



Konijnenopvang
HILLEGOM

Rabbit Bonding

Version 2.0, May 2026

Welcome

Maybe you're considering or have already decided to bond your rabbit with one from our rescue centre. We're really pleased that you've decided to choose a rescue rabbit and want to give them a new home and a partner and that's great for your rabbit too!

So how does rabbit bonding works at our rescue centre

Firstly you need to make an appointment to bring your rabbit to the centre. If you have a female rabbit, she'll be bonded with a castrated male rabbit. If you have a male rabbit you'll need to make sure he's castrated before you make an appointment. He'll then be bonded with a female rabbit (all our female rabbits are neutered but your male rabbit will still need to be castrated).

It's possible that you've looked at our website and have already reserved a rabbit. In that case we'll try first to match the rabbit you've reserved with your rabbit. Please be aware that this doesn't guarantee that they will get along and at the end of the day your rabbit may have a preference for a rabbit which may not be the one you wanted.

Safe transport to the rescue

When transporting your rabbit to the rescue centre please bring them in a travel carrier (or cat carrier) to ensure their safety. Make sure there is a towel or blanket on the bottom to prevent slipping and to absorb any possible urine. Water and food pellets are not necessary for short trips but some hay and fresh greens are fine.

The bonding process

Step 1: The introduction

The start of the process is the introduction of the two rabbits in a neutral place in a free standing run at the centre. This will be supervised by one of our experienced volunteers who has extensive knowledge about rabbit behaviour and bonding rabbits. If you wish, you're welcome to stay and watch how everything goes and ask any questions you may have. At this time you will also be given information and copies of our brochures (in Dutch) so you can go over everything again in your own time when you get home.

Step 2: Getting to know each other.

If the initial introduction goes well then the 2 rabbits will be put together in one of our runs. Usually they'll remain with us for a few days as required. During this time we'll closely observe the rabbits and assess the likelihood of a successful bond. It's important that the rabbits regularly seek each other out, sit together, eat together, and perhaps even start grooming each other. Rabbits establish a hierarchy, and we carefully observe this process during bonding.

If the first introduction goes exceptionally well and the home environment for the new pair is fully prepared, in some cases, the rabbits may go home together right away. In that case, your own rabbit doesn't need to stay at the rescue. The initial period of observation, as described above, then becomes your responsibility as the new owner. If this option is possible, it will be discussed with you during the bonding process.





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Step 3: Going home

After a couple of days you can usually come and collect your rabbits at an agreed time. It's important that the rabbits now stay together and are not separated. As such you'll need to bring a pet carrier to transport them in together. The bonding process will continue once you get home and while we can't give a 100% guarantee we'll have every reason to believe that everything will go well. There are various factors such as the available space and housing conditions that can influence how things go back at home and you'll receive information about this during the bonding appointment or when you come to pick up the rabbits.

Housing

It is important that the rabbits have enough space at home. A bonded pair of rabbits always needs a minimum of 4m² of space, where they can run round freely day and night, as well as a hutch to shelter in if they choose to do so. Do not confine the rabbits to a hutch or cage, not even overnight! A hutch or night shelter should provide 24/7 access to a sufficiently large run. In a space that is too small, frustration can build up, which may lead to fighting. By expanding a hutch with a good, sturdy run, the available space can be increased quite easily.

Any questions? Please call us during our opening hours or e-mail us:

Tel. +31 6 12 15 52 98

info@konijnenopvanghillegom.nl

www.konijnenopvanghillegom.nl



Back home after the bonding process

When you first return home with the newly bonded rabbits the living environment where the rabbits end up is crucial for the ultimate success of the bond. In addition to meeting the required housing conditions mentioned above it is essential to provide multiple places where the rabbits can shelter or hide and various distractions. Once the rabbits are more accustomed to each other some of these obstacles can be removed and more variety can be introduced.

Good to know

All the rabbits that are available for adoption at the centre are fully vaccinated against Myxomatosis, RHD1 and RHD2. The rabbits will need vaccinating annually and we strongly recommend that you continue to do this for the rescue rabbit and your own rabbit.

All rabbits from our rescue are neutered. If you adopt a female rabbit younger than 7 months, we will schedule a neutering appointment for her with our vet once she is at least 7 months old. The cost of the procedure is included in the adoption fee.

Terms and Conditions

If you adopt a rabbit (or rabbits) from us, you are required to agree to our terms and conditions. These can be found on our website. Click [here](#).

Bonding indoor rabbits

Do your rabbits live indoors? For bonding indoor rabbits, we apply additional conditions. Click [here](#) (in Dutch).