



No Rabbit Dumping Allowed !

■ It's a crime

The crime of animal abandonment occurs when a person “leaves a domestic animal at a location without providing for the animal’s continued care.” ORS 167.340.

This includes leaving your pet behind when you move away, letting your pet “free” into a park or wooded area or along the side of a road, or abandoning your pet in a cardboard box outside of a veterinarian’s office.

Animal abandonment is a Class B misdemeanor in Oregon, punishable by up to 6 months in jail and/or a fine of up to \$2000.

■ It's cruel

Domestic rabbits are not the same as wild rabbits. They have been selectively bred over hundreds of years for features that humans find pleasing and these are not the same features that allow wild rabbits to survive in the wild. For example, while wild rabbits have earth-colored coats that disguise them from predators, the coats of many pet rabbits do nothing to provide camouflage.

Your pet bunny lacks survival skills to live in the wild. Unlike wild rabbits, pet rabbits are used to relying on people for food and protection. They have forgotten the instincts that wild rabbits rely on to feed themselves and defend themselves from predators.

Dumping your pet bunny is akin to giving him a death sentence. Rabbits are prey animals, so your released rabbit is an easy target for cats and dogs, foxes, coyotes, hawks, raccoons, and other predators. If a predator does not get him, he will likely die from a viral infection, injury, or disease.

■ You have alternatives

Ask yourself whether you can find a way to keep your bunny. The Rabbit Advocates can provide a wealth of advice and support on everything from rabbit housing to behavior issues.

If you cannot keep your pet rabbit, do everything you can to find him a new home.

Ask everyone you know whether they know of someone who might want to adopt your bunny. Create flyers and hang them in veterinarian offices, your own place of employment, and pet supply stores.

As a last resort, it is far more humane to surrender your rabbit to an animal shelter than it is to release her into the wild.