

ISSUE 25 | AUTUMN / TOKERAU 2022

# ANIMAL BITES

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HELP RABBITS

YUMMY KIND  
KAI RECIPE

ANIMAL SQUAD  
PROFILES

\* TONNES MORE!

## REMARKABLE RABBITS

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[safeanimalsquad.org.nz](http://safeanimalsquad.org.nz)

Animal  
Squad



# ALL ABOUT RABBITS

Rabbits are just amazing! They are smart, friendly and have playful personalities just like us.

## NAILS

Strong, sharp nails mean rabbits are fantastic diggers! They dig tunnels underground so they can hide and rest. A group of rabbits will build many tunnels which interconnect to make one big whare called a warren.



## CLEVERNESS

Bunnies are just as clever as cats and dogs! They can learn their names and human words and they can even solve puzzles and remember how to play games.



BABY RAPETI IN A WARM, SAFE NEST

## TEETH

Rabbits' teeth never stop growing! Bunnies must keep them short and sharp to eat – they do this by chewing or 'gnawing' wood and plants.

## FEELINGS

Like other animals, rapeti feel emotions like fear, sadness, joy and excitement, and form close bonds with their whanāu. Mother rabbits or does build fluffy nests for their pēpē (babies) and cover them up to keep them warm and safe.



MOTHER & BABY RAPETI

## FUR

Brownish-grey mottled fur acts as camouflage, blending in with grasses and bushes. This means rabbits can hide and stay safe.



THE TE REO  
MĀORI WORD  
FOR RABBIT IS  
RAPETI

## LEGS

Powerful legs allow this rabbit to oma (run) faster than a person and to jump one metre straight upwards. That would be like you jumping onto the roof of your house!

## WHANĀU

Bunnies live in big whanāu groups. Just like monkeys and dogs, rabbits form close lifelong friendships with each other and people.



BEST BUNNY-FRIENDS



# SUPER SENSES!

Rapeti use their super-sensitive senses to see and hear danger, as well as to help them make friends and find kai.



Rabbits' eyes are on each side of their face, not at the front like people. This means they can see almost all around them, without moving their heads.



Those cute twitchy noses are super sniffers! Rabbits' sense of smell is 30 times better than that of our human noses! They leave smell messages for their friends to follow and 'scent-mark' their territory to tell other animals to stay away.



Those big ears aren't just for show! A rabbit's hearing is even more sensitive than a dog's! Rapeti can also move each ear individually to listen in different directions. Can you move your ears?



## BUNNY BODY LANGUAGE

**ANGRY** Thump feet and twitching tails

**SCARED** Growl and flatten ears

**HAPPY** Jumping and wiggling (this is called a binky)

**RELAXED** Flop out and purr like a cat

## BUNNY HISTORY

Thousands of years ago all rabbits lived in Europe and Africa. People caught them and took them all over the world! Rabbits were first brought to Aotearoa by people over 100 years ago. Some escaped and those first rapeti and their babies have spread out to live all over Aotearoa.



# RABBITS IN TROUBLE

Today in Aotearoa, thousands of rabbits and other small animals are trapped in cages, used by people for painful and unkind experiments.

## WHAT ARE ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS?

Companies want to know that their products, like soap, are safe for humans. Some companies choose to expose products to animals, like rabbits, to see if chemicals in the products are harmful.



RABBITS ARE HELD IN THESE BOXES SO THAT THEY CAN'T RUN AWAY WHEN THEY FEEL PAIN



THESE RABBITS LIVE IN CAGES WITH NO TOYS OR BEDDING

## WHY BUNNIES?

Rabbits' eyes can't make tears, so they can't wash their eyes like people can by crying. This means their eyes are super sensitive and can be damaged by chemicals quickly. Also, because bunnies can have lots of babies, the companies can 'use' more of them in tests.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO RABBITS IN EXPERIMENTS?

Rabbits are often used for experiments on their skin and eyes. The rabbits are kept in small wire cages and chemicals are dripped into their eyes or rubbed on their skin. This is really painful and stressful. After they have been 'used' for experiments, the companies kill the rabbits and tests begin again on other rabbits.



OUCH, THAT'S NOT NICE...



**HOW DOES IT FEEL  
WHEN YOU GET SOAP  
ON YOUR EYES?**



**IF THERE ARE OTHER, KIND, OPTIONS,  
WHY DOES ANYONE STILL EXPERIMENT  
ON RABBITS?**

Sometimes old-fashioned laws still require companies to test on animals even though these tests are often less useful than modern, non-animal tests. Other companies still experiment on animals because it is easier than changing their systems to cruelty free tests.

**THIS IS HOW YOU  
SAY RABBIT IN  
SIGN LANGUAGE**



PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY INVENTED SAFETY TESTS FOR PRODUCTS USING COMPUTERS, INSTEAD OF ANIMALS

**CRUELTY FREE EXPERIMENTS**

We don't want products to hurt people, but we don't have to hurt other animals to make sure. Scientists have already invented lots of other ways to test chemicals, for example with computers, to make sure they are safe for people.

# TAKE ACTION FOR RABBITS

Share pictures of your work with us so that other Animal Squad members can be inspired by your hard mahi! Send them to: [AnimalSquad@safe.org.nz](mailto:AnimalSquad@safe.org.nz).

**1** Tell your friends and whanau what happens to rabbits used in experiments.

**2** When you go shopping, choose cruelty free products (look for a logo).



## LOOK FOR A LOGO

How can you find out if a product has been tested on rabbits or if it is cruelty free? Have a close look at the bottle or package for one of these logos or something similar. Companies use these logos to show that they don't experiment on animals. Hooray!



**3** Ask your school to start using cruelty free products. Do this by writing an email or letter to your headteacher.

**4** Make a poster to teach your classmates how awesome rabbits are and why they deserve wonderful lives, not pain.

### NEED SOME POSTER IDEAS?

- Why do rabbits deserve better?
- What do you think about animal experiments?
- How can others help rabbits and end animal experiments?
- How can you tell which products are cruelty free?





KIND KAI

# Carrot Cupcakes

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 C SHREDDED CARROTS
- 1/2 C BROWN SUGAR
- 1/3 C WHITE SUGAR
- 1/2 C VEGETABLE OIL
- 1/2 C PLANT MILK
- 1 FLAX EGG\* OR EGG REPLACER
- 1 1/4 C PLAIN FLOUR
- 1 TSP CINNAMON
- 1/4 TSP NUTMEG
- 1 TSP BAKING POWDER
- 3/4 TSP BAKING SODA
- 1/4 TSP SALT

## METHOD

- 1 Peel and shred carrots with a grater into small pieces.
- 2 Combine the oil, both sugars, plant milk and egg alternative in a large bowl until smooth.
- 3 Add the dry ingredients and mix everything together.
- 4 Add the shredded carrots and fold in.
- 5 Put 12 cupcake wrappers in a cupcake baking tray. Fill each cupcake case almost to the top.
- 6 Bake at 180oC for 20-25 minutes.
- 7 Allow to cool and decorate with vegan buttercream icing or sprinkles – get creative!

## INTERESTING FACTS

### YUCKY OR YUMMY?

Rapeti eat their own poo! This may sound gross to us, but it means the rabbit can redigest their kai and get some more energy the second time round.





## ANIMAL SQUAD

# Profiles



AGE  
11

### FREYA

FAV VEGGIE FOOD: Vegan Pancakes

KIND THING YOU HAVE DONE FOR ANIMALS: We have adopted two hens from a battery farm

#### FREYA SAYS

"If you ever think of hurting animals, think again, because they are living, breathing, feeling creatures just like us"



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### CHARLIE

FAV ANIMAL: Dogs

FAV VEGGIE FOOD: Pizza

KIND THING YOU HAVE DONE FOR ANIMALS: I am vegetarian and I stroke and love my dog, Monty, every day.



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### ESTHER

FAV ANIMAL: Maine Coon cat

FAV VEGGIE FOOD: Strawberries



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### MELITA

FAV. VEGGIE FOOD: Capsicums

KIND THING YOU HAVE DONE FOR ANIMALS: I went vegan for three months



## JOIN SAFE ANIMAL SQUAD

When you join the Animal Squad we will send every issue of Animal Bites to your home along with extras like stickers and colouring sheets! You can also enter cool competitions to help animals and maybe win prizes!

IF YOU ARE 14 AND UNDER YOU CAN JOIN FOR FREE.

Sign-up at [SAFEANIMALSQUAD.ORG.NZ](https://SAFEANIMALSQUAD.ORG.NZ)

**Animal Squad**



**For Animals**  
Nga Kararehe Haumaru