

## **Bunnies at Easter**

Contrary to Easter-time hype, rabbits and small children aren't a good match. The exuberance of even the gentlest toddler is stressful for the sensitive rabbit.

Children like a companion they can hold and cuddle. That's why stuffed animals are so popular. Rabbits are not passive and cuddly. They are ground-loving creatures who feel frightened and insecure when held and restrained. The result of a short-sighted purchase of an Easter rabbit: the child loses interest and the rabbit end up neglected or abandoned.

### **KNOW the Facts:**

- Rabbits are not "low-maintenance" pets and are a poor choice as a pet for children.
- They have a lifespan of 10 years and require as much work as a dog or cat.
- If inside, your house must be bunny-proofed or the rabbit will chew cords and furniture.
- Rabbits must be neutered or spayed or they will mark your house with feces and urine.
- They should live indoors as member of the family.

If your child is pleading for a bunny for Easter, do a rabbit a favor! Buy him a toy rabbit that they can snuggle with to their heart's content. Let's make Easter a joyful time for our long-eared friends. Taken from House Rabbit Society ([www.rabbit.org](http://www.rabbit.org))