

# **Abandoned Rabbits**

abandoned

The Scope, Issues & Solutions

#### Locations

Colonies of feral rabbits now populate hundreds of neighbourhoods throughout British Columbia, Alberta + beyond.

Reminder: Australia went from 24 rabbits to millions in just 50 years.



#### An Urban Issue

European rabbits have been domesticated for centuries and those traits remain after generations on the loose. Studies show a very different brain structure from their wild brethren. Domestic rabbits tend to stay in urban centres close to humans.

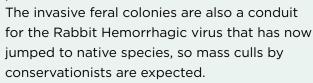


## Who's Responsible?

European rabbits are classified as pets, agriculture, and wildlife, leading to agencies routinely 'pass the buck' to other jurisdictions, leaving them uncontrolled.

## **Suffering**

Abandoned rabbits are killed by those who consider them pests, cars, predators, and disease.





Rabbitats recommends regulating the sale, breeding, and identification of rabbits to discourage abandonment. Pets need to be sterilized and local governments need to help by picking up strays.

# Trap, Neuter, Contain

Rabbitats' past control efforts demonstrate that a large number of sterilized rabbits can be happily, securely, and inexpensively contained in a relatively small, low maintenance footprint.



### **Lethal or Non-Lethal?**

The rabbits are cute, much-loved house pets and (so far) an urban problem. Lethal solutions will be met with resistance that will delay, if not derail, lethal plans while the rabbits continue to breed. Non-lethal solutions will be met with cooperation and public donations.

# Rabbits as an Attraction

Rabbitats' 'Meet n' Treat' method of interaction has been enormously popular. Green businesses and institutions can be supportive hosts. Ecotourism can also help support containment.

