



# Rabbit Adoption Information

Animals that are adopted from a rescue environment need plenty of patience, care and love to help them settle successfully into a new home. We aim to carefully match animals to potential new owners and to provide as much information as possible on the rabbit's background and behaviour to maximise the chance of a successful adoption. Our rabbits' welfare takes priority, so their needs will be considered first when looking for a new home. We will offer advice and support throughout and beyond the adoption process.

Please note that we do not rehome rabbits to live alone (except for in exceptional circumstances). We rehome in already bonded pairs or we will bond our solo rabbits with your rabbit(s). If adopting a solo rabbit please be aware that it is dependant on bonding and sometimes can take more than one attempt to find the right rabbit.

## About Our Rabbits

All of our rabbits are neutered, microchipped and vaccinated before they are adopted. After arrival, they are kept in quarantine for 2 weeks and will receive health checks by experienced staff and our local vets. While at the rescue, the rabbits are weighed regularly and given weekly health checks. Adopters will be made aware of any ongoing health issues. Unfortunately the SAA cannot be held responsible for any health problems that develop after adoption. Visits to see available rabbits will need to be made in advance.



## Is a rabbit the right pet for you?

Rabbits are the 3rd most popular pet in the UK, but sadly they are the most neglected. There is a huge problem of people getting rabbits, particularly for children, and then abandoning them after realising they are not the right fit. **Please think carefully before making a decision on whether to bring rabbits into your home.** Rabbits can live for 10-12 years (depending on breed, care and health luck) and need yearly vaccinations as well as regular health checks on top of food, water, hay and daily care. They are not suitable to be cared for solely by children, so if rehoming to families parents must be aware they are to be responsible. Rabbits are a prey species, so by nature are generally nervous and can react aggressively if fearful - they are rarely cuddly and enjoy interaction on their own terms. Time & patience is needed to build up a strong friendship with a rabbit. It is worth the effort; they are intelligent, curious and a lot of fun!

# Information For Adopters

## Accommodation

The Rabbit Welfare Association (RWA) recommend a **minimum area of 10ftx6ftx2ft** (3mx2mx1m) for a pair of average sized rabbits, regardless of whether indoors or outdoors. We follow their recommendations; while there is some flexibility we are not willing to haggle over minimum requirements as we want to ensure our rabbits live happy, healthy and fulfilled lives.

⇒ **Minimum base size:** 6ftx2ftx3ft single or double storey. If outside, playhouses, sheds and aviaries are preferred choices and if inside a safe area or even free roam is recommended. Hutches and chicken coops are not our preferred choices for accommodation as they offer little width or weather protection and are generally not predator proof. There are a number of better (and larger!) alternatives that can be brought for similar prices.

⇒ **Minimum run/exercise size:** 8ftx6ft (240cmx180cm) which should be **permanently attached** to the accommodation. It should be predator proof, escape proof and have bad weather provisions.

**\*\*Please note that these are the minimum requirements - bigger is always better! If you would like advice on accommodation ideas then please get in touch\*\***

## Diet

Good quality hay should make up around 85% of a rabbit's diet and should always be available, 24 hours a day.

Only a small amount of pellets per day are advised. We use Burgess Excel pellets and can advise on alternatives for your rabbit. Muesli type food should not be fed to rabbits. Forage or fresh veg should make up around 10% of your rabbit's diet. Please ask for further info on suitable forage/vegetables if needed.

Water should be available at all times and changed daily. Bowls are usually preferred.

## Vaccinations

Rabbits need to be vaccinated yearly. When adopted they will have been vaccinated so their card will show when they need to get done again.

Rabbits need to be vaccinated against Myxomatosis, RVHD1 and RVHD2. Vets usually use a combination vaccine that covers all 3 (some use 2 separate that need to be done 2 weeks apart). After vaccination, it takes approximately 9 days to reach full immunity.

If adopting a rabbit to go with existing pet rabbits, proof of vaccination will need to be seen.

## Our rehoming process

- 1) First step is filling out our adoption interest form. Our staff will get in touch if we have any immediate questions or concerns. Usually we will ask for photos and dimensions of accommodation set ups to make sure housing is ready or close to being ready before moving forward.
- 2) We can then arrange a visit to the site to meet available rabbits. Our team will be able to have a chat with you and advise on who would best suit your situation.
- 3) The next step is to arrange a home visit to confirm suitability. Please make sure to start the process at a suitable time, ie not before a holiday. Home visits can be arranged before viewings if the accommodation set up has any concerns.
- 4) Once your adoption is approved, if adopting a pair of rabbits then arrangements can be made to pick up your new buns. If adopting a new friend then we will book in a date to start bonding on site and a pick up date arranged after.
- 5) There will be an adoption agreement to sign when you come in and all animals adopted from us come with 4 weeks of free PetPlan insurance. We ask for a minimum donation of **£55** per rabbit which is payable on collection
- 6) After you have adopted your new rabbit(s) you are welcome to get in touch if you have any questions/concerns, we are always here to help. We will be in contact approximately 2 weeks after adoption to make sure everything is going smoothly.

## Why Adopt Don't Shop?!

What you get for your adoption fee:

- New member of your family
- Neutered (costs can vary from £60-£100+)
- Vaccinations (£35-£70)
- 4 weeks free PetPlan insurance
- Microchipping (average £15)



(estimates of vet prices for an owner)

Your adoption fee goes towards these basic vet treatments, but it does not cover:

Additional vet bills for illness or injury (unfortunately very common), cleaning supplies, hay, food, staff costs and site costs (eg insurance, lights, water, heating).

Why adopt?

- Free up a rescue space so we can help another rabbit in need!
- If adopting a friend for your rabbit we will help with bonding
- Should circumstances change we will always readmit adoptees
- We can provide advice and information about the rabbit being adopted to try to make sure they fit in well with your family.