

## HoppyHomes4Bunnies Animal Intake Policy

### Purpose:

This policy outlines the procedures for accepting surrendered or stray rabbits into the care of **HoppyHomes4Bunnies**. It serves to guide both staff and volunteers in ensuring a smooth and compassionate intake process for all rabbits that come through our doors.

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## General Intake Guidelines

A. **HoppyHomes4Bunnies** accepts the following types of rabbits:

- Owner-surrendered rabbits
- Stray or abandoned rabbits (as long as they are not aggressive or injured)
- Rabbits requiring medical attention or behavioral rehabilitation

B. Our primary focus is to find loving homes for all healthy and treatable rabbits in our care. We are committed to **responsible rehoming** and will consider **euthanasia only in cases of severe illness, injury, or unmanageable behavioral issues**.

### C. Open-Door Relinquishment Policy

1. **Case-by-case evaluation:** Each rabbit will be evaluated individually based on our resources and capacity for care. We strive to take in all rabbits that can be safely housed and managed.
  2. If the rabbit has behavioral issues that pose a risk to others or are untreatable, we will consider specialized care or euthanasia as the most humane option.
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## Surrender Process

When an owner comes to surrender a rabbit, the following questions should be asked by volunteers/directors

1. **What type of animal are you surrendering?**
  - If a rabbit is brought in with other animals, confirm that only rabbits are accepted.
2. **Where did you originally get your rabbit?**
  - If the rabbit was adopted from **HoppyHomes4Bunnies**, make every effort to take it back. Consult with the Shelter Coordinator if there is a waitlist.
3. **Why are you surrendering your rabbit?**
  - Try to understand the reasons behind the surrender. Offer resources and advice to prevent surrenders if appropriate.
4. **Does your rabbit have any medical or behavioral issues?**

- If the rabbit has medical or behavioral issues, ensure that the information is passed to the appropriate manager for assessment.
  - 5. **How long have you owned the rabbit?**
    - If the rabbit has been with the owner for less than 30 days, further counseling may be required to understand the situation.
  - 6. **How old is your rabbit?**
    - Rabbits under 4 months old should be quarantined and assessed for any health concerns before being introduced to other animals.
    - Rabbits 5 years old or older should be evaluated by the team before intake to assess any age-related health concerns.
  - 7. **Has your rabbit bitten anyone within the last 10 days?**
    - If the rabbit has bitten someone, it will need to undergo a quarantine period before intake, as per local regulations.
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## Stray Rabbits

1. **Stray Rabbits- General**
    - If a stray rabbit is brought to us, we will immediately check for a microchip. If one is found, the finder will be asked to attempt to contact the owner.
    - If no microchip is found, the finder is encouraged to contact local animal control or take the rabbit to the nearest municipal shelter. If they are unable to do so, we will document the details and, in most cases, accept the rabbit into our care.
  2. **Unweaned kittens or baby rabbits** will be assessed for age and placed in appropriate care facilities. These animals may require special handling and housing due to their age and vulnerability.
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## Medical and Behavioral Assessment

1. **All incoming rabbits** will be assessed by a qualified manager or veterinarian.
    - Rabbits with severe medical conditions or behavioral issues may not be accepted for intake but will be referred to other specialists, if possible.
  2. **Senior Rabbits (5 years and older)**
    - Senior rabbits require special consideration before intake. Their health should be evaluated by a qualified veterinarian as part of the intake process.
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## Owner-Surrender Paperwork

1. **Surrender Form:**

- Owners will be provided with a surrender form and personality profile to complete.
- Encourage owners to be honest about their rabbit's behavior, medical history, and any other relevant details.
- This information is critical in matching rabbits to the right adoptive homes and ensuring they receive the best care possible.

2. **Counseling and Resources:**

- Whenever possible, provide resources or counseling for owners who may be able to keep their rabbit but need support. This could include advice on diet, behavior training, or healthcare.

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## Final Notes

- **Compassionate Euthanasia:** If an animal is medically untreatable or poses a danger to people or other animals, we may offer euthanasia as an option to prevent suffering.
- **Communication with the Owner:** Keep open communication with owners regarding their surrendered rabbit, including updates on the rabbit's health, behavioral assessments, and rehoming efforts.

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This intake policy is subject to change and will be updated periodically. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Shelter Coordinator or Director.

**Approved by:**  
Emily Anderson

Director of Operations

1/28/2025