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After spending their entire lives in cramped cages and deplorable conditions, 57 dogs will finally have a chance to live in loving homes. Earlier this month, the puppies were rescued by animal rights group Humane Society International and the Change for Animals Foundation from a dog meat farm in South Korea. They were then brought to California last week, where they remain in the care of the San Francisco SPCA and other local animal shelters. Some of these dogs were in a terrible state both physically and mentally, the campaign manager of Humane Society International Asia, Lola Webber, said in a press release. As soon as we opened their cage doors and they realized we wouldn't hurt them, they logged their tails and licked our faces. The meat farm where the dogs were kept has been shut down. And the land will now be used to grow products instead, the owner said. And on top of the pooches finally having a chance to recover from their experiences, they have even better news coming their way. These lucky dogs will live the rest of their lives as valued and cherished members of an eternal family in the United States, said Adam Parascandola, Humane Society International's director of animal protection and crisis response. More Pet News: • This Missing Cat Was Found All Over the Country • Can Puppy Kisses Help You Fight Allergies? • Yes, your dog can really tell what you feel [via The Huffington Post This content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported to this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content on piano.io

A while back, my wife and I spent a few years in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, a beautiful but isolated swath of dense forest, rocky hills, and inland lakes stretching along Lake Superior's south coast. We were based in a significant town, but my wife occasionally traveled to a small, half-abandoned mining village on the Keweenaw Peninsula, which juts north into the great lake from the town of Houghton. The small village had only a few dozen residents, it seemed. They were probably outnumbered by an decidedly non-human presence: a docile, faintly absurd bunch of oversized, multicolored free-range rabbits. The rabbits happily bounced around the city, mowing overgrown lawns and roadside brush spots down. Who knew how many were lost to predators - wolves, bobcats and coyotes roamed the surrounding forests. The owners didn't seem much to care. (Although we've never met them. In retrospect, I'm not sure they even existed. These furry lawnmowers may well have been descended from the inhabitants of some long-abandoned rabbit The Keweenaw rabbits made me think: is it profitable to rabbits at home? Or is it a better bet just to keep one or two as house pets, as most people do? So I went down the rabbit hole, so to speak. Here's what I learned. Where to travel rabbits legally

First thing first: You must determine whether it is legal to raise rabbits for food on your property. 1. Raise Rabbits on your property Most municipalities allow rabbits to be kept as pets, but it is a different proposition than raising rabbits for slaughter. In many places, commercial rabbit farming - even on hobby farm scales - is not allowed on properties designated for private use. Elsewhere, rabbits may be allowed to breed (and other small domestic animals, such as chickens), but their slaughter and processing may be prohibited. For example, the relevant part of Austin's city code: For properties laid out residential, raising of chickens, rabbits and aquatic foods using an aquaponic system is permitted in accordance with Chapters 3-2 (Restrictions on Animals) of the City Code. The slaughter and processing of water food is permitted. Composting of animal parts is prohibited in residential areas. Even where the uplift and (less frequently) slaughter and processing of rabbits on residential property is permitted, amateur rabbit breeders must comply with the relevant city ordinances. See below for more details on this point. Rules around slaughtering and processing rabbits tend to be more lenient in rural townships and personal areas than in urban or suburban neighborhoods. 2. Raise Rabbits on a common farm If your hometown does not allow you to complete the rabbit-rearing life cycle on your farm, don't despair. You can still raise rabbits for meat without using a third-party processor to humanely kill and process them. You just need help from an urban farm or community garden. Back in 2010, Minneapolis foodie publication The Heavy Table reported on a motley group of urban farmers who had turned an abandoned lot into a produce and livestock factory. Their farm, part of a low-income housing cooperative, included a diverse congregation of ducks, geese, chickens and rabbits, according to The Heavy Table. Compared to its space- and feed-intensive chicken farming, the cooperative's rabbit farm was a breeze to maintain. The rabbits crept up in a corner of the livestock shed they had built, ate hay and naturally occurring vegetation, and only needed to be moved in on extremely cold winter nights. If you are not allowed or prefer not to process rabbits on your farm, or you are seeking a more community-oriented approach to rabbit house anyway, you can find or start a common farm in your city. To find an existing urban or community farm, see this comprehensive for active Facebook groups in your area. To start your own, follow this step-by-step guide from the University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources. You also like: Curious about another type of sustainable community garden? Check out our post about community solar gardens, an increasingly popular power generation solution that is viable in most of the continental U.S. 3. Components of a municipal rabbit ordinance Whether you choose to raise rabbits on your own property or a vacant lot over over to small farms, you need to know what you can and can't do with your rabbitry operation. Rabbit ordinances (often included in broader small livestock or market garden ordinances) vary widely from place to place, but most include provisions for: Permitting: These elements clarify if and when your backyard rabbit operation requires a municipal permit. It is not uncommon for municipalities to waive the permitting of small rabbit seeds, usually no more than three or four adult animals. Larger operations usually require permissions. Keep in mind that you can generally keep a larger number of young rabbits - younger than three months or so. Young rabbits, known as deep flyers, produce tastier meat, so you'll probably slaughter or send your rabbits out for slaughter before they reach full maturity anyway. (Adult rabbit meat is better braised or in stews, and it's very gamier - not a deal-breaker, but not something you'd like to eat on your own.) Neighbor review: Neighbor review requirements vary widely. Portland, Oregon's rabbit ordinance requires notification of all neighbors within 150 feet of your property lines. Some ordinances do not mandate notification at all. Fees: Where there is a permit, there is a fee. These fees are usually not onerous: Portland's is \$31, once, for example. If your city's permits expire after a year or two, you may have to pay a renewal fee that should be lower than the original fee. Housing Units On-Site: Some cities discourage recreational farming by banning rabbit enclosures on parcels without housing units. Likewise, most cities prohibit livestock on more densely built residential buildings, such as apartment buildings or complexes. In Austin, you can't raise rabbits on properties with more than two residential units. Herd Size: Ordinances' permitting requirements are de facto restrictions on comet size. If you do not want to pay the fee and fill out the paperwork for the permit, you must keep your comt small. Otherwise, the permitted rabbit quintuplets are generally limited by limits on the enclosure size, space-per-rabbit requirements or restrictions on the slaughter frequency. For example, ordinances that clarify space-per-rabbit requirements mandate at least 10 to 15 square feet per animal. Notices restricting the slaughter rate may do so as of the size of the holding or lot. For example, Austin's ordinance limits slaughter to one animal per week, per tenth of an acre. Setback and location: Cabinets must be placed away from the surrounding structures and property lines. In Portland, the required minimum structural setback is 15 feet. Chassis size and dimensions: In many cities, enclosures are further subject to minimum or maximum size limits and requirements for space per rabbit. Don't assume that your executive order explicitly clarifies these issues, though: Portland's Specified Animal Facility code doesn't say anything about the size or layout of your rabbit hutch. Slaughter and processing: Rabbit ordinances generally address these issues in some way. If on-site slaughter and processing is prohibited, there may be a language on how to legally arrange treatment outside the plant. Where slaughter and processing are permitted, language should be provided specifying the permitted frequency and method. Sanitation and disposal: These issues address permitted bottom cover, composting of waste and remains (if permitted), and any action required to protect local water quality. Note that some city ordinances, such as Austin's, prohibit or restrict livestock in critical watershed areas where wastewater can contaminate drinking water or sensitive habitats. Some municipal codes may require you to submit detailed schedules to your rabbits' enclosure, or hutch. This is a common feature of livestock hens (chicken, duck, turkey) ordinances, which tend to be more detailed and specific than rabbit ordinances due to the comparative prevalence of backyard chicken farming and the disruptive nature of domestic birds. Choose the right rabbit breed don't even bother setting traps for the gray and brown hares jumping happily around your yard. They're not worth the effort. If you are serious about keeping rabbits for meat, you need a breed built for the job. Meat rabbits are longer, fatter, and fluffier than your typical wild bunny. These are generally considered the best rabbits to eat - although some do well house pets as well. Unless otherwise stated, all recognized and sanctioned by the American Rabbit Breeders Association: Champagne D'Argent: This major heritage race has been around since the early 1600s. Although it is less common these days, it is still considered a fantastic domestic breed - prized for its distinctive black fur in addition to its flesh. Palomino: These attractive, pale-orange rabbits range from eight to 12 pounds. They are quiet and cooperative - perfect for checkered urban neighborhoods. Flemish Giant: These monster rabbits can grow up to 20 pounds. Not surprisingly, they are appreciated for their meat, although they are also raised for fur. Originally originated from Flanders region, Flemish giants are considered one of the most docile docile breeds around. Chinchilla: Not to be confused with the fun-looking desert rodents, after which they are named, these fluffy, dense rabbits grow up to 12 pounds. Although they are often kept as pets, they are appreciated for their meat and make good livestock. New Zealand: Despite the name, this breed originated in the United States, although it can trace its descent to New Zealand at some point in the now forgotten past. It is considered one of the best meat breeds. Adults grow up to 12 pounds and come in five colors: white, blue, black, red and broken (multicolored). New Zealand whites' meat has a distinctive pink hue, like insufficient poultry. Don't worry, it's safe to eat - and delicious. 1. How much does a meat rabbit cost? Rabbits are not very expensive. Whereas pet rabbits purchased from shelters typically carry adoption fees ranging from \$50 to \$100, New Zealand rabbits can cost as little as \$10 apiece, according to Crossroads Rabbitry. Non-pedigree Flemish giants cost \$20 to \$50 apiece. Younger rabbits almost always cost less than mature rabbits as they are smaller (meaning less meat) and face higher mortality risk. You can buy rabbits as young as four weeks, just a few days after they are weaned off. Small surgeries only need one buck (male) and two do (women) to get started. This is coincidental, since many municipal rabbit codes limit disallowed backyard farms to three adult rabbits. To avoid extended breeding time, you will want to start your comet with adults. Expect to pay at least \$75 in total for three healthy adults - more for certain breeds. 2. How much can you get for rabbit meat? Many hobbyists are quite happy not to sell their rabbits' meat. If you start your backyard rabbit farm simply to reduce the long-term environmental and ethical costs of your carnivorous habits, you don't have to worry about this part. According to reputable sources I've seen, commercial meat processors pay anywhere from \$1 to \$2 per pound for live rabbits. You will probably have to work with a non-USDA processor or cabinet system, as USDA certified facilities are not allowed to slaughter meat from non-USDA certified farms. To find one, search online for cupboard plants in your area or check with your state association of meat processors. If you are able to process your rabbit meat on site, you can expect to get \$5 to \$7 per pound, depending on quality. But as a small operation, you'll probably struggle to find butchers or independent meat marketers willing to buy small batches. Unless you have the space, resources and legal runway to scale up, it may be best to live-sell any excess rabbits you produce, reinvest (modest) proceeds into your operation, and eat as much as you can. If you are dependent on a processor for the meat you would like to eat, you should expect to pay the difference between retail costs and the price the processor is willing to pay for your live rabbits: \$3 to \$6 per pound. But you can probably negotiate a better deal for a recurring or bulk treatment arrangement - perhaps as low as \$2 or \$3 per pound. Pro Tip: This guide is aimed at hobbyist rabbit farmers. If you are interested in launching a legitimate commercial rabbit farming operation as a source of primary or secondary income, check out this guide from Crossroads Rabbitry. It includes additional information on costs, breeding schedules, and logistical considerations, in addition to what I've included in this post. What you need to raise rabbits - Supplies & Costs Your rabbits need a place to stay and supplies to keep them comfortable. These are the main components of your backyard rabbit farm. 1. Hutch Plan Your rabbits' home base is a solid enclosure, usually wood with metal components, called a hutch. Hutches are generally smaller and more mobile than the chicken coop, so not all municipalities regulate their construction. But many cities do, so you may be asked to submit a formal hutch plan to the appropriate authorities - usually zoning or animal control department. Your hutch plan clarifies your hutch layout, dimensions, construction and location on your property. It can also cover your rabbits' outdoor enclosure if you give one. Even if your municipality doesn't require you to submit a plan, a hutch plan can be good for your bottom line. Other than rabbits though, your hutch is likely to be your biggest starting expense. Larger pre-built hutches appropriate for outdoor rabbit populations reliably cost more than \$100. Hutches that include small outdoor pens (cabinets) typically cost more than \$150. By contrast, a scratch-built hutch made of cheap wood and wires costs a fraction of that, and should take a skilled DIYer less than a day to put together. Free hutch plans abound online - check out these nine from The Balance, for example. 2. Hutch Your rabbits will spend a good portion of their time in the hutch, so make sure it's comfortable. Review online hutch plans or check out models like this (\$150) for an idea of what your hutch wants or should look like. Your hutch size will depend on the size of your coming. The more rabbits you have, the more space you need to house them. Some other hutch-related elements to keep in mind: Waste control and disposal: Most pre-built hutches have wire floors with enough distance to allow waste to fall through into a sub-floor tray or box that is easy enough to remove and empty. If you build yours from scratch, this is an important sanitation feature. Compartmented Nursing: Pre-built hutches have separate rooms where new mothers can nurse their litter in peace and quiet. DIY hutches should as well - preferably with four solid and a solid wooden floor that can support adequate bedding, climate control. Rabbits are pretty hardy mammals, but temperature control is still important in extreme climates. If it gets really hot in your backyard, try to find a shady place for your hutch. Provided it's safe to do so, consider rigging a standing electric fan (\$15 and up) to provide additional climate control. In cold climates, space heaters are optional - they consume lots of energy, are prone to shorts and fires, and typically cost \$25 or more. If you are worried about your rabbits on frigid days, take steps to house them indoors, perhaps in a basement or garage. 3. Outdoor enclosure (Pen or Run) If your hutch does not have a built-in pen, construct or install an outdoor enclosure that provides your rabbits with some breathing (hopping) room. You can buy pre-built pens with solid framing and enough space to run, but they are pricey. This basic wire-frame model is almost \$100 on Overstock.com. A DIY alternative is probably several times cheaper and requires minimal handiness - you just need to know how to nail together wooden frames, hook together wire, and keep it all stable on level ground (tent poles work well). Pro Tip: If your yard is fully fenced in and you're not worried about birds of prey, you may be able to skip the enclosure completely. Make sure this is allowed in your city first, though. 4. Separate areas for Do and Bucks Rabbits are notoriously prolific breeders. Unlike many mammals, making is fertile year round, which means the likelihood that they will become pregnant after intercourse is quite high. If you raise a small group for meat, this is not necessarily a bad thing. But even rabbits have limits: Experts recommend waiting until the last litter is weaned, usually six weeks after birth, to reintroduce the makings and bends. Back-to-back pregnancies tax does, shorten their lifespan and increase infant mortality. Meanwhile, don't let do and bow out of the hutch at the same time. The best way to avoid unintended pregnancies is to maintain two separate hutches and cabinets - one for each sex. If your budget doesn't allow for this, use a massive wooden barrier to delineate male and female sections in your outdoor enclosure and hutch. It's not pretty, but a plywood barrier anchored to the ground with tent poles and to the cabinet walls with twist-ties is perfectly functional - and doable with found or repurposed materials at virtually no cost. 5. Predator Protection Your rabbits have adequate predator protection inside their hutches, but what about in their outdoor enclosures? If your yard is not fully fenced in, it may be time to invest in a pragmatic, inexpensive perimeter. Per Homewyse, you can expect a chain-link fence to cost \$5 to \$10 per linear foot. Gates are more expensive, especially if Designed with low clearances to prevent quadrupled predators from creeping into your yard. To protect against birds, consider rigging your outdoor enclosure with chicken wire or sturdy mesh wires above and on all sides. 6. Bedding Your outdoor cabinet bedding doesn't have to be anything fancy, but it does need to be absorbent and relatively easy to change. Straw bedding is standard. It will set you back \$5 to \$10 per bale. How much you need depends on how much space you need to cover and how often you're willing (or forced by smell) to change it. Bedding is optional inside the hutch. Provided you have a waste catch tray, it is not necessary for sanitation purposes, but it can certainly reduce odor in between cleaning. The only exception is in the nursing room, which should have lots of straw or hay covering its solid floor. Baby rabbits do not like solid or wire surfaces. 7. Food and water in proper containers Rabbits need food and water, of course. Unlike goats and chickens, they are not super effective foragers, although they would like to mow your lawn if you let them. If you let your rabbits browse, introduce them slowly to practice. Suddenly switching from processed or dried foods to fresh greens can cause bunny indigestion (yes, that's one thing). Healthy meat bunnies thrive on high quality Timothy hay. A 24-ounce mini-bale costs about \$4 at Mills Fleet Farm: Your local pet store probably has different size bales in stock too. Rabbit experts recommend supplementing hay with protein-fiber pellets and fresh vegetables, such as lettuce and carrots. These should cover 10-20% of the total food quantity consumed by adult rabbits. Pellets are more important for younger rabbits. They're not super expensive: a 10-pound bag will set you back less than \$12. Place your rabbits food in a tight lattice container or sifting feeder that is hard for them to get into. If they can easily access the container, they will defecate freely in it, contaminating their food and increasing the risk of disease. Term feeders are cheap and efficient: Amazon sells a small one suitable for small rvers for \$9. For water, you will have an ample water bottle that may last a while between refills. The bigger the comet, the bigger the comet, (the bigger the bottle. Amazon sells bottles up to 64 ounces for under \$8. Slaughter and Processing Station If you want to slaughter and treat your rabbits on site, use this cruel but necessary feature. I won't go into bloody details about slaughter - if you're interested, there are plenty of reputable resources elsewhere online. Suffice it to say that you will need a few sharp knives (with a grinder), flat surfaces, storage items, and any material you can easily obtain at a hardware store. Provided you already have knives and a grinder, the whole setup costs more than \$10. Pro Tip: If you plan to get fancy with your processing - like making sausage or minced meat - then you'll need a meat grinder. This will easily be your biggest meat-related expense: Expect to pay at least \$60 for a small but functional chopper, and upwards of \$150 for a smarter model. Run a Rabbit Hobby Farm - Setup, Breeding & More This is a general guide to acquiring rabbits, creating your rabbit farm, and raising and breeding your rabbits humanely: Plan yours here. First decide on your comet size and composition (race). As mentioned, you can start a hobby group with only one buck and two do, but adding another doe or two (if the budget allows) allows for more diversity. Experts recommend no more than one buck per five do. Plan your Hutch and Run. Look for a pre-built hutch or hutch plan with enough space for your coming, keep in mind that you'll have a lot more rabbits on your hands soon. Hutch plans and product descriptions generally clarify capacity. Mind local space-per-rabbit ordinances, if any. And make sure your backyard has enough space, in a suitable place, for everything. Check the necessary permissions. Find out if you need to apply for a permit from the necessary authorities. If so, be sure to have all your ducks (or rabbits) in a row before submitting in your application. If in doubt, contact your municipal zoning or animal control office for details directly from the source. Build or install your Hutch and Run. When your farm is legal, set up your rabbits' future home. If the prospect of building a DIY hutch is daunting, tap a handy friend or family member to lend a hand. Prepare the room for your rabbits. Clear everything your rabbits need to be safe, healthy and comfortable: food and water containers, hay and pellets, bedding, and sanitation equipment. Do not forget to prepare the care room inside the hutch with appropriate bedding. Before you fill the room, make sure everything is clean and clear one last time. You don't want to find a colony of chipman in your hutch on the day you bring your rabbits home. Buy your rabbits. Next, find a local breeder for your chosen breed. If you're not sure where to start, check with your local chapter of the American Rabbit Breeders Association or use an aggregated list from a website like RabbitBreeders.us. (Note: I have not independently evaluated these sources.) Don't worry about getting pedigreed rabbits with papers. This is only necessary if you plan to show off your rabbits in the future. Get into a rhythm. Get into a feeding and cleaning rhythm that aligns with your rabbits habits and your personal schedule. Each one is different - and as your family grows, your responsibilities will change. Breed your Now for the fun part. Remember, are eternally fertile, so don't until you are ready for the consequences. If you have more than one buck, use a spreadsheet to track which he pairs with and the generation lines that result. You'll know your doe is about to give birth when she starts (literally) pulling her hair and adding it to the bedding in the nursing room. Rabbits are born blind and helpless, and you won't see much of them until they're weaned. Nor the mother, for that matter: she will feed them twice a day, but otherwise go about her business more or less as usual. Just check periodically that babies are still alive, but don't be upset if someone doesn't - it's common for younger mothers to lose most or all of their first few litters. Always wear gloves when handling baby rabbits - their immune systems are as sore as their skin. Let the litter grow. Once the litter's surviving members are weaned, let them do their thing for a few weeks. For most breeds, four to six pounds is the ideal fryer size - bigger than that, and the meat is too gamy, smaller than that, and you don't get enough. Wait at least 14 days after weaning to breed the mother again. Some experts recommend as much as 30 to 45 days, but it's up to you. Decide what to do with your bounty. You can't keep your fryers forever. At 12 to 16 weeks, you need to decide what to do with them. If slaughter is prohibited on residential buildings in your hometown, find a local meat processor to humanely and effectively treat the fryers. Otherwise you will soon learn a thing or two about amateur butcher. Repeat as needed. A healthy doe on a fast but safe breeding schedule (14 to 21 days between weaning and conception) can produce 200 to 250 pounds of meat a year. As long as you are willing to keep the cycle going, your rabbits will keep your family well fed. Benefits of raising rabbits for meat 1. It's more ethical than store-bought meat If you're not willing to embrace a vegetarian or vegan lifestyle, the next best change you can make is to address eating only ethically reared meat. While ethical is an admittedly fuzzy standard when it comes to commercial meat production, few would argue that lovingly hand-raised rabbits are not ethical to consume - despite legitimate moral arguments against consuming any animal protein. 2. Rabbits' life cycle and generations are short rabbits are famously effective breeders. Is reaching sexual maturity in just a few months and remaining fertile year round. The gestation period lasts about one month. Litter is weaned after four or five weeks, but mothers are ready to breed shortly after birth - although experts recommend at least two weeks of rest before re-breeding to keep mothers healthy and happy. On a 14- or 21-day breeding schedule, you give seven to eight litters a year. With each fryer producing five pounds of meat. Average, one or two breeding do will probably produce as much rabbit meat as your family can handle. What you do with the rest is up to you. 3. Rabbits are effective Metabolizers Pound for pound, rabbits require less food than domestic chickens. If you're not trying to make money from your backyard rabbit farm, every dollar saved on food is a dollar kept where it belongs - in your wallet. Since your rabbits are likely to replace at least some of the store-bought meats you would otherwise consume, you may look at this as indirectly reducing your grocery budget. 4. Rabbits do not require specialized Diets Rabbits are not picky eaters. Adults mainly consume hay, with some protein-fiber pellets and fresh veggies thrown in. Pellets and hay are both pretty cheap, and if you have room for a few salad plants in your garden, you can definitely grow enough fresh stuff to keep your rabbits happy. 5. Rabbits are hardy and easy to house Rabbits are more hardy than most other small pet animals. This is important in places with harsh summers or winters (or both). The Minneapolis rabbit farm mentioned earlier in this guide lets its rabbits run wild most of the year, with temporary indoor accommodation only on the handful of nights when the mercury dips below minus 20 degrees Fahrenheit 6. Rabbits are pretty good neighbors All things considered, rabbits are not bad neighbors. They are not as noisy or smelly as goats or chickens, both of which can be intensely smelly and are known to make rackets at

odd hours. As long as you have an actionable waste mitigation plan and good defense against escape and predators, your neighbors should have no reason to complain about your backyard rabbit operation. Disadvantages of Raising Rabbits for Meat 1. They do not produce eggs or other sustainable by-products, while alive unlike chickens, rabbits do not lay eggs or produce other sustainable byproducts while they are alive. In addition to meat, the only other commercial rabbit product is fur. However, unlike sheep's wool, rabbit fur cannot be harvested while the animal is still alive. Although it is still common in Europe and parts of the United States, farming rabbits for fur is very problematic. Rabbits are kept in abysmal conditions, with anywhere from 10% to 30% dying before they can be killed for their fur. It is a waste to discard meat from rabbits reared for fur. If you are a committed vegetarian averse even to ethically farmed meat, there is no need to keep rabbits other than for camaraderie. 2. Many cities prohibit slaughter and processing on residential property It is not unlikely that your hometown allows small rabbit farms on residential-zoned property. It is less likely that it allows rabbit slaughter and processing on residential property. Needless to say, this increases the cost and complexity of homestead rabbitry. Unless you are affected by other such as healthy ethics or the simple satisfaction of eating meat raised by your own hand, it may be a better deal financially and logistically simply to buy ethically produced rabbit meat from your local butcher. 3. Start costs are high depending on the number and breed of your starting rabbits, and whether you buy a pre-built hutch or construct one yourself using a free plan, you can expect to spend anywhere from \$150 to more than \$300 to get your rabbit drift off the ground. Even assuming reduced grocery bills or side income from the sale of excess fryers down the line, you can't afford to spend that kind of money on what is at least initially going to be a hobby project if you live paycheck to paycheck (or close to it). 4. Cabinets require work to keep clean &amp; well maintained You will need to put in several hours a week cleaning and maintaining your hutch and outdoor run: changing food and water, emptying waste, replacing bedding, etc. Rabbitry isn't a super high maintenance project, but it's not a set-it-and-forget-it hobby either. 5. Predation is a risk Rabbits live at the bottom of the food chain. Depending on your location, your rabbits face existential threats from birds of prey, stray dogs and cats, coyotes, foxes, bobcats, snakes and other carnivorous animals. The solutions described above can help, but there is no way to protect yours here. If you are concerned about the emotional or financial cost of losing your rabbits to predators, consider a pet rabbit kept safely indoors instead. Finally Ord Raising Rabbits for Meat Is Not For Everyone. In addition to the planning requirements, financial costs, and day-to-day supervision that even the most modest backyard rabbit farm entails, Kanini forces farmers to ask themselves some uncomfortable questions. Am I really comfortable with the idea of raising rabbits solely to harvest their meat? Am I too attached to the animals I plan to eat at some point in the not too distant future? And most annoying of all: if I feel that way about consuming ethically farmed meat, should I consume meat from animals farmed (and slaughtered) under much worse conditions? I can't answer these questions for you, but I would advise them give them some serious thoughts before you go all-in on your backyard rabbit farm. This is a decision you want to make sure you won't regret. Do you bring up rabbits at home, or do anyone know who does? Makes?

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