



# The Rabbit Sanctuary Foster Care Agreement

This agreement outlines your responsibilities as a Foster Carer. They are designed to be in the best interest of the rabbit in your care.

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS FOSTER CARER

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### A. What you need to have available to care for your foster rabbit:

#### 1. Indoor living equipment and supplies:

- Playpen
- Litter tray and litter
- Heavy water bowl and food bowl
- Play tunnel or hide house

#### 2. Food:

- 3 types of good quality hay (hay must comprise up to 90% of the rabbit's diet):
  1. Cereal hay: Oaten hay
  2. Grass hay: Timothy hay (preferred), orchard grass, rye hay, pasture hay, etc.
  3. Legume hay: Lucerne hay (as treat).
- High quality pellets (recommended brands: Vetafarm, Oxbow, Burgess. No pellet mixes that are colourful, contain seeds, or are marketed as suitable for rabbits and guinea pigs)
- Hand-cut grass (optional, if available). No vegetables or fruits.

#### 3. Other items:

- Pet brush
- Pet nail scissors
- Emergency kit: Lucerne hay, Critical Care, 1ml syringe, 5ml syringe, heat pad (e.g. Snuggle Safe)

#### 4. Pre-requisites for the indoor space:

- Adequate ventilation. The room temperature must stay below 30 degrees on hot days.
- Safe: Reasonable steps must be taken to make sure the environment is
  - Bunny-proof (e.g. cables need to be hidden or covered, plants need to be moved where the foster rabbit cannot reach it).
  - Escape-proof (windows and doors must be secured)
  - Safe overall (interactions with children or other pets need to be prevented or supervised depending on the situation, etc.).

### B. What you need to do daily:

#### 1. Check the rabbit's health:

- Check that the foster rabbit is eating, drinking and pooping
- Check eyes, ears, teeth
- Check nails, trim as required
- Monitor behaviour (should be bright and alert)
- Monitor body condition of the foster rabbit

## 2. Complete daily chores:

- Provide food and water
- Remove waste & add litter to litter tray
- Groom the rabbit and remove fur
- Clean and refill food and water bowls
- Clean and tidy living areas

## 3. Give love, affection and training:

- Interact with the foster rabbit
- Pick up the foster rabbit
- Train the foster rabbit to come to you for a treat.
- Let the foster rabbit free roam indoors for at least 30 minutes a day – except for the first 7-10 days where the foster rabbit should stay in their play pen so it recognises the play pen as its home base.
- Let the rabbit free roam outdoors - but only occasionally and under supervision, if outdoor conditions and weather permit and there is no reported calicivirus or myxomatosis outbreak in your area.

## C. What you are also expected to do:

### 1. Other activities to help get the rabbit(s) ready for adoption and find a new home:

- Take the foster rabbit to the vet if needed (or request a volunteer Bunny Runner)
- Provide paperwork from the vet to The Rabbit Sanctuary
- Advertise your foster rabbit on our Rabbit for Adoption Facebook page (we can help or do it for you)
- Follow the rehoming process as set up by The Rabbit Sanctuary (all adoption applicants must be pre-approved by Kim Cooney. When an adoption applicant has been approved to adopt your foster rabbit you will receive an email with instructions).

### 2. Educate yourself:

- Attend our [online training sessions](#) when offered
- Read our training material provided on our [Foster Carer Portal](#)

### 3. Communicate with us:

- Join our [Foster Carer Facebook group](#)
- Respond to emails or text messages from our volunteer team in a timely manner
- [Contact The Rabbit Sanctuary](#) if you have any questions or need support
- [Alert The Rabbit Sanctuary](#) immediately if you are concerned about your rabbit's health or behaviour

## D. What you MUST NOT do:

1. Don't ever accept any surrendered and rescued rabbit or rescued rabbit on behalf of The Rabbit Sanctuary. If you do so, the rabbit will be your own responsibility. All rescue enquiries must go through The Rabbit Sanctuary's [website](#).
2. Don't ever make direct vet bookings. If you do so, it will be at your own expense. All vet booking requests are made by The Rabbit Sanctuary.
3. Don't ever feed the foster rabbit leafy greens, fruits, pet shop mixes or supermarket mixes. If you do so you increase the risk of the foster rabbit getting gut stasis and requiring expensive medical treatment.
4. Don't ever let the foster rabbit interact with your pets unsupervised.
5. Don't ever let the foster rabbit interact with your own bunnies if you have any.
6. Don't ever leave children to handle the foster rabbit in an unsafe manner.
7. Don't ever leave the foster rabbit unsupervised outdoors at any time.
8. Don't ever change the foster rabbit's foster name. The official paperwork is linked to the name chosen by The Rabbit Sanctuary.
9. Don't ever move the foster rabbit from your home without the permission of The Rabbit Sanctuary.

# FOSTER CARE DECLARATION

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## I AGREE TO:

- ☐ Provide the Rabbit Sanctuary foster rabbit with a safe, secure, and loving indoor home.
- ☐ Provide an appropriate diet to the rabbit and to give the rabbit the time, space, and attention that they require.
- ☐ Provide daily care to my foster rabbit to ensure the health, wellbeing and upkeep of the rabbit.
- ☐ Monitor the health of my foster rabbit and report any health concerns or behavioural issues to The Rabbit Sanctuary as soon as possible.
- ☐ Support all efforts to get my foster rabbit ready for adoption and advertised on social media channels.
- ☐ Familiarise myself with all [training material](#) provided by The Rabbit Sanctuary.
- ☐ Adhere to any decisions made by The Rabbit Sanctuary regarding the foster rabbit.
- ☐ Respond to questions and requests from the volunteer team in a timely manner.
- ☐ [Contact](#) The Rabbit Sanctuary if I have any questions.
- ☐ Notify The Rabbit Sanctuary immediately if I choose to adopt the foster rabbit myself.
- ☐ Handle all equipment provided by The Rabbit Sanctuary with care, and to return it if I stop volunteering.

## I UNDERSTAND THAT THE RABBIT SANCTUARY:

- ☐ Remains the owner of the foster rabbit at all times.
- ☐ Will cover all medical treatment costs for the foster rabbit, except where the medical condition is due to severe negligence from my side.
- ☐ Can provide equipment to you if required. However, it remains the property of The Rabbit Sanctuary.
- ☐ Can provide ongoing supplies (hay, pellets, litter) to you if required.
- ☐ Can [reimburse you for expenses](#), provided you [asked for approval](#) first.
- ☐ Will not be liable for any property damage or personal injury sustained in caring for the foster rabbit. I will make reasonable attempts to protect my property from damage by any foster rabbit and do my best to ensure that injuries do not occur to myself or others in caring for the foster rabbit.
- ☐ Collects my personal information only for the purpose of running its rescue activities, and does not share it with any other third parties.

## I DECLARE THAT:

- ☐ All personal details provided in my foster care application are to the best of my knowledge true and correct.