

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 pet and they either don't get along together or they 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 even though they may enjoy a run on the grass together, i.e. neutral territory.

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

- a male and female are the best combination - the male would have to be de-sexed and they will need to be kept separately from 12 weeks of age until 2 weeks after he is desexed
- two females is the next best option – one may need to be de-sexed if it starts to dominate the other
- two males won't get along
- if you can't buy two rabbits at the same time it is best to get the male first and introduce a baby female 2 weeks after he is de-sexed
- a reputable breeder should not sell a male and a female from the same litter together for a pet home

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



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