

Each year, thousands of rabbits purchased as Easter gifts are neglected, abandoned, or killed.

Friends of Rabbits has a better alternative: saving the lives of last year's rejected "Easter bunnies" and other abandoned rabbits. We'll work with you to see if adopting or fostering a rescued rabbit is right for you. We also have many other volunteer opportunities.

To find out about adopting and caring for rabbits, please contact:

Friends of Rabbits (703) 548-6793

<http://www.friendsofrabbits.org>
information@friendsofrabbits.org



A nice home for a rabbit

Local Animal Shelters With Rabbits

Virginia

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria
(703) 838-4775

The Animal Welfare League of Arlington
(703) 931-9241

Fairfax County Animal Shelter
(703) 830-1100

Humane Society of Fairfax County
(703) 385-7387

Maryland

Montgomery County Humane Society
(301) 217-6999

Prince George's County Shelter
(301) 499-8300

District of Columbia

District of Columbia Animal Shelter
(202) 576-6664

Washington Animal Rescue League
(202) 726-7001 (adoptions)

Washington Humane Society
(202) 234-8626

I'm a Life Not an "Easter Bunny"



I know I'm irresistibly cute, but please don't take me home because you want an "Easter Bunny." Taking care of a rabbit requires a lot of work and commitment. Domesticated rabbits like me can live 10 years or more. To make sure I'm healthy and well-treated all that time, please adopt me from a local animal shelter or rescue group. The folks there will teach you about rabbit care and help you decide if adding a rabbit to your family makes sense for all concerned.

Accommodations

Despite what you might have read about Peter Rabbit hanging out in Mr. McGregor's garden, a domesticated rabbit is much better off indoors. There are too many dangers outside; besides, you won't be able to visit me or monitor my health often enough.

Here's the basic setup that I require:

- A large pen, at least 6' x 6,' in a quiet room
- A litter box, with non-toxic litter
- Hay—as much as I want
- Fresh water
- A comfortable mat where I can sleep
- A hideout. Since I'm a prey animal, I need a place where I can feel safe.
- Safe chew toys

Daily Tasks

Every day, you need to perform the following chores:

- Feed me a variety of greens. Some, like lettuce, I can have every day. Others, like kale, I can only have once or twice a week. Rabbits should get two

salads a day, in the morning and around dinnertime.

- Scoop out my litter box, and put in fresh litter and hay. Actually you should do this twice a day.
- Give me fresh water.
- I need at least two hours of play-time each day, so I can get out of my pen, run around, and socialize with my humans.

Safety

It's very important that you "bunny-proof" any rooms in which I'll spend time. I have a habit of chewing on wires. Before I come to live with you, please cover all electrical and phone cords so that I cannot chew through them. Also, my room (and other places I'm allowed in) cannot have any plants that are poisonous to rabbits, or any small items I could swallow.

Health

Rabbits are prone to many health problems. You need to make sure that I'm eating and excreting normally each day. If I don't feel good, my digestive system will slow down and eventually shut down. I depend on you to know when I'm not feeling well, so that you can take me to the veterinarian.

You also need to brush me, trim my nails, examine my ears, and check my teeth regularly. And please don't pick me up until you learn the proper method.

Cost

Plan on spending \$1,000 or more each year on food, litter, veterinary care and supplies, in addition to about \$400 in startup costs.

Commitment

So you see, there's a lot more to having a rabbit than just picking one from a roadside stand or pet shop. But with the proper preparation, know-how, attention and love you will gain a happy and healthy rabbit friend for many years.

Note to Parents: All the adults in the family need to be ready and willing to take on this long-term responsibility. Think it over. Sometimes the best lesson in compassion is **not** bringing home a live animal.
