



Dear Editor,

**Are Your Readers Thinking About Getting a Rabbit?  
Please Ask Them To Help Rabbit Welfare and Buy a Chocolate or Toy Bunny Instead!**

There's no doubt that cute fluffy bunnies are very appealing! With many pet shops full of baby bunnies, it is easy to succumb to temptation and buy a bunny without thinking of the long term consequences – or the time and money needed for the next 10+ years.

**Sadly domestic rabbits are one of the most misunderstood and mistreated pets in the UK according to welfare reports. Rescues around the country are full the brim – the RWAF estimate 67,000 rabbits pass through rescue each year, and a Make Mine Chocolate! national survey reveals over 60% of rabbits surrendered to rescue do so within the first year of purchase.**

Despite popular belief, rabbits are not cheap to look after. They are not ideal children's pets, nor are they happy living alone in a small hutch at the end of the garden all their lives.

**Rabbits can cost over £1000 a year to care for correctly. They require annual vaccinations and neutering, a high standard of accommodation and a neutered partner rabbit too. It is a big commitment to care for rabbits that can live for ten years or more. All this in addition to emergency vet treatment if problems arise, spending quality time with the rabbits and cleaning out irrespective of the weather – or whatever may be on telly!**

Sadly many rabbits bought on impulse will soon find themselves uncared for, given up to rescue or abandoned to fend for themselves (which almost certainly leads to their death) as their new owners realise that a rabbit is not the right pet for them; perhaps because of a lack of time, interest or money issues. Whatever the reason, it is the rabbit that suffers the consequences.

**Please help put a stop to this welfare crisis now. The Make Mine Chocolate! rabbit welfare campaign is urging people who may wish to get a rabbit to talk to their local reputable rabbit rescue before they buy; prospective owners should take some time to find out what rabbits need for a happy and healthy life BEFORE making a commitment for the next 10 years or more.**

Please ask your readers to think before they buy, and support the Make Mine Chocolate! rabbit welfare campaign too. Further campaign information can be obtained by visiting [www.makeminechocolate.org.uk](http://www.makeminechocolate.org.uk).

Thank you for your help and support.

[Make Mine Chocolate!](http://www.makeminechocolate.org.uk)

*Make Mine Chocolate!*<sup>™</sup>  
PO Box 7338, Tadley. RG26 9AW  
Tel: 01189 099 065