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Lonely RSPCA rabbits looking to share the love on Valentine's Day

Among those looking for new homes are two visually-impaired bunnies

The RSPCA is seeking adopters for the large numbers of rabbits that are stuck at its animal centres and branches.

Valentine's may be the perfect romantic day for some, but the animal charity has hundreds of bunnies across the country who are pining for some love and affection of their own.

Last year (2022) there was a 48 per cent increase in the numbers of rabbits arriving at RSPCA animal centres compared to 2021. In all 1,090 rabbits were taken into the care of centres, a year on year increase of 353, while the charity's branches are expected to have dealt with around two-and-a-half times * that number alone during 2022.



On average rabbits - many of whom were rescued from poor welfare conditions - are staying 132 days at RSPCA centres while the speed with which they are rehomed has fallen. There was a 42 per cent drop in the numbers of bunnies finding new homes last year from RSPCA centres compared to before the pandemic in 2019.

Many of the rabbits have to be housed in private boarding as they wait for room to clear at RSPCA centres - with the charity spending £26,000 per week on boarding facilities.



Some of the increase in the intake in rabbits is attributed to pets acquired during lockdown being abandoned by owners who have grown tired of them or by others who face cost of living pressures.

They include single rabbits Buzz and Cece (*pictured with romantic backdrops*) who are in the care of [RSPCA Kent-North West Branch](#), where staff hope adopters can take them on as potential partners in love.

Cece was rescued with a large group of around 20 rabbits from poor living conditions and spent seven months in private boarding accommodation in County Durham.

Branch manager, Becky Blackmore, said: “We have got a real rabbit crisis on our hands and as many of us get ready to mark Valentine’s Day we hope that there is also some love out there for our lonely rabbits looking for new homes.

“The RSPCA has around 120 rabbits currently in private boarding and some we have taken on have been there for seven months which is a good part of a rabbit’s life. We rehomed 50 from our branch last year and we are sure that there are some more really great owners out there who can offer our current bunnies a happy new life.

“Buzz has really thrived since he came into our care three months ago with two other small rabbits. He was rescued from very unsatisfactory conditions - we’d heard that he could have been about to be fed to a snake. He is desperate for a new home where he has lots of space and he does need a spayed female to keep him company as he is very lonely on his own.

“Cece was among a large group of rabbits who were rescued by an RSPCA inspector. Most of them have been rehomed, but she is a bit shy and is still with us. She is neutered, vaccinated and microchipped and is looking for a new home with a neutered male rabbit.”

Meanwhile, two bunnies at [RSPCA Manchester and Salford Branch](#) are looking to be rehomed together with new owners who can be considerate of their special needs.

Rhonda and Rocky (*pictured*) are both visually impaired because they suffer from cataracts, so their eye health will need to be monitored. The pair, who were found straying after it was likely they were abandoned, are inseparable and appear to be siblings.



Branch manager Susie Hughes said: “They are two of the most endearing and affectionate bunnies you could wish to meet. They are looking for a home where they can live indoors in a space that can be maintained so they can map out their enclosure. Blood tests have revealed the eye problems are a congenital issue, but as their vision is likely to worsen over time any adopter will need to make sure they monitor their eyes for any changes.

“But that won’t stop these bunnies living life to the max and enjoying a life-long bond with a new owner. We often find them sitting on top of their cardboard box together, standing on their hind legs and trying to get the attention of our staff and volunteers.”



press release

Rhonda and Rocky have been neutered, vaccinated and microchipped, and anyone interested in adopting them can contact the branch on adoptions@rspca-manchesterandsalford.org.uk

For lonely heart Buzz see [here](#), while Cece's details are [here](#).

Ends

Notes to editors

* Two thirds of RSPCA branches have registered a total intake of 1,873 rabbits during 2022. The remaining branches are yet to declare figures.

Pictures can be downloaded from this link:

<https://spaces.hightail.com/space/nBEARQdOBj>

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