

# THE JUMP

**NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS DECEMBER 2014**

## RR&R Conference Returns to Westchester

By Natalie L. Reeves

After experimenting last year with two smaller seminars in midtown Manhattan, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab resumed its annual rabbit educational conference in Westchester. Crowds returned to New Rochelle to meet other bunny lovers, shop for goodies for their pets and themselves, learn from area veterinarians and watch demonstrations of various procedures.

### Keynote Talk on Handling Emergencies

Dr. Gil Stanzione, of Dakota Veterinary Center, lectured on the topic of rabbit emergencies, but he was quick to point out that all of his advice was no substitute for having a sick rabbit seen by a veterinarian as soon as possible. When Dr. Stanzione started his veterinary practice in 1997, bunnies were generally living to be only seven years old, but now he sees many rabbit patients living to the age of 12, 13, 14 and recently 15. To help rabbits live longer, guardians should know how

to handle emergency situations from the time the symptoms appear, until the vet's office opens.

### Foreign Objects

Dr. Stanzione sometimes sees rabbits who have ingested a foreign object, such as string, tinsel or dental floss. If you find your rabbit has string coming out of his mouth or anus, never pull it because that string will act like a knife. Remember that bunnies like to hide under furniture, so be extremely vigilant about medicine being dropped under the couch. Human medicine can kill a bunny, so if you drop a pill, find it before your bunny does.

### Temperature Control

Knowing how to take a rabbit's temperature is critical. If you don't know how, ask your vet or a rabbit-rescue volunteer to demonstrate. Use a flexible plastic thermometer and lubricate the tip. Dr. Stanzione warned that temperatures lower than 98 or higher than 105 are

*(Continued on page 2)*



Ivy Banana.

## On Losing Ivy

By Erin McElhinney

I have tried to write a proper RIP story about Ivy Banana for about a year now. Every time I sit down to write, something else beckons me; there are teeth to floss, floors to mop, dishes to do. Anything seems better than revisiting her painful end, but now it seems even more painful to come across the one-year anniversary of her death without sharing one more

*(Continued on page 16)*



## Rabbit Advocates Win Key Vote

Rabbit-rescue volunteers and animal-rights activists won a major victory Dec. 17 when the New York City Council passed legislation calling for stricter pet-store regulations regarding the sale of animals. The measures, passed by a 49-2 vote, include a ban on the sale of rabbits in city pet stores, effective June 2015. New York City Council Members Corey Johnson and Elizabeth Crowley gathered with other supporters of the bill, which must be signed by Mayor Bill de Blasio.

Our masthead features Long Island Rabbit Rescue special-needs bunny, Wednesday. Wednesday has some physical impairments, but is the best kisser in the rescue group. Masthead by guest artist Vanessa Han; photo of Wednesday by Mike Miranda.

## RR&R Conference

(Continued from page 1)

emergencies. If you get home and find your rabbit not eating, lethargic, or acting strangely, you should:

- Take temperature;
- Call your vet and leave a message if it's after hours;
- Safely warm or cool (as described below) your rabbit depending on whether his temperature is low or elevated;
- Listen for intestinal sounds (you may want to invest in an inexpensive stethoscope) for about 20 seconds on each side of the bunny's abdomen; and
- Disinfect and stabilize any wounds and keep them clean and dry.

Dr. Stanzione emphasized the importance of safely normalizing a bunny's temperature. To lower a bunny's temperature, you may rub isopropyl alcohol or ice water on ears; move air over wet ears (convective cooling); place ice packs on the rabbit's abdomen and over his shoulders; or rub an ice cube on his forehead or ears, but be careful not to freeze-burn the bunny's delicate tissues.

Far more common, according to Dr. Stanzione, is hypothermia in rabbits. Any temperature below 98 is a cause for concern. Dr. Stanzione suggested warming the bunny with warm, cloth-wrapped water bottles or packs; placing warmers under his abdomen or on ears; or administering warm (103 degrees Fahrenheit) subcutaneous fluids. Never microwave a bag of fluids, however. Also, test the temperature of fluid by putting some of it into a cup and then measuring the temperature of the liquid in the cup. Whether the bunny is warm or cold, monitor his temperature regularly while performing all of these procedures.

### Beware of Carbs

While many caregivers panic when they find their bunny not eating, Dr. Stanzione warned against giving the rabbit fruit, yogurt drops or other carbohydrates to encourage eating because these foods can slow down the gastrointestinal tract further. Dr. Stanzione would rather a



Photo: Marylee Maffuro  
Dr. Gil Stanzione.

rabbit eat nothing than eat a fruity treat when in distress.

Before giving a bunny who is not eating any prescription drugs, Dr. Stanzione said the bunny should be warmed (if his

temperature is below normal); given a dropper of pediatric simethicone drops (available with infant gas medications in drug stores – look for the active ingredient of simethicone) and then given an abdominal massage.

### Eye Injuries

Because bunnies like to hang out in a lot of places where there might be dust and debris (i.e., under furniture), Dr. Stanzione said that eye injuries are fairly common and that we should notice them when a bunny has a runny eye, cloudy cornea or keeps an eye partially or fully closed. Eye injuries can be very painful and a bunny needs to be checked out by a vet, but on an emergency basis, flush the affected eye with lukewarm sterile ophthalmic saline. Do not use ointments or creams and never use eye medication that has been prescribed for another bunny, which can only make things worse.

### Torticollis/Wry Neck/Head Tilt

Prompt diagnosis and treatment are critical to a good prognosis for a bunny with wry neck or head tilt, most commonly caused by middle ear infections, E. cuniculi, or brain lesions. Until you can get the bunny to the vet, Dr. Stanzione advised keeping the bunny warm and quiet and making sure that the bunny is still able to eat and drink. Most of these bunnies improve with good nursing care. If the bunny is rolling, place him in a small, padded carrier to prevent injury. It is essential to protect the “down eye” with ophthalmic lubricant or, if you can manage this without injuring the eye, you can gently tape the eyelids closed with paper surgical tape, until you can get the bunny to the vet, so that the eye won't be injured.

### Broken Bones

Broken bones must be stabilized to prevent further injury, so if your bunny

has a broken bone and your regular rabbit savvy vet's office is closed, Dr. Stanzione advised that any emergency clinic should be able to set the bone. He advised, however, that if the emergency clinic doesn't treat many rabbit patients, you should ask about setting the bone under sedation and not anesthesia, and don't forget to ask for pain medication.

## Veterinary Panel Q&A

One of the most popular parts of the annual conference is the question-and-answer panel with some of the area's rabbit-savvy veterinarians. This year Dr. Becky Campbell of Symphony Vet Center in New York City, Dr. Laurie Hess of Veterinary Center for Birds and Exotics in Bedford Hills, Dr. Jeff Rose of Jefferson Animal Hospital in Port Jefferson Station, and Dr. Stanzione were kind enough to attend the conference and take questions from the audience.

## Shopping, Raffles, and Freebies

While the conference's first priority is educating attendees about ways to help their bunnies, there is always much fun to be had, with many attendees looking forward to swapping bunny stories and shopping for their rabbits. As always, Sequin Jewelry, which is one of Oprah's Favorite Things this year, generously donated stylish bunny-themed jewelry for sale with all of the proceeds going to benefit homeless bunnies. Among other things, participants were happy to be able to purchase the straw hats that bunnies love to tear apart. Small Pet Select and Supreme Petfoods, two conference sponsors, had booths with displays of their hay and pellet offerings, along with free samples. They also donated to the raffles and gift bags for attendees. Others that donated to the gift bags, raffles and silent auction were: Bunny Bytes, Vaute Couture, Cats & Rabbits & More, Organic Hay Co., Sherwood Forest Natural Rabbit Food, Bunny Rabbit Toy Shop, Alexis Marcou, Nancy Furstinger and Larry Eckert.

# The Widow Bunny and Her Crazy Sidekick

By Elda Pomales

I adopted Trixie as a partner for my little man Cappuccino, a 10-year-old Jersey Wooly, but he died three months later. Trixie and Cappuccino had just been starting to bond, and already she was a widow.

Trixie opened up her heart to me and nurtured me after Cappuccino's death. She would come looking for me, whereas previously she ignored me. I saw a side of Trixie that I had never seen before. Her maternal instincts came out and she gave me the love and support that I needed. I have a very loving family but I live by myself, and Cappuccino had been my constant companion.

Although it was hard for me to accept he was gone, Trixie kept me distracted. In comparison to Cappuccino, she was a baby – just two years old – and she claimed the house as her own. She ran everywhere and got under every crevice. She was a handful! It was during this time that Trixie and I really got to know each other. When she would see me cry at night she would jump on the couch and sit with me. And it was at those moments that I knew she was grieving, too. Eventually, her jumping on the couch became an everyday habit, and we started using this time to watch TV together, nap and take the occasional selfie.

As much as I loved the bond that we formed so quickly, I knew that I couldn't leave her as a widow. Five months later, I reached out to Trixie's former fosterer, Tracy Nuzzo, and asked about matching Trixie up with another bun. To my surprise, there was a speed date that weekend. Everything happened so quickly. I knew I wanted her to have a mate but I didn't think it would happen this fast. I didn't want to make it seem as if I was replacing beloved Cappuccino. Even though I had this internal battle, I knew that I didn't want Trixie alone. That weekend we went on the speed date and after many candidates, Trixie finally picked

Photo: Elda Pomales



Scribble and Trixie.

an 8-month old lionhead by the name of Malo. He is now known as Scribble.

Scribble was teeny. He was half the size of Trixie, and when the rabbit volunteers put him in the pen with her for the speed date, I thought she was going to crush him. To my surprise, she didn't. She was sweet. At the end of the day I brought him to his new home. I was worried at first because Scribble was very quiet and timid.

I knew I couldn't put the two buns together immediately. Eventually, after a few days, Scribble started warming up to his new home and I started the bonding process. Scribble is a small bunny and Trixie is a larger mini-lop, but he was no pushover. He would stomp his feet at Trixie whenever he needed respect, and she would comply. The struggle for dominance went on for a few months and finally Scribble gave in. Scribble was in Trixie's house now and Trixie was the Queen!

Once dominance was established, the fun began. Scribble's true colors came out, and he blossomed. Scribble races so fast around the house he actually looks like a blur. He runs in the most random

fashion that if you tried to trace his course it would look like scribble. He is wicked fast.

The relationship between Trixie and Scribble is phenomenal. He absolutely caters to her. When I say cater, I mean he really CATERS to her. When she lies down he grooms her from head to toe without fail. All they do is follow each other around. I have never seen two bunnies binky as often as these two do. Every day I see them chasing each other while doing binkies in the air. I thought Trixie was a handful in the beginning; Scribble is on another level. He is so full of energy that he tires Trixie out! I love sitting back and just watching them because their personalities mesh so well. Trixie is the sassy bossy pants and Scribble is the crazy rambunctious boy who just does whatever Trixie wants.

Cappuccino will always be my little man, the love of my life; but I feel like his passing was the start of a new chapter for me. I miss my boy every day but it was my love for him that motivated me to offer a home to two other abandoned rabbits.

# National HRS Conference in St. Louis a Huge Success

By Natalie L. Reeves

Approximately 200 bunny lovers, two-thirds of whom were House Rabbit Society educators, attended the House Rabbit Society Educational Conference hosted by the House Rabbit Society of Missouri in St. Louis in September. Getting to the conference was no easy feat, with about 10-15 people waylaid by an incident involving Chicago's air-traffic control. Nevertheless, people from 27 states, the District of Columbia, two provinces in Canada, and England, met to learn more about health, behavioral and husbandry issues affecting rabbits.

The New York metro area was well represented with two veterinarians (Dr. Anthony Pilny of the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine, and Dr. Laura George of Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital); NYC Chapter Manager Mary Cotter; educators Marcie Frishberg and Mary Christine Basile; and NYC Metro Rabbit volunteers Yumi Nakayama, Natalie Reeves, Jessica Wolfinger and Tai Shimizu attending. Jessica and Tai traveled from their new home in Hawaii so that they could see friends and take back information to help bunnies in their new state, where there is currently no chapter of the House Rabbit Society.

Twenty lecturers spoke on topics ranging from surgery to bonding. Dr. Pilny lectured on dental disease and emphasized the degree to which dental issues can be prevented by proper nutrition and an abundance of hay in the diet. Mary Cotter, along with Dr. Susan Brown, demonstrated techniques for managing behavior problems in rabbits. Mary likened working with rabbits to working with people with Alzheimer's: in both cases, the caregiver needs to adapt to the other person's (or rabbit's) reality.

Attendees went home with goodie bags filled with items donated by sponsors, such as Stacks from Oxbow, hay samples from Small Pet Select, and HealX from Harrison's Bird Foods. Many also bought toys for their bunnies from the vendors.

Perhaps best of all, participants received binders containing notes from most of the presentations.

The House Rabbit Society of Missouri (St. Louis) did an amazing job as host. St. Louis had been chosen due to its central location and its experience sponsoring veterinary conferences. In addition, the chapter works closely with the Humane Society of Missouri, which had a large lecture hall and enough space for vendors to set up booths. The society offered the use of the space for free. The collaboration between the groups has resulted in many rabbits being saved through the years. The Humane Society of Missouri presented the Missouri House Rabbit Society with its "Humane Hero Award" at the conference because of the chapter's help with a confiscation of nearly 200 rabbits. The large-scale rescue involved a lengthy legal battle during which chapter volunteers worked with Humane Society staff from triage through the rabbits' lengthy stay and then their eventual placement in homes.

The Missouri chapter, which is staffed entirely by volunteers, had recently purchased its own shelter building for bunnies, and many visiting educators were able to tour 5,000-square-foot

facility on nearly four acres of land. After raising the funds to purchase the building, volunteers had cleaned it from top to bottom, painted the walls, and set up a reception area, education area, store with supplies for members, a boarding room, a main foster room, kitchen, meet & greet area, cleaning and laundry areas, medical room, exercise area, and a loft for storage. New Yorkers, including Mary Christine Basile, who viewed the center, dreamed of being able to one day have a similar facility for their shelter and rescue bunnies.

Organizing the conference was complicated and was accomplished with the concerted efforts of an all-volunteer, behind-the-scenes team, representing chapters across the country: Bill Velasquez (New Mexico), Joy Gioia (Missouri), Nancy Ainsworth (Connecticut), Mary Cotter (New York), Debby Widolf (Utah), June Booth (Louisiana), Sharon Dumas (Arkansas), Laurie Gigous (Arizona) and Margo DeMello (New Mexico). Joy Gioia said that aside from putting together the conference in less than seven months, two major challenges were faced. One was whittling down the topics: with all the important issues they

*(Continued on page 5)*

Photo: Natalie L. Reeves



Marcie Frishberg, Natalie Reeves, Dr. Anthony Pilny, Mary Cotter and Mary Christine Basile.

## We Are Looking for Loving Homes

Written and compiled by Kirsten Ott

### Melissa

Melissa is a small to medium-sized bunny found, along with a number of other rabbits, in a community garden in the Bronx. This delicate-looking girl is mostly white, with some light brown markings around her ears and her big, beautiful dark eyes. Melissa will look at you with a mix of skepticism and longing. She's likely to open up quickly in her forever home.

### Jacob

Jacob is a young, diminutive bunny found, along with a number of other rabbits, in a community garden in the Bronx. This cute guy is equal parts friendly and curious. He has big, shining dark eyes that seem to take in everything going on around him. Jacob is mostly white, with markings in various shades of brown around his face and ears. Though he's quite small, he may grow a bit more.

*(Continued on page 6)*



Jacob.

## HRS Conference

*(Continued from page 4)*

wanted to include, they would have needed a four-day conference to cover everything. The second big hurdle was having the conference RACE accredited. RACE (Registry of Approved Continuing Education) is the continuing education arm of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards. The accreditation allowed veterinarians and veterinary technicians from any state to receive up to 14 education credits by attending the approved sessions.

One of the best parts of the conference was meeting fellow rabbit lovers. Many of the attendees had corresponded online for years but had never met face-to-face. Knowing that we were surrounded by others who had traveled from around the country to learn more about rabbits made the weekend special. After all, how often do people like us get to attend an event where everyone was checking in with their bunny-sitters and sharing reports on how good or naughty their rabbits were being while they were away?

Given the extraordinary success of this conference, HRS will undoubtedly hold another one at some point. The San Diego HRS chapter has volunteered to



Photo: Natalie L. Reeves

Mary Cotter and Marinell Harriman.



Photo: Katie Mosher

Margo DeMello, HRS president.

be the next conference site, but we don't know yet whether that will be two, or even five, years from now.



Photo: Bunfectionary's Facebook page

Abigail Aldridge, local hat designer and rabbit adopter, provided two edible hats that were auctioned off at the HRS conference in St. Louis, raising \$300 for the House Rabbit Society. Dr. Micah Kohles, the vet in Oxbow's outreach department, came up with the idea for the hats, and Oxbow supplied edible materials. One of the hats was bought by John Akamatsu, founder of Bunfectionary, which makes hay treats for bunnies. Shown here enjoying the hat is Maddie, a three-legged rescue, who had been abandoned in the woods and had her leg torn off by a dog.

Despite the months of planning, Ms. Gioia said that it was a wonderful experience to work with a group of HRS volunteers to pull off a historic event. She said, "Most of the people in this small committee group had never met in person, yet emails flew back and forth, conference calls done, ideas exchanged, notes maintained and organized, various objectives assigned and obtained, and ultimately it resulted in a conference the scope of which amazed even its organizers. The synergism that actually developed immediately within this group was simply wonderful."

## Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 5)

### Edward

Edward is a small bunny found in a community garden in the Bronx. This little guy is very sweet. He probably hasn't had too much experience with humans in his young life, so he seems surprised when you start to pet him... but he loves it! Much of the time you're petting him, he keeps his dark, shining eyes wide open, as if astonished by the novel sensation. Edward is mostly white, with orange-brown markings around his head and down his spine.

### Billie

Billie is a brown-and-white Dutch mix who was found near New York Hospital in Queens. This girl has a very pretty but rather unusual coat – it looks as though someone forgot to finishing coloring in the brown parts, so one ear is mostly brown and the other is white. She also has blue eyes, which add to her mysterious beauty. Billie is super affectionate and hungry for love, practically lunging at your hand to request more petting. She'll need a home where she can get lots of attention.

### Tupac

Tupac is a darling little hotot mix who was found, along with a number of other rabbits, in a community garden in the Bronx. This guy is still quite young and, as befits his age, eager for play and exploration. He will settle down for petting, though – he just has to find the right spot first! Tupac has a pristine white coat with some brownish-gray markings – notably a nice mottled pattern on his ears and dark eye “makeup” that makes him look like a miniature bandit. He also has a very cute round face.

### Tiny Tim

Tiny Tim is an itty-bitty young hotot mix who was found, along with a number of other rabbits, in a community garden in the Bronx. This little guy is white with tri-color markings around



Edward.



Billie.



Tupac.



Tiny Tim.



Armond.



Max.

his ears and eyes – the eye “makeup” makes his eyes look extra big inside his tiny face. Tiny Tim is a little shy, so he would do best in a home with experienced rabbit people. He may still grow a bit in the next few months.

### Armond

Armond is a medium-sized dark agouti and white Dutch guy who was found in Queens. This boy is a real catch! He's super friendly, hopping right up to greet you and smushing down for petting. He soaks up affection like a sponge, and will need a lot of attention in his forever home. Though he may act a little needy, Armond is no weakling – he has a healthy, strong physique. Armond would make an excellent choice for a first-time bunny owner and would probably also make a good partner for another rabbit.

### Max

Max is a medium-sized brown and white Dutch with a gigantic personality. This smart, high-energy guy is always looking

(Continued on page 7)

## ADOPT US!

### Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 6)

to get out and play; he'll hop around to get your attention, then he'll study you, trying to figure out how to get his way. Max is a very confident, determined boy, and is ready for pretty much anything. He will definitely keep his forever people on their toes!

#### Cloud

Cloud is a big beautiful 4 ½-year-old white and brown French Angora male. He's been living in an outdoor/garage wire-floored cage his entire life and has received very little attention. He also has an old, healed fracture in his left leg – he gets around fine, but must have carpeted floors. Cloud was a young girl's 4H show rabbit, and the girl is now a teen who has moved on to other interests. Cloud is incredibly sweet and affectionate. He enjoys being petted and really likes being with people. He needs a loving forever home where he will get the love, time and attention he so craves. Cloud will need to be brushed every day; he doesn't enjoy it all that much, so it's best done while petting his head with your other hand.

#### Hippo

Hippo is a 4 ½-year-old medium-sized male Holland lop. He's been living in an outdoor/garage wire-floored cage his entire life and has received very little attention. Hippo was a young girl's 4H show rabbit, and the girl is now a teen who has moved onto other interests. Hippo is a bit shy and needs someone who can help socialize him. He's a gorgeous boy and is sure to flourish with some attention. Hippo has been neutered and is currently in residence at the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine in Manhattan.

#### Clooney

Clooney is an adorable little gray dwarf rabbit who was the center of a five-day-and-night-long rescue alongside the Saw Mill River Parkway. He was chased



Cloud.



Hippo.



Clooney.



Loretta.



Morticia.



Randolf.

around by teenagers before his rescue, so he is nervous and shy and needs a quiet home where he can continue to learn to trust humans. Once he feels safe, he loves to explore, run and binky around the room. Clooney is neutered, litter-box trained and living in foster care. He can only be adopted out as a partner to another rabbit who will help him learn to feel comfortable in the human world.

#### Loretta

Loretta is a large orange-and-white lop. This cuddly girl has a big, sturdy body and nice, long creamsicle ears. Loretta is a little hesitant when first approached, but warms up quickly and seems to find petting very comforting. She's definitely lots of lop to love! Loretta would probably make a good partner for another bunny.

#### Morticia

Morticia is a medium-large black lionhead bunny who was found on Third Avenue. This girl is a born entertainer – she's constantly showing off! Even when in

(Continued on page 8)

## Looking for Loving Homes

*(Continued from page 7)*

her cage, she's binkying and dashing in and out of her hidey box. Lucky for Morticia, she's the complete package – she's also got the looks to make it in Hollywood! After expending a tremendous amount of energy, she'll flop dramatically and refresh herself for her next act. This girl will need a big stage for lots of antics in her new home.

### Randolf

Randolf is a medium-sized love bug who was found in Queens. This guy always has the welcome mat out! He's extremely friendly, and loves all forms of affection. Cheek rubs, head rubs, kisses – whatever, bring it on! When you close his cage door, he tries valiantly to open it again so the loving can continue. Randolph is creamy white with scattered brown markings, including a big “beauty mark” next to his nose. When he's not socializing, he enjoys “redecorating” his habitat. Randolph would make a good choice for a first-time bunny owner.

### Zucchini

Zucchini is a small to medium-sized female who was, shockingly, left behind in an apartment when her owner moved out. This girl probably hasn't gotten much human attention, because she's nervous around people. She's curious, though – she'll hide and spy on you, working up the nerve to approach, then come toward you gingerly and quickly change her mind. Zucchini would do best with an experienced bunny owner. Whoever does adopt her will be smitten by her cuteness: she's a very warm brown and white and has gorgeous big eyes.

### Angelo

Angelo is a brownish-black lionhead/lop mix who was found in Queens. This guy is big, friendly, and fun! Just looking at him, with his funny whiskers and floppy ears, will make you smile. Angelo loves affection, and will jam his nose through his cage bars to get your attention.



Zucchini.



Angelo.

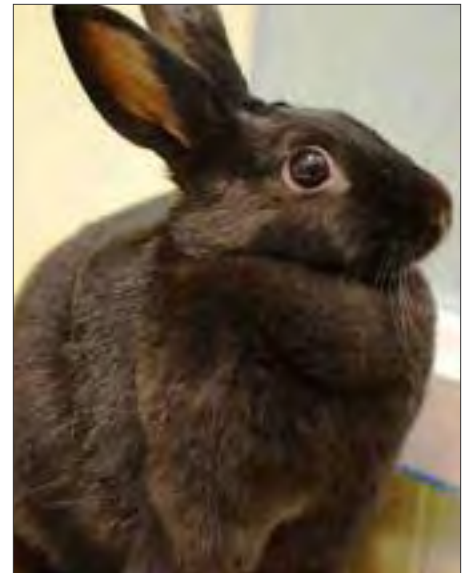


Vidalia.

He would make a good family bunny, as he's guaranteed fun for all ages!

### Vidalia

Vidalia is a medium-sized brown young female who was left behind in an apartment when her owner moved out. This girl's coat is an unusual nutty, golden brown color. It makes you want to pet her, but she's rather nervous around people. She's very curious though – she'll check you out, sniff you, and watch you carefully. Vidalia would do best in an experienced bunny home with people who can help to socialize her.



Midnight.



Desiree.

### Midnight

Midnight is a large black female with a very nice disposition. Even though she was found on the street, Midnight was probably living in a home until fairly recently, because she's pretty comfortable with humans and seems very well-fed. Actually, she was probably too well-fed, or not properly fed, because she's a little on the chunky side. She'll need a better diet in her forever home. Midnight is very friendly and eager for attention. Her generous dewlap and large stature give her a rather grand aura. She would make a very good family bunny.

### Desiree

Desiree is a medium-sized black-and-white Dutch and a real love sponge. This girl's name suits her, because she pretty much desires love 24/7. Her friendliness borders on clinginess – she

*(Continued on page 9)*



# Whiskers in Wonderland Spotlights Rabbit Adoptions

The annual Whiskers in Wonderland holiday adoption event took place on Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Union Square Petco. Volunteers introduced many of our wonderful rabbits to visitors and discussed the joys of having a pet bunny. Marcie Frishberg helped in organizing the event, which featured many rabbits in foster care. Adoptable cats also were able to meet potential adopters.

*(Continued on page 10)*



Photo: Jane O'Wyatt

On camera: bunnies with potential adopters.



Photo: Jane O'Wyatt

Brownie and admirers.



Photo: Maho Honda

Will Leung.



Photo: Maho Honda

Conrad and Ross.



Photo: Maho Honda

Jane O'Wyatt combs Samantha.



Photo: Jane O'Wyatt

Thea Harting.

## ADOPT US!

### Looking for Loving Homes *(Continued from page 8)*

adores being petted, and especially loves cheek rubs. Desiree has a pretty big body for a Dutch, but her head is still

small and sweet. She would make a good choice for a first-time bunny owner.



## Whiskers in Wonderland

(Continued from page 9)

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Roberto.

Photo: Maha Honda



Roger and Honeybun.

Photo: Maha Honda



Dutchie and Brownie.

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Marcie Frishberg, Petco district manager Joshua Axelband and Amber Spradlin with interviewer for 'Urban Animals' TV program.

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Benny meeting young rabbit lovers.

## Volunteers, Rabbits Celebrate Store Opening

Rabbit volunteers turned out on Oct. 18 and 19 to mark the opening of the new Turtle Bay Petco store at Second Avenue and 52nd Street. Cathe Rekis said, “We had a great time at the opening of the new Petco store at 991 Second Ave. Marcie’s fosters, Conrad and Ross, were the stars of the show on Saturday. My foster, Little Tico, was too shy and hid in her carrier.”

On Sunday, Marcie Frishberg brought Conrad and Ross to entertain the crowds again, and Tracy Nuzzo had bunny Cici on hand. Maho Honda wore Marcie’s rabbit costume and had lots of fun promoting the event in front of the store.

Photo: Maho Honda



Cici is in the foreground, but if you look, you will see Conrad and Ross peeping at Cici from their pen nearby.

Photo: Cathe Rekis



Maho Honda in bunny costume at opening of new Petco store on Second Avenue.





One of our NYC Metro Rabbits, Cotton, appears with actress Tavi Gevinson in the most recent issue of Lula, the British fashion magazine. We are all so proud of him, and we're especially happy because he was recently adopted by Carol St. Hilaire. Cotton is going to have his best holiday ever! Photographer: Danielle Levitt ( #daniellelevitt on social media); and creative director: Anne Koch ( #annekoch on social media)

## Benny, the TV Star

Benny the bunny, one of Rabbit Rescue & Rehab's most photogenic fellows, made his television debut Nov. 12 on News 4 New York at 7 p.m. He appeared with RR&R's Cindy Stutts and with Jane Hoffman of the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals. Jane was accompanied by a kitten named Legolas Greenleaf. The four-minute evening TV segment was a chance to talk about the Whiskers in Wonderland adoption event that took place Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Union Square Petco. To see the TV segment, go to:

<http://www.albanynews.com/video/#/on-air/as-seen-on/Mayor-Alliance-for-NYCs-Animals-on-Holiday-Adoptions/28250741>

In other news, our bunnies appeared in a recent Vogue.com shoot. You can see the entire "Bunny Hop" video and slideshow at:

<http://www.vogue.com/5729629/noah-and-daniel-photographs-of-bunnies/>

Photos: Jane O'Wyatt



Benny.

## Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Moxie, Betty, Efren, Pumpkin, Cocoa, Ripley, Teandra, Elvira, Cici, Corla, Elvira, Arielle, Samantha, Franklin, Madisson, Margot, Diana, Cotton, Chanel, Max, Bun Bun, Roger and Honeybun, Louella and Carmella, Lola, Belinda and Davey, Jerry, Leonard, Conrad and Ross, Alma, Sam, Niobe, Harmony, Gigi, Charlie, Mimi and Adrian.



Rabbit volunteers and others gathered on Sunday, Nov. 23, outside Whole Foods Market on Union Square. Nationwide protests are continuing against the company, which has begun selling rabbit meat in some stores. For more information, go to <http://rabbit.org/what-you-can-do-about-whole-foods/>

Amber Spradlin writes: Happy Thanksgiving! Adelmo, Thumperino, and I are thankful everyday for the efforts of the RR&R in rescuing Veronica. She just celebrated her 4th adoptaversary. She brightens everyday:)



Sincere thanks to all of our generous hay donors!



## Miss Chunk: The Queen of Queens

By Gabrielle Lawson

“There’s a rabbit under my truck” was how it all began. It was Thanksgiving weekend 2012 and my boyfriend Steve and I were home in southern New Jersey visiting family when I first heard about the pretty brown bunny that had been hanging out in Steve’s parents’ yard for three weeks. Clearly no one was concerned about finding her, and by that point I was sure word would have gotten out that someone lost their pet. “If I can catch her, then it’s meant to be that she comes back to New York with me,” was what I said to Steve that freezing November morning we saw her huddling under the truck. Sure enough, we lured her into a carrier with carrots, and she hopped on the NJ Transit train back up to New York with me.

Chunk quickly became comfortable in her new surroundings. Instinctively, I gave Chunk her space and allowed her to warm up to me on her own terms. In no time we became the best of friends and her sassy little personality began to blossom. After the holidays, I had to start making arrangements for someone to care for Chunk while Steve and I went to a wedding in Mexico. This was when I was referred to Jane O’Wyatt, who became my trusted bunny sitter and “bad cop” in several mani/pedis.

Besides having the best personality, there was something very regal about Miss Chunk. It was as if she was doing you the favor of gracing you with her presence. Oddly enough, I always felt like she really was doing me the favor, because she came into my life at a time when I was feeling very lonely and longing for a pet. Chunk also (and not surprisingly) loved to eat! Her favorites included parsley, cilantro and thyme from her Grandmom’s (my mom’s) garden in New Jersey. However, bananas were her absolute favorite. I remember one night

Photo: Gabrielle Lawson



Chunk.

watching a movie with Steve, and in our kitchen I heard a thud. There was Chunk, chomping on a bunch of bananas in a wicker fruit bowl that she knocked off a low shelf on a food cart. From that day on we had to keep the fruit bowl with the bananas on top of the microwave, far out of Chunk’s reach.

As I am writing this it is three weeks from the date that I lost Chunk and I still can’t believe how quickly everything happened. Steve caught her first binky on video during the early hours of the morning on Sunday, Oct. 3. By Thursday the 9th, Chunk was in such a state of severe kidney failure that I knew with an aching in my heart she was not going to pull through and that it was time to say goodbye. After Chunk had passed, her

vet (Dr. Shachar Malka at the Humane Society), performed a necropsy to try to determine the cause of death. The pathology report stated the following: “The presence of myocarditis, in conjunction with evidence of inflammation in multiple organs, is suspicious for systemic bacterial or viral infection. The exact cause is however not apparent.” It was an answer too vague and emotionless to be associated with Chunk, in my opinion.

The one thing I’ll always be thankful for is that I never took Chunk for granted. Although her time with me was too short, each day with her was a blessing and she will always live on in my heart. Thank you, Chunk, for letting me be your handmaiden and loyal friend.

## Sebastian Butler and Gloria Steinem

By MB

NYCACC-Harlem alum Sebastian Butler passed away July 5. Beloved husband to the late Vera Charles and Little Gloria, he was survived by the energetic, young companion of his final years, Gloria Steinem, who taught him to give as well as receive grooming, and by the two cats he raised, Clytie and Magnolia.

Commander of the living room, controller of the fridge door, Sebastian also made various notable public appearances, impressing all with his handsome gray and white coat and laid-back demeanor. Among his credits are a cameo on the big screen blithely ignoring being insulted by Elaine Strich in the recent documentary “Shoot Me,” and numerous visits to Broadway backstages, especially on Easter Sundays. He enriched our lives for nine incredible years and we all miss him very much.

Tragically, joyful, effervescent, altogether glorious Gloria Steinem, also an NYCACC-Harlem alum, died unexpectedly and by cause unknown on Oct. 17, just two weeks into having bonded with her dream bun, NYC Metro Rabbit graduate and expert groomer Bunito Bunnolini. The marriage was incredibly blissful and it is some comfort that Gloria experienced such happiness even if it was all too short. Gloria’s loss has been a tremendous blow to all of us and most particularly to Bunito, who followed her adoringly everywhere and tended to her with great care up to her final moments.

Too bereft to be left alone for long, Bunito went recently to matchmaker Cindy Stutts and chose a lively silver marten, reminiscent of one of his guardian’s first bunnies, Little Gloria. Apparently he chose well, as the two bonded in under three hours – a new record for speed courtship. Newly christened Bettelein (or Little Betty, in honor of Little Gloria and of a much missed human also lost this summer,) this recent addition to the household brings a bumptious personality all her own but with the best echo possible of friends gone but never forgotten.



Gloria Steinem and Bunito.



Bunito.



▲ Gloria Steinem. ▼ Vera, Sebastian and Little Gloria.



**Ivy** (Continued from page 1)

time her remarkable spirit. Recently, I was asked to provide photos of her for a slideshow at the rabbit conference honoring those we've lost in the past year. When I came across Ivy's old pictures, I literally gasped.

When she was alive and I was seeing her every day, she seemed tiny, for sure, but frail? Never. Ivy Banana was indomitable and I began to believe we would set records and conquer her thymoma together. She could be a medical miracle and a lecture I attended on physical rehabilitation for rabbits gave me inspiration. We would do swim therapy, cold laser therapy, whatever it took. Fueled with the energy of several banana slices a day, Ivy was game for anything. Of course, one part of me never forgot how perishable she just might be (as I mentioned in my Thump piece in December 2013 (page 5), <http://www.rabbitcare.org/ThumpDecember2013.pdf>), and I always kept a shoebox lined with a soft pillowcase handy in case I needed a coffin.

On Nov. 27, 2013, she began to weaken. I knew this then but I couldn't really acknowledge it. I finally made an appointment for her to be euthanized Saturday, Nov. 30. Then, I staged a mini photo session and posed her on the couch. I was going to take a million pictures of her while I still had the chance. We had bunny dance parties and cuddle sessions that lasted so long my other rabbits just glared at us. We laughed at them, right in their faces! We were a nation of two and there was no room or time for anybun else in our country. Alas, she nibbled on parsley for nourishment but the excitement of all of my plans for us seemed to exhaust her. I allowed her to rest a bit.

Photo: Erin McElhinney



Ivy.

The next day, Thanksgiving, I loaded her up in a carrier, brought some bananas and took her to the wonderful Thanksgiving celebration organized by Marcie Frishberg and Larry Marion. Being accommodating hosts and rabbit lovers, they set up a pen in the dining room, and Ivy was extremely stimulated with all the attention, curiosity and affection thrown her way by all of the dinner guests. I had her only a short time, but that Thursday was the best day I ever shared with her. She died suddenly in my arms less than 48 hours later. Even though I had made an appointment for 2 p.m. that Saturday, little Ivy had her own plans and she passed away shortly before 9 a.m. Our shoebox coffin finally had a use. I boxed up her body and brought her to the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine. I remember kissing her as she lay on the cold metal table, just this tiny white speck, still a little warm but cooling fast. I remember apologizing profusely to Dr. Alexandra Wilson that it was ridiculous I should be acting like this because I

only had Ivy a couple of months. I remember going through an entire box of tissues. Everything else was a blur.

I am grateful that even though Ivy Banana died suddenly, I was home with her and holding her when she passed. Even today when I look at pictures of her, I see her black button eyes looking back at me. She rests now with me peacefully, in an impossibly tiny and practically weightless box that holds her ashes. Sometimes, when I really miss her, I put it on the couch next to me, where she used to love to sit. I thought about setting her ashes free but then I remember she was abandoned in Central Park, scared and alone, and I will always keep her ashes with me so that she is never scared and alone ever again.

This essay can never be the proper RIP that sweet Ivy deserves, but I wanted to write it, to honor her memory.



# Letters From Adopters

Photos: Emily Favilla



Margaret.



Melba.

## Margaret and Melba

*Emmy adopted Margaret and Melba in September, and she sent this letter a few weeks later.*

I adopted Margaret and Melba at the end of September. After initially refusing to come out of their carrier for about an hour, they settled into their new digs and have been as happy as can be!

They love banana, cilantro and red-leaf lettuce, often eating food out of each other's mouths, Lady and the Tramp style. (See attached picture! One of the

Illustration: Loryn Brantz



Lady and the Tramp, bunny style!

illustrators I work with made Halloween costume illustrations for staffers' pets,

and you can feel free to use it with her credit: Loryn Brantz.)

The two run up to the edge of their pen in the morning to greet me when I wake up, running in circles and standing on their hind legs to inspect what's going on, and I often come home to find them cuddling like a yin and yang on their fleece blanket or grooming each other's faces. Although Melba seemed to be the shy of the pair at first, she's actually warmed up to my petting and scratching her ears much faster than Margaret has (still working on that!). Margaret, however, definitely seems to be the "alpha" rabbit – their bond is clearly very strong, as I often notice Melba mimicking Margaret's behavior and following her around.

Their antics and curiosity put a smile on my face every day. Many thanks to the NYC Metro Rabbit staff and volunteers for being really wonderful and helpful throughout the adoption process, and thank you to Margaret and Melba for making my days brighter!

Emmy F.

## Socrates Efren Sickora

*Jacqueline Sickora adopted Efren, now known as Socrates Efren Sickora, and she sent us this update in early November.*

I adopted the amazing and adorable Efren, now named Socrates Efren Sickora on Oct. 18. When I met him on Oct. 16, I immediately fell in love with Socrates. I was so happy that two days later I was able to take the little guy home.

I am completely and totally in love with my baby boy. When we first got to my apartment the poor little guy was still shaking and frightened, but after about an hour or two the lovely Socrates was up and about running around my bedroom like crazy, then into the kitchen and living room. Shortly after that he was ready for hide-and-go-seek.

Socrates is now living in a two-level condo abode and is living it up like a king. This little guy was found in Flushing Meadows Park. He is just a great little bun. He has so much personality that it is amazing. He loves when you pet him on his nose or behind the ears, and when you approach him he just puts his head down to let you pet him. He has been fantastic with everyone that he has met. He has run up to each and every person waiting for acknowledgement. It is just absolutely delightful.

It is really cute to see him jump onto the couch. At first I wasn't sure if he was a lap bunny, or not especially, since he initially didn't approach the couch at all. However, a few days after the adoption, I was sitting on the couch watching a movie when Socrates came running up

Photo: Jacqueline Sickora



Socrates Efren Sickora.

to the couch. He jumped up next to me and sat down with me.

Socrates loves running around my apartment. He is a really good bun. He knows his limits, which makes it very easy for me to keep an eye on him and trust him to run around the apartment

*(Continued on page 18)*

## Letters *(Continued from page 17)*

while I am home.

I took a week and a half off from work before and after the adoption so that my Socrates would not be left alone so soon after I adopted him. The first day I had to return to work was the hardest for me, especially because I did not want to put him back in the cage and say goodbye. He was happy as a clam in his two-level condo abode and I was the one on the verge of tears.

Socrates has gotten used to my daily routine and the funny thing is that now, half the time when I am home and let him out to wander around my apartment, he prefers to stay in his two-level condo. Quite frankly I don't blame him! I want to say thank you to Cindy Stutts and to Kirsten Ott for all of their help and patience during the process. Thanks! I really appreciate it. Socrates absolutely loves his forever home.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline

Photo: Amanda Solomon



Maddy.

### Maddy

*Maddy was adopted in early October by Amanda Solomon and her parents, Pam and Ed. Amanda sent this letter to Maddy's foster mom, Tracy Nuzzo.*

I just wanted to give you an update on Maddy. She is doing great! She is completely adjusted now. Every morning she hears us come down the

stairs and hops right to the front of her pen. She gets so excited to be let out. We recently bought her the colorful baby cups, and she loves playing with them. We hide cilantro and bits of carrots under them and she loves to uncover what's inside. We have noticed that she is starting to recognize her name more and more every day.

As far as Maddy's routine goes, every morning I open her pen and sit on her blanket in the middle of the floor, and she follows me and lies right next to my leg for me to pet her. Then she gets some cilantro while I fill her food bowl and change her water. She is in our family room (which she hops around in all day) but in order to get to the room you have to take a step down. She has now mastered the step and is able to get to the kitchen and the rest of the house!

She is fitting in so well and has truly become the perfect pet for our family. We all love her so much, and can't wait to spend the upcoming holidays with her (reindeer ears for Maddy!).

Amanda Solomon

Photo: Annie Kravet



Cannoli.

### Cannoli

*Cannoli was adopted by Annie and Shira, and they sent us this update in late October.*

We welcomed Cannoli into our home about a month ago. We love him so much!

Cannoli loves exploring his new home, although he has yet to venture beyond

the rug in the living room. His favorite spots are under the coffee table, where he sometimes brings his greens to munch on, and behind the couch, where he loves to stretch out for a nap.

Our living room is now really the "Cannoli Room," filled with cardboard toys, and lots of space for his adorable binkies. Everyone who meets him falls in love with him, and we feel so lucky that he is a part of our family!

Warmly,

Shira & Annie

Photo: Helen Ruon



Boom Boom and Radar.

### Radar and Boom Boom

*Radar and Boom Boom, previously known as Joey and Jeremy, were adopted at the beginning of October by Helen and Alan, who sent us this update.*

We've always wanted rabbits, and we started our search after we moved to our new home. We found Radar and Boom Boom (previously named Joey and Jeremy) on Petfinder. With the help of NYC Metro Rabbits volunteer Kirsten Ott we were able to meet the boys at the home of Nadine Heidlinger, who was fostering them. We knew right away after the visit that we wanted them to be part of our family.

A big thank you to Nadine, who took great care of them! Thank you, Marcie

*(Continued on page 19)*

## Letters *(Continued from page 18)*

Frishberg, for teaching us so much about rabbit care during the adoption, and for the demonstrations. When we first brought them home they were scared to come out of the carrier, and we also learned that they were terrified of the subway. However, a short time later, they were exploring their new home. They have done some remodeling since then (moving/chewing their hidey hut and digging box). They are enjoying their slinky toy and hay balls.

Every morning they hop to the door when we wake up and then again in the evening when we come home. They are such adorable buns and have brought us so much joy! It's fun to watch them groom each other, take food from each other's mouths and play with their toys. They don't like us grooming them, though, so we have had to take it a step at a time, brushing their fur little by little each day. We were happy when we successfully trimmed their nails, but the best of all is to see them binky around!

Thank you!

Helen and Alan along with Radar and Boom Boom

Photo: Alexandra Tejada



Ronan.

### Ronan

*Alexandra Tejada adopted Ronan in early October and sent this letter to volunteer Cathe Rekis a short time afterward.*

I know you guys all loved this little man. He is quite a character indeed. He has

such a strong personality. Thank you so much for all the care and love that you were showering him with at Petco.

You can tell that he is a happy and healthy bunny. We love each other already so much. He loves to be kissed and petted. He jumps up on the couches and all over the place. He is very active and loves attention.

We already have a daily routine. He shakes the pen every morning around 8 a.m. and demands to get out. Lol. So I open the pen, change everything in there and give him bowls of greens and pellets. He runs around for an hour and then, happy and tired, goes to his pen to snooze.

I will keep you posted! Thank you so much again for this miracle :)

Alex

Photo: Lindsay Weston



Lia.

### Lia

*Lia, formerly known as Sunshine, was adopted by Lindsay Weston, who sent us this letter in October.*

I am so grateful to volunteers Amy and Cathy, who introduced me to my rabbit Lia (previously named Sunshine) and for answering all of my questions. Both of the volunteers referred me to the House Rabbit Society website, which has been an invaluable resource as a new rabbit owner.

Lia is a three-pound, 15-week-old lop-eared mix. She was shy at first but

quickly warmed up in her new home. Lia is so filled with joy and curiosity.

Her most beloved toy so far is a cardboard box, which she enjoys hopping into and chewing. Her favorite thing to do is to create an obstacle course by jumping over and around all of her favorite toys. She is truly a pleasure to be around.

I'm excited to become more involved in the NYC Metro Rabbit community.

Warm Regards,

Lindsay and Lia

Photo: Doral Estevez



Mimi.

### Mimi

*Mimi, previously known as Teandra (or Little T), was adopted in early November by Doral and Max. Doral sent us this email about Mimi's latest adventures.*

For a very long time I wanted to care for and give a home to a bunny in need. When I met Little T (Mimi) at the

*(Continued on page 20)*

Petco at 86th and Lexington, I fell in love with her.

She sniffed my finger and followed my movements. I immediately felt the connection. I wanted to take her right away so I filled out the application the same day. The process took a week or so. While I waited, I read some articles and saw some videos on how to care for a rabbit. I bought everything she needed for a happy life and a happy home with me. She had no idea that someone out there was thinking of her and already loved her. When it was time to get her, my boyfriend, Max, and I were very happy.

As we drove home, we decided to call her Mimi because she was so cute and small. She didn't move at all because she felt a little afraid. I talked to her and put soft music so she could get distracted and feel safe, instead of having her worried and wondering what was going on. When we got home, we opened the box and it took her a just couple of minutes for her curiosity to start showing. We started building the playpen and setting up her vegetables, water and litter box. Since we weren't on top of her trying to get her out of the box, she understood that "I won't get hurt because they are not on top of me," and that was the reaction we wanted from her. It was her choice to get out the box when she was ready. She felt safe and started getting up and smelling the litter box. She got inside very quickly and stood there for a while. We also got her a hiding place, so she could hide whenever she felt the need to. She was very shy at the beginning and didn't come out of the litter box that often. A couple of hours later, we created a tunnel out of cardboard that she loved. She ate only a little bit of food – not too much. We decided to give her a small piece of carrot since rabbits love them, so she could understand that we are not here to hurt her. At first she didn't eat it, but we left it overnight with food and fresh vegetables and she ate everything.

The second day was easier for her. She played around more with her cardboard tunnel and smelled the place a little more. I noticed that she didn't like to bite on wood. Instead, she likes to bite on cardboard and papers. The second day she ate her salad normally, but it still took a while for her to eat it. She waited until we were not paying attention to her and then she would eat it.

The third day she started to smell me, and I started to sit down with her while she played around and sniffed my hands and feet. She did the same with Max. She ate normally as soon as we put the food down, and she was not that afraid of us anymore. She ate from our hands and licked our hands. She licked Max first and then she licked my hands. I was so happy when she did that.

I'm glad that she is feeling comfortable with us, because this is just the beginning of a wonderful life with her.

Doral Estevez

Photo: Colleen AF Venable



Tuck.

### Tuck

*Tuck, formerly known as Cocoa, was adopted by Colleen AF Venable in October.*

I'm calling him Tuck since he loves to tuck his head under my hand to get me to pet him, and also he can jump crazy high/long distances, kind of like a monster truck.

He really chose me, and at the time I was doing research into getting a dog. What I wound up with is the sweetest little puppy – who happens to be in bunny form and perfectly litter-trained.

I can't get over how good and sweet he is! I did a lot of research before I adopted and built him a little house in my living room, and rabbit-proofed the whole room, including making protectors for my bottom bookshelves (broken wooden drying rack with chicken wire, Velcro, and a cute little white fence so it looks less like a cage for my books and more like a cute design element of my living room).

My goal was to have Cocoa/Tuck eventually have full run of the living room, but I'd keep a tall dog gate up in the doorway so he'd be protected from un-bunny-proofed rooms. In the middle of the night my third evening with him I heard a rustle in my kitchen. It wound up that 24 inches wasn't a hard thing to jump at all for Monster Tuck, and he had been sneaking out every night – never messing anything up or even chewing anything. Just exploring and generally being ridiculously happy.

Since that moment I've let him roam 75% of my apartment, and he's such a good little boy (Though I give it another week before he learns to work door-knobs like a raptor in "Jurassic Park").

He runs into my arms when I get home from work, and he is already starting to learn some clicker training tricks like sitting still for treats and spinning in a circle. I couldn't imagine a more fantastic pet and was so grateful for all the information and training and help the shelter gave me. Thank you all!

Colleen

(Continued on page 21)

Photo: Julie Spielvogel



MuMu and Coco.

### MuMu and Coco

*MuMu, formerly known as Margaret, was adopted in August as a partner for Coco. Julie Spielvogel sent us this update in November.*

In October 2013, my partner and I adopted our first rabbit, Coco, short for Coconut. Coco is a male dwarf hotot. He is a house rabbit (no cage!) and is crazy energetic. He loves people, burrowing in blankets, closets and chewing. From the start, Coco was our best friend. He always wanted to climb on us. When we

came in the door from work, he would come running and sit on our feet.

When my office moved me from Queens to Manhattan, I knew that I couldn't leave Coco alone for so many hours without company. We began looking into the possibility of adopting a friend for Coco. I got in contact with Marcie Frishberg, Abigail McCue, and Amy Odum through Animal Care & Control of Manhattan. They assisted me in arranging a bunny speed date for Coco in August with three female lionhead rabbits living in Harlem in a litter of seven. Coco and MuMu (Margaret/Muchachita) had a polarity in dominance, which Amy explained could mean fewer power struggles. She recommended MuMu as the lucky lady, and we agreed!

My partner and I brought MuMu home with us, and followed the procedure for bonding recommended by Marcie, Abigail and Amy. Throughout the process, I was touched by the support, encouragement and passion of these women. I feel so lucky to have met them

and to have had the chance to take in some of their vast knowledge of rabbit health and behavior. I also appreciated the advice of Dr. Jennifer Saver from Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital. Dr. Saver diagnosed Coco with "cow pie syndrome" shortly after MuMu's adoption, and recommended a change in diet.

Coco and MuMu are now fully bonded, and they are IN LOVE!! They snuggle together, eat together, bathe together and play together. MuMu is shy with humans, but she is comfortable with Coco. Coco and MuMu have THE LIFE. We order them fresh Timothy hay from Kentucky! They sleep on the sofa! They are part of the family. I would be happy to talk to anyone who is considering adopting their first or second rabbit. My email address is [jspielv1@gmail.com](mailto:jspielv1@gmail.com) and my phone number is 914 715 3446. Rabbits are NOT for everyone, but if you think they are for you, there are so many that need quality homes.

Julie Spielvogel

### Logan and Arwen

*Logan and Arwen, previously known as Romeo and Juliet, were adopted by Olivia and Santiago in early October. They sent this update a month later.*

Romeo and Juliet are doing awesome and we love them so much. We actually renamed them Logan and Arwen.

As of today, we have had them a month and it has been such a fun experience learning their personalities and bonding with them. I could not believe that they love bananas, but they really do! I never would have guessed!

I just wanted to say thank you to the Rabbit Rescue & Rehab group, for preparing us to take in these sweet babies and taking such good care of them before we came along. They are

Photo: Olivia Muselman



Logan and Arwen.

such innocent creatures who deserve safe, loving homes, and your rescue group is doing a wonderful job of making that happen!!

Thank you!

Olivia and Santiago



Dexter.



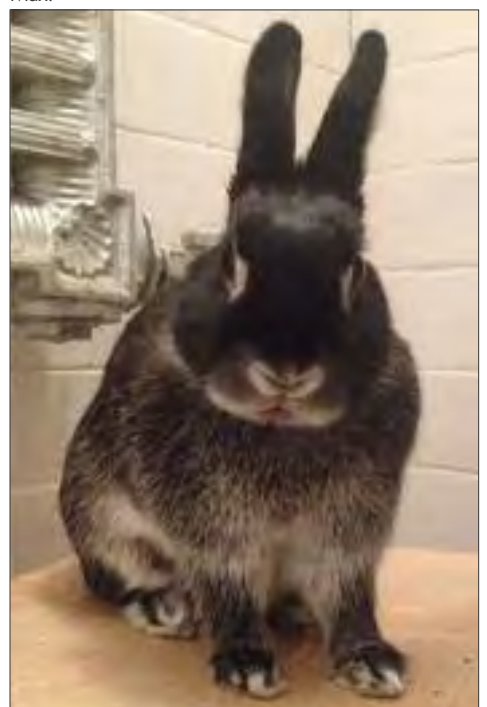
Ghost.



Max.



Benny.



Bettelein fka Cici.





David, Marta and Moxie.



Debbie Harry.



Armond.



Brock.



## 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**

**Kristen Miller, DVM**

Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital  
2056 Jericho Turnpike, 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

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**Nancy Schreiber**, HRS Licensed Educator, President, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, [nschreibmd@aol.com](mailto:nschreibmd@aol.com), (516) 510-3637, [LongIslandRabbitRescue.org](http://LongIslandRabbitRescue.org)

**Cindy Stutts**, HRS Licensed Educator, Manager NYC Metro Rabbit Program, [bygolyoly@yahoo.com](mailto:bygolyoly@yahoo.com), (646) 319-4766, [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com)

**Mary Ann Maier**, HRS Licensed Educator, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group Volunteer, [altitude8@yahoo.com](mailto:altitude8@yahoo.com), [LongIslandRabbitRescue.org](http://LongIslandRabbitRescue.org)

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

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## 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 four rabbits living at each of those stores.

In addition, NYC Metro rabbits are at Petland Discounts stores on West 117th Street, East 86th Street and West 72nd Street.

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 can be arranged by appointment only on weekend afternoons either at Columbus Square or Union Square. Please contact Cindy Stutts at [bygolyoly@yahoo.com](mailto:bygolyoly@yahoo.com) to make arrangements.

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).

## THUMP December 2014

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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 public on rabbit care through publications, phone consultations, home visits and presentations. This newsletter is published by RRR/NYC HRS, which is solely responsible for its content. We retain the right to edit all submissions, which become the property of the NYC Chapter and cannot be returned.

All donations go directly to caring for our foster rabbits and are tax-deductible. Please help us help them. Mailing address for contributions to Rabbit Rescue & Rehab: Gabrielle LaManna, 7 Carriage Lane, New Fairfield, CT 06812. For contributions to Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, please go to [www.longislandrabbitrescue.org](http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org).