



THUMP

NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS FEBRUARY 2013

A Room Designed for Bunnies

By Helen Chen

In 2012, when my husband and I were house hunting, we knew we wanted a separate space that we could dedicate to our three precious bunnies. Both of us are allergic to hay but we love our bunnies too much to be apart from them, so our search was very specific. Our task was to find a house that would have a space away from our bedroom, large enough to house the bunnies, allowing them ample running space – as well as a space where humans like myself could hang out and spend time with them. A room with a nearby bathroom would be a bonus.

We finally settled on buying a lovely split-level home that has a den and an extra half-bathroom. We became busy the next nine months with demolition, renovation and sleepless nights thinking about design choices. The most interesting project in the house was, of course, the bunny room. During demolition, we removed the existing air-conditioning vents, baseboard heaters, all of the existing electrical outlets in the walls, and the carpet in this room.

We installed a split-ductless unit to replace the old HVAC system. It would independently heat and cool the bunny

Photo: Helen Chen



AC/heat unit mounted at the top.

room year-round. This system is more energy-efficient than central A/C and would ensure that none of the air circulated in the rest of the house would contain allergens from the bunny room. We got rid of the existing baseboard heaters because we knew that bunnies would like to play wherever there were small gaps. It is also a prime location for

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Coping With Loss Of a Loved Bun

By Kerstin Aumann

Over the years as a bunny parent and fosterer, I have lost many bunnies to old age or illness. It's never easy. The loss of a loved bun can stir up many emotions, including shock, anger, sadness and guilt. You may be second-guessing yourself as a bunny parent, or ask yourself if you did everything you could, made the right medical decisions, provided the best possible quality of life to your rabbit... The sadness that follows the initial shock can linger for weeks. You may even find your mind playing tricks on you like "seeing" your bunny in his favorite spot.

This, too, shall pass.

Consider your options for saying goodbye. Some kind of ceremony or memorial, however brief and simple, can be a comforting ritual. If a bunny dies unexpectedly, a necropsy can provide information about what happened and why. For me, this knowledge has often brought the closure I needed to move forward in the grieving process.

Stay away from people who don't understand that your rabbit's death is a

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Designed for Bunnies

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fur, hay and other debris to collect. Without the heaters in the way, the bunnies can run the entire span of the floor.

One of the features I am most proud of is the new electrical wiring. Though my electrician thought I was crazy when I told him to install all of the outlets at least 36 inches above ground, it was extremely important to me for safety reasons. As many bunny owners know, wires from electronics like air filters, lamps, clocks, TVs and computer equipment are attractive chew toys to a bunny! Bunny-proofing a modern home is a tricky task. Elevating all of the outlets would ensure that no bunny could reach the wires or the electronic devices.

Removing the old carpet revealed a beautiful slate stone floor underneath, which we preserved. We covered most of the room with modular foam mats so that the bunnies would have traction to do their binkies. If the bunnies had any toilet-related accidents we could just pull the mat off and clean it. The stone floor is a breeze to sweep and clean.

For storage space, we bought a set of inexpensive cabinets from IKEA and opted to mount them on a wall instead of installing feet for them to stand on. We thought it would be a fun feature

Photos: Helen Chien



Living spaces for single bunny Toby on the left, bonded pair Kirby and Penny on the right.



Floating cabinet mounted to the wall provides storage and hiding place for bunnies.



Computer setup with network cable and electrical wires 36" above the floor. Nothing dangling underneath the table!

for the bunnies to run under and use as hiding space. So far, my bunnies have enjoyed having private bunny-only meetings there as much as they enjoy racing around the rest of the room.

There are many things, large and small, that we can do to safely integrate bunny life and human life.

The half-bathroom that is attached to the bunny room was unaltered except for the sink. I replaced the small outdated pedestal sink with an oversized plastic slop sink. It is very easy now to clean those litter boxes.

Though I am extremely fortunate to be able to custom design a bunny room and watch it become reality, this experience has taught me that there are many things, large and small, that we can do to safely integrate bunny life and human life. I am sure that despite my best efforts, my bunnies will still find new ways to challenge my design in the future. When it comes to owning bunnies, the best thing to do is pay attention: know your bunnies and think of creative ways to make the environment livable for everyone (and everybun) involved.

Coping With the Loss

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true loss for you – on par with, or close to, the death of a human family member. This is not the time for arguments, or trying to convince someone that rabbits make wonderful pets who deserve the same respect as pets more traditionally considered “man’s best friend.”

Surround yourself with people who do understand what your rabbit meant to you and your need to grieve. Our volunteers are not only adoption counselors – they are also wonderful grief counselors, having lost many loved buns of their

own over the years. We will lend a sympathetic ear to anyone who is coping with grief, and we’re here for you if and when you are ready to adopt a new friend.

There is a silver lining in every loss. Sometimes it’s simply the fact that your loved bun no longer suffers the pain of illness. Every time one of my rabbits or foster buns died, I’ve learned valuable lessons about rabbit care and health that made me a better bunny parent. Sadly, I’ve lost many a battle with stasis, but each time I got a little better at spotting the first signs of trouble and treating a stasis bun.

Consider adopting “somebunny” special to help you during the grieving process. No rabbit in the world can replace the bun you lost, but she/he can help you feel better in many ways – by keeping you busy, entertaining you, soothing you or simply being there for you. Personally, I’ve always felt there was no better way to honor my lost buns than by giving a forever home to another bunny in need.

Take your child’s lead when talking to him/her about pet loss. Be brief and to the point when explaining why their

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February Is the Kindest Month of All

February is “Adopt-a-Rescued-Rabbit-Month.”

Have you been checking the Web listings, looking for a bunny? Have you thought of finding a partner for your bunny?

Our wonderful group of available rabbits is always changing. Sometimes a potential adopter discovers that a bunny is no longer on the “available” list. That particular bunny has found a home, but new rabbits are being rescued daily – waiting for you.

Marcie Frishberg explained that the adoption process sometimes involves a bit of serendipity, both for adopters and rabbits: “When someone misses out on a bun, I tell them they haven’t found their soul mate yet!! That bun is still out there waiting for them.”

Isabella is an elegant white rabbit still looking for her perfect home. She’s living at the 86th Street Petco store, soaking up caresses and curiously watching the store customers. She is a graceful, regal girl. In her ear is a tattoo, L7, giving an indication of her background. Parks

Department workers found her in Queens and turned her in at the shelter, where she was given the name “Snow White.” Cindy Stutts noticed that there was a lump on her shoulder, and the next day Jane O’Wyatt realized that something wasn’t right with Snow White. She had a temperature of 106 degrees and was rushed to the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine, where she underwent surgery for a large abscess in her shoulder. Her fur has grown back, and her passion for life is obvious. She is now renamed Isabella, to match her royal bearing. Volunteer Alisa Christopher said, “What a lovely and sweet girl. She has a resignation of some past trauma and maybe little belief that life can be safe. Many prayers and abundant loving will be showered on this one.”

Consider giving Isabella or one of our other abandoned rabbits a home. Celebrate this very special month by sharing your love with a bunny. Make this Valentine’s Day the best ever. Email us at nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com. For additional contact information, see the back page of Thump.

Coping With Loss

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furry friend is gone. Use your child’s questions as a gauge for what kind of and how much information he/she needs. Use straight talk and name things for what they are whenever possible. Children are naturally curious and often understand a lot more than we think. Be careful when using euphemisms like “put to sleep” because young children tend to take things literally and may develop fears or negative feelings about sleep, anesthesia or shots.

The poem about the rainbow bridge has always given me comfort when one of our bunnies died. The poem, including translations into many languages, can be found here:

<http://rainbowsbridge.com/Poem.htm>

The poem, which is actually more like a short essay, is also featured on Petloss.com, a web site dedicated to supporting people who’ve lost a pet (<http://www.petloss.com>). You may find this a helpful resource.

Photo: Jane O’Wyatt



Mora, left, finds her new partner Gus during a speed date supervised by Cindy Stutts.

Photo: Alisa Christopher



Photo: Robert Kalka



Isabella, middle and bottom.

Sky Bounces Back

By Abigail McCue

Three months ago, Jane O'Wyatt wrote to the volunteers about a poor emaciated gray lop with terrible urine scald who "probably should be fostered." He was young – not quite four months old.

I took him home with me the next day. His ID card said that the people who had surrendered him had owned him for three weeks and could not afford to take him to the vet, that Sky had been "pulling his own fur out" around his legs and lower belly.

And no wonder. In the three weeks these "owners" had Sky, he had become skeletally thin, living on little more than carrots, and his raw, scalded skin was



Sky on his arrival at Abigail's.

thin enough that I could see through it to the white bones of his toes. He had little energy, but for all he'd been through, he was friendly and curious.

We took a long bus ride back to the East Village, Sky poking his head out of the bag the whole time, less afraid than interested in what was going on around him. I set up his cage and included a Palace Pet mat to keep him dry. He slept



Three months later.

a great deal, but while awake he ate and ate and ate. Jane had left Neo-Predef powder at the shelter for me to use on his scald. I applied it and HEALx to the naked, red skin. He moved with great care, never too fast, stepping gingerly, clearly hurting from the scald. He had no fur on his tail. What was not immediately obvious about Sky, to a first-time observer, was just how thin he really was. His gray fur hid the fact that his bones were poking out. The first time I pet him, the sharpness of his shoulder blades stunned me and I could count each rib.

Now, three months later, Sky has fully recovered. His fur has completely grown back and he has the most beautiful, dark gray, bushy tail. He has boundless energy and is a most talented jumper. He will need a home where he has a lot of room to run and leap and people who will love him and pet him every chance they get.

As we all know, each rabbit has his own personality, and no two rabbits are exactly alike. It will be as hard to say goodbye to Sky as it would be to say goodbye to any friend I would most likely never see again. I try to think of him as my guest, and my apartment as an inn he is passing through on a journey to his real home. I have rehabilitated him, loved him, and soon I will leave him with someone else. And that will be harder than anything.

I will say this for his neglectful previous owners: they named him well. Sky's fur is the color of a wintry sunset, gray and dark, with hints of reddish hues. He is unique and beautiful. I will miss him.

February is Adopt-a-Rescued-Rabbit Month!



This month, match your bunny—or yourself!—with a rescued rabbit.

Nothing can match the love.

Please visit www.rabbit.org today!



HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

PHOTO: MARY CULLEN; MARY ANNE WILSON

FOSTERING

Candy Gets Room to Grow



Candy, right, with siblings.



Sitting on her mom Trixie's shoulders.



Baby-sitting the latest litter.



Candy, Jan. 29.

Candy, a tiny white lop with tan ears, arrived at the shelter in mid-December with mom Trixie and her larger siblings.

Candy was the runt of the group, and seemed to be unable to get an adequate share of food. Abigail McCue remarked in early January that Candy was about half the size of the smallest three siblings, who were perhaps a month older. Tiny Candy was thin and lacking in energy. Abigail put Candy in her lap to feed the bunny, so that mealtime could proceed without interruption from the others.

In the family group, Candy would start chewing on a leaf, only to have it torn away by the other bunnies. There was concern that Candy would not be able to get adequate nutrition. Cathy Zelonis said Candy's size was troubling, and that the bunny looked like "Tiny Tim" compared to three tan-colored siblings, Kirk, Amber and Charles. Cathe Rekis said Candy really had to fight for food, water and space. Cathe said, "I made sure to break up greens" to give Candy a fair share to eat. Candy got "trampled and pushed to the side constantly in the stampede. Also, when Mom went into the hidey box to sleep, all the babies piled in to nurse except Candy, who was left out and struggled to get in."

Cindy Stutts guessed that Candy was the sole survivor of one litter, with Kirk, Amber and Charles members of a slightly older litter. Three other juvenile rabbits, Cindy, Kimmy and Rudy, were also part of the family.

Will Leung brought the mom and the four youngest rabbits home to foster, and he immediately took note of Candy's appetite. "Now that Candy is here, she is still eating an hour after she arrived," he said Jan. 9.

The next day, Will emailed the other volunteers to provide an update: "So I think Candy continuously ate for six hours. I have always thought the mom,

Trixie, was a bit skinny, and she also ate right alongside Candy. Within three hours of slow eating, Candy gained energy to start that tossing, head-rearing style of rough eating. Her tummy was filling up but she just kept going. I finally took all the veggies away at midnight. At 3 a.m., I tossed in some snack kale, and they wolfed it up again. I think they finally had their fill this morning. When I tossed in Romaine, they only worked on it a little. Candy looked like a clown by end of the night and gained a green French mustache with a red chin."

Before the end of the month, Trixie unexpectedly had another litter, of six bunnies. Will had his hands full, and he messaged the group, asking for advice on handling newborns.

Helen Chen offered to foster Kirk, Amber and Charles. She said on Jan. 31, "The babies are doing very well. They have grown even in the several days they've been with me. They are three almost identical tan lops, each weighing only about a fraction of a pound. I've mainly been identifying them as The Big One, The Naughty One, The Little One. They eat a lot of food and they are unbelievably well litter-trained for babies. They'll be very easily adopted, I think, once they are big enough. They are inseparable at the moment." Helen took this video of the bunnies eating: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jIKtlKbSqNl>

Meanwhile, Will's report on Candy was encouraging: "Candy, I guess, is twice her size when I took her to foster. She is about the size of half a paper towel, or the size of a mug." Candy's ears, meanwhile, grew upright, so she is no longer a lop.

Our thanks go to Will Leung for giving Candy and her family room to eat and grow. And thanks to Helen Chen and all the other volunteers for their help.

Mama Jett, Part II: 'Keep Calm and Carry On!'

Photos: Tracy Nuzzo



Jett after surgery.

By Tracy Nuzzo

To refresh everyone on Mama Jett's story: In early November 2012, I gladly agreed to foster a new mom and her three small babies. Additionally, the mother, Jett, suffered from a splay leg and I desperately wanted to help her. I took her to the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine so she could be examined by my rabbits' vet, Dr. Anthony Pilny (see December 2012 Thump, pages 8-10).

After X-rays, it was determined that Jett's injury was not a recent one, and the only remedy would be amputation. I was assured this was a great option for Jett, and I agreed. Jett still needed to nurse her three babies for five additional weeks so the surgery was scheduled to coincide with the babies' weaning.

I would watch Jett hobbling around, dragging her splayed leg behind her, and my heart would break. I was wishing for time to go quickly so her surgery date could arrive.

Dr. Pilny let me view Jett's X-rays, and he answered all my medical-related questions. As I waited for early November to turn to Dec. 5, Jett's surgery date, I started wondering how I could prep my house to make it more "tripod-friendly." I googled "Rabbit amputation + NYC" and the first search result changed everything for me.



Jett lounging post-op.

I read that a Westchester woman found herself in a similar situation in 2004. She, too, took in a rabbit who ultimately needed a rear-leg amputation. The article touched me, and there were many helpful tips and tricks. I wanted to reach out to the author, but I hesitated because the article was eight years old. Instead, I emailed the contact for the website and that happened to be Mary Cotter, chapter manager for Rabbit Rescue & Rehab. I explained my situation with Jett and asked Mary if it would be possible to get in touch with the author of the article, "Yoodie's Amputation: Losing a Leg, Getting a Life," <http://www.rabbitcare.org/yoodie.htm> Within hours, Mary replied to me and forwarded my information to Jeanine Callace, Yoodie's mom.

In the years since Jeanine had written about Yoodie, he had died, but she told me that he had lived a long, happy life. Through emails and long phone calls, I was able to ask Jeanine how to create the best home environment for Jett.

The night before Jett's operation, I hardly slept. Jett needed to be dropped off at CAEM before 10:00 a.m., and I was

delighted to be met by Dr. Pilny and his team in the waiting room, dressed in scrubs and ready to go. I gave Jett a kiss on the forehead and I promised her, "Don't worry, Mama. This is going to be great." By the following day, all progress reports were awesome. Given the choice to pick Jett up or let her spend another night at the hospital, I opted to go and get her. Jett's babies were now eight weeks old and no longer nursing, but they were constantly looking for their mom. I was sure that she missed them, too.

Danilo, an intern at CAEM, met me in the waiting room with Jett, all packed up in her travel bag. He asked if I'd like to see her surgery site and, of course, I did. Danilo warned me that he'd just given her a dose of painkiller and that she might seem sleepy. He placed the travel bag on the floor and slowly unzipped it. In the blink of an eye, Jett tore out of the bag and ran down the hall. The three of us (Danilo, Ann, the receptionist, and I) took off after Jett! Three humans, with six legs in total, were no match for a tripod bunny. After we finally cornered Jett, we all cracked up laughing.

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Reunited with happy babies.



These babies have their dad Bobby's coloring.

Mama Jett

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I brought Jett home, but I'd been advised to keep her away from her babies for at least a week because they could inadvertently injure her. I had the babies in the Leith Petwerks condo and I attached an X-pen to it, so all that separated the family were a few cage bars. Jett would be safe, but she'd have close proximity to her family. I placed her gently into the X-pen and she went over to where her babies were lined up

inside the condo and groomed each one on the forehead, through the bars. She wasn't frantic to get to them, nor were they frantic for more contact. It was a lovely, low-key reunion.

For a week, Jett was on Metacam, and she seemed comfortable. By her second day home, Jett had mastered standing and balancing. It has been remarkable watching her progress and celebrating her milestones.

Jett has had some very tough breaks in her short life, but the amputation surgery



Dylan may be a musical prodigy.

reversed a lot of her bad fortune. CAEM did an incredible job. Jett was treated with an abundance of love and care.

I sprained my ankle on New Year's Eve as I was walking to get dandelion greens for the buns. I tripped on the sidewalk and twisted my ankle. Immediately, I elevated it, put ice on it, and took Advil. It hurt! For the next few days, I took every opportunity to elevate my leg and take it easy. We believe that Jett was 11 months old when she arrived at CAEM and had her three bunnies. She suffered greatly with a leg that likely caused her pain and hindered even the simplest of movements. Still, she never shirked her duties as a mom.

It seems everywhere you look right now, there is a phrase that was popular during World War II, "Keep Calm and Carry On." There are posters and coffee cups with this slogan, but it never meant anything to me. As I was nursing my own ankle injury, the saying popped in my head and reminded me of Jett. She was dealt a bad hand, but she never let it get to her. She is as sweet a bunny as you'd ever meet. From the first day she arrived in my home, she has been trusting and appreciative of any kindness. Now, a month after surgery, she is a pro at living life as a tripod and she just continues to keep calm and carry on. We're all proud of you, Jett!

Whiskers in Wonderland

Photos: Natalie L. Reeves



Riff and Raff.



Volunteer Douglas Lee with Mario.



Marcie Frishberg, right, with bunny Simba and a potential adopter.



The bunny Tank enjoys some attention.

The annual Whiskers in Wonderland event took place Dec. 2 at Petco stores throughout the city. Cindy Stutts and other volunteers talked with potential adopters, and many adoptable bunnies were on hand to charm the crowds. The adoption event, sponsored by the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals along with the Petco Foundation, was a huge success.

We Are Looking for Loving Homes



Odin.



Charlene.



Riff and Raff.

By Kirsten Ott

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.

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.

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 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.



Snapples.

Flash

Flash is an adorable spunky Californian boy who came from 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)

Snapples

A volunteer wrote: Snapples is a mini rex boy whose owner didn't have the time for him anymore. Luckily, most of his life is still in front of him, so he'll get a chance to spend it with caring, attentive people. This little guy has a very sweet disposition, and he's trusting.

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Looking for Loving Homes

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He'll come right up to you when you visit his cage, and will submit eagerly to petting and nose rubs. Snapples has a typical rex coat of white with some soft gray markings, including fun dark gray stripes that frame his little nose.

Bushwick

A volunteer wrote: Bushwick is a large lionhead girl who was found – in Bushwick, naturally – by one of our shelter volunteers. This girl is truly beautiful: she has a creamy white coat with brown markings around her face and ears, and fun brown polka dots scattered around her body. And lovely lionhead whiskers, of course! Bushwick was very scared when she first came to the shelter; she would hide and stare out at you with her dark, shining eyes. She is coming around now, allowing some petting in addition to admiration from afar. Bushwick would probably make a good partner bunny.

Fawn

A volunteer wrote: Fawn is a stunning large Palomino mix who was found in a park. This handsome lady resembles a small deer: she has a caramel-colored coat, large ears, a slender face and big doe eyes. Fawn is a little bit shy, but she warms up fairly quickly. She likes to be petted to sleep while she's lying in her "bed" (otherwise known as her litter box). Fawn would do best in a peaceful home where she can feel safe.

Lottie

A volunteer wrote: Lottie is a large harlequin who came to the shelter just before Christmas – with a litter of three kits. The kits are big enough to be separated from her now, and she's ready to start a new chapter in her life. Lottie is a marvelously outgoing and spunky girl. She adores attention and affection, and is sure to keep her new people on their toes. She would make a good family bunny, and now that she's spayed, she'd also make a good partner for another rabbit.



Bushwick.



Fawn.



Lottie (with one of her kits).



Bessie.



Ivy.

Bessie

A volunteer wrote: Bessie is a large orange-and-white lop who was found behind a King Kullen store. This girl is extremely interested in other rabbits, so she would definitely do best as a partner for another bunny. When she first arrived at the shelter, she was quite standoffish toward humans, but now she is more open to human attention, and likes to be petted. She has an ultrasoft coat, so it's hard to resist!

Ivy

Ivy is an adorable brown lionhead girl with huge brown eyes. She's playful and curious, and she is also very gentle. She's residing at the 86th Street Petco store, charming everyone who meets her. Ivy loves to be petted, and she enjoys all of her toys. She is a loving, happy bunny with great litter-box skills.

Isabella

Isabella is a big white bunny with personality to match. She will binky, yawn, stretch and jump to get your attention, and her healthy appetite gives her extra energy. Romaine is one of her favorite foods, and she will gobble up many leaves at one sitting. She is a beautiful shining white, and her fur is soft to the touch. Isabella also is very gentle and friendly, and she enjoys using her litter box at the 86th Street Petco, where she is currently living. She would make a good family bunny. (See her photos on page 3.)

Inga

A volunteer wrote: Inga is a stunning large lionhead mix who came in as part of a somewhat dysfunctional couple (who have since been separated). This gorgeous girl is all white except for some soft gray tinting on her ears. Inga is very sweet-tempered and mellow, and she adores being petted. Her fur is softer than the average bunny's, so you'll be happy to indulge her requests for affection. Inga would make a good family bunny.

Chester

A volunteer wrote: Chester is a big gray chinchilla lop – a bruiser of a bunny! This guy loves to rearrange and wreck

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Chester.



Rizzo.



Valentina.



Morris.

Looking for Loving Homes

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stuff in his habitat, so he'll need lots of shreddable, chewable, and movable "furniture" in his new home. Once he's finished with his day's work, he'll stretch out his long body and smush his blocky head down for a nice long nap. Chester is curious about people, but still somewhat wary; he'll approach and sniff you a few times before making friends.

Rizzo

Rizzo is an adorable Californian girl who was rescued from a backyard in Brooklyn by NYC Metro Rabbit volunteers. Born in late March 2012, Rizzo is one of the sweetest rabbits you will ever meet. She enjoys pets, cuddles and kisses and will be a wonderful companion. Now weighing a little over six pounds, she is likely to be a large bunny when fully grown. Rizzo loves to jump and explore, and enjoys a variety of toys including paper bags, pieces of cardboard, toilet paper tubes stuffed with hay, and phone books. As a baby, Rizzo's face reminded her foster family of Rizzo the Rat from the Muppets. She is now strong and beautiful with a cute gray nose, gray ears and pretty eyes.

Valentina

Valentina is a medium-sized lionhead who was found in the Bronx. This sweetie is all brown, with a fuzzy muzzle, cute round mutton chops, and some rogue lionhead whiskers protruding from her little behind. Valentina is quite wary around new people. She'll assess you for awhile before approaching you, then perhaps she'll permit a bit of petting. She would do best in a quiet home where she can gradually come out of her shell.

Morris

Morris is a fabulous medium-sized cream-colored lop. If Morris is in the house, it's party time! This guy is incredibly outgoing and social. He'll rush to his cage door when you enter the room, and hang onto the cage bars, sticking his nose through and begging for attention. When you start to pet him, he literally melts; he loves nose and cheek rubs. When you remove your hand, his head will follow it

as though it's magnetized. Everything about Morris screams, "Take me home!" He would make an excellent family bunny.

Piper

Piper is a tiny brown-and-white Netherland dwarf who was surrendered by someone who cited "personal problems." This guy is truly cute overload: he has a sweet little round face, chipmunk cheeks and stubby little ears. Piper is not very trusting of new people; he keeps his distance, but his tiny nose wiggles continuously out of curiosity. This diminutive little fellow would do best in a home without small children.

Jack

Jack is a marvelous large Californian bunny who was found in Flushing Meadow Park. The first things you notice about Jack are his oversized pink and brown ears (he must hear conversations going on in New Jersey!) and the unusual mottled-brown pattern on his Californian nose. Jack is a very good-natured, outgoing boy; he would make a good family pet. Whoever adopts Jack is likely to get a new best friend in the process.

Tank

A volunteer wrote: Meet Tank, NYC Metro Rabbit's golden boy. Tank is a sweetheart and a perfect gentleman. He purrs with contentment when you rub his head, and follows his foster mom around the house. Tank has a condition called head tilt but runs, plays and snuggles just like any other happy, healthy house rabbit. Sometimes he loses his balance and suddenly rolls over, and then gets back onto his four feet as if nothing happened. We think Tank would make an excellent partner for the right rabbit.

Jett and Dylan

Their foster mom, Tracy, wrote: Meet Jett and her son, Dylan! These two are part of a family rescued the week after Hurricane Sandy. When Jett came in, she had an untreated injury that caused her leg to heal at a 90-degree angle from her body, making it worse than useless, and amputation was performed in December

(Continued on page 12)



Piper.



Jack.



Tank.



Dylan and Jett.

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 11)

to improve her quality of life. She has healed perfectly, and now runs and plays – seemingly forgetting she has one less limb!

Dylan is a shy guy and a momma's boy, but he is quick to make friends. He was the runt of Jett's litter, and because of his initial small size, he and his Mom forged an incredible bond. They have always been inseparable. Dylan is the mini-me of Jett, with a few exceptions. While Jett has a gorgeous, shiny black coat from head to toe, Dylan has a few of his dad's attributes – he has white "Michael Jackson" gloves on his front paws, a tiny white dot on his forehead, and a great white spot on his nose.

These two are definitely "companion" pets. They adore affection and petting – and they return in kind, with small bunny kisses. They do like being held. They'd do well in a home with some room to run and jump – and practice their binky skills. And, of course, they would love a new family who will shower them with affection!

Jett and Dylan are both medium-sized. They are great hay eaters, are litter-box trained, and enjoy a great variety of approved greens. Jett has been spayed and Dylan has been neutered. They are currently in foster care.

Spot and Ambassador

A volunteer wrote: Spot and Ambassador are a bonded pair of young Californian boys who were rescued from a hoarding

situation in a cold and desolate Brooklyn alleyway. Both are bunnies who will let you snuggle and cuddle all day long. They'll quickly win you over with their sweet and fun-loving temperaments. Spot is a little slow to warm up, but once he gets to know you, a visit with him will quickly turn into an all-out love fest! And if Ambassador could hold down a job, it would definitely be as an interior designer – he loves redecorating his living space into a functional bunny den of fun. Both will be large bunnies when fully grown, and both have been neutered.

Cantiflas

A volunteer wrote: Cantiflas, a medium-sized female angora lop, became a foster bunny a month after Hurricane Sandy. Her fur was in knots all over, making her very uncomfortable and stressed. The vet shaved her, and now, a month later, Cantiflas is a happy girl who loves to romp and be petted. Her fur is still short, but when it grows longer, she will have to be groomed on a daily basis. She has been spayed.

Julius

A volunteer wrote: Julius has the sturdy physique of an emperor, and unusual, striking markings. Looks can be deceiving, though, as this young guy is actually a little shy. Julius is both very alert and intelligent, and melts when he's petted or gets cheek rubs. He'd like a home with lots of out time and space. He loves his hay and has a good appetite. Julius would be a great family pet or partner for another rabbit. He has good litter-box skills and has been neutered.

Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Frida, Julius, Marta, Jimmie and Domino, Snowball, Bugsy, Sparkle, Heidi, Cream, CC, Josie, Katrina, Sparky, Kimmy, Oliver, Simba, Pasquale, Derek, Denim, Tigger, Spotty, Tyrone, Kaffe, Rudy and Cindy, Roger, Halo, Battina and Migel, Grady, Gus, Prancer, Nibbles, Thumper, Coco and Baby/Ginny, Skittles, Captain, Roger, Doga.

Veronica's Two-Year Adoptaversary

By Amber L. Spradlin

November marked the second anniversary of Veronica's adoption. My husband, Adelmo, and I give thanks every day to Rabbit Rescue & Rehab and Animal Care & Control for bringing her into our lives.

Veronica is a licensed therapy rabbit and shares our home with her companion, Thumperino. The two are madly in love and are very attentive to each other. Veronica is a very strong little lady for only weighing around three pounds, but she does have some special comfort needs due to scoliosis. Recently the bunnies worked together and figured out that Veronica can drape her front paws over Thumperino's back to use him as a pillow while they lounge around.

Rabbits are more creative and industrious than I ever imagined. Veronica and Thumperino have become masters at jumping through a hoop and dancing around in a circle to get a mini carrot. There is a ritual to this dance that they have created themselves. She runs clockwise, while he makes a larger counter circle around her, and then they switch.

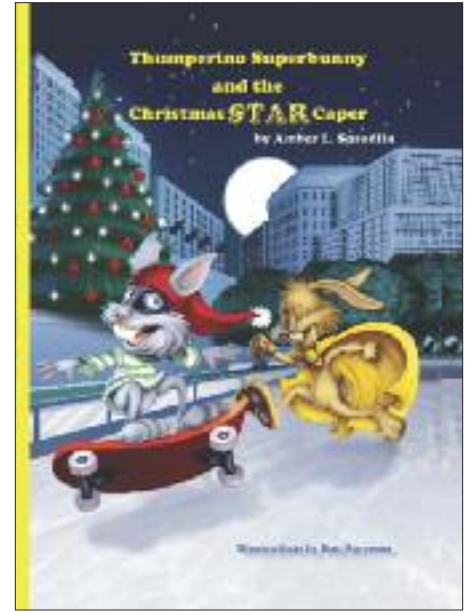
Photo: Adelmo Guidarelli



Thumperino and Veronica.

Most often they use their talents for good, but sometimes I sense they are plotting to take over the household and gain control of the treat jar. Their incredible teamwork inspired me to add Veronica as a character in the latest installment of my book series for young readers. The latest book is titled "Thumperino Superbunny and the Christmas Star Caper." Veronica is the rabbit riding a skateboard on the cover.

Part of my mission in writing this series is to donate portions of the proceeds to help buns in need. Through the sale of



Cover of "Thumperino Superbunny and Veronica the Christmas Star Caper." Illustrator: Ron Borresen.

"Thumperino Superbunny and the Christmas Star Caper," I plan to make donations to Rabbit Rescue & Rehab so that more bunnies like Veronica find their fur-ever homes. The book is available for sale from www.HocksOut.com, as well as at retailers like Barnes and

(Continued on page 14)



One of Marcie Frishberg's rescued Brooklyn backyard bunnies, Buddy, appears with designer Gwenda-lin Grewal, whose website [Hardly Alice \(hardlyalice.com\)](http://hardlyalice.com) sells handmade lace gloves, hats and accessories. The photographer was Marco Bollinger, with Gwenda-lin's makeup by Chris Crenshaw. The photo shoot took place in August.

Letters From Adopters

Sundae

Sundae was adopted in November by Shakina Fairman, who sent us this letter soon afterward.

I just wanted to start off by saying Sundae is an amazing bunny. When we arrived home she was a bit nervous and we did not rush her or demand any kind of affection from her.

You will be happy to know that she felt comfortable to eat in front the family. If you place your hand in front of her and she wants to be rubbed, she puts her head on your hand. We know it will take time for her to fully gain confidence and begin to trust us, but we are very patient.

Thanks,
Shakina

Photo: Robert Kullka



Sundae.

Sarah

Maria adopted Sarah in early December. We received this letter and learned that Sarah has her own Facebook page.

Sarah has adjusted very well in her new home. For the past two months I've been visiting her at the 86th Street Petco location and with the help of the staff there and the volunteers of NYC Metro Rabbit, I've taken the time to do my research and prepare our home for her.

She stole my heart from the first moment I laid eyes on her. This is my first bunny and I just knew she'd be a perfect addition to my family of Bella the Shih Tzu, Boo Boo the bird and Toby the fish. After

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Veronica's Adoptaversary

(Continued from page 13)

Noble, Amazon and even as an e-book from iTunes. I've included a tidbit of the story below. I hope you enjoy my tail... er, I mean tale. Bunny love to you all.

Book Excerpt:

"Thumperino Superbunny and the Christmas Star Capers" by Amber L. Spradlin, published by Hocks Out Press. Copyright © 2012. Illustrator: Ron Borresen.

I am lounging on the floor with my yellow towel cape rolled up in a ball like a pillow. There is an old Christmas movie on TV, and I drift in and out of sleep during the commercials....

...I have gotten so used to being a city bunny that the afternoon the Red-Haired Lady and the Singing Man came to adopt me seems like a lifetime ago. To them I am an ordinary house rabbit with a special place in their hearts. So I must keep my super-vigilante life a secret in

order to protect them. A crime-fighter acquires a lot of enemies in the quest to stop injustice and do the right thing.

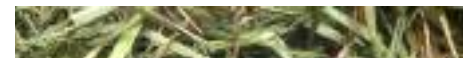
During my last adventure, I tangled with a mad scientist and an army of robotic roaches. I combed the city for clues and spent hours at the library researching ways to crack the case. Several times I was in great danger of being shot with laser beams, and I almost drowned in the river while wrestling with a toy helicopter. I have to protect the Red-Haired Lady and the Singing Man from the pitfalls of a hero's life. It's a tough job, but I have been blessed with super-powers, and I have a duty to make the world a better place.

I am halfway through eating my treat and savoring my memories when a news report interrupts my Christmas movie.

"This is Channel 19 News reporting to you live from Christmas Tree Plaza. You can see in the background that the Christmas tree has been blocked off with neon police tape. Earlier this evening, chaos ensued after all of the lights

suddenly went out here on the Plaza. When the emergency lighting finally came on, it was revealed that the star atop the tree had been stolen. It appears the crooks made a clean getaway."...

...I keep my ears perked up to listen as I munch big mouthfuls of hay. I will need my strength later to fly out and investigate, so I had better eat a good dinner.



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.



Letters *(Continued from page 14)*

many years of being a very active mom, I find myself with somewhat of an “empty nest.” Because of that, adopting Sarah is something special, allowing me to love and care for her every day.

Everyone at NYC Metro Rabbit has been extremely helpful and informative the entire time, even offering to keep in touch with me now and in the future. For this I am extremely grateful.

Photo: Maria Diaz



Sarah.

After getting Sarah home, I set up her zone and found that due to her injured leg she did not like the typical bunny igloo or wooden house. Instead she took a liking to a simple cardboard box that my husband cut out for her – of course, with her beloved pancake bunny inside. She liked this so much that after she settled in and I tried to clean her area, she jumped at my hand! Afraid she was unhappy, I immediately made a call to Cindy Stutts and she assured me this is normal territorial behavior. We have an understanding now :) Sarah gets her exercise and a little cilantro, and I get in there to clean.

Thank you for thinking of Sarah and caring for her. She is a special bunny.

She has her own Facebook page. Please check her out here so that her good news, progress and funny moments can be shared with everyone:

<http://www.facebook.com/sarahthebunnyrabbit>

And to Alisa [Christopher], thank you for taking the time out at Petco this evening for more details and advice for Sarah. We will be in touch. She LOVES the green tube =)

Here is an update: Sarah and my Shi Tzu Bella have grown very fond of each other. Sometimes in the morning I find them cuddled in the same bed. Sarah has kind of taken over and my Bella winds up on the floor, with Sarah on her warm fluffy bed – and Bella now enjoys kale! Have you ever heard of a bunny trained to go on the wee-wee pad? Well, Sarah does! I catch her coming out of her area (I leave it open when supervised) and using the pad, saving the litter box for her hay. (Not complaining.) Smart girl!!!

Maria Diaz

Photo: Taresa Blundo



Ruby the chinchilla with Freeda the bunny.

Freeda

Freeda was adopted in December 2012 by Taresa and Maxx. They sent this update in early January.

We found “Frida” on PetFinder.com. We visited her (and some other adoptable bunnies) at the home of NYC Metro Rabbit foster mom Catherine Zelonis in late November.

We did not make any quick decisions, since we knew that this Netherland dwarf-mix rabbit appeared to have some issues with being very nervous and skittish. This rabbit felt the need to lunge and even bite, due to probably having a traumatic past. We knew that she would need a lot of love and care, as well as a lot of training,

but we decided right before Christmas to adopt her anyway.

Her name is now “Freeda” and she is welcomed into her forever home here in North Jersey, by bunny parents with 20+ years of bunny experience. Freeda is adjusting very slowly, but every day she shows improvement and more confidence. She loves to be hugged, petted and spoken to. She enjoys her healthy diet, which includes unlimited Oxbow hand-selected hay, a variation of fresh greens and veggies, and monitored/limited amounts of high-fiber pellets and fresh/natural treats.

Her very large house is located in a 13 x 15-foot pet room with soft classical music and lights on a timer, temperature control for all seasons, air purifier, two windows with sunlight, and carpet on all floors so pets can roam freely throughout all five rooms with bunny-safe everything, and lots of daily love and attention. She also interacts well with our 12+ year-old chinchilla, “Ruby,” and they have so much fun running and playing together! They sleep in side-by-side housing. We will be seeking a male “companion/buddy/bunny” for Freeda soon, since we recently lost one of our long-time male bunnies to old age.

Taresa

Parmesan

David and Laurel adopted Parmesan, formerly known as Katrina, at the end of December. They sent this thank-you letter to volunteer Amy Odum.

(From David):

I just got this email now (work email) so sorry for the late response.

Katrina/Parmesan is the sweetest, greatest little bunny of all time. Ever. It was a cold little journey from the train to my house and we had my windbreaker wrapped

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Letters (Continued from page 15)

around the box (the walk home has never felt as long as that one). But we got her all snuggled in and she started getting curious.

As you advised, we didn't over stimulate her, built her a nice little (actually kind of large) pen and kind of let her mark off her territory and didn't overwhelm her with the run of the house.

Photo: David Hansen and Laurel Russo



Drawing: David Hansen



Parmesan

Once she was comfy there she became SO curious with US. So we let her sneak out a little bit, but it's funny how much more interested in food and petting she is when she is in her own little area. Outside of that she is curious as all get-out and poking her nose into everything – but certainly more guarded and cautious.

I would say that, overall, she is a darn happy little girl. She is being well taken care of and my girlfriend, Laurel, is full-on obsessed with her. Actually, I'm sure Laurel will have more to add to this, so maybe I'll send this to her first and then forward it to back to you.

(From Laurel):

Parmesan is our br'er rabbit! We've never seen such an adventurous bunny! She spends more time standing on her two feet than resting in the hay. Each day she's becoming more playful. We can't wait to see her at full speed when she's completely acclimated to the apartment.

There are also grandiose plans for a cardboard castle complete with a slide that we know she'll love. We're currently finding out what her favorite veggies and fruits are. Though we're still in the getting-to-know-you stage, I can already tell it's the beginning of a beautiful friendship. We have a lot of energy and creativity, and Parm is quickly becoming our partner in crime. We could not have found a better bunny, and Parm could not have found a better home. We love our Parmesan Bunny!

...So there you have it. We're in love. Amy, thank you for all your help, and for sharing your knowledge with us.

Stay in touch!
David 'n' Laurel

Photo: Beth Marchetti



Harley.

Harley

Harley, previously known as Bradley, was adopted in November by Beth and her boyfriend, Ronnie. Beth sent this update to Cathy Zelonis just after the adoption.

Thank you Cathy!

We enjoyed meeting you as well as your bunnies last night! 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 when lying beside me. I've been grinding my teeth back at him. When he's resting on his own, his legs are splayed out behind him, which I've read shows relaxed comfort. (This is his current position.)

We also were very happy to see that our cat and Harley haven't been having any issues. They are each very aware of one another, but so far, so good.

I did indeed join the etherbun Yahoo group last night and have been reading up and learning. That is a great site with so much information. Thank you for recommending it! I am going to investigate nycbuns next.

Thank you again, Cathy, for having my boyfriend and me over. We enjoyed speaking with you and listening to all of your great advice.

Beth

(Continued on page 17)

Photo: Kelly Kniffin Porelli



Dasher with his new family.

Dasher

Kelly and her family adopted Dasher, formerly known as Julius, in December, with the assistance of rabbit volunteer Vivian Barna. Kelly sent Vivian this email on New Year's Day.

Hi Vivian,

Julius is doing great. The boys have renamed him Dasher after Santa's reindeer and because he dashes around.

He comes upstairs everyday and hangs out on the bed with us. We love him so!

Thank you, Vivian, for inviting us to your home to meet him. He is such a fabulous bunny.

Happy New Year!

Kelly

Note from Vivian Barna: Kelly responded to a hand-scribbled note that I wrote about adoptions and placed next to a handwritten note advertising rabbits for sale. My sense of justice drove me to counter the bunnies-for-sale note with my own note. This is a wonderful match between Kelly, her sons and Julius. I always knew Julius was a boy's bunny. He looks so rugged and manly.)

Pea

Pea was adopted in mid-December by Jay Gillespie and Gabbie Sheinberg. Gabbie sent us this update in early January.

Jay and I had been talking about getting a rabbit for awhile. Our apartment is not dog friendly and we're both pretty allergic to cats, so a few months ago we started looking into other types of companion animals.

Through all the research, we kept landing on rabbits. As neither of us had ever cared for a pet rabbit, we asked friends for input. My coworker Jhanele happened to be a current rabbit owner and was able to give us lots of advice on litter training, rabbit communication and appropriate habitats; she even recommended a vet. Armed with the basics, our next step was NYC Metro Rabbit. Jay and I are both big on rescues and we wanted to offer our home to a bunny in need. They pointed us in the direction of Animal Care & Control, where we met Erin McElhinney. I cannot emphasize enough how much help Erin was and if anyone reading this is ever trying to decide between a pet store and a rescue group, you should know that the supportive staff you will meet at a rescue are indispensable.

The moment she met us and heard our story, Erin had a rabbit in mind. Sweet Pea is an adorable dwarf who had been found in a cage on the N train platform. She was understandably a bit shy at first but we fell in love with her instantly.

Erin walked us through many aspects of rabbit care, including health risks, diet, grooming and the appropriate way to pick up Sweet Pea. Erin was open to questions, which, for new rabbit owners, was an excellent opportunity to learn. We took our rabbit home with us that day.

Sweet Pea has been adjusting well to her new home. She slides a bit on wooden floors so we've set her up in a carpeted room with a path leading into her

Photo: Jay Gillespie



Pea.

habitat. Her favorite foods are parsley, carrots, Brussels sprouts and dried apple slices for treats. Watching her bounce around the carpet and rediscover every corner brings us so much joy, and we're looking forward to enjoying many years of her company.

Gabbie

Photo: Denise Diaz



Tammy.

Tammy

Tammy, formerly known as Bugsy, was adopted by Denise Diaz and her partner, Anthony, in late December. This is an update on how Tammy is doing.

We've had such a hard time renaming Bugsy. Right now we're trying out the name Tammy. I'm looking for a unique name that expresses her awesome personality. I adopted her out of the Animal Care & Control Center (AC&C) on Dec. 22. It was a week and a half

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Letters *(Continued from page 17)*

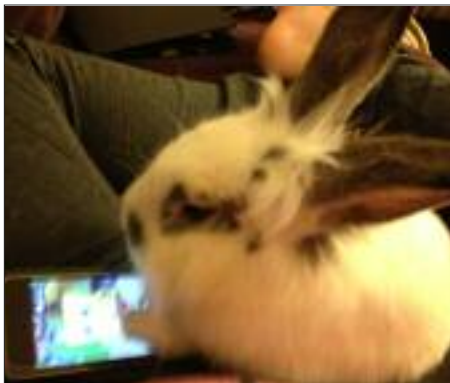
earlier than I had expected to bring a rabbit home, but it's been a superb holiday, spent getting to know Tammy. She's eight pounds of sweet and sass minus the attitude.

I've enjoyed taking care of Tammy, following the trail of "cocoa puffs" that leads to a bunny binkying around the apartment with head dips and funny, split-second butt flips. She seems to enjoy this as well. My partner engages her in chases and charging games, and I've enjoyed my time best when I get to sit down with her to pet and rub her head, face and back for extended periods of time. Tammy ends up falling asleep with her head resting right on my foot and it's made me feel very accomplished, in how comfortable I've been able to make her feel.

Tammy is also very talkative, in that she offers an interesting variation of nips, nudges, and ear turning. We are so pleased to have her with us!

Denise

Photo: Melissa Freedman



Ryan.

Ryan

Melissa adopted Ryan in early December, and says things are going really well.

He is eating and popping and hopping around, albeit not gracefully.

I put down an area rug for him this morning and that helps. I think he's very happy. I'm looking for a cat tree to help him hop in smaller degrees, or perhaps I'll make a ramp with wood and carpeting.

He has a large area in the living room and is hopping around okay, although he still falls over when he tries to clean his face. Every once in awhile we hear a thump, and look over to Ryan and there he is, getting up! It doesn't seem to bother him, or even faze him.

My daughter often supports him when he gets up on his hind legs to prevent him from flopping over. He is better with the litter-box exits. At Petco, I could see that he kept leaving one leg behind as he hopped out, but I got him a bigger box and that seems to help. He's very sweet and we are really enjoying having him around.

Best regards,
Melissa

Photo: Jessica Browne



Wisdom.

Wisdom

Wisdom was adopted in early December by Jessica Browne, who sent us this update.

I have wanted a rabbit for about a year. Finally my family and I realized we could take on the responsibility.

As we arrived at AC&C, I had no idea exactly which bun I wanted, but I knew I wanted a cuddle bun (though I knew that would take some time and patience).

While at the shelter, I saw a few sweeties. Then I sat in a pen with Wisdom, a 1-year-old, spayed lionhead girl. She looked so cute yet frightened, but it felt right, and I knew she was the one.

When we got her home, she was a shy angel. The second day, I sat with her, and got her to sniff me. Now she happily jumps on me and I love it. She loves her kale and though she's still on the shy side, I know she will become a cuddle bun. I love having to earn her trust.

It's an amazing experience to feel the trust of a bun growing on you. She loves her head rubs and nudges me when I stop as if to protest. It's the cutest thing! I know that she will have a great life in her new forever home.

Jessica

Photo: Nora Beard



Domino, left, with Marta.

Domino and Marta

Nora Beard adopted Marta as a buddy for Domino in December. The two rabbits are getting along nicely.

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Letters (Continued from page 18)

Domino finally found a girlfriend that is not a cat. On Dec. 22, I traveled to Petco at Union Square. Domino had three bunnies to choose from: Marta, Katrina and Rizzo.

I was secretly hoping Domino would pick Marta because I already was familiar with her, and it was love at first sight.

Marta is the sweetest bunny. She loves her new bed and is adjusting to her new home.

However, after just eating hay and basic greens at the shelter I hope to expand her palate. She is very alert and likes her toys. I could not be happier with Domino's selection. Marta has made a nice addition to our family of three people, three cats and Domino.

Nora Beard



Napoleon and Albertina.

Napoleon and Albertina

Abigail wrote to us in January, saying that her bunny Napoleon now has a girlfriend, Albertina.

Good news: my little hotot guy, Napoleon, is bonded with Albertina. We call her Aly for short! My friend Lori rescued Albertina from Prospect Park.

It is very heartwarming! They never fought, and warmed up to each other slowly.

Abigail



Rex.

Rex

Rex, formerly known as Tyrone, was adopted in January by Burcin, who reports that everything is going smoothly.

Tyrone, whom I have renamed Rex, has been such a lovely addition to my life.

My whole family loves him.

I look forward to continuing my bond and relationship with him! Thanks!

Warm Regards,
Burcin



Cindy and Rudy.

Rudy and Cindy

Sumaira adopted siblings Rudy and Cindy in January. Here is an update on how the bunnies are doing.

It's been great taking care of Cindy and Rudy. I absolutely love these rabbits. I'm always spending time with them and I've

been trying to earn their trust. I've taken many photos of them and everyone loves them.

So far, things are going well with the rabbits and they are very enjoyable. I've noticed a couple of things during the week I've had them. Cindy, who is the oldest, does not really like to be petted. Oftentimes she gets startled easily from sounds – even from her own brother Rudy. She's very cautious with whomever she is around. She has not really gotten close to me and she gets frightened pretty easily, too, and loves to hide in places, especially dark places. It takes her some time to come to me, but when I have a banana, carrot or apple she comes but still seems a little hesitant. As I spend more time with her, I notice that she is becoming a little more comfortable.

Rudy is a lot different. He came closer to me after a few days and became a lot more comfortable with being around me. Today he started nibbling my toes and licking my feet and arm. He also seems to trust me a lot more and he doesn't mind being petted.

I'm working on gaining their trust. I am also going to spay and neuter them next month because they were too young at the time I brought them home.

I love them very much and care a lot about them.

Sumaira Ismail

Annabel

Birgit adopted Silva at the end of November. Silva, found in the woods on Staten Island, is now called Annabel.

Last year in September I spent many days at Dr. Jennifer Saver's Catnip & Carrots clinic on Long Island, where my beloved bunny girl, Mucki, was being treated. The day before I took Mucki back home, a rabbit named Silva was brought to the

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Letters *(Continued from page 19)*

clinic after being found in the woods on Staten Island. Dr. Saver and all the staff members at the clinic told me that Silva was an exact copy of Mucki.

Mucki passed away three days later at home. I was heartbroken, and I never ever wanted to go through the painful experience of losing a bunny again. But after awhile, I started wondering, "Why did a bunny girl looking like Mucki happen to cross my path?" At the end of October, I called Dr. Saver to see if Silva had a home. Well, it took another month, because of superstorm Sandy, but I finally received a phone call from the clinic. I picked up Silva, and that evening we started our life together.

She follows me around, hoping to get more food. When my husband comes home in the evening, she stands upright in front of him, looking up with hungry eyes, because she knows he will give her a treat. On Christmas, all the children came home, and they instantly adored her. She got a lot of attention, and she socialized with everybody.

Finally we also came up with a new name for her, Annabel. Now all the holiday decorations are back in boxes in the basement, and our electric cords are protected by safety tubes, and Annabel can check out the other rooms under supervision on a daily basis.

She sometimes loves to run at a very fast speed through the dining room, hallway and into the living room. On other days she explores every corner and piece of furniture, or jumps on the sofa. She is so much fun to watch, and she surprises me every day. Recently after an extensive run, she fooled me by resting on the living-room carpet. She was nicely stretched out. I left the room for a couple of minutes. Coming back, she was hiding. I checked every room, corner, underneath everything, everywhere, but there was no Annabel. Normally, when I shake the dried food container, she comes running right away. But she didn't respond.

Photo: Birgit von Roemeling



Annabel.

My heart almost stopped beating, but then I went upstairs, still shaking the container. Out came my sweet Annabel from under the bed, wiggling her little tail happily. I could not believe it. She also loves sitting next to me on the sofa, putting her head into my hand, and we cuddle an hour or more. In the morning she has her breakfast in bed, and then she snuggles with me, and sleeps another round. It is amazing how fast she adjusted to her new home. She brought so much happiness back into my life, and she is pure joy. And when I have one of my sad moments, I just sit down with her and she gives me kisses. I get overwhelmed with love for her, and she helps me speed up the healing process after the loss of Mucki.

Many thanks go to Dr. Saver, and also to Annabel's foster mommy, Cathy Zelonis, who took good care of her after she was found, and to the Rabbit Rescue & Rehab members, who work to give abandoned bunnies a second chance.

Birgit von Roemeling

P.S. Annabel now runs straight upstairs and hops right away into bed, which is really high, every evening to snuggle. She is like a little wild girl, and she amazes me every day. We will see what she is doing next!

Photos: Amy Takemoto



Marge.



Halston.

Marge and Halston

Amy Takemoto and her family celebrated Marge's adoption anniversary in January.

Marge's three-year adoption anniversary was in January. So much has happened in three years: the birth of our third daughter, adopting our second bun, Halston, and moving to Baltimore, Md. We've been in our new house for a year now. Marge and Halston's relationship is a little strained, so they live on separate floors of our townhouse. Halston lives downstairs and Marge lives upstairs. This arrangement is working really well for the time being. Both rabbits are spoiled on a daily basis, and super happy. We're very lucky to have two special buns in our family, and couldn't imagine life without them. Happy "Gotcha" Day, Marge! We love you!

Amy Takemoto

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 Stanzone, 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,
mec@cloud9.net, (914) 337-6146, rabbitcare.org

Nancy Schreiber, HRS Licensed Educator,
Co-Chapter Manager-in-Training, Rabbit
Rescue & Rehab, Long Island Rabbit Rescue
Group Volunteer, nschreibmd@aol.com,
(516) 510-3637, LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

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

Mary Ann Maier, HRS Licensed Educator,
Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group Volunteer,
altitude8@yahoo.com,
LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

Donna Sheridan, HRS Licensed Educator,
Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group Volunteer,
hpocus217@yahoo.com,
LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

Kerstin Aumann, HRS Licensed Educator,
NYC/AC&C Volunteer,
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

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Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS
56 West Pondfield Road #5C
Bronxville, NY 10708

www.rabbitcare.org

Editor: Susan Lillo

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Masthead Logo Designer: Mary Ann Maier
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. Mailing address for contributions to **Rabbit Rescue & Rehab**: Gabrielle LaManna, 7 Carriage Lane, New Fairfield, CT 06812. Mailing address for contributions to **Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group**: 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 or call her at 646-319-4766. On **Long Island**, contact Nancy Schreiber at nschreibmd@aol.com or at 516-510-3637 (www.longislandrabbitrescue.org), and in **Westchester** contact Mary Cotter at mec@cloud9.net or 914-337-6146 (www.rabbitcare.org).

The rabbit volunteers' email address in New York City is 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. 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 or Cindy Stutts at nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

For basic information about rabbits as pets, go to www.rabbitcare.org, www.longislandrabbitrescue.org and the House Rabbit Society main site, www.rabbit.org.