

# Capybara Ownership Go/No-Go Checklist

**Purpose:** Use this checklist before purchasing a capybara. If any item receives a "No," stop and resolve the issue before proceeding.

**Decision Rule:**

- **GO:** Every item is checked "Yes."
  - **NO-GO:** One or more items are checked "No."
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## 1. Legal Compliance

### State Requirements

- I have confirmed that capybara ownership is legal in my state.
- I have identified all permits, licenses, or registrations required by state authorities.
- I have obtained all required permits or have written confirmation that no permit is needed.

### County Requirements

- I have verified that my county allows capybaras.
- I have confirmed there are no county zoning restrictions affecting ownership.

### City or Municipal Requirements

- I have reviewed local ordinances governing exotic animals.
- I have received confirmation that capybaras are permitted within city limits.

### Property Restrictions

- My homeowners association (HOA), landlord, or property management company permits capybaras.
- I have written documentation confirming approval when applicable.

**Legal Status:**

- PASS    FAIL
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## 2. Housing and Enclosure

- I have adequate outdoor space for at least two capybaras.
- My enclosure is secure and designed to prevent escapes.
- The enclosure provides shade and weather protection.
- I have a suitable water feature large enough for daily swimming.
- The enclosure meets or exceeds any applicable legal standards.
- I have a backup plan for severe weather, flooding, or emergencies.

**Housing Status:**

- PASS    FAIL
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## 3. Social and Behavioral Needs

- I understand that capybaras are highly social animals.
- I plan to keep at least two compatible capybaras unless otherwise advised by a qualified professional.
- I can provide daily interaction, enrichment, and supervision.
- I understand the behavioral challenges associated with large rodents.

**Welfare Status:**

- PASS    FAIL
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## 4. Veterinary Care

- I have located an exotic-animal veterinarian who treats capybaras.
- The veterinarian has confirmed they are accepting new patients.
- I know where to obtain emergency veterinary care.
- I have budgeted for routine and unexpected medical expenses.

**Veterinary Status:**

- PASS    FAIL

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## 5. Financial Readiness

### Initial Costs

- Animal purchase or adoption costs are within my budget.
- Enclosure construction costs are fully budgeted.
- Permit and licensing fees are budgeted.
- Transportation costs are budgeted.

### Ongoing Costs

- Feed and habitat maintenance costs are affordable.
- Veterinary expenses are affordable.
- I have an emergency fund for unexpected costs.

### Financial Status:

- PASS  FAIL
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## 6. Long-Term Commitment

- I understand capybaras can live for many years.
- I can provide consistent care throughout the animal's lifespan.
- I have considered future life changes, including relocation, employment changes, and family circumstances.
- I have a contingency plan if I can no longer care for the animal.

### Commitment Status:

- PASS  FAIL
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## 7. Risk Assessment

- I have confirmed that neighbors or local complaints are unlikely to create legal issues.
- I understand that regulations can change over time.

I have documented all legal approvals and permits.

I know what options are available if rehoming becomes necessary.

**Risk Status:**

PASS  FAIL

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## Final Go/No-Go Decision

### Proceed Only If Every Section Passes

Legal Compliance:  PASS  FAIL

Housing and Enclosure:  PASS  FAIL

Social and Behavioral Needs:  PASS  FAIL

Veterinary Care:  PASS  FAIL

Financial Readiness:  PASS  FAIL

Long-Term Commitment:  PASS  FAIL

Risk Assessment:  PASS  FAIL

### Final Result

GO — All requirements satisfied.

NO-GO — One or more requirements not satisfied. Resolve outstanding issues before acquiring a copybara.