

HEART HOPPER GIANTS



Rabbit Take-Home Guide

A healthy start for your Flemish Giant

WELCOME HOME

Your rabbit needs patience, quiet, good food, and careful daily attention.
Keep this guide where the whole family can use it.

BRED FOR SIZE. RAISED FOR HEALTH.

Powell, Wyoming | Near Yellowstone National Park

hearthoppergiants.com

HEART HOPPER GIANTS



Pedigree & Birth Certificate

Official Heart Hopper Giants Rabbitry Record

This pedigree and birth record is issued by Heart Hopper Giants for the rabbit identified below.

Certificate no.	_____	Tattoo / ID	_____
Rabbit name	_____	Breed	Flemish Giant
Date of birth	_____	Birth year	_____
Sex	_____	Color	Fawn
Weight	_____ lb _____ oz	Body length	_____ inches
Ear length	_____ inches	Measurement date	_____

Pedigree Ancestry

Sire	_____	Sire tattoo	_____
Dam	_____	Dam tattoo	_____
Paternal grandsire	_____	Tattoo / ID	_____
Paternal granddam	_____	Tattoo / ID	_____
Maternal grandsire	_____	Tattoo / ID	_____
Maternal granddam	_____	Tattoo / ID	_____

Purchase Information

Purchased by	_____	Purchase date	_____
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Breeder / Seller signature	_____	Buyer signature	_____
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hearthoppergiants.com | sarahjohnson.wyo@gmail.com

Official Heart Hopper Giants rabbitry pedigree record. This document is not an ARBA registration certificate or health guarantee.

Your Rabbit

Keep this information with the care guide.

READ THIS FIRST

Keep your rabbit on the same food and routine for the first several days. Make changes slowly. A rabbit that stops eating or producing droppings needs prompt veterinary attention.

Rabbit Details

Rabbit name	_____
Tattoo / ID	_____
Date of birth	_____
Sex	_____
Color	Fawn
Take-home date	_____
Current pellet	_____
Daily pellet amount	_____

Important Contacts

Heart Hopper Giants	sarahjohnson.wyo@gmail.com hearthoppergiants.com
Rabbit veterinarian	_____
Emergency clinic	_____

The 3-3-3 Homecoming Guide

Go slowly. Keep the first days quiet and predictable.

FIRST 3 DAYS	Let the rabbit settle in What to expect: The rabbit may be very scared. May hide, freeze, eat less, or avoid attention. What to do: Leave the rabbit alone and let it hide. Provide a quiet, secure area with a hide box. Keep the same pellets and hay. Watch food, water, urine, and droppings.
FIRST 3 WEEKS	Build a routine What to expect: Begins exploring and showing personality. May test boundaries by chewing or digging. What to do: Feed and clean on a regular schedule. Offer supervised exercise. Rabbit-proof cords, plants, carpet, and furniture. Let the rabbit approach you.
FIRST 3 MONTHS	Build trust What to expect: Becomes more relaxed and confident. Learns voices, routines, and safe places. What to do: Continue daily exercise and enrichment. Use calm handling and positive reinforcement. Keep up with grooming, nail trims, and health checks. Schedule routine care with a rabbit-experienced veterinarian.

Daily Care

Check the rabbit every morning and evening.

Every Day

- ☐ Unlimited clean hay is available.
- ☐ Fresh water is available and the bowl or bottle works.
- ☐ The measured pellet amount is fed.
- ☐ The rabbit is eating normally.
- ☐ Droppings are normal in size and amount.
- ☐ The rabbit is alert, moving normally, and breathing comfortably.
- ☐ The housing area and litter box are dry and reasonably clean.
- ☐ The rabbit gets safe exercise and attention.

Housing

- Provide enough room to stand, stretch fully, turn around, and take several hops.
- Use solid, dry, nonslip flooring. Do not house a Flemish Giant on bare wire.
- Provide a large litter box, hiding place, food dish, and heavy water bowl or secure bottle.
- Protect the rabbit from heat, drafts, predators, and wet weather.
- Rabbit-proof electrical cords, poisonous plants, foam, rubber, carpet edges, and small objects.
- Do not leave unfamiliar rabbits together unsupervised. Incompatible rabbits can severely injure or kill each other.

HEAT WARNING - 80°F AND ABOVE

Temperatures of 80°F and above can put rabbits at risk of heatstroke, which can be fatal. Provide shade, airflow, cool water, and a cooler location. Open-mouth breathing, weakness, confusion, collapse, or unresponsiveness is an emergency.

Feeding

Keep the diet simple. Make every change slowly.

Basic Diet

- Hay:** Keep clean hay available at all times.
- Water:** Provide fresh water at all times.
- Pellets:** Feed the amount written on the first page of this packet.
- Greens:** Introduce one food at a time in a small amount. Stop if stool becomes soft.
- Treats:** Keep portions small. Avoid sugary or starchy treats.

Pellet Plan Used at Heart Hopper Giants

Food	Main use	Important point
Oxbow adult pellets	Weight management	Higher fiber and lower fat. Used for mature rabbits that need controlled calories.
Purina Show pellets	Supported weight gain	More protein and fat. Used when age, growth, breeding stage, or body condition calls for more nutrition.

Changing Food

Week 1	75% current pellets + 25% new pellets
Week 2	50% current pellets + 50% new pellets
Week 3	25% current pellets + 75% new pellets
Week 4	100% new pellets

DO NOT CHANGE FOOD SUDDENLY

If appetite or droppings decrease during a food change, stop the change and contact a rabbit-experienced veterinarian.

Handling, Grooming, and Safety

Support the whole body. Keep all four feet secure.

Handling

- Approach calmly and lift only when necessary.
- Support the chest and hindquarters at the same time.
- Hold the rabbit close to your body. Never let the hind legs kick unsupported.
- Never lift a rabbit by the ears, legs, or loose skin.
- Children must sit on the floor and have adult supervision.

Grooming

- Brush regularly and brush more often during shedding.
- Check nails and trim before they become long or curved.
- Check the bottoms of the feet for redness, thinning fur, sores, or swelling.
- Check the rear end daily. Keep it clean and dry.
- Do not give a full water bath. Ask a veterinarian how to clean a soiled rabbit safely.

Rabbit-to-Rabbit Safety

RABBITS CAN FIGHT TO THE DEATH

Never put unfamiliar rabbits together and walk away. Keep a solid barrier between separate rabbits so they cannot bite through bars.

- Introduce rabbits slowly in neutral space.
- Supervise every introduction.
- Separate immediately for chasing, circling, biting, boxing, or persistent mounting.
- Do not leave rabbits together until they have a stable bond.
- Ask a rabbit-experienced veterinarian about spaying or neutering before bonding.

NEVER USE FRONTLINE ON A RABBIT

Frontline contains fipronil and can cause severe poisoning or death in rabbits. Do not use dog, cat, livestock, or over-the-counter parasite products unless a rabbit-experienced veterinarian tells you the exact product and dose.

Health and Emergencies

Rabbits hide illness. Small changes matter.

Signs of Pain

- Loud or repeated tooth grinding. This is different from quiet tooth purring during petting.
- Hunched posture, pressing the belly to the floor, or refusing to stretch out.
- Half-closed eyes, flattened ears, tense face, or rapid breathing.
- Hiding, unusual aggression, less movement, or refusing to be touched.
- Refusing food, water, or favorite treats.

Signs of GI Stasis

- Eating less or refusing food.
- Droppings become smaller, fewer, dry, misshapen, or stop completely.
- Low energy, hiding, hunched posture, or tooth grinding.
- Belly discomfort, repeated position changes, or reluctance to move.

Signs of Bloat - Emergency

- The abdomen becomes enlarged, very firm, or tight.
- Severe pain, restlessness, repeated stretching, or inability to get comfortable.
- Sudden weakness, cold ears, trouble breathing, collapse, or unresponsiveness.

BLOAT CAN BECOME FATAL QUICKLY

Do not force food or wait to see if it passes. Contact an emergency rabbit-experienced veterinarian immediately.

Other Emergency Signs

- There is trouble breathing, open-mouth breathing, weakness, collapse, or a seizure.
- There is uncontrolled bleeding, a serious wound, a broken limb, or a fall injury.
- The rabbit has repeated watery diarrhea.
- The head tilts, balance changes, or the rabbit rolls.
- The rabbit strains to urinate or cannot urinate.

DO NOT WAIT OVERNIGHT

A rabbit that is not eating and not producing droppings can become critically ill. Call a rabbit-experienced veterinarian or emergency clinic.

First Aid

Keep supplies ready. Call before giving medicine.

First-Aid Supplies to Keep Ready

- ☐ Secure carrier for veterinary visits
- ☐ Styptic powder for a minor nail bleed
- ☐ Oxbow recovery food for use under veterinary direction

Before Giving Medicine

Call a rabbit-experienced veterinarian. Confirm the product, dose, frequency, and length of treatment. Do not guess based on a dog, cat, livestock, or human dose.

DO NOT FORCE-FEED A BLOATED RABBIT

If the abdomen is enlarged, firm, or tight, contact an emergency veterinarian immediately. Do not give recovery food unless a veterinarian directs you.

Flemish Giant Growth Chart

Use weight to track growth—not as a pass or fail.

Age	Target weight	Age	Target weight
2 weeks	6 oz–1.0 lb	4 months, 1 week	9.25–9.5 lb
1 month	1.5–1.75 lb	4 months, 2 weeks	10.0–10.25 lb
1 month, 1 week	1.75–2.0 lb	4 months, 3 weeks	10.25–10.5 lb
1 month, 2 weeks	2.5–3.25 lb	5 months	10.0–11.5 lb
1 month, 3 weeks	3.5–4.0 lb	5 months, 2 weeks	Up to 12.25 lb
2 months	4.0–4.75 lb	6 months	11.0–13.0 lb
2 months, 1 week	5.0–5.25 lb	6 months, 2 weeks	Up to 13.5 lb
2 months, 2 weeks	5.5–5.75 lb	7 months	12.0–14.0 lb
2 months, 3 weeks	6.0–6.5 lb	7 months, 2 weeks	Up to 14.5 lb
3 months	6.0–7.0 lb	8 months	Bucks: 13 lb minimum
3 months, 1 week	7.5–7.75 lb	8 months	Does: 14 lb minimum
3 months, 2 weeks	7.75–8.25 lb	8 months, 2 weeks	13.5–15.25 lb
3 months, 3 weeks	8.25–9.0 lb	9+ months	14.0–15.5 lb
4 months	8.0–9.25 lb		

WATCH THE WHOLE RABBIT

Growth rates vary. Check body condition, feet, movement, appetite, and droppings—not weight alone.

Supplies and Records

Set up the home before the rabbit arrives.

Basic Supplies

- ☐ Large secure exercise pen or housing area
- ☐ Solid nonslip flooring
- ☐ Large litter box
- ☐ Hay and hay holder
- ☐ The same pellets the rabbit is currently eating
- ☐ Heavy water bowl or secure bottle
- ☐ Food dish
- ☐ Hide box
- ☐ Carrier
- ☐ Rabbit-safe chew toys
- ☐ Brush or comb
- ☐ Electric nail grinder

Weight and Health Log

Date	Weight	Food / amount	Notes

Keep Learning

Use current information from rabbit-experienced veterinarians, the American Rabbit Breeders Association, USDA APHIS disease updates, the Merck Veterinary Manual, and peer-reviewed research. Do not rely on social-media advice alone.

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