



WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REHOMING STRAY RABBITS?

The ultimate responsibility for rehoming stray rabbits falls with our local councils and our elected council representatives and MPs. Councils are responsible for setting up council facilities, on our behalf to take in and rehome stray animals in our electorate. Our council rates support such services! Most councils will only rehome cats and dogs. Small pets like rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets and birds are ignored. Rabbits are referred to private rescues like ours from across the state, and due to the large numbers of stray rabbits, the situation is unsustainable.

Unless our councillors and our MPs are aware that this is a real issue for our communities, the problem of rehoming stray rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets and birds will remain a hidden problem, with private rescues struggling to accommodate all these abandoned pets.

What can you do if you find a stray small pet?

1. CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL

To find your council and electorate, enter your home address into the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) website [Interactive Map \(vec.vic.gov.au\)](http://vec.vic.gov.au).

Once you have identified your council, you can contact them here <https://www.viccouncils.asn.au/find-your-council/council-contacts-list>

Your council can tell you who the pound is for your area. If there is no local council pound that accommodates rabbits, speak to your local councillor who is elected to represent you. Their contact details are on the council contact list above.

2. CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Ask your local councillor what arrangements are in place to look after stray rabbits. If there are none, then ask them to please raise this matter with your council and to please put arrangements in place for these pets.

3. CONTACT YOUR LOCAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (MP)

Once you have information from your council, you can also contact your local member of parliament to advise them of the situation regarding the lack of facilities in your shire to cater for abandoned pet rabbits. Remember your local Member of Parliament (MP) was elected to represent you.

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Once you have identified your local Member of Parliament, their contact details can be found on this link [Find a member \(parliament.vic.gov.au\)](http://parliament.vic.gov.au).

You can contact your relevant MPs for both the lower and upper house of Parliament.