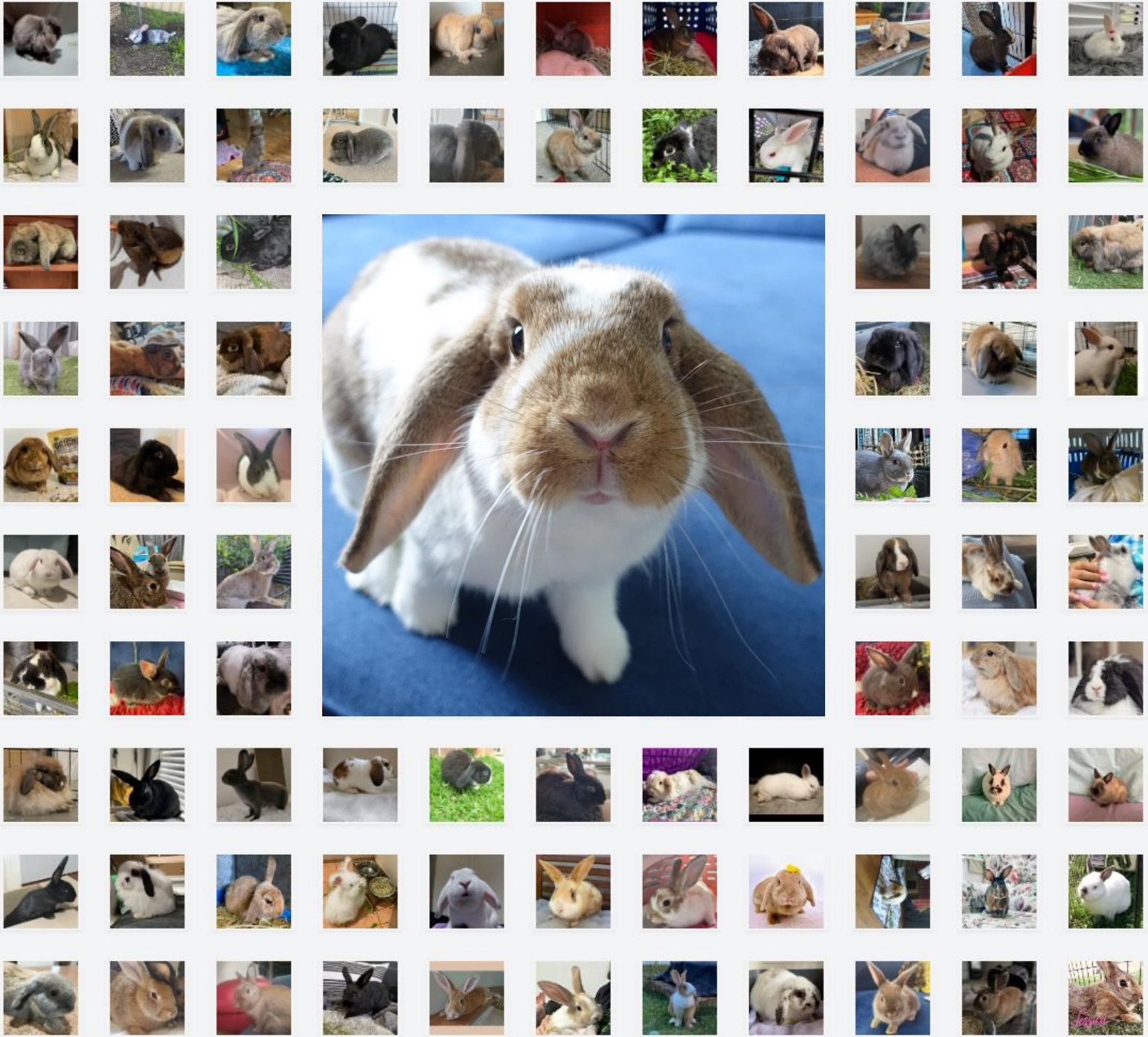




FOSTER CARER GUIDE



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INTRO AND CHECKLIST

Welcome!

Thank you so much for helping our mission to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome bunnies!

This guide will give you all the basics to get started and to understand what is involved in getting a rabbit ready for adoption. If you have any questions, we - the 'Bunny Trackers' - are here to help!

We are so excited to have you as part of the team!

Our Newbie checklist

Make sure you ...

- Have read and fully understood the Foster Care Agreement (you have received it via email when you first applied). If you have any questions please ask.
- Have read and fully understood this Foster Carer Guide, before you get your first foster rabbit! If you have any questions please ask.
- Have familiarised yourself with our [Foster Carer Portal](#)
- Know how to contact at least one Bunny Tracker - either by adding them as Facebook friends (if you are based in Sydney add "Sydney Bunny-Tracker" as friend), so you can message each other, or have their phone number in your contacts. You find their contact details [here](#).
- You have been added to one of our Foster Carers Facebook Messenger Groups (we have one for each area, e.g. Sydney, Central Coast, South Coast etc...). If you haven't been added to any Facebook Messenger Groups, contact the Bunny Tracker responsible for your region.
- Know all of our Social Media Channels!

Our main communication channels

We have several communication channels to choose from:

High Priority

You need a response within 1-2h.

E.g. you are concerned about your rabbit's health or behaviour.

[Contact your Bunny Tracker](#)

If you don't receive a response within 1 hour call [Anna](#) or text [Kim](#).

Medium Priority

You'd like a response within 48h.

E.g. you have a request that requires a volunteer to take action.

[Contact your Bunny Tracker](#)

or send an enquiry via our [foster carer enquiry form](#).

Low Priority

You are looking for general advice or want to share stories about your foster rabbit.

[Post on our Foster Carer Group](#)

or post on our FB Messenger Foster Carer Group Chat.



OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS



Rabbits
for
Adoption



[Facebook group 'Rabbits for Adoption'](#)

Purpose: To enable all foster carers to advertise their foster rabbits when they are ready for adoption, and to answer any questions potential adopters might have. If you need help let us know.

Rule: No private rehoming of rabbits. No discussions.



Foster
Carers



[Facebook group 'Foster Carers'](#)

Purpose: To enable all foster carers to communicate with each other, and with Bunny Trackers. You can ask questions and share stories, photos and videos about their foster rabbit. It's a private group - only foster carers can see your posts!



Bunny
Runners



[Facebook group 'Bunny Runners'](#)

Purpose: Bunny Runners are people who help with the transport for The Rabbit Sanctuary. If you need a Bunny Runner you can request assistance here. Alternatively, if you plan a longer trip and don't mind taking a bunny with you, you can share your travel plans in this group and offer to be a Bunny Runner for that day.

BUNNY
HELPERS



[Facebook group 'Bunny Helpers'](#)

Purpose: Bunny Helpers are people who support the The Rabbit Sanctuary in so many ways - some with hands on rabbit care at the Rabbit Sanctuary and others with support online or with equipment, food etc. The aim is to keep our supporters up to date, in touch with each other, and to thank them on behalf of the bunnies.



Hare
Raisers



[Facebook group 'Hare Raisers'](#)

Purpose: To enable all foster carers of leverets (baby hares) to communicate with each other and with volunteers. Leverets are released in the safety of The Rabbit Sanctuary when they reach the age to run free.



[Facebook group 'Australian Rabbits'](#)

Purpose: To help educate people about rabbit care and rabbit welfare and to raise awareness that rabbits make wonderful pets. This is a friendly group for ANY Australian rabbit lover.

Rule: No private rehoming of rabbits. No selling of rabbits.



[The Rabbit Sanctuary on Instagram](#)

Purpose: To share the cutest photos and videos of our rescue bunnies!



GETTING READY

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

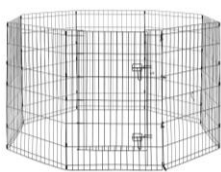
1. Indoor living equipment and supplies:
 - Playpen
 - Litter tray and litter
 - Heavy water bowl and food bowl
 - Play tunnel or hidey house
2. Food:
 - 3 types of good quality hay (hay must comprise up to 90% of the rabbit's diet):
 1. Cereal hay: Oaten hay
 2. Grass hay: Timothy hay (preferred), orchard 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.).

You will need the below items to foster a bunny with us. To reduce costs, you can purchase pens and other items second hand. We have a limited supply of this equipment that you can borrow if available. We can also provide hay, pellets and litter if required. In most instances, you can collect our equipment from various storage locations.

[Pethomes](#) have put together a great [Starter Pack](#), which includes everything you need. If you would like to explore more buying options, please have a look at our brand new [Shopping Guide](#). It will also explain what not to buy!



Equipment check list



PLAYPEN

Needs to provide enough space - 1.2m x 1.2m or more and needs to be high enough - 30 inch / 76 cm or more. Soft pens, hutches and cages are not appropriate.



PLAY TUNNEL AND/OR HIDEY HOUSE

Needs to give the bunny the opportunity to hide. If you have a tunnel, a hidey house is optional and can be made of cardboard. If you only have a hidey house it must be from a durable material.



LITTER TRAY

Needs to provide enough space for a bunny to sit comfortable and turn around. Typically you will need one that is 50cm long.



LITTER

Litter consisting of paper, wood shavings, wood pellets or crystals (avoid the 'clumping' ones).

Good brands are Catmate, Ozpet and Proteq.



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).



HAY

You need 3 types of hay: 1) Cereal hay: Oaten (most common), wheat, barley, 2) Grass hay (timothy, orchard, rye, teff, pasture), 3) Lucerne hay as treat and for emergencies. Best brand: Oxbow. Other good brands: Peters, Friendly Earth, King Alfalfa.



WATER BOWL AND FOOD BOWL

The water bowl should hold 400-500 ml and either be heavy / very stable so the rabbit cannot tip it over.

As for the food bowl: Any bowl or plate you have at home will do.



PET CARRIER

Any pet carrier will do as long as it can be securely locked and is big enough for a rabbit. Hard plastic carriers last longer than the soft fabric / foldable carriers as rabbits can chew them.



PET BRUSH AND NAIL SCISSORS

For daily grooming, and trimming nails when required.

Emergency kit

You will need this in case the rabbit stops eating. Responding quickly can make a difference between life and death (or a \$1000+ vet bill). Check our emergency section in this guide to learn how to recognise symptoms and what to do. In case of an emergency contact us and we will guide you on how to use it.



CRITICAL CARE

Can be given to the rabbit if it has stopped eating.



SYRINGE

Can be used for syringe-feeding the rabbit with critical care or water.



HEAT PAD

Can be used to increase the rabbit's body temperature if needed. Recommended product: Snugglesafe Microwave Heatpad.

RABBIT CARE

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 playpen 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 myxamatosis outbreak in your area.

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



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.

Feeding

DO FEED

- UNLIMITED Oaten hay and grass hay (e.g. Timothy)
- Lucerne hay in tiny amounts (as a treat)
- Fresh grass
- 1-2 table spoons pellets twice a day



DO NOT FEED

- Vegetables and fruits (no exceptions)
- Seeds
- Salt licks
- Items labelled rabbit and guinea mixes



Why can't I feed veggies and fruit? I have fed rabbits these before and had no issues.

We are aware that many rabbits will have no adverse reactions to eating certain veggies and fruits. However, due to the sensitive nature of the rabbit's gut, especially in stressful situations (such as coming into rescue), incorrect feeding can result in bloat, soft stool and risk stasis and calcium build up in the long term. Too many times we have had preventable emergency situations that have resulted in \$1000 vet bills for a bunny for an overnight stay. Removing veggies and fruits means that we can be sure our rabbits are on a consistent diet and reduces the risk of these things happening.

Please kindly respect our wishes and keep the diet to what is mentioned above.

Health checks

	Normal	Abnormal	Possible Cause
Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rabbit eats and drinks regularly Rabbit poops regularly Rabbit is bright and alert, moves around 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rabbit doesn't eat, and refuses even treats when tempted Rabbit doesn't poop Rabbit hides in unusual spot, appears lethargic Rabbit grinds teeth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gut stasis
Mouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fur around the mouth is dry. No discharge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fur around the mouth is wet. Bald patches around the mouth or chin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overgrown back molars Misaligned incisors
Eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bright and clear. No discharge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cloudy appearance Bulging Discharge present or rabbit is squinting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E. Cuniculi Cataracts Scratched eyeball
Ears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crust free, healthy skin and no wax build up in the ear canal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lots of build-up in and around the canal Skin looks dry or red Rabbit seems to be shaking head a lot or scratching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ear mites Ear infection
Nose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discharge. Breathing does not sound congested. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wet or milky discharge. Sounds congested when breathing Rabbit is sneezing a lot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pasteurella Respiratory infection
Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good body weight (should not be able to feel ribs or spine easily) Fur well kept Skin healthy, pink and crust free Bottom area is clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rabbit feels skinny Clumpy or matted fur that's dull in colour Bottom area appears dirty and genitals swollen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rabbit unable to groom itself or poor hygiene from previous location Malnutrition, incorrect diet Parasites Urinary tract disease
Poop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Even sphere shape Consistent size and good amount Dry and crumbles when squashed Brown or gold in colour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uneven shape (long or pointy) Very moist and leaves residue, might be mushy Small amount Very dark in colour Presence of mucous or pellets are chained together Click here for more information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parasites Incorrect diet Gut stasis Stress Underlying illness

If you recognise any abnormal symptoms please contact the [Bunny Tracker](#) for your region immediately. If you do not hear back within 1 hour call [Anna](#) or text [Kim](#).

JOURNEY TO ADOPTION

The foster carer's journey consists of 6 steps:



Prepare

So you have all your equipment (as listed in 'Getting ready') - what next? It is time to set up the playpen and equipment. There are a couple of things you should consider:

- Location of the playpen: We recommend you set it up in the corner of a room. If you have your own rabbits do not put it into the area they consider their territory - ideally you want to keep them apart.
- Arrangements within the playpen: Put the litter tray into the corner of a playpen that is close to a wall. Rabbits like to do their business with their back to the wall while having a good view of their surroundings.



1. Play pen: 8 panels, 70+ cm high, with walk-through door. Placed in the corner of the room.
2. Large litter tray, 50 cm long. Placed in the corner of the playpen. Filled with 2/3 litter and 1/3 hay, so the rabbit can poop and eat facing the room.
3. Hay bag to ensure unlimited hay supply (you can use a shopping bag)
4. Water bowl: 15 cm in diameter, difficult to tip over, ideally heavy (ceramic)
Food bowl: No special requirements.
5. Play tunnel: for the rabbit to play and hide in.
6. Sea grass matt: for the rabbit to chew (optional).
7. Hidey house: another place for the rabbit to hide (you can use a cardboard box).

In this example setup: Playpen and litter tray are from [Pethomes](#) (also offers [Starter Kit](#)), hay bag is from [Bunny Bazaar](#), water bowl (950 ml) is from [Petbarn](#), tunnel is from [Amazon](#), seagrass matt is from [Bunnings](#), hidey house is from [Kmart](#). Of course, you can source all equipment you need from just 1 or 2 suppliers - check out our [Shopping Guide](#) to see options that we have put together for you!

There are many ways to equip and arrange a playpen, but if you stick to this 'template' you cannot go wrong! If you would like further inspiration check out our video on foster carer setups: [YouTube Video](#).

Once you have your area set up, please take a photo and send it to the Bunny Tracker you have been in contact with. This way they can review it and advise you if you need to change anything.

Introduce

Now it is time to welcome your foster bunny into your home. How exciting! Keep in mind though this is very stressful for the bunny - it will need time to settle in and get used to you and the new surroundings. There are a couple of things you should do in the first 7-10 days:

- Keep the rabbit in the playpen; do not let it free roam. It needs to recognise the playpen as its territory.
- If you have other rabbits: Keep your foster rabbit away from them as it may pass on illnesses. This means: Do not let them use the same water bowls, litter trays, etc...
- If you have dogs: Do not leave them unsupervised near the bunny at any time. Dogs can react differently to a new bunny in their home and can attack or scare them to death.
- Monitor the rabbit's health from day 1 as per the instructions in the chapter 'Rabbit Care'.
- Provide litter training if required. Rabbits naturally like to do their business in the same spot, which makes litter training quite easy. Your foster rabbit will most likely be litter trained, but just in case it isn't, do this:
 - Place the litter tray in the corner of the playpen, so that the rabbit can poop and pee while having a good view of the room. Otherwise they feel uncomfortable and might choose a different spot.
 - If your rabbit does not use its litter box properly, put all the poo into the litter tray, and wipe up the urine with a paper towel and put it into the litter tray.
 - If your rabbit consistently uses another spot to do its business, relocate the litter tray that spot.

Care

As a foster carer you are responsible for the rabbit's wellbeing and for ensuring it will be suitable for adoption. What does this mean? The rabbit needs to be:

- Healthy - do health checks every day as per the 'Daily Care' guide. If you observe any abnormal symptoms text Kim Cooney immediately.
- Well cared for - nails must be clipped and fur must be groomed.
- Easy to handle and comfortable around humans - spend as much time as you can patting it, and pick it up once a day. Train it to come to you for treats.

Clipping nails

- Make sure you have adequate light to see the quick when cutting nails. You can also use the flashlight of your phone. Place it underneath the nail to see.
- Apply pressure a few times before actually cutting. The rabbit will pull away if you are too close to the quick. This is especially useful when your bunny has black nails.
- It is easier if you do this with a partner, where one holds the rabbit, and the other one cuts the nails. With practice, you will be able to do it on your own.
- If you cut the quick, dab a little cornflour on the end and apply pressure to stop the bleeding. It will clot quite quickly and the bunny will be fine.



Grooming

It is essential that you groom your foster rabbit daily, to remove dead fur. Rabbits groom themselves and if they are shedding, or are not hydrated enough or their gut mobility is poor, the fur they ingest can cause blockages in the gut, which can have severe consequences, including death.

Basket handling

The more time you spend with your foster rabbit, the better. Rabbits can be placed in a basket with a towel at the bottom, you put this basket on your lap and pat them while watching TV so they can get used to the attention. Children often find it difficult to properly hold rabbits, so it can be a good way for them to interact with the bunny.

Picking up your rabbit

Place one hand under the front legs and support the bottom with your other hand.

Vet

All rabbits must be desexed, microchipped, vaccinated, dewormed and health-checked before they can get adopted. Some of them need "The works", and some of them only need just one or two things done. The Rabbit Sanctuary covers all vet costs.

The Rabbit Sanctuary will make the booking - when the booking request is sent to the vet you will receive the email in cc. The vet will call you to offer an appointment. If they do not call within 3 days, please give them a call and tell them that you are a foster carer with The Rabbit Sanctuary and that you would like to make a booking as per the email.

Please make it a priority to bring the rabbit to the vet at the agreed date and time - in some areas the vets are very busy and if you ask to reschedule on short notice it might take a while until you can get another appointment.

If you need a "Bunny Runner" – someone to bring the rabbit to the vet and back to you, please let a Bunny Tracker know, post in your Foster Carer Facebook group or in our [Bunny Runner Facebook Group](#).

When you pick up the rabbit please ask for the vet certificate. The vet will either say that they email it directly to The Rabbit Sanctuary or they will give you a hard copy. If they give you a hard copy, please take photos and either send them to a [Bunny Tracker](#) or upload it via our [Foster Carer Portal enquiry form](#).

When your rabbit comes back from desexing it may be quiet and prefer to hide for a day or two. Please do the following:

- Check if the rabbit is still eating, drinking, urinating and pooping.
- Administer pain relief as per the vet's instructions.
- Check the surgical site - it must be clean and not infected.
- Make sure the rabbit does not chew their surgical site open. If it does, you may need to make a soft collar as per this [video](#).
- Contact a [Bunny Tracker](#) if you have any concerns.

Advertising

After all vet work is completed, a Bunny Tracker will let you know when it is ready for adoption and the time has come to advertise. From that moment on your rabbit will appear on the website as ready for adoption.

What are we asking of you?

- Please check [The Rabbit Sanctuary website](#) and make sure your foster rabbit is represented with a nice profile photo and a good description.
- Please advertise your foster rabbit on our [Facebook Group 'Rabbits for Adoption'](#). Post cute photos and videos you have taken of your foster rabbit over time, and tell people what your rabbit is like. Include the phrase: "Apply to adopt on [rabbitsanctuary.com.au/adopt](#)". If you are not on Facebook, or need help with photos or telling the story about your rabbit, please contact a [Bunny Tracker](#).
- Additionally, if you can also set up an account on Instagram, and post photos of your foster rabbits - we have seen many adoptions thanks to Instagram! If you want help setting up an Instagram account for your foster rabbit, please ask a [Bunny Tracker](#).
- Please be prepared to answer questions about your foster rabbit, if adoption applicants reach out to you!

How to take good photos

For advertising your foster rabbit you need a couple of photos, and having 1 or 2 short videos would be great too.

There is not much science to it. At a minimum we recommend the following:

- 1) One really good portrait photo of your rabbit
- 2) One photo (or video) showing the rabbit **with a human** (e.g. you are someone from your household patting or holding the rabbit or getting kisses ...) – this gives potential adopters a feeling of how it would be like if it was their rabbit!
- 3) One or more photos that show how the rabbit behaves in its environment (e.g. eating, playing with toys ...)

Example "Trooper"



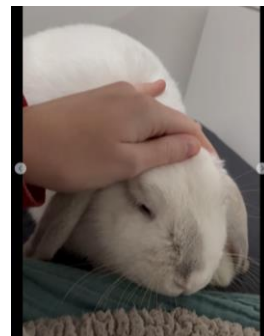
Profile photo



Interaction with human



Being cute



Interaction with human (video)

Example "Black Beauty"



Profile photo



Interaction with human



Being cute



Interaction with human (video)

How to write posts that make adopters fall in love with your foster rabbit

You do not have to be a good writer in order to write a great post about your foster rabbit in our [Rabbit For Adoption Facebook Group](#)! It is actually quite easy.

The basics first:

- Make sure you spell the name of your foster rabbit exactly as it is shown on the website.
- Mention the sex and age of your foster rabbit, and the breed if known.
- Mention your location (city, suburb and/or region)
- Be honest! Do not say your rabbit is cuddly and playful when it is not. You want potential adopters to know what it is like to have your foster rabbit as a companion pet.
- Include this phrase at the end: Apply to adopt on www.rabbitsanctuary.com.au/adopt

Here is a formula you can use:

1. Meet [insert name]! OR: Introducing [insert name]!
2. [Insert name] is a [insert age], [insert sex] [insert breed or 'small/medium-sized/large bunny'], currently being fostered in [insert location].
3. He/She is [insert 3 adjectives, e.g. sweet, playful, cuddly...].
4. **Share what you love about your foster bunny!** E.g. he/she
 - loves being patted
 - enjoys playing with toys/kids/other pets
 - does zoomies, binkies, flops
 - gives you kisses
 - jumps up the couch to be with you
 - follows you around
 - comes when called ...
5. Optional/if applicable: Share traits that are in high demand but not that common:
 - Doesn't mind being picked up
 - Doesn't chew
 - Gets along with cats, dogs, other bunnies ...
 - Not afraid of travelling
6. Optional/if required: Share anything else an adopter should know (good or bad), e.g. he/she
 - gets scared easily
 - doesn't like to be patted
 - does not get along with kids/other pets/other bunnies
 - can be shy
 - has a medical condition ...
7. Optional/if required: [insert name] would be perfectly suited for a home [insert criteria], e.g.:
 - where he/she gets a lot of attention
 - where he/she has a lot of space to free roam and explore
 - with kids
 - with other pets
 - with a husbun/bunwife
 - with no other buns
 - that's quiet ...
8. Apply to adopt on www.rabbitsanctuary.com.au/adopt



How do you advertise a foster rabbits that is not cuddly, affectionate and playful?

First of all, all rabbits have good sides about them. Highlight them! E.g. maybe they make the best binkies and zoomies? Or they don't chew, travel well or get along with other pets? Or they might make the perfect husbun/bunwife?

Here is some advice in case you have a not-so-perfect foster rabbit:

My foster rabbit is ...

- **Aggressive:** It might be too early to advertise. Talk to your Bunny Tracker to discuss next steps.
- **Destructive:** Adoption applicants are aware that rabbits chew things, and that they are meant to bunny-proof their home. However, if your foster rabbit is a "destructo-bun" please mention it, e.g. by saying: the rabbit loves to chew on things, so you need to bunny-proof your home.
- **An escape artist:** Please mention it, e.g. by saying: The rabbit is very curious and has escaped a few times, so you need to make sure you home is escape-proof.
- **Very easy to scare:** Please mention it, and point out that the rabbit is best suited to a quiet home.
- **Shy:** If you have seen any progress, focus on that, e.g. by saying the rabbit was very shy at the beginning but has slowly come out of the shell. Point out that the rabbit is best suited to a quiet home and/or that adopters need to be patient with it. You could also point out it would make a good husband/bunwife.
- **Not interested in interacting with humans? (and no sign of progress):** That's tricky! Talk to a Bunny Tracker.

In all cases, highlight the good things about your foster rabbit first!

Rehome

When an adopter wishes to adopt our foster rabbit, a Bunny Tracker will give you a heads-up, so that you are prepared. When the adoption is official, an email will be sent to the adopter, with instructions on how to get in touch with you. This email will include your mobile phone number and suburb (not address). You will receive the email in cc. It will be the adopter's responsibility to contact you. Have a chat to discuss where and when to meet to hand over the foster rabbit. You may meet at your place or theirs, or in the middle. Alternatively, the two of you may agree to request the support of a Bunny Runner.

Happy End! And a new beginning?

After your foster rabbit has found its new home, please let us know whether you

- are ready to take in the next foster rabbit
- need a break
- do not wish to foster anymore.

Whatever you decide, we are grateful that you have helped a rabbit find a new home!



FAQs

I found a rabbit or know of a rabbit that is in need of rescue. Can I take it in as a rescue rabbit on behalf of The Rabbit Sanctuary?

No. While we would love to rescue every rabbit in need, there is a very long list of bunnies that are waiting to come into care. Accepting ad-hoc rabbits may mean that we cannot accept rabbits that have been on the waitlist for a long time or are in more urgent need of care. Unfortunately, we cannot make exceptions to this due to our limited capacity and funding.

If you have found a rabbit or know of a bunny which requires rescuing, please complete our [surrender form](#) so Kim can assess it and determine its priority. If you choose to take the rabbit into your care, please understand that it will be completely your responsibility and The Rabbit Sanctuary will not take responsibility for any treatment it may require.

Are rabbits allowed outside?

Rabbits are allowed outside for supervised play. If you have clean lawn that they can graze on then most rabbits would enjoy the treat! BEFORE you let your foster rabbit outside, make sure of the following:

1. You are not in a calicivirus or myxomatosis risk area
2. You have an appropriate playpen so they cannot escape and mosquito protection in place.
3. Your foster bunny is up to date with its vaccination.

Please DO NOT house your rabbit outside or leave them outside unsupervised.

I am having trouble purchasing food and hay for my foster rabbit. What can I do?

The Rabbit Sanctuary greatly appreciates foster carers supplying their own feed to their foster bunnies as it helps us contribute more fees towards bunny vet work; however, we understand that everyone's situation is different. We do not expect carers to supply feed and do not want anyone to feel financially burdened when fostering. If you need help sourcing or purchasing food for your rabbit, please reach out to your region's Bunny Tracker or Kim for assistance or reimbursement. We advise that you reach out BEFORE purchasing the goods as is highly possible there may be supply within our care network already that we can share with you.

Can I introduce my foster bunny to my own rabbits?

No. Please DO NOT do this for the following reasons:

- We do not always know the history of a foster rabbit and it could put your rabbit at risk of getting something contagious due to close contact.
- Bonding rabbits is a process and can result in horrific injuries if not done properly

It's traumatic for your foster to be bonded and then be separated from its new friend/mate when it gets adopted. If you consider adopting your foster rabbit, let the Bunny Tracker team know ASAP. Bonding your foster with your own bunny does not by default mean that you can adopt your foster bunny or have priority to do so if there are other applicants interested.

I would like to adopt my foster rabbit, what should I do?

Fill out our [adoption application form](#). You need to go through the same process as all other adopters.

I have a question that is not answered in this Guide or on the website. What should I do?

If you don't find the answer you are looking for you have plenty of options:

1. Send us your question via our [Foster Carer enquiry](#) form.
2. Post your question in our [Foster Carer Facebook group](#).
3. Ask our question in the Foster Carer Facebook Messenger chat for your region. If you haven't been invited to join any of our chat groups, [please let us know](#).

