



PETS To GO

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Picking the proper pellet for your bunny

High-fiber pellets are an essential part of the house rabbit's diet because they create gut movement. Pellets should contain at least 12.5 percent fiber, but the higher the fiber level, the better (up to about 20 percent). Protein levels should range between 14 percent and 17 percent. Fat levels should be between 3 percent and 6 percent.

Pets To Go recommends that the amount of pellets your bunny eats be limited. The conventional method of free-choice feeding can lead to obesity. If you are concerned about your rabbit becoming hungry between feedings, hays such as Timothy, Brome and Oat can be free fed to your rabbit. Hay provides extra roughage or fiber, and fulfills rabbits' need to graze. Rabbits always should have access to hay.

Another very important consideration for pellet-based diets involves calcium. Rabbits retain calcium in the blood much differently than other animals. Other animals rely on vitamin D3 levels to regulate the absorption of calcium from the gut; rabbits do not. For rabbits, parathyroid hormones and calcitonin regulate blood calcium. This means that calcium levels in the blood are directly proportional to calcium levels in their diets. Rabbits' calcium intake, therefore, must be controlled. Optimum calcium levels fall between 0.4 percent and 1.1 percent.

Below are the rabbit pellets we carry and their nutritional contents:

	Plain Rabbit	Rabbit Special	Bunny Basic T (timothy)
Crude Protein	16.0%	16.2%	14.0%
Crude Fat	2.0%	5.4%	1.0%
Crude Fiber	26.0%	13.2%	29.0%
Ash	9.0%	7.0%	N/A
Added Minerals	2.0%	N/A	N/A
Moisture	N/A	9.5%	N/A
Calcium	N/A	N/A	min 0.5% max 1.0%
Phosphorus	N/A	N/A	min 0.15%
Salt	N/A	N/A	1.0%
Lysine	N/A	N/A	.6%

Below are the hays we carry and their nutritional content:

	Timothy Hay	Brome Hay	Oat Hay	
Moisture	max 15%	max 15%	max 15%	max 15%
Crude Protein	max 10%	max 16%	max 10%	max 10%
Crude Fiber	max 30%	max 30%	max 30%	max 30%