

Rehoming Report

Published: December 2025



About

This Report

This report provides a comprehensive overview of Beloved Rabbits' rehoming activities for all applications received during the period 1st December 2023 to 30th November 2024. As our waiting list, rescue and rehoming practices can result in activity lasting in excess of 400 days in some cases, the report covers a period of the previous year.

The report summarises key statistics, financial impact, and welfare outcomes for rabbits entering our care through surrender or the Rehoming Assistance Programme (RAP).

The purpose of this report is to inform stakeholders, supporters, and partners about the challenges faced, the resources required, and the successes achieved in improving rabbit welfare. It also highlights trends and insights that will guide future planning and community engagement.

Beloved Rabbits

Beloved Rabbits is a Scottish charity with over 15 years experience in rabbit rescue activities, dedicated to improving the welfare of domestic rabbits through rescue, rehoming, education, and advocacy.

Established to address the growing need for responsible rabbit care, we provide safe shelter, veterinary treatment, and adoption services for rabbits in need. Our work is supported by a network of volunteers and foster carers who ensure every rabbit receives the care and attention it deserves.

Beyond rescue, we actively promote best practices in rabbit ownership and campaign for higher welfare standards across Scotland.

Executive Summary

Reporting Period: Applications received from 1st December 2023 to 30th November 2024

Key Highlights

Applications Received:



318

Total Rabbits Involved:



560

Rabbits Assisted*:



179

Owner Insights

Reasons for Rehoming

Common factors included their rabbit losing their bonded buddy, lifestyle changes and financial hardship.

Vaccination & Treatment

Owners tend to ignore responsibilities for routine treatments such as vaccinations, neutering and microchipping.

Rabbit Welfare

Only 9% of applications identified potential health or medical issues affecting their rabbits.

Previous Adopters

24 returning a previously adopted rabbit(s) from Beloved Rabbits.

Financial Impact

Treatment Costs:

Vaccinations: £ 4,932
Microchipping: £ 1,360
Neutering: £15,996

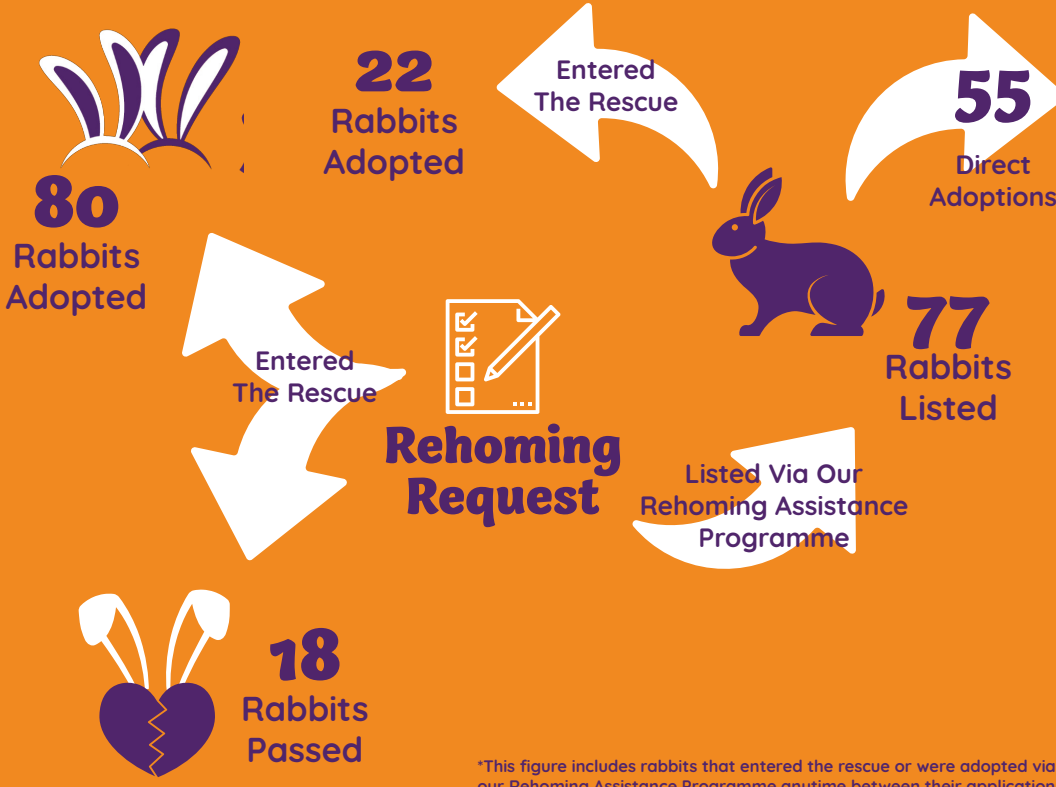
Care Costs:

Rabbits spent a cumulative 2,539 weeks in rescue care at an average care cost of £10/week

Overall Costs:†

£ 47,678

Outcomes



*This figure includes rabbits that entered the rescue or were adopted via our Rehoming Assistance Programme anytime between their application submission during our 2024 period, and November 2025.
†Estimated costs, include donated care costs such as food & bedding donated by volunteers and supporters.

Executive Summary (Cont'd)

Reporting Period: Applications received from 1st December 2023 to 30th November 2024

Key Observations

High Demand For Rehoming Services

Generally a very high demand across the board, but especially for rabbit owners from deprived areas, suggesting a need for targeted support.

Rising Costs Introduce Major Risk

Rising costs highlight not only a risk to rabbit owners' ability to provide appropriate care, but the importance of sustainable funding and community support for owners and the rabbit welfare landscape in Scotland.

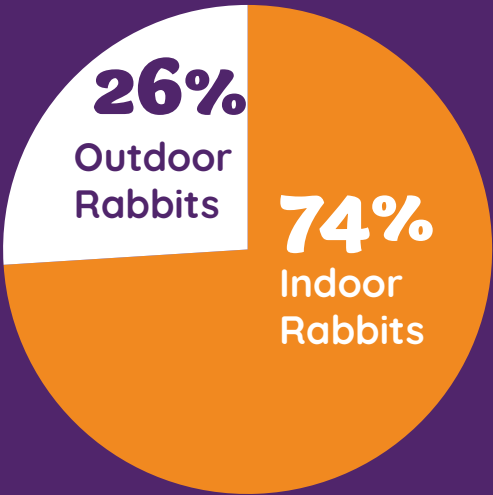
Additional Services Needed

The proactive introduction of our Rehoming Assistance Programme and the Rehoming Support Team has played a vital role in reducing waiting times and improving adoption rates.

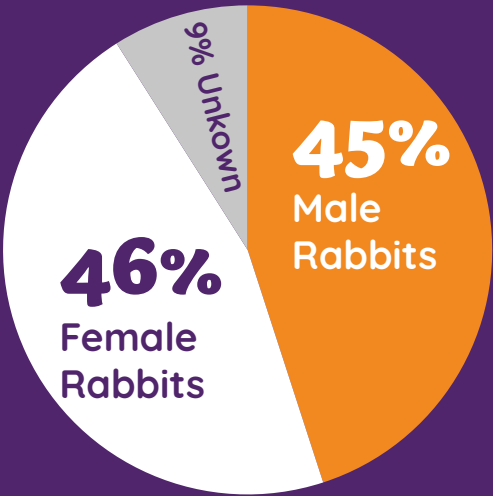
Rehoming Applications

Reporting Period: Applications received from 1st December 2023 to 30th November 2024

Current Environments

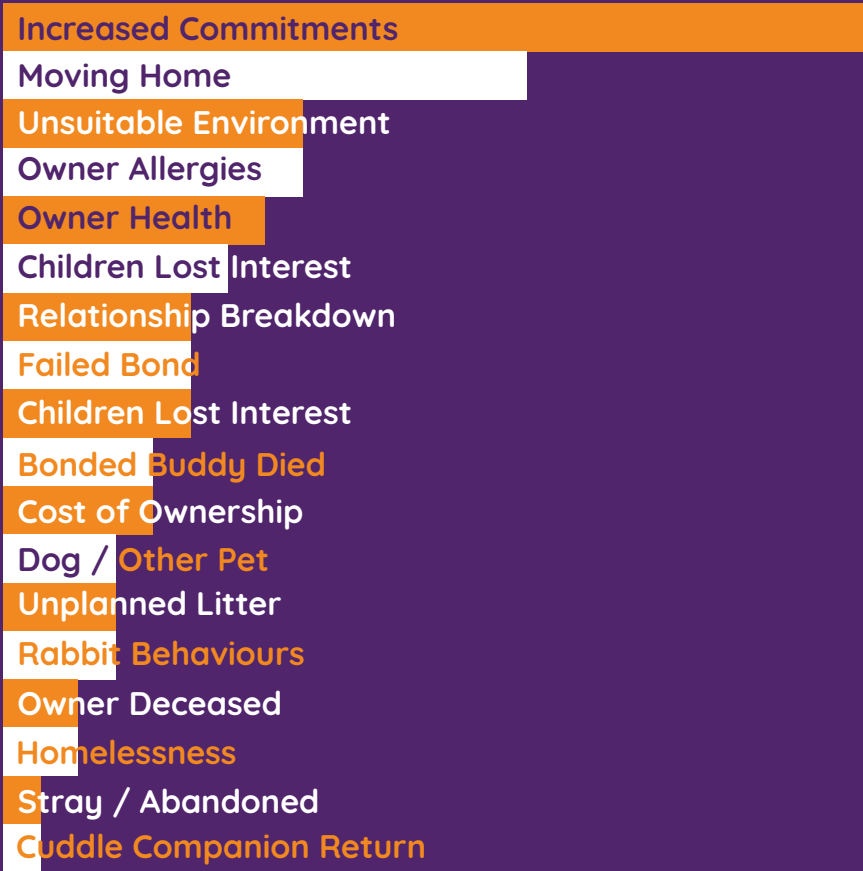


Advised Rabbit Sex



Reasons For Applying

When applicants submit their Rehoming Request, they're asked for their 'Reason for Rehoming'. This allows us to prioritise the waiting list based on need and get an understanding for the areas of crisis encountered by owners and rabbits alike.



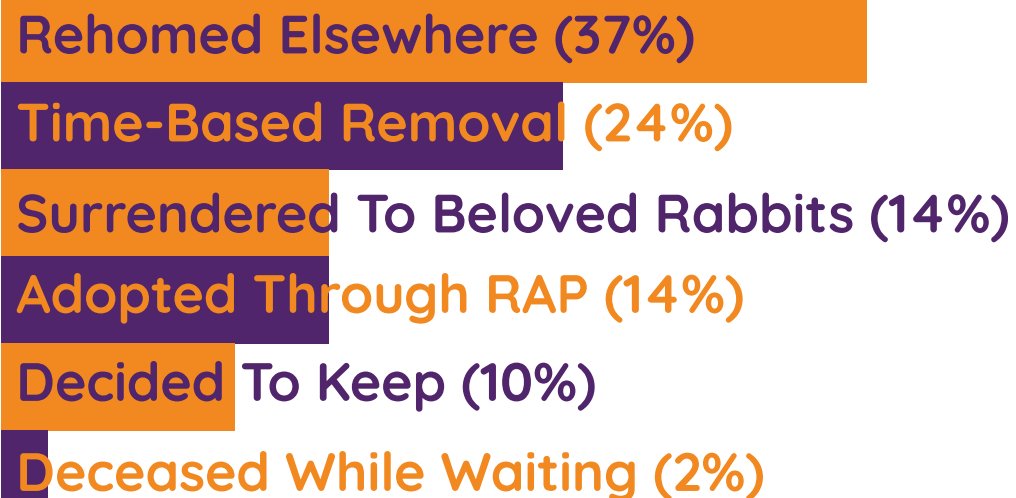
Rehoming Applications (Cont'd)

Previous Adopters

24 applicants were previous adopters, looking to return their rabbit(s) to Beloved Rabbits. The primary reasons were either the return of a 'Cuddle Companion' or the loss of a rabbit leaving a single, lone bunny with owners decided on ending the 'cycle of bunnies' but knowing that the remaining rabbit should not be kept alone.

Further reasons included development of significant health conditions impacting owner ability to care for rabbits, loss of job or homelessness, or a significant lifestyle change e.g. moving abroad or starting a family.

Application Conclusion



For those under 'Time-Based Removal', this refers to those who were removed from the waiting list following repeated attempts to reach them/cease in communication from the owner. We assume they rehomed elsewhere or found an alternative solution.

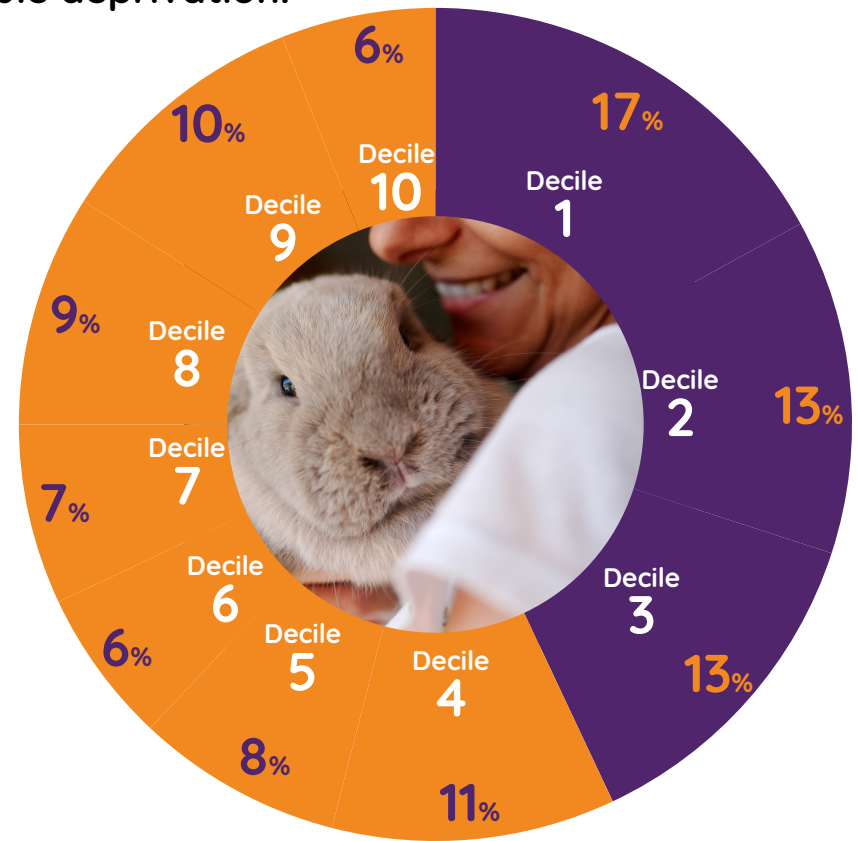
Rehoming Applications (Cont'd)

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation is a relative measure of deprivation across 6,976 small areas (called data zones). If an area is identified as 'deprived', this can relate to people having a low income but it can also mean fewer resources or opportunities. SIMD looks at the extent to which an area is deprived across seven domains: income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime and housing.

SIMD is the Scottish Government's standard approach to identify areas of multiple deprivation in Scotland. It can help improve understanding about the outcomes and circumstances of people living in the most deprived areas in Scotland. It can also allow effective targeting of policies and funding where the aim is to wholly or partly tackle or take account of area concentrations of multiple deprivation.

For the period December 2023 - November 2024, 43% of applicants resided within Deciles 1-3 of the SIMD scale.

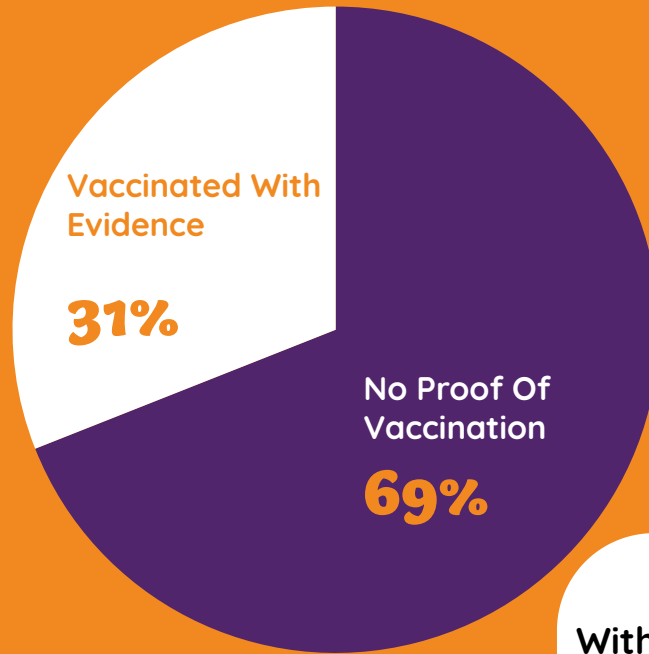


Understanding The Rabbits Involved

Reporting Period: Applications received from 1st December 2023 to 30th November 2024

Rabbit Health & Welfare

Vaccination Status



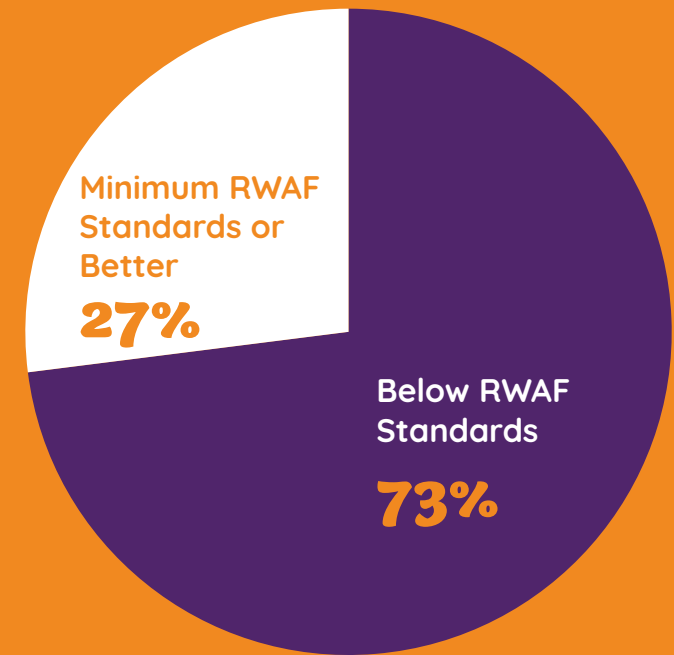
Environment Standards



Rabbit Health

Within their application, only 9% of owners referred to health issues the rabbit(s) had previously suffered from or were currently affected by.

Our current reporting mechanisms do not allow for a direct correlation between health declarations on applications and issues identified at the point of surrender or shortly after intake, but anecdotally we believe the reality to be considerably higher than owners report at application stage.



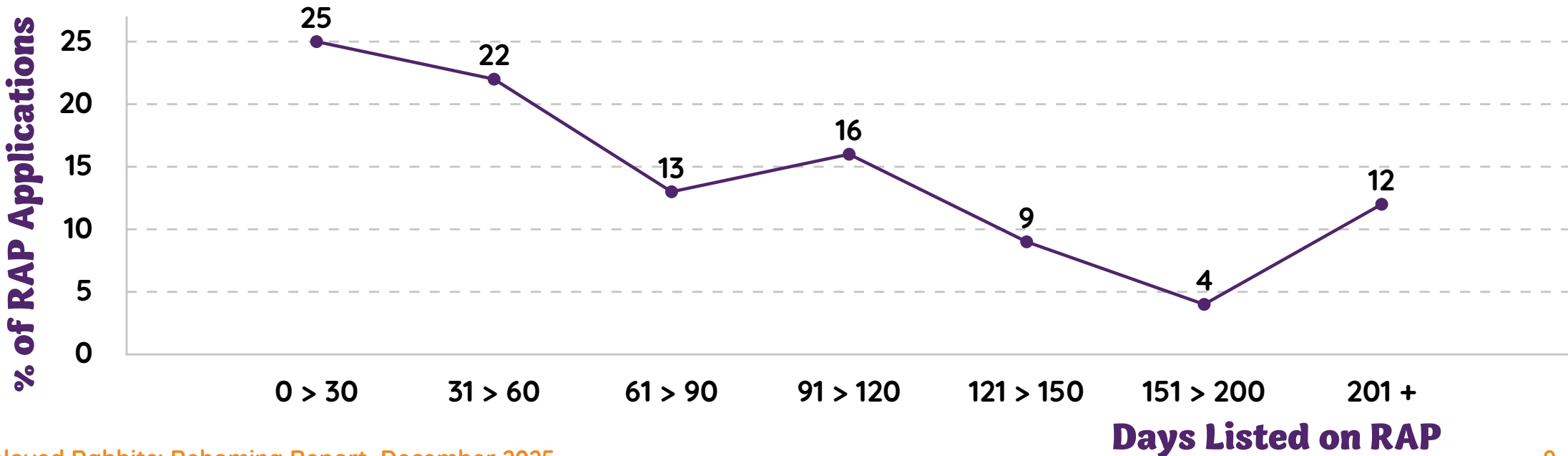
Rehoming Assistance Programme (RAP)

What Is It?

The Rehoming Assistance Programme offers an alternative to waiting for limited rescue space by enabling owners to rehome their rabbits directly from their current home. This option provides a faster route to finding a suitable new home for rabbits that meet our welfare criteria, reducing stress for both the animals and their owners. RAP is offered alongside the traditional rescue waiting list, giving owners an additional choice and helping us manage demand more effectively while prioritising rabbit welfare.

Uptake and Timescales

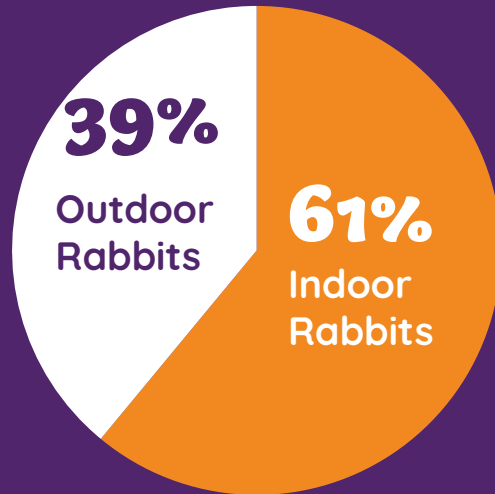
Within their application journey, 22% of owners joined the Rehoming Assistance Programme. The RAP allows us to promote rabbits (who have had a welfare check and have no issues preventing adoption) on our adoptions website, to try and secure a new home for them whilst they wait for a space in the rescue.



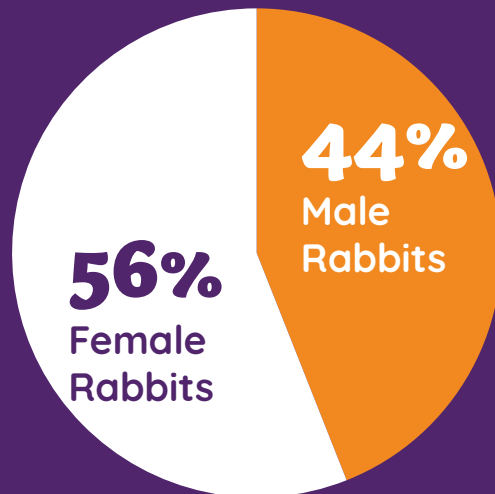
Rabbits Assisted

Reporting Period: Applications received from 1st December 2023 to 30th November 2024

Preferred Environments

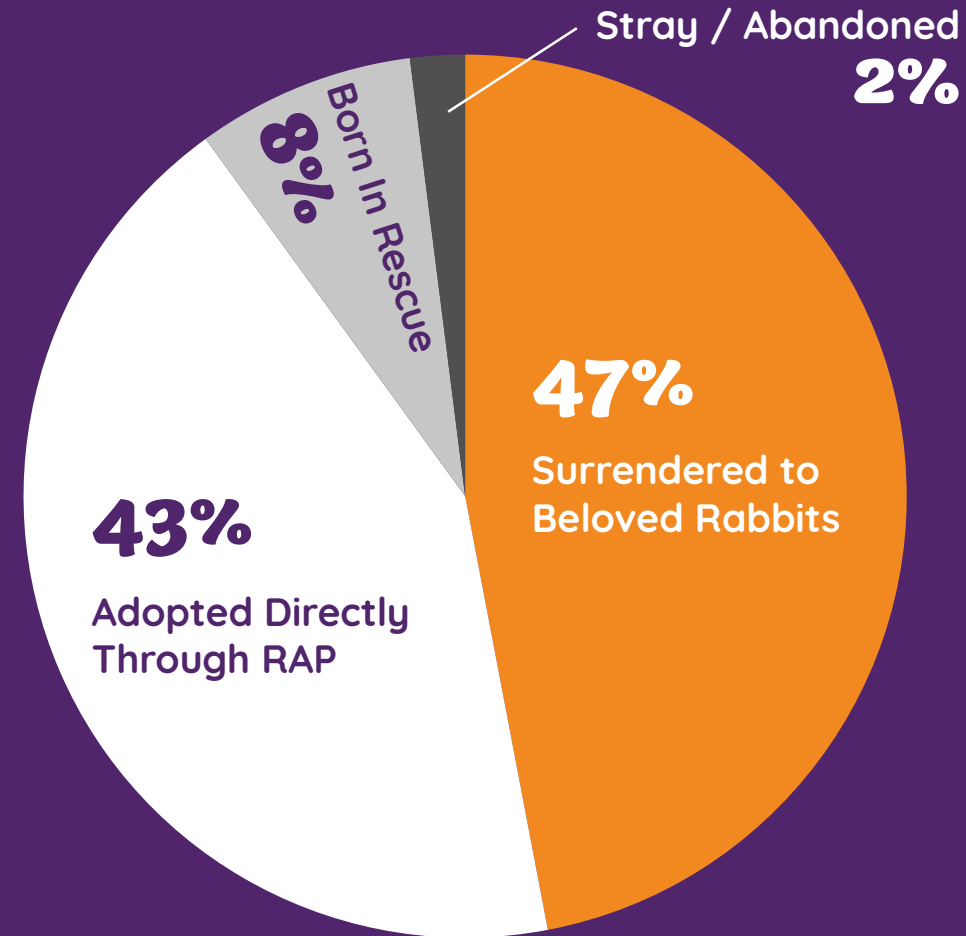


Rabbit Sex



Entering The Rescue

From the applications received during the period 1st December 2023 – 30th November 2024, 179 rabbits were accepted into the rescue's care and/or adoption system.



Rabbits Assisted (Cont'd)

Reporting Period: Applications received from 1st December 2023 to 30th November 2024

Routine Treatments

Of the 179 rabbits who entered the rescue, no matter the route, the following treatments were required to be actioned under Beloved Rabbits care rather than the original owners'.

Vaccinations:



Microchipping:



Neutering:



Cost to Beloved Rabbits

The cost calculations below are based on the following cost estimates per treatment:

Vaccinations:	£36/rabbit
Microchipping:	£10/rabbit
Neutering:	£186/rabbit

Therefore, applying these costs to the rabbits who received these essential treatments when in the care of Beloved Rabbits:

Item	Total Cost
Vaccinations	£4,932
Microchipping	£1,360
Neutering	£15,996
Treatments Total	£22,288
Day-To-Day Care	£25,390

Of the 179 rabbits, 120 came into the direct care of Beloved Rabbits. The cumulative number of weeks spent in the care of Beloved Rabbits equates to **2,539 weeks**.

The cost to the rescue/foster carers per week per rabbit is estimated at £10. This is based on average costs of food, hay, bedding, enrichment & transport costs for vet visits and rehoming collections/adoption deliveries.

Overall Costs:[†]
£ 47,678

[†]Estimated costs, include donated care costs such as food & bedding donated by volunteers and supporters.

Final Outcomes

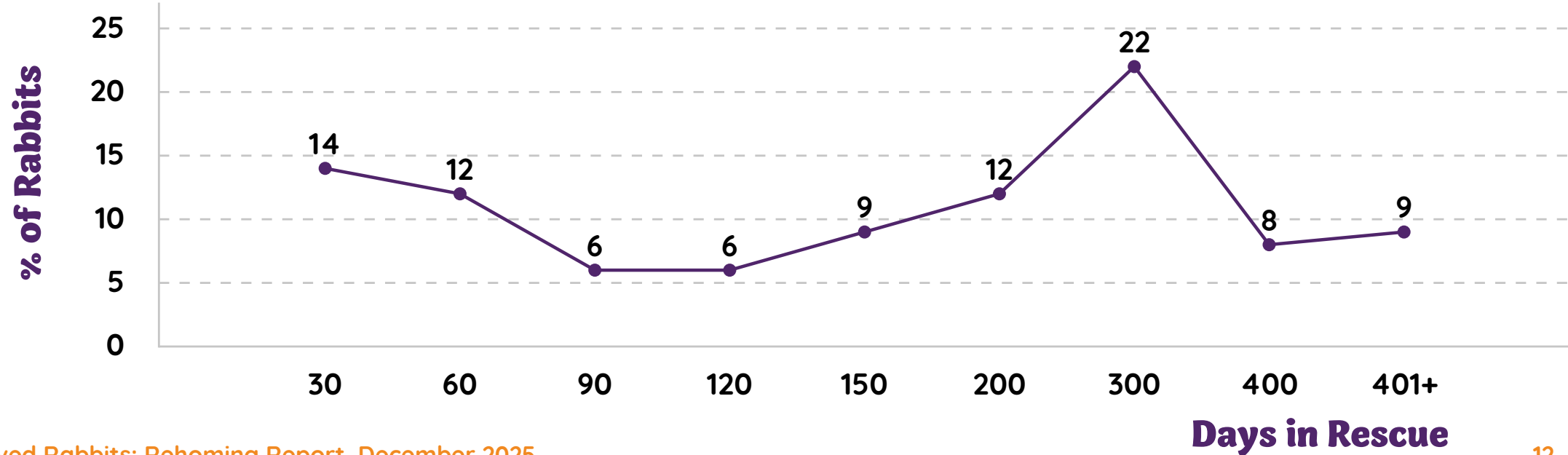
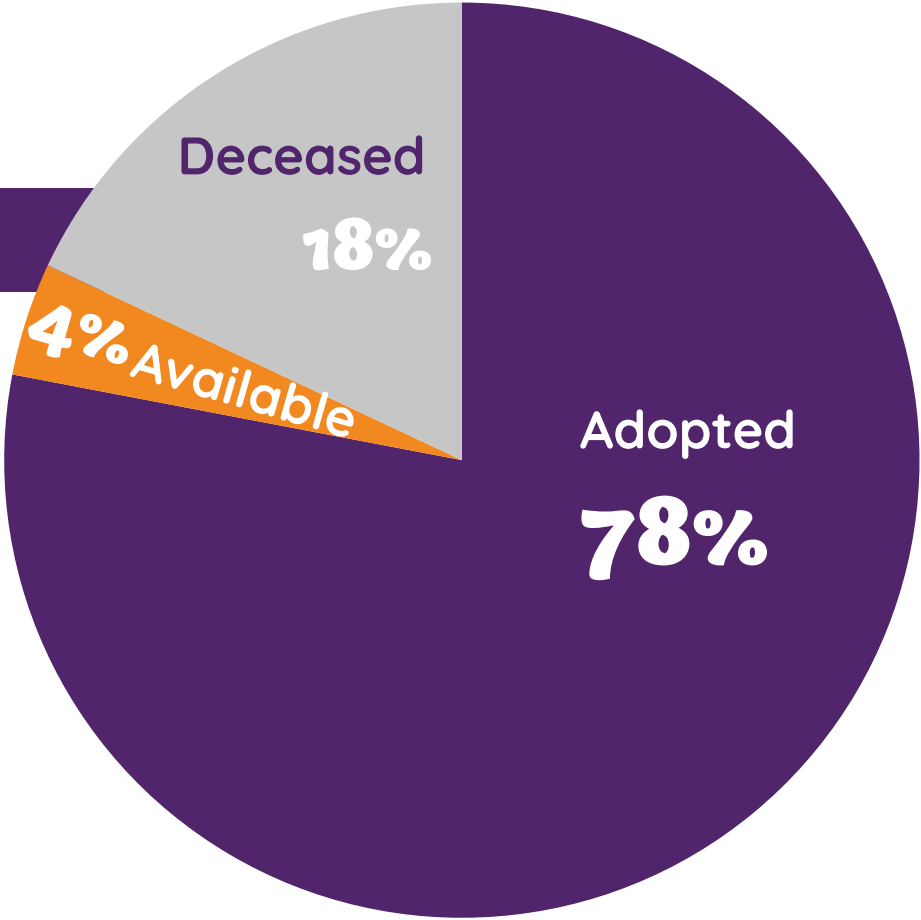
Outcome

Our mission at Beloved Rabbits is to create a better future for domestic rabbits through improved rabbit welfare standards, education, supporting rabbit owners and providing homes for rabbits in need throughout Scotland.

Against a challenging backdrop, we have succeeded in those aims for at least 82% of the rabbits that passed through our care as a result of rehoming applications in 2024.

Average Time In Rescue

For those rabbits who were surrendered directly to the rescue (who were not adopted through the RAP), they were either cared for in foster homes or through the Hoppy Hub.





Our Mission:

Creating a better future for domestic rabbits through improved rabbit welfare standards, education, supporting rabbit owners and providing homes for rabbits in need throughout Scotland.

'Cause Everybunny Matters!

Founded by passionate rabbit welfare advocates

High-quality products and services that reflect that love and care.

15+

Years Rabbit Welfare Experience

3,382+

Rabbits Helped

7,390+

Owners Supported

* Numbers represent collaborated effort between Beloved Rabbits and Beloved Rabbits Welfare Services CIC.

We Care About Your Rabbits' Welfare

Beloved Rabbits aims to improve life for domestic rabbits across Scotland by reducing neglect, supporting owners and promoting rabbits as complex, long lived companions, backed by a strong, skilled volunteer and supporter community.

To achieve this, Beloved Rabbits will

- ✓ Provide accommodation and safe, welfare focused care for domestic rabbits in need.
- ✓ Ensure high standards of husbandry and access to appropriate veterinary treatment for every rabbit in our care.
- ✓ Help owners find suitable homes for their rabbits when circumstances change.
- ✓ Advance education in rabbit welfare by raising awareness of abandoned rabbits, offering clear care advice and encouraging responsible rabbit ownership across Scotland.

