



### More information

For further information relating to domestic rabbits and your responsibilities, please contact your local Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board office listed below.

#### Gawler

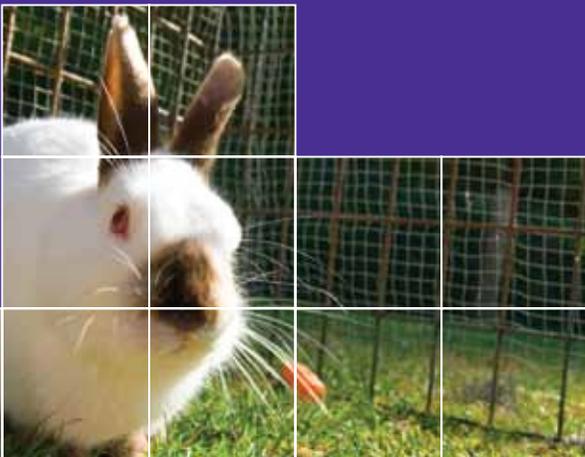
8 Adelaide Rd  
Gawler South SA 5118  
T (08) 8523 7700

#### Lobethal

1 Adelaide Lobethal Rd  
Lobethal SA 5241  
T (08) 8389 5900

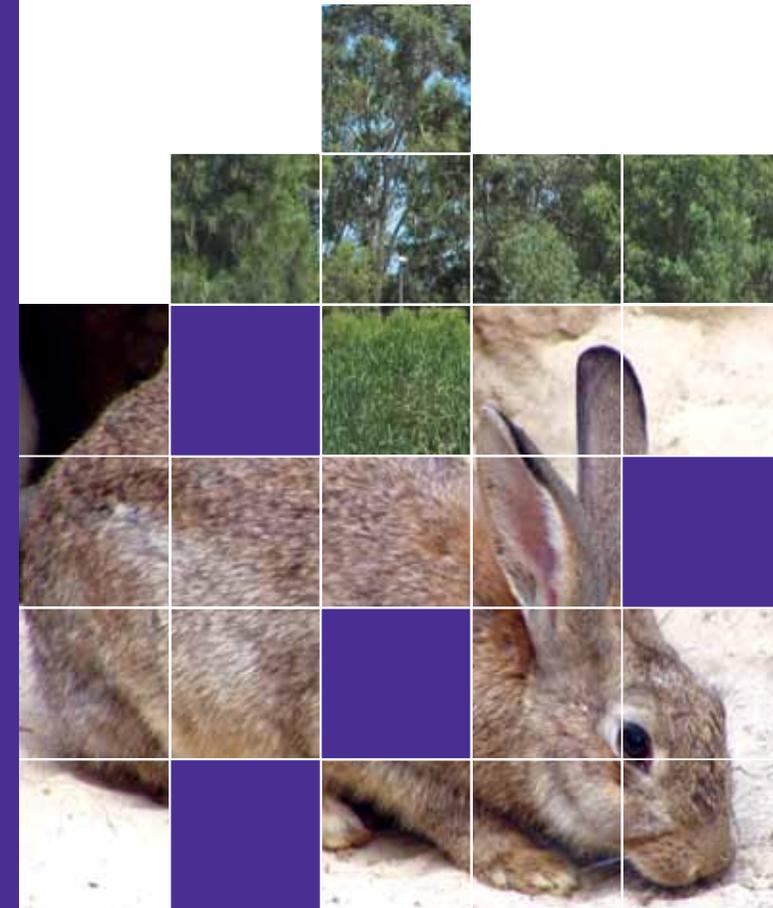
#### Willunga

5 Aldinga Rd  
Willunga SA 5172  
T (08) 8550 3400



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## Keeping domestic rabbits Your legal obligations



Rabbits make good pets provided they are housed and cared for appropriately. There are many domestic breeds of rabbits available in South Australia varying in size, colour and temperament. However, all breeds share one thing in common: they are related to wild rabbits.

### Cute but destructive

Rabbits may look harmless, but let loose, they can cause havoc on our environment. Like their wild cousins, escaped domestic rabbits are capable of damaging and destroying a wide range of plants in gardens and natural bushlands. In addition, their burrowing can lead to erosion problems and cause structural damage to buildings if they burrow underneath them.

Rabbits breed quickly, so a small number of escaped rabbits causing a small amount of damage can become a large number of rabbits causing a lot of damage in a relatively short time.



### Keep your rabbit captive – the law insists on it

To protect the environment from the effects of escaped domestic rabbits the Government of South Australia has given domestic rabbits' declaration status under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (NRM Act).

This means that owners of domestic rabbits and owners or occupiers of land where domestic rabbits are kept, have certain legal obligations including:

- » domestic breeds of rabbits must be housed in a well-constructed cage or pen that is escape proof
- » rabbits must NOT be allowed to roam at large on the property
- » rabbits must NOT be wilfully or negligently released from captivity
- » any instructions relating to the keeping of domestic rabbits, given by an officer authorised under the NRM Act, must be complied with
- » wild rabbits are prohibited from being kept in any situation.

### Caging your rabbit

Rabbits generally escape by digging or gnawing their way out. Wire cages work well, but ensure that the cage has an area of solid floor for the rabbit's comfort. If you are building an outdoor pen, dig the wire at least 30 cm into the ground and bend it back in the direction of the cage.

Ideally, a pet rabbit's cage should be at least 2 metres long to allow for a few good hops in one direction and at least 75 cm tall to allow the rabbit to sit in 'lookout' posture. For more information about rabbit cages and caring for your pet visit the RSPCA website: [www.rspca.org.au](http://www.rspca.org.au)

Consider desexing your rabbit. In addition to preventing unwanted litters, desexed male rabbits can be less aggressive.

