

# Press Release

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## **February is 'Adopt a Rabbit Month' at Humane Society Silicon Valley** *Humane Society Hopping With Rabbits*



**SANTA CLARA, Calif., -- February 18, 2008** – February is 'Adopt a Rabbit Month' at Humane Society Silicon Valley (HSSV), and the shelter is hopping with a variety of bunnies.

"Rabbits make great house pets," says Beth Ward, vice president of animal and customer care for HSSV. "When people learn that rabbits can be litter-box trained like a cat, they're amazed," Ward says.

HSSV has been working with Bay Area rabbit rescue groups like the Rabbit Haven and House Rabbit Society to educate the public about rabbits during Adopt a Rabbit month. During the last few months, the Humane Society has seen larger numbers of rabbits than usual coming into the shelter. Part of the problem is simply that owners don't spay or neuter their rabbits and have not been educated on how to properly care for their furry friends.

"Rabbits can have a litter every 28 days so pet owners can quickly find themselves in a rabbit overpopulation crisis," Ward explained. Ward says the other problem is that owners get tired of having a rabbit as a pet. "Rabbits are intelligent, affectionate, inquisitive individuals but they do not always make ideal pets for children. Most rabbits don't like to be picked up and carried around," Ward explains. "Rabbits are most comfortable on the floor sitting or lying next to their human companion. They should not be housed outside in a cage where they become 'out of sight, out of mind.'"

According to the House Rabbit Society, the ideal "rabbit person" is a quiet, gentle individual who is eager to get to know rabbits on their own terms. Children who want to hold and cuddle a bunny for hours are likely to be disappointed. When adopting a rabbit, families with children should ensure that an adult will be the rabbit's primary caretaker and can make a long-term commitment to the rabbit's well being. "We're actually seeing more adult couples adopting rabbits and that's a great thing," Ward says. "Rabbits are better companions for adults than children."

All rabbits adopted from HSSV are spayed/neutered, microchipped and behavior and health tested. Besides preventing unwanted pregnancy, Ward says all rabbits should be spayed/neutered to prolong their life and prevent many behavior problems such as house soiling, destructive chewing, digging and aggressiveness. Unspayed female rabbits face a very high risk of developing uterine tumors by the time they are three years of age.

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HSSV is offering 50 percent discounts on all rabbit, cat and dog spay/neuter surgeries during the month of February to encourage the public to sterilize their pets to prevent unwanted litters and help reduce pet overpopulation. "We're hoping the discounted prices will encourage people to get off the couch and take action," Ward says.

Throughout the month, female rabbit spays are \$62.50 and male rabbit neuters are just \$50.00. Prices include a brief pre-op exam, pre-anesthetic, anesthetic, spay/neuter surgery and hospitalization on the day of surgery. Additional charges apply for animals in-heat, pregnant, cryptorchid and/or obese, and all animals must be current on all vaccinations. More information can be found at [www.hssv.org](http://www.hssv.org). Appointments can be made by calling 408.727.3383, ext. 828.

Ward says the Humane Society currently has an amazing variety of breeds, sizes and ages. "If you're looking for a rabbit as a companion animal, our adoption counselors will work with you to help you find the perfect match," she says. For more information on rabbits and their care, visit Humane Society Silicon Valley's website: <http://www.hssv.org/BEHAVIOR/rabbits.htm>

**About Humane Society Silicon Valley**

Humane Society Silicon Valley (HSSV) is an independent, non-profit agency offering quality adoptions, medical care and education programs to enhance the human-animal bond. Established in 1929, HSSV has served Silicon Valley for 78 years adopted more than 500,000 animals into permanent, loving homes. HSSV is an "open door" shelter and accepts animals 24-hours a day, seven days a week, regardless of any temperament or health related problems. HSSV's medical center offers affordable spaying/neutering, vaccinations and microchips to the public. More information about HSSV can be found at our website at [www.hssv.org](http://www.hssv.org).

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