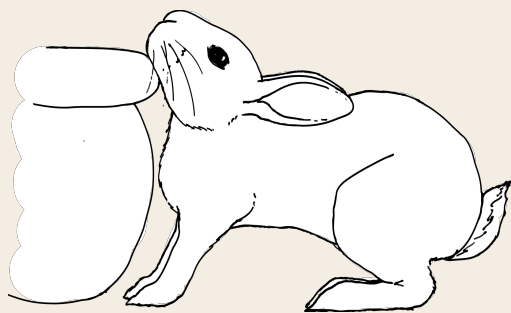


Behaviour: Why is my rabbit doing that?

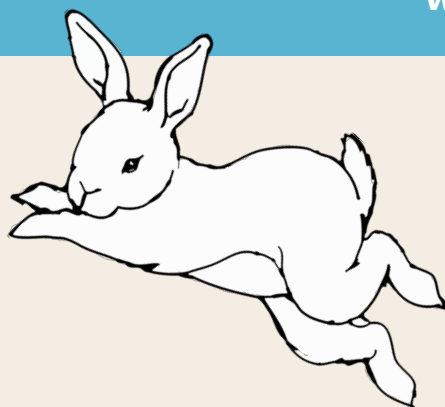
By Tamsin Stone

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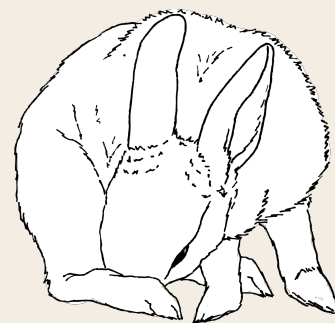
Rubbing chin on things

Rabbits have a scent gland under their chin so when they rub their chin over something they are marking it to let other rabbits know that the object, and the space it is in, belongs to them.



Running and Jumping

Happy rabbits like to do short dashes interspersed by jumps and twists to let off steam - these are called 'binkies'. Rabbit's routines vary, some just do little jumps with a head flick and others race around like crazy.



Eating Poop

When rabbits duck their head and come up chewing they've just eaten a special poop called a cecotrope. It's packed with extra nutrients that have to pass through the digestive system twice to be absorbed.



Yawning

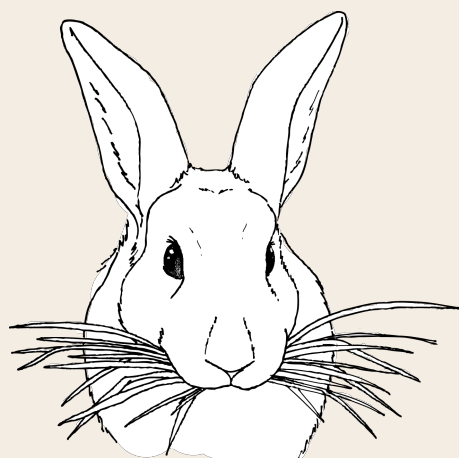
Rabbits look really odd when they yawn! They stretch to warm their muscles up after a nap and then open their mouths really wide and show you all their teeth.

Rabbits have lots of weird and wonderful behaviours. Here are a few of the oddest and an explanation for why they do them. Most behaviours have a purpose that relates back to life in the wild. Those same behaviours can make less sense when they are living as pampered pets. If your rabbit acts out of character and you're worried, give your vet a call in case it's a sign they are unwell.



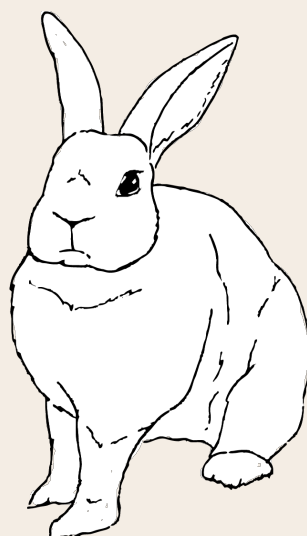
Flopping over on to side

Happy and relaxed rabbits sometimes like to sleep on their sides. They'll do a dramatic flop-roll to get into a comfortable position. If they are very enthusiastic - they may roll all the way over.



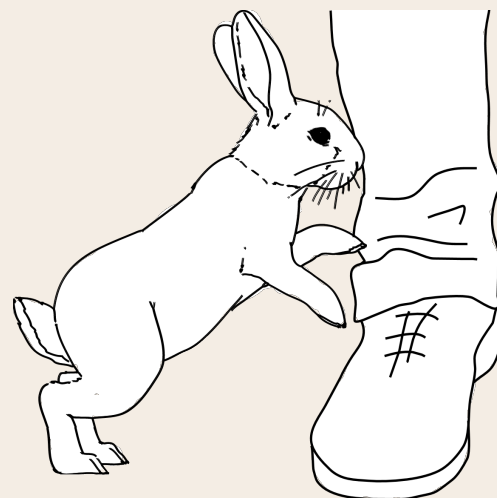
Carrying Hay

Female rabbits gather hay in their mouths to build a nest for babies. Sometimes they nest build without being pregnant, and, occasionally, male rabbits build nests too!



Stamping Feet

Rabbits stamp their feet to warn their friends and family that they've heard or seen something they think is dangerous. It's a signal for the whole group to run for cover.



Digging at people

If your rabbit digs at your feet or clothing it usually means they want you to move. It's best not to obey, otherwise they'll dig at you every time they want you to do something.