

**Our Rabbits have been cared for in a home environment and are therefore socialized and used to being in a home and around people. We take care of these rabbits as though they were our own. Some of them have lived with us for quite some time.**

## **Rabbit/Guinea Adoption Policies**

**Indoor Only:** You must keep the Rabbit indoors at all times: An indoor Rabbit with proper care can live up to 15 years. The average life span of a domestic rabbit who dumped outside is less 3 months. Rabbits are killed and injured by dogs, cats every day on neighborhood streets as well as major roads. Other dangers include contracting falling ill, undernourished, getting injured by other animals, and being poisoned or abused by people who find it annoying for rabbit/guinea pig to wander onto their property. These are domesticated animals and have no natural survival instincts, they require humans to help them.

**Landlord Approval:** We will require proof that you are allowed to have pets if you live in rental housing or in a condominium with animal restrictions in the by-laws. To avoid delays in adopting your pet, we will need to speak with your landlord/homeowner or see a copy of your lease.

**Moving to a new home or apartment:** If you are considering moving at any time please be conscious of the fact that there are pet friendly rentals but if you are not willing to pay a pet fee then perhaps you should reconsider adopting a pet, as they will be a family member for life.

**Age/Employment:** We seek to adopt to those who are financially secure and in a stable living situation in order to maximize the likelihood of a lifelong bond. Older teens, newly on their own, or still living with parents, may find themselves, in a year or two, making life changes that result in their no longer being able to care for their pet. Because of these reasons and as our desire is to find forever homes for our rabbit/guinea pig, **as of January 1, 2017 we have implemented 18 as a minimum age to adopt.** Additionally, as there may be, at some time, significant veterinary costs involved with any pet, we ask that people adopt only if they are adults, have seriously evaluated the meaning of a twenty year commitment and are financially able to bear the cost of future emergencies.

**Family Decision:** Having a pet should be a pleasant and rewarding experience for all involved. If you have small children, please bring them with you when you come for your adoption interview. Because Rabbits/Guinea pigs are vulnerable and young children may be unable to predict the consequences of their actions, we are very cautious when placing a rabbit under 6 months old into homes in which there are children who are less than 6 years old. While a scratch is typically no more harmful than falling down on a playground and scraping a knee, young children who are scratched may develop an unnecessary fear of a rabbit/guinea pig. And, the rabbit/guinea pig, in turn, may become fearful of a child who cries after being scratched. Children and pets make wonderful companions for one another when supervised and matched up appropriately. Our Adoption Volunteers will work with you to determine the best fit for your family.

**Current/Past Pets:** Before we place any animal, we ensure that other pets in the household and all pets owned by the prospective adopter in the last five years, are/were spayed/neutered and current on vaccinations, including rabies and distemper. Please provide copies of your pet's vet records or provide a veterinarian contact.

**Rabbits/Guinea Pig as Gifts:** We do not encourage giving a pet Rabbit/ Guinea Pig as a gift. Choosing a Rabbit/Guinea Pig is a very personal decision and plays an important role in making a lifelong commitment to a new family member.

**Lifetime Commitment:** We expect that when you adopt a pet you have made a decision to care for that pet for its entire life. A Rabbit/ Guinea Pig may be a 15 year commitment. Please think through this extremely important decision before you come to the shelter. A pet becomes a family member. A responsible pet owner/guardian makes life decisions to include their pets.

***Peaceable Kingdom reserves the right to refuse placement of any animal for any reason. We love the Rabbits/ Guinea Pigs in our care, and it is our responsibility to place them in the best suited forever homes. Misrepresentations on an application will automatically disqualify you from adoption.***