



# Nibbles

Rodent and Rabbit Rescue

Registered Charity No. 1168657



## Minimum Housing Requirements for Rabbits

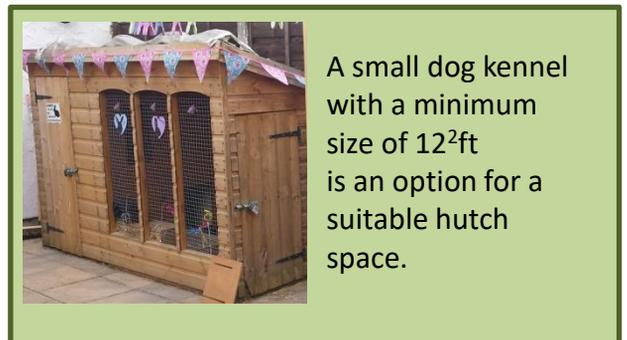
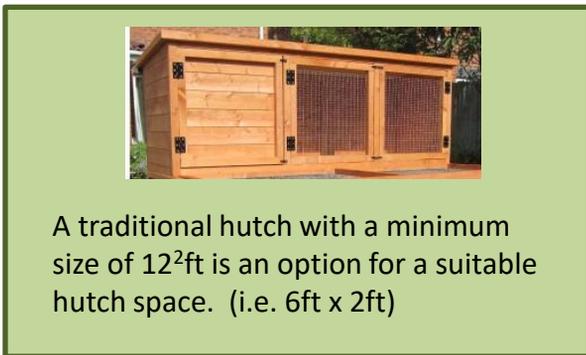
### Outdoor Rabbits

Outdoor rabbit accommodation needs to comprise of a 'hutch type' area and an exercise/run area . Ideally these two areas should be connected allowing the rabbits the freedom to move between them as they please. The 'hutch' area (of suitable size) can be situated inside the exercise/run area or be connected by a pop hole or tunnel. However both areas will need to meet the following criteria in their own right. Over all both areas, when connected together, need to have a minimum size of 60<sup>2</sup>ft to provide a comfortable 24/7 living space for a standard size pair of rabbits.

#### The 'Hutch' Area

This area will need to meet the following criteria:

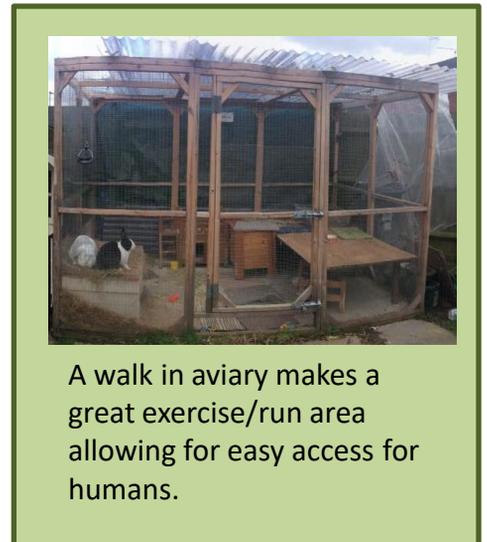
- Fully covered roof
- Three fully enclosed sides (back and two sides)
- A portion of the fourth side (the front) enclosed to provide a fully enclosed area.
- Minimum height of 2ft
- MINIMUM OVERALL SIZE OF 12<sup>2</sup>ft (e.g. 6ft x 2ft or 4ft x 3ft)



#### The 'Exercise/Run' Area

This area will need to meet the following criteria:

- The ability to cover the roof during wet weather to still allow exercise without getting wet and the ability to provide shade from the sun, (this can be as simple as using a tarp).
- Situated on a suitable base to prevent rabbits digging out or predators digging in. (e.g. concrete, paving slabs or grass which has a layer of mesh under the turf)
- Minimum height of 3ft
- MINIMUM OVERALL SIZE OF 48<sup>2</sup>ft (e.g. 6ft x 8ft or 4ft x 12ft)



**PLEASE NOTE:** If rabbits have access to a larger secure exercise area (for example a secure garden) for a minimum of 4 hours each day, the exercise/run area can be smaller depending on individual circumstances and the amount of time rabbits are allowed into larger areas. However, please be aware that during the winter and wet weather access to such spaces may not be suitable.

If rabbits are locked into the hutch area over night to protect from predators, the hutch area will need to be larger (rabbits are most active during dusk and dawn).

If the hutch area and the run area aren't connected, allowing the rabbits freedom to move between these two areas independently, then this too will affect the minimum sizes of both areas.

## House Rabbits

### The 'living' Area

This area will need to meet the following criteria:

- Fully secure area while owners are away from the home. This can be provided by the following:
  - A fully rabbit proofed room (i.e. all electrical cables have been protected).
  - A pen area within a room which has a suitable height (minimum of 4ft) to prevent rabbits jumping over barriers.
- The minimum size of the pen will depend on the number of hours which the rabbits are enclosed, as a rough guideline you are looking at a minimum space of 24<sup>2</sup>ft for overnight only accommodation.



If your current / proposed housing does not meet our minimum housing requirements at the time of your application we will be unable to proceed to with a homecheck. Please ensure all your housing is in place BEFORE filling out an application. The homecheck is for the purpose of assessing the living arrangements for any rabbits adopted from the centre. If you are unsure about whether or not your current set-up is suitable please drop us an email with photos and dimensions so we can provide advice to [siobhan@nibbles.org.uk](mailto:siobhan@nibbles.org.uk)

We treat every application on an individual basis as all circumstances are different, but all proposed housing will need to fall in line with the above. We are happy to provide advice with regard to alterations to make your current housing meet these minimum requirements (maybe adding a new larger hutch or connecting a larger run space). Once this has been completed we welcome you to reapply.

These minimum housing requirements are in place to protect the welfare of the rabbits. ALL rabbits whether adopted from ourselves, or obtained elsewhere, should be provided with living accommodation in line with these recommendations to meet their welfare needs.

**Recommend Retailers:** Manor Pet Housing ([www.manorpethousing.co.uk](http://www.manorpethousing.co.uk)) Boyles Pet Housing ([www.boylespethousing.co.uk](http://www.boylespethousing.co.uk)) The Welfare Hutch Company ([www.welfarehutches.co.uk](http://www.welfarehutches.co.uk))

*Please note: Nibbles does not have any affiliations with any of these companies. We recommend them simply as they produce good quality housing which adheres to the minimum size requirements laid out by leading rabbit welfare organisations.*