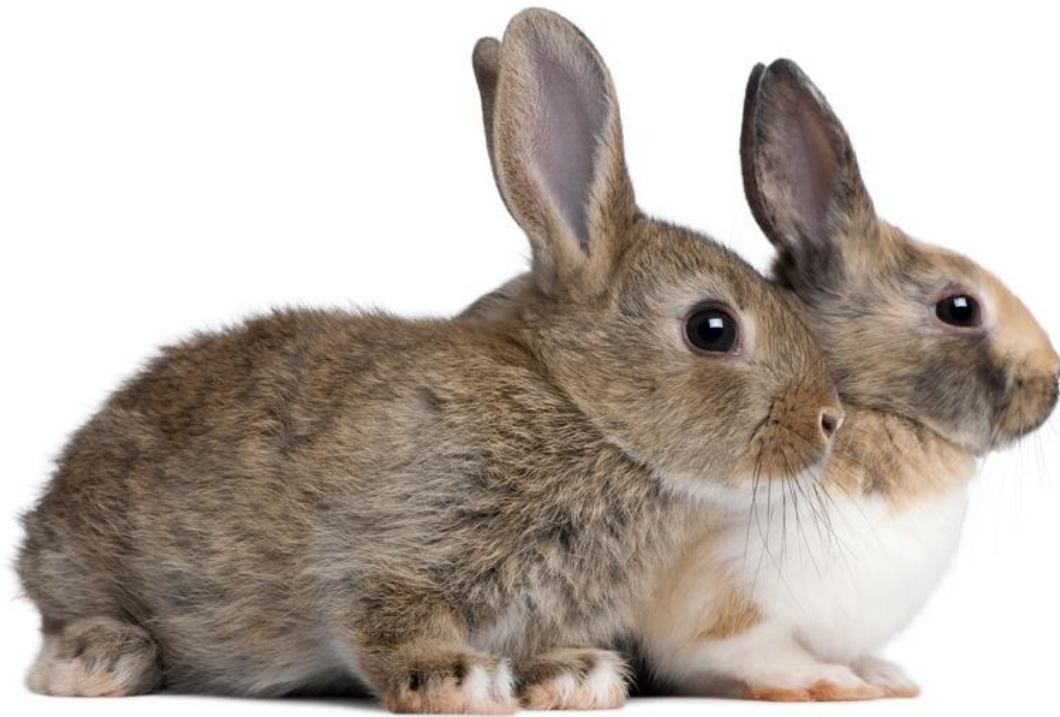


# Raising Rabbits in the Sizzling Summer



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# Raising Rabbits in the Sizzling Summer

By [Aaron Webster](#) – Category: [Raising Rabbits](#)

If you live in a hot southern climate like me you will be faced with the daunting task of taking care of your [rabbits](#) in the sizzling summer heat. As I write this article from my home in Texas, we have been experiencing the hottest summer weather since the year 1906 (according to a report by Fox News)! It can get a bit annoying having to go out in 100 degrees + heat on a daily basis to take care of all your rabbits however it is definitely much more challenging on the rabbits than it is on us. Imagine yourself stuck in a fur coat living outside 24 hours a day when the night time temperature stays above 90 degrees... unfortunately that is the situation that most rabbits living in the southern US are facing this year. So in this article I have provided some tips, tricks and solutions that you can deploy to help your rabbits make it through the heat...

## What can happen when a rabbit overheats?

- Bucks can go sterile for several months if they are kept in a too hot of environment
- Rabbits can lose condition and eat less food
- Many times your bucks will go into molts and temporarily lose most of their hair
- Lastly when a rabbit gets too overheated they can die from heat stroke

So as you can see too much heat can be a big and potentially dangerous problem for rabbits. I personally have had quite a few rabbits die over the years due to the summer heat. However, I have been much more fortunate than many other rabbit raisers that I know which have lost some of their best breeding stock over the summer months.

## The Ideal Cooling Solution

Although the majority of rabbit raisers don't possess this luxury, the ideal cooling solution for your rabbitry is an Air Conditioned Barn. Outside hutches work great during the; fall, winter and spring however during the summer they can flat out get too hot. The drawback of air conditioned buildings is the expense. Also if you live in a subdivision, there is a good chance that you won't be allowed to simply install an air conditioned barn in your backyard. Note: Only a couple rabbit raisers that I know possess their own air conditioned rabbit barns.

## Cooling Tips for the Rest of Us

So most likely an air conditioned barn is out of the question, at least for the majority of us rabbit raisers. Here is a list of tips and tricks that I recommend using to keep your rabbits cool...

- The number one way to help keep your rabbits cool without an AC unit is to keep them in the shade during the day. Ideally you would use trees to shade your rabbit building or hutches however if you don't have trees over your hutches you can try to setup a tent-like enclosure to shield your rabbits from the sun's direct rays.
- Setup fans or evaporative coolers inside your rabbit building. If you setup fans be sure that you hook them up in a well ventilated area or you might risk making the situation worse by blowing hot air on your rabbits.
- If you only have a few rabbits I recommend freezing two litter coke bottles and placing them in your rabbit cages twice a day. If you don't have enough time available to use this method, simply try placing frozen bottles in your bucks' cages. Bucks will tend to suffer the worst during heat spells.
- If you have beloved pet rabbits, maybe try moving them indoors for the summer.
- Turn on sprinklers next to your rabbit building. Believe it or not this method works great to lower the temperature of the area. When the water that gets sprayed in the air evaporates it naturally cools down.
- Avoid keeping multiple rabbits in the same cage. When you have multiple rabbits sharing a cage, their shared body heat contributes to a hotter living environment.
- Make ventilation holes in your rabbit building. When I first began raising rabbits my dad and I literally cut a hole in the side of a totally enclosed storage building to allow for better ventilation for the rabbits.

## **Breeding Rabbits in the Summer**

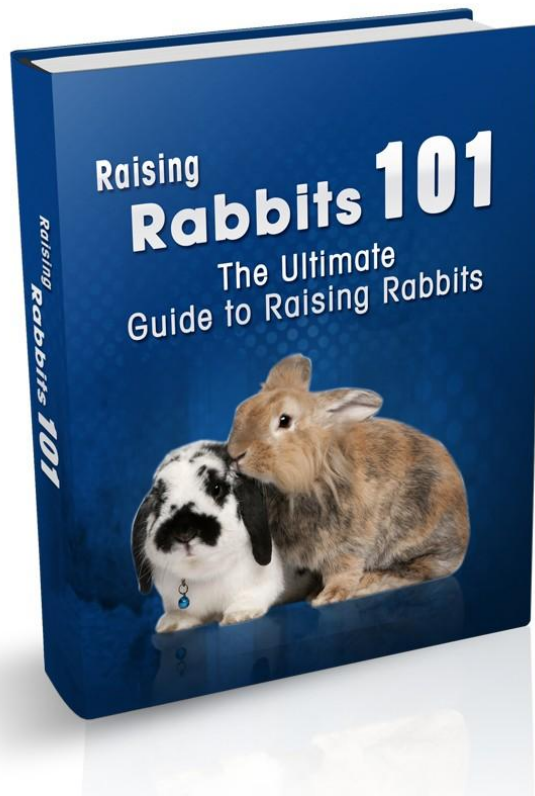
If you live in an environment where the average summer temperature is above 85 degrees, if possible I recommend not breeding at all during the summer months. From personal experience I have noticed that bunnies tend to have the hardest time dealing with the heat. In fact this year I have lost quite a few bunnies during this heat wave that has encompassed my state.

If you need to breed your rabbits for a show in the summer months I recommend that you use all wire nest boxes to help keep your newborn kits cool. Alternatively you can take your nest boxes indoors for the day and bring them back outside in the evening. If neither option works for you, simply be sure to keep your rabbits in a well shaded environment and maybe try running a sprinkler.

**Regardless of what you decide... Good Luck and Keep Them Rabbits Cool!!!**

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