

Adoption Policy

Ohio House Rabbit Rescue, Inc.

Primary Caregiver: When a rabbit is adopted from Ohio House Rabbit Rescue (OHRR), the primary caregiver must be an adult. Ohio House Rabbit Rescue does not adopt rabbits as pets to children. The rabbit should be an integral part of the family and wanted by the entire family. All interaction with children and other household pets must be supervised.

Ohio House Rabbit Rescue will not adopt a rabbit into a home in which an individual resides who has ever been convicted of animal neglect or cruelty in any local, state, or national jurisdiction or breeds rabbits for sale.

Indoor Housing: All rabbits adopted from Ohio House Rabbit Rescue must live indoors within the residential living space of the adopter. The rabbit must live on the floor in an enclosure with no wire flooring and with minimum dimensions of 4 feet by 4 feet or free range in a room inside the home. In addition to an enclosure, the rabbit must have space and time for play and exercise. Ohio House Rabbit Rescue does not adopt rabbits into households that also have snakes or ferrets as pets.

Social Requirements: Rabbits are highly social beings, thriving in a stable atmosphere of companionship. Should the adopted rabbit face long periods of solitude, the introduction of a second rabbit would offer companionship to the first. If two rabbits up for adoption are a bonded pair, a potential adopter must adopt both rabbits and agree to keep them together.

Neutering/Spaying: All Ohio House Rabbit Rescue rabbits are spayed or neutered. If the adopted rabbit is to be a companion of an existing pet rabbit, the current pet rabbit is required to have been spayed or neutered at least one month prior to the introduction process.

Veterinary Care: Rabbits require regular veterinary care by a rabbit-experienced veterinarian. In the event of rabbit illness, the adopter must be prepared to handle the financial responsibility.

Nutritious Diet: Good health requires a diet of limited, high-quality timothy pellets (no seeds or nuts), unlimited grass hay, and a daily salad consisting of mixed fresh greens.

Returns: On average, rabbits live 8-10 years. Although the goal is that all Ohio House Rabbit Rescue rabbits find their forever homes, this is not always possible. Any rabbit adopted from Ohio House Rabbit Rescue must be returned to Ohio House Rabbit Rescue if the adopter can no longer care for the rabbit. The rabbit will be placed back into the foster program as soon as possible, but the time frame required is dependent on many factors and can vary from a few weeks to a few months.

Exchanges: Ohio House Rabbit Rescue will exchange rabbits on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Adoption Coordinator.

Adoption Donation: Current adoption donations are:

- Singles - \$40
- Pairs - \$60

This donation covers:

- A rabbit that has been spayed/neutered and is litter box trained
- A small quantity of hay, pellets, and greens
- Telephone and email support from Ohio House Rabbit Rescue
- Copy of *House Rabbit Handbook: How to Live with an Urban Rabbit* by Marinell Harriman

Adoption Procedure: To ensure the best possible match, the following process is used:

- Adoption Application – Please complete the on-line adoption application. Once received, someone will contact you either by telephone or email within 72 hours. If you do not get a response, our system did not receive the application. Please let Ohio House Rabbit Rescue know via email at contact@ohiohouserabbitrescue.org
- The Interview – The initial conversation, usually via telephone, is an exchange of information and ideas. The Adoption Coordinator would like to learn about the adopter and their family, other pets, the space that is planned for the rabbit, and the adopter's experience with rabbits. If the adopter is new to rabbits, the Adoption Coordinator will answer questions and provide information so that the adopter will understand the requirements of keeping a rabbit healthy and happy. If a companion is being sought for an existing pet rabbit, Ohio House Rabbit Rescue will also gather information about him/her.
- Meeting the Rabbits – Once the adopter has decided which of the rabbits he/she might be interested in adopting, Ohio House Rabbit Rescue will set up an appointment for the potential adopter to visit the rabbit. If more than one person is interested in the same rabbit, the adopter may be introduced to other adoptable rabbits. Generally, adoptions are on a first come, first served basis. Most visits are scheduled during the weekend hours. All family members are encouraged to participate. It is required that the primary caregiver be present. The reaction of animal to person needs to be observed and can often be the deciding factor. If a companion is being selected for an existing rabbit, he/she will be introduced to each candidate and the rabbits' reactions to each other will determine an appropriate match.
- Homecoming – When all goes well and the big decision has been made, a representative of Ohio House Rabbit Rescue will deliver the adopted rabbit to his/her new home. This allows time for the adopter to get housing set up and to rabbit-proof space as necessary. Additionally it allows Ohio House Rabbit Rescue to offer the adopter any support necessary in the set-up of housing and answer any other questions. For long distance adopters, a photo of the rabbit's habitat and telephone communications may suffice. When the rabbit is transferred, the adopter will be required to sign the adoption contract and pay the adoption donation.
- Follow-Up – Adopters are expected to keep in touch with the Adoption Coordinator, especially during the first few days and weeks as the rabbit adjusts to his/her new home. This is to ensure that the rabbit remains healthy and has adapted to its new home. Adopters are encouraged to call and email anytime with questions as they arise. The Adoption Coordinator may contact the adopter in the weeks following the adoption. Follow-up procedures may include a phone call, photos, or a home visit.

All questions and inquiries may be directed to:
contact@ohiohouserabbitrescue.org

If you are ready to adopt, please submit the *Ohio House Rabbit Rescue Adoption Form*.