

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES

**Declaration of Possession For European Rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)
Owned Prior to July 1, 2017**

Note: Domesticated breeds recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. and any lineage resulting from crossbreeding recognized breeds do not need to be declared.

(Under Authority of Virginia Administrative Code 4 VAC 15-30-40)

Please complete the following requested information. This declaration of possession is for European rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) not recognized as a domestic breed or the offspring of a domestic breed recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. (hereafter non-domestic European rabbit). **Only non-domestic European rabbits possessed prior to 1 July 2017 may be declared and legally owned.** If more than one non-domestic European rabbit is being declared, a separate form must be submitted for each animal. **This declaration of possession must be received no later than 1 January 2018.** Properly declared non-domestic European rabbits may not be bred or sold without an additional permit from the Department. Possession permits must be renewed every five years and are not transferable. Please notify the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Permit Section when a declared non-domestic European rabbit dies or is transferred out of this state.

Name of Individual Possessing non-domestic European rabbit: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

County: _____ Telephone Number: (____) _____

Name and location of facility (if different from above) where animal is housed: _____

_____ County: _____

Date Acquired: _____

Sex of non-domestic European rabbit: _____ Age (exact or estimated): _____

Description of coloration (color photo also required): _____

By my signature below, I hereby certify that all entries made on this declaration form are true and complete, and I agree and understand that any falsification of information herein, regardless of time of discovery, may result in denial or revocation of my possession permit. TYPED SIGNATURE IS AUTHORIZED AND BINDING PER CODE OF VIRGINIA §1-13.32 AND §2.1-7.4

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Please mail completed declaration form and color photo of non-domestic European rabbit to:
VDGIF, Permits Section, P O Box 3337, Henrico, VA 23228**

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES
REQUIREMENTS FOR DECLARATION OF POSSESSION OF NON-
DOMESTIC EUROPEAN RABBIT OBTAINED PRIOR TO JULY 1, 2017**

Under authority of Sections 29.1-103 and 29.1-521 of the Code of Virginia, it shall be unlawful to take, possess, import, cause to be imported, export, cause to be exported, buy, sell, offer for sale or liberate within the Commonwealth any wild animal unless otherwise specifically permitted by law or regulation. Effective 1 July 2017, all European rabbits not recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc., regardless of their domestic origin or coloration, are legally defined as wild animals (hereafter non-domestic European rabbit). Non-domestic European rabbits possessed prior to 1 July 2017 may be maintained in captivity if they are properly declared to the Department prior to 1 January 2018. However, these rabbits may not be bred or sold without a permit from the Department.

1. **NOTIFICATION:** Declaration of possession of a non-domestic European rabbit shall be submitted in writing to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Permits Section, PO Box 3337, Henrico, VA 23228, no later than January 1, 2018. The written declaration must include the date acquired, sex, estimated age, coloration, and a photograph of each non-domestic European rabbit (see form).
2. **TERMS:** Acknowledgement of declaration will be mailed to the owner and (i) shall serve as a permit for possession only, (ii) is not transferable, and (iii) must be renewed every five years.
3. **RENEWAL:** It shall be the responsibility of the non-domestic European rabbit owner to initiate any and all possession permit renewals.
4. **REVOCATION:** The Department may revoke, or suspend a possession permit for failure to comply with the permit conditions listed below (4 VAC 15-290-130).

CONDITIONS OF POSSESSION PERMIT

1. Under no circumstances shall any non-domestic European rabbit permitted for possession be released into the wild. Permitted non-domestic European rabbits may not be bred or sold without an additional permit from the Department.
2. **FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAWS:** This possession permit does not absolve the individual listed on this application of any responsibilities or conditions of any other federal, state, or local laws and regulations.