

If You've Been Asked or Offered to Take a Rabbit In

Taking in a rabbit can be a big responsibility. Before agreeing please read the following carefully.

1. **Check with rescues first:** Many rescues have limited space. Confirm placement for the rabbit before offering to take them in.
2. **Temporary care may be required:** You may be asked to care for the rabbit until a rescue can take them in. This could be anywhere from 1 day up to several weeks.
3. **Do NOT pay for the rabbit:** Paying individuals or breeders encourages the sale or passing around of rabbits for profit.
4. **Don't assume the rescue can immediately take the rabbit:** While you may think you're helping, taking a rabbit without guidance can unintentionally create more stress for rescues, who have structured systems for prioritising spaces.

If You See a Rabbit Advert Online

Whether from a breeder or individual (selling or giving away), follow these steps if welfare concerns are present:

1. **Collect information safely**
 - Obtain their contact details and, if possible, the collection address.
 - Screenshot or save images and text as evidence.
2. **Report the situation**
 - Contact your nearest Animal Anti-Cruelty League or SPCA.
 - Report the advert to have it removed.
3. **Do NOT share the post publicly**
 - Sharing can increase demand or alert the seller, making the situation worse.

- If you want to involve others who might be able to help, share only the location and a picture, without the individual's contact details or name. Only share their contact details once they have confirmed they can assist.

Should an individual be selling or giving away, follow the following steps to try help:

1. Communicate with the seller

- Use a neutral message such as:
 - “Hi there, I'm very interested in the rabbit(s). Please could you hold them for me while I confirm with my partner? I'll get back to you soon.”

2. Contact a nearby rescue

- Ask if they can provide placement and explain the situation.

3. Do NOT share the post publicly

- Sharing can increase demand or alert the seller, making the situation worse.
- If you want to involve others who might be able to help, share only the location and a picture, without the individual's contact details or name. Only share their contact details once they have confirmed they can assist.

4. Contact the seller if placement is confirmed

- Arrange a safe handover with the seller once placement has been confirmed.
- Remember: Do not pay for the rabbit.

Why You Should NOT Take in an Unknown Rabbit

Without guidance from a Rescue/Vet

Fighting Between Your Rabbits

When you bring home a new rabbit into the territory of your own rabbits, this will often cause aggression and stress on your own rabbits from the scent of the new rabbit. This is extremely common and should be avoided. There will never be a case where your rabbits will be happy to see a new rabbit, as rabbits are highly protective and territorial.

Hidden Diseases

The rabbit may appear “healthy”, but there are many hidden and contagious diseases that the rabbit can carry and spread to your own rabbits. Bringing home a “random” rabbit can result in your own rabbits picking up a highly contagious condition like Pasteurella, EC or Coccidiosis which can be fatal for your own rabbits. Without testing at a bunny-savvy vet, you won't know what disease or virus the rabbit might be carrying.

Unexpected Vet Costs

Until a rabbit is tested at a bunny-savvy vet, you won't know what health conditions the rabbit might be suffering with. Many rabbits that are abandoned or given away have health issues and to test for and treat are expensive.

Parasites

The unwanted rabbit may be carrying fleas, mites or worms. These can result in an infestation in your home and your other animals.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us! We're more than happy to help!

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