



## DUMPED OR ABANDONED PET RABBITS

Did you know that it is a “cruelty” offence to abandon or let a pet rabbit go into the environment?

If you see a person dumping or letting their rabbits loose you MUST report them. If you do not report them, the behaviour will not stop, and legislative change will never happen.

The Department of Agriculture does not consider abandoned pet rabbits to be a problem, as they are never reported to them. It is therefore difficult for us to put a case of abandoned pet rabbits if they are never documented with the Department.

### **Please not any of the following to pass onto the authorities:**

If your pet rabbits are being abandoned or the owners have let them loose you need to gather some information such as:

- Residential address where the animals have come from.
- a car registration number
- date and time of offence
- photo of the animals if possible

### **Who do you report to?**

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA: <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/livestock-health-and-welfare/report-animal-cruelty>

- It is a cruelty offence to let an animal go under the POCTA (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) Act.
- You will see in the above link that “*neglected or abandoned animals...*” come under the definition of cruelty.
- Please insist that they register your complaint.

### **Contact for Agriculture Victoria**

Email: [aw.complaint@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:aw.complaint@agriculture.vic.gov.au)

Phone: 136 186 they will transfer you to the correct person.