

# THUMP

NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS DECEMBER 2012

## Rabbit Conference Goes On Despite Threat of Sandy

By Natalie L. Reeves

As Hurricane Sandy approached, dedicated rabbit lovers braved potential transportation outages to attend the annual Rabbit Rescue & Rehab conference that fell on the eve of the storm's hit on the New York area. Attendance was down this year as many of those who had preregistered were busy preparing for the storm, but those who made it agreed that the conference was fantastic.

Dr. Jennifer Saver of New Hyde Park's Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital gave a highly anticipated lecture on gastrointestinal stasis and bloat, two leading reasons vets see bunnies. Dr. Saver was taking a flight to Italy later the same day to attend a conference on rabbit dentistry issues, so the fact that she traveled to Westchester to speak was testament to her commitment to rabbit health and owner education.

Unlike dogs, cats and humans, rabbits are hind gut fermenters with very large and complex large intestines. Some of us may have witnessed a rabbit eating pasta, sushi or other strange foods, but Dr. Saver emphasized that rabbits are strict herbivores; eating something they shouldn't can be detrimental to their digestive system.

Photo: Susan Lillo



Dr. Jennifer Saver.

Rabbits must constantly be taking in fiber in order to maintain gut motility. They have special adaptations for their high-fiber diet, such as molars for grinding and chewing. Their jaw muscles have adapted for lateral motion, so they can grind their food; their gastrointestinal tract allows them to efficiently utilize fiber; and the bacteria in a rabbit's cecum allow for the breakdown of fiber. All of these digestive processes result in two types of droppings: fecals and cecotropes.

Fecals are composed of waste fiber and are usually released about four hours after eating. They are hard, dry and with little odor. Cecotropes, on the other hand, are nutrient-rich and supply up to 40% of a rabbit's energy needs. They are soft, moist, malodorous grapelike clusters that the rabbit usually ingests

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## Charlene's Trip To the Dark Zone In the Wake Of a Hurricane

By Jane O'Wyatt

"Same bunnies as previous detailed report with exception of a new gray and white male lop. Charlene and I are on M15 bus headed downtown to the Dark Zone where we have no power, no cell phone service and no Internet access."

— AC&C Rabbits listserv, Nov. 1, 2012

There's no subway service either, and taxi drivers appear to have gone rogue, improvising higher fares off the meter and refusing to take passengers to certain locations. For thousands, the choices are to walk, bike or take a bus.

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Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Charlene at AC&C.

## Rabbit Conference

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directly from the anus, so rabbit guardians rarely see these.

With respect to diet, rabbit guardians should generally heed the guidelines of the food pyramid, which you can download at:

[http://www.floridarabbit.org/files/handouts\\_posters/Rabbit\\_Food\\_Pyramid\\_07.pdf](http://www.floridarabbit.org/files/handouts_posters/Rabbit_Food_Pyramid_07.pdf).

The pyramid shows that the majority of the rabbit's diet should consist of grass hay, but that other foods, such as greens and pellets, are important as well. More details on Dr. Saver's recommended rabbit diet can be found in the accompanying sidebar.

When someone says, "My rabbit is having an off day," this may indicate that the rabbit isn't well. Dr. Saver strongly recommends giving rabbits a small treat (such as a single papaya tablet) at the same time each day to make sure they are not ill. "If your rabbit doesn't eat her treat, get on the phone to her vet right away."

A rabbit's refusal to eat a treat may be the first sign of stasis or bloat, two problems that can be deadly. Stasis, also known as ileus, is a shutdown of the rabbit's intestinal system, while bloat can be caused by an obstruction of the upper GI tract, at the outlet of the stomach. Food moves through a healthy rabbit by means of regular contractions (peristalsis) of intestines, but a rabbit in stasis may have a complete loss of this normal motility since stasis has a tendency to self-propagate and worsen to the point of total impaction of the gastrointestinal contents.

Everyone who has had a rabbit in stasis wants to know the cause, but that can sometimes be hard to determine. Stasis can be caused by a high-carb, low-fiber diet, or it can be a result of stress or pain (from gas, molar spurs, post-ops or anything else). It can be precipitated by hair the rabbit has ingested during grooming, lack of proper exercise, systemic disease, antibiotics or infection. While vets should always work with you to determine the

## Recommended Diet for Average Adult House Rabbit

- Unlimited fresh grass hay given in a big hay litter box
  - You wouldn't want to be stuck on a tiny bathroom on a plane, so don't make your rabbit spend most of his time in a tiny hay litter box.
- Fresh greens – One heaping cup per four pounds of body weight daily
  - Serve combinations of greens for variety
  - Tough/fibrous greens are great
  - Observe your rabbit carefully to watch for signs of gas from any greens
- Rationed plain pellets--preferably high-fiber pellets
  - One-quarter of a cup per five pounds of body weight per day works well for most rabbits.
- A daily treat
  - Examples: one raisin; tiny piece of apple, pear, peach, papaya, pineapple or strawberries; a single thin slice of carrot
  - Most treats sold in pet stores are bad for rabbits.
- Do **NOT** give corn; wheat; processed starchy food, such as crackers, cookies, bread, cereals; beans, or peas.
- Vitamins and salt and mineral licks are unnecessary.

## Signs of Stasis

- Decreased or sudden lack of appetite for water, food and treats
- Refusal to eat treat
- Change in stools--decreased size, quantity; irregularly shaped stools (can be normal); straining to produce stools (happens when they haven't produced any in awhile)
- Decreased bowel sounds
- Decreased temperature
- Signs of pain:
  - Sullen appearance (take a look at eyes and face – should have bright eyes that are not lidded)
  - Frequent changing of position
  - Unusual hunched position, sometimes in a place rabbit doesn't usually sit
  - Belly pressing: rabbit repeatedly repositioning himself, pressing belly to floor

cause for the stasis, the analysis can be frustrating because so many factors can lead to it.

Dr. Saver has senior rabbit patients who have never been sick a day in their lives, but she sees other rabbits who go into stasis every 6-8 weeks. Regardless, everyone who has a rabbit must be vigilant and act quickly if he or she believes a pet rabbit may be in stasis.

When a rabbit is in stasis, supportive care must be given to get the rabbit's GI system moving again. This includes treating the underlying cause (if that cause can be determined); temperature management; pain management; stimulation of GI motility; and hydration. As many of us who have had stasis-prone rabbits are aware, rabbits often tend to

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## Rabbit Conference

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### What to Do if Your Rabbit Stops Eating:

- Take his temperature. If it is less than 100 degrees, immediately start warming your rabbit.
- Give 1 cc of simethicone each hour for three hours.
- Call your vet, no matter what time it is. Ask your vet now, before an emergency arises, what arrangements have been made for after-hours care.

get sick after-hours when veterinary clinics are closed. Dr. Saver takes calls from patients 24 hours a day, and she said the first thing she will ask is, “What’s the rabbit’s temperature?” If you don’t know how to take your rabbit’s temperature, don’t wait until your rabbit is sick. Ask your veterinarian or a rabbit rescue educator or volunteer to teach you.

Rabbit temperatures normally range from 101 to 103 degrees Fahrenheit. If your rabbit’s temperature is below 99, consider this an emergency. Carefully warm your rabbit on a heating pad or SnuggleSafe. If your rabbit is cold, you do not want to syringe-feed him.

A veterinarian may prescribe a motility drug, such as Reglan (metoclopramide) or Propulsid (cisapride), and may give your rabbit pain medications and subcutaneous fluids, but many stasis episodes will resolve themselves on their own. Many rabbit guardians like to use pediatric simethicone, which is the active ingredient in infant gas drops, in the amount of 1 cc an hour for three hours. If your rabbit is willing, you can gently massage his abdomen to help break up the gas, but if your rabbit runs away, don’t make him submit to the massage. While exercise is good for a bunny with gas, Dr. Saver warns against letting your bunny run around the living room the first day he is sick because it will be difficult to monitor him.

Photos: Natalie L. Reeves



Mary Cotter with Mario during temperature-taking demo.

Rabbits should be offered fresh, moist, fragrant greens to tempt them to eat. Dr. Saver suggests breaking the stems of herbs, such as parsley, to make them more fragrant, but she states that a cold rabbit who is in pain will not eat. Thus, she rarely advises people to syringe-feed their rabbits on the initial day of stasis.

Usually stasis presents itself suddenly and you won’t want to waste valuable time going shopping for supplies, so it’s best to keep an emergency kit on hand. Make sure it contains a thermometer (don’t get one with a flexible tip, and try to get an eight-second digital thermometer), Vaseline, baby simethicone (get generic), and a SnuggleSafe (available from Amazon and certain pet stores).

With early intervention, many stasis episodes will be alleviated over several hours, but some may take days. Untreated stasis may result in a rabbit’s death. The key is to prevent stasis by providing a high-fiber diet with fresh grass hay, and being vigilant in detecting symptoms at early onset.

Dr. Saver also talked about gastric bloat, which, in layman’s terms, means the stomach expands, tightens and starts to



Dr. Cynthia J. Brown (rabbits Goldie and Queenie projected in background).

feel like a balloon. The more the stomach gets distended, the more painful it is, and sadly veterinarians are very limited in what they can do in these circumstances. Bloat can lead to shock, inadequate blood supply to the stomach, and risk of rupture. Dr. Saver has a very short list of miracle bunnies who recovered from bloat.

Some of the clinical signs of bloat include acute pain; distended stomach; increased water intake; inability to lift head; splayed legs (so weak that a bunny can’t stand); very low temperatures (94 or 95); and inability to maintain a normal body temperature, even with supplemental heat. Pain management is critical. Veterinarians will give injectable medications as well as IV fluids, but they will limit a rabbit’s oral water intake. Do not massage a bloated bunny.

Dr. Saver showed attendees the instruments she would use to perform a gastric decompression, which is when she would try to extract liquid from the rabbit’s stomach by passing a tube down its throat. Surgery for bloated bunnies is usually not a good idea, since very few rabbits survive. Dr. Saver has lost bunnies

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## Rabbit Conference

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Photo: Susan Lillo



Lorraine Kopf and Marcie Frishberg at the conference.

of her own to bloat and said that it is almost impossible to prevent. She does, however, believe that it is important to pluck excess hair from rabbits. A variety of supplements have helped some chronic stasis rabbits, including aloe vera juice and canned pumpkin.

Dedicated rabbit veterinarians, including Drs. Cynthia Brown, Laurie Hess, Anthony Pilny and Jeff Rose, also gave up their pre-storm Sunday to attend the conference and answer questions about rabbit care. The veterinarians fielded questions relating to rabbit health and husbandry.

Chapter Manager Mary Cotter demonstrated temperature-taking on an extremely cooperative Mario, who is up for adoption.

Attendees got to shop for themselves and their bunnies. As it does every year, Sequin donated beautiful jewelry to be sold to benefit Rabbit Rescue & Rehab. Volunteers sold T-shirts ("My Bunny is My Boss!"), edible straw hats, cardboard play toys and other items that were eagerly snapped up. People also bid on raffle items that may have been the best ever offered at the annual rabbit conference. Thanks to extraordinarily generous donors, such as Dr. Laura George, who donated premium organic hay from Organic Hay Co., and Dr. Brown, who donated, among other things, a gift certificate for a free spay/neuter surgery at Center for

## Thank You to All

On behalf of all our rescued rabbits, many many thanks to all who contributed so much to make our Rabbit Care Conference happen on Oct. 28.

In spite of the doomsday weather forecasts (which resulted in quite a few no-shows, in spite of pre-registrations), and the need for an early wrap-up, I have heard nothing but wonderful feedback from attendees, who were most grateful that we did not cancel the event.

Thanks to all who transported all the supplies and sales items, came early enough to set up, sat at the registration desk to welcome attendees, stood at the sales tables to help us raise the funds that allow us to pay bills for our rescues, donated and even created the beautiful raffle baskets that raised even more money, and who stayed to help us clean up.

You all know that, without you, this event would just not be possible, so anyone who helped pull this off has made a significant contribution both to RRR, as well as to metro rabbit owners who are, as always, hungry for all the info they can get.

Mary Cotter  
Chapter Manager,  
Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

Photo: Natalie L. Reeves



Display of jewelry from Sequin.

Avian and Exotic Medicine, the auction was very successful.

Whether it was the educational or shopping opportunities that lured attendees, most also said that one of the reasons they looked forward to the conference

was it gave them the opportunity to meet people like themselves who love rabbits. From volunteers who gathered to wish longtime volunteer Lorraine Kopf a happy birthday to first-time attendees, everyone seemed to have a great time.

## Trip to the Dark Zone

*(Continued from page 1)*

At each stop, more people are waiting than can fit on the bus, but they try to stuff themselves in anyway. (In Harlem, I find an empty seat next to a rear door, so Charlene and I can get out without starting a riot.) Approaching midtown, we are surrounded by a crush of weary but resigned fellow passengers, many of whom are laden with bags of groceries, bottled water, baby strollers, etc. Charlene is huddled anxiously in a corner of the Plexiglas-lidded carrier on my lap; on

*Those of us who hoped to get home before dark realize that our travel plans were not prescient.*

top of the carrier is my backpack. Those nearest are aware there's a rabbit aboard, but her novelty wore off blocks ago. Everyone just wants to be elsewhere. Those of us who hoped to get home before dark realize that our travel plans were not prescient.

The bus begins to skip stops, passing scores of people waiting. Then the driver announces that 23rd Street will be the last stop. "It's not safe further downtown," the driver claims. As this unwelcome news percolates, finally reaching passengers with ear buds and headphones, the bus hums with multilingual exclamations of dismay and annoyance.

Charlene, white with whimsical gray and tan markings, was found outdoors on the Upper East Side in early October. Skittish to begin with, she becomes more so at AC&C, until rabbit-rescue volunteers fear that she may injure herself trying to escape. Compassion and logic point unambiguously to foster care, and I've offered to bring Charlene

home with me. Now, despite the stress of being in this crowded bus, she's lying stretched out in the carrier. She has become accustomed to her situation, which is about to change.

Traffic lights suddenly stop working, and buildings along Second Avenue go dark around 26th Street. Power in lower Manhattan has been out for three days, yet the darkness after sundown remains shocking. At street level, signs and window displays are indiscernible. Unfenestrated silhouettes of buildings against the background of the night sky are nearly black on black. Sources of white light are car, truck, bus and bicycle headlights, plus flashlights carried by pedestrians. Police squad cars, fire trucks and ambulances contribute oscillating red light.

The M15 (whose official terminus is sodden South Ferry) deposits its passengers at Second Avenue and 23rd Street. Here, theoretically, just over the border from the City of Light, a crosstown bus will stop. But after the previous hour's confinement, I prefer to walk the rest of the way home. Charlene's weight in the carrier shifts as she sits up and sniffs the cool, nocturnal air. It's rush hour, and we join others (though not throngs) walking through the street grid's quiet, poorly lit geometry. Although emergency-vehicle sirens whine in the distance, the roar of the electrified city has been stilled. And oddly, motorists are not honking their horns.

Police in reflective yellow jackets are directing traffic at some intersections. The NYPD wardrobe department seems to have been prepared for this emergency, yet most of the traffic cops look as though they have never conducted an orchestra of motor vehicles and pedestrians in their lives. Postures are timid, cues vague, tempos far from brisk. A few cops armed with glowing red LED-lighted batons seem slightly more confident — that they won't get run over?

Charlene and I are headed for 13th Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues,

and the farther downtown we get, the less traffic we encounter. A couple of candlelit delis are open, but they have few customers.

It's impossible to know how many downtown New Yorkers have moved for the duration to hotels or friends' and relatives' apartments unscathed by Hurricane Sandy. How many have decided to stay put? How many have concluded that it's too much trouble to pack up their pets and relocate temporarily?

Earlier in the afternoon, while waiting in a grumbling crowd for an M15 uptown bus to AC&C, I notice the muzzle of a small, cream-colored dog poking out of a black tote bag carried by a woman standing beside me. The dog's owner explains that she is renting a tiny, disgusting \$250-a-day hotel room in Times Square rather than staying in powerless, waterless, heatless Stuyvesant Town. Since hotel policy prohibits pets, she has been smuggling in her doggy, who never barks.

*The roar of the electrified city has been stilled. And, oddly, motorists are not honking their horns.*

Our block is usually abuzz with activity, but not tonight. Gone are the texting, cigarette-smoking Parsons students, Quad Cinema queuers and lost tourists. A father and son walking with flashlights about 10 feet in front of Charlene and me become recognizable as members of the family downstairs. I catch up with them and we stroll home together talking about the pretty rabbit in the carrier and the blessings of

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## Trip to the Dark Zone

(Continued from page 5)

unflooded apartments, cold running water, gas for cooking by candlelight. In view of the devastation wrought elsewhere by the hurricane, we have been lucky. Foraging for food, news and electrical charges for digital devices is time-consuming, but we have been merely inconvenienced. We light our way upstairs to the second and third floors of our building with flashlights and say good night.

My partner, Kathy, whom I texted about my late arrival after shelter-bunny care, has lighted candles and is heating water for bathing on the gas stove. Because there hasn't been any steam heat since Monday night, the temperature hovers just above 60 degrees, perfect indoor weather for rabbits, but on the cold side for urban humans. Clothed in several layers, Kathy is reading art reviews on her iPad, which she charged in her painting studio in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Because her beloved L train isn't running, she has been driving back and forth between Manhattan and Williamsburg, where, aside from the hurricane's flooding of artists' studios and storage spaces, life is almost normal. Kathy says that the newest residents (non-artists) of Williamsburg can't stop gloating about their decision to move from lower Manhattan.

In daylight, before I left for AC&C, I set up a pen for Charlene by halving the living space and the cardboard tunnel of my other foster, a young Californian named Luigi, who arrived a couple of days before Hurricane Sandy. Protected but not isolated from cats Virginia and Amelia O'Feral, the bunnies will occupy two four-by-four-foot pens side by side. With Charlene still in the carrier, I fetch greens from the most recent Union Square farmers' market. (The greens and other perishables have stayed cool in the fridge, thanks to bunny "air conditioners" left over from summer: several recycled two-liter plastic bottles filled with now-melting ice, festooned with tufts of rabbit

fur.) I pour water and measure timothy pellets into bowls for both bunnies.

Luigi flips over his pellet bowl, scattering its contents, and starts to devour his salad. I move Charlene's carrier into her pen and open the lid. She hops out and bolts into her tunnel with a thump. Nearby, Luigi, munching on parsley, sits up on his haunches, ears erect, intent on his new neighbor. He is startled, but

*Emboldened by the fragrance of parsley (or is it the fragrance of Luigi?), Charlene soon emerges from her hiding place.*

nothing can prevent him from pulling the rest of that parsley stem into his mouth. Emboldened by the fragrance of parsley (or is it the fragrance of Luigi?), Charlene soon emerges from her hiding place. She includes Luigi in a perimeter survey of her new space, and then, though they are in separate enclosures, she joins him for dinner by candlelight. After eating most of their food, they both groom themselves. Then Charlene leaps into her litter box and nibbles on orchard grass.

When the candles have been blown out and flashlights turned off for the night, she begins noisy demolition work on her cardboard tunnel. Unfazed by conditions in the Dark Zone, Charlene seems to be calming down.

### Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Lara, Beauty, Olga, Kristie, Bun Bun, Lola, Rain, Daisy, Mercury, Merlin, Bunny, Carolyn, Sundae, Whitey, Alexa, Wilson, Gabi, Biggie, Ivy, Snuggles, Cookie, Bradley, Silva, Lionel, Christian, Mario, Baby, Bogie, Bobby, Sarah, Ryan, Lockerbie, Mario, Dale, Poppy, Wisdom, Cupcake, Pea, Chico, Flubber, Hercules, Wilkenson.



Photo: Jane O'Wyatt

Luigi by flashlight.



Photo: Jane O'Wyatt

Charlene stretches out.



Photo: Katherine Bradford

Next to Luigi's pen, Jane reads a newspaper with the aid of a camping headlight.

# Chelsea Cohen's Bunny Blog

*(Chelsea's last blog entry for Thump was in June 2010. You can see the earlier bunny blog and an article about Chelsea's mom, Fern Cohen, at <http://www.rabbitcare.org/Thump6.13.10.pdf>, pages 3-5. Fern was diagnosed with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's Disease, in 2004.)*

Hi! It's Chelsea, the gray bunny from Queens. It's been a while since I wrote, and there has been so much happening. This summer my mommy, Fern, was grateful all the time for no power outages. She told me that it was very hot--often over 100 degrees outside, so it was good we had air conditioning inside. Then in late October, she was afraid of Hurricane Sandy and hoped we would keep power, which we did. We were very lucky. A few days before the hurricane, I was in a weird mood. I was full of energy one minute and then I had a feeling that something was going to happen, but I didn't know what. It was as if some strange force had taken over my moods. Mommy must have sensed this, and told me there would be a hurricane on Sunday night, but she would be with me all night and she told me not to be afraid. We came out of it okay, and I was happy she told me what to expect, so when I heard strong winds and heavy rain outside the window, I knew what was happening. I thought about my wild cousins, the cottontails, who live outside. I was relieved a week later when they texted mommy and said they were okay in their underground warren.

Anyway, I want to tell everyone how Auntie Mary Ann and Auntie Nancy remodeled my living space in late summer. Mommy had been knocking into the table that holds my cage when she came to visit me in my upstairs room. Her wheelchair eventually knocked around the legs and she was afraid that one day the whole table would come toppling down and everything would fall. And the worst scenario would be if I were inside my cage when it fell, or if I were on the floor under the table and



Photo: Mary Ann Maier

Chelsea Cohen.

everything crushed me to death. So one Sunday night, my aunties came with a whole new table from IKEA, which they could adjust to just the right height for mommy to pull up with her wheelchair without damaging the table legs. My ramp was also unstable because it was sitting on bed risers that were always shifting. My aunties put cement blocks underneath that are so heavy that nobody can move them. Now, mommy can come right up to me to give me my daily bunny massages. I even found a way to sit with my head facing her, and my butt far enough back that she has to really stretch far to reach it. I do this because she loves to pull out loose clumps of fur during my molting. I don't like when she does this, but I do love when she rubs my head in circular motions, and then massages my cheeks and behind my ears.

I also got new fleece lining for the floor of my cage. Last month, Uncle Damir took me to Catnip & Carrots and left me there all day. I was so upset. The ladies are nice at C&C but they take my temperature – which I don't like, although then they groom me in the spa and the



Photo courtesy of Fern Cohen

Fern Cohen joined the ALS Association's delegation in Washington in May 2007 to lobby for passage of the ALS Registry Act, which makes it mandatory to report cases of ALS so that data can be used by researchers. The act was passed the next year.

room is lined with cat cages. While I am getting my manicure-pedicure and my grooming, the cats sing to me. I know they mean well, and some of them sound very melodious. But some of the cats are a little out of tune. When Dr. Saver examined me, she looked at my feet, which have been hurting me. She told my uncle that I had sore hocks and that he must tell mommy to line the bottom of my cage with fleece, and limit my treats so that I could lose a half-pound. I hate diets, but the day after my visit to Dr. Saver, mommy brought me the fleece and I must say my hocks are feeling so much better. Mommy told me, "I know what you're going through because I am aging, too, and it sucks. But it's better than the alternative." I agree.

– Chelsea Cohen  
*(with Fern Cohen)*

## The Story of Mama Jett and Her Babies – And How They Came Into My Life

Photos: Tracy Nuzzo



Mama Jett.

By Tracy Nuzzo

Recently, I had been emailing with Cindy Stutts. She had some shelter bunnies who needed transportation to their new home at a sanctuary in Colorado. I was trying to assist her with their travel arrangements and transportation needs.

In one email, I let Cindy know that my two bunnies, Kelsey and Max, had bonded over the summer. Both little guys enjoy tremendous freedom in my apartment so I have a two-story Leith Petwerks condo that sits largely unused. I suggested that if any of the bunnies who were moving to Colorado needed a foster home, any bun was welcome to occupy my two-story rabbit condo. Cindy replied that the sanctuary-bound bunnies were okay, but knowing I had an empty

Max and Kelsey.



condo, she thought of a more immediate need that perhaps I could fill.

Cindy told me that there was a very deserving young family who were living at the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine on the Upper West Side. After surviving a bad situation, Jett and her three babies were in desperate need of a home environment. At first, I was nervous. I adopted my two bunnies from AC&C, but they were older buns – Kelsey was two and a half and Max was three. I had never seen a baby bunny in my life!

My apprehension lasted all of a minute before it turned to excitement. I love the idea of baby bunnies and I'd been given a great opportunity to make a real difference for a mom and her babies. I cleaned out the condo to remove any trace of my bunnies and wheeled the condo into another room so Jett and her babies could enjoy some privacy and tranquility.

On a Saturday morning, I went to CAEM and collected my new foster family. Jett, not more than a baby herself, is beautiful. She also has a handicap; Jett has a splay leg. Despite everything, from the second I met her, I was struck by her sweet personality and trusting nature.

The staff at CAEM advised me that Jett had been spayed the previous afternoon so she would definitely need a peaceful

surrounding as she healed. I was given a lot of helpful tips on caring for the group and I could tell the staff had fallen deeply in love with Jett and her family.

I brought the gang back to my house and sequestered them to the top level only of the condo. Jett needed to avoid exercise and the smaller space was great for her to continue bonding with her brood. Although no longer nursing, Jett continued to show her maternal instinct by cuddling and grooming her kits. Jett would reach into the bowl of pellets and remove several with her teeth. She would then line the pellets up in front of each baby to ensure they were eating well. Whenever I would place fresh greens in the condo, Jett used her nose to move individual leaves to each baby.

Jett has three gorgeous babies. It's too soon to know their sexes, but one baby is a mini-me version of Jett, who is head-to-toe black. The other two babies are a beautiful blend of white, browns and taupe. Each of the babies is small enough to hold in the palm of your hand.

The babies are amazing to watch. They sleep an awful lot, but when they are awake, they run and jump. Oftentimes, they walk right into another baby and just keep walking, like small bunny bulldozers. They cuddle with each other and with mom. They are soft and warm and they enjoy being petted. And as much as I have enjoyed the babies, one of the biggest surprises for me is how much I adore Jett.

I had been worried that Jett would be territorial and reluctant to let me help with her babies, but that's just not the case. In fact, she has made herself at home since day one. When she arrived, she was absolutely ravenous. My two bunnies eat very few pellets. They are good hay eaters, but they enjoy fresh organic greens several times a day. Jett's appetite far surpassed what my guys usually eat, combined! I emailed CAEM to make sure it was all right for me to give Jett as many greens as she wanted and I was assured that she had been very

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Mama Jett's babies with Santa's hat.

**Mama Jett**

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hungry at the clinic and the babies had taken a lot out of her. Feeding her fresh greens was just what she needed.

The first few days, I found myself petting Jett for hours. As I would rub her back, she would give little bunny kisses to my free hand. Still, I couldn't help but notice her splay leg and I wondered if it was a condition that could be fixed with medical attention. I emailed Anthony Pilny at CAEM. He has always been a terrific doctor for both of my bunnies and if anyone could help Jett, it would be Dr. Pilny.

Dr. Pilny emailed back right away and explained that he would need to X-ray Jett to see, fully, the extent of her injury. His gut feeling was that she would be an excellent candidate for amputation – and he quickly qualified that an amputation would be a GREAT thing for Jett. She is young enough to learn living as a “tripod” and her life would be vastly improved by not having to drag a leg behind her.

I have tremendous room in my heart for Jett, but not enough room in my

apartment to consider adopting her. Still, I wanted to make a difference for her so I offered to pay Jett's medical bills. I filled Cindy in on Dr Pilny's opinion and let her know that I would be taking my two bunnies to him the following week for their checkups and that I would be happy to bring Jett for X-rays.

My boys plus Jett and her babies all headed off to CAEM the next week. The entire staff was delighted to see Jett and her babies. Everyone noted how terrific Jett looks – her black coat is super shiny now. As Jett went downstairs for her X-rays, I was able to meet Jett's hus-bun and the father of these three sweet babies. Unbeknownst to me, Jett's beau, Bobby is also living at CAEM. Lorelei Tibbetts, one of our favorites at CAEM, brought Bobby up for me to see and sure enough...I now know where all the bunnies get their good looks. The two multicolored bunnies look just like their handsome dad.

Jett's X-rays revealed that her leg cannot be rebuilt or remedied. The only thing that can be done to improve Jett's life is an amputation. The babies will stay with

Jett until they are 8 weeks and then they must be separated. At that time, Jett will get her surgery and I am excited for her to begin that new stage of her life.

After Jett's vet visit, it was decided that her spay surgery site was healing just fine and she was given the green light for some exercise so I was given permission to let the whole family have access to both levels of the Petwerks condo.

What fun to watch the babies fearlessly navigate the ramp between the two levels!

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Lorelei Tibbetts with Bobby, father of Jett's babies.



# On the Loss of a Friend

By Robert Kulka

*This is a follow-up to my article for Thump (August 2012) entitled, "If I Knew Then What I Know Now," celebrating my life with Skip. Shortly after the article was published, my little buddy of 10 years crossed over the rainbow bridge.*

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The week before it happened I knew something was up. Skip had been slowing down quite a bit and patterns and habits were just slightly off. I knew in my heart somehow that my 12-year-old was nearing his final days. Surely, I thought, we would have a bit more time with him – but it was not to be. The final few days, I observed that he was eating and seemed okay, except he began not to want me to touch him. He would peer out from behind a box or sit in his hay to avoid me at times.

The last morning he was very comfortably stretched out on his favorite spot – a tile he sat or slept on each day for the 10 years he was with me. He had eaten most of breakfast, including a few pellets. He usually ran to me to grab his morning apple treat. That morning it had to be brought to him but he ate it up with gusto as if he was acknowledging the love it held. As I was packing to leave for the day, I looked at him so comfortably stretched out on his tile, and I did not reach down to give him a pet and tell him I loved him as I had almost every day we were together. I told him I knew

he was comfortable so I wouldn't touch him. I told him I loved him. But to myself I whispered to him to please not leave me before I returned. In my heart I knew something was up.

My guy slipped peacefully off shortly after I left that morning. It was on his own terms, in his own surroundings, stretched out as if he were asleep just in front of his tile. When I came home and saw him, he looked so sweet and like his youthful self and simply asleep. But he was gone.

Somehow he had let me know in ways I was able to understand that his time was near. After 10 years we could even communicate that, using the language we shared. In his way he let me ease into the loss.

I miss him more than words can express and will always carry that special guy in my heart. He became a very important part of who I am today and I was thankful for the gift he gave me all those years. I miss the patter of his feet and his breathing on the back of my neck. The silence is so pervasive that I know now that quiet little guy was a very present force in my life.

My little angel will now always sit on my shoulder as he did so many evenings when he was here.

I wondered if I was ever going to be able to have another buddy – not to replace him but to share what I learned from

him. My friends told me that the bunnies would let me know when it was time. I relaxed, knowing that I could rely on that.

\*\*\*\*\*

Well the bunnies let me know. They sent Lara to me. She is a beautiful, big, black-and-white girl. She is just as much a force in her way as Skip had been in his. She is very different, too. We are getting to know one another slowly, and I am beginning to understand the language of rabbits even more than before. Lara is letting me know new things. She, too, is like an angel in my life. I know her big brother, Skip, will look after her now as he did me all those years.



Lara.

## Mama Jett

*(Continued from page 9)*

Within minutes, they were all going from downstairs to up and back again. Even Jett, with her bad leg, is able to move seamlessly from one level to the next.

Yesterday, I put some new toys in the condo. I gave them a willow tunnel and a few different sized willow balls. The

babies immediately began playing. They are all so smart! As I watch the babies grow, I am mindful that someday soon, they will be adopted by new families and have lives of their own. I want to make sure I spend time socializing these babies to ensure that they will be incredible family members once they leave me.

It has brought so much joy to have Jett and her babies in my home. I smile

every day and I know in my heart that each member of this bunny family has an incredibly bright future. I will definitely be sad when it's time for the babies to go, but I feel honored to have had the opportunity to help shape their young lives.

Jett's leg surgery will take place soon. I will update you on how she makes out and her progress.

## Successful Fundraiser For NYC Metro Rabbits

Photos: Natalie L. Reeves



Mike and Casey Easterling at the Vegan Drinks event.



Erin McElhinney, Cindy Stutts, Cathe Rekis and Marcie Frishberg.

NYC Metro Rabbits was the beneficiary of October's Vegan Drinks event, which raised \$555 for the group. The event took place on Oct. 25 at Fontana's on Eldridge Street.

Vegan Drinks is a monthly social-networking event for people interested in promoting veganism and advocating

for animal rights. Every month, Vegan Drinks NYC selects an animal-rights-oriented nonprofit organization to benefit.

Members of NYC Metro Rabbits were given the opportunity to discuss rabbit-rescue work, and a variety of raffle items were offered to raise money. Casey and Mike Easterling organized the fundraiser.

## Lola's Adoption

Photos: Jane O'Wyatt



Adopter Alex Grice on Nov. 6 with Lola and Petco rabbit volunteer Thea Harting.



Lola with straw hats given to her by Thea, her former foster mom.

We are grateful to all of our wonderful hay donors. A special thanks to **Best Pet Rx** and **Robin Sternberg** for donations of large bales of hay to the shelter. Also, a heartfelt thank you to volunteers and others who purchase hay for our bunnies on a regular basis. Your generosity is inspiring.

# We Are Looking for Loving Homes



Grady.



Odin.



Josie.



Derek.

By Kirsten Ott

## Grady

Grady was found in a park as a baby. He was put in a foster home, taken to a vet, and has been enjoying a happy life ever since. He is approximately 7 months old and is ready for his forever home. He loves to romp in his pen, get pets and lick the hand that pets him. He also likes to snuggle next to his foster mom on the floor. He is neutered and litter-box trained. (submitted by Cathy Zelonis)

## Odin

Odin is a darling little black bunny who was surrendered by his owners because they were moving. This guy is very lively and curious, but also gentle and affectionate. He loves to be petted, and his shiny, jet-black coat is irresistible! Odin will charm and delight you with his personality as well as the cute little white spot on his wriggling nose.

## Josie

Josie is a medium-sized creamy white bunny who was found on a street in Brooklyn. This girl has a very feminine appearance: she has a slender face, delicate features, and soft brown “eye makeup.” Her ears have a pretty light brown mottled pattern. Josie’s sweet demeanor matches her looks; she likes to have her forehead and ears stroked. Josie would probably do best in a calm home.

## Derek

A volunteer wrote: Derek is a medium-sized black bunny who was found in someone’s backyard. What a cute boy! Derek has an incredibly soft coat, with a bit of lionhead lineage evident around his cheeks, and an adorable white nose that wiggles constantly. He is a tiny bit tentative when you first meet him, but that doesn’t last long; before you know it, he’s presenting his sweet head for rubs and kisses. Derek is a very active and playful bunny, and will need lots of space for exercise and exploration.

## Charlene

Charlene is a gorgeous big girl who was found on First Avenue. The poor dear is still somewhat traumatized from her

recent experiences; she’ll let you pet her velvety fur, but she’s very wary, and it’ll take her time to fully trust people again. Charlene is a true beauty: she has a creamy white coat with striking brownish-grey markings and large shining eyes. She will need a quiet home – preferably without small children – where she can get lots of gentle attention and a chance to come out of her shell.

## Heidi

Heidi is an adorable lionhead bunny who loves to entertain. She is always on the move, and has fun exploring and jumping. You will be amazed to see how high this girl can jump. With her gentle spirit and curious disposition, Heidi’s personality is outgoing and daring. She is a petite bunny who gets enjoyment from all the simple pleasures: chewing a piece of lettuce, running in and out of a little hidey house, jumping on your lap. She loves to be with people. Heidi is currently at the Lexington Avenue Petco.

## Jimmie and Domino

These two boys are brothers, and they really savor their time with each other. They like hiding together inside their plastic tunnel, and often will snuggle next to each other waiting for you to find them. Their mom, Sundae, was recently adopted. Jimmie and Domino have been staying at the Lexington Avenue Petco, waiting for the perfect adopter. Because they get along so wonderfully together, these brothers are both happy and playful. You will smile as you watch them clown around with each other.

## Riff and Raff

Riff and Raff are a pair of sweet Californian boys (probably brothers) who came from a mixed group of three litters that were rescued from a backyard in Brooklyn. They were born in April, have both been neutered and are probably going to be fairly big bunnies when fully grown. They like a lot of space and love to run up and down their foster parents’ long hallway and do lots of binkies! Riff and Raff are very sweet, are becoming well socialized, and like lots of attention and nose pets. They love to groom each other, and have

*(Continued on page 13)*

## Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 12)



Charlene.



Heidi.



Jimmie and Domino.



Riff and Raff.



Flash.

seemingly endless appetites. Riff and Raff would probably do best with someone who has rabbit experience and plenty of space and time for them. A great pair of darling boys! They are currently in foster care but need a loving forever home or an experienced rabbit person to foster them until they find one. (submitted by Larry Marion)

### Flash

Flash is an adorable spunky Californian boy who came from a group of three litters that were rescued from a backyard in Brooklyn. He has been neutered and is looking for a forever home or someone who might be willing to foster him while he awaits a permanent adopter. He is faster than a speeding bullet – hence the name Flash – and is becoming very social since his rescue. Good litter-box skills and a hearty appetite make him a good candid as a family pet. Flash loves to chew his cardboard toys and run around a lot. He will likely be a medium-large bunny when fully grown. He's currently in foster care. (submitted by Larry Marion)

## GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

### Pinta

Photos: Jane O'Wyatt



Pinta was a sweet-natured young lop, dyed pink over white with gray. After being abandoned in a park in the Bronx, she was brought to AC&C. She was emaciated and weak, unable to walk or hop. On her lower abdomen and the inside of her rear legs were severe urine scald and fecal soiling. She was rushed to the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine, where Dr. Alexandra Wilson examined her. X-rays revealed that Pinta had multiple fractures to her lumbar spine plus a dislocation. The most humane thing to do was to put her to sleep.

### Sharing Is Giving For Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

With holiday shopping in full swing, be sure to help Rabbit Rescue & Rehab by using the iGive link everytime you shop online. And now, they are giving an extra \$5 for new members that try the iGive button. All you have to do is use this link to get started.

<http://iGive.com/welcome/lp2/wr15.cfm?c=22972&m=480447>

There's also an Amazon Wish List for ACC located here:

NYC ACC for the Bunnies:

Permalink: <http://amzn.com/w/4XL87OEF9NJT>

Happy Shopping!  
Denise Mast

## Letters From Adopters

Photo: Christine McCarvill



Xena and Ernie.

### Xena and Ernie

*Xena was adopted in the fall as a partner for Ernie. Christine McCarvill sent us this great letter.*

Xena and Ernie love each other so much and are a joy to watch.

They sit by the glass window and look outside, soaking in the warm sunshine together.

We are delighted to have a match made in heaven. Marcie Frishberg did a great job in helping us find Xena.

Thanks so much for giving our Ernie his soul mate.

Christine

Photo: Alexander Grice



Lola.

### Lola

*Alex, who adopted Lola, sent us this letter in mid-November.*

I came across Lola while browsing rabbits up for adoption on the NYC Metro

Rabbits website, and I met her shortly after at the Petco in Union Square. I quickly fell in love with her soft white coat, glowing red eyes and great personality. I adopted Lola on Nov. 6, and she has been a wonderful addition to our home.

I am currently on my third week of working from home because my office in lower Manhattan is still closed after the hurricane. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise for me, as Lola and I have plenty of time to bond during the day. (She also helps keep me sane while I'm home alone all day.)

Lola is always curious – she loves exploring all the nooks and crannies of my apartment. She is friendly and affectionate, and enjoys being petted on the top of her head and having her cheeks massaged. Some of her other habits include sitting up on her hind legs to get a better view of things, lying down with her legs stretched out behind her, and my personal favorite, zooming down the carpet and performing a perfect bunny kick at the end.

I decided to keep the name Lola instead of giving her a new name, both as a tribute to her past and because Lola is such a great name. She already has three popular songs written about her: “Lola” by the Kinks, “Whatever Lola Wants” from “Damn Yankees,” and “Copacabana” by Barry Manilow. I still can't decide which one I like best as her theme song, but I've been listening to all three on repeat since I adopted Lola.

Lola has truly been a blessing in my life in the short time I've known her, and she is very happy in her new home. In the future, I plan to look into bonding Lola with another rabbit to adopt, but for now, Lola and I are content bonding with each other and building a strong, loving relationship.

Alex Grice

Photo: Rosalia Abreu



Rumi.

### Rumi

*Rosalia Abreu sent us this great note about Rumi and his upcoming birthday.*

Hi Susan, Jane and William!

How are you all doing? I am writing to let you know that Rumi continues to do so well in his new home. He is very happy these days and has gotten increasingly trusting and comfortable with me. I have had him now for a little over 7 months. He should be turning 1 very soon, since when I adopted him he was about 3 months old.

I love him very, very much. My love for him grows daily. When I get home from work, he is waiting for me on the couch, and he binkies and jerks his head joyously when I approach him. Then he follows me into my bedroom and plays hide-and-seek with me, hopping around the room, hiding under my bed and then jumping out at me when I bend down to look for him. He is a very, very happy bunny with such a fun-loving personality. I feel very fortunate to have such a great companion!

I hope you are all doing well.

Take care and warm regards,

Rosalia

### Ludwig and Chloe

*Edouard and Jennifer adopted Ludwig in September as a partner for their bunny Chloe. Here is the latest on the duo's bonding sessions.*

Ludwig arrived in our home and was very nervous. At first, we set him up in the kitchen area and blocked off the area with Chloe's cage so that they could see each other and remain contained. Now Ludwig has his own pen, so the two rabbits are

*(Continued on page 15)*

## Letters (Continued from page 14)

Photo: Edouard Gave



Ludwig and Chloe

set up next to each other in separate pens.

The bunnies enjoy their bonding time. Ludwig does binkies during play time, or at least tries to. He's a bit overweight and he's having trouble getting traction. It's still very cute. We started bonding time at two minutes twice a day with few incidents. Now the sessions are a bit longer and they've been grooming each other a bit, so my wife and I are very optimistic. Chloe is still very territorial. We can't bring both bunnies on the bed, for example, as Chloe sees that as her territory, but I anticipate that they'll be able to share a cage full-time very soon. It's our first time bonding rabbits so I want to make sure to take my time and do it right.

Edouard Gave

Photo: Tai Shimizu



Thor and Beauty.

### Beauty and Thor

*In October, Tai Shimizu adopted Beauty as a companion to Thor. The two bunnies are getting along nicely.*

Things are going pretty well. There's been no aggression, but Thor still doesn't pay as much attention to her as she does to him. (She frequently asks for grooming but he doesn't ever actually do so.) They do spend some time lying next to each other when together.

Tai

### Pyunta

*Pyunta was adopted by Carolyn Fleisher, who sent this update on Oct. 18.*

I don't know if you remember Pyunta, the little gray bun I adopted four years ago today who did not have the best of reputations around the shelter. Well, he is quite the changed little guy, and he has changed me, too. Today, while he still doesn't like to be picked up, he loves his bunny kisses and bunny massages, whenever and for as long as you want to give them.

We did have a number of bad months earlier this year when he suddenly came down with EC. Those initial seizures were no doubt as frightening for him as they were for me. After emergency-room visits, hospital stays, medications, a bout of head tilt, and a couple of months of hand feeding and recuperation, the little guy has bounced back. And luckily he seems to have no residual effects. We are so very lucky.

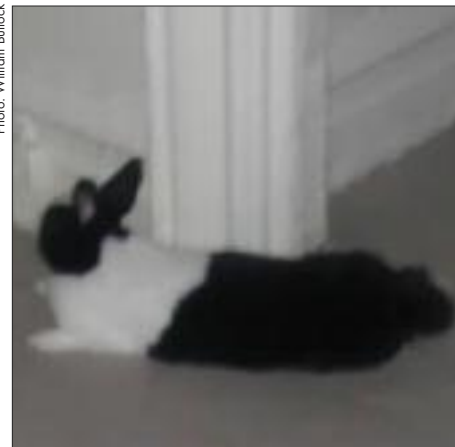
He is such a sweetie and has brought so much to my life and to those with whom he comes in contact. And quite frankly, he seems to be a much happier camper, too!

Cheers,  
Carolyn and the birthday boy, Pyunta

making our apartment into a home. We love spoiling her with carrot tops and all sorts of greens. She's a great bunny and my boyfriend and I are totally in love with her.

Courtney

Photo: William Bullock



Rain.

### Rain

*William adopted Rain in November. He sent us this note a few days later.*

Rain is a pleasure to have.

As you can see in the photo, she's made herself quite at home. :-)

William Bullock

Photo: Courtney O'Neil



Leonora.

### Leonora

*Courtney O'Neil and her boyfriend adopted Leonora in October.*

Thank you for letting us adopt Leonora! We have a rabbit for her, and she is just

### Kristie and Carby

*Kristie was adopted in October as a friend for Carby, and they are now a happy couple. Here is a letter from Camille Casanova about the two bunnies.*

Hello there,

My name is Camille and I'm a proud new adopter of a lop rabbit named Kristie.

She came to me through the help of NYC Metro Rabbits' Cindy Stutts and the wonderful people who foster and aid in matching these rabbits with potential adopters.

A few months ago, I decided to find a friend for my dwarf rabbit, Carby, whom I've had for eight years. He's been around

(Continued on page 16)

Photo: Camille Casanova



Carby and Kristie.

many animals before (guinea pigs, hamsters, dogs, cats) but not other rabbits.

I work near the Petco in Union Square and I've always seen rabbits up for adoption there. One day after work I found myself in the store again during the group's adoption event. I asked one of the friendly people working there about the adoption process and explained that I wanted to find a potential friend for Carby. I was given Cindy's contact info and was told about the bunny "speed dates" over at Petco on Columbus Avenue. Great! Soon after contacting Cindy, we were able to set up a time for me to come by the Columbus Avenue location to set up mini dates.

On Saturday, Oct. 27, I walked into Petco on the Upper West Side carrying Carby to meet his potential friends. I was greeted by Mary Christine, who put Carby in a pen next to a fluffy white rabbit, who would later on become his new buddy. I soon met Cindy and the mini dates began. My rabbit met Kristie, who groomed him right away, and Tippy, a female version of my rabbit who was interested in him but, like a classy little lady, wouldn't completely let on. After some time, I settled on Kristie. Kristie was being taken care of by her lovely foster mom, Anne. She was surrendered

to AC&C and is approximately six years old. Anne and I exchanged info and after a sweet goodbye, the rabbits and I were on our way back home.

The bonding process took two and a half weeks. Initially, Carby would occasionally swat at Kristie, regardless of whichever neutral space I would have their bonding sessions at. Through each session, though, there would be positive signs: ignoring each other, or one of them eating or relaxing in front of the other.

Soon enough, they started getting closer to the point where they would always groom each other whenever they had their bonding time. They officially moved in together on Tuesday, Nov. 13, and I couldn't be happier for both of them. They're always cuddling next to each other and seem so in love. Woo hoo!

I'm so glad that I came across NYC Metro Rabbits and got to meet some of the lovely people who keep this organization going. I would like to especially thank Mary Christine, who was so informative and had such a big heart, and Anne, who took such great care of Kristie and continues to lend support and offer advice for questions I may have. And, of course, a big thank you goes to Cindy, who made the adoption possible and her continued work in getting these wonderful rabbits adopted. I will definitely recommend going this adoption route when I meet other prospective rabbit moms or dads in the future!

With many thanks,  
Camille

## Baxter

*Baxter was adopted by Liz and her family in December 2011. Here is an update on how he's been doing.*

Hi! It's been almost a year since we adopted Baxter and I just wanted to give you an update.

Baxter is great! He is lovable and affectionate and seems very happy. He still lives in the dog pen in Sam and Lila's room. He runs around us when he's out,

Photo: Liz Niles



Lila, Baxter and Zach.

and wherever I sit on the floor, he comes to me and tries to bury his head under me. When I sit on the couch, he often jumps onto my lap. Just recently, he started licking me.

The kids brush him every day. Lila usually gives him his pellets (mostly because she believes that Sam and I overfeed him). Zach makes sure he has a fresh supply of greens daily. He binkies around the apartment. He especially loves running around where we keep our bicycles. (Don't worry; he is well watched when he is out and about.)

I have a funny story to tell you. My neighbor has a cousin who lives in Israel and has a bunny. She offered to talk to me when we were thinking about adopting Baxter. We never ended up speaking – mostly because her rabbit lives on their outdoor balcony and they have a very different set-up. The cousin was visiting New York and came by to meet our rabbit. When she came by, Baxter was hanging out in the living room. She said to me, "He just roams loose in your apartment?" I explained that he was usually in his pen but he did spend some time running around the apartment.

I asked her if she wanted to meet him. I picked him up and brought him to her. She was astonished and said, "He lets you pick him up?" Then I showed her his pen and she took one look at the litter box and said, "Your rabbit uses the litter box?" Lila then told her how Baxter will actually leave the living room to go to his litter box when he needed to use it. And right then (as if on cue) Baxter came running into his pen, went to the bathroom and then ran back out. The cousin was stunned.

(Continued on page 17)



## Letters *(Continued from page 16)*

I know Baxter is special but this woman could not get over him.

Anyway, I just wanted you to know that Baxter is doing well. Thank you for your involvement in his adoption.

Hope you and your bunnies are all doing well. And have a very happy Thanksgiving!

Best,  
Liz (and Lila and family)

Photo: Kallie Koutsoubis



Lily.

Photo: Elizabeth Marchetti



Harley.

## Harley

*Harley, formerly known as Bradley, was adopted in November by Beth and her family. Beth sent us this letter a few weeks later.*

Harley (what we've been calling him after learning his pattern is a harlequin) is doing very well in his new forever home. We were really surprised at how quickly he's adjusted and made himself comfortable. He's been doing the bunny purr/grinding of teeth when lying beside me, and I've been grinding my teeth back at him. When he's resting on his own, his legs are spread out behind him, which I've read shows relaxed comfort.

Harley has been a great addition to the family. He has such a strong personality. He loves to squish himself in between his pen and the couch and observe everything going on. He recently began exploring the couch and has a new favorite spot near the window. There are still no huge issues with him and the cat. She doesn't like having to share the attention and will pout, but is getting used to things. :)

We all had a good Thanksgiving. I was worried about leaving Harley behind after only having him here for one week. My brother volunteered to drive from Maryland so we could bring Harley (and the cat) with us to our family's Thanksgiving celebration. It was a packed car, but everyone was happy and my family got a chance to meet the new addition. He did really well, and it went much more smoothly than I was expecting. :)

Just today, he's begun to "binky." I'd seen videos online and when he did his first one, I attempted my version for him. He seemed to either approve by doing it back or disapprove and show me how it's supposed to be done. :)

Thank you all again so much for bringing him into our lives. He is perfect! :) Beth

## Lily

*Kallie and her family adopted Lily earlier this year. We received this update in late November.*

We adopted Lily from NYC Metro Rabbits a few months ago, and we've been so happy with our bunny!

Lily is a beautiful lop-eared rabbit with a lot of personality. At first, Lily was nervous. Even though we were gentle with her and gave her space, she nipped us often and hard. It hurt! From the advice we were given, we just yelled "ouch Lily!" or "not nice," and we'd walk away as if giving her a time out from play and attention. We were patient with her, and soon all of that changed. She hasn't nipped any of us in weeks.

She's mellowed out and loves to cuddle. All three of my children have fallen in love with her. They have learned to care for her and play with her. She loves all the attention and she's quite patient with my 2-year-old. Lily dances and jumps and chases them all over the place. Then she gets so tired out that she escapes back into her quiet hutch for a well-deserved nap.

There are so many benefits to adopting a bunny. Lily was spayed and litter-box trained, and we really appreciated all the valuable information we were given by the rescue volunteers. It was a great experience adopting Lily, and we look forward to our years ahead with her.

Thanks to all the volunteers!  
Kallie

Photo: Sharon Jamison



Findley and Lucy.

## Lucy and Findley

*Sharon adopted Lucy and Findley in mid-September. The bonded buddies are enjoying their new home.*

Since adopting Lucy and Findley, I've gotten to know their very different personalities. Findley is a sweet, laid back little guy. He likes to snuggle up next to me on the couch. Lucy was shy at first, but now she is outgoing, energetic and sassy. She loves to run around the room and toss anything light enough for her to pick up. She nudges me for attention, is assertive and always gets her way! I am delighted by every new thing they do.

I am so glad I chose to adopt a bonded pair. They are so devoted to each other and I love watching them snuggle. The only thing better than being greeted by a bunny at the door, is being greeted by two bunnies.

I would like to thank all the volunteers – especially Cindy Stutts – who gave me a great bunny 101.

Sharon

## Rabbit-Savvy Veterinarians

Here's our recommended vet list for the New York metropolitan area. Please note that many clinics have multiple veterinarians, and our recommendations are for specific veterinarians in those clinics. If you can't get an appointment with a recommended vet at one clinic, don't assume (no matter what you are told by the clinic) that other vets in the same clinic can help your rabbit. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the vets on this list, please contact Mary Cotter at (914) 337-6146. When you make an appointment with any of these vets, please tell them you were referred by us.

### Long Island:

**Jennifer Saver, DVM**

**Laura George, DVM**

Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital  
2221 Hillside Ave., New Hyde Park, NY 11040  
(516) 877-7080

**Heidi Hoefler, DVM**

Island Exotic Vet Care  
591 East Jericho Turnpike  
Huntington Station, NY 11746  
(631) 424-0300

**Jeff Rose, DVM**

Jefferson Animal Hospital  
606 Patchogue Rd. (Route 112)  
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776  
(631) 473-0415

### Manhattan:

**Becky Campbell, DVM**

**Deborah Levison, DVM**

Symphony Veterinary Center  
170 West 96th Street, New York, NY 10025  
(212) 866-8000

**Katherine Quesenberry, DVM**

The Animal Medical Center  
510 East 62nd St., New York, NY 10065  
(212) 838-7053, (212) 329-8622

**Alexandra Wilson, DVM**

**Anthony Pilny, DVM**

**Cynthia J. Brown, DVM**

The Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine  
568 Columbus Ave., New York, NY 10024  
(212) 501-8750

**Shachar Malka, DVM**

Humane Society of New York  
306 East 59th St., New York, NY 10022  
(212) 752-4842

### Westchester County:

**Gil Stanzione, DVM**

Dakota Veterinary Center  
381 Dobbs Ferry Road, White Plains, NY 10607  
(914) 421-0020

**Laurie Hess, DVM**

Veterinary Center for Birds and Exotics  
709 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507  
(914) 864-1414

## Licensed HRS Representatives

**Mary Cotter**, HRS Licensed Educator,  
Chapter Manager, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab,  
mcc@cloud9.net, (914) 337-6146, rabbitcare.org

**Nancy Schreiber**, HRS Licensed Educator,  
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**Mary Ann Maier**, HRS Licensed Educator,  
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nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com, nycacc.org

**Gabrielle LaManna**, HRS Educator-in-  
training at large, New Fairfield, CT,  
gabbysbunnies@yahoo.com, (203) 746-7548

**Jennifer Saver**, DVM, HRS Licensed Educator  
**Laura George**, DVM, HRS Licensed Educator

### THUMP December 2012

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS  
56 West Pondfield Road #5C  
Bronxville, NY 10708  
[www.rabbitcare.org](http://www.rabbitcare.org)

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Rabbit Rescue & Rehab is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation in New York State. Our purpose is to rescue, rehabilitate and find permanent homes for abandoned, abused and neglected rabbits, and to educate the general public on rabbit care through publications, telephone consultations, home visits and public presentations. This newsletter is published by RRR/NYC HRS, which is solely responsible for its content. Letters, photographs and other submissions to the newsletter become the property of the NYC Chapter and cannot be returned. We retain the right to edit submissions for publication.

All donations go directly to caring for our foster rabbits and are tax-deductible. Please help us help them. Checks should be made out to **Rabbit Rescue & Rehab** and mailed to: **Nancy Schreiber, 12 Grace Court North, Great Neck, NY 11021.**

## ADOPTABLE RABBITS

There are lots of adoptable rabbits available in Manhattan, Long Island and Westchester. To adopt a rabbit in **New York City**, contact Cindy Stutts at [bygolyoly@yahoo.com](mailto:bygolyoly@yahoo.com) or call her at 646-319-4766. On **Long Island**, contact Nancy Schreiber at [nschreibmd@aol.com](mailto:nschreibmd@aol.com) or at 516-510-3637 ([www.longislandrabbitrescue.org](http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org)), and in **Westchester** contact Mary Cotter at [mec@cloud9.net](mailto:mec@cloud9.net) or 914-337-6146 ([www.rabbitcare.org](http://www.rabbitcare.org)).

The rabbit volunteers' email address in New York City is [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

Adoptable NYC Metro rabbits are at Petco's Lexington Avenue (86th-87th) and Union Square locations; rabbit volunteers are present at both stores on Saturday and Sunday afternoons to answer questions. There are two rabbits living at each of those stores.

You can also visit Animal Care & Control of NYC (AC&C) at 326 East 110th St., between First and Second avenues.

Rabbits for adoption can be found by going to: <http://www.nycacc.org/> and doing an

adoption search. Volunteers are there every weekday evening and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, but it is best to arrange an appointment first.

Bunny speed dates take place 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays at the Petco store at Columbus Avenue and West 100th Street. To arrange a speed date so that your rabbit can find a buddy, contact Cindy Stutts at [bygolyoly@yahoo.com](mailto:bygolyoly@yahoo.com). The bonding sessions sometimes take an hour or more, so only three speed dates are scheduled each Saturday.

Many of our rabbits are living in foster homes and you can meet them as well. You also can arrange to foster a rabbit until he or she finds a permanent home. Contact Mary Cotter at [mec@cloud9.net](mailto:mec@cloud9.net) or Cindy Stutts at [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

For basic information about rabbits as pets, go to [www.rabbitcare.org](http://www.rabbitcare.org), [www.longislandrabbitrescue.org](http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org) and the House Rabbit Society main site, [www.rabbit.org](http://www.rabbit.org).