

## Shipping Rabbits from Blue Ribbon Rabbitry

Shipping is both expensive and time consuming, but is ultimately worth it if you need to purchase high quality stock that is not found in your area. While there are many things involved in shipping live animals, in our experience it is a fairly smooth and easy process. At our rabbitry, all shipping costs and arrangements are the responsibility of the buyer. The only thing we need to know and agree upon is when the rabbits need to arrive at the airport.

### **Here are the factors and costs to consider:**

Cost of the individual rabbits – Either a \$200 minimum purchase or purchase of 3-4 rabbits generally must be made. I can make exceptions on a case by case basis. Shipping multiple rabbits at one time is the most cost effective way for a buyer to ship rabbits. Our price range for rabbits can be found on our main availability page. Per our sales policy, a 50% deposit must be placed on rabbits in order for us to hold them while shipping arrangements are figured out. This deposit is non refundable unless I cancel the sale. The deposit ensures that we are dealing with serious buyers. The rabbits must be paid in full before they are shipped.

Cost of actual Shipping – As mentioned, the actual shipping arrangements are the responsibility of the buyer. The only thing I need to know and agree upon is the time and day the rabbits need to be at the airport. Costs will vary depending upon the airline and time of year. Some airlines do not ship at all during summer months. You will want to contact airlines that ship from Indianapolis International Airport (IND) for more information.

Carriers, bowls, etc. – All rabbits must be in airline acceptable carriers. Generally a normal all wire rabbit carrier used for shows will be accepted. It must be leak proof. Some airlines will require that cardboard is placed on the sides and tops to enclose the rabbits. Since we will prepare the carrier, all of these details must be given to us.

All rabbits must also have a food and water bowl in addition to “Live Animal” signs. The easiest way for the buyer to purchase the carrier, bowls and signs is to do so through a vendor and have the items shipped to us. We most frequently use [KW cages](#), but any vendor you choose is fine with us.

Health Certificate – Most airlines require a health certificate. The cost ranges from \$20-35. Some veterinarians will put all rabbits on one certificate and others will require a separate certificate for each animal. We will check with our veterinarian and let the buyer know. This cost must be prepaid along with the deposit.

**\$50 shipping charge:** In addition to the costs listed above, we charge a flat fee to consider shipping rabbits. This fee is paid with the deposit. This is what we will do as a part of that fee -

- Take each rabbit to the veterinarian for an exam and health certificate. The certificate cost is prepaid by the buyer.
- Prepare the carrier and rabbits for transportation.

- Transport the rabbits to the Indianapolis (IND) airport. We will always arrive early, check them in and await for the plane to depart (the wait alone is usually a few hours).

**Alternative options to shipping:**

Driving – Most people that consider shipping live a reasonable distance away from the breeder they are considering buying from. If you happen to be within a reasonable driving distance you may want to reconsider shipping. Time and distance is usually the only reason people do not choose this option as even with high gas costs, it often works out to be more affordable.

National Convention Pickup – Each year the American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) hosts an annual national convention. If you plan on attending, this is a great time to buy rabbits from breeders that live at a great distance from you. Even if you are not attending, it is very likely someone in your area may be. Checking with local club members or online message boards is a great way to find people making the trip that are able to transport rabbits. If you want rabbits during the offseason, the bad news is the same stock will likely not be available by the time convention rolls around.

Rabbit Railroad – Rabbit folks are pretty good at helping other breeders get rabbits across the country. Showbunny is an online yahoo group that includes breeders throughout the country. That is only one of many forums online. Even if it seems far fetched, it is always worth a shot to see if someone can help.