



ADOPTION POLICIES

- 1. Primary Caregiver:** When a rabbit is adopted from HRS, the primary caregiver must be a responsible adult. The rabbit should be treated as an integral part of the family, (i.e., no group ownership such as a classroom pet). We do NOT adopt rabbits as pets for children. The rabbit must be wanted by the entire family.
- 2. Indoor Housing:** Adopters of HRS rabbits must understand that our rabbits are to live as household companions. This means that they must have their primary living space indoors, and spend every night indoors. During the day, rabbits can exercise outdoors in an area with secure fencing, and adequate supervision. Additional safety precautions may be required.
- 3. Social requirements:** If the rabbit will be alone (i.e. without the company of people, a cat or other pets) the majority of the time, we recommend adopting a second rabbit as a companion to the first.
- 4. Spay and Neuter:** For health and behavioral reasons, it is crucial that rabbits of both genders be altered. Unless a medical condition prohibits it, all rabbits adopted from HRS will be spayed or neutered prior to adoption. If for any reason the rabbit is not altered before it is adopted (i.e. it is too young), HRS will provide a certificate to the adopter, covering the costs at a clinic with which HRS has an account. HRS staff will advise as to which clinics will accept the certificate.
- 5. Surrenders:** If problems arise with the adoption that necessitate the adopter returning the rabbit, we ask you to give HRS advance notice. Once a rabbit is adopted from HRS, its space is usually quickly filled. Returns require (a) a space opened by a new adoption, and (b) "bumping" an at risk rabbit from the public shelter rescue list. Nevertheless, all rabbits adopted from HRS must be returned to HRS in case of insurmountable problems.
- 6. Exchanges:** HRS does not exchange animals, but an exception may be made if, within 6 months of adopting a rabbit from HRS: (a) HRS and the adopter are working together to bond an adoptee and a preresiding rabbit; AND (b) in the shelter manager's judgment, a different match would be less stressful for the animals.
- 7. Adoption fees:** HRS adoption fees are donations that cannot be refunded. HRS is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization. Donations to HRS are no more refundable than they are to any other public charity.
- 8. Same-Day Adoptions:** HRS does not allow same-day adoptions. Bringing a rabbit into the home is an extremely important decision and should be approached as such. We want to help find the right rabbit for the adopter's situation and the right situation for the rabbit. When bonding rabbits, we require bonding dates on at least three separate days to ensure the right match.