The 10 Principles of Being Sanctuary

The mission, philosophy and practices of House Rabbit Society (HRS) profoundly reflect the 10 Principles of Being Sanctuary. Created by The Kerulos Center (www.kerulos.org), the principles are based on the science and psychology of trauma recovery. This philosophy translates directly to care and ethics that nurture Rabbit health, recovery, and well-being to offset impacts imposed by exploitation.

**Principle 1. Knowing**
An environment tailored to Rabbits

Knowledge of Rabbit natural history, psychology and individual personalities provides the foundation for healthful recovery.

**Principle 2. Safety**
A space of complete physical and psychological security.

Most Rabbits are subject to harsh and uncertain environments. Creating a physical, social, and psychological safe space allows Rabbits to direct all their energies to healing.

**Principle 3. Assurance**
Lifelong, consistent care

Rabbits can live over ten years. A forever home means planning for medical needs, an ever-enriching environment and care in perpetuity for their lifetimes.

**Principle 4. Belonging**
Cultivating positive relationships and personal space

Love is the foundation for healing. Through healthy, non-dominating relationships with other Rabbits, human and nonhuman family and friends, and the environment, Rabbits find home of their own.

**Principle 5. Parity**
A culture of fairness and reciprocity

Parity requires human caregivers to accept and support Rabbit needs and aspirations even when they do not always coincide with human timetables and desires.

**Principle 6. Being Heard**
Listening in to mental and physical needs.

Listening is the opposite of exerting control. It entails paying attention to individual moods and feelings through the eyes and values of a Rabbit.

**Principle 7. Self-determination**
Encourage independence and Self-authority

Your home and care are designed to optimize the ability of Rabbits to be who, where, and how they want to be.

**Principle 8. Acceptance**
Promoting dignity and freedom

In commercial settings, Rabbits are restricted from being who they really are. They are confined and live in fear with little chance to express themselves without being punished. A culture of acceptance is the open embrace of all forms of Rabbit self-expression.
Principle 9. Empowerment
Providing opportunities for individuals to put their aspirations into action.

Deprivation and abuse are designed to crush individuality and initiative. Being Sanctuary cultivates inner and outer landscapes that re-kindle a sense of self and confidence in the absence of fear.

Principle 10: Trust
Maintaining an absence of threat and cultivating patience and openness.

Healing takes time. When the principles of Being Sanctuary are applied, Rabbits begin to relax deeply, to trust themselves and those around them. Trust cultivates inner peace and joy.

How You Can Help

HRS rescues and adopts out Rabbits and through its publications, consults, and classes supports Rabbit well-being and self-determination. To support the Rabbits and learn more, please visit us at www.rabbit.org.

A loving heart is the beginning of all knowledge.
- Thomas Carlyle

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House Rabbit Society
Buy a bunny a little time.
www.rabbit.org