

Fostering for New Moon

Are you able to separate the foster rabbits from your own?

Foster rabbits should be kept separate from your own pet rabbits. It is always a health risk to expose your rabbits to other rabbits and it is in everyone's best interest for them to remain separate during fostering.

Are you aware that there is a great deal of clean up and even possible damage to your home when you take a foster animal home?

Any animal can ruin drapes, carpeting, furniture, baseboards, clothing and other valuable items and foster rabbits are no exception. Preparing your home and the areas the animals will be in can prevent most accidents, but not all of them.

Are you able to monitor the health of the foster animals?

You will need to pay attention to signs of illness or worsening of symptoms and call New Moon Rabbit Rescue if you are concerned.

Are you willing to follow the diet recommended to you by New Moon Rabbit Rescue?

To help ensure the health of the foster rabbits New Moon requires that you follow the diet recommended to you for each foster rabbit. This includes specific amounts and brands of food.

Are you emotionally prepared to return the rabbit to New Moon Rabbit Rescue?

It can be very difficult to let go once you have become emotionally attached to the rabbits. Be prepared for tears and heartache when the day comes that you must say good-bye to your first foster rabbit.

Can you place your trust in New Moon Rabbit Rescue to decide what is the best for the animal?

Do you feel comfortable explaining to friends that these animals are not yours to adopt out and that they must go through the regular adoption process at New Moon Rabbit Rescue?

If you are interested in helping to find homes for your fosters, refer your friends and family to New Moon to complete an adoption application. You can also request flyers or pamphlets from New Moon to place in your area or to give to interested parties.

Please do not aggressively seek out or solicit for permanent homes/adopters for your foster rabbit.

Are you willing to have potential adopters come to your home to visit a foster rabbit?

Potential adopters might request to see foster rabbit(s) in your care. You may not conduct viewings of rabbits on behalf of New Moon. All interested Parties must contact New Moon Rabbit Rescue. Only preapproved potential adopters/interested parties will

be permitted to contact a foster and/or meet the rabbit(s). New Moon will always contact the foster before releasing their contact information to a potential adopter/interested party.

Are you willing to keep New Moon Rabbit Rescue up-to-date with your foster rabbit(s)

To keep our information updated as much as possible, New Moon will require you to fill out a small questionnaire every few months. We also ask that you send new pictures of the bunnies. These pictures and updates are **VITAL!** Without updated pictures and information about each rabbit, we will not be able to find them forever homes.

Qualifications

To be a successful foster parent, you will need a compassionate nature, the cooperation of your family or roommates, flexibility, and knowledge of rabbit care and behavior. You must also understand that there is a possibility that some foster rabbits may be in foster care much longer than others. If at any point you are no longer able to foster, New Moon will find a new foster home ASAP.

To qualify to be a foster home

All foster homes must be approved by New Moon.

Complete the Foster Application.

If you own dogs, they must be vaccinated for Bordetella (kennel cough).

If you own other rabbits, they must have had a recent health check, be spayed or neutered, not suffer from Pasteurella, Bordetella or E. Cuniculi and not carry parasites such as fleas, ticks, or fur and ear mites. (if you do own rabbits that suffer from Pasteurella, Bordetella or E. Cuniculi you may be eligible to foster rabbits that also suffer from these illnesses and these types of foster homes **are** needed)

New Moon Rabbit Rescue may request photographs and/or conduct a home visit as part of the approval process or at any time.

Please notify New Moon if you are fostering rabbits for any other organization while you are fostering for New Moon Rabbit Rescue.

Foster rabbits must be housed in a stress free environment. They may **NOT** be housed outdoors, in a garage or any area uninhabitable by humans.

It is recommended that your foster rabbits be kept in a separate room from your own.

Foster Policies and Procedures

New Moon will contact the foster home when a rabbit(s) is in need of fostering. If you are able to foster that rabbit(s), the rabbit(s) will be ready for pick up along with the necessary supplies at New Moon at the scheduled time. Animals placed in foster care will not have known life-threatening illnesses or known infectious diseases unless previously discussed.

If there is an emergency please contact New Moon. You may be required to take the rabbit to New Moon's primary Veterinary Clinic. If the foster chooses to go to another clinic, New Moon will not be responsible for any monetary reimbursement.

It is always a health risk to expose your rabbits to other rabbits. It is recommended that they are kept separate at all times. New Moon is not responsible for injury or illness caused by the foster rabbits. If injury or illness is caused to the foster rabbit by any animal or person while in foster care, the foster provider must cover all costs associated with the injury.

Some rabbits will not be spayed/neutered when entering foster care (this will be known to fosters). If for some reason an accidental pregnancy occurs the foster home will be expected to pay for all medical cost associated with the pregnancy (foster will be terminated from the foster program). All babies are the property of New Moon and will be fostered until they are old enough to be adopted. After 8 weeks of age they will be placed into suitable foster homes.

Do not bathe, trim teeth, professionally groom or attempt to diagnose/treat your foster rabbit. If you are experiencing health/behavioural issues with your foster rabbit please contact New Moon.

Do not put collars, strings or any other objects around your foster rabbits neck. A rabbit skeletal structure is not similar to a cat or dog and doing this could cause them to be seriously harmed. If you would like to take your rabbit outside please use an appropriate harness.

Do not allow your foster rabbit to have contact with any other small animals that are in your care. Ferrets, guinea pigs, and other rabbits can cause severe harm to one another and for each animal's health and safety we ask you to not allow them access to each other at any time.

All foster rabbits must be returned to New Moon Rabbit Rescue. New Moon is a no kill organization. All rabbits will remain in the care of New Moon until an appropriate home is found. If you are no longer able to foster you must return the rabbit to New Moon Rabbit Rescue.

No foster volunteer can foster more than three New Moon rabbits (individual) at any given time.

Foster animals are the sole property of New Moon Rabbit Rescue and will not be adopted or given to anyone without the permission of New Moon Rabbit Rescue.

If terminated from the foster program and the foster home still has possession of the foster rabbit, the rabbit must be returned to New Moon immediately.

Preparing Your Home

It is recommended that your rabbits be kept separate from your foster rabbits. It is always a health risk to expose your rabbits to other rabbits. Therefore they should remain separate for the entire foster period. Please do not allow your rabbits direct contact with fosters at any time. Do not attempt to bond the foster rabbits to your own.

Do not allow your foster rabbit to have contact with any other small animals that are in your care. Ferrets, guinea pigs, and other rabbits can cause severe harm to one another and for each animal's health and safety we ask you to not allow them access to each other at any time.

Supplies you will need

Compressed Pine Litter or Yesterdays News: If the rabbit is litter trained, compressed pine litter, pelleted recycled newspaper litter or wood stove pellets may be used. You may also choose to use plain newspaper or aspen/hemp shavings as an alternative, although these methods require more frequent cleaning. Carefresh Bedding, Boxo and generic versions of these are also good options for litter.

Aspen or Hemp Shavings: If the rabbit is not litter trained and you do not plan on attempting to train him or her, aspen or hemp shavings may be used as bedding. Under no circumstances should pine, cedar or other softwood shavings be used. Carefresh Bedding, Boxo and generic versions of these are also excellent options for bedding.

Rabbit Pellets: If you choose to feed your foster rabbit pellets, please make sure you are feeding your foster bunny a timothy based pellet. Martin Mills Timothy Adult Rabbit Food, Kaytee Timothy Complete and Oxbow Bunny Basics T are all excellent, healthy choices. If you are having a hard time finding an appropriate food in your area feel free to contact New Moon and we will be able help you locate these brands.

If you are fostering a baby rabbit (under 5-7 months of age) it is recommended that you feed them Martin Mills Rabbit Food. Do not feed your foster any rabbit pellets that contain nuts, seeds, cereal bits, etc of any kind.

Pellets should be fed free choice up to 6-7 months of age, at which time the diet should be supplemented with vegetables. At 7 months, while slowly introducing your choice of

timothy-based pellet, the amount should be gradually reduced to 1/8 cup-1/4 cup per day by the time the rabbit is one year old. **Remember, the main part of your rabbit's diet should be hay** and if you notice a decrease in his hay consumption, reduce his pellets.

Mixed Grasses or Timothy Hay: Hay must be offered on an UNLIMITED basis. Alfalfa must not be fed to rabbits over 7 months of age. There is a wide variety of acceptable, nutritious types of hay including but not limited to Kaytee Timothy Hay and Bourne Free Farms Exceptional Mixed Grasses.

As a foster for New Moon you can also choose to feed farm fresh mixed grass hay which is supplied free of charge to all foster homes. This hay can be picked up upon request. Please bring a 68L Rubbermaid container (or equivalent). Please make arrangements in advance.

Veggies: There are a wide variety of vegetables that can be fed to your foster rabbit(s). Fresh veggies are not to be given to rabbits under the age of 5 months at which time they may be GRADUALLY incorporated into their diet one at a time.

Rabbit Safe Veggies:

-Bok Choy	-Carrot Greens	-Cilantro
-Green Pepper	-Collard Greens	-Chicory
-Dandelion Greens	-Mint Leaves	-Parsley
-Radicchio	-Raspberry Leaves	-Romaine Lettuce
-Green/Red Leaf Lettuces		-Arugula
-Swiss Chard	-Beet Greens	-

Please do not feed large quantities of fruits, carrots, etc as these are not part of a regular healthy diet. These are high in sugar and low in nutrition and can lead to many health issues for you foster rabbit(s). These items should be fed as treats only.

A good example would be four to five small slices of apple for an average sized rabbit per week. Please see the list of rabbit-safe fruit at right.

Food and Water Bowls: New Moon regularly uses water bowls in lieu of water bottles, however you are not required to do so if you or your foster rabbit prefers otherwise. No matter whether you choose a bowl or bottle, they must be washed daily and fresh water given. Many rabbits placed in foster care have been deprived of human contact and therefore, “feed chutes” are not appropriate.

Toys: A variety of toys must be provided at all times. Ensure that toys are made of appropriate materials such as wood and hard plastic. Rabbits enjoy many different types of toys, such as baby rattles and keys, commercial rabbit toys, empty toilet paper or paper towel rolls and sealer jar rims. Experiment with items of rabbit-safe materials – go crazy!

Note: Rabbits are adopted with their favourite toy(s), New Moon can supply toys if necessary.

Treats: Do not give treats with seed or corn. Most commercial treats are extremely high in sugar and are not recommended. Appropriate treats include fruit such as apple, banana and pear, all in moderation. Rabbits are not to receive treats of any kind prior to 5 months of age.

Recommended commercial rabbit treats:

Martin Mills Little Friends Hearty Apple Dumplings

Martin Mills Little Friends Banana Muffins

Oxbow Organic Barley Biscuits

Oxbow Simple Rewards Banana/Strawberry/Timothy/Veggie Treats

Oxbow Papaya Fruit Plus

Snak Shak (by 8-in-1 Ecotritition)* *Except "Snak Shak Treat Stuffers"

Rabbit Safe Fruits/Treats: *(to be given very sparingly!!)*

-Apple (no stem or seeds)

-Peach

-Pineapple

-Banana

-Blueberries

-Raspberries

-Carrot

-Papaya

-Pear

-Strawberries

-Melon

Only feed fresh fruits – not canned!

Other considerations: Litterboxes and Hayracks, Vinegar (for cage clean-up and occasional messes), Natural Chemistry Stain and Odor Remover (for occasional messes), New Moon flyers to hand out to interested parties, grooming supplies such as slicker brush, flea comb and nail clippers.