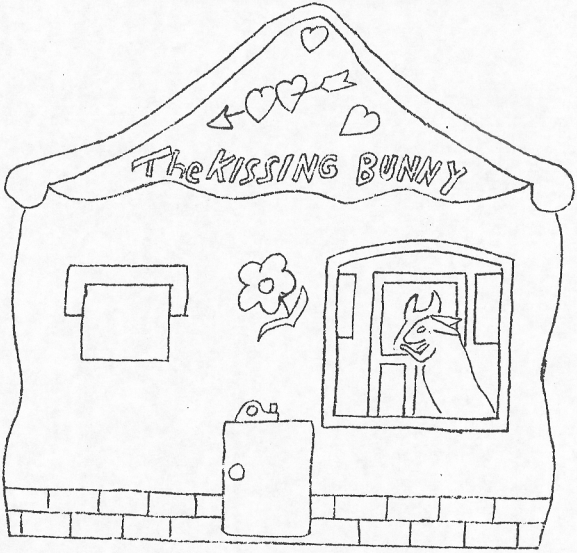
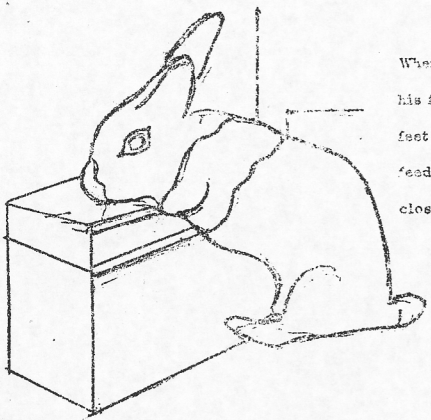
THE KISSING BUNNY



The rabbit is trained to kiss his plastic girl friend whose face peers through an open window. For each successful performance, the rabbit is automatically rewarded with a small helping of food.

Between performances the rabbit is confined to his living compartment; but when the appropriate coins are inserted in the coin box, the door of the compartment opens to release him.

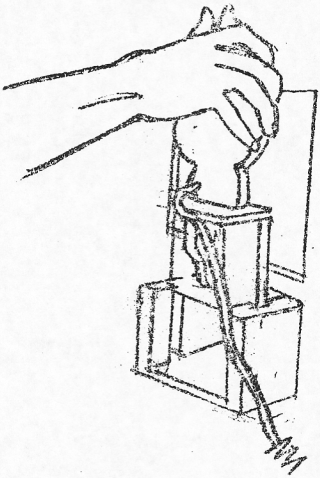
The rabbit stands up and, depending on the setting of a dial, kisses the face from one to five times to activate the feeder which drops food pellets into the cup back inside the living compartment.



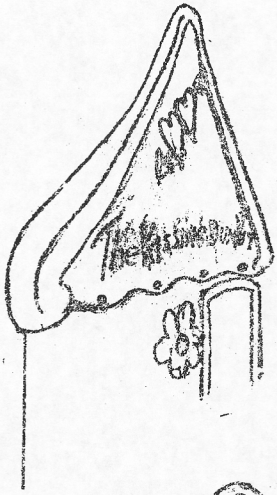
When the rabbit returns for his food, the pressure of his feet on the shelf containing the feed cup operates a switch to close the door.

Setting Up

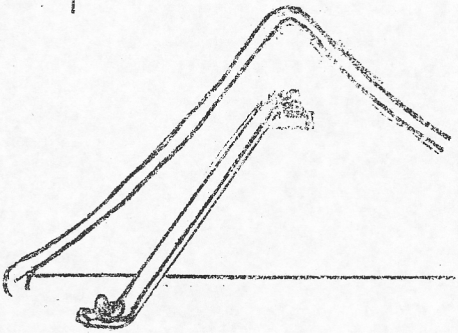
The unit is shipped almost completely assembled. It need only be placed on a table or stand about 28 by 54 inches or larger, and about 30 to 36 inches high. The unit is self-contained and is reasonably tamperproof. It is not weather-proof, however, and if it is to be set up outdoors, it must be sheltered from rain and from the direct rays of the sun. The rabbits are quite sensitive to high temperatures and cannot be expected to perform if the unit is exposed to the sun's heat.



The plastic bunny head may also have been packed separately. It slides into its bracket at the rear of the picket fence and must be plugged in to the control box.



The fiberglass "Kissing Bunny" sign must be screwed to the front of the unit.



An aluminum brace supports the sign from the rear. The brace is fastened in place with bolts and wing nuts.

The action of the equipment should be tested by hand before it is actually tried out with a rabbit.

Plug the unit in to any source of regular 115 volt AC current. The power cord leads out from the compartment at the right rear of the unit. Make sure that the electric feeder is filled. The feeder is the metal box next to the control box.

Set the dial of the control box at "5".

Press the "test" button. The rabbit's door should open.

Push the plastic head back and forth five times. The electric feeder should "fire" and deliver a few pellets of food to the rabbit's food cup.

Reach into the rabbit's home compartment through the outside door and press down on the feed cup. The electric door should close.

The test should be repeated a few times with the cycle being started by dropping the appropriate coins into the coin box.

Please note that the coin box will not accept coins unless the unit is plugged into its power source and unless the rabbit's door is closed. This feature protects the customers from accidentally being "cheated".

Coins are returned if a rabbit has tired or earned his fill of pellets and has failed to complete a previous performance.

The counter, built into the control box, registers the number of times the coin box is used. It does not count cycles started from the test button.

Please note, also, that the rabbit's door will not close until the rabbit has "kissed" the plastic head to activate the feeder. Occasionally, a rabbit will return to his compartment to check his feed cup, but the door doesn't close as a result of pressure on the cup unless the rabbit has completed his job.

The equipment was carefully inspected before it was shipped, but sometimes troubles result from rough handling in transit. If any troubles show up during tests, they, most likely, can be traced to one of the unit's microswitches. These switches are worked by movement of the plastic head, by pressure on the feed cup shelf, and by the motor which opens and closes the rabbit's door.

The switches click when they are operated, and thus are easy to check. For example, pushing back on the plastic head should cause the switch below the head to click. Releasing the head should allow the switch to click again. Similarly, pressure on the feed cup should produce a click from the switch located in the compartment behind

the cup. The switch should click again when the cup is released.

The levers of the microswitches are made of soft brass so that an adjustment can be made by slight bending of a lever. With the plastic face and with the feed cup, it is also important to see that the face and cup hinges work freely and have not been jammed by spilled food particles.

Trying the Rabbits

When the equipment is set up and has proved to be in good working order, the rabbits should be given a chance to work as soon as reasonably possible. A rabbit may be a little slow in performing the first time he is tried in his new location. Therefore it is a good idea to set the control box dial at number 1 at first, so that the rabbit needs only to press the face once to win a reward.

As soon as a rabbit begins working well, advance the dial to three. Most rabbits will soon be able to work well at settings of five.

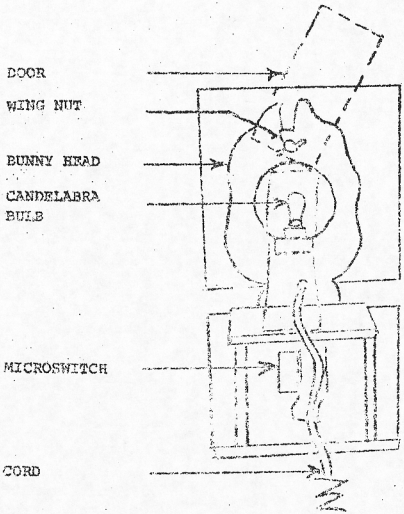
If a rabbit is particularly slow in going to work, it may be that he is simply so thoroughly over-fed that he just doesn't care (see the feeding instructions). Occasionally, a rabbit may need to be encouraged, at first, by a trail of a few food pellets placed on the floor of the performing area between the door and the base of the wall below the plastic head.

Very soon your rabbits will become accustomed to the sights, sounds, (and odors) of their new home and will show themselves to be star performers.

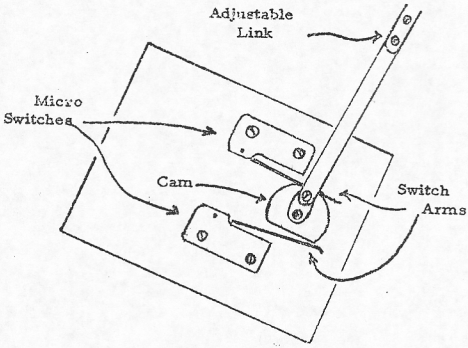
Maintenance

With ordinary care the Kissing Bunny equipment should operate reliably for a long time.

Light bulbs will eventually burn out and should be replaced. The bunny head contains a small candelabra bulb. Its socket can be reached through the little door at the back of the head.



Because light bulbs give off heat, fairly small sizes should be used in the performance and living compartments, particularly during hot weather. We suggest 40 or 60 watt lamps in the performing area and a 15 or 25 watt lamp for the home area.



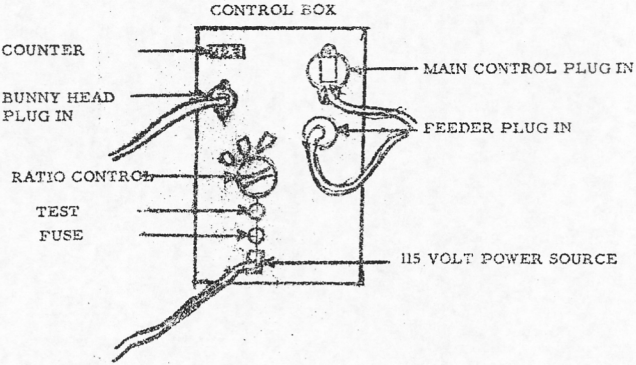
The door motor can be reached through an opening in the top of the unit. This is the electric motor that operates the compartment door. The door should not close so tightly that it overloads the motor. If necessary, the length of the linkage connecting the motor to the door can be adjusted to allow the door to work freely. The door should not close so tightly that it is forced against the door jamb.

The cam, mounted on the door motor shaft, operates one microswitch. The switch is operated by the cam to stop the motor so that it leaves the door open or shut at the proper times. If the door fails to stay in its proper position, either open or shut, it may be that the arm of the switch has become bent. These switch arms are made of soft brass and can be easily forced back into position. Gentle trial and error bending of the arm will usually clear up the trouble if the motor fails to stop.

The door motor linkage and the hinges of the feed cup and bunny head should be lightly oiled from time to time to keep them working freely.

A blower, mounted in the ceiling of the holding compartment, provides extra ventilation that may be needed during hot weather. A switch to turn on the blower is located either in the door motor compartment or near the control box.

The front panel of the unit is held in place by plated wood screws. Removing the coin box and the screws permits removal of the panel if it should be necessary to replace glass or to restore the lettering.



Control box troubles are relatively rare, but, if they should occur, the control may easily be unplugged and removed. We are prepared to send a replacement control, in exchange, if it should be needed.