Rabbit Care

Did you know that rabbits are more similar to horses than to dogs or cats? Rabbits are strict herbivores and unlike dogs and cats, they cannot vomit. Also unlike dogs and cats, their teeth continuously grow and need to be worn by chewing specific foods. Guess what other animal is a strict herbivore, cannot vomit, and has teeth that continuously grow—HORSES! So why do we try and feed them pellets like we would feed a dog or cat? While pellets can bring some nutritional value to rabbits, fibrous greens are more important. Timothy hay and a variety of leafy green veggies are much more essential to a rabbit’s diet. Rabbits also require lots of exercise. Living life in a small hutch is like keeping a horse in a stall its entire life. This is not fair to the rabbit or the horse. If you are planning on getting a rabbit, make sure that you are ready for a possible 10 year commitment, feeding the proper diet, and making sure that it gets plenty of exercise and interaction with the family. If you are considering purchasing a rabbit or already own a rabbit and have questions, please contact your veterinarian.

Submitted by: Dr. Kathleen Spencer