

Wilmette Pet Center

"the place for people who love pets"

Easter and rabbits don't mix

Rabbits are one of the predominant images associated with Easter, and many people think about presenting their young child with an Easter bunny of their very own. Yet many don't stop to think about the reality of a pet rabbit, and, over the next few weeks, as the excitement and novelty of the new pet begins to fade, the rabbit gets less of the attention, care, and love that it needs.

A few basic facts about rabbits:

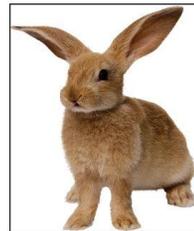
- 1. They are not a short term pet.** Rabbits can live 10 – 12 years (We see rabbits that are 13 or 14 years old); this is a major commitment in time, money, and energy, and should not be made on a spur of the moment idea.
- 2. Rabbits need a lot of attention.** The key to success with rabbits is that you get out what you put in. A rabbit needs socialization and lots of exercise, or they can become aggressive and not so cute.
- 3. Rabbits normally do not like to be picked up and carried.** They are prey animals and being picked up and carried goes against their very nature.
- 4. Rabbits have very specific dietary needs.** They can't live just on pellets alone, they need a variety of fresh vegetables and unlimited hay. Check out our [feeding care sheet](#) for more information.
- 4. Rabbits can be fragile.** Their bones are very delicate, and especially the small bones in their backs. Small children should never pick up a rabbit. Frightened rabbits can kick and try to escape, easily leading to broken bones, paralysis, or worse. *Red Door does not recommend rabbits for children under 10 years old, and supervision must always be used when your children are handling their rabbit.*
- 5. Rabbits should be spayed or neutered.** Altering a rabbit is an important part of ownership. There are many reasons to do so:

-Un spayed females have an extremely high risk of developing reproductive cancers (ovarian, uterine, mammary).

This is an Easter bunny.



This is a 12 year commitment.



Get the facts on these wonderful pets before you buy one.





Learn everything that a rabbit needs before getting one by checking out our care sheets.

-Males and females will be better companions after being spayed/neutered: they are calmer, more loving, are less prone to destructive (chewing, digging) and aggressive (biting, lunging, circling, growling) behavior after surgery.

-Un neutered male rabbits spray, making cleaning more difficult.

-Both males and females are much easier to litter train, and much more reliably trained, after they have been spayed or neutered.

And consider adoption! Check out the [Red Door Animal Shelter](#), a great resource for adoptable rabbits (cats and dogs, too.)

When it is a decision that is properly thought out, when everyone understands the time and energy required, a rabbit makes a great, affectionate companion. We can help: check out our care sheet all about rabbit care [here](#), how to properly feed rabbits [here](#), and [this care sheet](#) on the veggies you should be feeding.