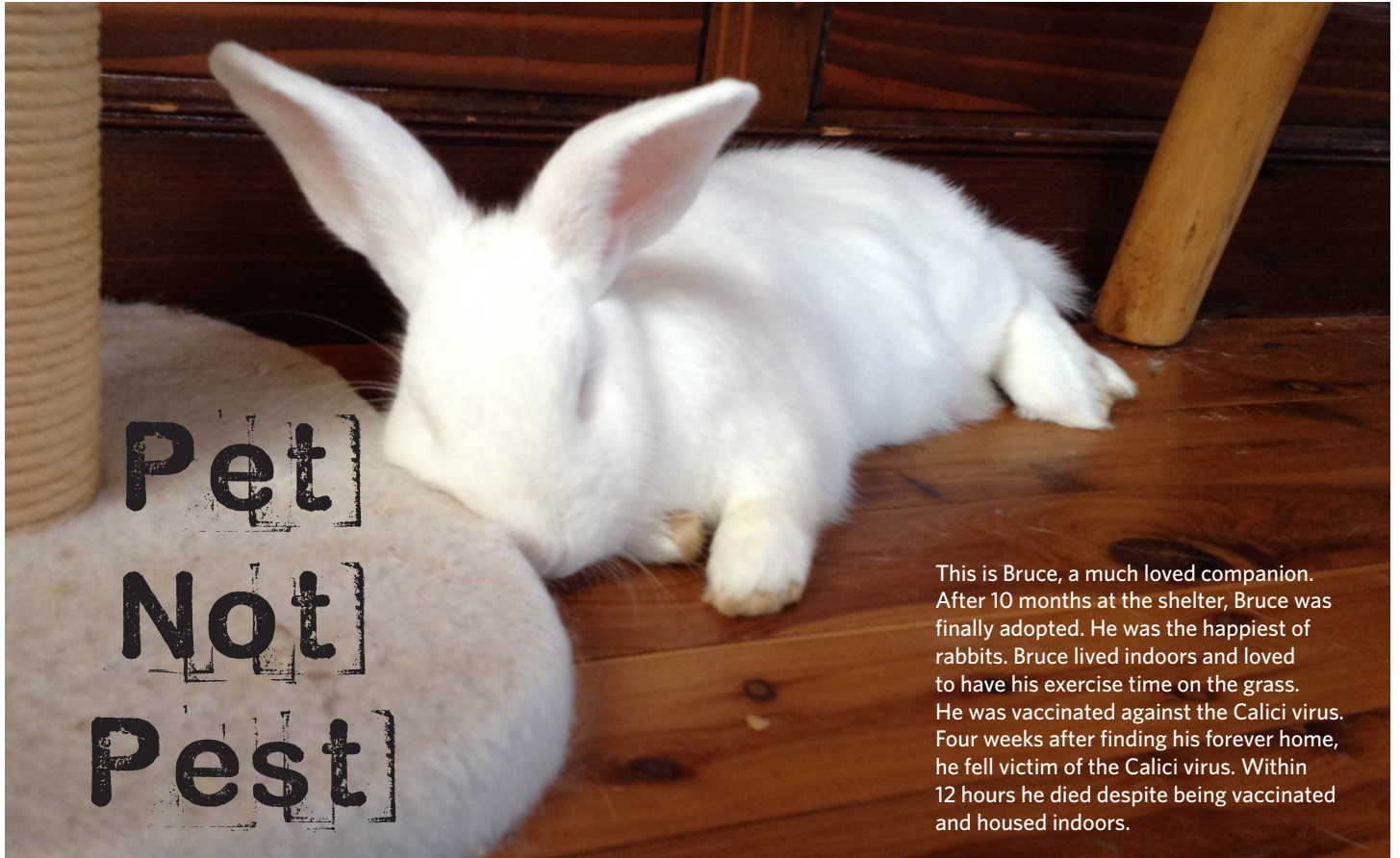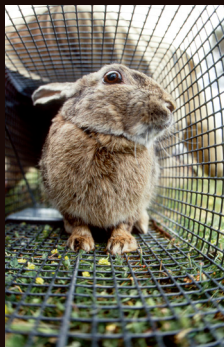## DOWN THE RABBIT HOLES

Pet Not Pest

This is Bruce, a much loved companion. After 10 months at the shelter, Bruce was finally adopted. He was the happiest of rabbits. Bruce lived indoors and loved to have his exercise time on the grass. He was vaccinated against the Calici virus. Four weeks after finding his forever home, he fell victim of the Calici virus. Within 12 hours he died despite being vaccinated and housed indoors.

Wild rabbits are deemed under the Australian law to be pests (vertebrae pests). They are mainly killed by methods that would be considered inhumane and illegal under anti-cruelty laws if they were applied to companion animals. Man-made viruses and poisons affect domestic rabbits as well. It is lawful in Australia for rabbits to be poisoned, infected with disease, hunted or caught in steel-jawed traps all while being excluded from the operation of the anti cruelty acts. Other examples of rabbit control are poisons, fumigants, warren ripping, shooting or trapping.

Bio control agents:
The Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus, better known as the Calici virus, infects many organs including the lungs, gut and liver of the rabbit. This in turn causes acute liver damage which can kill a rabbit within 48 hours. There is currently one vaccine released in Australia, however it is not effective against all strains.

Poisons:
Although Pindone is clearly labelled inhumane by the RSCPA, this poison along with 1080 are the main poisons used to control rabbits in Australia.
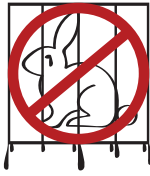
Myxoma virus is a disease that causes immense suffering to the rabbit. It progresses as severe conjunctivitis which causes blindness, along with lumpy swellings on the head and on the body. The eyes become swollen shut due to excessive amounts of thick pus discharge. It takes about a fortnight for an infected rabbit to die. Vaccines are not allowed in Australia.

DOWN THE RABBIT HOLES

Stop eradicating rabbits in such inhumane ways.

Pindone
Rabbits who ingest Pindone show signs of lethargy, depression followed by anorexia, anaemia and bleeding. Bleeding around the nose, mouth, eyes and anus with bloody faeces are common symptoms. Pain and discomfort set in due to bleeding of the internal organs. These symptoms last 10-14 days before death.

1080
Common signs of 1080 poisoning in rabbits include lethargy, laboured respiration and increased sensitivity to noise and disturbance. Convulsions occur accompanied by gasping and squealing. Death follows 3-4 hours later.

Demand humane methods in rabbit population control such as fertility control. Tell your landcare groups and councils to stop using poison on rabbits.

Eyes open on Rabbits and our society

Ethical Vegan Earth Research

For more information contact: info@downtherabbitholes.org
http://downtherabbitholes.org/bunny-pain-pet-not-pest/