

Press Release

Think beyond Easter

A rabbit needs special care and a 10 year commitment.

Wisconsin House Rabbit Society
www.wisconsinhrs.org



Help us spread the message that rabbits are living beings, not short-term novelties. Please publish this letter before the Easter season. If you would like more information, great rabbit pictures, or an interview, please contact manager@wisconsinhrs.org. Thank you so much.

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Dear Editor,

Soon Easter will be upon us and many people will be tempted to buy one of those cute baby Easter bunnies that appear in all of the pet stores. But they might want to think twice.

Rabbits are fragile creatures. They have a lighter bone structure than do dogs or cats and easily break their spines if dropped or mishandled. Baby bunnies are cute and cuddly, but babyhood doesn't last long. In two short months, puberty will arrive with major changes. Often, the bunny no longer tolerates being held. Powerful hind legs can scratch, and the bunny may bite. Unneutered males spray to mark their territories. Unspayed females are territorial and may attack hands that enter the cage. The bunny must be spayed or neutered to eliminate these undesirable behaviors.

Every summer humane societies in Wisconsin receive a large influx of former Easter rabbits as they reach adolescence; and in the course of a year, hundreds of rabbits are surrendered to animal shelters across the state. Unlike wild rabbits, pet rabbits released outdoors will not survive long. Adult rabbits in shelters may have little chance of being adopted because most people mistakenly want a baby rabbit. This is unfortunate because neutered and spayed adult rabbits make the best pets, provided they are accepted on their own terms. They need a safe and loving environment in a rabbit-proofed home – not in an outdoor hutch.

Save a life and don't buy an Easter bunny. If you think you would make a good rabbit human, find out more information at www.rabbit.org or www.wisconsinhrs.org. And rescue an altered rabbit from your local animal shelter or from the House Rabbit Society. A listing of available rabbits near you is found at www.petfinder.org or you can contact manager@wisconsinhrs.org.

Sincerely,
Wisconsin House Rabbit Society
www.wisconsinhrs.org