

Rabbits Need Rescuing Too

The founder of Hollywood-based Bunny World Foundation says people should adopt rabbits that need homes rather than buying them from breeders or pet shops.

By [Jared Morgan](#)

You see them in pet stores—cute and fuzzy bunny rabbits hopping around scraps of lettuce and carrots. They're almost begging to be bought, right?

For Lejla Hadzimuratovic, founder and president of Hollywood-based nonprofit advocacy group [Bunny World Foundation](#), getting a bunny from a pet store is just as bad as buying one from a breeder. Instead, people should adopt rabbits that need a home.

"Any responsible breeder would want to know where their bunnies are going to go," Hadzimuratovic told Patch. "They would not just dump them in a pet store."

Furthermore, says Hadzimuratovic, carrots are like a dessert and should not be fed to rabbits every day.

"They should be eating hay," she said.

Hadzimuratovic regularly collaborates with animal training and pet supply store [The Urban Pet](#) to find foster families for rabbits without owners.

In the past two-and-a-half years, Hadzimuratovic and volunteers from her foundation have taken in and fostered out an estimated 1,000 rabbits that have been confiscated from illegal street vendors by police. They've spent upwards of \$300,000 doing so.

Much of the money spent by the foundation comes from donations and Hadzimuratovic's own pocket.

"There is no money in the world that can compensate one for staying up until 5 a.m. and giving fluids to the baby (rabbit) that had 50-50 chances of

making it," Hadzimuratovic wrote in an e-mail to Patch. "This is with me putting 100 hours per week at the expense of my own career, income and much more."