Dear [shop owner]:

I have been a patron of your store for the past [XX] years/ I have been a member of the local community [XX suburb] for [XX] years. While I am impressed with the quality of animal care products that your store offers, I avoid shopping at stores that sell animals from breeders. Like many of your competitors such as [XX], I hope that after considering the following you will choose to eliminate the support of rabbit breeders in your store; and instead choose to offer the adoption of rescued rabbits.

Individuals who purchase rabbits in pet stores often do so out of impulse without fully understanding the commitment required to provide life-long care for the rabbit (average life span 8yrs).

According to the RSPCA, 47% of animals classified as “livestock” which include rabbits are euthanised each year. This is a huge problem, because many members of the general public are simply not aware of it. The rabbits that your store sells only contribute to the vast problem of rabbit overpopulation, abandonment, and euthanasia. Many rabbits sold in your store will undoubtedly be surrendered at pounds, or released into the bush where they will not survive.

Rabbits are very fragile animals and are by no means low-maintenance animals suitable for children. In fact, compared to dogs and cats, they are actually high-maintenance pets. There are many rabbit specialised rescue groups that work tirelessly in rescuing rabbits from death row at pounds. Those groups rehome rabbits after de-sexing them and vaccinating them. They also make sure a comprehensive screening process is done with potential families and educate adopters in proper feeding and care.

In conclusion, I ask you to reconsider selling rabbits from a breeder. I understand that your store {adopts out cats and dogs from shelters}/ { does not sell cats or dogs}. Rabbits are no different. I am asking you to extend that protection to rabbits, remembering that compassion should not be limited to one or two animal species.

Thank you for your time

Yours sincerely

[name]

For more information on rabbits, breeding issues and rescue groups please visit:

http://downtherabbitholes.org/bunny-pet-the-forgotten-companion/