

# **PET RABBIT FEEDING GUIDELINES**

The following is a recommended diet for adult, non-breeding house rabbits:

## **Fresh hay offered free choice daily**

- Mixed grass or timothy hay is preferred; alfalfa is too high in protein, calcium and calories. Young rabbits (<1 year old) can be fed alfalfa hay.

## **Fresh greens fed daily**

- Feed at least 1 cup per 4 lbs. of body weight daily
- Offer at least 3-4 different types of greens daily; try one at time at first and eliminate any that cause diarrhea or soft stool.
- Some suggested greens: beet greens, collard greens, parsley, kale, romaine, Brussel sprouts, watercress, spinach, escarole, and radicchio
- Other vegetables: carrots (including greens of top), green peppers, celery

## **Fruit in limited amounts**

- Feed maximum 1-2 tbs. per 5 lbs. of body weight daily: apples, pears, peaches, papaya, strawberries and pineapple.
- Avoid sugary fruits such as grapes and bananas

## **Limit pellets to a high fiber variety (>20% fiber)**

- Do not offer more than 1/8 cup per 5 lbs. of body weight daily. Rabbits less than 8 months old can have pellets offered free choice

## **Avoid high starch foods like cereals, corn, bread and pasta**

- These may contribute to a life-threatening condition called enterotoxemia

**Offer plenty of clean, fresh drinking water at all times from a water bottle or bowl.**

**Any dietary change should be made slowly!**