

POINTS TO PAWNDER SERIES

Indiana Proactive Animal Welfare, Inc.
P.O. Box 729
Carmel, Indiana 46082
(317) 345-6773
www.indiana-paw.com



Real Rabbits vs. Chocolate Candy Rabbits

Are you feeling the urge to buy the cute and cuddly rabbit in the pet store window as an Easter gift? Indiana-PAW encourages you to resist the urge, and do your homework about being a responsible rabbit parent before you add a rabbit to your life. After considering the matter, you may decide a chocolate bunny is a better fit for your lifestyle! ☺

Things To Consider Regarding Whether You're Ready For A Rabbit

Rabbits Make Great Pets, But Buying Around Easter May Not Be The Best Time To Bring A New Family Member Into The Home



Before You Impulsively Buy A Rabbit, Consider The Following:

- Young children, generally, do not make good caretakers of rabbits. If you're thinking about adopting a rabbit, understand that an adult must be prepared to be the primary caretaker.
- Rabbits generally do not like to be held.
- Like dogs and cats, rabbits are social, and need lots of attention. They require love and time and responsible care, just like any animal. It is misleading to think they require less care than a dog or cat.
- Like cats and dogs, pet rabbits must be spayed or neutered.
- Children can be hurt from the scratches or bites of a frightened rabbit.
- Sadly, each year, following Easter, animal shelters are flooded with rabbits who were purchased at Easter, whom people have decided they no longer wish to care for. Many of these rabbits have to be put to sleep, due to a lack of homes. A little foresight on the part of the person who purchased them would have avoided this tragic result.
- Each year, many people who have impulsively purchased a rabbit and no longer wish to keep it end up releasing the rabbit into the wild, where the rabbit stands a good chance of dying of exposure or starvation. Pet rabbits cannot survive in the wild.
- Rabbits often mask illnesses, making them difficult to detect. Thus, their caretakers must pay close attention to their normal behavior and consult with a veterinarian over even subtle changes.
- The Humane Society Of The United States recommends against adopting any type of animal during the holiday season, because adopting a pet should be a family decision. Instead, consider doing the following:
 - Give a gift certificate from a local shelter, and adopt a rabbit after the

holidays;

- Give a plush stuffed animal;
- Give a chocolate candy bunny.

Reasons To Consider Buying Chocolate Candy Rabbits For Easter

- No care is needed other than refrigeration for chocolate candy rabbits. 😊
- You can have more than one chocolate candy rabbit without spaying/neutering them. 😊
- Candy rabbits will not bite or scratch when frightened. 😊
- Cleaning up after a candy rabbit is easy. 😊
- The only drawbacks to chocolate candy rabbits are that they may cause a few extra pounds. 😊

The Temptation To Adopt A Cuddly Animal Is Higher During The Holidays. Resist The Temptation And Adopt After The Holidays If You Decide You Want To Bring A Rabbit Into Your Family!

Suggested Reading

- The Humane Society of the United States “Easter is No Time to Give Pets as a Gift Says the HSUS”
http://www.hsus.org/press_and_publications/press_releases/easter_is_no_time_to_give_pets_as_gifts_says_the_hsus.html

More Information

- If you do decide you'd like to adopt a rabbit, contact the Indiana House Rabbit Society for more information and wonderful rabbits available for adoption. You can visit them online at: <http://www.indianahrs.org/>

Important Note: Indiana-PAW's POINTS TO PAWNDER SERIES is intended to provide quick tips to help citizens address common pet health and behavior questions. It is not intended to replace consultation with one's veterinarian and/or a trained behavior specialist.