Rabbit Part 1

Hi, I'm Anjie Coates and welcome to Pet Rabbit Grooming A to Z. Let's get started. So there is a test for this. It is located on the main page for the class. You have to email me the test. You can just write out the answers or you can take a picture of it and email me that I don't care how you do it. You will get a certificate if you pass the test and an 80 % is required to pass the test, you have two chances. If you fail on the second chance. And the first, then I'm going to ask you to retake the course because you didn't understand the content.

Ok, so people ask me all the time how I got started in Rabbit early. Well, it wasn't actually because of rabbits. Or even having anything to do with rabbits. It was because of the Guinea pig named Rumble and a woman came into the salon I was working at and she said I have a Guinea pig and here he is and his name is rumble and I am a yoga instructor.

And he does yoga with me, but he needs a haircut because his long haired Guinea pig. And I said, OK, I've never groomed to Guinea pig before, but if you give me a week I will learn everything I can about Guinea pigs, and then I will be ready to groom your Guinea pig. So she said, OK, I made the appointment and this was at the very early stages of the Internet, so I went to the library. I checked out every single book I could on Guinea pigs, most of them encompassed rabbits.

And so I read all of them. I had a huge notebook full of notes. I went on the Internet. This was back in the Geo Cities Days where there was little. You know, people would make pages and so I did get a little bit of information from there. But largely it was all just books, so I was ready. I groomed rumble. And I ended up going to her yoga class to watch the Guinea pig do the yoga.

I was terrible at yoga then because all I could do was watch the Guinea pig do the yoga and he was superb at it. He actually did all the little moves. It was the coolest thing you've ever seen. I'm still terrible at yoga. Because I never actually paid attention in class to anything other than the Guinea pig, but there were a lot of other people in the class that had small mammal pets and they had rabbits, and they would bring me their rabbits to groom.

And that's how this whole thing started. And then when I opened my own salon. I wanted a separate room for cats and small mammals and my assistant Angie. Yes, we are known as the angies. Said to me we're going to take all the bunnies. And we have and now we have probably around 200 rabbit clients and we have about probably 75 on a regular maintenance schedule and. So it's been very good. Let's get started. I've been in the grooming industry for 34 years. I have done well over a thousand rabbit rooms. If you need me, text me. This is the number you can Facebook message me.

The information presented in this program is designed for educational purposes only. It is solely advisory and the author cannot be held responsible for actions taken in regard to this program. I offer no warranty, either implied or expressed in all material, is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I have written a rabbit book called the Quintessential Rabbit book. It is due out in October and it has been reviewed by two different small mammal veterinarians for accuracy and up-to-date knowledge. This course will not teach you any of these things. The handling and upkeep for show rabbits. It will not teach you how to upkeep and maintain a rabbitry. It will not teach you how to collect, store or utilize for or wool.

It will not. Teach you how to do anything as far as show rabbits go. And if you were to spend a day with an angora breeder who spins her fiber into yarn, you'd see her shave process clean and spin 50 rabbits worth of fiber. Make three pair of socks and maybe even a sweater before supper. I'm not going to do that. I'm not going to cover show handling. That class this class isn't about any of that. This is simply how. To do how to groom rabbits in a salon, mobile or house called situation what you do with your personal rabbits is entirely up to you, but this is how best the best practice is to handle them in a grooming facet.

Pet rabbit grooming is not for everyone. Not everyone has the ability to groom rabbits, the area to groom them in, or the temperature. To in their salon that would accommodate a rabbit and they don't necessarily have the temperament to grow rabbits. Someone's taking my course and decided rabbit grooming is not for them. I understand this these are not cats, they're not dogs. They are entirely different and I respect your choices and do not think that rabbit grooming is for everyone because it's not.

I do very much hope you do find it is for you though, because if I can grow rabbits all day, every day for the rest of my career, I totally would and I would be thrilled and quite satisfied with that decision. The information contained herein is the knowledge given to the best of my ability. And I hope that you. Get something from this is foundational knowledge. This is what you will build your rabbit grooming career on. This is there's so much more to be learned, but this is the stepping stones that will put you on the path to doing everything as far as rabbit grooming goes.

What we will cover today. Understanding the prey. Animal and grooming. Missing misconceptions? There's a lot of them. Body Language, proper handling techniques. What does rabbit grooming entail? Common problems and grooming solutions for rabbits. Marketing, pricing, and forms. First I want to point out umm? That on this slide back here, this is the same rabbit. As this rabbit here and. The reason I included that is so you could see the bands of coloring in the coat. Because I just thought that was the most amazing thing. You don't have this type of coloring in dogs and you don't have it in cats really either.

But rabbits have a very unique fur coat. So I had to share that with you. I just thought that was the coolest thing. Rabbits are prey animals. Dogs and cats are predators. This is not to say a rabbit can't or won't bite you or scratch you, but what I am saying is their mindset is different. Prey animals react differently than predators do.

Human beings are predators. We're a bipedal. Bifocal, predator so we see in front of us, whereas a rabbit. Sees 360 degrees around them. How cool is that? That's amazing. I just their bodies are just one of the most amazing things umm? Prey animals have an immediate flight response. And as groomers, that's something we have to be very mindful of. If a rabbit is scared, they can and will jump over your body and try to flee. While their skeletons are similar to a dog or a cat.

And I'm not going to get into the dog and cat differentiations here because there are differences between the two of them. The major difference is that their spine is exceptionally fragile. Rabbit can break their own back trying to get away from you if they are mishandled. So what happens is they will kick out if you lift them by their underarms, which I mean. Why would you lift a rabbit like this? I mean, you wouldn't lift a dog like that, so? Generally, groomers will think better than to do something like that, but don't do that umm? Breakdown rabbit body language in a bit. But don't expect the rabbit body language of a rabbit to be anything similar to a cat or a dog, because it's not.

It is completely different. Rabbits will poop in their crate so that it smells like them. This is a very natural normal thing. They want the area they're in. To smell like them so they will leave droppings where they are and they may even do this while you're grooming. So you will need to have poo bags and paper towels available. To clean that up because it's something that they all do.

Intact male rabbits are called bucks. Female rabbits are called doates and infant rabbits are called kits or kittens. So we obviously posting groups regarding rabbit farming and we see a lot of advice given in these posts. These are perhaps the most common. And with a few companies comments that simply say don't do it, they'll die. Don't groom rabbits, you can't groom rabbits. You can grow rabbits. So we're going to go through the ones I was able to find at least a dozen times in the groups.

So a very common one you see is you can kill rabbit by bathing. Another one is you can kill a rabbit by letting it stand on their back feet while you're holding them. You can break a rabbit's back by tethering them. Rabbits can overheat easily. Rabbits can stress and die. You can suffocate a rabbit while scruffing it. If you do it improperly. All these are true. Every single one of them.

Now we are going to go through why each of these are true. Rabbits have a waterproof coat, I think Husky, but more efficient. Now, while many breeders will blow out the coats of the rabbits they have. When they have a rabbitry, the long haired. Angoras they've done this from the time they're young and there are upkept, so you're not going to see a rabbitry full of pelted rabbits covered in feces. That's not a thing. And we don't have rabbits bringing us there, we don't have breeders bringing us their rabbits.

They do that themselves because they have so many rabbits that all, if that's all we did, we couldn't keep up with just that. But they don't handle them. They don't do the things that we do in the way that we do them. The rabbits we see are largely rescues. So most have not been handled much. Their owners usually can't even pick them up, so these rabbits haven't been exposed to noise to pressure the experience of a high velocity dryer. This will cause them to panic in their panic they will attempt to flee.

They will injure themselves, or if contained stress themselves to the point of death. So people have asked, well, I have a cattery, can I groom rabbit with a high velocity? no now. Catteries work for cats. This is not a cat. It's entirely different species. They are not meant. To be wet on the undercoat or on the surface of the skin because their body chills quickly. And a stand dryer doesn't dry them fast enough to prevent hypothermia. And now you've got a host of issues.

So additionally the stress alone can put them into GI Stasis, where their entire intestinal tract literally shuts down. It ceases functioning, so now you've got a huge vet bill. Add in that. For a salon, the rabbit had to leave their home area in a car. I have owners that bring me their rabbits from as far as three hours away. That's a long car ride for rabbit. But there is no one else to do this so. That isn't an additional stress added on to the back of everything else.

A rabbit can also jump upwards at 20 miles an hour. So if you stand a rabbit on their back feet. And they jump. And you're holding the top section of their body. Their back will actually bend backward. And it will break. They'll break their own spine. If you tether a rabbit, they can also jump 20 feet 20 miles an hour forward. And they can jump 9 feet from a standstill 9 feet. So if they're tethered and we remember the crash test dummy commercials where an object in motion stays in motion.

Well, eventually the rubber is going to hit the road and that tether is going to snap, and when it does and they get to the end of that line, that back is going to break. Rabbits can withstand cold much better than heat. And they do not sweat from their skin. They do not pant to alleviate heat. So if your salon is hotter than 78 degrees.

Don't grow rabbits. That's not this is not a species for you to group. Reschedule them for a cooler day. Ok, some rabbits do walk on a harness. But that leash is attached to a human being, and that allows for flexion. Just like when we're walking, a dog pulls you go well, rabbits not big enough. Even the Flemish, the giant Flemish, which are big. They're not big enough to really pull you off your feet. They may do it with speed, but they're not going to do it with pure strength. So a grooming arm doesn't isn't, doesn't allow for flexion.

It's an immovable object for a four pound lagomorph so. Do not pick up a rabbit unless you are calm. We all have the zoners, you know the ones that keep kissing their dog and telling the happy dog. Oh don't be afraid it's OK baby oh don't be afraid and then they rapid fire quiz you about how you're going to abuse their dog and the dog is now quaking in their boots beside the owner and you're wondering what fresh hell, you just stepped into their energy goes right down that leash and right into that dog.

So we know this. We peel the dog away from the owner. And when we take the dog into the other room, suddenly the dog is fine. He's happy, they're good. Because you're calm, you don't have that nervous excited Oh my goodness, oh, it's everything's terrible. So if you're scared or irritated and you take a rabbit out of the crate to groom them, remember they're prey animal, you are bipedal predator. That's a pretty scary situation to be in if you're a prey animal. They're not a dog. They're not a cat, so when you're irritated or fearful and dealing with a prey animal, they will try to flee.

They'll urinate, they'll defecate on you. If all goes well, they don't jump off the table and break their spine. If you're calm, you can approach approach a prey animal and they will be calm. So you have to find your zen and be in your happy place in order to groom rabbits. So lastly, transiting transiting is a term they use when you hold a rabbit upside down. And while this is a very easy way to groom Rabbit because they are a prey animal, they don't move when they're held upside down. It does, however, cause an extreme amount of stress, which can quickly lead to a heart attack. So we'll cover that more as we go on.

Rabbits cannot be bathed like a dog or a cat, true. You'll see wild rabbits out in the rain, the same as you'd see a Husky out in the rain. Their coats are somewhat similar in the sense that the rain doesn't permeate the top coat, it rolls off. For those that have owned Huskies, they will come in from the rain. Shake all over your landing and poof, they're pretty much dry.

Rabbits are similar. However, as we know, from grooming Huskies, once you get that water past that top coat, they take forever to dry, literally forever. You could spend the entire day just working on a Husky. I swear you put 10 gallons in and you blow 40 gallons of water out of the coat. Not really sure how it happens, but there's some kind of weird thing going on with physics in the in the Husky coat. So domestic rabbits don't dry quickly either. In fact, the density of the coat is so great that once their undercoat is wet you can't actually get it dry fast enough.

We could use a high velocity dryer on a Husky. There's no way on Earth you want to do this with a rabbit. That leaves towels and stand dryer, and neither is enough to get down their skin layer. All over their body fast enough to prevent them from becoming hypothermic. And yes, you will see groomers be often bathing rabbits. These are spot baths for rear ends, just the bum and not a full back. Anyone that is bathing a rabbit commercially is begging for a liability issue and it really upset customer when that rabbit falls ill, goes into stasis, or dies from heart attack. Just don't do it.

It's not worth it. When knowing rabbits nails, you should never shave out the feet. Rabbits can develop sore hocks. The fur is there to protect their tender feet. They don't walk on their hind toes like dogs or cats. Their back foot is more like a sneaker, except it hits the ground all the same time when they hop. Essential oils no. Not in your salon, not you're in Roberts. No, there are way too many essential oils that rabbits cannot ingest either by breathing them in or having them on their skin. You do not want essential oils in your salon while you're doing the rabbits at any time. Do not apply any essential oils to their coat.

And don't put on any sprays, perfumes, oils, anything. Rabbits are not rodents. They're lagomorphs, they are very different. The only animals in lagomorph classification are rabbits, hares and pika. Pika are an 8 inch furry mountain dwelling creature also known as a colony. And they're on the West Coast. And while it was once believed rabbits were rodents, it is now understood that they do not even share a common ancestry. They are very different. They are different species and classified as such. Rodents have two incisors in the front and. Rodents have to work. So while both the Guinea pigs and the rabbits are considered small animals, by veterinary grouping they are as different as cats are to dogs, so do not group them together as they are not the same or even similar.

The two things they do share in common are that they are herbivores and they have a similar tooth arrangement. Just like dogs and cats have a similar tooth arrangement, they're not the same, but they are similar. Many rabbit owners will be greatly offended by someone suggesting their rabbit is a rodent or comparing their rabbit to rodents, such as a Guinea pig. Because rabbits are so different and animal. To a cat or dog. Most rabbit owners are highly educated about their needs and their bodies. So if rabbit owner calls and asks about rabbit grooming and you say, Oh yeah, I've groomed to Guinea pig.

That's like somebody calling you for a cat and you saying, yeah, I grew up in Saint Bernard. ok and. Like, Animorphs are comprised of two groups, rabbits and hares and pikas. So there are about 50 species of rabbits and hares. Rabbits are herbivores and 80 to 90 % of their diet should be fiber or hay. They may eat grain, cabbage or Clover or even carrots, but those are nutrient poor and difficult to digest. So say, iceberg lettuce. It you can actually cause all kinds of issues by giving a rabbit that. Lagomorphs eat their droppings, but those aren't the little cocoa puff pellets you usually see the texture in appearance is different.

And these are called cecotropes. They're more like a dark bunch of tiny grapes. This allows the food material to pass through their digestive tract twice. To maximize the amount of nutrients they're able to absorb. So if you're taking a rabbit and they're eating their secret tropes in the crates, that's really normal, because generally once those are distributed from their body, they will immediately consume them. They do not chew them, they eat them whole, and that's for their own health. They actually did a study. Veterinarians did a study where they didn't allow rabbits to have their own secret tropes they were unable to gain weight. They had very low body fat.

And they were just generally unhealthy. Tea Tree oil of any kind is poisonous to rabbits, so do not use anything that may contain it. That's why I am a huge advocate of ingredients. Closure for everything in their salon. Because there are so many things that do contain different types of oils and such that different animals cannot have on their bodies. And if we don't know what's in there, we can groom a dog, grow, groom a Bunny. We have tea tree oil on our hands.

It's now on the rabbit, they are self groomers. They will consume that. Now you've got all kinds of problems. So there's a lot to a rabbit's body language that is so alien compared to a dog or cat. Lagomorphs as a whole are. Unlike anything else. So don't interpret what they're doing by going by cats or dogs. Most of the rabbits communication is done through their ears. So now appeared rabbits. The rabbits that have ears that are down like this, they will still communicate with their ears, but it won't be quite as obvious as with an upward rabbit. Their nose is also a pretty good indicator of what a rabbit is thinking, and that nose isn't really used to used to smell like a dog's nose is.

It's more to indicate their emotional state, so if they're relaxed, if they're irritated. If they wonder what that big shiny silver thing is in your hand that you call a comb. Rabbits are obligate nose breathers so they don't pant like a dog does. If a rabbit is panting, it is exceptionally stressed and that can become dangerous for the rabbit. They do not need to wiggle their nose to breathe, it just makes it easier. So let's start with those notes. The news is not just how they smell, but also how they regulate their body temperature. The mucus in the nasal passage helps transfer heat from the air being inhaled and exhaled.

So don't be surprised if you take a rabbit out of the crate and their nose is going really fast. They're taking in all the new smells in the room. They're identifying predators. They're identifying. If they're male, they're looking to see if there are females there. Are there other males? There are the other males they're intact. Is this going to be some sort of issue? Where if I'm coming into this area and there is an intact mail there are they going to be upset that I'm here? So there's so many factors.

A calm rabbit has a very slow, calm nose. Wiggle the more. Relaxed a rabbit is the slower it will move. The more nervous route is, the faster the nose will move, and a rabbit that is getting ready to flee. We'll cease all those wiggling like none. That's you have to watch for that. So here's a rabbit that is calm and content and. Let's see there.

All right, so see how slow the nose is moving? This is Clarence and Clarence is very chill. See how his ears are up and they're facing me. So he's including me in his space. So he's that's for rabbit that says I'm with you. All right so here. See how fast her nose is going? This is bunbun. It's moving like 1000000 miles an hour. It's almost hyper speed. See the set of her ears? so. This rabbit is scared. She's not sure she needs reassurance, and you can call her rabbit that is nervous by wiggling your nose at the rabbit just.

Do little nose wiggles and if you're doing this, you're rabbit that's already wiggling their nose, and they stop and give you questioning ears, so they'll like one of them will move. They're wondering why you just said yogurt is gross. It's OK. Try it again. They're forgiving. They'll understand that rabbit is not your first language and they forgive you. And if they increase the speed of their nose wiggling, they may be laughing at you a little bit. That's OK too. You're making an effort. They get that. So try to imitate the calm nose wiggle. And you'll sue them. I'll show you about that in a bit and.

They'll eventually sink pace with you, and it will calm them. So now we go into the maxillary vember side. These are the face whiskers. These here. So they have long whiskers for spatial awareness. They have whiskers over their eyes. They have very deep follicles that are sensitive nerves in them, and they have the short whiskers for object recognition. Their whiskers aid them a lot in what they do, and you can tell a lot what they're about, what they're thinking by their whiskers. So like a cat, you never, ever cut or trim a rabbit whiskers for any reason. At any time. Wide fanned out whiskers are usually curiosity. And it's a sign of comfort.

Tight to the face, whiskers are a sign of fear, anger and irritation. Like cats, lose whiskers can give you a lot of information, just like they give a rabbit a whole lot of information. They're merely a part of the whole, though you can't just use the whiskers as an indicator, you need to put all the clues together, the nose, the whiskers, the ears. The set of their body in order to determine determine what the rabbit you're grooming is actually thinking. So this rabbit here you could see the follicles for the whiskers so well, you can see how deeply rooted they are in their face.

So if you pull on those or trim one of those. You're pulling on that follicle, which is going to hurt way. Think of it like pulling a nose hair. It's going to hurt that much don't. Ever do that, there's no reason. Ok, so we have three basic body positions sitting, laying and standing. Sitting this rabbit here is sitting. The rabbits back feet are tucked under and their front feet are extended. This rabbit can leap quite easily. So the most common position for rabbit is the loaf position. Well, it is a sitting position. They look like a loaf of bread. But their front legs are tucked under their body.

And their eyes are in. Ears are still alert, but it's a relaxed position. If a rabbit is sitting and they're up on their front feet. They can hop before you can stop them, so if they're in low position, see how the weight is on the front legs. It's much more difficult for them to hop away. Sorry about that. It's much more difficult for them to hop away than it would be if they were sitting up. So if their front legs were extended.

A very comfortable rabbit will be lying with their back feet to the side or directly behind them. They kind of look like they're melted. If a rabbit is upside down of their own volition and you can see the whites of their eyes, they're exceedingly comfortable, probably sleeping. Don't freak out. Sometimes well handled bunnies are very happy when they get groomed, and when they go in their crate they like to roll around one to get the smell of you off of them and so it smells like them and their hay.

And while they're waiting for their owner, if the owner did not stay, sometimes they fall asleep because they've had a body massage and it feels really good and they're feeling good about themselves. It was a positive experience and they just crash out and go to sleep. This is what we call a sploot. It's about as comfortable as a rabbit can possibly get. This is what rabbit is loving his rush out and as you can see there is quite a bit of rushing out that has been done and there's quite a bit more to go.

The rollback coated rabbits shed like yacks. Most rabbits love grooming. And frankly, once they know what's going on, I have yet to have a rabbit that didn't love gourmet. This little guy loves it a lot. He's like bring on my spa day ladies, so escape from this position is nearly impossible for him. It would take way too long to pull his legs in for him to get away. And that's how we know he's as happy, stress free and totally loving every single second of this. So when you have a rabbit, go into sploot during your groom, take a picture of it because that's as good as it gets right there.

This is and the owner will recognize. Wow, he went into a sploot while he was being groomed. That's they know they understand this is happy, relaxed content. This right here is a rabbit review and it says five stars. 5 out of five stars. So put that on your website because any owner that sees that will be like. That's awesome. Standing so if standing Rabbit is a rabbit ready to move.

If you have a rabbit standing in your salon, try to gently pet the top of their head. Nose up the ears until they settle into a more relaxed position. So when a rabbit is looking for grooming or attention they will stand but their butt will be slightly higher than their head ears back with their chin down to the floor and their chest touching the ground. It's kind of similar to a dog's play. Bout to put it in terms, most rumors would understand. Rabbits enjoy grooming a lot. So an invitation for grooming is something you want to capitalize on immediately and begin petting them gently.

Just right up the head, and you can offer grooming to the rabbit once you've taken them out of the crate and giving them a couple light head rubs by offering your hand about 6 inches in front of them and scratching at the table so. This could make your rabbit grooms much easier if you ask the rabbit. To groom them before you begin, rather than you just. We're doing this. It just makes them more comfortable. A rabbit may groom you back while you were grooming it.

They're not marking the spot to bite you, they're simply letting you know that they approve of your grooming and are quite happy with it, so they will groom themselves. They will lick their feet, they will lick you, they'll lick the table. Make sure you get the fur away, any fur that you've taken off. Get it away from their face so they don't ingest it. Rabbits will tooth per it's a rhythmic clicking noise it almost sounds like the rabbit is chewing on food. And you can feel the vibration in their head and along the side of their body when they grind their teeth together.

It's a happy thing. This is. A happy noise. It's like a grumble sort of noise. That they also make that sounds like a low grumble. It's not anger or upset. It says, Oh yeah, that's the spot. Keep doing that. It's very quiet and I've tried to capture it on video so many times, but my I tried with the digital camera. I tried it with an iPhone.

I tried it with a laptop and a microphone. I can't get it won't pick up, it's so low. That it's not something that I can capture on film or even on the audio alone. But you can feel it in their sides like you can feel the tooth purr. You can feel the happy grumbles. Growls are very different and their ears are facing backward. They're tight to the head. It's very clearly a growl, and if it's growling, biting is sure to follow. So diffuse the situation by rubbing your hands through your hair, wiping your hands over your face to let them know there was no intended insult. You're not trying to upset them and.

If a rabbit mimics the behavior. Then all is forgiven and rabbits are really forgiving. They're really good at that. Happy ears are a huge indicator. A general rule is ears are pointed at you, it's good. If ears are pointed away from you, it's bad. So the degree of how the ears are, say, a lot both ears facing you or in a relaxed position relaxed position are very good. So this is bun and she is in a low position and you can see the inside of her ears.

Her eyes are open and wide and she's happy she's enjoying her grooming. She has a nice calm, slow nose wiggle. She's kind of a ham. She really easy money for grooming. She's in all the time. She loves spotting so much so her owner was kind enough to get me pictures of her when she's outside because these are different moods that we don't see of bonmont in a salon. Because 1-1 loves her grooming and when she gets the salon she runs out of the crate.

She's all excited and she's like, yeah, let's do this five day. I don't see an irritated fundbox. So her owner said that she would get the pictures of her doing other things. So as you can see, she's sitting, but her ears are turned away. So you cannot see inside of her ears her ears are back. She's irritated. She is mad that her mom was sticking the camera in her space. She wanted to be left alone.

She wants to chew on her leaves. She's outside this is her time and this is the same sweet Bunny you saw a moment ago, but we all have moods. So just because the rabbit is normally sweet and good doesn't mean they won't have bad days too. Although I have yet to see bun one ever have a bad day insulin. Man, this is a mad little Bunny and this is bun again so the ears are facing to the side and turned away from you tight to the body that her tail would be held out so it would be straight out.

From the body instead of up against the bomb. This is a mad Bunny. If you knew nothing about bunnies, you would know that this Bunny was irritated. You can see it her weight is up. She's half standing half sitting and she just looks hugely irritated. If the rabbit is sitting upright with one ear forward so you can see the pink inside and the other ears tilted backwards. That is a seriously annoyed rabbit. They're on all four feet with their body above the ground so you can see under them.

There's space under there, wide bellies notwithstanding, some rabbits. That's not really an option. Touching rabbits, hind quarters of back end can upset them. So you need to understand what the ears are telling you before you actually get on to grooming a rabbit. So if there's aggression, some of the things that are signs of aggression are of course biting pinned ears. When the ears are pinned flat and they're stiff and they're turned back. When their tail is up. And out it means they're angry boxing, where they'll actually slap at you. And it's really fast you. There's nothing you can do you if your arm is there, you're just going to get slapped.

They'll do an ear shake, much like shaking your head, no to show you they're not down with whatever it is you're offering. No i don't want that. If you offer treat they don't want or petting, they don't want or if you make the mistake of putting your hand underneath their chin. In front of their face, you're asking them to groom you. That's really rude. It's kind of a demand. It's like you will groom me. Excuse me what? Who are you? I don't even know you. Why would I do that? That's a dominant rabbit thing. One rabbit groom is the dominant rabbit, So what you're saying is I'm the boss of you now grooming.

And rabbits like, yeah, offended so at that point they may urinate on you. This is the most offended the rabbit can possibly be. And this malodorous statement is exceptionally clear. I am so mad dumping. Like that famous rabbit in the Disney movie? Is that's mad there is a gross misconception because of that movie that is not a happy rabbit. They don't do it for any particular reason other than they're angry. That's it.

That's the only time they thumped their foot. They're mad. They don't do it when they're happy. They don't do it when they're excited. They don't. They're mad. So if a rabbit is doing that in your salon, you need to sue them immediately scared? Ok, so von Mann was just taken out of her crate and it was the first time she was back at the salon after the COVID lockdown. See how spread out she is. Her ears are tightened back. Her ears are big. Her whiskers are set out like a fan. She's scared a fearful rabbit will spread out like this. Her ears are totally turned back.

You can't see them from the front. The body is a flat plane, but she's not lying down. You could see underneath her from the side. The feet are ready to launch. This is dangerous in a salon. Rabbit to sue them, and as you sue them, their feet will come in and they'll go into low position. If a scared rabbit does a full body shake, that is a precursor to flight. It is preparing to go, and it's going to go up and it's going to go out. This is cautious. Precautious Rabbit isn't fearful, it's just trying to figure out what's going on. This caution can quickly turn to fear, though, so be sure to soothe and relax them.

Bun Man's weight is on her feet entirely, so her tail was tight to her body. She's hunched up, her ears are set to listen. She's unsure she's looking for threats you can see underneath her body. This is, I heard, a noise. There was actually a car going by. So while she couldn't see the car. Through all of the woods that's in front of the house, she heard it and it was loud. And what's that noise? Is it a predator? Is it coming from me? This is cautious.

This is curious. Rabbits are super nosey. They want to smell everything you have, let them let them smell it will help you develop trust. They want to sniff you. They want to sniff the cone. They want to sniff anything else, she's relaxed. Her body is stretched out in a way she can't easily hop away. Her weight isn't on her feet, it's on her belly. She's looking to see if I have treats for if you have spinach or broccoli and only give them a little itty bitty bit. Cilantro is a big hit in my salon.

Also, dandelions when it's dandelions season. I will and violets. I'll go out in the yard because we don't use any type of pesticide in the dog walk area and I'll pick those for the rabbits and bring them in and they can eat them while they're being. And they like that very much. So they'll be interested in what you have, so don't be surprised when a Bunny sticks themselves to your smock and gives you a good all over sniff.

You smell like other animals. Maybe you smell like lunch. They want to know, and if they're relaxed enough to know what those smells are, that's really good. Say you had an intact female earlier, and now you're grooming an intact male. They want to sniff all of that smell to see who was there also. Be very careful because I had groomed a an unaltered female. And then Clarence, the one you saw earlier came in Clarence is intact and he was so excited by the smell of her on my smock that he ate the top of my pocket off of my smock. And it happened in about 3 seconds, so I was able to pull that piece of fabric out of his face so he didn't ingest it.

But yeah, his mom was chuckling. We have the rabbit owner say so she's like. Call Clarence, so yeah, it happens. They're fast and those teeth are mighty. So this is bunbun and this is secure. She's totally relaxed. She feels supported, her eyes are slightly closed, her arm is supported, her rear is supported, and she's quite comfortable here. She likes to be held. This is her happy thing. A secure rabbit is pretty much like Jello.

They'll give you all their weight and just let you hold them. This is a relaxed look. It says, oh, this is good. I like this bun loves to be held and when. She's being groomed. Oftentimes she wants to be held. So you have to stop with the brushing, pick her up, and now you're brushing her while you're holding her. So because she just that's what she likes. Not all rabbits like to be held, most of them prefer to be on the table. But you will have those exceptions. Pain and screaming. The ones we see in the grooming salon most are tooth grinding. It's not the same as the low soft tooth per that means they have tooth pain and they need a vet.

Consistent headshaking means that there may be an ear infection or something else going on in there. They need to vet. That's not our area of expertise screaming if a Bunny you are working on screams the groom's over right. That second done calm the Bunny down by gently stroking their head. If you can and put them in their crates so they feel secure, send them home. Do not attempt to continue even if you can get that rabbit. Come in that great because of stress. Level is way too high. They're far too fragile. They can go into stasis, which can require veterinary attention, or they can have a heart attack.

Advise the owner immediately, go to the vet. A screaming rabbit is something is wrong, so it could be their mouth could be their jaw could be, their teeth, could be anything. It is not common for rabbits to scream. I myself have never heard it in person. But I have heard umm? Auditory recordings of a screaming rabbit, and it is bone chilling, so if you hear it. Done, absolutely done. Stress can kill the rabbit because they are prey animals. They are not a predator. They don't react to stress like a dog, a cat, or a human being stressed. Dogs and cats will likely lash out.

They bite, they fight, they struggle and we call it a day because we're not going to have them get hurt or have them hurt us, but rather the distress may not do any of those things. If you can't bring the rabbit. Balance, despite the efforts to sue them, the groom ends. Rabbits are prey and they will act like prey. So if you have dogs barking loudly this will create stress. If you have a dog 5 feet away staring at the rabbit like it will be their next meal, this will cause stress. Be mindful of what the rabbit is seeing.

They can see 360 degrees around themselves so turning them around does not mean they can't see the Airedale 2 tables over that's looking at them like their supper. They can, and they do see them. And as you can imagine, they're rather concerned about that. Just like we would be concerned if a serial killer was 10 feet away and looking at us like, hey, I got some great ideas, no, that's terrifying.

So the rabbit isn't going to be less terrifying. Signs of stress. These are all signs of stress. Excessively nervous and jumpy. If you touch the rabbit and they're about to jump out of their own skin, soothe them. Restlessness they can't or won't sit still. Unusually aggressive and difficult to handle. Touching them causes them to immediately lash out. Something's wrong. This is more than stress. Look at your immediate conditions. What's going on? That is the trigger for this lethargy if a rabbit in your care is lethargic, something is wrong.

Calm is not lethargic. A rabbit should be alert if they're lethargic. Send it home. One intake you don't want to be blamed for whatever is going on with this rabbit. Rapid breathing. We covered the nose wiggles, you can see the rise and fall of their chest, soothed them, relax them. Easily agitated. Super Grouchy, where is it on the side is on the butt. There could be underlying issues here that we don't handle. Make sure the owner knows what's going on so they can see veterinary treatment.

Grunting or screeching. This is pain. Groom over panting. Try to soothe. Remain calm, bring that rabbit back to balance with you. If you weren't balanced, use very easy to bring the rabbit back to balance. Bulging, scared eyes? Sue them. Ears held back tight against the head. Soothe them. Thumping or stomping on the ground remain calm. Again, soothe the rabbit. So you can see the picture of bun in the background.

This is mad bun. So we're just at about an hour here, so we're going to end this session section and we'll continue on with the second part in a bit.