

News Release

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What's in Your Easter Basket?

Chocolate or Stuffed Toy Bunnies and Chicks are Best

Sacramento, CA – Baby chicks and bunnies are very cute and hard to resist as a gift for Easter. However, it's important to do some research before you make the decision to purchase them as a gift. When Easter is over and the cute chick or bunny has turned into a teenager, local shelters are flooded with unwanted rabbits and chickens creating a demand on services.

Here are some important things to know before you make the decision to buy a chick or bunny:

- Chickens live from five to ten years
- They need a proper habitat, including roosting quarters, specialized feed, vaccinations and veterinary care
- They can destroy your flower and vegetable gardens – and your property may not be properly zoned to keep chickens
- Rabbits live as long as seven to ten years and require exercise space indoors and out
- They need socialization, a proper hutch, and veterinary care
- Spay/neutering is recommended to prevent rapid reproduction and certain behavioral issues

Rabbits and chickens are excellent pets for many people, but as with any decision to add a member to your family, research and careful consideration are required.

Some questions to ask before acquiring any animal:

- Can I afford this pet including veterinary care, vaccinations, food, and housing?
- Can I provide for specialized diet and housing needs?
- Am I willing to care for this animal for the rest of its life?
- Can I provide care during travel and vacations?
- Do I have the time to train, socialize, and clean up after this pet?
- Where will my family be in three years or five ...will this animal be a good match?

To see animals that are currently available for adoption, get details on pet licensing, and explore opportunities to volunteer at the County Animal Shelter visit www.SacCountyShelter.net.

The County Animal Shelter is open Wednesday through Friday from 12:30 - 5:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from Noon–4:30 p.m. and is closed Monday and Tuesday and most holidays. The shelter is located at 3839 Bradshaw Road, one mile south of Highway 50.

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