

One Rabbit or Two?

Rabbits are no different to most other pets and need lots of attention from their owners otherwise they will feel lonely.

For a pet rabbit that lives indoors all of the time they won't get lonely on their own. If they are bought as a baby they become humanised and think you are their family and don't know any different. Apart from getting more attention because they are inside they get lots of company from just seeing and hearing you around the house.

I have had many people wanting a second rabbit as company for their first pet and it generally goes wrong in two ways; they either don't get along and have to be housed separately or they do bond and get along so well they are only interested in each other and not their owners any more.

A lot of breeders or pet shops will recommend having a pair of rabbits to ensure they are happy and don't get lonely, but this isn't the case if they get plenty of attention.

Generally speaking rabbits like each other's company but they are territorial and it's not natural for adult rabbits to live together in a hutch 24/7 even though they may enjoy a run on the grass together, i.e. neutral territory. This is why there is so much information available on bonding rabbits, why it is so difficult and why you usually have to have them desexed; so as you can see it doesn't come naturally for rabbits to live in pairs!

If you decide to have **two rabbits** here are the combinations to consider:

- a **male and female** are the best combination and there are two ways to do this:
 - (1) you can get the male first and when he is around 5 months old he will need to be de-sexed then introduce a baby female no sooner than 3 weeks after his operation when he is fully recovered and hormones settled
 - (2) buy two rabbits at the same time – but they will need to be kept separately from 12 weeks of age then the male would have to be de-sexed and 3 weeks after his operation you can start bonding them again
- **two females** is the next best option – preferably young ones from the same litter or of a similar age and brought home at the same time - one may need to be de-sexed if it starts to dominate the other as they mature
- **two males won't get along**
- a reputable breeder should not sell a male and a female from the same litter together for a pet home

Please see **Introducing & Bonding Rabbits** for more details before you buy two rabbits.



Cherry Tree Warren

ANDRC Members

0417 324 110

www.cherrytreewarren.com.au