

ALWAYS "FIXED FORMULA" FOR CONSISTENT QUALITY, SAFETY & PERFORMANCE



How to Feed KING Rabbit Foods

In most situations, young animals need a more nutrient dense diet than do older animals. This is especially true if the owner wants the animals to project full expression of their genetic potential.

When Dr. John Throckmorton, King's nutritionist, first developed LifeLong[™], he introduced "Natural". It was completely different from our Cloverleaf[™] rabbit feed in that it had lower starch, lower protein and lower calories. It was specifically designed for an adult show rabbit or an adult pet rabbit, the latter often being given extra "treats" by their owners. The Lifelong products have high levels of lecithin and live bacteria (plus vitamin C). Lecithin has an enormous impact on fur and skin (if the correct amount is used) and the live bacteria and Vitamin C help reduce stress... especially at shows. The lower calories help retain prime longer in fur breeds. This is information out of Dr. Peter Cheeke's book on <u>Rabbit Nutrition</u>. Dr. Cheeke was Dr. John's advisor at Oregon State.

Some customers, especially the German Angora people, absolutely praise the LifeLong[™] Natural as they have never seen fur production equal to that produced by Natural. We also had some customers say that their does did not milk as well or produce as many kits as they had previously. This was not surprising as LifeLong[™] Natural was not designed as a production diet. Instead, LifeLong[™] Combo* (formerly "Beginner") is recommended which has higher calories, higher protein and higher other nutrients to support production, early growth and lactation. This program works well for 80% of rabbits. The remaining number may be capable of higher milk production or are small frame rabbits with higher rates of metabolism.

KING Doe Builder is used as a caloric boost for lactation and to play weight "catch-up" when necessary. It must be used as a top-dress only. It has the same protein as LifeLong[™] Combo, the same live bacteria **AND** provides 20% more calories.

Consequently, in an ideal world, this is how the KING Feeding program works:

First, we strongly encourage the weighing of the does. This provides a basis for tracking body condition via weight gain or weight loss.

1 week before kindling, transition the doe to LifeLong[™] Combo. This prepares her system for the lactation diet. After 10 days, mix 10-30% Doe Builder into the diet to increase milk production. Maintain this diet after weaning IF the doe needs to recover weight. If the doe gained weight during lactation, withdraw Doe Builder a week before weaning. This reduces her milk output and forces the bunnies to eat more dry food. Keep the bunnies on LifeLong[™] Combo for at least 3 weeks post

weaning. At that time, switch show rabbits to LifeLong[™] Natural. Non-show rabbits may be transitioned to KING Cloverleaf[™].

The highest starch product we recommend for rabbits is 20%. This is the KING Doe Builder and may not represent the total diet. Cloverleaf is 15%, Natural is 12% and Combo is 11%. Oats, for example, have a 44% level of starch and barley is 70%.

No single diet can be perfect in all situations. That is the beauty of management. Hopefully, this helps clarify our program.

*LifeLong[™] Combo is approved for Cavies and Chinchillas.