

Why Rescue Rabbits?

There are many rescues in our area for cats and dogs; but hardly anyone takes notice of the popular small animals that face some of the same issues as cats and dogs. Unfortunately, there is a need for a Rabbit Rescue in our area.

My name is Jennie. I work at an animal shelter and I see firsthand what goes on behind the scenes. I know about shelter life and how the shelter affects the animals that are surrendered. I interact daily with people turning animals in and those wanting to adopt them.

Truth is that rabbits have been overbred. Breeders sell baby bunnies at pet stores unaltered which will contribute to the problem. Around Easter time more people than should will buy their child a real bunny instead of a chocolate one. After the newness wears off and the bunny is grown, it is likely it will be surrendered to the animal shelter.

My personal mission to start a Rabbit Rescue began when I saw firsthand the citizens coming into the shelter and specifically ask if we have any rabbits. When they were questioned as to why they were seeking them; people were not shy about their answers.

I noticed the need for Rabbit Rescue when I found out that not only do rabbits face being used for food, breeding, and fur; but hunters also want them for training their hunting dogs to run wild rabbits. And if that isn't bad enough already; Then there are those people who want live rabbits to feed their large pet constrictor snakes.

The root of the problem at shelters begins with the adoption fees. In many shelters prices are set as such nominal low fees (\$3.00) that it actually attracts the wrong type of clientele. Surprisingly, you cannot buy a fully processed whole chicken in the meat market for as cheap as buying a live rabbit at the shelter. This type of pricing allows people who are going to use them for these types of inhumane purposes such as feeding them to snakes and using them to train dogs.

There is a difference between someone's pet domestic rabbit and a farm meat rabbit. Not all rabbits belong on farms and should be used for meat. And no domestic animal should ever be used for training a pack of hunting dogs or fed to a snake!

My long term goal is to change the general thought of shelters to begin to focus on protecting pet domestic rabbits from this exploitation and to recognize the importance of spaying and neutering them to keep them from being used for breeding.

Did you know that rabbits are the 3rd top pet in the USA? I am a non-affiliated member of the House Rabbit Society, President of the New Hanover County Rabbit Rescue of Wilmington.

My First pet was a rabbit!

Got Bunny Questions?

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Please email us at Jennie.53@aol.com or NHCrabbitrescue@gmail.com

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New Hanover County Rabbit Rescue of Wilmington