

Useful Guide For Canada Dorwan Giant Rabbit Breed Farming



PREPARED BY:
Alcare Kenya Limited
P. O. Box 931 00502 Karen
Cell: 0725 893963/0718784649
Email: ceo@alcaregroup.com
Website : www.alcaregroup.com

2. WHAT IS AKL CONTRACT RABBIT FARMING?

Definition:

A farming joint venture between the two parties, the Farmer and the Contractor (Alcare Kenya Limited).

A contract farming agreement is not a partnership; it is a joint venture between AKL and yourself. The Farmer is engaging the services of AKL with specifications and conditions set out by AKL and this trading position is preserved/excludes tax, VAT, etc. are concerned. Both parties retain their individual identity as farm businesses in their own right.

Farmer Provides

- *Land*
- Buildings
- Fixed Equipment(i.e.. nest boxes, litter feeders etc)
- **New bank account** - used to pay all outgoing and receive income applicable to the agreement

Contract Farmer Provides

- *Management Expertise as per training AKL*
- Labor
- Machinery
- Additional Space (where required)

The Agreement

The Contract Agreement sets out:

- The terms of engagement - including length of agreement
- The operation of the contract
- The formula for calculating remuneration to each party

Benefits to the Farmer

- Avoids creation of tenancy or complex partnerships
- *Retains occupation of the farm with associated benefits*
- Release of working capital
- Retains taxation relief where applicable
- Benefit from economies of scale

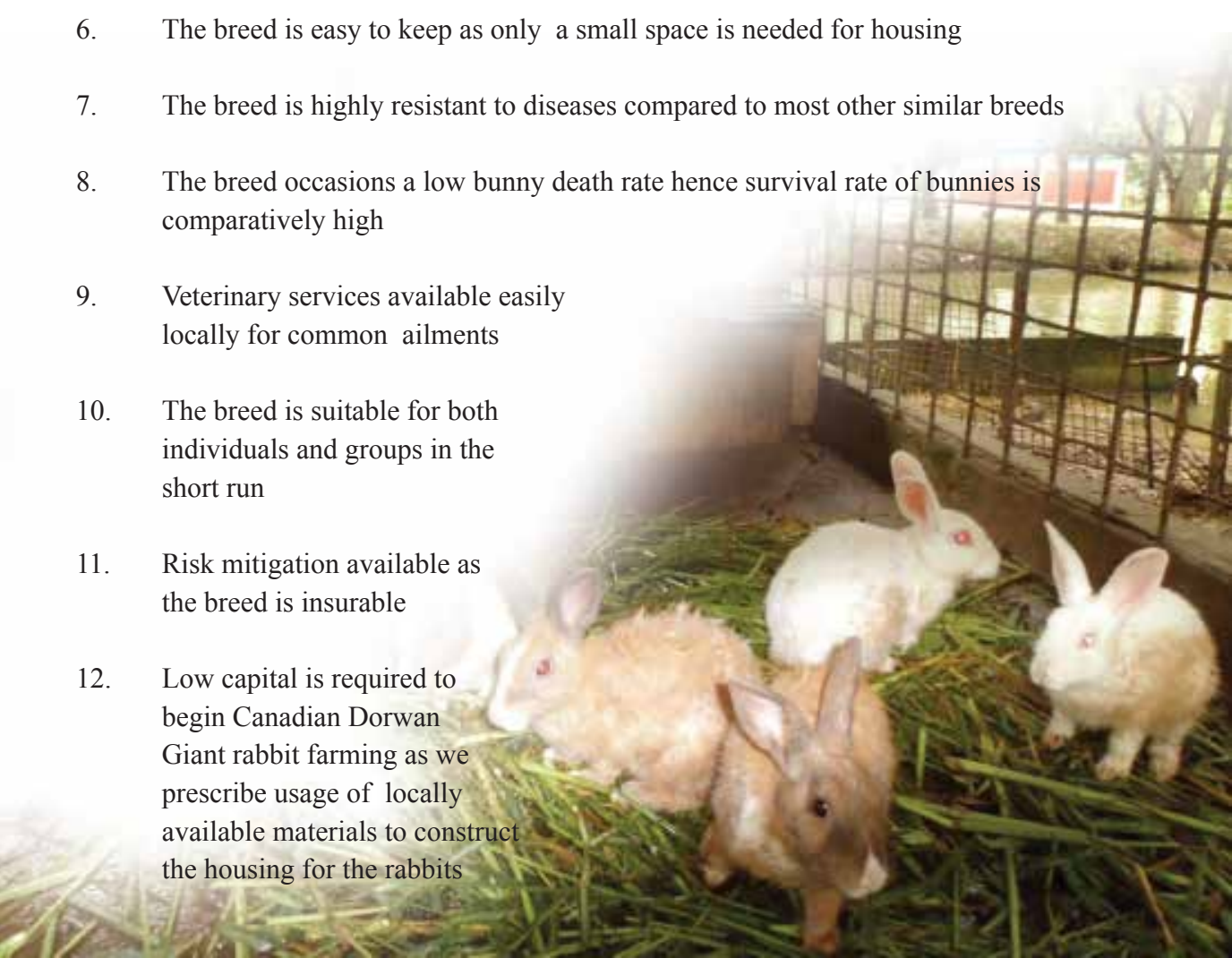
Remuneration

Set out in the contract between Farmer and Contract Farmer

- The Farmers puts up the farm at own cost
- The contractor - stocks and harvests rabbits from the Farmer as per contract

3. WHY CANADA DORWAN GIANT BREED IS THE BEST FOR KENYA

1. The meat/bone ratio is high at 80/20 ratio
2. The breed can do well in both cold and hot areas, arid and semi arid areas (in all counties in Kenya)
3. The breed can feed on a wide range feeds including rabbit pellets, normal dairy mash feeds, 80% wilted weeds widely available in the field, hay and our formulated farm mash and pelleted feeds
4. The breed is available and affordable and easily available from our production farms to serve all the counties in Kenya
5. The breed gives a return of investment within two harvests
6. The breed is easy to keep as only a small space is needed for housing
7. The breed is highly resistant to diseases compared to most other similar breeds
8. The breed occasions a low bunny death rate hence survival rate of bunnies is comparatively high
9. Veterinary services available easily locally for common ailments
10. The breed is suitable for both individuals and groups in the short run
11. Risk mitigation available as the breed is insurable
12. Low capital is required to begin Canadian Dorwan Giant rabbit farming as we prescribe usage of locally available materials to construct the housing for the rabbits



4. HOW TO CARE FOR PREGNANT CANADA DORWAN GIANT RABBIT DAM

Many owners are not ready to handle their Canada Dorwan Giant rabbit's pregnancy. Considering the high mortality rate of newborn bunnies, it is no surprise that many are confused as to what they should do. There are plenty of useful tips that owners can adopt and this starts by gathering the right information from reliable sources.

It is not encouraged to allow your bunny to get pregnant. There is already an overgrown of rabbit population in the world, and if you wanted another one, then you should consider getting them from an animal shelter. Bunnies may be cute but they grow up very fast and in many cases, they are abandoned when they are no longer cute.

However, if your rabbit is pregnant, there are good tips you can follow to care for them and raise the survival chances of its babies. A doe hide her pregnancy quite well. Even experienced vet sometimes made mistakes in their assessment when checking if there is pregnancy.

As a matter of fact, you can hardly notice any change of behavior in the doe. The easiest way to tell if your female pet rabbit is pregnant is to see if she rejects the advancement of the buck. About two weeks after conceiving, you may be able to feel the fetus inside her womb. It feels marble-like.

The gestation period is between 28 to 35 days. During this time, just provide her with adequate food and water. She may begin her nesting process about one week before delivery. Some pet rabbits only started building her nest as little as three days or one day before delivery.

The doe build its nest by gathering hay and shredding newspaper. She will also pull fur from her own chest. Each rabbit's pregnancy may result in 7 to 13 kits (baby rabbits are called kits). It is not surprising to see the doe immediately leaving its kits after birthing. This may be inherited from their wild cousins to prevent attracting the attention of predator animals.

This may be the right time to check on the bunnies. Unlike other smaller animals, rabbits do not mind human touching their offspring. Check if the babies are warm. If they are not, then you can wrap warm water bottle with towel and place in the nest to help them stay warm.

As the mother rabbit nurse their young ones only twice a day and each nursing takes less than 5 minutes, you may need to play the role of surrogate parents. Suitable formulated milk powder and feeding bottle may be bought from pet store or from a vet.

It is important to gather as much information as possible on pregnant rabbits care. Taking care of pregnant rabbit and raising baby rabbits may be a big responsibility but it is a very rewarding experience.

5. BABY RABBITS FREEZING TO DEATH

One of the early causes of death is chilling. It is not unusual for a first or even second time doe to have her kits on the wire or in the front of her nest box out in the open.

There may be little you can do about that except give your doe time to learn. But you can check her nest box to make sure she hasn't dug a hole that goes all of the way to the bottom. I've had kits well covered and snuggled together, only to die from exposure to cold air on the bottom wire of the nest box.

If the kits are very valuable to you, you might bring the doe inside to kindle, giving you a little extra time to find the kits alive and snuggle them into their nest boxes. I have also used a nest box warmer, which could give slightly scattered babies the time they need to get snuggled together or to save a singleton that would otherwise chill and die.

Make sure that you are using a nest box the appropriate size for Hollands. Mine are just about the biggest you would want to use. With them, I make sure that there is plenty of hay stuff in so that there is only a small pocket for the kits to be placed into—just about the size of my fist.

If you find cold babies on the wire or scattered in the nest box (and even sometimes well nestled, but still chilled), do not assume they are dead. By briskly, but gently rubbing the kits, you might find that one or more is alive. If you see any movement after a couple of minutes, then take the kits into the house. Throw a towel into the dryer and fill a large zipper-type freezer back half full of very warm, but not hot water. Squeeze out the air and close, making a warm waterbed for the kits. Cover them with the warmed towel. Make sure the kits are well warmed, for two to four hours, before you take them back to the barn. If you are concerned about the dam's ability to care for the kits, you may want to foster them.

Still In A Sac

Very occasionally, you may find a baby on the wire still warm, but covered in the sac. You must remove this film from the face. It's can be a bit difficult to do. If the kit begins breathing, great! But if not, place it between your hands, hold firmly without squeezing, and jerk your hands down several times to get the kit breathing. If that does not work, swing your arm in a very large arc a couple of time. Briskly rub the kit (under a heat lamp, if the weather is cold) to see if that brings the kit around. If you feel the flaccid body firm up, you are achieving success. Keep working on the kit for a few more minutes.

Mother Rabbit Not Producing Milk

Another problem you may have concerns doe's milk. Most does make sufficient milk and nurse their kits with no problem. But every now and then, a doe will have little milk, no milk or very

late milk. I had a doe that didn't seem to get milk after 36 hours, so I always fostered her kits. But once, none of the other does kindled with her and she had seven kits. I thought that I would just lose them all. On the third day, however, two of the kits looked well fed. The next day, a couple more looked chubby. By the fifth day, all of them were quite fat and doing well. From that litter on, I always let her nurse her babies and don't stress if they don't look good the first couple of days.

If the doe doesn't seem to have milk at all, you might try tandem nursing for a few days just to be on the safe side. You can give the nest box to one doe for the morning and to the other in the evening. Once you are sure that the nursing routine is established and milk is plentiful, you can give the litter to a single doe. If the doe you had doubts about never develops milk, then the other doe has kept her milk supply going and can nurse the litter.

Kit Deaths at Weaning

The last period of time when I have lost a lot of kits in the past is sometime between five and eight weeks of age. I was getting a lot of weaning enteritis, sometimes losing 2/3 of a litter. At one point, I was losing a kit about every three days. While talking with a more experienced breeder, I began to realize that I had started feeding more and more oats to my herd and had even lost a few adults bunnies during that period. I stopped giving oats to kits at about four weeks old (and do not restart until they are about 3 1/2 months old). The deaths stopped instantly. It is possible that when the doe weans the kits, they no longer have the protection provided by her milk. The extra carbohydrates cause an imbalance or other problem for the kits and enteritis, quickly followed by death resulted. However it works, I found that eliminating oats for that group of kits made a huge difference for me. (By the way, I now limit the older rabbits to one teaspoon of oats, strictly measured, and have not had an enteritis death since.)



6. ALCARE KENYA LIMITED - RABBIT W.E.F. OCTOBER 2015.CELL +254 71

PACKAGE ITEM

TOTAL NO. OF RABBITS	16	20
DAMS AND SIRES RABBITS	72000	90000
FEMALES/MALES RATIO PER LEVEL	12/04	15/5
LONG ROOMS (2 cages make a Long Room)	4/24000	6/36000
CAGES/COST MANUAL @ 3500	24/84000	40/140000
GALVANISED CAGES NO./COST@ 4000	24/96000	36/144000
AUTOMATION ONLY FOR MANUAL TIMBER CAGES@1200	38400	62400
CONSULTANCY / TRAINING @ 3,000 /PERSON/SESSION	4000	4000
INSURANCE @1000/- PER RABBIT PER YEAR	16000	20000
DRUGS & VACCINES	4800	14400
MULTIVITAMINS & FATTENERS	4000	8000
3 MONTH RABBIT FEED-MASH/PELLETS(kg)	300/50	450/100
FEED TOTAL COST	21500	30550
ANNUAL CONTRACT RENEWABLE	6000	6000
SITE VISIT /INSPECTION PROFESSIONAL FEES	3500	3500
TRANSPORT FOR SITE VISIT @ 50/- PER KM		
TRANSPORTATION OF STOCK 50/- PER KM		
DRINKERS/FEEDERS	12000	24000
DRINKERS/FEEDERS (WITH AUTOMATION)	6000	12000
NEST BOXES NO./COST AS PER DAMS	6000	7500
LONG ROOM LITTER FEEDERS	8000	12000
BARN/STRUCTURE COST	70000	130000
ESTIMATED NET PROFIT/RETURN OF INVESTMENT (6 MTHS)	150000	195000

BRONZE

SILVER

GO

PLACE DISTANCE FROM YOU

BANK DETAILS:
BANK: KENYA COMMERCIAL BANK
BRANCH: KIKUYU
ACCOUNT NUMBER : 1148588558
 YOU CAN BANK IN ANY KCB BRANCH IN EAST AFRICA

3. PURCHASE
 4. ALL FARM VISIT
 TRAINING
 75. PAYMENT

OTHER PRODUCTS :

1. METTALIC FEEDERS	150/- EACH	5. GALVANISED CAGE
2. NIPPLES	200/- EACH	6. POST MORTEM
3. CONNECTORS	50/- EACH	7. AUTOMATION T
4. AUTOMATION PLASTIC PIPES	200/- PER METRE	8. RABBIT PVC NETTING

T FARMING STARTER PROGRAMMES

8784649/725893963

OLD	SUPER GOLD	DIAMOND	PLATINUM	COUNTY AGENT	DIASPORA
30	50	70	90	120	
135000	225000	315000	405000	540000	
22/8	35/15	50/20	60/30	80/40	
10/60000	12/72000	16/96000	24/84000	36/216000	
60/210000	72/260000	96/336000	180/630000	300/1050000	
60/240000	72/216000	96/384000	180/720000	300/1200000	
96000	115200	153600	273600	446400	
4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	
30000	50000	70000	90000	120000	
28800	43200	57600	72000	86400	
12000	18000	24000	30000	38400	
600/150	750/200	900/250	1050/300	1200/350	
45450	60500	72000	84000	90900	
6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	
3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	
OUR PROPOSED RABBIT FARM LOCATION AND MULTIPLY BY 50/- PER KM					
36000	48000	60000	96000	144000	
18000	24000	30000	48000	72000	
11000	10500	25000	30000	60000	
20000	24000	32000	48000	72000	
180000	245000	320000	400000	525000	
280000		350000	490000	550000	

USD 5100 FOR SITE VISIT EXCLUDING AIR TICKETS THEN FULL QUOTE

NOTES

1. DAMS GIVE BIRTH TO 5-20 BUNNIES PER KINDLING
2. SUBSIDIZED FEEDING RECOMMENDED
3. PRICE KSH.500 PER KG LIVE WEIGHT AND BREAK EVEN LEVEL ESTIMATED AT GOLD LEVEL
4. COSTS CHARGED AT 4000 PER PERSON PER SESSION BASED ON BOOKING AN APPOINTMENT AFTER PAYING KSH 4,000.
5. TRAINING/CONSULTANCY APPOINTMENT THROUGH 0718784649/0725893963
6. PAYMENT BASED ON 80% DEPOSIT AND 20% ON DELIVERY OF RABBITS AND CONTRACT
7. NO REFUND UPON DEPOSIT PAYING

ES 33000/- @12 CAGE SET MIN.
 1500 PER CARCASS/DISEASE
 -CLIPS 300/-@ PACKET
 NG 15000/- PER 30 METRE ROLL

7. ALCARE KENYA LIMITED PLANNING GUIDE FOR RABBIT HOUSING

NO.	ITEM	SIZE	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	SUPER GOLD	PLATINUM	COUNTY AGENT	DIASPORA FRANCHISE (MINIMUM PURCHASE 500 DOES AND 300 BUCKS)
1	TOTAL NO. OF CAGES	STANDARD	24	40	60	96	180	240	500
2	LONG ROOMS/ CAGES (2 CAGES = 1 LONG ROOM)	STANDARD	4*8	6*12	10*20	12*24	24*48	36*72	50/100
3	BARN/STRUCTURE SIZE (SQUARE FOOT)	AS PER FARMING LEVEL	360	600	800	900	1200	1800	2400
4	TIMBER (FEET)	2X2	960	1560	2400	3600	6840	9360	18000
5	TIMBER (FEET)	2X1	960	1560	2400	3600	6840	9360	18000
6	EXTERNAL CHICKEN WIRE (ROLLS)	1/2 INCH	21	3	4	5	6	13	20
7	PVC COATED RABBIT WIRE (AVAILABLE FROM AKL ONLY)	RABBIT WIRE	2	3	6	10	12	13	20
8	WASTE PIPE	3 INCH	3	6	8	10	12	16	24
9	GAUGE WIRE MESH	MEDIUM GAUGE	8	12	15	18	20	25	40
10	CORRUGATED TRANSLUCENT PLASTIC SHEETS	3 METRES LIGHT GAUGE	12	14	18	20	24	28	40
11	PLYWOOD	4X8 FEET	8	12	15	18	20	25	40
13	TOWER BOLTS (PIECES)	2 INCHES	32	52	80	116	228	213	600
14	HINGES (PIECES)	2 INCHES	64	104	160	232	456	426	1200
15	NAILS	ORDINARY							
	5 INCH	ORDINARY	5 KG	8	10	15	18	22	30
	4 INCH	ORDINARY	5 KG	8	10	15	18	22	30
	3 INCH	ORDINARY	5 KG	8	10	15	18	22	30
	2 INCH	ORDINARY	4 KG	6	8	10	12	15	20
	1.5 INCH	POLISHED	3 KG	4	6	8	10	14	20
	1 INCH	POLISHED	2 KG	3	5	8	10	14	20
	ROOFING NAILS	ORDINARY	5 KG	8	10	15	18	22	30
16	TOTAL COST ('000)		180	300	400	450	600	900	1200

NOTE

1. PLEASE NOTE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE INFORMATION BELOW CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED AFTER FARMING PROGRAMMES AND ALL CONSTRUCTION IS STRICTLY AS PER AKL SPECIFICATIONS
2. FARMER MUST SIGN A FARM CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT BEFORE COMMENCE OF FARM CONSTRUCTION

9. WHAT TO FEED NEWLY WEANED RABBITS

Before kits, or baby bunnies, are weaned from their mother, they should be eating commercial rabbit food pellets. These small bits are designed specifically for the rabbit's sensitive gastrointestinal system. With kits, it is a matter of feeding just the right amount, neither overfeeding nor underfeeding the developing rabbits. Watch the babies carefully for signs of illness after weaning. Call the vet if a kit stops eating or develops diarrhea.

Weaning

Avoid weaning the kits from their mother before the age of 4 weeks. Before that time, they still rely on mother's milk for their nutritional needs. Wean the babies between the ages of 4 weeks and 6 weeks although you might want to wait until the kits are 8 weeks old for large breeds. By these ages, they are drinking little, if any, milk and are fairly independent. Take their mother out of the cage and leave the litter together. Keeping them in the familiar cage helps reduce some of the stress of weaning. Make sure the babies have a constant supply of fresh, clean water. Give them about 60 percent of recommended commercial feed ration on the first day of weaning, 80 percent the following day and the full amount on the third day. Make hay available all at times during this period.

Feed

Twice daily, give baby bunnies only the amount of feed pellets they can consume in about half an hour. The feed should consist of a minimum of 18 percent protein and should be low in carbohydrates. Since nursing mothers require high protein, you can probably give the kits the same feed you gave the doe. Feed labels will give you protein and carbohydrate information, but it's wise to ask your vet for brand recommendations. After a few weeks, switch to a lower-protein diet, around 16 percent. When you make any changes in the commercial feed, including switching brands, do so gradually over a period of several days rather than all at once.

Hay

All domestic rabbits require the fiber in hay to keep their gastrointestinal tract moving efficiently and their constantly growing teeth worn down. Newly weaned bunnies are no exception. Give newly weaned kits free choice access to hay or feeding pellets in the morning and hay at night. Feed either timothy or grass hay, not a legume like alfalfa. The latter contains too much calcium.

Enteritis

Newly weaned rabbits might suffer and succumb to enteritis, or gastrointestinal tract infection. It is important to keep an eye on your kits' fecal output once they are weaned. Feeding too many carbohydrates and too little fiber is a recipe for disaster in rabbits 1 to 2 months of age. Enteritis usually presents itself in the form of diarrhea. Your vet might be able to save your kit by prescribing antibiotics and recommending dietary changes.

10. ALCARE KENYA LIMITED RABBIT HARVEST FORM

NAME OF CONTRACTED FARMER: _____

AREA: _____

DATE: _____

SUPPLIED STOCK NO. OF DAMS _____ & SIRES _____ DATE _____

NO. HARVESTED: FEMALES _____ MALES _____

EXPECTED NUMBER OF HARVEST RABBITS: _____

AVERAGE WEIGHTS OF HARVESTED (MUST FILL) : _____

ABILITY OF FUTURE SUPPLY: _____

RECORDS AT THE FARM ? _____ CONTRACT: _____

APPROXIMATE TIME OF SUPPLY : _____

STATE OF CAGES: _____

HEALTH STATUS: _____

SIGNATURE OF FARMER SUPPLIER: _____

OFFICIAL USE;

DIAGNOSIS OF DISEASES AND AREAS OF CONCERN:

AKL CHEQUE NUMBER: _____ AKL SIGN: _____

11. RABBIT REPLACEMENT FORM



ALCARE KENYA LIMITED

P. O. BOX 931 00502 KAREN, Cell: 0751 504804/
0718784 649

EMAIL: CEO@alcaregroup.com, WEBSITE: alcare-
group.com

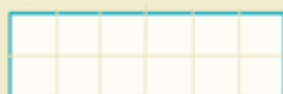
Agribusiness wealth, health and better life

CUSTOMER NAME:	
IDENTITY CARD NO.	
FARMING LEVEL:	
AREA:	
COUNTY	
INSURANCE START DATE	
INSURANCE STOP DATE	
NO. TO BE REPLACED	
SEX : M/F	
TOTAL NO. AFTER REPLACEMENT	

Official use only:
AKL Officer: _____
Signature and rubber stamp : _____
Comments: _____
Company rubber stamp: _____ _____

Rabbit Housing Size Guide

MINIMUM SPACE










Living Space
12 sq. ft
(1.1 sq. m)

Exercise Space
32 sq. ft
(3 sq. m)

To calculate the floor space, multiply length by width
e.g. 6' x 2' = 12 square feet

EXAMPLES

Living Space		Exercise Space		Total
	Hutch 6' x 2'		Run 8' x 4'	44 sq. ft.
	Shed 6' x 4'		Aviary 6' x 6'	60 sq. ft.
	Dog Crate 4' x 3'		Wire Pen 6' x 6'	48 sq. ft.
		Spare Room 12' x 10'		120 sq. ft.

Ideally the living space and exercise space should be one large area, or two areas your rabbit can move between freely, for example cage connected to a pen or a hutch linked with a tunnel or ramp to a secure run.

MINIMUM DIMENSIONS



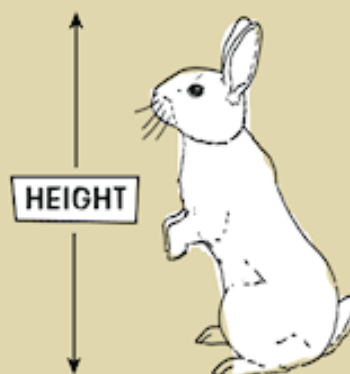
WIDTH

The length of your rabbit when fully stretched out resting.
2' (60cm) for small/medium
3' (90cm) large/giant



LENGTH

The distance your rabbit covers in 3-4 hops. One hop is about 18" (45cm) for a small rabbit, or 2' (60cm) for a large rabbit.



HEIGHT

Tall enough for your rabbit to stand on its back legs without touching the roof. About 2' (60cm), or 3' (90cm) for giants.

