



# Rabbit Run-Away Chronicles



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Rabbit Run-Away Orphanage & HRS Australian Chapter



Welcome to the latest edition of Rabbit Run-Away Chronicles, our newsletter for Rabbit Run-Away Orphanage and the House Rabbit Society Australian Chapter....

## Why we need Rabbit Welfare Laws

**The Seaford Rescue Saga:** In September 2016, residents in the Seaford area noticed many rabbits in their street, some were killed by cars and predators and the others seemed very scared. One resident caught many of the rabbits and went to return them to the neighbouring property. The woman that lived there took no responsibility for them as 'they were her 5 year old son's animals'. The rescuer took the animals and called the Orphanage.

From the 7 adults, 4 females were pregnant and three had litters. The surviving babies are in foster care. One mother was too

young and was not producing milk, so even with the best efforts, her babies all died. This irresponsibility could have populated the street with 37 more rabbits, then the females would continue to collectively produce another 36 babies every 4 weeks until the females died from exhaustion. All the offspring would be at breeding age at 4 to 6 months of age.

Due to government inaction we now have a pet rabbit problem as well as a feral rabbit problem. It is from situations like this that Animal Welfare Laws for rabbits is needed.

Rabbit Run-Away Orphanage has put in a submission to the Victorian Government for its Draft Action Plan 2016-2021 "Improving the Welfare of Animals in Victoria".

Our submission can be viewed on our website [here](#).





# The House Rabbit

*Handy Hints for keeping your House Rabbit safe*

We have come a long way from tiny rabbit hutches in the back of a garden, a lonely rabbit pining for attention but destined to live out their short lives in isolation.

Sure, we know this still happens, but as pet rabbits become more popular in Australia, we are seeing an increase of more comfortable, social, indoor areas constructed to allow the house rabbit to become part of the family.

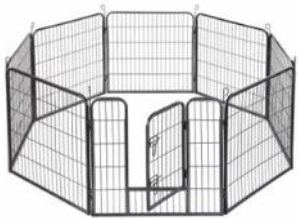
Watching a house rabbit is a wonderful thing - you can see their personalities blossom when in closer contact with their human buddies and comfortable surroundings (as is usually the case for us too).

So you'd like a house rabbit? Here are some tips to set them up for a long, happy life:

## Create a secure and cosy bunny home

A simple and inexpensive way of setting up a bunny-corner is with some pet fencing. Various sizes can be found at reasonable prices on eBay.

For flooring, lino is a great way of protecting your home's floors and can usually be purchased by the metre at a hardware store such as Bunnings.



Top the lino with some old towels, bath mats or rugs and your bunny has a place to run around without slipping.

Install the bathroom - a hay box (a cat litter tray) is best

lined with recycled paper pet litter and hay for easy cleaning every other day.



All you need now is a water bowl, a few toys, boxes or cat tunnels for some privacy, and a rabbit (or two) to complete the home.

## Bunny proof your home

You have made your rabbit a lovely home, but you must also protect yours - most bunnies are curious so it's important to ensure your house is protected and is safe for the rabbit.

Areas to consider:

electrical cords, your walls, skirting, doors and furniture are all potential chew-toys. Remove or move dangerous items such as rodent baits, medicines, toxic plants, sharp objects

The House Rabbit Society (Australian Chapter) has put together a handy info sheet detailing the above [here](#).

May our readers and their happy house buns live long and prosper!

## Membership Update

Annual Memberships are now due. Membership is a way of providing ongoing support for the rabbits in our care. Members also receive an emailed newsletter, ongoing support, and 10% discount on boarding services.

If you are a member of the House Rabbit Society (HRS), then you automatically qualify for membership to the Orphanage as we are the HRS Australian Chapter of the House Rabbit Society.

If you would like to become a member then please register on our website <http://www.rabbitrunaway.org.au/> membership, or call us on 9751 1229 for information.

# What are you doing over the Christmas Break?

## FOSTER CARERS NEEDED

*Do you have room in your hearts and homes to look after some of our buns until the end of January 2017?*

*Short and long term foster homes are needed during one of the busiest periods of the year. For those that have not had rabbits before, this will also give you the opportunity to trial rabbits as a pet and help out the Orphanage as well.*

**Fostering:** Due to the high demand for our services, our Foster Program allows the Orphanage to assist more abandoned rabbits, by placing them temporarily or permanently offsite. We provide equipment and ongoing support as well as training in husbandry and the care needs of the rabbits. All vet care for the buns is also covered. Visit our [website](#) for more information.

### Hugo and Ellie



Hugo is 9 years old, and Ellie is 6 years old. They have lived at the Orphanage for 6 years.

Imagine you were forced to live in a 10 gallon drum with a rat, with scraps thrown in to you.

Imagine that one day a kind traveller saw you and delivered you to a clean temporary home, where you were

well cared for. Imagine that this home was a shelter, and your temporary home turned into a permanent place.

Here you waited and waited for your forever home.

In the meantime young Ellie came to live with you and relieved the boredom for a spell. After a while each day was the same with the same routine, your room was cleaned, you were fed, you looked forward to your treats, You were talked to and if you were lucky you may get a little comfort for a minute or two and a pat on the head.

You long to run and jump, you long to be a bunny

and feel the earth under your feet and the wind in your fur, you long for a loving family and the comforts of an indoor home and all the things you know should be in a bunny's life.

Some days you glimpse a life outside your cage and you are happy for a fleeting moment. Some days you feel depressed as you are growing older in your cage and you see your short life slipping by without the joy of experiencing a true bunny's life.

### Band of Brothers



These little guys were born on site in 2013 are still waiting for their happily ever after home.

Donut, Pickles and Chalky were originally adopted on Anzac Day and are affectionately known as The Band of

Brothers. They are lovable, clean and their little bunny spirits will fill your home with a joy you have not experienced since your childhood.

### Grace and Millie

Grace & Millie have sat in their cage since they arrived at the Orphanage in October 2012.

Grace & Millie are gentle and very clean and just need a permanent loving home.



## Sneak-peek at our 2017 Calendar

Congratulations to the winners of the calendar, who won the right to have their beautiful buns feature in our 2017 calendar. The theme is “The Pet Rabbit Bill of Rights”, available from our website or onsite at the Orphanage.



Bunny Education - See the links below for handy information about caring for your bun:

[Bunny Care Booklet](#)

[Responsible Bunny Ownership](#)

[The Myxomatosis Virus](#)

[The Bunny Diet](#)

[Bunnies as Indoor Pets](#)

[Companion Bunnies](#)

[When a Bunny Needs a Vet](#)

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## Winston's Challenge Update

Our Winston's Challenge Fundraiser has raised over \$5,400 over four collections during August and September for much needed vet care.

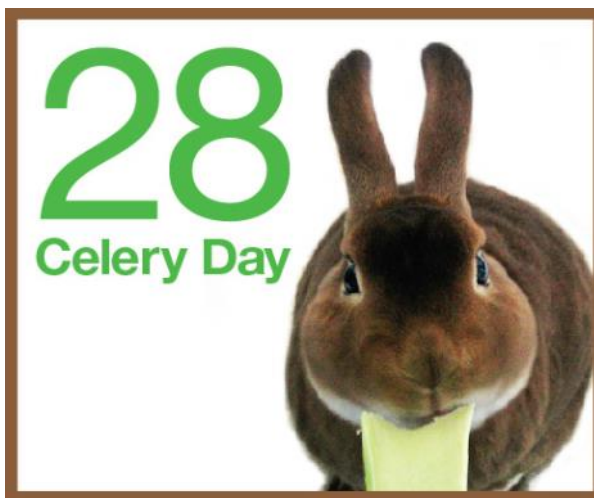
### Winston's Challenge

Location	Dates
Moreland (Brunswick/Coburg/Glenroy) and City of Melbourne	Saturday November 5, 2016
Boroondara (Kew, Mont Albert, North Balwyn and Hawthorn East)	Saturday November 19, 2016
Banyule (Greensborough, Heidelberg, West Heidelberg)	Saturday December 3, 2016
Darebin (Reservoir, Thornbury)	Saturday December 10, 2016
Knox (Boronia, Ferntree Gully) and Yarra Ranges (Lilydale)	Saturday December 17, 2016

## The Rabbit Doctors

The Rabbit Doctors team has expanded to consist of the doctors Gerry, Lizzie, Louise and Belinda with their fantastic nurses Dee and Anthea.

Along with their primary team, they are supported by the amazing staff at CARE 24hours 7days a week, meaning they can provide the bunnies of Victoria with the best care possible!



**A day to donate your spare change on the  
28th of each month - save the date!**

## Positions Available

**Intersection Collectors:**

paid positions

**Shelter volunteers:**

week day and weekend shifts

**Long term Foster Carers:** for our VIB bunnies and couples, all equipment, supplies and vet care covered.

Please [contact the orphanage](#) if you (or others) can help.