



## *Rabbit and Small Mammals*

# ***WELCOME TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SPCA***

The goal of our Adoption program is to find permanent, loving and responsible homes for the animals in our care. We try to find a match that considers not only the best interests of the animal, but also those of the public.

Some of the animals at the NHSPCA have come from abusive or negligent homes. As a potential adopter, please be aware that most of the animals that are up for adoption will need an abundance of patience, understanding, time and training to make him or her a wonderful addition to your family.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide your previous address if you have lived at your current address for less than 1 year.**

PREVIOUS ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**WISH LIST:** Complete this section only if you are looking for a purebred or for a specific breed that is not currently available:

**Breed desired:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sex:** Male    female    either

**Age:** as young as \_\_\_\_\_ as old as \_\_\_\_\_

Additional requirements:(good with kids, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

### **FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

LICENSE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION: \_\_\_\_\_

**DOB:** \_\_\_\_\_ **LANDLORD APPROVAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FYI APPROVAL:** \_\_\_\_\_ **VET REFERENCE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED:** YES    NO    Adoption Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:



Type of residence: (circle what applies)

HOUSE      DUPLEX      APT      CONDO      MOBILE      MILITARY

Do you:(circle what applies)      RENT      OWN      LIVE W/ OWNER OF HOME  
**(Please provide your landlord, parent or home owner’s name and phone number)**

Number of adults in the household: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children: \_\_\_\_\_ Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

If living with roommates or in part of someone else’s home, do you have the consent of all the adults living in the household?  YES     NO

Does anyone in your household have ANY **allergies** to ANY animal(s)?     YES     NO

If yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Who is your employer? \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

If unemployed, what is your source of income? \_\_\_\_\_

Why would you like to adopt this rabbit or small mammal? \_\_\_\_\_

If we suggest that your rabbit be spayed or neutered would you consider it? \_\_\_\_\_

If we told you the average price of neutering a rabbit was \$78.00 would this be affordable? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any animal(s) you own now and have owned in the past 5 years:

TYPE/BREED	AGE	SEX	“FIXED?” (YES/NO )	STILL OWN? (IF NOT, WHY)
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Below, please, check off the options you would choose to house any new animal.

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Outdoor hutch with an enclosure           | Cage in garage or basement |
| Loose indoors with access to a litter box | Cage or hutch in barn      |
| Cage in the house                         | OTHER _____                |

The adoption counselor will discuss the following:

- |                     |                                      |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Health care       | • Litterbox training spay and neuter |
| • Feeding/diet      | • Housing                            |
| • Behavior problems | • Toys                               |
| • Chewing           | • handling                           |

Do you have any other questions or concerns? \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below I hereby submit that the information provided by me is true. Any false information may result in my losing the privilege of adoption a pet. I understand that the NHSPCA has the right to deny my request to adopt an animal and that this application must be completed and approved, by the NHSPCA, before an animal adoption may be considered

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_



## **RABBIT ADOPTION SUPPORT SHEET**

- ➔ **Health care:** It is highly recommended that rabbits visit the vet at least once a year for a physical. If the rabbit is to live mostly outdoors, you may want to get it a rabies vaccination.
  
- ➔ **Housing:** A rabbit kept as a house pet is happier and generally lives longer than those kept in outside hutches. You will be surprised by how much your indoor rabbit will entertain and interact with you. The cage should be roomy, allowing the rabbit to stand on its hind feet and barely reach the top of its cage. Rabbit cages are made with wire bottoms for easy cleaning, and so that the bunny cannot sit in its urine. Place a sitting board inside the cage so the rabbit can get off the wire occasionally. You can also place a small litter pan lined with hay in the corner of the cage the bunny uses most to facilitate litterbox training. A rabbit kept outside needs a larger, more substantial cage, usually referred to as a hutch, with an enclosed portion for privacy and safety. It is crucial to provide shade in the summer as well as extra hay and bedding in winter. An outdoor existence is a lonely one. Outdoor rabbits are easily forgotten and are at risk to a variety of predators.
  
- ➔ **Feeding/diet:** Rabbits are herbivores and do best with a diet high in fiber. Their nutritional needs may be met by providing a good commercial rabbit pellet and free-choice grass hay. Pellets should not be fed free-choice, as that can lead to obesity. Offer pellets twice daily in amounts varying from ¼ cup (dwarf breeds) to ½ cup (large breeds) twice a day. Rabbits also appreciate and can benefit from fresh vegetables offered daily. Give only those on your “bunny approved” list. Very small servings of some types of fruits can be given as treats. Experiment with small pieces to see what your rabbit likes. Make no sudden changes to your rabbit's diet. Add fresh vegetables or fruits to your rabbit's diet gradually, one type per week and only to rabbits over six months of age.
  
- ➔ **Chewing:** The rabbit's natural tendency to chew can be destructive and dangerous. If left unsupervised, a rabbit may chew electrical cords as well as furniture legs, or it may tear at carpeting. Supervision when the rabbit is loose is key. Provide appropriate play toys, as well, such as plastic baby rattles, plastic ball cat toys with bells in them, and boxes and paper bags to explore. The hay in your rabbit's diet will also provide an outlet for this activity.
  
- ➔ **Spay/Neuter:** Many behavior problems such as spraying, territorial aggression, chewing, and “sibling rivalry” can be prevented or lessened by spaying or neutering a rabbit at a young age (five to seven months). Even adult rabbits can benefit and become friendlier when less bothered by the urge to procreate. Recent studies have shown that unaltered female rabbits suffer from a high rate of ovarian cancer, taking many years off their lives. The average life span of an unneutered rabbit is five to six years, while their neutered counterparts can easily reach nine to ten years.