

FINDING A NEW HOME FOR A RABBIT



HOUSE RABBIT
SOCIETY

If you need to find a new home for a rabbit, there are several steps you can take to ensure they go to a safe home where they will be cared for. With a bit of work, **many people report they're able to find a new home for a rabbit within 1-3 weeks**. It's also worth reaching out to the person or rescue/shelter where the rabbit is originally from to see if they're able to take the rabbit back.

In 2020, a deadly disease called Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) started spreading across North America, putting all rabbits at risk. Due to the emergence of RHDV, it's safest for you to find a new home for your rabbit on your own, rather than surrendering them to a shelter or rescue group where they could be exposed to RHDV and potentially be euthanized if another rabbit is sick. See back for more information.

TIPS FOR FINDING A RABBIT A NEW HOME

- ✗ Never release a rabbit outside. Pet rabbits aren't able to survive outdoors and are easy targets for predators. They're also at risk of getting RHDV or other diseases, being hit by cars, and starving to death.
- ✗ Never abandon a rabbit at a shelter or veterinary office. In most states, it's a crime to abandon an animal.
- ✓ Talk with friends, coworkers, and family to see if they want a rabbit. Ask if they can help spread the word about the rabbit too by talking with other people and sharing on social media.
- ✓ Take a high-quality photo of the rabbit at eye level that captures their personality.
- ✓ Promote the rabbit in a positive but honest way. Talk about what makes them special, whether they're litter box trained, if they get along with other animals and children, etc. Talk about any existing medical conditions, including medications.
- ✓ Post about the rabbit on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Nextdoor.
- ✓ Use websites like Craigslist, [rescueme.org](https://www.rescueme.org), and [home-home.org](https://www.home-home.org) to connect with potential adopters in your area.
- ✓ Put up fliers about the rabbit on bulletin boards in high-traffic areas like veterinary offices, pet supply stores, coffee shops, and libraries.
- ✓ Reach out to local shelters and rescue groups to see if they will post about the rabbit on their website and social media as a courtesy listing.
- ✓ Help make the rabbit more attractive to potential adopters. Have them checked by a veterinarian, and if they aren't already, get them spayed/neutered and vaccinated against RHDV, if available.
- ✓ Ask for a small adoption fee, to discourage those looking for snake food.
- ✓ Require potential adopters to house the rabbit indoors, due to RHDV.



IS THE RABBIT A STRAY?

A stray rabbit in your neighborhood may be a pet rabbit who escaped a backyard or their outdoor enclosure—these rabbits are usually found within a 1-block radius of where they escaped. However, stray rabbits may have been dumped by their owner and you will need to find them a new home.

1. CHECK FOR A MICROCHIP Take the rabbit to a veterinary office or animal shelter to get them checked for a microchip, for free. If they're chipped, veterinary/shelter staff can contact the rabbit's family. Due to the emergence of RHDV, call ahead to inquire about special precautions.

2. TRY TO LOCATE THE RABBIT'S GUARDIAN Post on Nextdoor in case your neighbors know who the rabbit belongs to. Post on Craigslist in the Lost & Found section and in the Pets section. Make found rabbit posters for your neighborhood and flyers to give to your neighbors. Use websites like Canva or [petbond.com](https://www.petbond.com) to create a flyer about the rabbit that has tear-off tabs and lists your contact info, along with a high-quality photo of the rabbit. Report the rabbit to your local animal control agency as a found pet—they may ask for a photo of the rabbit for their lost/found listings. Ask if there's any requirement to bring the rabbit in, or if you can find them a new home if no guardian is found.

3. IF NO GUARDIAN IS FOUND Find the rabbit a new home. (See front)

WHAT IS RHDV?

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) is a highly contagious, deadly, and rapidly spreading disease that affects both wild and domestic rabbits. It's not contagious to people or other animals. **Even if a rabbit is kept inside, they're still at risk of becoming infected with RHDV.** While RHDV only affects rabbits, the disease can be spread to them by people or animals through contact with objects, animals, insects, or predator feces contaminated by the virus. Visit rabbit.org/rhdv to learn more about RHDV and what you can do to keep rabbits safe.

NEED MORE HELP?

House Rabbit Society can't take your rabbit, but can help if you have questions about rabbit behavior, health, litter training, and more. We would love to help you keep your rabbit, if possible. You can reach out to your local rabbit rescue to learn about low-cost spay/neuter options available in your area, if needed.

HRS National Representatives
rabbit.org/contact-our-national-representatives

HRS Educators
rabbit.org/house-rabbit-society-contacts

HRS Chapters & Other Rabbit Rescues
rabbit.org/independent-rabbit-rescue

Financial Support Resources
rabbit.org/resources-to-help-pay-vet-bills

State-by-State Rabbit Veterinarian List
rabbit.org/vet-listings