

Adoption Policy
Ohio House Rabbit Rescue, Inc.
Revised January 31, 2022

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. In alignment with our commitment to indoor housing OHRR generally does not adopt to homes where other pets are kept outside. Ohio House Rabbit Rescue also 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.

Adoption of 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. In alignment with our commitment to spay/neutering, OHRR generally does not adopt to homes with other pets who are not spay/neutered.

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. Adopters should be prepared to continue to include their rabbit in their life through any changes, such as procuring a rabbit-friendly location if a move in the adopter's housing is necessary. 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 accepted 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 Facilitator.

Adoption Fee: Current adoption fees are:

- Singles - \$60
- Pairs - \$75

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

- **Adoption Application** – The potential adopter completes the on-line adoption application. Once the application is received, the potential adopter is contacted by email within 72 hours. If the potential adopter does not get a response within that time, our system did not receive the application, and the potential adopter should let Ohio House Rabbit Rescue know via email at contact@ohiohouserabbitrescue.org. The next step in the process is for the potential adopter to have a phone conversation with one of OHRR's Adoption Facilitators. Key information will be shared, any clarifications about the adoption application will be discussed, and any questions the potential adopter has will be answered. If appropriate, at the end of the call, an adoption appointment will be scheduled.
- **Meeting the Rabbits** – The OHRR Adoption Center is open on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4. Adoption appointments are usually scheduled at 12:00 and 2:00 on Saturdays and Sundays. 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, an “adopted” clip will be put on the pen of the rabbit chosen. The adopter then has a maximum of two weeks to get housing set up and to rabbit proof the adopter's home as necessary. Ohio House Rabbit Rescue offers the adopter any support necessary in the set-up of housing and answers any other questions. When the adopter has set up the rabbit's habitat, they will send pictures to the Adoption Facilitator. After approval of the habitat, the adopter will be able to schedule a time to pick up the rabbit at the Adoption Center. When the rabbit is picked up, 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 Facilitator, 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, text and email anytime with questions as they arise. The Adoption Facilitator may contact the adopter in the weeks following the adoption. Follow-up procedures may include a phone call, text, or photos.

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