

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 interactions 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.

Indoor Housing: All rabbits adopted from Ohio House Rabbit Rescue must live indoors within the residential living space of the adopter. The rabbit is not to live outside, in a garage, or in an unfinished basement. 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. The exercise space is to be contiguous with the rabbit's housing space. The flooring in the rabbit's living space and exercise area must be carpet or rugs. 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. The primary caregiver must be willing to create the necessary time in their lives for their new family member, including when life changes arise.

Should I Adopt a Bonded Pair: According to the House Rabbit Society, rabbits are not meant to live in solitude, away from members of their own kind. Bonded pairs are rarely out of each other's sight. Rabbits talk to each other constantly, not so much with sounds as with movements. Pairs are much easier to care for, get into less trouble, are happier, and tend to relate better to people. Two rabbits are generally not more expensive than one. Pellets, hay, fresh fruits, and vegetables, and litter for two puts little additional strain on the budget. The exception is medical care. 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 yearly veterinary wellness checks by a rabbit-experienced veterinarian. In addition to wellness checks, the adopter must be prepared to handle the financial responsibility associated with rabbit ownership.

Nutritious Diet: Good health requires a diet of limited, high-quality timothy pellets – one of the OHRR's approved brands, unlimited high-quality grass hay, a daily salad consisting of mixed fresh greens, and fresh water.

Returns: On average, rabbits live 8-12 years. Please be prepared to continue to include your rabbit in your life as you accommodate changes in your life such as moving. If a move is in your future, procure pet-friendly housing. 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 brought back into the Adoption Center 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 Fee: Current adoption donations are:

- Singles - \$50
- Pairs - \$60

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 by 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
- Meeting the Rabbits – The OHRR Adoption Center is open on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4. Generally, adoptions are on a first come, first served basis. All family members are encouraged to participate. It is required that the primary caregiver be present. Multiple visits to the center may be necessary so that all family members may interact with our rabbits and to determine if any member of the household is allergic to rabbits. 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. If more than one person is interested in the same rabbit, the adopter may be introduced to other adoptable rabbits.
- 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 the adopter's home 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 delivered, the adopter will be required to sign the adoption contract and pay the adoption fee.
- 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