**Application Form**

| This questionnaire is designed to help you clarify that rabbits are the right pets for you, and to help us select the most suitable rabbits from which you may eventually chose as your new pets (family members). Please complete the questions in full, adding any other information which you feel may be relevant. All rabbits are thoroughly checked by a qualified vet and any health problems will be made clear, however even the healthiest rabbit may be need veterinary care which can cost £100's so please ensure you have a savings account or insurance. |
| --- |

| **Applicant’s details** |  | **Visit to adoption centre** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name:** |  | **Date:** |
| **Address:** |  | **Comments:** |
|  |
| **Postcode:** |  | **Home check** |
| **Home telephone:** |  | **Date:** |
| **Mobile:** |  | **Comments:** |
|  | **Rabbits would like to adopt:** |
| **Email address:** |  | **1** |
|  | **2** |
| **3** |

**What are you looking for?**

Please write answers in red

| What interests you in having rabbits? | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Have you had rabbits before? | | | If Yes, how long ago? | |
| If you have previously had rabbits what did they die of? | | | | |
| Do you presently have any rabbits? (please give, gender, breed and age)  If so are they vaccinated against myxomatosis, VHD1 and also VHD2?  Are they neutered?  Do they have any health issues?  **If you are looking to adopt a single rabbit to bond with your existing rabbit** we usually prefer owners to use our bonding service, however in certain circumstances we may allow owners to bond themselves after discussion. If you wish to bond yourself please also give details of your bonding technique and the area where you will bond. | | | | |
|  | | | | |
| **In accordance with RWAF guidelines we ask for a minimum 6ft by 2ft shelter attached to a 6ft by 10ft run/aviary or equivalent. The run/aviary must have a secure roof and a dig proof floor on slabs or concrete & solid roof. The enclosure must be at least 3ft high and made from at least 16 gauge weld mesh with holes no bigger than , not chicken wire. The shelter can be a hutch, shed or playhouse. If you choose a hutch it must be predominantly bedroom (2/3 enclosed) and sheltered from the wind and rain. Rabbits above 3.5kg require a shed or playhouse as a hutch is too small.** Our criteria have been developed through our understanding of what keeps rabbits happy and healthy. If your set up doesn’t meet our minimum requirements you will be required to modify it in discussion with us.  **Please give details and measurements of your accommodation. You will need to email us photos.**  Is it predator proof?  Is it dig proof?  **The rabbit hutch/shelter must be permanently attached to their exercise area.** | | | | |
| To the person who wants the pet rabbits, are you over 18? | | | | |
| Rabbits do not make suitable pets for children; however, they do make delightful family pets. Rabbits can’t vocalise when suffering or in distress and are prone to GI stasis. For these reasons the parents need to be fully responsible for cleaning and feeding the rabbits. As the parent you must want these bunnies as much as your children. You must be passionate, excited and dedicated to loving and caring for them for the rest of their lives as rabbits on average live for 10 to 12 years. | | | | |
| How old are the children? | |  | | How many? |
| **Do you, the parent, promise to take FULL responsibility for the rabbits’ welfare including the cleaning/feeding?** We will only home to families where the parents have respect and love for rabbits; they can of course teach and guide their children. | | | | |
| Does everyone in the household want the rabbits? If not, why | | | | |
| Are you looking for a pair of rabbits or just one as a companion for an existing rabbit? | | | | |
| What size rabbit are you looking for? | 1-2kg 2-3KG (average size) 3-4KG over 4kg | | | |
| What age rabbit are you looking for? | under 1 yr between 1-4 yrs over 4 yrs don’t mind | | | |
| Specific breed, please state: | Short coat Lion head Rex  Long coat/Cashmere/Angora | | | |
| We encourage you to prioritise character and health over breed and size. Bonding is mainly down to personality and pecking order and bunnies of different breeds and ages will bond. Lion heads and longhaired buns will need regular grooming. Cashmeres are extremely hard work and must be house bunnies. | | | | |

**What the rabbits are looking for!**

| Who lives at home where the rabbits will live? Adults Children | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Other animals? (species/age/sex) | | | |
| Are any members of your household allergic to rabbits? | | | |
| Do you live in a house or flat? | | | |
| Do you rent or own your home?  If rented, do you have the landlord’s permission to keep pets?  (A letter of confirmation from the landlord should be obtained before the rabbits are released into you care) | | | |
| Do you have a garden? | | | |
| If Yes, is it: | Rabbit proof | Fox proof | Foxes and birds of prey are a risk everywhere. Please see <http://www.foxolutions.co.uk/> or <http://fox-a-gon.co.uk/> for help |
| Will the rabbits be house rabbits?  Will the rabbits be permanently in an outdoor enclosure?  Will they have access to a rabbit proof garden under owner supervision?  Please **do not leave your rabbits free range when you are not at home!** We even had one lady see her rabbit killed by a fox in front of her in broad daylight. | | | |
| **Suggested daily routine for averaged sized healthy rabbits:**  Morning.  The rabbits should be fed a handful of fresh gteen veg/herbs/ rabbit safe wild plants and given a variety of fresh hays. You must check that they are eating and pooing normally and that their bums are clean. You should talk to them and stroke them to feel their body condition. You must check that their water bowl is clean and not frozen.  Evening  If you work 9-5 please check the bunnies when you get home. You should feed them one handful (approximately 40g) of Science Selective pellets, these should be scatter fed, fed via a treat toy or hand fed to help prevent choking or competition over food (another high fibre pellet such as Burgess Excel or fibre first sticks can be used) between 2 bunnies and provide a variety of fresh hays. Your rabbits should eat an amount of hay the same size as their body each day.. You must check that they are eating and pooing normally again. You should also check their water again as it may become dirty during the day. If your rabbits are on the correct diet and in good body condition their bums will stay clean.  **If you have any concerns please contact us or your vet immediately.**  What will be your rabbits’ daily routine? | | | |
| **Rabbits are prey animals and hide signs of illness. They go downhill very quickly so it’s essential that you check on them at least twice a day.** On an average day, how long and when will you spend time with the rabbits?  Our minimum accommodation requirements mean the rabbits can choose to be inside their shelter or exercising 24/7. We hope you will find plenty of time to play with your bunnies and give them nose rubs as well as watching them binky, explore, climb, dig and play with toys. We recommend giving them free range time in a secure garden or extra playpen under supervision. If you are lucky enough to have house rabbits you will have the luxury of them following you around and sitting on the sofa with you for nose rubs. If you have outdoor rabbits, please don’t forget them in winter. A solid roofed walk-in aviary situated on hard standing instead of a run or shed or kennel instead of a hutch make it much easier to interact with the rabbits & clean them.  Will you be committed throughout winter, in the long dark nights and cold, windy, rainy weather? Not just the warm summer days? | | | |
| **If you are looking for house rabbits they will need to have free range space of at least one rabbit proofed room. They will need a space of their own (particularly important if you have children as we suggest that much like with a dog, if the rabbits are in their bedroom or hideout that they are left alone) this must include several places to hide with more than one exit (e.g. hop inn hideouts & tunnels). They will also need hay/litter trays that are big enough for both rabbits to lay down in together fully stretched out, a large water bowl and willow or other suitable natural wood chew toys. Are you happy to provide these?**  Do you smoke? If yes, do you smoke in your house?  *Some rescues refuse to rehome rabbits as house rabbits due to people lying. Outdoor rabbit owners usually spend at least £400 on their accommodation so having house rabbits is much cheaper. We have rehomed rabbits as “house rabbits” but later discovered the rabbits have been moved into unsuitable outdoor accommodation. These owners are not committed house rabbit owners and have lied to avoid the cost of suitable outdoor housing.* | | | |
| Are you prepared to make or pay for the recommended accommodation and environmental enrichment and devote enough space in your garden for your rabbits to roam?  House rabbits particularly need enrichment to compensate for having a less natural habitat. Please see our leaflets such as <http://www.thehayexperts.co.uk/> for ideas. | | | |
| Will your rabbits be allowed in your house to play and interact with you?  If you have outdoor rabbits, please be careful with changes in temperature between a heated house and cold outdoor accommodation. | | | |
| **Rabbits should not be kept alone.** A neutered male/spayed female combination or group is best  If one rabbit dies we request that the widowed bunny is rebounded, do you agree to this? | | | |
| **Rabbits need to be checked at least every 6 months by your vet.** Please ensure you have an experienced rabbit vet, a list of rabbit savvy vets is available from RWAF (http://rabbitwelfare.co.uk/). Rabbits are still considered as exotics and few vets have undertaken the additional training in rabbit medicine and surgery. The vets will give a thorough health check including checking their molars, heart, lungs and palpation. The vet can also help body condition score your rabbit and clip their claws.  Are you prepared to take your rabbits for regular vet checks? | | | |
| **All rabbits must be vaccinated against myxomatosis and vhd1/vhd2 (Nobivacplus , a combined vaccine given once a year).** Both can be transmitted through flying insects so house rabbits also need to be vaccinated, VHD2 can even be carried on your clothes or shoes. This is essential and costs around £70 per rabbit. Are you prepared to do this? | | | |
| **Rabbits can suffer from a number of health problems** including dental diseases, infections, tumours and abscesses. Many illnesses can be resolved with the right care and treatment. Vet bills can cost £100s so we recommend rabbit insurance or a savings account for unexpected bills. Are you prepared to pay for this? | | | |
| **Rabbits are prey animals and therefore hide any signs of pain and discomfort** in fear of being found by a predator. Signs of illness are very subtle. They include slight differences in routine behaviour, not coming to say hello, not eating a favourite treat, being easy to pick up when they usually run away, not eating and faecal changes.  Are you prepared to devote the time to recognise such changes? | | | |
| Would you be happy to nurse your rabbit back to health and keep him indoors if necessary?  If you ever need help nursing your bunnies please contact us. | | | |
| **A rabbit’s diet consists of hay, grass and vegetables.** Hay/grass is 80% of a rabbits’ diet and they need constant access to fresh hay 24 hours a day. Rabbits’ teeth are constantly growing. Grazing on hay/grass uses the molar teeth which helps keep them worn down and prevents them overgrowing.  Are you happy to provide a constant supply of fresh good quality, long stranded, dust free hay and water?  Timothy hay, oat hay and rye are highly recommended for interest and taste and can be fed alongside good quality meadow hay (please see our website <http://www.rabbitresidence.org.uk/food--toy-suppliers.html> for details of recommended hay and food suppliers). Dried wild plants and herbs can be fed as treats.  **They need to be fed a suitable pellet not muesli.** Muesli is high in sugars and causes dental disease. We recommend feeding 1 handful (40g) of Supreme Science Selective pellets once a day between a pair of rabbits. Are you happy to provide this or an alternative high fibre pellet such as Fibre First sticks or Burgess Excel? | | | |
| Have you approached any other organisation to obtain a rabbit? | | | |
| Have you been refused by them?  If yes, please specify the reason: | | | |
| Where did you hear about The Rabbit Residence Rescue? | | | |
| Please state name and address of your vet | | | |
| It will take 2-3 months for your rabbits to settle down properly. Are you likely to change job or move house during in the next three months? | | | |
| Are you going away from home for any reason in the next three months? E.g. holiday or hospital? | | | |

With sincere thanks for the time and care you have taken in answering these questions for the sake of rabbit welfare.

**TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE I HAVE ANSWERED THESE QUESTIONS CORRECTLY:**

Signature of applicant: Date:

(If returning this form by email a signature is not required)