

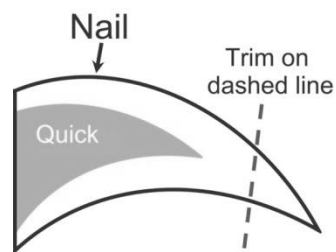
# Grooming a Rabbit

## Hints from the Hare Salon



**Pedicure** Give your rabbit a toe nail clipping every 4 to 8 weeks with the side clipper type Not the guillotine style.

They don't work well and tear up rabbit nails. The smallest cat or dog nail clippers work best. Also, have product like "Kwik Stop" styptic pads or powder nearby if you happen to cut the "quick." It can stop the bleeding fast. If the nail is dark, use a flashlight to see the quick and clip carefully.



**Bunny Burrito:** Wrap your bunny in a towel and cover their eyes while holding them securely on your lap. Take out one foot at a time to trim nails. Covering eyes can calm down some rabbits. Be sure the towel isn't too tight or too loose so that the rabbit can escape. Two people are sometimes better than one to keep the rabbit safe.

**Ears** Lop rabbits in particular need their ears cleaned on occasion. When you clean bunny ears be sure not to push wax down into the ear. Try an ear cleaning product containing Chlorhexadine. Ear mite infestations display crusty, crumbly brownish red material on ears. Consult with your veterinarian for topical or other treatments for mites.

**Rabbits Clean Themselves Several Times a Day** If they do require a bath (very rarely), use a special rabbit shampoo or product for cats. Make sure the water is comfortably luke warm in temperature. It is best to use a portable hose on your sink if you have one for cleaning the rabbit's bottom. Never wash the entire rabbit. Make sure the rabbit can stand so he doesn't slip and hurt himself.

**Flea Products are Toxic to Rabbits** If you must use one, get the mildest one you can find for kittens or ask an experienced rabbit veterinarian. Most flea products for adult cats and dogs are toxic to rabbits. Frontline is known to be toxic to rabbits as are many other products – be careful!

**Scent Gland Cleaning** If your rabbit starts to smell, check the scent glands. The scent glands are located on each side of the reproductive organs - just a slit in the fur. They will get dried crusty waxy material in them. Gently clean out with a wet Q-tip. Do not poke the rabbit. You can use your hands, but be careful of sharp fingernails.

**Hairbrush** Always use a soft brush on a rabbit for shedding hair. Rabbits shed every other month with a heavy shedding every three months. Don't be alarmed by bald spots since they are common in some rabbits. If the bald spot is caused by shedding, it will fill back in within a couple of weeks.