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# SO, YOU WANT TO INTERVIEW A BUNNY.

A guide by Miriam & Thumpkins

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# Interviewing Bunnies\* (For Dummies!)

If this is your first time interviewing a bunny, you must understand that you are, in this instance, a dumb dumb. You will probably commit some faux paws, “say” something awkward and generally look foolish. All can be forgiven so long as you are respectful and always looking for signs of consent that the bunny wants to engage with you in the first place.



**\*Domestic Bunnies  
Only Please**

Leave wild rabbits alone.



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# What languages do you need to know to communicate with bunnies?



## Tip

Even if you're not fluent, it's important to learn the basics of the language your interviewee speaks. It's a sign of respect and will ensure you don't unintentionally harm them.

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# Just one! Body language.

(Think grooming, nose nudges and hind paw thumps.)



## Tip

Your verbal ways have no business here. Take time to observe natural bunny behavior until you can recognize basic emotions. It's all in their ears!



# 1. Prepare

**Learn bunny basics** about rabbit social structures, sensorial experience and communications.

- **Hierarchical**  
There is a nibbling order in rabbit communities. You are at the bottom.
- **Peripheral Vision**  
Get on their level. Don't try to make eye contact.
- **Body Language**  
Grooming and nose nudges are worth a thousand words.




# 1. Prepare

**Learn bunny basics** about rabbit social structures, sensorial experience and communications.

→ **Prey Animals**

Bunnies are prey animals, which means they may be skittish and startle at subtle sounds or motions. Try to be quiet, calm and avoid sudden movements. Don't pick them up or force petting on them. If they bow their head, you are invited to groom them.

A close-up photograph of a white rabbit with striking red eyes. The rabbit is positioned on the right side of the frame, looking towards the left. It is behind a wire mesh fence, with its head and one ear visible. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some green foliage and a blue object. The text "When in doubt, keep your distance and do no harm." is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

**When in doubt, keep  
your distance and  
do no harm.**





## 2. Introduce Yourself

If you do not already have a relationship with the bunny, take time to introduce yourself.

→ **Sit Quietly**

Just sit near the bunny without trying to do anything. Wait for the bunny to come to you.

→ **Offer a Gift**

Can't go wrong with carrots, parsley or bok choy.



### 3. Goals

Have a goal in mind for the interview, but keep it fluffy. You never know what might happen.

Why are you interacting with the bunny?

- **To Build Camaraderie?**
- **To Exchange Information?**
- **To Better Understand Its Perspective?**

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Pitfalls!

**Follow the bunny's  
lead. Don't try to  
make anything  
happen.**



**Tip**

Loosen your expectations of what an interview needs to look like or produce. To shift your mind, replace the word interview with "interaction" or "bunerview."



## 3. The Bunterview

Watch this handy video for a detailed guide of how to interview a bunny.

Make note of these keys to success:

- **Invite the bunny to participate**
- **Be respectful by showing deference**
- **Pause to give the bunny a chance to hopt out**
- **Respond to the bunny's questions and commands**

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## 4. Wrap Up

Reflect on what you learned from the bunterview.

- **New Communication Strategies?**  
How did you use body language to communicate your intentions?
- **New Bunderstandings?**  
How did the bunny communicate with you?
- **Next Steps/Hops?**  
Check to make sure the bunny was not stressed out in the process. See next video of post-bunterview success.





# Fin

As you do more bunterviews, you'll become more skilled and able to discern more information from your interviewee. Be patient with yourself and the bun.

Oh, and thank the bun for his time!  
(carrots, parsley, bok choy)





## interview (n.)

1510s, "face-to-face meeting, formal conference," from Middle French *entrevue*, verbal noun from *s'entrevoir* "to see each other, visit each other briefly, have a glimpse of," from *entre-* "between" (see **inter-**) + Old French *voir* "to see"

## Reflections

I always like looking at the etymology of words to remember what they are about. Interview comes from the French "entrevue" from the verb "s'entrevoir" meaning to "see each other" or "have a glimpse of." I sometimes feel we default to visual ways of knowing though. You can't really make eye contact with a bunny in the same way we do with each other. It would be aggressive and also buns have more of a peripheral view than a head on view. You don't want to sit directly in front of them, but slightly to the side so they can see you.

To me, the problem with watching animals is it's another form of consuming animals. Certainly you need to observe their body language to understand them, but I think considering the way in which we view the other creature is critical. Are you viewing it as an object, a possession, a toy? What views are you already coming to the table with? Are you really "seeing" the other creature or merely a fictional view of who they are?

## Reflections

As I bunterviewed Thumpkins this evening, I realized that I was assuming an interview had to require some kind of obvious, overt interaction. In this case, me petting him and his nose nudging me back. The Bunterview Guide I wrote really only applies to domestic rabbits that you already know. It wouldn't really work for a wild rabbit, nor should you really try to pet or interact with any kind of wild animal.

As humans, we long to interact with other creatures, but sometimes the best course of action is to keep your distance and give them space. Companion species are, perhaps, a special case. It would be interesting to try an interview with more of a wild creature or a creature you wouldn't touch - say, the mouse in my house or the cockroach clan in my bathroom.

It also got me thinking about what the heck an interview even is. My gut assumes that interviews are a kind of extractive exercise where one person is trying to get information out of another person. This is the most cynical view though. Interviews are also modes of exchange and, in the best cases, should feel more like a conversation that all participants benefit from.

Generally you have goals for structured interviews, though for these kinds of interviews with other creatures it's probably better to come in without any preconceived notions of what is going to happen. What is a "successful" interview then? Does something need to happen? Does an obvious interaction need to occur?

This reminds me of my explorations in "collabunration" earlier this summer where I just sat quietly with Spot, not petting him or overtly interacting. We were just holding space together.

## Reflections

I think a key to multispecies interviews is that the human really takes time to understand the other creature's ways of communicating, likes/dislikes, body language etc. If the goal is to gain understanding, then observation is key as is self awareness. Not only do you want to pay close attention to what your interviewee is doing, but what you are doing. Are you unintentionally giving off aggressive vibes? How can you show you come in peace? Are you in danger? Is your interviewee in danger?

What gets communicated in such interactions? In my bunterview tonight, it's not so much that I got answers to specific questions, but a kind of embodied knowledge washed over me. In grooming Thumpkins, he relaxed and I relaxed and we entered into a shared state of being. He then bonked my foot with his nose to investigate me and tell me to move out of his way. I moved my foot accordingly, demonstrating I understood his message back to me. In the end, we had a moment of communication and communion. I learned more about what he likes and doesn't like. He got groomed, which in bunny terms, helps with self esteem and a feeling of togetherness.

The Bunterview Guide is written in perhaps a silly way with lots of puns. This is more for the human audience that would be reading it. Maybe it would be funny to create a guide for a rabbit on how to interview a human. Although the language of the guide seems silly, I think my intention was to create a relaxed, open vibe. If you approach a bunny relaxed and open, they will respond in kind - even if it takes some warming up to you.

I think the main thing is you have to be IN RELATIONSHIP with the bunny before you can interview it. Some kind of rapport and trust has to be established first.