

RABBIT AGILITY JUMPING

Before starting agility jumping, first train the rabbit to walk on a leash with a harness (see "Teaching a Rabbit to Wear a Harness and Leash"). After the rabbit is comfortable walking on the leash, you can start training for jumping.

You will need:

- Harness and 6-8ft leash
- Treats (training treats, cut up vegetables, or fruit)
- A few objects to jump over (2"x4" board, broom stick, agility jump)



Start by having the rabbit walk up to a low, short, jump (e.g. 2"x4" board lying on the ground):

1. Allow the rabbit to investigate the jump at his own pace, place a treat on or near the jump to entice him.
2. Say the word "jump" and give the rabbit a slight gentle boost over the jump....praise and give the rabbit a little piece of treat.
3. Repeat this stage of training until the rabbit will walk up to, and jump over the jump.
4. After the rabbit is doing well at a low jump, add another jump about 5 feet behind the first jump.
5. Make the second jump a bit higher but made to resemble the first jump.
6. Take the rabbit over the first jump and up to the second jump. Say "jump" to the rabbit as it approaches the second jump. If the rabbit jumps it, praise and treat the rabbit. If the rabbit does not jump the second jump, give it a slight boost as you say "jump".

At what age should you start training for agility or hopping?

Rabbits of any age can learn, but they should be about 4 months of age before being taught to jump, as they are still growing, and learning to jump on their own. Spending time with the rabbit, and being consistent with your training is the key. If the rabbit has not been handled regularly, then start with basic handling and socialization, before moving on to other training.