

## What are one of the main ways you can help out any shelter?

# BECOME A FOSTER PARENT



### WOULD FOSTERING ONE ANIMAL FOR A FEW WEEKS REALLY MATTER?

Absolutely! Providing foster care is a significant service.

- \* Fostering allows the rabbit more exercise time than it would receive at the main house, and a happier rabbit is more likely to get adopted!
- \* Being under the supervision of the same individual or family long-term allows a bunny's personality to truly be observed, which helps when posting its profile online and finding it the best matching home.
- \* The rabbit actually can get more exposure, by being visited by your friends, neighbors, and family, by posting about him or her on Facebook, or talking about them in general conversation.
- \* In cases where we have a waiting list, making more room at the main house helps incoming rabbits get spayed/neutered and so they can find a new home sooner.
- \* Fostering can be as temporary as you need it to be, or as a trial run for a particular rabbit you are interested in possibly adopting. Not only is your foster rabbit happier, but you get the joy of caring for an animal without making a long-term commitment or spending the money on startup costs!



### IF I FOSTER A RABBIT, WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY?

- \* You provide feeding, attention, and general care in your home for as long as you are able OR until the rabbit(s) find a permanent home.
- \* MHRR will provide any medical care the rabbit might need (including neutering and spaying) before going into foster care.
- \* The rabbit will need at least an hour of exercise time (out of the cage) each day in a rabbit-proofed area of your home (ex: a kitchen or hallway with blocked-off exits that has no electrical cords or other dangers that the rabbit can reach).
- \* Keep MHRR updated with any personality, behavior, or health changes. A quick e-mail or phone call once a week with an update or “everything’s great!” is requested.
- \* Be available to bring the fostered rabbit to adoption days/Care days or events when requested (unless you are fostering as a test-run to adopt).



### DO I HAVE TO BE AN “OFFICIAL” VOLUNTEER TO HELP?

No. We have many volunteers, and some are able to volunteer more often than others, but we are appreciative of all the help we get for our adoptables! There is a foster application for new volunteers.

## HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Nothing – unless you want to spoil your bunny even more! MHRR can provide any items that you do not already have, including a cage, litterbox, food/water containers, litter, hay, pellets, and toys. If you choose to let us provide the food, please bring a container to hold the pellets and hay (small plastic totes work well). You can come by any Care Day or call for a refill. If you choose to provide your own food, please make sure it is a quality food, such as Oxbow, Timothy Complete, or Zupreem, with a minimum of 18% fiber.

## WHAT IF I'VE NEVER OWNED A RABBIT BEFORE?

We'll make sure you take home an "easy keeper" that doesn't have personality issues like cage aggression or special medications. We are here for you no matter what questions you have. We were all beginners once also, and we help beginners all the time to get set up for their first pet rabbit. It's what we do!

## DO I GET TO PICK WHICH RABBIT I FOSTER?

Yes! As long as the rabbit you want is not already in a foster home or not yet spayed or neutered, you can take whichever rabbit you prefer. If you aren't sure which one you might like, you may come to the main foster house and meet them before you choose. Of course we can help you decide based on your schedule and space available, as well as previous rabbit-keeping experience and personality-type desired. Be aware that if you choose a particularly cute or very sweet rabbit, it may not be long before it finds a potential home, and you may be asked to bring it to adoption day often.

## I HAVE OTHER PETS... IS THIS A PROBLEM?

Probably not. Many rabbits get along great with cats and gentle dogs. Rabbits and cats typically do not bother one another, though a rabbit may chase a cat or ask it to groom him or her. If your dog is fine with a cat, he or she will likely be fine with a rabbit that is not afraid of dogs. You will need to use your best judgment during introductions, and be able to keep the rabbit safe from taunting or attack by other household pets if need be.



*If you would like to welcome an adoptable rabbit into your home, please fill out our foster application and e-mail it in, or turn it in to any MHRR volunteer.*



MAGIC HAPPENS RABBIT RESCUE  
**FOSTER APPLICATION**

Are you at least 18 years of age?

What is your previous rabbit-keeping experience?

Why are you interested in fostering rabbits (or other animals)?

How many rabbits are you planning to foster?

What type of rabbits would you like to foster?

Are you interested in long-term (fostering until the bun is adopted, or taking in another after one is gone), or short-term (like only for the school semester or holiday), or as a test run to see if you may want to adopt that particular rabbit?

What type of housing will the rabbit have (size, flooring, etc.), or do you need to borrow a cage and/or supplies?

Where will the rabbit stay?

Will the rabbit have a place to run outside of its cage that is bunny-proofed?

How often will you be able to spend time with the rabbit?

What are the plans for the rabbit during vacations?

Do you have any other pets? If so, what kind?

If the adopting rabbit is to be paired with another rabbit, please answer the following remaining questions:

Is the other rabbit male or female?

Is the other rabbit spayed/neutered?

Do you have a temporary cage or setup for the new rabbit until they have sufficient time to meet?

By becoming a foster parent, you agree to send MHRR an update at least once a week about your foster rabbit. You also agree to make arrangements to bring your foster rabbit to requested adoption days, Care days, or events (unless you are fostering as a trial run).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_