



Photos: Sprout four months after his life-saving surgery



## Change is possible!

Because of the actions of people who cared...

- Austrian supermarkets have agreed to phase out rabbit meat until, in cooperation with an animal welfare organizations, humane living conditions can be developed.
- High animal welfare standards in Switzerland require that rabbits are kept in free range or barn systems.
- The European Union has developed farm animal welfare laws based on the 'five freedoms':
  1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
  2. Freedom from discomfort
  3. Freedom from pain
  4. Freedom to express normal behaviour
  5. Freedom from fear and distress

People all over the world have instigated change for the better for livestock rabbits. If they can do it, we can too!

# You can make a difference!

## HERE'S HOW...

- Visit: [www.rabbitrescue.ca/care.html](http://www.rabbitrescue.ca/care.html) for information on what you can do to help. Sample letters for our letter writing campaign, and addresses are included on this page.
- Don't buy rabbit meat in grocery stores or restaurants.

Ask your local grocery store and restaurant owners not to sell rabbit meat.

Send us an email at [care@rabbitrescue.ca](mailto:care@rabbitrescue.ca) for up to date information on how you can advocate for improved living and slaughter conditions for rabbits.

With the help of people who care, we can work together to make sure that all of Canada's food rabbits are spared pain, fear and discomfort through all parts of the farming and slaughter process.



# Rabbit Rescue Inc.



## Rabbit Rescue Inc.

[www.rabbitrescue.ca](http://www.rabbitrescue.ca)

Finding Rabbits Loving Homes

# C.A.R.E.

## Compassion & Respect for Rabbits Everywhere

## No laws to protect Canadian livestock rabbits

In Canada, there are **no laws** that require that livestock rabbits receive minimum amounts of food, water, space, air, regular supervision, sensible handling or effective health care.

There are **voluntary** Codes of Practice for **some** farm animals in Canada. These Codes only establish a **minimum** standard of care and largely influenced by the farming industry.

There are **NO** codes of practice for rabbits. Rabbits do not even receive the minimal protections afforded to other farm animals such as cows, pigs, mink and ranched fox.

Most disturbingly, there is no third-party verification program or regular audit to ensure that the Codes of Practice are being followed. In other words, **no government or third-party inspectors visit Ontario farms to ensure that the Codes of Practice are being followed.**

## Living conditions of many Canadian livestock rabbits

There are many examples of terrible abuse in Canada's rabbit industry. In some cases, rabbits have been discovered:

- Living in filthy cages filled with feces and urine
- Crammed into undersized cages with several other rabbits
- With no access to food and clean, fresh drinking water
- With no ability to exhibit natural behaviours like hopping and nesting

This juvenile meat rabbit (named 'Sprout') was surrendered to the OSPCA in March 2008. He is seen here after undergoing emergency surgery to save his life. He was also treated for upper and lower respiratory infections, pinworms, coccidia, fleas, ear mites and a parasite called encephalitozoon cuniculi.

## Cruel slaughter conditions for rabbits in Canada

Rabbits, suffer horribly during slaughter.

Under the Meat Inspection Regulations, rabbits can be fully conscious when suspended for slaughter. These slaughter practices are terrifying for rabbits, causing them much fear and distress.

The Meat Inspection Regulations should be changed so that all animals are rendered unconscious prior to being strung up.

