

Adopting from an Individual

If you are unable to find a shelter or rescue group to adopt from but still prefer not to purchase your rabbit from a breeder or pet store, with a little effort you can probably find an individual to adopt a rabbit from. If you just mention to a few people that you like rabbits — you don't even have to say you are interested in having one — needy rabbits will find their way to your door. My first rabbit, Midnight, came from a banker my husband was buying a tax-free bond from. The banker was wearing an angora dress, my husband mentioned that I liked rabbits, and the rest is history. Choca Paws and Smokey both came through people my husband worked with. In all of these cases we were **not** looking for a rabbit!

Most rescue groups do not take in rabbits from individuals. Most rescue groups do not have the fostering capacity to rescue all the rabbits that are already in shelters. Individuals who don't want to take their pet to a shelter are usually on their own to find their rabbit a good home. Most will be thrilled to hear from someone like you.

If you are looking for a rabbit to adopt, in addition to telling friends and co-workers, contact veterinarians in your area who see rabbits and let them know you are looking. Many pet supply stores have bulletin boards where people post notices about pets needing homes. Check community bulletin boards at your church and grocery store. At the end of the school year, elementary schools are often looking for someone to take in classroom rabbits.

Some people who are looking for a home for an unwanted rabbit will place an ad in the classified section of the local paper.

Check the ads early in the day and call **immediately** on any ad that says "Free to Good Home." People with snakes regularly peruse these ads looking for a free meal. Most owners who advertise this way are appalled to hear that this is possible. If you are interested in their rabbit and it is still in their possession (even if it is "spoken for"), suggest that



the owner carefully question the other person before letting the rabbit go and leave your phone number in case she changes her mind.