

# THIS EASTER, PICK THE CHOCOLATE KIND

*Live Easter pets require long-term commitment*

**Rabbits have an average life span of 8 to 12 years.**

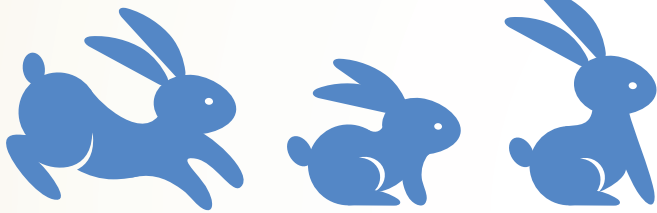
**Ducks and chickens can live for 7 to 10 years.**



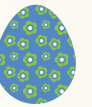
More than 500 rabbits were turned over to animal shelters in N.C. last year.\*



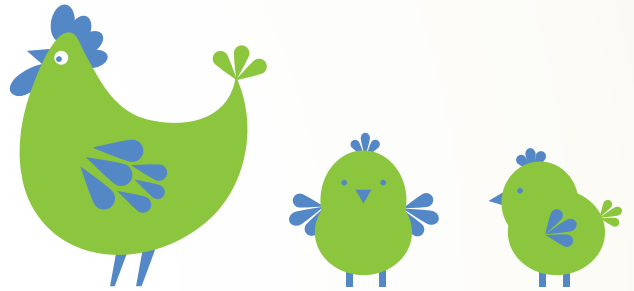
Rabbits require annual veterinary checkups and daily care, including cleaning their cage.











More than 300 chickens were turned over to animal shelters in N.C. last year.\*

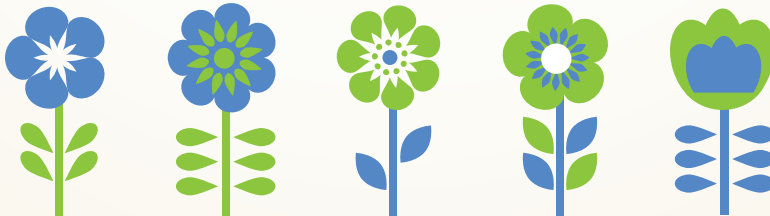


Chickens and ducks are not considered indoor pets and cannot be housebroken.



## *Poultry and Rabbit Facts*

-  *More than 3 billion eggs are produced in North Carolina each year.*
-  *Poultry can carry Salmonella. In 2017, the CDC reported 1,120 cases of illness linked to backyard poultry flocks.*
-  *Do not let poultry inside the house and do not snuggle or kiss the birds. Also, wash your hands after handling animals!*
-  *Eggs are checked for quality by N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' egg inspectors.*
-  *Rabbits' teeth continually grow and they must be given items to chew on to keep them filed down.*
-  *It is not recommended to house baby turkeys and baby chicks in the same pen because of risk of spreading disease.*
-  *Some rabbits are bred for their soft wool. Others are bred for their meat.*
-  *Baby chicks must be kept warm, 90 to 95 degrees, their first week.*



\* The actual number is likely much higher. Not all shelters report the number of chickens or rabbits to the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services because they are not required to do so.