

# RABBIT WELFARE NEEDS MATRIX

## RED

### Action needed

## AMBER

### Room to improve

## GREEN

### Great job!



### Environment

- Housing too small
- No exercise run
- Not cleaned often enough
- Never given extra protection from heat or cold

- Suitably sized housing
- Exercise run not permanently accessible or not big enough
- More cleaning required
- Sometimes given extra protection in heat or cold

- Suitably sized and secure housing
- Constant access to suitably sized run
- Ideal cleaning routine
- Always given extra protection from heat or cold



### Diet

- BCS of 1 or 5 and weight incorrect
- Diet unsuitable
- Water not always available
- Inappropriate treats (type or amount)

- BCS of 2 or 4 and weight not quite correct
- Diet not well balanced between hay, nuggets and greens
- Fed muesli instead of nuggets
- Frequently given treats

- BCS and weight correct
- Fed a suitable, balanced diet of hay, nuggets and greens
- Water always available, changed daily
- Minimal and healthy treats



### Behaviour

- Behaviour causing serious problem for owner
- Not sociable
- No objects to encourage normal behaviours

- Some problem behaviour that owner would like to change
- Sociable but not happy being handled
- Not many objects to allow normal behaviours

- Sociable and relaxed when handled (only interact on ground level when necessary)
- Objects given and rotated to allow normal behaviours



### Company

- Kept on their own with no regular interaction with trusted person
- Kept with other species e.g. guinea pigs
- No provisions made if owner away – left in house on own

- Kept on own but with regular interaction with trusted person
- Lives with another rabbit, but one or both unneutered

- Kept in neutered compatible pairs or groups (neutering is advised)
- Good provisions made if owner away



### Health

- **Untreated health problems**
- Not vaccinated or has lapsed
- Not neutered and kept in mixed group
- Infestation of parasites
- Teeth overgrown and causing problems
- Bottom unchecked

- Not neutered
- Evidence of parasites
- Teeth starting to become overgrown
- Vaccinations overdue by less than 6 months
- Bottom sometimes checked in warm weather

- **Overall health good**
- Neutered
- No evidence of parasites
- Healthy teeth
- Vaccinated
- Bottom checked daily in warm weather






# MY RABBIT'S YEARLY CHECK UP

Client's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rabbit's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Vet/Vet Nurse Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of MOT: \_\_\_\_\_

Rabbits have **5 key welfare needs** that must be met to keep them happy and healthy:

 <p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>Living in a suitable place with space to exercise</p>	 <p><b>Diet</b></p> <p>Having the right amount of high fibre food</p>	 <p><b>Company</b></p> <p>Living with a suitable rabbit companion</p>	 <p><b>Behaviour</b></p> <p>Being allowed to show normal behaviour</p>	 <p><b>Health</b></p> <p>Protected from pain, injury and disease</p>
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Welfare need	Comments	Score
 <p><b>Environment</b></p>		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Please tick as appropriate
 <p><b>Diet</b></p>		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Please tick as appropriate
 <p><b>Behaviour</b></p>		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Please tick as appropriate
 <p><b>Company</b></p>		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Please tick as appropriate
 <p><b>Health</b></p>		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Please tick as appropriate

My top 3 actions are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Check up recommended:  Date: \_\_\_\_\_

RAW Supporters: