

# Step-By-Step Basic Rabbit Handling

Mike Greenberg, DVM • Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program • Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine

## Lifting



Approaching calmly, gently slide your right hand along the rabbit's right side.



Gently grasp the chest with your right hand



Slide your left hand beneath the rabbit to gently cradle the hindquarters



In *RARE* cases, one may need to grasp the rabbit's "scruff" to lift. This should only be done if absolutely necessary



With left hand cradling hindquarters and left arm supporting the the underside of the rabbit, the rabbit can be lifted



Be sure to *ALWAYS SUPPORT THE HINDQUARTERS* so as to reduce the risk of the rabbit injuring herself while kicking

\*All illustrations and instructions are written for right-handed handlers

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## Carrying



When carrying the rabbit, tucking her face between your upper arm and ribcage and hiding her eyes can help to keep her calm.

## Placing Back Down

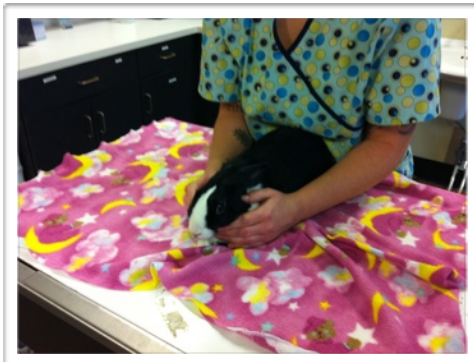


Place the rabbit's hind-end down first to decrease the risk of an escape



Next, gently lower the front feet down

## Basic Restraint



Keep one arm along each side of the rabbit, cradling her with hands in front. Keep her rump against your body

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## *"Bunny Burrito"*



Begin with rabbit on soft towel or blanket in the "Basic Restraint" position.



Wrap one side of the towel over the rabbit's back, being sure to include the hindquarters.



Tuck first wrap beneath rabbit, ensuring a snug fit.



Repeat steps 2a and 2b using other side of towel



Continue to provide gentle restraint after wrap is applied

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