

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 rabbits. We'll work with you to see if adopting or fostering a rescued rabbit is right for you. We have many other volunteer opportunities, also.

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 to Adopt

Virginia

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria
(703) 838-4774

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

Fairfax County Animal Shelter
(703) 830-1100

Humane Society of Fairfax County
(703) 385-PETS (7837)

Maryland

Montgomery County Humane Society
(240) 773-5960

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

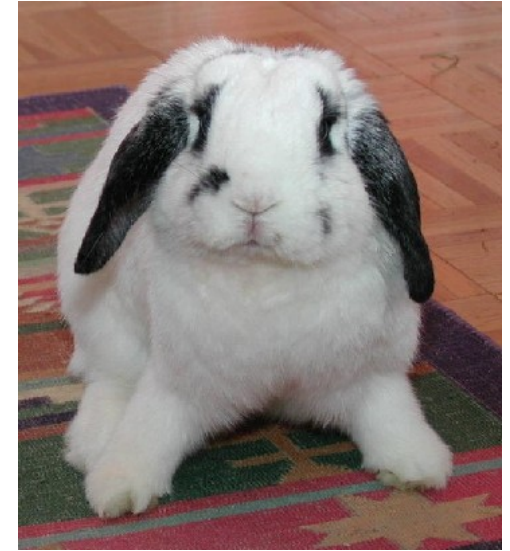
District of Columbia

District of Columbia Animal Shelter
(202) 576-6664

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

Washington Humane Society
(202) 723-5730

Please Don't Buy Me for Easter



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 well-treated and healthy 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 (6' by 6') pen in a quiet room
- A litter box, with rabbit-suitable litter
- Hay - as much as I want
- Fresh water
- A comfortable mat for sleeping
- A hideout (I'm a prey animal, so I get afraid easily and need to find protection)
- Safe chew toys

Daily Tasks

Every day, you have to perform the following "bunny chores:"

- Feed me a variety of greens. Some, like lettuce, I can have every day. Others, like kale, I can only have two to three times a week. Rabbits should get two salads a day: once in

the morning and once around dinnertime.

- Scoop out my litter box, and put in fresh litter and hay. Actually you should do this twice per day.
- Give me fresh water.
- I need at least two half-hour playtimes each day, so I can get out of my cage, 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 bite them. Also, my room (and other places I'm allowed in) cannot have any plants that are poisonous to rabbits, or any small items lying around that I could swallow.

Health

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

You also need to trim my nails, brush me, 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 \$1100 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, and attentiveness - and love! - you will gain a happy and healthy little 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.
