

## Application to keep a **Pet Rabbit**

The intention is to provide those tasked with assessing the suitability of a potential rabbit owner with a framework of points to raise. This document could be used either as an application form or a check list to go through when undertaking a 'home visit'. Information in **blue** boxes is provided as a catalyst for conversation and deeper consideration of the risks and responsibilities of rabbit ownership. The potential rabbit owner will be asked to sign and date the form to encourage them to provide truthful information. This document can be amended by animal welfare organisations, breeders or landlords to suit their individual needs.

<b>A</b>	<b>About You, the prospective owner of the pet and the person responsible for the welfare of the pet.</b>			
1	Title		Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Other	
2	First Name			
3	Surname			
4	Date of Birth		DD/MM/YYYY	
5	Occupation		(Full or Part-time)	
6	Address			
	Parish		C, F, SA, SM, SPP, SP, SS, SSv, T, V.	
	Post Code			
7	Telephone Numbers	Home		
		Mobile		
		Work		
8	Email Address			

<b>B</b>	<b>Your Circumstances.</b>																
	<b>PET EXPERIENCE</b>																
9	Have you previously applied for a pet?		Yes		No												
10	Do you currently own any pets?		Yes		No												
											If Yes	Pet 1	Type		Pet 2	Type	
													Age			Age	
													Sex			Sex	
											Pet 3	Type		Pet 4	Type		
												Age			Age		
												Sex			Sex		
11	Have you owned a rabbit before?		Yes		No												
											If Yes	Rabbit 1	Type		Rabbit 2	Type	
													Sex			Sex	
											Rabbit 3	Type		Rabbit 4	Type		
												Sex			Sex		
												<b>HOUSEHOLD</b>					
12	How many people live in your home? Write the number in each age group.		Adults														
			Children	Under 3 years	3 to 5 years	6 to 17 years											
13	Do children regularly visit you home? If so, what age groups are they in? Tick as many as you need.				Under 8 years	9 to 12 years	13 to 16 years										

Information	All contact between young children and pets should be <b>directly supervised</b> . This means that an adult: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is in close range of the child and pet (preferably holding the child or restraining the pet); and,</li> <li>can immediately intervene if necessary.</li> </ul>										
	14	Does anyone in the household have a known allergy to animals?							Yes		No
15	Does everyone in the household want an animal?							Yes		No	
<b>ABOUT YOUR PROPERTY</b>											
16	Do you live in a house or a flat?	House		Flat		Other					
17	If a house how many floors does it have?	1		2		3					
18	How many bedrooms are there?	1		2		3					
		4		5		6					
19	Who is your landlord?	Private			Social Housing			I don't have a landlord			
20	Do you have access to a garden?	Yes			No			Attached to the property?			
21	If yes is the garden	Private		Communal		Other					
22	Is the garden secure?	Yes		No							
<b>COST OF PET OWNERSHIP</b>											
23	How much can you afford to spend on your pet each week (not including unexpected costs caused by injury or illness)? Costs include feed, worm and flea treatment, vaccinations, dog tax, holiday kennelling, etc.	0 - £2	£3 - £5	£6 - £8	£9 - £12	£13 - £15	£16 - £19				
		£20-£24	£25-£28	£29 - £32	£33-£35	£36 - £40	£51 - £50				
Information	It is generally accepted that the first year of pet ownership can be the most expensive but older animals tend to suffer with age-related conditions such as arthritis, kidney and dental disease which adds to the cost of ownership in a pet's old age. These costs are compiled from studies in the UK, US and Canada and therefore may not represent the current weekly costs of pet ownership in Guernsey. Please note, these costs do not include the cost of neutering or unexpected costs caused by injury or illness.										
	Animal	Average annual cost (£)		Average lifespan cost of ownership (£)	Average weekly cost of ownership (£)						
		Upfront (first year)	Ongoing cost per subsequent year.								
	Rabbit	750	500	5,000 – 6,000 (lifespan = 10yr)	11.50						
	Guinea Pig	350	250	1,800 – 2,000 (lifespan = 6yr)	6.50						
	Hamster / Rats / Gerbil	250	150	450 – 600 (lifespan = 3yr)	3.85						
24	In some circumstances a condition of ownership is that a rabbit must be neutered. How do you propose to meet this cost?				Savings	Loan	Sponsor				
	If you have selected 'sponsor' then your sponsor must provide their name and address and they must sign that they are guaranteeing to		Sponsor Details (only if selected)								
			Name								
			Address								
		Sponsor Signature									

	cover the cost of neutering your pet.				
	<b>Note to the Sponsor:</b> By signing you are agreeing to pay the full cost of neutering the pet that the prospective owner is applying to have.				
	The requirement to surgically neuter a rabbit may be waived if the owner can provide a certificate from a local veterinarian whose care the pet is under. Nevertheless the requirement for the pet not to be breed and not to produce young remains in place.				
Information	The cost of neutering a pet depends on its species, sex and size. The bigger a pet is, the more it will cost to neuter. The following are rough indications of the cost of conventional neutering of pets locally.				
	Rabbit	male	castration	£215	
		female	spay	£230	
25	Will you be providing health insurance for your pet?				Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
26	Will you be getting your pet microchipped?				Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>RABBIT ACCOMMODATION</b>					
27	Will your rabbit be a house rabbit or live outside?			House Rabbit	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Outside	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	If your rabbit is to be a house rabbit, have you taken measures to protect electrical cables and equipment from chewing?	Electrical cables must be protected using chew proof sheathing. Access to electrical equipment must be blocked. Rabbits will also dig up carpets and chew wooden furniture and floor boards.	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
29	If your rabbit is to live outside, do you have facilities to move it into an outbuilding or garage during severe weather?	You need to be able to protect your rabbit from strong wind combined with rain or snow. Rabbit hutch covers combined with extra bedding and extra food will be adequate in most situations.	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
30	If your rabbit lives in a hutch, will it have access to an exercise run as well?	A rabbit hutch alone will not meet a rabbit's physical and behavioural needs. Rabbits that are confined to hutches become overweight, develop skeletal problems, sores and suffer with behavioural problems. A pair of average size rabbits need a hutch that is no smaller than 6ft x 2ft x2ft, with an attached exercise run of 10ft long, 6ft wide and 3ft tall.	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
31	Are you prepared to enrich your rabbits' accommodation? This includes hay racks/hanging baskets, tunnels, platforms, rolling food dispensers, and a box of rabbit toys that you can rotate so they don't get bored with them.	In the wild, rabbits would spend their time digging, running, jumping, rearing up, hiding, eating, socialising with other rabbits (and being alone sometimes too). To allow your pet rabbits to carry out their natural behaviours they need to be given plenty to do. This is enrichment.	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>MANAGING RABBIT WASTE HAZARDS</b>					
32	Rabbits sharing homes with young children or immunocompromised people should be wormed regularly.	If necessary, are you able to worm your rabbit regularly?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
33	You must keep your rabbits' environment clean. Accommodation should have the 'toilet area' 'spot cleaned' daily and the entire accommodation must be completely cleaned once a week.	Will you have any difficulty keeping your rabbits' living environment clean?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
34	Faeces, spent bedding and substrate will have to be disposed of responsibly in black bin sacks for un-recyclable waste which will attract a charge.	Will you have any difficulty putting rabbit waste in your black sacks?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			No	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Information	Care must be taken to avoid accumulations of anything that could attract flies into the rabbits' environment such as faeces, spent bedding and substrate, food waste, compost etc. Rabbits are particularly vulnerable to flystrike (Myiasis) which is often caused by flies laying eggs on rabbits. The eggs hatch within hours into maggots that eat the rabbit's flesh as well as releasing dangerous toxins. Care must also be taken to remove any spilt food around the accommodation because this will attract vermin which may carry disease to your rabbits. It is a good idea to put in place vermin control around your rabbit's accommodation and many keepers will use bait boxes and bait blocks. It is important that your rabbit cannot access the poison bait blocks and the bait boxes prevent rabbits accessing the poison.			
	<b>ANIMAL WELFARE OFFENCES</b>			
35	Has any member of the household accepted a caution for an animal welfare offence or been convicted of an animal welfare offence?	Yes		No

<b>C</b>	<b>About your prospective pet</b>			
36	What breed of rabbit are you proposing to have?			
	Size	Breed	Your choice, indicate how many.	Rabbit accommodation
	Small	Polish		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hutch that is no smaller than 5ft x 20" x 20"</li> <li>Attached exercise run of 6ft long, 4ft wide and 2ft tall</li> </ul>
		Netherland Dwarf		
	Medium	Dutch		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hutch that is no smaller than 6ft x 2ft x 2ft,</li> <li>Attached exercise run of 8ft long, 6ft wide and 3ft tall</li> </ul>
		Dwarf Lop		
		Mini Lop		
		Tans		
		Mini Rex		
		Silver		
		Argente		
		Delienaar		
		Silver Fox		
		English		
	Large	French Lop		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hutch that is no smaller than 7ft x 2ft 6" x 2ft 6"</li> <li>Attached exercise run of 10ft long, 4ft wide and 3ft tall</li> </ul>
		English Lop		
	Gigantic	Continental Giant		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hutch that is no smaller than 8ft x 3ft x 3ft</li> <li>Attached exercise run of 12ft long, 5ft wide and 4ft tall</li> </ul>

### Don't just get one rabbit, get two!

Rabbits are highly social, and they need the company of other rabbits. They should be kept with at least one bonded partner. Guinea pigs are not recommended as companions for rabbits because they could carry infections that will kill rabbits.

To be kept in (at least) pairs, rabbits must be neutered (castrated or spayed). If they weren't already in a bonded pair (or group) when they came to you, you can't just put them together and expect them to like each other. Pairing up is sometimes a long process but very well worth the patience and persistence.

**D. Declaration** by the applicant who is the prospective owner

I hereby declare that the above information is, to the best of my knowledge, complete, accurate and true.

Signed

PRINT NAME

Date