

Fuzzy, Furry, Feathered, Fishy Friends

chase of small animals?

A. Yes, *do your research*. Know their lifespan, food, temperament and care required. Don't buy from a pet store, there are so many small animals needing homes in your local rescues or shelters. For example hedgehogs don't make good pets for 5 year olds, they are prickly and are nocturnal.

Q. Any other comments you'd like to make?

A. Our society views small animals, especially rabbits as being a cheap, easy starter pets that are disposable once the novelty wears off. It's extremely frustrating getting calls from parents or teachers at year end looking to rehome an animal as the children are no longer interested. The adult calls us for help. Passing the responsibility of another beings' care teaches kids that pets are disposable. Sometimes a parent will try and "trade-in" a pet because the child wants something different. Some small animals can live for 10 or 20 years, it is a long term commitment.

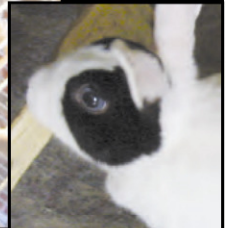
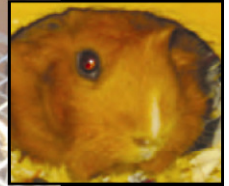
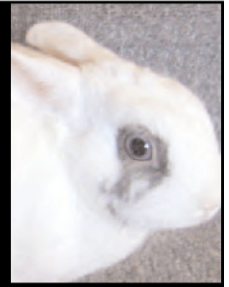
Do your research first. The animals are sentient beings worthy of our care and protection, not a novelty for the family until you become bored. A pet is for life.

www.smallanimalrescue.org

See some BC Small Animal Rescue "Special Needs" pets in the Sponsorship Section on page 41.



Our oft-bickering politicians in Ottawa are taking their extended holiday break, so now's a good time to meet some "Members of Parliament" who actually get along.



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