

THE THREE LITTLE RABBITS



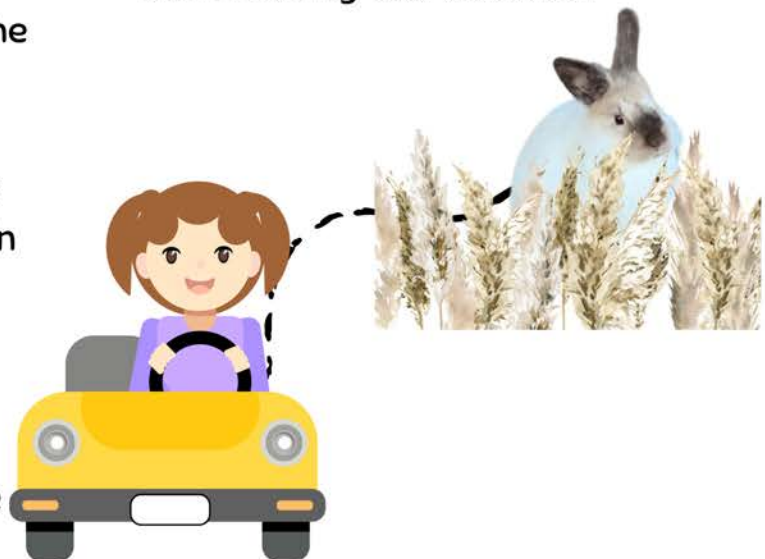
A Rescue Story
OHLONE HUMANE SOCIETY

Once upon a time, there were three rabbits in a park. These were not wild rabbits, though...



Someone had left them all alone in the park, but the rabbits had been born in someone's business and were not used to taking care of themselves in the wild. They did not know how to find food or water, how to hide from dangers, nor how to stay warm during bad weather.

A woman driving to work saw the rabbit on the hillside of a park. She knew it must be a stray or abandoned pet rabbit because that type of rabbit did not live in the wild around there. She and her husband went to the park and people told her there were actually three rabbits like that one but no one was taking care of them.

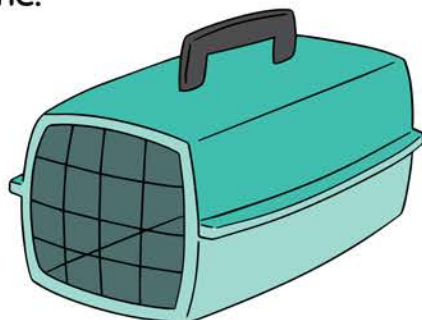


The woman checked with the animal shelter and the internet to see if anyone had lost them, but could not find anyone looking for a lost rabbit. So they decided they must trap the rabbits and help them find a home.



Together, the man and the woman brought some food for the hungry, skinny rabbits. They put the food near a soft pet carrier to get them used to the them. After a few days of bringing food and the rabbits learning that they would not hurt them, one of the rabbits came into the carrier on their own and they took it home.

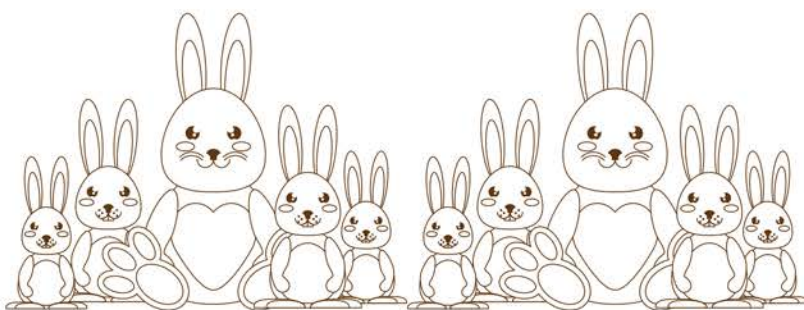
The next day the other rabbit came into the carrier, happy to be cared for and given food and water.



The woman and man had dogs at home that were not friendly to rabbits, so the woman called some rescues that help abandoned or stray rabbits find homes. Rescues help animals get care and find them a good home where they can safely be a part of the family. One person at a rabbit rescue saw their picture and said they were called Lionhead rabbits.



The man and the woman soon found, though, that finding a rescue for a rabbit was not so easy. Some of the rabbit rescues said they only took baby rabbits.



Other rescues told them they had too many rabbits already.

Another rescue said they only took rabbits with grey fur.





And still another said they only took rabbits with long floppy ears .

Finally, one rescue said they could help them and took both of the rabbits and found them a happy home.

The man and the woman were so happy they found good homes for the two rabbits, but they could not find the third rabbit seen at the park, and they were still worried about that little one.



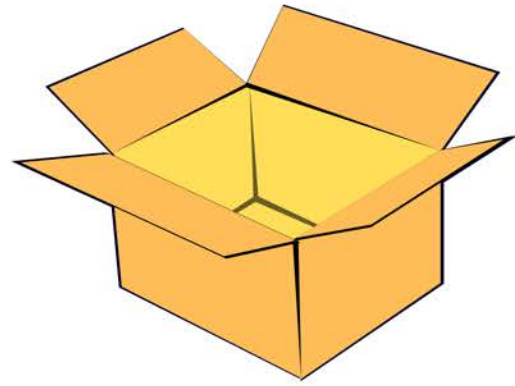
YES!



They wondered if someone else had seen the rabbit and posted photos on the internet for lost and found rabbits, rabbits for sale, or rabbits brought to animal shelters, but no one had seen the rabbit.... until one day a woman said, yes!

This woman was a mother who had taken her children to the same park to play one day and had seen a skinny little rabbit all alone!

They tried to catch it with a box., but the rabbit ran away and hid under a bush.



Then they tried to catch the rabbit with a carrot, but the rabbit kept running and hiding.

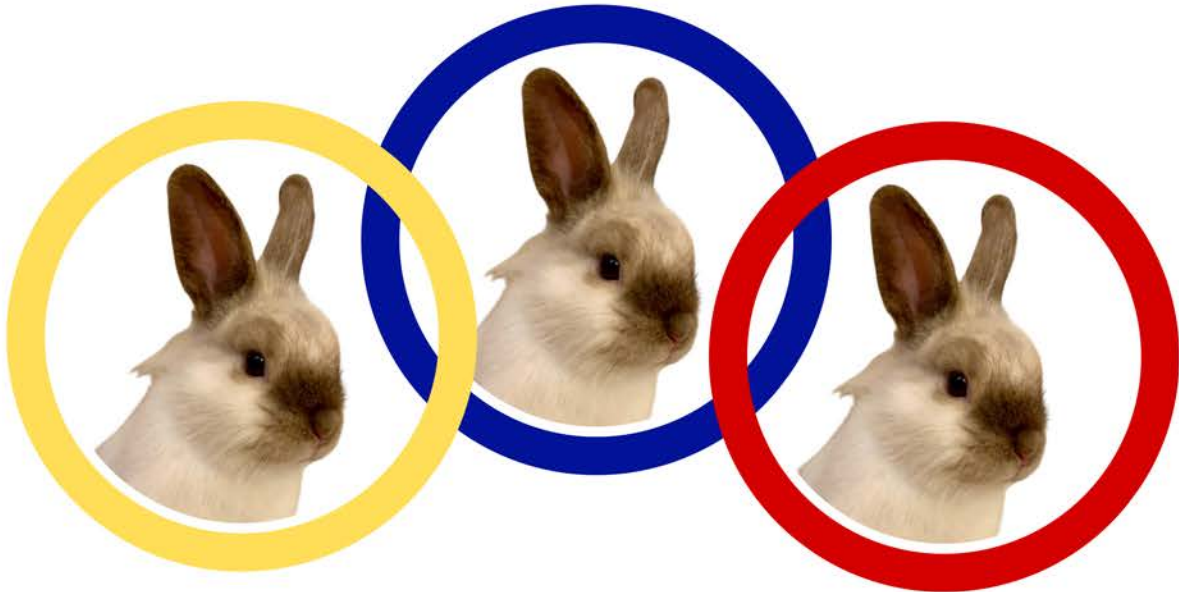


The family tried a long time to catch the rabbit, and were about to give up when another family came to the park. They worked together and they finally caught the



The second family did not want a pet rabbit, so the first family took it home and then to an animal doctor to make sure it was healthy. They already had guinea pigs for pets and knew a little about taking care of small animals.

So the story of the three little rabbits ends happily, with all three finding good homes thanks to people who cared enough to rescue them.



Our story could have had a different ending, though.

WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO THE RABBITS IF THEY WERE NOT RESCUED?

Rabbits that are not born in the wild and abandoned by owners are unable to live happy lives and are not used to the dangers outside. The three breeds of rabbits native to California are shown below and are the jackrabbit, desert cottontail, and brush rabbit. If you see any other rabbits in the wild, they may be abandoned or lost pets. Check with an adult, rabbit rescue, veterinarian, or shelter.

For a booklet about basic rabbit care, please visit the:

OHS Humane Education Library

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