RABBITS FOOT FERN CARE

LIGHT

Rabbit's-foot fern (Davallia fejeensis) needs bright, indirect light. Place it near a bright window with protection from strong midday and afternoon sun. Deep shade produces weak growth, while direct heat through glass can scorch the finely divided fronds and dry the small pot rapidly.

WATER

Keep the growing mix lightly moist, allowing roughly the top half inch to dry before watering again. Water thoroughly and let excess escape. Do not leave the pot in a filled saucer or let the whole root ball become severely dry. Check more often in a warm, heated room.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use a light, moisture-retaining but airy potting mix in a draining container or basket. The fuzzy rhizomes naturally creep over the surface and pot rim. Keep them exposed rather than burying them under soil or mulch. Repot gently when needed, taking care not to break the projecting rhizomes.

FEEDING

Feed lightly during active growth with a suitable houseplant fertilizer at its labeled dilution. Reduce feeding during slow winter growth. Avoid concentrated fertilizer against the rhizomes and do not feed a severely dry plant. Brown tips can reflect moisture, salts, or exposure rather than a nutrient shortage.

SEASONAL CARE

Keep warm and frost-free, away from cold glass, drafty doors, and hot vents. A moderately humid room helps fronds stay attractive, but roots still need drainage. Remove dead fronds carefully at their bases. Inspect for pests when bringing a summer outdoor plant back indoors.

HELPFUL TIPS

The hairy feet are living rhizomes, not dead roots or an insect infestation. Do not cut them off simply because they extend beyond the pot. This guide is for the tropical fejeensis type; deciduous or hardier Davallia species should be identified separately before applying the same winter routine.