WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

1 We have a responsibility to care.

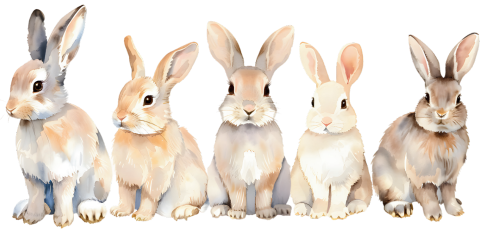
Humans bred domestic rabbits to be the way they are, and the way they are isn't suited to living without human ownership and care.

2 Would you ignore a feral cat or dog?

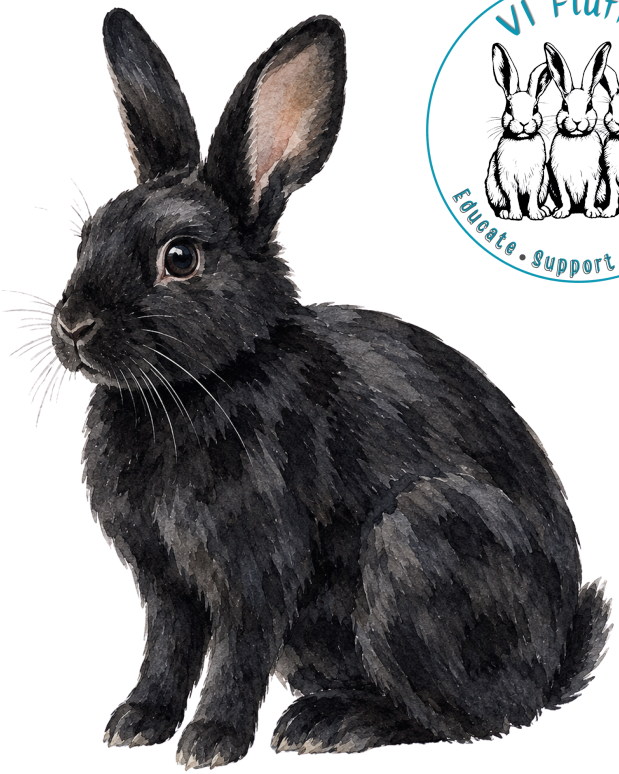
Rabbits give an equal amount of joy to owners. They are just as dependent on humans as cats and dogs and can be litter trained like cats.

3 Rabbits are as sensitive or more than cats, dogs and other popular pets.

Rabbits grieve, form bonds, show affection and can enjoy life just as much as other household pets. Why treat them any differently?



Please remember not to take in a feral or dumped rabbit unless you are prepared to take full responsibility for it, or have made arrangements with a rescue for assistance.



VI Fluffle
Educate • Support • Advocate

Rabbits of Vancouver Island

Informational Brochure

DOMESTIC OR WILD?

Wild

The only WILD rabbit on Vancouver Island is the Eastern European Cottontail. These rabbits are lean, agouti (brown), quite small and have short little ears. Their faces are much pointer than their domestic counterparts. These were introduced to the island in the 60s.



long, lean limbs



small and fast



plain brown colour

Domestic

How often do you see rabbits on streets, in parking lots, grassy areas and parks when out and about? If they are anything other than the above description, they are FERAL, not wild. The domestic ferals you see are either a **dumped pet** or the **offspring of a dumped pet**. (Some domestic rabbits can also be agouti in color).



rounded body shape



variety of shapes and sizes



wide range of colours



People continue to abandon domestic rabbits. Abandoning any animal is inhumane and irresponsible. Abandoned or dumped domestic rabbits are called feral rabbits, comparable to a feral cat. They are not wild.

What you can do to help.

- The most important thing you can do is educate yourself and share with others about the plight of domestic ferals on the Island.
- Do not support rabbit breeders. They contribute to the issue by selling rabbits to unprepared people. This leads to higher abandonment rates.
- Direct people to the “Rabbit Care” section under the resource page on our website.
- Do not bring in a rabbit unless you are prepared to take full responsibility for it our have arrangements with a rescue for assistance.