Simcoe and District Humane Society

Rabbit and Small Furry Friend Adoption Package

Please read package prior to adoption

4 pages of Pre-Adoption Questionnaire must be completed before adoption

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You wanted to adopt, help, “rescue” and love a new furry friend.

Perhaps your heart *forced you to make a quick decision or the animal was just so darn cute*

… you just could not resist!

Although we trust you to take care of your new Forever Friend

We do understand if it is not working out!

PLEASE

IF YOU NEED TO RETURN OR REHOME YOUR PET

DO NOT

- Release Outside ~ Don’t add your community’s stray cat problem
- Give Away to a Friend, Family or Neighbours
  WE NEED TO RE-REGISTER THE MICROCHIP
- Take to another Shelter
  it is not fair to the cat to be taken from place to place or to burden another shelter
- Sell or Give Away On the Internet ~
  You do not truly know where your pet is going or how it will be treated!

CONTACT US FIRST AT

adoptions@s-dhs.ca

or call 519-428-9161 11am – 3pm (closed Wednesdays and Sundays)
In emergencies call 519-428-9161 and press 8 when directed

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So You Want to Adopt a Rabbit!

They might be sweet and furry, but pet rabbits take a lot of work. Here's what you need to know about bunnies and rabbits as pets.

Thinking of adding an "Easter Bunny" to your family? From an early age, we see those ridiculously cute faces, twitching noses, long whiskers and, in some cases, irresistible floppy ears. They are just too cute. But many people don't realize how much it takes to care for a rabbit. And, as a sad result, these adorable animals are often surrendered to shelters. Rabbits truly are great pets, but before you add a bunny to your family, here are some things to consider:

- **Rabbits are not starter pets.** As cute as a bunny can be, they need a lot more care than a goldfish does. They require daily food, weekly cage cleaning and lots of love. And kids should never have the sole responsibility of caring for rabbits.
- **Consider the time commitment.** Most domestic rabbits can live 7-10 years. They'll need daily exercise and time out of the cage, weekly cage cleaning and fresh hay and clean water daily.
- **Spay or neuter.** Un-neutered male rabbits are prone to prostate cancer and un-spayed females have a 60-80 percent chance of developing ovarian, uterine or other reproductive cancers. And since we all know the phrase "multiply like rabbits," you'd be wise to neuter and spay your rabbit--or else you could be very quickly outnumbered!
- **Find an "exotic" veterinarian.** Rabbits are considered an "exotic" pet (as are birds, reptiles, chinchillas and ferrets), and not all veterinarians treat them. Do your research to see if there are vets near you who treat

rabbits. Local animal shelters and rabbit rescue organizations can help you find one. Get yearly check-ups for your rabbit until the age of 5, and twice a year after that.

- **Adopt.** A sad fact: Rabbits are the third-most surrendered animal to shelters. There are rabbit rescue groups across the United States, as well as rabbits waiting for homes in local shelters.

Bunny Basics

- **There are lots of rabbit breeds.** There are about 40-50 breeds of rabbits recognized in the United States. From the smaller Netherland Dwarfs, which weigh 2 or 3 pounds, to Flemish Giants, which can top 20 pounds, rabbits come in all different shapes, sizes, fur-length and colors. Get a feel for what your family wants and call shelters and rescue units to learn about available bunnies who need good homes.
- **Cage-free time is a must.** Rabbits should be kept in large enclosures, and if they don't have free run of the house, they should be offered a chance to exercise for several hours every day.
- **Rabbits are "social butterflies."** While you might not have a Bugs or a Roger, each rabbit has his own personality. They will bond with other rabbits and cats (dogs, not so much!). Shelters will note if a bunny is an "individual," a "couple" or a "trio" with other rabbits, so if your family falls in love with a bonded rabbit, you may want to keep the rabbit friends together.
- **Not all rabbits get along.** Just like humans, not all rabbits can coexist. Before you get your bunny a "friend", set up a meeting between the two on neutral ground to see if they will get along. Most shelters will offer a room to see if the two bunnies can be friends.

Rabbit Housing

- **Keep rabbits indoors.** Every bunny deserves a nice warm place to live, and domestic rabbits should always be kept indoors, as they cannot tolerate very hot or cold temperatures. They can also become very frightened and suffer a deadly heart attack at the sight of another animal.
- **Make a rabbit's home his castle.** Aim to provide your rabbit with an exciting home. A multi-level cage with many areas for the rabbit to

explore is a great option. You can also purchase toys, water bottles and a "cuddle cup" or a small cat bed for rabbits to sleep in.
- **Don't buy cages with wire floors**. Wire floors can harm rabbits' feet--they don't have pads on their feet like dogs and cats do.
- **Rabbits can be housebroken.** Rabbits can be litter box trained! It takes about two months, and a corner litter box or level devoted to a "bathroom" is a good way to give a rabbit a comfortable home. Certain types of cat litter can also damage their digestive systems, so never use clumping litter, and avoid cedar or pine chips. The CareFRESH brand is a good option.

Rabbit Diet

- **Rabbits love hay.** There are two types of hay: alfalfa and timothy.?? From 0-6 months, rabbits can have alfalfa hay; after 6 months, they should have fresh timothy hay daily.
- **Rabbits love fiber.** Good quality rabbit pellets--18 percent fiber--are a must for a rabbit. When rabbits are young (0-6 months), they can have unlimited pellets. After 6 months, limit their intake. Ask a vet about the appropriate amount of pellets per day for your rabbit.
- **Leafy greens are good.** Rabbits love leafy green veggies. Kale, arugula, spinach, watercress, Swiss chard, parsley and cilantro are favorites. Be careful though--watery greens, such iceberg lettuce, are dangerous to rabbits (they can cause diarrhea).
- **Fruits and other veggies can be treats.** Dried apple slices, carrots, broccoli, celery, papaya, mango, banana slices, etc. can be given to a rabbit as a treat, but in small amounts. To see a full list of acceptable food, go here.

Rabbit Tips

- **Make your home un-chewable.** Rabbits need to chew to keep their teeth at a comfortable length. Remove anything your rabbit might chew, especially dangerous electric wires. Go to your local hardware store and purchase electric-cord covers and PVC piping to keep wires safe.
- **Keep the noise down.** Rabbits are naturally prey animals, so they tend to be easily frightened.?? They need peace and quiet, and don't do well in noisy environments.

- **Keep the smell down.** Rabbits' cages can stink--and no bunny wants to live in a smelly environment. Keep your bunny neat and mess-free by cleaning out the cage one or two times per week.
- **Learn how to hold rabbits.** Although some rabbits are okay with being picked up, most don't enjoy it. If you do want to handle your rabbit, ask your veterinarian to show you--and your kids--the proper way. A rabbit will let you know if they are uncomfortable, so it's important to watch for cues. Moreover, rabbits have very light, fragile bones. They have to be handled in a special way, and can actually break their own bones if they squirm too much.
- **Brush your bunny.** Find a good quality brush and keep a rabbit's fuzz in control. Brushing regularly helps remove soft and excess hair.
- **Create house rules.** Because rabbits are fragile, you should create house rules about their handling. A good rule to start: Only family members can take a rabbit out of his cage. Or the kids cannot take the bunny out of his cage when only the babysitter is around. Not everyone loves rabbits, though. Check if your children's friends have allergies to bunnies before they come over to play.??
- **Find bunny care.** Rabbits need the same love that dogs and cats do. If your family is planning a vacation and leaving bunny behind, be sure to find a rabbit pet sitter to care for your rabbit. Some local farms and veterinarians will even watch bunnies during family trips, so ask members of your community.??

Top 10 Bunny Dangers

- Written by: Margie Wilson
- Last Modified: September 28, 2015

You and your rabbit are living blissfully together, happy and seemingly safe. But it doesn't take long for your bunny to get into trouble. As your bunny's parent, being vigilant will ensure a safe, happy rabbit, one that may live to be 10 to 12 years old.

- **Danger One.** *Chewing the Wrong Things*

Rabbits love to chew because their teeth are always growing. They do not discriminate on what they chew, however. You must make sure that he is not chewing on things that can cause illness or death. Electrical cords, if bitten completely through while plugged in, will kill a rabbit. Carpet, if ingested in substantial quantities, can cause serious blockages, even death. Plastic, shower curtains, etc., all have potentially serious effects and must be kept away from your bunny. Insulate electrical wires with wire covers, found in the hardware sections of your local home improvement store. Cover all carpeting (if he is chews carpet) with sea grass mats, or safe things to chew (such as hay).

- **Danger Two.** *Heat*

Whether your rabbit stays indoors or outdoors, heat and heat stroke kill many bunnies each year. When temperatures rise over 85 degrees Fahrenheit, you must be home or have someone there to cool off the room and the bunny by turning on air conditioners, fans or using frozen water bottles. Never leave a rabbit in direct sunlight. Always stop home to check on him on hot days. Never use an aquarium for housing as there is not enough ventilation. Remember, he is wearing a fur coat all the time.

- **Danger Three.** *Improper Diet*

You have heard of killing with kindness, and we all have been guilty of that to a degree with our pets. With rabbits, however, a steady diet of the wrong things (treats, pellets with nuts, fruits, no hay) will eventually cause digestive upsets and shorten a rabbit's life. Rabbits need a substantial amount of hay (timothy, grass hay, oat hay), fresh greens and limited pellets as he gets older. Treats should be kept to a minimum. Rabbits that do not eat any hay have been known to only live a few years; they are often plagued by hairblocks, among other disorders. Try to find hay fresh, off-the-bale.

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- **Danger Four.** *Bedding*

Pine litter, cedar and clumping cat litter can be dangerous for your bunny. Pine and cedar give off "phenols," which are caused by the processing of the wood. Over time, this odor can harm the liver. Clumping cat litter, if eaten, can cause serious blockages. It is best to stick with paper-type litter such as Carefresh®, Cat Country®, Yesterday's News® or even straw on top of newspaper for his litter box. These paper litters and straw provide a soft resting area for your bunny as well.

- **Danger Five.** *Household Pets*

The family dog or cat has killed many rabbits, indoors and outdoors. Never leave them together unsupervised. Always err on the side of caution, even if you believe your dog or cat would never hurt a fly.

- **Danger Six.** *Handling*

Rabbits have very small bone structures compared to their body mass. Holding a bunny only by the scruff of the neck can result in a fractured back if the bunny tries to kick. Always support the rear legs when carrying your bunny, and never let young children pick up the rabbit.

- **Danger Seven.** *Undetected Illnesses*

Outdoor rabbits are more prone to contracting ailments (bladder stones, hairblocks, sniffles) that go unnoticed. Some of these, such as bladder stones and hairblocks, can be exceptionally painful for your bunny if not detected. Always keep your bunny close to you, and check on his eating habits and droppings regularly. If you see any change, be swift to call your rabbit veterinarian as rabbits can become ill and die very quickly.

- **Danger Eight.** *Overpopulation*

We all know the rabbit is the fertility symbol – and for good reason. A mature rabbit (doe) can have up to nine babies every 30 days with her male companion. These babies mature around 4 months, and they can also have babies. Doing the math, we have way too many rabbits and no homes. Spaying and neutering your bunny will prolong his/her life and prevent the all-too-common cancer associated with unaltered pets. Spaying/neutering can also save the lives of shelter bunnies, many of which are put to sleep each day due to the lack of homes.

- **Danger Nine.** *Outdoors*

This is one of the most dangerous places for a domestic bunny. Outdoor bunnies live shorter lives than indoor ones due to weather, risk of illness, heat, drafts and predators. Rabbits loose in yards are susceptible to poisonous plants, escaping into traffic or being caught by the neighborhood dogs, cats, wildlife or taken by others.

- **Danger Ten.** *Predators*

Rabbits are prey animals; that is, they are the ones preyed on by the carnivorous animals (raccoons, dogs, wolves, cats). Raccoons have been known to scare a rabbit to death just by crawling over his cage, never making contact. Your rabbit depends on you to keep him safe. Most outdoor cages are not adequate to protect a bunny from predators. If you can't bring your rabbit indoors (the safest thing), make sure to have a double-enclosed cage, or put your bunny's cage inside a barn or dog run at night, to thwart any attempt of predators from crawling over the cage, or from folks opening the cage and taking your bunny.

Following the above suggestions will ensure your bunny is as safe as possible, and you may find he lives up to 12 years, thanks to your love and diligence.

So You Want to Adopt a Guinea Pig or other small furry friend!

They might be sweet and furry, but small furry friends take a lot of work. Here's what you need to know about guinea pigs as pets

Guinea Pigs

This web page contains basic information for the care of guinea pigs. For more detailed information, please consult other professional resources such as your veterinarian or one of the many books available about guinea pig care.

The guinea pig (or *cavy*) is a member of the rodent family with an average life span of 4 to 7 years. These sociable, somewhat skittish creatures are easy to care for, seldom bite and are exceptionally clean.

Wild guinea pigs are a prey species and their domestic counterparts retain a desire to run for cover when startled or threatened and so it is necessary to provide a shelter in their cage where they can seek safety. Since they do not climb they are easy to contain in a habitat and are easily located should they run free.

Guinea pigs must chew to wear down their constantly-growing front teeth, so you need to provide chew items such as apple, birch or willow branches, hay and/or firm vegetables such as carrots.

Guinea pigs are social animals, so it is best if they live in pairs. Usually sows (females) cohabit well as either siblings or mother-daughter pairs. Boars (males) will sometimes get along but they often do not unless raised together.

Boars should not be placed with sows under any circumstances even for a short period. Please do not breed guinea pigs. It is more difficult than you might think to find good, long term homes for the offspring. It is possible to have guinea pigs neutered but there is some risk involved - consult a veterinarian specializing in small animals.

Tips for how to care for your guinea pig

- **Housing**
- **Food and Water**
- **Handling**
- **Grooming and Nail Trimming**
- **Medical Problems**
- **More Information**

Housing

The guinea pig habitat can be a simple arrangement with walls 30 cm. high, open on top and having a minimum floor area of 3,000 square cm (approx. 2ft by 2ft.). More space is needed for a pair of guinea pigs. The enclosure should be made of wood, plastic or metal with a solid floor and the bedding should be white wood shavings (not sawdust or cedar shavings).

A nest box or house must also be provided. Change the wood shavings regularly to keep the cage clean, dry and healthy. Make your habitat larger if you have room. Place interesting items such as small cardboard or wooden boxes or tubes for your guinea pig to dart into.

Keep your guinea pigs in a dry area protected from cold drafts and direct sunlight. Guinea pigs cannot tolerate excessive heat. Guinea pigs prefer living in temperatures in the same 18-25°C (65-75°F) range people do. Guinea pigs require exercise and will happily romp around a room that has been cleared of hazards such as electric cords, cats or dogs and poisonous plants.

If you observe your guinea pig chewing on the bars of her cage or exhibiting any unusual repetitive behaviour - this is not normal! Your guinea pig is bored and frustrated. Provide your guinea pig with a more stimulating environment by providing more items to chew on, a larger habitat, more out of cage exercise time or more time socializing with the family.

Food and Water

Guinea pigs are herbivores, meaning they eat only grasses, vegetables and fruit. Provide twice daily an assortment of foods (4 or 5 types) such as carrots, peas, apples, green peppers, spinach, kale, pears, dandelion leaves, clover, romaine lettuce, red leaf lettuce, cucumbers, celery, melons, beet tops and parsley. Food preferences vary from guinea pig to guinea pig. Also, guinea pigs tend to become habituated to certain foods from a young age so provide a variety of foods and continue over time to reintroduce foods previously ignored. Do not feed iceberg lettuce, cabbage, beans, potatoes, rhubarb or chocolate to guinea pigs (or rabbits), the latter three can be toxic.

Your guinea pig's basic diet should also be supplemented with pelleted commercial feed. Fresh pellets are vital to guinea pigs as they are enriched with vitamin C which guinea pigs (like humans) cannot synthesize. Purchase fresh pellets in small quantities, never keeping pellets on hand for more than a month. Place the food in heavy plastic or ceramic bowls that won't easily tip, one bowl for pellets and one for fresh food.

Plastic sipper bottles are best for water. Be sure the nipple is low enough for the smallest guinea pig to reach. Change water daily, and weekly clean and disinfect water bottle and food dishes.

Hay is also important for your guinea pig, adding fibre to the diet. Hay should be fed daily and in abundance. Compressed bales of hay can be purchased at pet stores or purchased directly from farmers or from country feed stores.

If your guinea pig is not fed enough fruits or vegetables or if the pellets are not fresh, he or she may become deficient in Vitamin C. Vitamin C may be added to your guinea pig's diet through the water. Dissolve 200 mg of Vitamin C per litre of drinking water in your pet's bottle (this should not be necessary if you are feeding plenty of fresh foods).

Handling

Always use two hands to pick up your guinea pig. Be sure one hand supports the rump and hind legs. Guinea pigs like to be cuddled but must be handled gently and carefully. A nervous guinea pig may jump from your grasp, a common cause of broken legs and backs. Hold your guinea pig while you are sitting down, preferably on the floor, so that the animal will not be injured if he or she does fall. Support your guinea pig with a towel on your lap - guinea pigs sometimes have "accidents." Do not allow your guinea pig to walk around on table tops or couches because guinea pigs will most certainly wander too close to the edge and fall.

Grooming/Nail Trimming

Long haired breeds should be brushed regularly with a soft brush. Baths can be given to guinea pigs. Line a sink with a towel or rag and bathe your guinea pig in a sink half full of lukewarm water. Use a mild pet shampoo only (do not use soaps or shampoos designed for people). Rinse thoroughly, and dry with a towel. A hair dryer set to a warm setting can also be used.

Nails need to be trimmed about every six weeks or as necessary. Consult a vet or knowledgeable person for instructions if hesitant. Care must be taken to avoid cutting the blood vessel in the centre of the nail. In good light this vessel is clearly visible. If accidentally severed use a product called "Quick-Stop" (available at pet stores) to stop the bleeding.

Medical Problems

Guinea pigs are susceptible to respiratory viruses and catching one could be fatal. Your veterinarian should be consulted if you notice diarrhea, difficulty in breathing, hair loss, excessive water drinking, lack of activity or appetite or anything else you think is unusual. Injuries due to falls or other accidents should be treated by a veterinarian immediately.

SYMPTOM	POSSIBLE CAUSE (CURED AT HOME)	MORE SERIOUS CAUSE (CONSULT VETERINARIAN)
Listless	Boredom (add more items to habitat; more attention to animal)	Possible infection
Doesn't Eat	Environment too cold and/or damp; draft; overheating; not enough to gnaw	Teeth are too long or possible malocclusion (upper and lower teeth meet improperly when chewing).
Drooling	Not enough to gnaw	Teeth too long or a malocclusion
Diarrhea	Eating large amount of foods high in water (i.e., iceberg lettuce, cucumber); not enough hay; environment too cool or damp	Bacterial infection
Sneezing or throat rumbling	Draft; temperatures too hot or too cold	Viral or bacterial infection
Rapid breathing	Panting due to high heat, shock, fear, or stress	Heat stroke
Excessive scratching	Unclean maintenance; poor grooming; fleas or mites	Parasites (fleas or mites); skin fungus; skin inflammation
Slight bleeding	Minor wound or scratch from fighting with rival; sharp object in habitat	Clean minor wounds with antiseptic; for severe cut see veterinarian
Bare spots in fur	Poor diet (more fruits and vegetables)	Deficiency disease (Vitamin C deficiency); fungal skin disease
Sore on foot pad	Housing with wire bottom; fecal soiling of cage bottom (cleanliness)	Abscess on ball of foot

*Based on the health chart in Katrin Behrand's Guinea Pigs: A Complete Owner's Manual

More Information

- This information is meant to provide minimum care guidelines for guinea pigs. Learn more about guinea pigs by consulting your veterinarian and/or one of the many care books for guinea pigs available at book stores, pet stores or your public library. Look for ones that describe nutrition, health issues, nail clipping and guinea pig behaviour.

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Stress and Your New Pet

Many things including being in a cage, change of food, litter, housing, bedding, schedules, people and new animals can cause STRESS.

Stress can bring about different medical and behavioural concerns including Upper Respiratory, diarrhea or runny stool, loss of weight and appetite, aggression, runny eyes, and more.

Keep your new pet on the same food, litter and schedule **as much as possible to reduce the stress of moving into a new home and meeting new people and pets.**

Please ask the caregiver, associate or volunteer what food your new pet is eating, litter he is using and if anything is known about treats and schedule your new pet is used to.

- **Your new pet is eating:**
  - □ **Pellets**
    - **Brand if known** _____
  - □ **Hay - Large handful or two AM & PM (This is their main diet and should not be left out!)**
    - **Timothy**
    - **Alfalfa**
  - □ **Treats:** _____
  - □ **Supplements:** _____
  - □ **Other:** _____

Litter: recycled paper

Bedding: shavings or other type of bedding different from litter. Pine or cedar should not be used.

Schedule Full bowl of food AM & PM, Fresh Water AM & PM, Handful of Hay AM & PM

The SDHS asks you to take your new pet to the vet.

Stress, moves, and change plays a big role in many illnesses and your pet may be reacting to the stress of shelter care and the adoption process. Your vet will be able to answer all of your questions and will help your pet get off to a great start in your new life together!

Simcoe and District Humane Society takes every precaution to adopt healthy animals. It is very possible that your adopted pet has been exposed to a contagious disease or parasite before coming into care of SDHS or at the shelter. (If you are adopting a pet with special concerns information will be available from adoption volunteer or store staff)

SDHS is not responsible for post-adoption care – please follow the post adoption guidelines

Things to Watch For:

☐ ☺ **Good**

- ☐ **Pet is eating**
- ☐ **Pet is drinking**
- ☐ **Pet is acting appropriately**
- ☐ **Pet is getting used to people, other pets and surroundings**
- ☐ **Pet is sleeping and resting appropriately**
- ☐ **Pet is happy**
- ☐ **Baby is growing**
- ☐ **Pet has normal bowel movements and is urinating normally**
- ☐ **Pet's eyes are clear and he appears to be healthy**

☐ **NOT GOOD**

- ☐ **Pet is not eating or drinking**
- ☐ **Pet is acting strangely, aggressively or depressed**
- ☐ **Pet is not getting used to people, other pets and surroundings**
- ☐ **Pet is sleeping too much or not enough**
- ☐ **Pet is lethargic**
- ☐ **Baby is losing weight**
- ☐ **Pet is having abnormal stools or urination**
- ☐ **Pet's eyes are red and puffy, signs of sneezing or sickness**

Taking care of your pet's teeth and eyes are important!
Please ask if your new pet has had any veterinary care, dental work, or other grooming needs.
Please ask if your new pet needs follow-up on any health, dental or grooming needs

The SDHS asks you to take your new pet to the vet within the first few days of adoption.

Stress plays a big role in many illnesses and your pet may be reacting to the stress of shelter care and the adoption process. Your vet will be able to answer all of your questions and will help your pet get off to a great start in your new life together!

Simcoe and District Humane Society takes every precaution to adopt healthy animals. It is very possible that your adopted pet has been exposed to a contagious disease or parasite before coming into care of SDHS or at the shelter. (If you are adopting a pet with special concerns information will be available from adoption volunteer or store staff)

Keep your Rabbit Indoors

Simcoe and District Humane Society and The House Rabbit Society recommends your companion rabbit be housed indoors. A hutch rabbit cannot possibly receive as much attention as a rabbit within the home. After all, how much time do you intend to spend in the yard? Personalities emerge when your rabbit gets to know you. Their potential is realized when you enjoy each other's companionship.

Indoor Rabbits	**Outdoor Rabbits**
Rabbits are safer indoors	More likely to be preyed upon. They can be frightened to death without even being touched by a predator.
Rabbits enjoy companionship from humans and sometimes other animals	Hutch rabbits often appear dull, uninterested or frightened. Rabbits need socializing.
Rabbits hide illnesses. You must act quickly when they are sick. When indoors, you notice their eating & behavior changes more quickly.	You may not catch the subtle difference they exhibit when they are sick. Could mean life or death.
Indoor rabbits will probably live longer. They are safer from poor weather conditions, threatening animals, and are generally happier rabbits.	When it is raining and cold, you may not go out to feed or check on your rabbit. He, too, is cold and lonely.
Indoor rabbits tend to become a part of the family. Not as easily forgotten about or given away. The human/animal bond is optimized when you get to see bunny dances and enjoy their companionship after a hard day.	Outdoor rabbits are sometimes even afraid of humans because they are not familiar with them. Housing a rabbit outdoors is usually the beginning of the end

Your New Pet May Not be Spayed or Neutered!

SDHS has not spayed or neutered your new pet for the following reason(s):

- ☐ Age and/or health
- ☐ Other or unknown Medical Issues
- ☐ Severe Heart Murmur/Heart disease Medication
- ☐ Recovery from Injury, Amputation or other surgery
- ☐ Ongoing medical care

SDHS does *NOT* adopt animals for breeding purposes!

And requires all Pets to be altered by 5-6 months or at the earliest appropriate stage with your veterinarian's direction!

You must ensure the animal does not get pregnant or create a pregnancy!

If pregnancy does occur, please contact SDHS for appropriate placement of the babies and follow-up on surgery for pet. (A surrender fee for the litter may be requested depending on situation)

Please let SDHS know when the surgery takes place so we can be sure you are following the post-adoption procedures appropriately.

You may call 519-428-9161, email info@s-dhs.ca or fax the info to 519-428-2086

You will receive a spay/neuter voucher with directions for use.
Please follow the directions and procedures given for voucher use.

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Note from Simcoe and District Humane Society:

The #1 Reason Pets are returned to shelters after adoption …

ALLERGIES!

Don't let your pet relationship become part of the statistics

- Before adopting a pet:
  - **If you know there are allergies to pets please think about adopting an animal that have less allergens!**
- **OR**
  - **Talk to your Doctor before adoption about how to live comfortably with a pet**
- After Adopting a pet:
  - **If you find out after adoption that you and your furry friend have issues … Please visit your doctor and find out if there are treatments that will work for you**

Don't let your allergies ruin a purrfect relationship!

Adopting a pet is a serious, life-long commitment …

If you can't live with your allergies and can't adopt ~ please help in other ways …

Volunteer, Donate, Support, Become a member!

We are asking you to find out first!

Simcoe and District Humane Society cannot refund your adoption fee due to allergies … your adoption fee will already have helped another who came into care.

From the Humane Society of the United States Website: http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/allergies_pets.html

How to Live with Allergies and Pets

You can have a happy, healthy life with your pets, even if you're allergic to them

Millions of people enjoy sharing their homes and their lives with pets, even those who are allergic to animals. Unfortunately, some people believe that once they are diagnosed with a pet allergy, they have no choice but to remove their pets from their family.

Thankfully, there are many solutions that can be explored that would allow an allergy sufferer to keep their beloved pets while successfully managing their allergies. You'd be surprised to know how many people with allergies that aren't life-threatening are able to live happily with their pets.

In many cases, the benefits of having a pet outweigh the drawbacks of pet allergies.

Understand your pet allergies

It is important to see a doctor and be tested to determine what allergies you actually have. You may find that you're allergic to something else and not your pet at all! For example, you may assume that you are allergic to your beloved dog, only to find out through an allergy test that you're actually allergic to a specific tree pollen that got on his fur during a walk together, and that's actually what's bothering you.

If an allergy test shows that you are allergic to your pet, it is important to understand what causes your allergic reaction to them. There are allergy-triggering proteins called allergens in saliva and skin glands that cling to an animal's dry skin (dander) and fur. The fur and dander then stick to walls, carpets and clothing.

The reaction of someone to these allergens is different from one person to the next. The reaction may range from mild sniffling and sneezing to life-threatening asthma. The reaction can be made worse if a person is additionally exposed to other things he is allergic too, such as pollen, dust mites, cigarette smoke, and mold.

Whether someone has an allergic reaction depends on both the individual person and the individual animal. A person with animal allergies may react less to dogs with soft, constantly growing hair, or one specific cat or dog may cause more or less of an allergic reaction than another animal of that same breed.

You may hear claims about breeds of dogs and cats that are non-allergenic (don't cause an allergic reaction) or cats and dogs that are hypoallergenic (cause less of an allergic reaction). However, even hairless breeds may cause a severe allergic reaction.

Reduce the allergens and your symptoms

If you are allergic to your pet and your reactions aren’t life-threatening, there are many ways to reduce indoor allergens and allergy symptoms so you and your pet can live together more comfortably.

If your or a family member's allergies are simply miserable, but not life-threatening, take these five steps to reduce the symptoms:

1. Create an "allergy free" zone in your home—preferably the allergic person's bedroom—and strictly prohibit the pet's access to it. Use a high-efficiency HEPA air cleaner, and consider using impermeable covers for the mattress and pillows.

2. Use HEPA air cleaners throughout the rest of the home, and avoid dust-and-dander-catching furnishings such as cloth curtains and blinds and carpeted floors. Clean frequently and thoroughly to remove dust and dander, washing articles such as couch covers and pillows, curtains, and pet beds.

3. Bathe your pet on a weekly basis to reduce the level of allergy-causing dander (shed old skin cells). Cats can get used to being bathed, but it's critical to only use products labeled for them; kittens may need a shampoo safe for kittens. Check with your veterinarian's staff or a good book on pet care for directions about safe bathing, It's a good idea to use a shampoo recommended by your veterinarian or other animal care professional.

4. Don't be quick to blame the family pet for allergies. Ask your allergist to specifically test for allergies to pet dander. Many allergy sufferers are sensitive to more than one allergen. Reduce the overall allergen level in your environment by concentrating on all of the causes, not just the pet allergy.

5. Try treatments. Additional treatments for allergies to pets are include immunotherapy (allergy shots), steroidal and antihistamine nose sprays and antihistamine pills. It is important to find an allergist who understands your commitment to living with your pet. A combination of approaches—medical control of symptoms, good housecleaning methods, and immunotherapy—is most likely to succeed in allowing an allergic person to live with pets.

Be glad you didn't let allergies break up a beautiful relationship

It is worth it to preserve the bond between you and your pet by checking if you are truly allergic to your pet and, if you are, to try these solutions. Join the large number of animal lovers who manage their allergies and live happily and healthily with their beloved pets.

Congratulations on Adopting Your New Rabbit or small Furry Friend!

Let's Do It Right!

Stress and your new furry friend!

Stress is a known factor of medical and behavioural issues in pets. Please make sure you read all the information provided in your adoption package.

Integrate your new pet appropriately, especially if you already have pets!

Shelters do their best to make sure all animals ready for adoption are healthy and treated for internal and external parasites prior to going into stores. It is possible your pet will need another treatment or continuing treatment for parasites. Due to shelter settings, your pet may encounter diseases such as Upper Respiratory Infections or Coccidiosis. Stress of the adoption process may bring out both of these or other ailments. ***SDHS will not be responsible for treatment of URI or Coccidiosis after adoption.***

It is important to keeps pets separate and follow through with the mandatory vet check-up within 48 hours of adoption (or the earliest convenient appointment) to ensure your pet is healthy! Please take your complete package and health record to your vet for overview.

Welcoming Your Rabbit Home

The Humane Society of the United States

Animals like their routines and moving from one home to another or from a shelter to a permanent home can be stressful for any pet, including rabbits. By preparing everything ahead of time, you can help ease the process for your new rabbit.

Get ready for rabbits

Here's a quick checklist for what to do before you get your new bunnies:

- ✓ Set up your rabbit's "rabbitat" in a quiet, out-of-the-way area with one or more litterboxes (and safe litter), water bowl or bottle, and safe chew toys.
- ✓ Rabbit-proof any areas of your home to which your rabbit will have access in order to prevent injuries, but don't forget to supervise him when he's not contained.
- ✓ Check with the shelter, rescue, or foster home ahead of time to find out which types of hay and vegetables your rabbit really likes and have them on hand.
- ✓ Try not to handle your rabbit too much during the first few days. You can allow your rabbit to check you out by sitting on the floor and letting her come to you.
- ✓ Keep the environment as quiet as possible.
- ✓ Let your rabbit get used to his new home before introducing them if you have other pets, like cats or dogs.
- ✓ If you already have one or more resident rabbits, keep your new rabbit separate from them until you can do introductions in a neutral location.
- ✓ If you're adopting multiple rabbits at once, keep an extra close eye on them. The stress from a change of venue can result in fights, even with rabbits who have been bonded for years.

Welcoming Your New Guinea Pig

Make the transition as stress-free as possible

The Humane Society of the United States

When you first bring your new guinea pig home, she's likely to feel stressed by the transition to an unfamiliar environment. She may be away from her littermates for the first time and will be inundated with strange sounds and smells.

You can ease your guinea pig's stress by following a few simple steps.

- ✓ Set up your guinea pig's cage with appropriate accessories and food before you bring her home.
- ✓ Use the same type of food and bedding that she's used to and introduce new products slowly. Be sure to use paper-based bedding, not cedar or pine shavings.
- ✓ Cover the cage with a light cloth for the first day or two to allow your guinea pig to explore her new home with greater privacy and fewer distractions.
- ✓ Don't rush to handle your new guinea pig; give her a day or two to acclimate to her new home before you start petting her or picking her up.
- ✓ Discourage friends and visitors from handling your new guinea pig during this adjustment period.

Once your guinea pig is comfy and relaxed in her new home, you'll be ready to take your relationship to the next level by introducing her to gentle handling.

Multi-pig households

Guinea pigs are social animals who crave the company of other pigs. Even so, if you've acquired a new guinea pig as a companion for another, you shouldn't introduce them right away.

Keep your new piggy quarantined for two weeks after you bring her home to prevent the possible spread of disease. This means keeping her in a separate cage and not allowing her to interact with your resident guinea pig. During the quarantine period, make sure your new pig is eating and drinking normally and appears active and alert. Once you've had your vet check her out, you can begin introductions.

Introductions need to be gradual to allow the pigs to get to know each other's scent. Introducing them too quickly can lead to fighting and rejection.

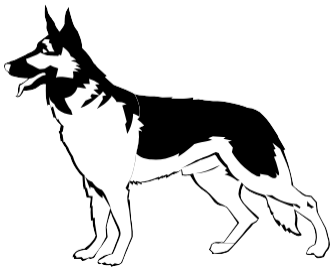
SMALL FURRY FRIEND AND BUNNY POST ADOPTION PROCEDURES

If at any time, you have concerns about your new pet, you may contact the Foster Care Provider who cared for the animal or the Simcoe and District Humane Society at 519-428-9161 or email adoptions@s-dhs.ca . Leave a message and your call will be forwarded to the appropriate volunteer or fosterer.

Within the next few days we ask that you take your new pet to your vet. This is required to prove that you are adopting a healthy animal.

You may receive information in your package about pet insurance; please give the company a call and see if you can get coverage for your furry friend!

1. To help with post adoption follow-ups, **SDHS asks you to contact the SDHS within 2 weeks of adoption at 519-428-9161 or email** adoptions@s-dhs.ca or a member of the Simcoe & District Humane Society will contact you. This allows us to ensure that the animal is adjusting well, to answer any questions you may have regarding behaviour, medical, or other issues and to monitor health care, such as vaccinations, spays/neuters etc. You may be asked to arrange, at your convenience, a follow-up visit at your home.



If you adopted a pet that is not spayed or neutered, the animal MUST be altered by the time it is 6 months old or with special animals, when your veterinarian is comfortable doing the surgery on your new pet. Please send a copy of the spay/neuter certificate issued by the veterinary clinic where the surgery was done (this is the computer printout you receive after the surgery) to the following address:

Simcoe & District Humane Society *C/O Animal Care Coordinator*
P.O. Box 193 Simcoe, Ontario N3Y 4L1

The information can also be faxed to 1-866-817-1819 or emailed to adoptions@s-dhs.ca

** PLEASE NOTE: If your Veterinary Clinic does not honour our Coupon on the bottom of the Adoption Agreement, please forward both of these documents for reimbursement:

- **A copy of the spay/neuter certificate you receive as a computer printout from your veterinarian**
- **oucher found at the bottom of the "Your Pet May Not Be Spayed or Neutered" form (please make sure oupon is filled out with all the necessary information)**

Mailing a copy of the aforementioned certificate assures that all animals are altered as soon as possible, so we are not adding to the problem of pet overpopulation.

6. Please do not, under any circumstance, give away or sell your adopted pet to anyone prior to speaking with a coordinator with the Simcoe and District Humane Society. We understand situations may arise that you can no longer keep your pet but would like to know your pet is placed appropriately, just as we have with your adoption. We appreciate your assistance in finding a placement for your adopted animal.

7. Follow through with necessary care as agreed upon with the SDHS, including spay/neuter, regular checkups and vaccinations, medical appointments as needed (keep this in mind if you adopted a special needs animal**), appropriate licensing or Registration as per the Bylaw in your Municipality. Norfolk County Dog Tag Licenses Must be purchased at time of Adoption from Simcoe and District Humane Society.**

This animal is now your full responsibility and you are required to follow ANY AND ALL Municipal and Government Laws and Bylaws that concern the animal adopted.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

NOTE: This is an important part of the adoption procedure!

Please complete and remit to adoptions@s-dhs.ca

Simcoe & District Humane Society

SMALL ANIMAL AND RABBIT POST ADOPTION CHECKLIST

Congratulations on adopting your new family pet!

Please keep this checklist handy, which will help in following through with your new pet's post adoptive care and help the SDHS volunteers follow up on your pet's adoption!

If at any time, you have concerns about your new pet, please call Simcoe and District Humane Society at (519) 428-9161, or email adoptions@s-dhs.ca

☐ I have made the Veterinary Appointment

Date of Appointment_____Time _____

Name and Address of Veterinarian_____

☐ I have called about a pet insurance plan Date: _____

☐ I have booked the Veterinary Appointment for boosters or follow-up care (if needed)

Date of Appointment_____Time _____

☐ I have contacted the SDHS within 2 weeks of adoption to ensure all is well with the animal and the adoption

Date _____ Name of SDHS representative I spoke to_____

- I emailed the information on (Date) _____

☐ I have booked the Veterinary Appointment for spay or neuter of my new pet

Date of Appointment_____Time _____

☐ I have contacted the SDHS and/or sent in the proof of spay/neuter of my pet

Name of SDHS representative I spoke to: _____

☐ I have purchased a license and/or followed other Municipality by-laws regarding my pet (If necessary)

Date: _____ Date: _____ License #: _____ Other ID#: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT!

After Page is filled, you can mail to: P.O. Box 193, Simcoe, ON N3Y 4L1

Or fax a copy to 1-866-817-1819 or email a copy to adoptions@s-dhs.ca

subject: Adopted animal update

Adoption Package Property of Simcoe and District Humane Society

Adoption Fees

Guinea Pigs (under 6 months)	$35
Guinea Pigs (over 6 months)	$25
Hamsters	$10 - 15
Rabbits (under 1 year)	$130
Rabbit (over 1 year)	$75

(Fees as of November 2017 – SDHS has the right to change fees without notice or for special adopt-a-thons)

Your Adoption Fee Includes

The initial and basic cost of care BUT many other costs (including Vet or medical treatment, spay/neuter, possibly a microchip) may have gone into your new furry friend!

Cost of care for Guinea Pigs or other small furry friends

The following are the estimated expenses related to providing care and shelter for a domestic guinea pig.

One Time Costs

Adoption fee (Approximate estimation only, please check with us for current adoption prices)	$15.00
Condo cage	$50.00
Care book	$15.00
Dishes, water bottle and habitat accessories	$40.00
Brush, harness and leash	$40.00
Total	**$160.00***

Please note that is not the adoption cost at SDHS shelter, rather the estimated expenses related to being an animal guardian.

Annual Expenses

Bag of pellets	Every 3 months @ $30.00	$90.00
Fresh veggies and fruits	Every month @ $15.00	$180.00
Timothy Hay	12 bales @ $5.00	$60.00
White wood shavings (aspen)	5 bales @ $10.00	$50.00
Veterinary care	Yearly visit	$40.00
Total		**$420.00***

These are average costs. It may cost more if you need to pay someone to care for your guinea pig when you go on vacation, you build a large hutch or your guinea pig needs special medical attention.

Cost of care for Rabbits

The following are the estimated expenses related to providing care and shelter for a spayed female, domestic rabbit.

One Time Costs

Adoption fee (Approximate estimation only, please check with us for current adoption prices)	$65.00
Spaying (female) (Approximate estimation only, please check with your local veterinarian for actual prices. SDHS adoption fee includes spay/neuter & possibly a microchip)	$115.00
Habitat or hutch	$100.00
Litter box	$12.00
Rabbit care book	$15.00
Dishes, water bottle and habitat accessories	$40.00
Brush, harness and leash	$40.00
Total	**$332.00***

Please note that is not the adoption cost at SDHS shelter, rather the estimated expenses related to being an animal guardian.

Annual Expenses

Bag of pellets (11kg)	Every 2 months @ $9.00	$54.00
Fresh veggies and fruits	Every month @ $15.00	$180.00
Timothy Hay	12 bales @ $5.00	$60.00
White wood shavings (aspen)	5 bales @ $10.00	$50.00
Veterinary care	Yearly visit	$45.00
Nail clipping	Every 2 months @ $10.00	$60.00
Total		**$449.00***

These are average costs. It may cost more if you need to pay for someone to care for your rabbit when you go on vacation, you build a large hutch or your rabbit needs special medical attention.

Checklist of Potential Household and Holiday Hazards to Pets

Note: This list of potential dangers around the house at holiday time is not exhaustive—that would be impossible. Keeping your home safe for your furry family members is an ongoing process that requires knowledge, awareness of your pets, attention to detail, and commitment. And common sense. However, this list does contain the most common hazards around the home that your pet is likely to face during holidays, special occasions, and major get-togethers.

If you suspect that your pet has ingested something poisonous, please do not hesitate to call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at **888-4ANI-HELP (888-426-4435)**. If you have general concerns that something in your pet's environment is impacting his or her health or well-being, please consult with your veterinarian.

FOOD

Raw meat (including poultry) — parasites, *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, and other bacteria

Meat juices — bacteria

Meat-soaked string — can cause diarrhea and other digestive problems, or get tangled in the intestines; string is more enticing to pets when covered with meat or grease

Poultry bones — fragile and can splinter in the throat and intestinal tract

Raw egg — may cause biotin depletion; often harbors salmonella and other bacteria

Garlic/onions/chives/leeks — can cause a fatal anemia

Gravy — high fat content can lead to stomach upset and pancreatitis; often contains high levels of onion and garlic

Grapes/raisins — contain an unknown toxin that can damage the kidneys

Macadamia nuts — contain an unknown toxin that can damage the digestive system

Uncooked yeast — can expand in the stomach, causing gastric problems and possible rupture

Chocolate — contains theobromine, which affects the cardiovascular, nervous and digestive systems

Coffee/caffeine — contains xanthenes which can cause problems in the nervous, urinary, and cardiovascular systems

Xylitol — a sweetener found in many products; can be fatally toxic

Alcohol — even small amounts can cause intoxication and possibly death

Tobacco/nicotine — can cause serious digestive, cardiovascular and neurological effects

Garbage cans — may contain any or all of the above products

PLANTS (all can cause stomach upset and/or diarrhea)

Holly
Mistletoe
Poinsettias
Christmas cacti
Evergreen needles
Amaryllis
Jerusalem cherry
Pyracantha
Rosary pea or Jequirity pea

DECORATION AND WRAPPING

Ribbon/Yarn/String — can be ingested and cause intestinal obstruction and bunching of the intestine

Potpourri — dangerous essential oils

Candles — burning/fire hazard

Fireplace — shooting sparks and intense heat; consumption of ashes can lead to burns (if still smoldering) as well as digestive problems and possible intestinal impaction

Tinsel — choking and possible intestinal obstruction

Low-hanging ornaments — fragile ornaments can tear the esophagus and intestine if ingested

Christmas lights cords — strangulation and electrocution hazard

Food on the tree (popcorn, candy canes, gingerbread people) — varying degrees of indigestion, diarrhea, and other digestive problems

The Tree

Unstable tree — multiple dangers including broken ornaments, fallen tinsel and needles, and exposure to wires and other hazards on the tree

Artificial snow — mildly toxic but larger amounts can cause intestinal blockage

Ornaments — deep lacerations can occur from playing with ornaments; ornaments may be made of toxic materials

Tree Water — sap, insecticides, flame retardants, and fertilizers can seep into the water; bacteria can form over time; use skirt to cover basin

Gifts under the tree (or in any area accessible to pets)

Batteries — filled with harmful acids

Perfume/Aftershave/Cologne/Essential Oils — toxic to

animals

Ribbons and bows — can cause choking and bunching or obstruction of the intestines

This list focuses mainly on potential holiday hazards. It is not inclusive of ALL potential holiday hazards or other potential non-holiday hazards. For more information, you may wish to visit the **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center**

Please seek Veterinary Care if you believe your pet has eaten or been into something it should not have touched!

Top 10 Human Medications Poisonous to Pets

From ~ www.petpoisonhelpline.com

Pet owners who are serious about pet-proofing their home should start with their own medicine cabinet. Nearly 50% of all calls received by Pet Poison Helpline involve human medications – both over-the-counter and prescription. Whether Fido accidentally chewed into a pill bottle or a well-intentioned pet owner accidently switched medication (giving their pet a human medication), pet poisonings due to human medications are common and can be very serious.

Below is a list of the top 10 human medications most frequently ingested by pets, along with some tips from the veterinarians at Pet Poison Helpline on how to prevent pet poisoning from human medications.

1. **NSAIDs (e.g. Advil, Aleve and Motrin)**

   Topping our Top 10 list are common household medications called non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs), which include common names such as ibuprofen (e.g., Advil and some types of Motrin) and naproxen (Aleve). While these medications are safe for people, even one or two pills can cause serious harm to a pet. Dogs, cats, birds and other small mammals (ferrets, gerbils and hamsters) may develop serious stomach and intestinal ulcers as well as kidney failure.

2. **Acetaminophen (e.g. Tylenol)**

   When it comes to pain medications, acetaminophen (e.g. Tylenol) is certainly popular. Even though this drug is very safe, even for children, this is not true for pets—especially cats. One regular strength tablet of acetaminophen may cause damage to a cat's red blood cells, limiting their ability to carry oxygen. In dogs, acetaminophen leads to liver failure and, in large doses, red blood cell damage.

3. **Antidepressants (e.g. Effexor, Cymbalta, Prozac, Lexapro)**

   While these antidepressant drugs are occasionally used in pets, overdoses can lead to serious neurological problems such as sedation, incoordination, tremors and seizures. Some antidepressants also have a stimulant effect leading to a dangerously elevated heart rate, blood pressure and body temperature. Pets, especially cats, seem to enjoy the taste of Effexor and often eat the entire pill. Unfortunately, just one pill can cause serious poisoning.

4. **ADD/ADHD medications (e.g. Concerta, Adderall, Ritalin)**

   Medications used to treat Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder contain potent stimulants such as amphetamines and methylphenidate. Even minimal ingestions of these medications by pets can cause life-threatening tremors, seizures, elevated body temperatures and heart problems.

5. **Benzodiazepines and sleep aids (e.g. Xanax, Klonopin, Ambien, Lunesta)**

   These medications are designed to reduce anxiety and help people sleep better. However, in pets, they may have the opposite effect. About half of the dogs who ingest sleep aids become agitated instead of sedate. In addition, these drugs may cause severe lethargy, incoordination (including walking "drunk"), and slowed breathing in pets. In cats, some forms of benzodiazepines can cause liver failure when ingested.

6. **Birth control (e.g. estrogen, estradiol, progesterone)**

   Birth control pills often come in packages that dogs find irresistible. Thankfully, small ingestions of these medications typically do not cause trouble. However, large ingestions of estrogen and estradiol can cause bone marrow suppression, particularly in birds. Additionally, female pets that are intact (not spayed), are at an increased risk of side effects from estrogen poisoning.

7. **ACE Inhibitors (e.g. Zestril, Altace)**

   Angiotensin-converting enzyme (or "ACE") inhibitors are commonly used to treat high blood pressure in people and, occasionally, pets. Though overdoses can cause low blood pressure, dizziness and weakness, this category of medication is typically quite safe. Pets ingesting small amounts of this medication can potentially be monitored at home, unless they have kidney failure or heart disease. All heart medications should be kept out of reach of pets.

8. **Beta-blockers (e.g. Tenormin, Toprol, Coreg)**

   Beta-blockers are also used to treat high blood pressure but, unlike the ACE inhibitor, small ingestions of these drugs may cause serious poisoning in pets. Overdoses can cause life-threatening decreases in blood pressure and a very slow heart rate.

9. **Thyroid hormones (e.g. Armour desiccated thyroid, Synthroid)**

   Pets — especially dogs — get underactive thyroids too. Interestingly, the dose of thyroid hormone needed to treat dogs is much higher than a person's dose. Therefore, if dogs accidentally get into thyroid hormones at home, it rarely results in problems. However, large acute overdoses in cats and dogs can cause muscle tremors, nervousness, panting, a rapid heart rate and aggression.

10. **Cholesterol lowering agents (e.g. Lipitor, Zocor, Crestor)**

    These popular medications, often called "statins," are commonly used in the United States. While pets do not typically get high cholesterol, they may still get into the pill bottle. Thankfully, most "statin" ingestions only cause mild vomiting or diarrhea. Serious side effects from these drugs come with long-term use, not one-time ingestions.

Always keep medications safely out of reach and never administer a medication to a pet without first consulting your veterinarian. The following are some tips from Dr. Justine Lee and Dr. Ahna Brutlag at Pet Poison Helpline to help prevent pets from getting into over-the-counter or prescription medication:

- Never leave loose pills in a plastic Ziploc® bag – the bags are too easy to chew into. Make sure visiting house guests do the same, keeping their medications high up or out of reach.
- If you place your medication in a weekly pill container, make sure to store the container in a cabinet out of reach of your pets. Unfortunately, if they get a hold of it, some pets might consider the pill container a plastic chew toy.
- Never store your medications near your pet's medications – Pet Poison Helpline frequently receives calls from concerned pet owners who inadvertently give their own medication to their pet.
- Hang your purse up. Inquisitive pets will explore the contents of your bag and simply placing your purse up and out of reach can help to avoid exposure to any potentially dangerous medication(s).

It is also important to note that while a medication may be safe for children, it may not be safe for animals. In fact, nearly 50% of all pet poisonings involve human drugs. Pets metabolize medications very differently from people. Even seemingly benign over-the-counter or herbal medications may cause serious poisoning in pets. If your pet has ingested a human over- the-counter or prescription medication, please call your veterinarian or Pet Poison Helpline's 24-hour animal poison control center at 800-213-6680 immediately.

24/7 Animal Poison Control
Center 855-764-7661
$39 per incident fee applies

If you suspect your pet has ingested a medication or has other signs of poisoning please contact your veterinarian immediately!

SIMCOE AND DISTRICT HUMANE SOCIETY

How You Can Help Us Help Those Who Cannot Help Themselves?

Sponsor our Van and Equipment

In Norfolk County the Society assists the OPP housing and treating animals in Cruelty Investigations - ongoing function of the Society. SDHS receives no funding from any level of government or OSPCA to cover the costs of investigations and relies on donations from the community to help the animals.

Sponsor a Vehicle for the SDHS

Daily calls dealing with sick and injured animals take our animal care volunteers all over Norfolk. Your name will certainly be noticed as it travels with our volunteers!

Sponsor our Animals in Care

Perhaps there is a program within the SDHS that you may be interested in sponsoring such as:

- spay and neuters of adoptable animals in care over 6 months old
- help with boarding costs of animals when foster homes are full,
- microchipping of adoptable animals
- Help with a special animal in care.
- Help with medical costs of our sick and injured friends

Sponsor Public Awareness and Information Programs

The SDHS has 5 brochures available to the public including:

1. "What to Do When a Stray Finds You",
2. "Spay and Neutering ~ a necessity in Norfolk",
3. "Help us Help those Who Cannot Help Themselves ... Become a foster Home".

We would like to continue to present these to the public and activity booklets to take to the schools.

Sponsor one of our humane programs, such as:

Jr. Humane Society "Critter Buddies" or a program in the planning S.W.A.P. (Seniors with Animals Program)

Hold or Organize Fundraisers

The SDHS needs large fundraisers and someone to organize them! Our Current Fundraising activities include:

1. Garage Sales
2. Annual Paws on the Path Walk-a-thon
3. Tree of Life Campaign
4. Paws-ta Party
5. Easter & Christmas Craft & Bake Sale
6. Community booths at local events
7. Santa Paws – Pet Pictures with Santa
8. Norfolk Community Animal Fair

In order for SDHS to continue helping the animals, fundraising efforts must rise considerably! ***Can you help?***

Sponsor one of our donation Campaigns:

We would like to begin new donation promotions including: direct mailing, media promos, and building promos

Help us Build our Shelter!

We are looking forward to having a shelter built in 2007. We need help in all areas from the ground up including:

- Lots of clean fill
- Building layout and design plan
- Contractors who can oversee the job
- Construction and finishing of the building
- Lots More!

Perhaps you have the expertise to help in the planning stages or you can donate time or material towards the building of our shelter.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER! We need volunteers in both our daily activities and with our special events and projects.

If you are interested in sponsoring any of our functions or are interested in volunteering, please contact the Simcoe and District Humane Society at 519-428-9161 or volunteers@s-dhs.ca

PET SITTER NOTES

This Pet belongs to _____

Pet's Name: _____

TYPE OF PET: _____

WHO WE ARE AND WHERE WE LIVE

Our address: _____

Our Phone number: (____)_____

Who to call in emergency:_____Contact's Phone Number (____)_____

HOW TO REACH US

Address: _____

Phone:_____**Cell phone:**_____**Pager:**_____

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Mealtime:_____Mealtime:_____Mealtime:_____

What to feed:_____How Much to feed:_____

Snack time:_____Snacks: _____

Walk schedule:_____

Allergies: _____

Medications: _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

IN AN EMERGENCY Call 911, or the animal's Veterinarian at the number below!

Emergency: Call 911, or Veterinarian_____

Veterinarian's Phone Number :(____)_____

Veterinarian's Address:_____

Emergency Contact #: (_____)_____

Other Contact:_____Phone:_____Cell Phone:_____

Little Whiskers Pet Furniture