, bunnies should be allowed in apartments *before* dogs and cats (not that it's a contest).

Trying to take a rabbit on a plane is equally difficult. Many airlines, like United and Delta, allow cats and dogs to ride with their owners, but [bunnies are consigned to the cargo hold](#) (which is absolutely not safe). If Brenda can take her yappy chihuahua on the plane with her, why can't I take my completely silent bun with me?

8. The lack of rabbit-savvy vets

It's so hard to find a good rabbit-savvy vet. Which is understandable since there's a much larger demand for dog and cat vets, so obviously there will be far more dog/cat vets than rabbit vets. But it still makes life stressful. Where I live, I'm fortunate to have a few vets that are knowledgeable about rabbits, but my buns still have far fewer treatment options available to them than a dog or cat would.

Many rabbit parents aren't lucky enough to have access to a rabbit-savvy vet at all, especially those living in rural areas. Which is terrifying when you consider how fragile the little critters are.

9. Most of the products at the pet store being bad for rabbits (or mediocre at best)

Maybe this is also the case for cats and dogs, but if you walk into the bunny aisle at the pet store, most of the rabbit products aren't actually good for your bun. All the cages are way too small (a puppy play pen/x-pen is much better), the [treats are overloaded with sugar](#), many of the toys are made with painted or treated wood that won't be at all tasty for your bun to chew, the bunny litter boxes aren't big enough to catch all the pee, the hay is usually dusty and low-quality, a lot of the food has too

little fiber or contains harmful ingredients like fruit and seeds, and the list goes on.

You can find plenty of great toys for your bunny online, a big litter box in the cat section, and fresh hay from your local feed store or farmer, but it's disappointing to not have the same convenience of meeting your bun's needs that dog and cat parents enjoy (heck, they can get quality pet food at the grocery store). Plus, many new rabbit parents assume that all the pet store products are fine for bunnies and end up wasting money at the beginning (or worse, never learn until it's too late).

10. Trouble finding good quality hay

Bunnies need 24-hour access to a quality supply of hay, but finding good hay can sometimes be a challenge. I usually try and stock up on a year's worth of farm-fresh hay bales during the summer, but if you miscalculate how much hay you need, or the neighbor's cat decides to dislodge the tarp off your haystack in the middle of a rainstorm so they can take a nap inside, finding replacement hay can be rough. A lot of the hay available at pet stores is old and dusty, and your bunny [won't want to eat it](#). Online retailers selling good-quality hay often run out because of supply issues or if the harvest was bad, and most farmers only have hay for sale in the summer and early fall.

11. Misinformation about rabbits

Along with the previously mentioned stereotype that bunnies are children's pets and are livestock that don't belong in apartments, there's a lot of harmful misinformation about rabbits. For example, many people think bunnies are low-maintenance pets that don't require much care. In reality, cleaning up after them, keeping them stocked up on fresh food, and changing their litter boxes makes for [as much work](#) as a dog or cat. There's also the notion that bunnies can be kept shut up in a cage all day, be housed outside all alone in a hutch outside, are stinky, can live off of carrots, will [survive like a wild rabbit](#) if you dump them in a field, and the list goes on.

While someone asking you why your bunny isn't in a cage is easy to brush aside, it's sad to see other people's bunnies being given up because they're a lot more work than expected, being cooped up in a cage, or being fed a dangerous diet.

At the end of the day, most of these annoyances are just that: annoyances. With the exception of finding bunny-friendly apartments, most of the items on this list can easily be shrugged off or solved with work-arounds. And our precious little fur babies are so worth it.

Sophia Uhlenhoff

**Don't "Release" Your Bunny:
You're not setting them free,
you're sentencing them to an
early death.** >

Location

Nampa, Idaho

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