

Easter Is No Holiday For Them.



Rabbits, chicks and ducklings are mass-produced about this time every year, in order to meet the demand for holiday shopping at Easter. Unfortunately, buyer's remorse is a virtual certainty, after the impulse purchase of a baby animal with very unique, very complex care requirements. Couple that regret with the inevitable novelty quickly wearing off for the children in the household, and you have created a very grim situation for an innocent animal.



Yes, they're adorable, but baby birds should never be given to children as gifts, for multiple reasons. Ducklings and chicks are simply not suited to be family pets, in traditional, residential settings. These delicate creatures are very easy to injure. They are extremely vulnerable in the hands of small children, and are often killed by other pets in the household.



The Center for Disease Control also warns parents against buying ducklings and chicks as Easter gifts, because of the health hazard. Baby birds often carry the harmful bacteria, Salmonella. In cases where ducklings and chicks are mass-produced in hatcheries, to meet the demand for Easter, then shipped around the U.S. to retail stores, the stress put upon these birds makes them more prone to disease. And the mass-production and shipping increases the likelihood of large quantities of baby birds becoming infected. Children become exposed to this bacteria simply by holding, cuddling or kissing the birds. Every spring, there are children in the U.S. who become infected with Salmonella after receiving a chick or duckling for Easter. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/healthypets.

Far from being the "easy starter pets" that parents often envision, many an unprepared rabbit owner quickly discovers that properly caring for a rabbit is far more involved than what they expected. An ill-equipped, unprepared owner can quickly become overwhelmed and frustrated. In the meantime, there is a delicate, precious creature who is likely to suffer, because of this scenario.

Rabbits make delightful pets for people who are prepared and able to properly care for them. These are not animals who can be placed in a hutch in the back yard and be ignored. Rabbits are social animals who require attentive owners and plenty of interaction. **THEY SHOULD BE KEPT INDOORS,** safe from the elements and from predators.



Just like dogs and cats, rabbits need to be **SPAYED OR NEUTERED** before they are old enough to reproduce. But rabbits also have very unique veterinary and dietary needs. It is important, before bringing a rabbit home, to locate a rabbit-savvy vet, as well as an ER clinic in your area that treats rabbits. Do enough research to determine if a rabbit is the right pet for your household. If you're ready to make the commitment and welcome a rabbit into your home (after Easter, of course), there are many wonderful rescued rabbits available for adoption. Instead of supporting mass-breeding operations, support the groups that work to give these animals a second chance at a happy life. To learn more about rabbit care, adopting a rescued rabbit, or to make a donation, contact one of these excellent groups in the DFW area:

North Texas Rabbit Sanctuary: www.ntrs.org
Rabbit Rescue: www.rescuedrabbits.org

For more information on this subject, visit: www.makeminechocolate.org

In the weeks and months following Easter, countless rabbits, chicks and ducklings meet an untimely death, suffer in silence due to neglect and apathy, or are surrendered in droves to city shelters and animal rescue organizations. A lack of preparation and commitment equals disaster for an innocent animal. Practice kindness this Easter. Don't give animals as gifts.

All things considered, stuffed animals and chocolate bunnies make MUCH better, and more compassionate, Easter gifts.

North Texas Rabbit Sanctuary
www.ntrs.org; ntrs_tx@yahoo.com

American Boston Terrier Rescue
972.407.4440; www.bostonterrierrescue.net

Animal Rescue Klub (ARK)
www.animalrescueklub.org; 972.562.HELP

Animal Rescue of Texas
www.animalrescueoftexas.org; 214.276.7802

Camp Wolfgang (German Shepherd Dog Rescue)
214.520.7000; www.campwolfgang.petfinder.com

Chihuahua Rescue and Transport, Inc.
www.chihuahua-rescue.org

Coppell Humane Society
www.coppellhumanesociety.com; 972.462.1121

Dachshund Lovers of Texas
www.dachshundloversoftexas.org; 214.577.7536

DFW Cocker Spaniel Rescue
www.dfwcockerrrescue.8m.com; 972.994.1133

DFW Sheltie Rescue
www.sheltie.org; 972.994.7848

DFW Tzus And More Rescue
www.dfwtzusandmorerescue.com; 888.290.3335

East Lake Pet Orphanage
214.349.ELPO (3576); www.elpo.org

Rabbit Rescue
www.rescuedrabbits.org; 214.461.4137

Frisco Humane Society
www.friscohumanesociety.com; 972.498.8980

Humane Animal Rescue Team (HART)
www.hartoftexas.org; 214.332.9535

Humane Society of Flower Mound
www.fmhs.org; 972.691.7387

Save The Animals Rescue Society (STARS)
www.starspets.com; 972.459.9181

Saving Pyrs In Need (SPIN)
www.SPINrescue.org; 972.681.8585

Scottie Kingdom Rescue, Inc.
www.scottiekingdom.com

Sadie Foundation
www.sadie.petfinder.com; k9kids1@verizon.net

Sparky's Pals (Humane Education)
www.sparkypals.org; 214.823.PALS (7257)

Tassie's Hope Animal Rescue
www.tassieshope.org; 214.550.2648

Texas Tailwaggers Village Rescue
txtailwaggers@aol.com; txtailwaggers.petfinder.org

Texas Animal Shelter Coalition
817.392.3737; www.sheltercoalition.com