

# All About Rabbits

## Part A

The rabbits eat lots of interesting things in 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit' but what is the diet of a rabbit really like?

All rabbits are herbivores. This means that they only eat foods which come from plants. They do not eat foods which come from animals.

In the wild, rabbits eat **a lot** of grass. They feed on grass for most of the day. Chewing on grass wears down rabbits' teeth. If rabbits do not chew to wear their teeth down, their teeth will cut into their gums and hurt them.



It is important that rabbits that are kept as pets are given lots of grass or hay as this is a key part of their diet. They should never be without a large supply of hay.

Although hay and grass are by far the main thing that rabbits eat, there are many vegetables that it is safe for rabbits to eat. Pet rabbits should be given very small amounts of vegetables when they are trying them for the first time so that they get used to them.

Vegetables that rabbits can eat include curly kale, spinach, broccoli and cauliflower.



Rabbits can also safely eat some herbs. Herbs that are safe for rabbits include parsley, dill, fennel and mint.



Rabbits should not eat very much fruit at all as fruit contains a lot of sugar. Rabbits should only eat very small amounts of fruit for a treat now and then.

If you see a rabbit eating one of their droppings, it is nothing to worry about. Rabbits often eat their own poos as they contain some goodness rabbits need.

### Did you know?

Lots of people think that rabbits should eat lettuces and carrots but these foods are actually **not** very good for rabbits. Lettuce can give rabbits an upset stomach and carrots are very sweet so can make rabbits unhealthy.



# Comprehension

1. Rabbits are herbivores. Do they eat chicken? Explain your answer.

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2. What food should rabbits eat the most of? Tick **one**.

- fruit
- hay and/or grass
- vegetables

3. Give two examples of vegetables which rabbits can eat.

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4. Do you think it would be a good idea to feed a rabbit only herbs?

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5. True or false? You should call a vet straight away if you see a rabbit eating one of their own poos.

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6. Give one example of a food that could make a pet rabbit ill.

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7. Can you think of your own questions about rabbits that you would like to find the answer to?

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