





Calming Signals in Rabbits

Universal calming signals are used in rabbits, just as they are in other species such as dogs, cats, and horses. These signals are used to diffuse tension and signal lack of aggressive intent to a conspecific or other animal.

When a rabbit offers these signals during a training session, he or she is uncomfortable with what you are asking or doing. It is important to respond appropriately by offering calming signals and using body language that relieves pressure from the rabbit. Usually, this means increasing distance.

Remember that a rabbit is a prey animal, so is more likely to view a human as a predator to be avoided at first. This is in contrast to most dogs, who readily and happily greet a human. Calming signals are typically used by rabbits who are not fearful to the point of flight, but rather feel the social situation is putting too much pressure on him or her. Responding correctly can turn a training session around help the trainer end things on a positive note.

Calming Signal	Illustrations © The Rabbit House
"Bunny Butt"/Turning Back	
Chewing	
Feigning Interest in Nothing	*See video " Calming Signal Communication "*
Grooming	
Slow Blinking	*See video " Calming Signal Communication "*
Sniffing Ground/Lowering Head	
Turning Head Away	