



DANGER SIGNS

During Bonding Sessions

These “red-light” rabbit behaviour indicate that normal social negotiation has escalated into genuine aggression or overwhelming fear. **Immediate intervention** is necessary to prevent serious injuries.



SAFETY FIRST: HAND PROTECTION

Never place bare hands between fighting rabbits. Always use a towel, dustpan, thick cardboard, or another solid barrier to safely separate them without getting bitten.



1 TORNADO FIGHTING

The most dangerous rabbit behaviour observed during bonding.

- Raised tails
- Rapid circling
- Continuous biting
- Locking together into a spinning “ball”



ACTION: Separate immediately with a towel or barrier!

2 BOXING & SWATTING

Rabbits rear onto hind legs and strike with forepaws.

- Often accompanied by grunting, lunging, intense staring, and rigid posture.



Interrupt before it escalates into biting.

3 PERSISTENT CHASING & CORNERING

Continuous pursuit preventing rest, looping around the space, blocking access to food/hides, leaving one rabbit panicked or exhausted.



End the session and reassess bonding pace.

4 RAISED TAIL & STIFF POSTURE

Heightened arousal displaying a rigid body posture.

- High aggression risk when paired with flattened ears, direct staring, or lunging.



Monitor closely; intervene if tension rises.

5 LUNGING WITH FLATTENED EARS

Rabbit lowers its head, pins ears back, shifts weight to hindquarters, and lunges forward.

One of the clearest signs of an impending bite.



Step back; rabbits are not ready for this stage.

6 SUSTAINED BITING

Clamping onto the other rabbit, holding the bite, shaking, or causing puncture wounds and bleeding.



END SESSION IMMEDIATELY & check for injuries.

7 PERSISTENT PANIC

Repeatedly crashing into walls, jumping barriers, rapid breathing, prolonged freezing, or complete refusal of food.



Needs shorter sessions or calmer environment.

8 TOOTH GRINDING: PURRING VS. LOUD BRUXISM



SOFT TOOTH PURRING (CONTENTMENT)

Quiet, rhythmic soft crunching accompanied by relaxed posture during petting or grooming.



LOUD BRUXISM (STRESS & PAIN)

Harsh grinding, tense posture, bulging or half-closed eyes, and reluctance to move. Requires immediate attention.



WHAT TO DO

- Stay calm and assess the situation.
- Separate using a safe barrier.
- Check both rabbits for injuries.
- Allow time to decompress.
- Go slower and adjust the environment.

Take a step back to move forward!



REMEMBER

Every bond is unique. Celebrate small wins, go slow, and always prioritize safety and kindness.

