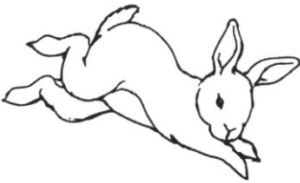

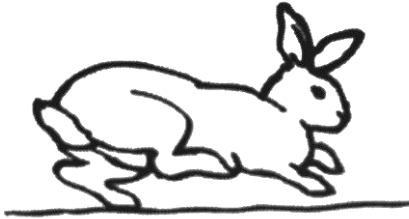

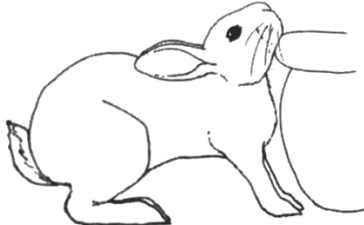





Common Rabbit Behaviors

This quick guide to bunny body language will help you decipher common rabbit behaviors. Remember, most behaviors have multiple meanings and are context-dependent. This list only includes behaviors that indicate happiness and mild irritation. Stress, fear, and aggression-related behaviors are detailed on a separate handout.

Behavior and Meaning	Illustrations © The Rabbit House
<p><u>BINKY</u></p> <p>What It Looks Like: Bunny jumps in the air, twitching and flicking heels out to the side. Sometimes mistaken for a seizure.</p> <p>What It Means: The ultimate expression of rabbit joy!</p>	
<p><u>BOWING DOWN</u></p> <p>What It Looks Like: Rabbit lowers and extends head towards hand or other rabbit.</p> <p>What It Means: Bunny is requesting grooming or petting.</p>	
<p><u>BUNNY 500</u></p> <p>What It Looks Like: Rabbit tucks butt under its body and runs full out as fast as it can, with ears up, often changing direction.</p> <p>What It Means: This is the rabbit equivalent of puppy “zoomies.” It is a happy rabbit having fun!</p>	
<p><u>BUNNY BUTT</u></p> <p>What It Looks Like: Rabbit calmly turns its back to person or other rabbit, sitting down.</p> <p>What It Means: To another rabbit, it means “I’m ignoring you.” The rabbit has been offended by something the person has done if a rabbit owner experiences this consequence.</p>	
<p><u>CHINNING</u></p> <p>What It Looks Like: Rabbit rubs chin on person or object.</p> <p>What It Means: Rabbit is marking territory or expressing annoyance at object it is chinning. For example, a bunny may “chin” a piece of food it is being offered if it doesn’t want it.</p>	
<p>Behavior and Meaning</p>	<p>Illustrations © The Rabbit House</p>

<p><u>FLICKING HEELS</u></p> <p>What It Looks Like: Rabbit lifts heels high in the air and flicks them in the direction of person as it hops away.</p> <p>What It Means: Rabbit is irritated by previous happening. For example, a bunny may flick its heels at a person who tries to pick it up.</p>	
<p><u>FLOP</u></p> <p>What It Looks Like: Rabbit throws body down on its side, sometimes even flipping onto back.</p> <p>What It Means: Rabbit is extremely happy and comfortable in the environment.</p>	
<p><u>HEAD FLICK</u></p> <p>What It Looks Like: Rabbit quickly twitches head side-to-side, often flopping ears back and forth.</p> <p>What It Means: Rabbit is excited!</p>	<p>*See video "Head Flick*"</p>
<p><u>NOSE TWITCHING</u></p> <p>What It Looks Like: Rabbit's nose begins to noticeably twitch up and down as it sniffs.</p> <p>What It Means: Can be an indicator of respiratory illness if rabbit is always twitching nose, particularly if done slowly. Most times, a rabbit is sniffing a scent it has found interesting in the environment. It usually occurs when a rabbit is waking up from a nap.</p>	<p>*See video Nose Twitch*</p>
<p><u>PERISCOPING</u></p> <p>What It Looks Like: Rabbit stands on hind legs, often with nose twitching.</p> <p>What It Means: Rabbit is investigating the environment.</p>	
<p><u>SPAZZING IN PLACE</u></p> <p>What It Looks Like: With up and relaxed ears, the rabbit darts around in a small space, changing direction frequently.</p> <p>What It Means: Rabbit is extremely happy and excited.</p>	