'Lucky Bunnies' Looking for Homes

More than 100 rescued rabbits at Hollywood's World Bunny Organization are waiting to be adopted.

By Sarah Keech



<u>Bunny World Foundation</u> president Lejla Hadzimuratovic doesn't give names to the bunnies she rescues, but it's not because she doesn't care about them—it's often that there are just too many to name individually. Instead, she refers to them as "lucky bunnies."

Currently, there are more than 100 "lucky bunnies" available for adoption through the World Bunny Foundation, and Hadzimuratovic is eager to find safe, loving and qualified homes for them all.

"As I see it, I leave it up to the people who adopt the bunny to name it," said Hadzimuratovic. "They will choose the perfect name for their bunny, and that works out better because it will be their long-term commitment to that bunny."

Ninety percent of the bunnies rescued by the World Bunny Foundation are far too young to be adopted, many are found being sold by illegal pet vendors in downtown Los Angeles' Fashion District.

"Some of these bunnies are just seven to 10 days old, and have been taken from their mothers way to early," said Hadzimuratovic. "The care we provide to them is intense and twenty-four seven."

World Bunny Foundation does not have a traditional shelter, and most of the bunnies are sent to foster homes where volunteers care for them until they are old enough to be adopted. But just because the bunnies are old enough and healthy enough to be adopted doesn't make it a sure thing for the potential adopter.

"Our adoption system is basically by appointment only," said Hadzimuratovic. "We require people to fill out an application, then we conduct a phone interview. Often I will ask that they send me a photo of where the bunny will be living. By the end of the phone interview, about 50 percent of people change their mind."

There are a number of considerations the World Bunny Foundation takes into account when qualifying an adopter, including the ability to provide a safe indoor living area and having the financial stability to provide for the bunny's care for the span of its lifetime.

They also rarely allow families with small children to adopt.

After a certain number of qualified people are interested in adopting a bunny, the organization holds an adoption event for those people to meet their potential new pet.

The process might take a little longer than some other adoption outlets, but Hadzimuratovic just wants to ensure her "lucky bunnies" are going to the best homes possible.

The fee to adopt a bunny through World Bunny Foundation is \$45, which is a tax-deductible donation. To find out more about adopting a "lucky bunny," visit the <u>adoption section</u> of the World Bunny Foundation's website.