Rabbit Grooming 2

OK, welcome back to our two. So let's continue on. Before the groom begins. When a rabbit is in their crate and they first come in right that the owner has brought them in a top opening crate, this is easier to get them out and it also doesn't expose your hands to teeth. Because that's their space. They've claimed that space. You'll notice little. Cocoa puff poos in there that's theirs. You can try to see if they'll hop out on their own.

They may not. They probably won't, but they may might be enticed with the treat some cilantro kind of wiggled around and you can grow it in your salons. Really easy to grow. And it just continually grows. Just get a little or box. So don't be surprised if Rabbit poo is in the carrier and when you take the rabbit out it does come with them. They mark an area as theirs by leaving pellets in there. It smells like them. This is mine. Also rabbits. They get hiccups when they get stressed. From the car ride. Since they can't burp or vomit, the only way to expel that gas from stress is to pick up and they'll they're just regular hiccups.

You'll see their little body pop a little bit and just put their head and relax them, and their diaphragm will relax and they'll stop. Habits are known for simply ignoring your existence. You know they can see you. Of course. I mean they have 360 degree vision, so they know you're there. It's just they pretend they don't see you. I you no longer exist in my world, I don't. I don't acknowledge you at all, so a lot of times they'll just turn in the crate and be like no, I don't see you there at all.

I know that's very normal. And that's a rabbit for you. Alright, so the blind spot. Here we have. How the blind spot works? Rabbits can spook easily and. Let's see. For some reason. Mary you're good. You're good. Ok. All right? It's not good on my screen. All right, we got a problem. Ok, hi and welcome to hour two of rabbit grooming from AZ. Let's get started. And a rabbit comes in hope that their crate is a top opening crate.

Because it's so much easier to get them out, and it also doesn't expose your fingers to any little teeth that might be there because you're reaching into their space and you're coming at them like this. That's the get out of here so. You can try to see if they'll hop out on their own. You can offer them cilantro or something that you can grow in the salons. Really easy to grow and. They may not. But you can give it a shot. Don't be surprised if there is rabbit poop in the crate. It's normal and that's how they make it smell like them. This is mine. This smells like me that way other rabbits know this is mine and this is my space.

Rabbits do get hiccups. Stress will. Caused that sometimes, and they can't burp or vomit, so the only way to expel the gas is through hiccupping and their little hiccup. Their body will hop, you know, up and down just like ours does when you have a hiccup. So just put their head and ask. Their body relaxes, their diaphragm will relax and they'll stop. Excuse me Rabbits are known for simply ignoring you. So they'll be in the crate and they will turn around with their butt facing you. And even though they can see in 360 degrees, so they can see you perfectly fine, you no longer exist in the world.

They don't acknowledge you are not there. I don't see you. So no, I'm just. This isn't happening. That's very normal. And it will happen more than you think. The blind spot. All right, so rabbits spook easily. And they have a blind spot they can't see directly in front of their nose for like a little tiny space. It's like that far once. You see that about that much, and aside from that small space, they do have 360 degree vision. Directly in front of them, they're short sighted and so you can spook a rabbit by moving within their cone of blindness. So coming down on top of their head. Be conscious of that small area and try not to move within it.

So if you're bringing it come or something, don't go in between. The air set. And the top of their head and bring that come down. Because that's startling to them. We don't want to startle, but so always come around from the side and you can show them the object by holding it up on their side. This is a Curry brush. I'm going to brush it with it and then you can put it on the body and they're like Oh yeah, OK whatever.

So when you are moving your hands to touch a rabbit, even to soothe them. Come from the side. Because if you come down directly here. They're not gonna see you, and that will startle them. We don't want to startle rabbit. Startled rabbits jump and do scary things. The easiest way to groom rabbits is to have two people, one to hold. And one to do what is necessary to groom. I do all of my rabbit grooms with my assistant Angie. And yeah, they only have one name and they have to remember makes it very easy for my customers. She can help keep the rabbits calm while I focus on the grooming and it goes faster and allowing the rabbits return home quicker, ensuring a successful and thorough.

Anyone that's on cat grooming knows that having an assistant can help calm them. Be an extra set of hands and a human wall is incredibly helpful. Most of the grooming you'll do will be in the low position. You can get most of the body this way, and it's how the rabbit feels the most comfortable. Never stand a rabbit upright. When grooming, you'll want to hold them to your body so their back feet are not on the ground. One back feet are the power in the jump, so if they're standing on them, they can easily spring off the table and away from you faster than you can stop them. And if you do stop them, you may be.

Actually harming them? Tilt them slightly back, holding them with their back to your body like this. So you get access to their belly and their rent. Or have someone else hold them? A hand placed lightly but firmly on the back of the rabbit like you can see in this picture here in the background. Can be greeted in two ways. You see when a dominant rabbit displays their rank in the hierarchy, what they do is they lay across the neck of another rabbit. So if you're grooming a rabbit and you lay your hand across their neck, you're telling that rabbit that you are dominant. It can either soothe a scared rabbit, letting them know you're in control, or if the rabbit was already aggressive, you just escalated the whole thing like way out of proportion.

So generally I try to avoid that. I do this with bun because I've known bunbun harpole life. And she doesn't mind this. I know this, but I know bunbun. And I have known bon bon for 10 years. So do not place your hand under rabbits chin while you're grooming it. Again, this is the demand to be groomed. And it's quite insulting. Don't do that. Here we're taking a rabbit out of a front facing crate.

So we're this is by month again. And you'll notice all the hay in the crate so. When you're grooming a rabbit. Expect that there will be hay in the crate. They need to have Hazel able to them at all times and it also helps soak up if they pee. So rabbit owners will bring a lot of hay in the crate with the rabbit. And you'll notice here that she does not want to come out so. We turn her around and we take her out butt first.

Cheats it's like a matrix, OK? And then the soothing begins immediately. Go right for the suit and even though bun is in all the time that soothing is important, So what you do is you slide your hand under the length of their body. Curl your fingers around the front of their chest like this. And slide them out butt first. That way their back legs can't get caught on the crate doors on the sides of the crate and. It just that's the easiest way to get them out of the front facing crate.

So this is where you can actually soothe the rabbit. For most rabbit, these guidelines are pretty straightforward. The ears are fine. Combined with the head the forehead, this is the sweet spot. Back of the neck is also an ideal place to pet and sue the Bunny. So it would be you're going back like this. You'll see a rabbit head bump you to remind you that you're not soothing me. You're not putting me so you need to get on that. Their bum, a rabbit's rump right around their tail, tends to be a sensitive spot where they don't really like to be touched. So this will need to come with soothing because we can't just skip their rump when we're grooming them.

Their belly and chest. They guard their underside very closely because this is where the easiest path to where all the sensitive parts are. They may try to run away, change position from where their belly and chest are. So they're they'll push them to the floor so you can't get underneath them. It's very difficult to get. A rabbit to stand up enough so you can get under there. You'll have to pick them up to reach anything underneath them their chin. They don't like necessarily hands touching their chin, so when I have to scissor or rob it's face what I will do is I will put my thumb at the very back of their jaw and my hand atop their head and lift their head that way.

One finger underneath the chin as far back as I can go. And then lift the head, because when you're doing a long haired rabbit, it's like you're doing a poodle or a doodle. This has to be completely flat in order for you not to catch them with the. Clipper feet they like having control their feet at all times so that they can run away when necessary. If you touch their paws. Date you're going to get resistance. They're going to be wiggling about and going. No, I don't want no stop that.

Tooth hold, don't like go just hold the paw and soothe until they finally go all right fine you can do it you can do my nails you can file my nails this kind of. All right, so soothing. That's it, this is soothing. It's very simple. Every rabbit is different in some soothe quicker than others. You just slide your hand over your head, your head and ears and gently pep them. They're pretty easy to bring to calm. And I'm sure everyone here has a dog or a cat that no matter what you do, they're always ready to have a go. Everything is fine and then boom, they're set off.

Be at a nail trim. You touch their face, you touch their bum. It takes a lot to get them calm again. Back to center. Perhaps way easier. They want to be balanced. They want to be calm and centered so they get there more quickly. I don't know if it's because they're. More wild than dogs and cats are. Or because their owners treat them like rabbits. I'm honestly not sure why this is, but rabbits. Come back to center so fast compared to dogs or cats. Covering a rabbits head. So some rabbits prefer to have their head covered and others hate it.

And I know a lot of cat groomers. We use towels and we hide their head and that makes them happy, so we're used to doing that. But with rabbits that can go one of two ways that can go well or really badly. And to the point where I generally don't do that with rabbits, because if it goes badly it goes so badly that. Now it's. Now we have a rabbit that's trying to leap away and there's danger issues, so you can try a towel over their head to see if they like it, but.

I know cats do this is bonbon. She has just had her head inadvertently covered and now she is mad. This is where we got the mad pictures from earlier. This is her at home and she likes to play peekaboo well. The blanket accidentally went over her. And when it did. She got really offended. So you can see how mad she is in that picture. Transit, as you can see, this is a stuffed rubber because I am not doing that to a live rabbit for any reason.

Tracing is when you flip the rabbit upside down completely so their feet are completely in the air and they're on their back. Now this is something that many breeders train their rabbits to do from the time they're young. These breeders handle their rabbits, maintain their rabbits, and they're not rabbits you will ever see in your salon. They are generally rabbits used for wool. You will see this technique used when they're showing rabbits. That's fine, that's the owner is doing this however. We are not their owners. So while we do see. Owners doing things with their dogs and their cats that we don't do in a salon.

This is another thing that we do not do that owners may. The rabbits we see as groomers. The owners generally don't. They're rescues. They don't know how to trim nails. They don't know how to brush. They don't know how to properly maintain or handle them, and these rabbits largely live in a cage or a fenced off area and are not used to being handled 1.

They're put in a crate and then put in a car, which only happens when they come to you or go to the vet once a year, so. 4 grams per year because once generally once on the quarter because the solstice, the equinox that they get groomed and then one to the vet. So 5 times a year they're putting a car. They begin to stress and as a car ride continues, the car smells weird. The air smells weird, doesn't smell like home. And then you're in. They're in your slot. Their heart is already pounding. You take them out of the crate. You trance them. The heart rate goes through the roof, and the stress of it, and they can die.

Die dead. Don't do it. You can cause enough stress to them that they actually the life terminates. Do not ever transfer rabbit for any reason. Rabbits in a state of tonic immobility, that's what this is, are not relaxed, they are not hypnotized, they are not insensitive to pain. This is an unfortunate, uneducated practice used by many groomers, and it should not be done. That may do it for a medical procedure. Safe to draw blood that consists of all of 30 seconds. The rabbit is flipped, blood is taken, the rabbit is flipped back.

That's it. Giving a haircut to a long hair angora if they're pelted, takes 2 hours. To do their underside takes about an hour. You will kill them. This is a defense mechanism brought on when a rabbit has already been caught by a predator. If a rabbit appears dead, the predator may release their grip momentarily, and it allows the rabbit to escape. Research has shown that rabbits in this state show an increased heart and respiratory rate with elevated plasma cortico cortico steroid levels indicative of fear induced stress.

The most famous story of a rabbit being transcend dying occurred when they were being groomed in a grooming salon. We have enough stigma in this industry, we don't need more and there's no reason to do it. Trancing is called tonic and mobility or TI? These are copies. These copies here will be available for download on the class page, so please feel free to download them so you can have them as a reference. These are veterinary studies regarding transferring I'm going to cover transient in depth because there are quite a few vocal people who are confused as to the difference between what occurs at a rabbit show and what occurs when a grooming salon by a professional groomer.

These are not the same thing. What anyone does at a show with a rabbit is, quite frankly, none of my concern. That's entirely up to them, how they wish to go about that is entirely up to them. I don't even have an opinion on that. To quote a common phrase, not my circus, not my monkeys. However, when it comes to grooming, that is my big talk, so I'm going to explain these next slides. These are all veterinary studies done in regards to trancing and tonic immobility. In essence, what we see here is that when a rabbit is tranced and expected to be tranced, such as each time they enter a salon, they become more stressed more quickly.

This stress can be deadly. Stress can cause a heart attack. So rabbits that have been frequently placed in TI position learn to anticipate when this will happen. Become more stressed more quickly, interesting ATI state more quickly, and they don't have to be in a fully reclined. To be in a TI trance. So this is from animals and trances. Peace, minor panic. Here's the next one here in this study, and I apologize for it being so small. It's just there's a lot of text and all of the sections relevant, so you can download it and the text is very readable.

But for the slide, I had to condense. Experimenters put rabbits from a group housing into TI. And rabbits that were housed alone into TI and what they found was that single rabbits. In other words, rabbits, like we would be seeing for grooming and not rabbits. Rabbitry where there are 20 or so rabbits went into TI faster stayed in TI longer and had a greater fear response to TI. So while you're here, that someone who breathes rabbit does transient TI with their rabbits all the time with no adverse effect. It's not the same thing.

It's apples and oranges. It's not some the same as someone who has a single rabbit that lives alone and is the only rabbit in the household. The rabbits we see 75 for 80 % will be single rabbits and the rest will be what they call by cellular or two rabbits in one area. I have one rabbit owner out of the 200 that I have that has more than two rabbits only one. The pair of rabbits in the by cellular so living as a pair. They still exhibited higher stress rates and greater fear than those living in groups when placed in TI.

Here's the next one. Tonic immobility is a defense against predation. Most of rabbits predators do not eat carrion. They eat live, animal, fresh kill. So if they're already dead and dead for an unknown period of time, the likelihood of them being preyed upon is reduced. And then the prender leaves. They pop up and escape. However, in a salon or grooming session, the predator is us. We are, after all, bipedal predators and if we manipulate them into TI for the length, that would be required to groom their underside.

That may be too long and they could stress to the point of death. That is not a liability I want. I don't want to be known as the rabbit groomer who killed a rabbit. That is career ending. Here we have another example of rabbits that we see which are rescue rabbits versus those raised in rabbit trees. Those in rabbit trees are groomed regularly. A breeder doesn't let her angoras fiber get so full of feces and urine. There's not much point in that, so if they're trans, they have been so since early age with the same with show rabbits.

We don't groom these rabbits, we groom rescues. Most often, these rabbits cannot even be picked up by their owners, let alone have experience with trancing from birth so. It's very different. And again you can print these up. So you'll have a copy of them. Here we have the last study I picked, though there are, there are others and it shows that it's not the blood pressure that's affected during TI. It's the heart rate itself, and to quote adjusting below basal levels or bradycardia. This is as we know, can lead to heart failure. Additionally, sustained TBI can go in the opposite direction, tachycardia which leads to heart attacks. So all of this was to show you that yes, many breeders do in fact transplace the rabbits and TI.

That is their business, not my circus, not my monkeys. They can do as they please, but when it comes to grooming, please know that trancing a rabbit can cause numerous issues. Largest one being deaf. Some decades back I used on to degrease dogs. Because that is what the salon I worked in used and the owner of the salon said it was fine to use and I was taught in my first salon. That you don't ever use dish soap on dogs. She said she had used it for forever and it wasn't an issue, so I used it because that's what was available.

Then I went to a trade show and they told me why I shouldn't be using it. So I figured that from the slides of the skin and the fact that everything they said about it was right. Plus I always had bleeding cracked hands. So I learned that there was something I had been doing that was not the best way to do things. I stopped doing it. And I bought degreasing shampoo at a trade show. Though I was an employee, I still bought it because I knew my boss wouldn't buy it. But I also knew what they said was true. So I use that on my dogs and I did my best to educate her as to what I learned.

She disagreed. So you can have factual scientific evidence presented and despite all that there is, there will be people who wish used to believe it. Don't get discouraged. In time, hopefully they will come to understand. And it's also at this point you should be marking on your website. Under rabbit grooming we don't transfer. We never trance. There is at no time that we will transfer rabbit. Because rabbit owners don't want their rabbits tranced. All right, this is how to properly lift a rabbit. We need to access the underside. The top end when they're lifted is simply supported, but does no weight bearing. A good method for lifting is scooping. You put an Armani inside you, wrap your arms around them and you lift.

You will always be supporting the rabbits hind end. Their backs are fragile, and any flailing can break their backs. I know I've said this before, but it bears repeating. You must support their rear ends when grooming. You can lay their butt on the table and have an assistant put their arm under them. Either way works, so they're setting up like this. And their back feet are in the air, and they're actually sitting on the back of their bum.

That's fine. So I'm going to play it again in slow motion. So as you can see, her arms are going around her. And then she's lifted up and she's seated with her back against her chest. And our. One more time. Arms go around, one hand goes under. The other hand goes to her bum. And her hand is around her little arms. This is Bob Mann again, and she's quite happy and comfortable there. It's kind of like cradling a baby. So you can see here from the side how the red rabbit is lying against her arm and her chest. Her back is fully supported. You can't really see her face because she's got a chubby dulap, but you can see from her ears that she's quite comfortable in this position.

One man has the dulap of the prepper. So this is the exact same picture from another angle. We can easily clean the scent glands, shave the bomb area if we need to, and brush out the underside. All she has to do is slide her hand up or down as I need it to be. This is slightly further back, but again same position. And this is the last angle, so this is from the other side. Holding So this is Meg with Clover showing a proper hold technique. Her hand is underneath her bum. Her front, her other hand is around in between her legs and that one little arm is fit in between her fingers.

So in Cloverfields quite secure. He's happy there. So you always want to check for high end sensitivity and you'll do that with your hand. You go from a soothe and you'll slide your hand back. Into the area. Back here, so if they hop jump. You want to continue with soothe. And gently show them that this is not going to hurt them and that you understand that they don't like it. You're paying them with soothing so that you can touch their butt support when they're lifted, you always want to support that hind end.

You do not want their feet. You don't want to push anything against their feet. That gives them something to spring off of, so feet out. Hand under their rump. Pet in the direction of the hair growth to suit you don't want to go backwards? They like it with the direction of the hair grow. Don't hold any body part tightly there. They're fragile little creatures, so if you hold on to that leg and they're fighting to get away, you can pop it out of joint. So it would be just like working on a Yorkie or any other sort of little Chihuahua with those legs that are like tooth picky.

Yeah, don't do that. All right, so these are the tools that you'll need. And they are largely what you would use for cats with some differentiation. There's the hair Buster coat and you can create your own so you would take a fine tooth comb and run a rubber band. The mailing rubber bands that are really thick. It just lace it through. The county. You have the varied tooth comb. And the fine and coarse come as well. You have your nail trimmer and your hand nail file. You have Q-tips for ear cleaning. A soft cloth to clean if you have, they have debris around their eyes, a lot of the long haired rabbits.

The hair grows into the eye, so think of it like a chow that has entropian and their eye is watering because the hair is growing into the eye. Rabbits because they're long haired. If their bangs are too long, it's going in their eyes so it irritates the eye and then they get eye goop. Here you can just wet the cloth lightly so it's damp and remove the eye group from around their eye. It's, you know it's not going to be anything like you see with the Yorkies that come in with the piles of eye that you're not going to have that so.

For Clipper Blades you will need both ceramic and metal in any length that you desire to do the rabbit in. If you're going to be using the Clipper blade and not a snap-on comb or a scissor over comb cut. Because different coat textures respond differently to different Clipper types. Cover blade types so you can have a rabbit that. The comb just skips over the coat. I do not use A5 in one when I am clipping a rabbit simply because their skin is so wrinkly.

They're like a Raisin and I have seen. From watching others groom rabbits. For the shows and such that or for fiber. That the five and ones can bite into the skin much easier. So because they, they're just, they're a Raisin with fur on them. So you always want to make sure you stretch that skin and you will need both a ceramic or metal blade because you don't know when you start what type of. Texture that code is going to be, and even microscopically I cannot understand why. Some rabbits because, and I've looked, I've taken the fur of a rabbit that the ceramic blade worked great, metal didn't, and another from the one where metal worked rate and ceramic didn't and I can't.

Distinguish why. Even at a microscopic level, they appear to be the same, and the veterinarian that was kind enough to let me use the microscope couldn't differentiate anything either. So and that's what he does. I mean, he looks like a scope all the time. This guy is big into research, so. I don't know why that issue exists, but it does and now you're aware of it umm. You will need a small set of shears that you are comfortable with. And you'll need to, of course your Clipper. I also use atomi olive oil for ear cleaning.

If that's necessary, and that combined with the triple oil shampoo and the gingo oil are what I use on the poopy butt rabbits. And the Peck original conditioner after that. Then after that is done and they're dried up because we just washed the rump. We'll cover that in a bit. Then I use the seal White plus. Are still plus white to cover that and you only need a drop of all of them.

I actually put the olive oil in a smaller container for ear cleaning just because you never want to have a lot of liquid on anything you're putting in their ears because you don't want it running down. So this is the anatomy of rabbit. You have the ears, the forehead, eyes, nose, muzzle, mouth, the do lap. This is on dose only females, their chest, feet, four legs. This is their four quarters. This is their hind quarters. Therefore, leg hind leg rump, tail, knee stifle flank midsection, ribs, belly shoulder, neck, mouth, nose, forehead, eye and ears.

So their feet have no pop hats. They have no digital pot. They have fur that covers the toes and This is why we never shave their feet under any circumstances. If we shave them then it would be like shaving off the bottom of a dog's paw pat. We don't do that. We don't ever do that so. You can see there's nothing in there. There's no, there's no toes. So the rabbits foot with the toes and the pad, that's not reality.

They don't actually have that digital path that it doesn't exist, and their toes. Those they don't have paw pads like a dog does. They just have a foot. And the nails grow out of their the top of their foot. Intake so before we ever accept a Robert for grooming, we must do a thorough intake. It is absolutely crucial. I cannot emphasize this enough. You'll find the form for this in the handouts. An intake is always done with the owner present.

You don't get to leave until this is done. For any reason, you can't just drop and go. That's not rabbit grooming. It's not that kind of thing. You can't just have the neighbor drop it off and check out no. That neighbor is now responsible to stay there for intake. I don't care who it is. Somebody is staying. This will only take a couple minutes, so the very first thing you want to do is. You'll find the very first thing we're looking for that is the most important is mites and parasites. The reason there is no spot for this on the form for intake is because if you see either of these, they're gone.

See you later bye this is not no longer my issue. This is a veterinary issue because you can't give a flea bath to a rabbit. It's not a thing. You cannot kill the mites on a rabbit. That's a vet shop, not my job, so if they have mice or parasites groomed on you're out, get out of my salon. 25$ for the cleanup that I now have to do because I'm in the rabbit room and I can't use certain things that I would use in an area where there would be dogs.

Because rabbits are too sensitive for that. So now I'm gonna have to go to extremes and use a ton of chlorex to clean up my salon. The next thing we're looking for is matting and pelting. This requires not only a check on the intake checklist, but also shave down for. We should never be held responsible for neglect. It is not my fault that you chose not to get this rabbit room for three years. It is now pelted with a 6 inch pile of fur. That's not my problem. I'm not paying that Bill.

If this rabbit gets cut because I can't roll the coat back to even see under it, I'm now grooming by feel. The next is groin matting. Urine stained feet. Excessive feces. This is the poopy butt. And that comes with a hefty additional fee. To clean up. Because if I have to be taking off gobs of feces off of a rabbit's hind end, you were going to pay me for it, and you're going to pay me well.

I'm not talking about, you know, a little bit here and there. Like we see with the dogs, but if they come in with a poop pancake, that's equivalent to the size of their head. Yeah, you're paying 50$ for that. Any ear irritation, redness, scratches, material like black material inside the ear. Do they have bent broken, excessively long nails? All of these need to be checked off and the owner needs to sign this before they leave.

Oh, they went for grooming and their feet are sore. Their nails were three inches too long and it half of them were bent and broken. That's not my problem. You created that mess. That's not on me. And here's the form that says so. Take pictures of every intake. If you have one of these things, there should be pictures to back this up. For every pet. And I saved them. I have pictures of in my nodded. Or neglected folder that go back 11 years, 12 now.

Actually just 2010 is the first folder I've got and I will keep them for forever. So what does rabbit coming attack? It never entails a typical full bath as we discussed umm? They are prone to panic and bathing can create stress which is can cause them to panic and trying to flee can fracture their spine. So we don't do that. I recognize that some rabbits do give baths to rabbits, and as I said in the beginning, I'm going to cover best practices. It is never a good idea to fully bathe a rabbit.

Every small animal vet I interviewed to go over this material concurs that rabbit should never be fully bathed by groomers. So you can pay the rabbit if you wish. Just know that since it is not a best practice and no vet will support that decision should something happen in that rabbit, you will end up at the very least with a very large vet bill. Possibly one that insurance company is not going to cover, or perhaps a dead rabbit as well.

And then they're gonna be thrown under the bus by the vet that tells the owner that shouldn't have occurred. This can devastate your business. It's just not worth it. Rabbits love having the corners of their eyes cleaned. They don't like junk in there and they enjoy having it cleaned out with a soft cloth or bit of warm water and you can just wipe ever so gently in the corner of their eye. And you can use the dry part of the towel to just wipe it after. Ear cleaning can be kind of tricky with rabbits since their ear opening is very slender, it doesn't really give Open Access like a cat or a dog where you can just flip it up and get right in there.

So it's more like a cone. Almost kind of like a an ice cream cone if you will the pointed ones. Rabbits like being plucked more than they like brushing, and they can be plucked rather quickly during molting season. You just like a Husky that's got the toughs and I know if any of you were ever under a party and a friend has a Husky and they have those little Tufts on the legs, you will spend the entire party just plucking those Tufts out of their dog because you can't help yourself umm? It's a German.

So brushing should begin at their neck and follow all the way to their hind end. In long strokes, think of a rabbit's body as a grid with long lines. Follow that grid all the way to the rear. You'll have already followed the preliminary guidelines before grooming to know if the rabbit is sensitive around their rear end. Gently hold the skin taut with one hand.

And you just need to thumb. To slide up against the fur and you can. Brush with the other hand. The hair Buster comb or a cat comb is ideal for line brushing. Or line combing. If you come upon a section of densely packed coat, just pick through it. And it'll come right out. There's nail trimming, of course, which is probably going to be the thing you're going to be doing. Most often you're going to get lots and lots of rabbits in for nail trimming and shaving, so now they're spot butt shaves. And then there's whole body shaves angoras line, head, long hair, rabbits that aren't kept up kept up, will end up getting matted think doodle.

Now imagine their hair is super soft, fluffy fur. It can get really matted when it's not brushed out. And then they're single. Lance Roberts have sent glands under their neck. Which they will rub on what they see as theirs. It may be you when Clarence comes in the salon for his haircut. The first thing he does after sniffing me from like Chin to belly is he starts chin where they call chinning.

He will chin me to mark me as his so every time after Clarence leaves I have to change my smock out because he makes sure that I smell completely like him. And that's intimidating to the next rabbit, so I just changed my smock. So they have another set of scent glands that are located to the left and the right of the anus, and these are the ones we'll be cleaning up. Rabbit movement so rabbits feet are not like a dog's or cat's feet. See how her feet move as one piece. She doesn't walk on her toes, that's a solid. It's like a snowshoe umm? Or like a give the clown shoes that you see for like a Halloween costume.

It hits the ground all at once. So a lot of times you're going to see rabbits with nails like this and you can see in there that the toes aren't. Really, there's no. There's no pad on the toes, these are just. Finger like. Projections with nails on them. Sore hawk or pododermatitis can happen if you shave this protective fur off. So you don't want to do any shaving. That fur is a protective sheath on their paws. Trim the nails back to the quick just like you would for a cat or a dog and then you can use a hand nail file to brush them up and remove the sharp edges rabbit nails if they're on a proper diet or exceptionally hard it's they use them to go to ground.

They're burrowing animals so your nail Clippers will have to be very sharp to get through them. I generally go through a new pair of nail Clippers for rabbits about every three months. And I just buy the cheap ones because even when I've had them sharpened, because they have to be small enough to get in there so i don't bother to have them sharpened. I just throw them away. I buy the cheapies they last three months. I have bought purchased the really nice small nail Clippers for rabbits, and they lasted me three months, so.

You know 6 and one half a dozen of another, but you can estimate that and have your next set of Nancy appears ready to go because you know, OK, it's been three months and these are not cutting like they should. So here is 1 method of nail trimming. This is something that you can do with a rabbit that doesn't like to be manipulated very much, so just keep their body in line with itself and. Just have the other person hold them. And she's soothing while I'm trimming.

And you'll notice he's sitting up. He's not reclined. And he's very chill about this because he's being sued, so it's. Think of soothing as payment for a rabbit. If they're going to work for you, they're going to need to get paid. Like an in boy. And that payment is soothing. So they will have oh. And he's like no. Soothing, stopped nail trim continued. You're not paying me. I'm not working for you. So you've got to pay for that. So I just got to get this one little duclaw in there.

That's Ali, he's a good boy. Oh shoes back to come. Should take the time out, soothe, calm, bring him back to balance before you continue. So she's supporting his little bum. And she's soothing. And he's OK with it because he's being. Paid to. At the start. And now we file up. And he's chilling because he's being soothed. So we kind of like Plato. And I'll throw in a little freebie shoes here and there too. Because Banning Robbins is fun, and it's nice, and they're soft. And only comes in about every six weeks, five six weeks for. Nail trim and file. And say once. But Ollie like most rabbits. He doesn't just let you do this, you have to soothe you see she's soothing him the whole time.

This is a constant. This isn't a. You know, oh, I petted him twice. He's good now. Soothing the entire time. That's why I say rabbit grooming really needs two people because i don't have that many hands. I can't hold the nail and the file and sue the Bunny see now he's upset so she put him back down on the table so she can get it better. Lift on him. And I'm going to soothe. So we can bring him back to come. And once he's calm. Then, and only then, can we continue. Ok. He's trying to crawl in her shirt.

So now he's a rabbit who likes to have his head covered. She's tucking him underneath her armpit, so OK. We can kind of work with this. And she's talking to him and talking them through it. While I file. Doing rabbits alone. Is so very difficult umm? You really need. They either the owner to be there but the owners. Are largely. They're scared of hurting the rabbit, so when it comes to holding they're terrible on it and. It's just easier for me to have an assistant and with the pricing of rabbit grooming being niche grooming. Where there? When I say I'm the only game in town, I mean in the entire county.

Where I am. They'll pay the price they'll pay the extra for to have an assistant there to do this very thing. Just to soothe and hold, they'll pay the extra money. And this is very normal for. A response from a rabbit for a nail trimming. This is not irregular. This isn't a bad rabbit. This is a normal Bunny. He's not overexcited, he's not. Having issues or anything like this is what you can expect from most of the rabbits that you'll grow. They get fussy around nails.

Just because they are such an important thing for rabbit. All right, so that is Section 2. We're going to wrap this up. We're going to take a 15 minute break and I'll see you in 15 minutes.