

Fluffle MONSTERS

Hello! Welcome to the Fluffle Monster Family! We are so glad that you have chosen to adopt or foster with us and help support our mission to improve the lives of bunnies throughout Michigan!

We are always here to help you and answer any questions you may have, but as a volunteer run organization we are also very busy; if you have any questions or concerns please look through this packet and our linked resources before consulting us in non-emergency situations.

In this packet we will cover:

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1: Basic Adopter/Foster Requirements

- 🐰 Primary caretaker must be over 18 years of age and have reliable transportation.
- 🐰 Rabbits must be provided with indoor housing only.
- 🐰 Every adult in the home must agree on the adoption and if the home is rented we will verify permission with the landlord/property manager.
- 🐰 Current rabbits living in the home must be up-to-date on annual wellness exams, and the owner must be able to show proof.
- 🐰 Homes with small children and other pets will be approved on a case by case basis.
- 🐰 A video home visit/adoption interview will be conducted for every adoption without exception. If you do not have access to video calls, we may be able to schedule an in person visit depending on the city of residence.

2: Housing Requirements

- 🐰 Each rabbit should have a minimum space of 4' x 4'. No wire flooring is allowed, hutches allowed ONLY if they do not get closed in them. Pen height should be minimum 3 feet tall - young rabbits should be in a pen no shorter than 42 inches tall. 48 inches tall is recommended. Pens should have a door so the bunny doesn't have to be lifted out and can enter or exit freely when getting roam time.
- 🐰 Approved litter box options include: pressed paper bedding, pressed paper pellet bedding, hardwood pellets, pressed pine pellets.
- 🐰 We do not permit pine shavings, cedar shavings, or clumping/clay litter as litter box bedding options as they are all linked with serious health concerns.
- 🐰 Rabbits should have access to fresh water in bowls (not water bottles) 24 hours a day.
- 🐰 Rabbits should also have access to unlimited amounts of timothy hay or orchard grass at all times.

- 🐰 Rabbits should be fed high-quality pellet feed with no alfalfa ingredients. Our favorite brands are Science Selective, Sherwood, or Oxbow. (Rabbits under 6 months of age are to also have alfalfa based pellets in addition to the Timothy)
- 🐰 Rabbits should be provided with a house to hide in of some kind, whether it's a cardboard box or a plastic pet igloo they should be able to have a safe space to hide.

3: Bringing your bunny home

- 🐰 A hard sided pet carrier with blankets and hay should be added to the bottom should be used for transportation.
- 🐰 Car rides should be in a climate controlled vehicle with the windows up and the volume on the radio low.
- 🐰 Young children should be encouraged to leave the bunny alone for the first night or only sit near the pen and softly speak to or read to them.
- 🐰 Handling your new bunny right away can cause fear so resist the urge for immediate snuggles.
- 🐰 It may take a few days of decompression for your new bunny to settle in.
- 🐰 Slow hand movements and lots of talking to them will help build trust faster.
- 🐰 It may be beneficial to try laying still on the floor and let your bunny come and explore you on their own terms.

4: Bunny Diet Advice & GI-Stasis

Always offer unlimited timothy hay, but 3 times a day we do an appetite check with either a treat, a veggie, or pellets. You can do morning or night for pellets, whichever suits you, but here's what we do:

- 🐰 Morning: cookie from oxbow or HRS approved treat

- 🐰 Midday any time: romaine salad, handful of herbs, something like that. ([rabbit approved veggie list](#))
- 🐰 Night: ¼ c per bun of suggested timothy pellets (unless under 6 months then use pellets for baby bunnies)

If a rabbit ever refuses food it is an emergency and a strong sign of a health issue and or [Gastrointestinal \(GI\) Stasis](#). Our best advice to protect your bunny is to catch it fast and act immediately so that the issue doesn't progress while waiting to see a vet. GI stasis can kill a bunny and catching it fast is the best defense.

If a bunny doesn't want hay, pellets, greens or their favorite treat, there's likely a problem. But now you know for sure they had an appetite X hours ago. If a bunny is fussy and doesn't want to eat, we consider it an emergency right away, remove them from their pen and set up a temporary pen in a living space where you can monitor any input/output. Immediately give them simethicone (usually a minimum of .3 cc). Note the time and then put them on a low heat pad or give them a warmed rice sock. If 4 hours goes by and the bunny still won't eat, do another dose of simethicone and listen for gut sounds. (I literally hold the bunny up to my ear but a stethoscope would be useful here if you have one. If you're hearing movement, try enticing with favorite greens or treats, and encourage drinking by adding some juice to their water. If they won't drink, slowly syringe water. It is important to keep them warm. If they continue to refuse food and aren't producing feces after two doses of gas meds, go to an animal emergency room.

This system generally works and 9/10 times we are able to avoid the vet completely. The bunny will usually go back to eating on their own within 12 hours or less. If the gut is silent or the bunny refuses all food after 8-12 hours, go to the ER. In order for this system to work you must have the proper materials on hand

5: Build Your Emergency Kit

- 🐰 Here is the simethicone (anti-gas medicine) we recommend: [Recommended Gas Drops](#)

You'll also want to get:

- 🐰 some syringes, 1ml and 10ml, no needle.
- 🐰 Sherwood recovery food or Oxbow critical care
- 🐰 rubberized rectal thermometer (temp should be 100.5-103.5)
- 🐰 Heat pad

6: Other Health Concerns

All this being said, if any of these symptoms appear with the appetite loss, or on their own, go to the vet ASAP:

- 🐰 Head tilting to one side (could indicate ear infection)
- 🐰 Bunny hunched in corner, refusing to move
- 🐰 Loud grinding of teeth (indicates severe pain)
- 🐰 Loss of balance
- 🐰 Discharge from anywhere
- 🐰 Excessive head shaking or ear scratching
- 🐰 Bottom soaked in urine or matted with cecotropes (soft poops)

7: Litter Training and Habits

Good litter habits start with keeping the hay in an area where the bunny has to be in their litter box to eat it. Hay racks with metal can be dangerous, so here are some links for hay racks that are safe:

[Etsy Hay Rack](#)

[Amazon Hay Rack](#)

8: Grooming

Good grooming habits are important for good health, make sure to regularly brush your bunny so they do not ingest too much fur when grooming themselves as it will







upset their stomachs, this also prevents matting in rabbits with long fur. You will also want to trim your rabbit's nails regularly. There is no hard and fast rule for how often this needs to happen as different bunnies' nails will grow at different rates but usually between every 3-8 weeks they will be due for a manicure. We find it helpful to have a friend or family member hold your rabbit while you trim the nails to prevent them squirming and accidentally cutting nails too short.

9: Facebook Support Group and Additional Information

We have a great Facebook group for support for our adopters/fosters/volunteers where you can ask questions, share tips, etc. If you're interested that group is:

"Fluffle Monsters Rabbit Support"

Here are some links to additional information on rabbits if you want to learn more!

-  [Rabbit Care 101](#)
-  [Rabbit Stuff You Need to Know!](#)
-  [Rabbit Diet](#)
-  [Pellet Transition Guide](#)
-  [Rabbit Bonding Guide](#)
-  [GI-Stasis](#)