

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 check'. Assessors will more easily be able to have difficult discussions that need to occur 'because they have to go through the form'. 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.

A About You, the prospective owner of the pet and the person responsible for the welfare of the pet.			
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 Your Circumstances.						
PET EXPERIENCE						
9	Have you previously applied for a pet?	Yes		No		
10	Do you own any other pets?	Yes		No		
	If Yes	Pet 1	Type	Pet 2	Type	
			Age		Age	
			Sex		Sex	
	If Yes	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	
	If Yes	Rabbit 3	Type	Rabbit 4	Type	
			Sex		Sex	

HOUSEHOLD							
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	<p>All contact between young children and pets should be directly supervised. This means that an adult:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is in close range of the child and pet (preferably holding the child or restraining the pet); and, • can immediately intervene if necessary. 						
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			
ABOUT YOUR PROPERTY							
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	
21	Is the garden secure?	Yes		No			
COST OF PET OWNERSHIP							
22	How much can you afford to spend on your pet each week not including unexpected costs caused by injury or illness? These costs include feed, preventative worm and mite treatment, vaccinations, fly repellents, holiday arrangements, 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 in 2014 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 (the 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	
23	In some circumstances a condition of ownership is that a rabbit must be neutered. How do you propose to meet the cost of having your pet neutered?	Savings	A Loan	A Sponsor	
	If you have selected 'sponsor' then your sponsor must provide their name and address and they must sign that they are guaranteeing to cover the cost of neutering your pet.	Sponsor Details (only if selected)			
		Name			
		Address			
		Sponsor Signature			
	Note to the Sponsor: 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. Never the less 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, its sex and its 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. Local Animal Welfare Organisations will not pay for your pets to be neutered. You must plan to cover this expense.				
	Prices as of July 2018.				

	Rabbit	male	castration	£120		
		female	spay	£155		
24	Will you be providing health insurance for your pet?		Yes		No	
25	Will you be getting your pet microchipped?		Yes		No	
RABBIT ACCOMMODATION						
26	Will your rabbit be a house rabbit or will it live outside?		House Rabbit			Outside
27	If your rabbit is to be a house rabbit have you taken measures to protect electrical cables and equipment from chewing?		Yes		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.	
			No			
28	If your rabbit is to live outside do you have facilities to move it into an outbuilding or garage during inclement weather?		Yes		When strong wind combined with rain or snow you need to be able to protect your rabbit from this. Rabbit hutch covers combined with extra bedding and extra food will be adequate in most situations encountered in Guernsey.	
			No			
29	If your rabbit lives in outside accommodation (a hutch) will it have access to an exercise run as well?		Yes		Whether your rabbit is a house rabbit or lives in outside accommodation you must meet its physical and behavioural needs. A hutch is not enough!	
			No			
A rabbit hutch is like a bedsit and will not meet a rabbits 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. (Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund).						
30	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.		Yes		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.	
			No			
MANAGING RABBIT WASTE HAZARDS						
31	Rabbits sharing homes with young children or immunocompromised people should be wormed regularly.		If necessary are you able to worm your rabbit regularly?		Yes	
					No	

32	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	
					No	
33	Spent bedding or substrate [the layer of material which covers the base of the hutch] must be disposed of responsibly.	Faeces, spent bedding and substrate will have to be disposed of in black bin sacks for un-recyclable waste which will attract a charge.			Yes	
					No	
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. Flystrike (Myiasis) is often caused by the green bottle fly (<i>Lucilia sericata</i>) and related fly species 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 rabbits 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.					
ANIMAL WELFARE OFFENCES						
34	Has any member of the household accepted a caution for an animal welfare offence or been convicted of an animal welfare offence?	Yes		No		

C About your prospective pet rabbit			
35 What breed of rabbit are you proposing to have as a pet?			
Size	Breed	Your choice, indicate how many.	Rabbit accommodation
Small	Polish		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hutch that is no smaller than 5ft x 20" x 20" Attached exercise run of 6ft long, 4ft wide and 2ft tall
	Netherland Dwarf		
Medium	Dutch		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hutch that is no smaller than 6ft x 2ft x2ft, Attached exercise run of 8ft long, 6ft wide and 3ft tall
	Dwarf Lop		
	Mini Lop		
	Tans		
	Mini Rex		
	Silver		
	Argente		
	Delienaar		
	Silver Fox		
Large	French Lop		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hutch that is no smaller than 7ft x 2ft 6" x 2ft 6" Attached exercise run of 10ft long, 4ft wide and 3ft tall
	English Lop		
Gigantic	Continental Giant		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hutch that is no smaller than 8ft x 3ft x 3ft Attached exercise run of 12ft long, 5ft wide and 4ft tall
Don't just get one rabbit, get two!			
<p>Rabbits are highly social creatures 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.</p> <p>To be kept in (at least) pairs, rabbits must be neutered (castrated or spayed) which is required anyway if you want to have a rabbit. 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.</p>			

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	