

# THUMP

NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS DECEMBER 2016

## And One More Makes Four!

By Erin McElhinney

When it comes to bonding rabbits, I've had my ups and downs. Years back, reuniting my late and beloved lops, Mocha Jane with her Thaddeus after he was returned by his adopted parent, consisted of little more than placing them both on the floor. They ran under my bed, where somebun pulled a clump

Photo: Erin McElhinney



Speed date: Tulip and Joshua.

of the other bun's fur out in a brief tussle. But within seconds, they were running back out to me, where they collapsed in an exhausted pile of fluff. Only death eventually separated them more than eight years later. Of course, I now know

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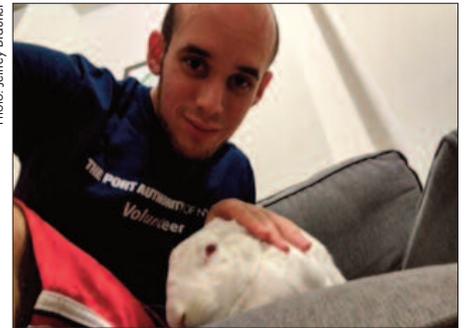
## Kelly Is a Shared Responsibility, So Now My Life is Bunnycentric

By Jeffrey Brauner

From the start, they were always *her bunnies*. My now-wife Rachel Maslow adopted her first bunny about five years ago when I left the University at Albany, where we had met and both attended college, to spend a semester in Washington, D.C. Greg was there to help fill the void when I was away, and to just be a cute little guy.

Later, back in Brooklyn, Rachel and her family decided Greg needed a companion. They adopted a "bun-wife," Naomi. I

Photo: Jeffrey Brauner



Jeffrey Brauner, with Kelly.

got to know the two bunnies from frequent visits, and watching them interact

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## A Joyful Rescue Rabbit Named Bean

By Chris Allieri

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS – It's hard to describe how much joy the addition of a 4 ½ pound critter can bring to your life.

2016 was not an easy year. We lost my dear father after his long, difficult battle with Alzheimer's. I bravely went out on my own to start my own PR firm. Hillary lost. Challenges from start to finish.

And then I adopted a rabbit.



'Picture of the Day' from NY1 showed Bean keeping cool.

"A rabbit?!?!" was pretty much the universal response from many people in my life.

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## Bean *(Continued from page 1)*

“You just happened to go to the NYC Animal Care Center in East Harlem one day and adopt a rabbit?”

“Yes,” I said. Well, not quite.

Getting a rabbit is not an easy decision. The hours of research online, the conversations I had with the volunteers at the Petco in Union Square, the Amy Sedaris videos – I drowned myself in information. I couldn’t get enough. I hadn’t had a pet since our family pets growing up and let’s be honest, mom pretty much took care of all of them.

So I decided to venture to the NYC ACC one afternoon in April.

I walked up the steps, dogs barking, cats meowing, that familiar strong yet comforting smell of an animal shelter –

Photos: Chris Allieri



Bean at the computer.

and then entered the rabbit room. Yes, I discovered, there’s a rabbit room.

I took a deep breath and entered rabbitland. I spent time peering into the cages, with intent bunny stares coming back at me. Some rabbits were running up to the cage bars, and others were more skittish, but each and every one – a beauty.



Bean at the fridge.

As suggested, I sat down on the floor in a pen with the rabbits “I was interested in.” But it quickly became more of an exercise of who was interested in me.

I was overwhelmed. I think I met three or four bunnies that day and spent time with each in the pen. I took countless

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## One More

*(Continued from page 1)*

much better than to grant access under the bed/couch/coffee tables, etc., to bonding rabbits, but I was younger then and besides, it did work.

It was with that same cavalier spirit that I thought I would find a partner for my perfect little dwarf-mix angel, Ginger Madeleine. In 2010, I adopted the NZW I named Joshua (see Josh, fka Houdini, on page one of the fall 2009 Thump, [www.rabbitcare.org/NYC%20Metro%20Rabbit%20News%20Fall%2009.pdf](http://www.rabbitcare.org/NYC%20Metro%20Rabbit%20News%20Fall%2009.pdf)). Joshua and Ginger seemed to do okay during their introduction at Petco, so after the requisite few days of side-by-side pens and litter-box swapping, I blocked off access to under my couch and bed and let them out together in the studio apartment I was living in at the time. Things went really well. They kept respectful distances and when one got too close to the other and ran away, the other rabbit refrained from any chasing. After a couple of minutes of this, I thought, what the heck, let’s go for five, maybe ten minutes. I wondered if maybe they were about to be an

instant bond. Whatever I was thinking, I was clearly out of my mind. I turned my back to pop a vegan pizza into the oven and when I looked behind me, Ginger Madeleine was on top of Joshua. Despite his five-pound weight advantage over her, he was pinned down, his ruby eyes open wide in terror. I quickly and easily scooped Ginger up and put her in her cage before checking Josh for any wounds (being sure to check his genital area in addition to behind his neck and just a general check throughout). It would be nearly half a decade later before the two of them forgave each other for that horrible introduction. Age, various medical ailments and the introduction of a third rabbit, Josie Bear, seemed to eventually clinch the deal for Josh and Ginger. They let bygones be bygones and settled in for life together.

I did learn an important lesson about patience that day, one that I am actively applying to my current “pet project,” which is the introduction of a fourth bun to my warren. Ginger is somewhere between 11 and 13 years old. Josh is

between 8 and 10 years old, and Josie...? Well, I’ve had her for nearly 4 years so she’s at least that.

An accidental escape of a white rabbit I was fostering named Tweety got me thinking about bonding again. You see, Tweety got loose and ran straight into the corner of the living room where my elderly trio lives. Ginger and Josie were not bothered at all by the small, pink-eyed girl who sidled up to their food dish and began eating with them. A surprise to me was that Josh was the rabbit who resisted the intruder. Josh came storming out of his wicker tunnel and chased Tweety away. Tweety hopped a few paces, looked back and then came back for more of their food. Again, the girls were unfazed by it but Josh objected. Tweety was a very shy bun who had endured some hardships before coming in to Manhattan’s Animal Care Center on Dec. 12, 2015. She had arrived with a group of other timid white buns, and like a bunch of her siblings, she was pregnant. She became despondent sitting at the shelter for months so I took her

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## Bean *(Continued from page 2)*

pictures on my phone and asked many questions of the very patient volunteer who was there that day. I decided to leave – to think it over, I told myself.

As I was leaving the rabbit room, out of the corner of my eye I saw a scrawny little guy that seemed like he had gone

Photo: Chris Allieri



Bean on the bed.

through a bad spell. He extended his paw out of the last cage behind the door. I looked down and I melted. He was the most beautiful little brown lop. I read his card and it said he was found in a city park. My heart sank.

I approached the cage and then he literally threw himself at the bars. The volunteer encouraged me to open the cage door, and I slowly extended my arm in. The little guy quickly came up to me, and then without pause humped my hand, and then my wrist and then my forearm and then began trying to throw himself out of the cage. I remember thinking, how is this little bunny so strong?!

He then bit my wrist. I had done my research and I knew it was a love bite. Humped, bitten and thoroughly manipulated, I knew that this guy needed to be neutered. And I knew he was definitely the bunny for me.

The first weeks, then months, at home were a bit challenging. Bean, as I had renamed him, took a while to train to use the litter box. He was also very fond

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## Kelly *(Continued from page 1)*

was my first true introduction to bunny personalities, as the two of them couldn't be more different. Ultimately, as adorable as they were, they were *her bunnies*.

As time went on, Rachel decided that she wanted to begin fostering bunnies in her apartment. She would regularly volunteer at Petco, where I would sometimes come along to lend a hand, but she was the star. Over time, she fostered a number of bunnies: a cute little guy named Reggie, Haru and Minchie, and ultimately, Kelly. Having no prior experience with bunnies being such a part of my life (I myself had grown up with a dog, Scootch, along with a vibrant fish tank), I realized that my life would most certainly be a bit *bunnycentric* (Rachel's new Instagram name).

Rachel and I got married this past summer, and Kelly proceeded to join us.

Photo: Rachel Maslow



Kelly.

At that point, Kelly was still *technically* a foster, but we soon adopted her.

Something did indeed change, though. When Kelly came up in conversation, she was no longer Rachel's bunny. She was *our bunny*. For five years, bunnies were always Rachel's life, her responsibility and her joy. Now, it was something we shared.

We share in the responsibility of caring for Kelly. Based on our schedules, I get

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## One More

*(Continued from page 2)*

home to foster and she flourished, although she does not like to be held. With so many other white rabbits languishing at the shelter, I thought I would keep her. Forms were filled out and I changed Tweety's name to Tulip. A bonding date was promptly scheduled at ACC with Amy Odum.

The bonding date went really well. Josh kept squishing his blocky little head toward Tulip, hoping she would groom him. Although she didn't comply, she also didn't bite him or run away. In fact, they both seemed content to just sit there, having the most perfectly boring Sunday speed date imaginable. Careful to hold myself to the same instructions we hold all our adopters to at home, I only let Tulip loose for two to five minutes at a time in my apartment.

It's been nearly a month now since the bonding at ACC with Josh. My elderly ladies are still happy to share their food

with a spry, young girl, but Josh continues to put on his grumpy pants and chase Tulip away. He's much more territorial at home than I ever could have imagined. For now, I'm going to slowly keep chipping away at it, minute by minute. I will not quickly forget how my carelessness in bonding Ginger and Josh resulted in a five-year grudge between them.

I do know that the dynamics of my trio likely will change in the future, although I am reluctant to dwell on that. I think that integrating Tulip into the group then might be easier. For now, she's enjoying her stolen moments eating with the girls before our big white boy comes out and chases her away.

*(Editor's note: It is with deep sadness that we must inform our readers of the passing of Erin's beloved Ginger Madeleine on Dec. 13. Ginger was a cherished bunny to all the volunteers at Rabbit Rescue & Rehab. We loved her and we will miss her. She was an unforgettable rabbit and we can't believe she is gone. Erin, we are so sorry for your loss.)*

## Kelly *(Continued from page 3)*

Photo: Jeffrey Brauner



Rachel with Kelly.

to give Kelly her pellets in the morning, making sure she has plenty of hay and water. That responsibility grew as Rachel sometimes spent time away from the city, which provided Kelly and me with some one-on-one time for the first time.

Kelly and I watched Game 7 of the World Series together, which was something that Rachel found amusing when she saw the picture I posted of us on Instagram (probably because Kelly would be far more likely to watch the game with me than Rachel would). My next goal is to turn Kelly into a Rangers fan, so I can have a true “puck bunny.”

Kelly truly is a special one. She was long believed to have “undiagnosed neurological issues.” But Rachel and I recently figured out what this (likely) is: Kelly is deaf. That doesn’t keep me from trying to instruct her verbally as you would a dog every now and then, but she enjoys running around our small apartment, hopping up on our couch, exploring our closets, or whatever happens to pique her interest at the time.

She has brought excitement into our lives, and is always a source of happiness after a long day. Rachel and I couldn’t be happier to give her a welcoming, loving, permanent home.

## Bean *(Continued from page 3)*

of marking the bed. Humping continued. Seven months on now, he’s impeccably clean, no longer marks and has great litter-box skills, but let’s just say he’s still rather amorous with his “girlfriend,” a lop-eared stuffed bunny I that I bought at Barnes & Noble after Easter.

I launched Bean’s Instagram page (@brooklynbean) as I wanted Bean to become an ambassador for other shelter rabbits. He just hit 500 followers, and we both dream he will become one of the famous bunnies who oftentimes have 10,000 followers or more.

Fast forward to Labor Day weekend. Bean stopped eating. I panicked. I went online, and I went on the House Rabbit Society Facebook group, posting questions. I had responses within minutes. I texted (and texted) my new bunny buddy, Thea Harting. You’re never alone in rabbitworld. I was out of the city and quickly had to find an emergency vet. Not only an emergency vet but an emergency vet who knew something about rabbits. Not easy. It was clear Bean had a bad bout of stasis.

While the two trips to the emergency vet helped – subcutaneous fluid shots

and some Metacam and Cisapride – Tuesday couldn’t come quick enough.

I sped down the Thruway directly to his vet, the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine (CAEM). They quickly admitted Bean and the vet tech allowed me to have a few minutes alone with Bean before I had to leave. I worried that he would have to stay but I knew it was for the best that he would soon get round-the-clock care.

But then it hit me – would this be the last time I would see him? Was he going to make it?

And then the tears flowed, and flowed and flowed. His head got wet with my tears as they fell down my face. He was so out of it, with the drugs and having not eaten much if anything in a few days, but he was able to tilt his head upwards. He looked at me for a second and then he licked my nose, and then my cheek and then my nose again. He had never done this before. It was clear that while I was seeking the best care for him, he was comforting ME.

I left that day and had to be productive with a new client that I had just landed, but that was impossible. I called CAEM

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Photo: Chris Allieri



Bean and Chris.

## Bean *(Continued from page 4)*

as soon as I could. Bean still wasn't eating, they told me, but he had stabilized.

The next day and then the next day passed. I didn't sleep. The sadness fell over me. I was not ready to say goodbye to my little guy just yet. We were just getting into our groove. And then it came – an email from Dr. Anthony Pilny: “Today, your rabbit is a crazy bunny – running up and down the halls.” Bean was back and he was back with a vengeance. There are no words for the joy I had, and the gratitude I will always have for all the wonderful folks at CAEM.

When I got him home that day, he licked me like he never did before. And he still hasn't stopped.

While the causes for stasis can oftentimes be unclear, I made certain to read even more, and to “review” his poop each morning, afternoon and evening. There was more online research and more texts to Thea. I limited the already small amount of pellets I was giving him and further reduced his banana and apple-slice intake, which he was NOT happy about. His hay consumption grew, as I found that the Third Cutting Small Pet Select Timothy Hay was a delicacy for him.

Autumn came. We spend a lot of time together. At some point early in the summer, I had ditched his pen. I rabbit-proofed. He is free roaming now. The apartment is his and he makes that clear. He didn't like hardware floors so I kept getting more and more natural rugs. The apartment now looks like a Turkish bazaar, with a lot of scattered hay. Each morning between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m., he jumps on the bed. Sometimes he's racing up and down; sometimes he's perched at the top of my head on the pillow, and sometimes he's just at my side, always staring at me – patiently waiting for some pellets or his favorite, dandelion greens.

When I am not with him, he plays with his toys. He likes to build sculptures out of his towel, throw things with his mouth,

Photos: Chris Allieri



Bean on the floor.

pick at hay rolls made from toilet-paper cardboard rolls and listen to his favorite station, WQXR. Or he takes five-hour naps in his favorite spot under the couch.

All my good friends and family have met and fallen in love with Bean. I launched his Facebook page as well (@BrooklynBeanBunny) in addition to his Instagram. I got him on NY1.

When not on television or patiently letting me take photos of him for Instagram, Bean can oftentimes be found in the center of the apartment during his waking hours, sprawled out, looking at me, waiting for me to come over and lie down next to him. I always comply. I joke that when I am home, I can usually be found on the floor with him. His tooth purrs are my signal I am doing well by him.

In late November, I did my in-shelter training and I will be a rabbit care volunteer at the NYC Animal Care Center in Brooklyn. I am excited because I want to help other shelter rabbits, providing care for them and some human companionship until they find their forever homes. I want to pass along all of the information people were patient enough to share with me. I want to offer advice and expertise, making

sure that potential adopters know the commitment yet endless rewards that come from sharing a life with a rabbit.

I know it will be great. The only thing I am worried about is, what if Bean finds out that I am spending time with all these other rabbits?

I am sure he will know that his shelter sisters and brothers need love, too. I will just have to assure him that he will always be first in my heart.



Bean standing up on the bed.

# I Didn't Have to Choose a Rabbit To Adopt; Woody Picked Me

By Jason West

I had done research for months on whether a rabbit was the right pet for me, and I began going to the Manhattan Animal Care Center every few weeks to find what I thought would be the ideal rabbit to bring home. I started going in May, and in September I met my boy.

I walked into the rabbit adoption room at the shelter intending to make my way through my set routine of perusing the available adoptions cage by cage, assessing each one, when I felt drawn to a bunny sitting behind a hanging clipboard with little to no description other than the name Bunbun. I moved the clipboard, and saw that his gaze turned toward me. I can't explain what made me interested in him, but I put my face near the bars, and he slowly hopped from the back of the cage and touched his nose to mine. I was shocked and took a step back. I looked at him again; and as he was still

looking up to me, I placed a few fingers at the opposite corner of the cage, and he placed his head on the tips of my fingers and stayed until I moved to the next cage.

But I came back, each time repeating the same thing. And he came to me, responding to my touch every single time I approached his cage. I had been looking for the perfect friend; and instead of having to make a choice, he chose me.

I made an appointment to meet with a rabbit-savvy volunteer, and showed up early. Bunbun was exactly as I remembered, and I wasn't interested in interacting with any other bunny there. The volunteer, Erin McElhinney, was amazing; and I learned from her that all of my research on the web, including all the material from House Rabbit Society, had been more than worthwhile. She gave me the confidence to take him home without worry.

Honestly, having been a first-time house rabbit owner, I didn't know what to expect. When I finally brought him home, and as he gained the courage to jump out of his cardboard box carrying case, he came up to my lap and sat there for hours looking out at the apartment, his new home.

I named him Woody. Neither of us needed much. I wanted a new friend who would always be in the house, and all he needed besides two introductory days in a small playpen was fresh hay and litter, which he immediately proved he knew how to use. On day three, I took down the playpen, and Woody showed me where to put his litter box. He's now got plenty of space to run around.

Every day, I continue to be amazed by how his personality affects me. Woody has grown into a confident young man after his neuter provided by NYC Animal Care Center via the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine on the Upper West Side. In fact, he's almost done with a major molt into his adult coat that started growing in before I met him, and now he's growing in to a real man. Every day, I watch him run down the hall of my apartment looking so happy, and he's always game for affection. If I'm lucky, he'll choose to hop on my bed as I'm sleeping and sleep next to me for a while to tell me he's happy I chose him.

Woody's happiness at home has made me happier. We continue to grow together and learn from each other; though I must admit, I think he's still more of the teacher than I in our relationship. And in some strange, almost ineffable way, I find inspiration in him through his desire for peaceful coexistence in a city that is constantly challenging tranquility. Although I may change apartments and probably even states in the future, Woody and I will always have a forever home together.

Photo: Jason West



Woody.

# Improve Your Mood Instantly – Kiss Your Bunny!

By Shane York

Did you know that hugging a bunny could improve your health? With a simple act of love and connection, you can help yourself and your bunny live healthier and longer. Studies tell us that by just nuzzling our pets, our bodies go through physical and chemical changes that happen within minutes, making a real difference in our mood.

That's right. Just one good bunny hug and your level of cortisol, a hormone associated with stress, is lowered and the production of serotonin, a chemical associated with well-being, is increased\*. But that's not all. Your heart rate slows\*\*, your stress level starts to diminish and you might even find yourself smiling. Essentially your bunny is the best feel-good drug on the market and we can enjoy their companionship anytime!

In today's world of 24/7 communications, virtual friends, and jobs where we sit at the computer all day, it's more important than ever to physically connect with our loved ones – and especially our pets,



Photo: Shane York  
Lola.

who also love the attention. No matter what state of mind we're in – depressed, happy, stressed, etc. – bunnies will always, in their quiet way, be there offering a healing that touches our souls. (For more on my blind bunny Lola, see the October 2016 Thump, pages 3-4: [www.rabbitcare.org/ThumpOctober312016.pdf](http://www.rabbitcare.org/ThumpOctober312016.pdf)) As a tribute to why we love these little guys so much, here are my top 10 reasons why bunnies rock!

1. Bunnies don't care who you voted for.
2. Bunnies like to judge you...they're doing it now.

3. Bunnies know when you're cheating with other bunnies.
4. Bunnies don't care how you drive.
5. Bunnies can tell you're hiding the bananas.
6. Bunnies tell you exactly what they're thinking... flick!
7. Bunnies find expensive designer shoes especially tasty.
8. Bunnies rock Easter.
9. Bunnies will always win the race to the treat jar.
10. Bunnies will love you forever!

Holidays are stressful for everyone, but luckily our furry loved ones are here to quietly support and love us throughout the year. Take a moment, especially when you're busy or anxious, to hug your bun. It'll make both of you feel great!

\* <http://pets.webmd.com/ss/slideshow-pets-improve-your-health>

\*\* [www.heart.org/HEARTORG/HealthyLiving/Owning-a-Pet-May-Protect-You-from-Heart-Disease\\_UCM\\_453586\\_Article.jsp#](http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/HealthyLiving/Owning-a-Pet-May-Protect-You-from-Heart-Disease_UCM_453586_Article.jsp#)

## PETA's Anti-Angora Campaign Stars Local Rabbit Rescue & Rehab Grad

By Jennifer A. Carlson

In September, PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) released an anti-angora campaign featuring singer Kimbra and my French Angora bunny Cloud.

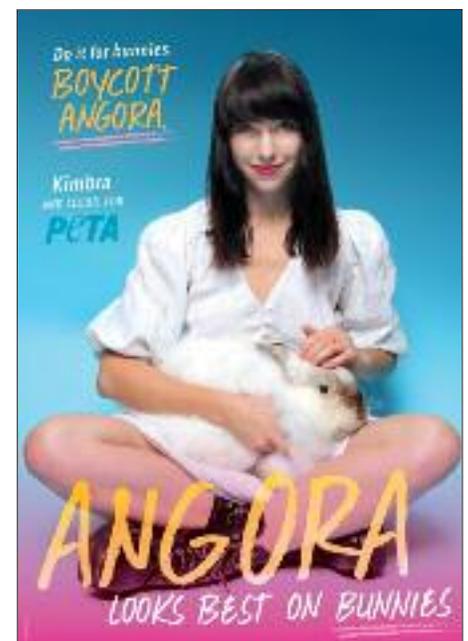
Women's Day magazine in New Zealand (where Kimbra is from) published the PETA ad and a story. Additionally, the PETA Australia website featured a page (<http://www.peta.org.au/news/video-singer-kimbra-explains-angora-looks-best-bunnies/>) about boycotting the angora industry, plus video of an October 2015 photo shoot with Kimbra and Cloud.

Kimbra said, "I think what blew me away the most was just the pain that they were so clearly in and the noises they make. As human beings, we can see, you know, when an animal is in pain. It is very similar to the way we react to physical pain with the screaming."

Since Cloud and I are both vegan and passionate about animal rights, we're honored to be included in the campaign.

I adopted Cloud (a retired 4-H show rabbit) in January 2015 from Rabbit Rescue & Rehab. Here was his profile on Petfinder: "Cloud is a big beautiful

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Kimbra and Cloud, PETA ad.

## Bonding Isn't Always the Answer

By Sana Ahsan

I adopted Ali (formerly Captain) from Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group back in July. It was one of those rare cases of love at first sight, for both of us. Three months later, another rabbit who had a hard time getting adopted, Percy, caught my attention. Lisa Freitag, LIRRG volunteer and the woman who rehabbed Ali (and helped him become the love bug he is today!), was also working with Percy. She suggested it would be great if Ali and Percy could be roommates, and I agreed.

Animals are a lot like humans. They can love, feel joy, and get their hearts broken. The only difference is that they can't tell us about these feelings. So a lot of times, it falls in our hands to be the ones to make decisions for them. However, we sometimes misinterpret what our rabbits really want.

In the beginning of bonding, Ali and Percy were infatuated with one another. There was grooming in the first meeting, and only minor scuffling. Percy's shy and terrified persona did a complete 360; he became more confident and happier, and he didn't run away from people anymore. There were laughs and tears of joy coming from me and the rest of the LIRRG family; we just couldn't believe this was actually happening! Two rabbits, traumatized by their difficult

pasts, finding love with one another. It was the perfect love story.

But, not all stories have happy endings, and we needed to be willing to accept that.

While Percy was enjoying his time with Ali, it wasn't the same case with my boy. Ali demanded grooming ASAP from Percy, and Percy liked to take his time getting settled first. This made Ali angry and impatient, which then led to fighting. Ultimately, Percy took a chunk of skin from Ali's side.

Thanksgiving weekend came and I dropped Percy and Ali off at Lisa's house for a supervised two-day bonding session. She put the two bunnies together in a pen, but something was different. Ali

appeared terrified of Percy, and refused to leave the litter box. When Lisa told me this, I said, "He'll get over it." But Lisa wasn't sure. She said Ali seemed to want nothing to do with Percy.

I asked a few other volunteers for advice, and they told me to follow my heart. The problem was that I wasn't listening to my heart. I kept telling myself that I'd make this work no matter what. I wanted to keep trying because I didn't want Percy to revert back to being a shy boy. My ego wanted me to be the person who was able to bond two "challenging" rabbits.

However, there was a feeling in my gut telling me that it wasn't meant to be. And then Percy and Ali had a fight

*(Continued on page 9)*

Photo: Sana Ahsan



Ali, left, and Percy during a bonding session.

## PETA's Anti-Angora Campaign

*(Continued from page 7)*

4½-year-old white and brown French Angora male. He's been living in an outdoor garage inside a 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 4-H 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."

Cloud is now doing his part to help other Angora rabbits, and I am happy to be assisting him in this important campaign.

## Our Rescue of Monica Mae: The Dirt on Her Fur Told Her Story

By Lauren Marchant

Sometimes I feel like it would be great to be able to exchange conversation with an animal. Other times I am thankful that they are not able to tell us the hardships they've been through, especially rescued animals. Even though they may not be able to talk and tell us their stories, however, they communicate to us in other ways.

I went with two fellow volunteers, K.C. Worker and Nicole Weiss, on Sunday, Oct.

2, to find an abandoned rabbit that had been spotted at the Brentwood Middle School parking lot on Long Island.

The parking lot was surrounded by about five square miles of land, so our search mission was daunting. The rabbit had appeared on camera a few days earlier, when a Suffolk County legislator, Monica Martinez, was being interviewed at the school regarding newly proposed legislation to protect cats, dogs, rabbits and other small animals.

Upon getting out of our car to begin our search, the three of us were doubtful that we would ever be able to find the rabbit. K.C and Nicole walked to the left, toward the back of the big playground. I decided to walk to the right, toward a gated construction area, with little hope that I would spot a rabbit there. Within one minute of stepping out of the car, though, I saw two ruby eyes through a hole in the fence. The bunny, Monica Mae, was chewing on pine branches, and I could see dirt on her white fur.

The dirt on her fur told her story. She didn't have to talk to tell us she'd been living under the dumpsters. She didn't have to tell us she was thirsty, hungry and tired. We could see it.

We got our folded metal exercise pen out, and Nicole was able to get Monica Mae to run into our pen. She was safe.

Since Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group does not have a physical shelter, Monica Mae was very lucky because a spot was available for her in our group's main foster home. She arrived at the foster home and was visited by one of

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Photos: Lauren Marchant



Monica Mae in an enclosed area with dumpsters and construction equipment. Nicole had to make her way to the other side of the fence where Monica Mae was in order for us to catch her.



Monica Mae, a few minutes after we rescued her.

### BONDING

#### Bonding Isn't Always the Answer *(Continued from page 8)*

during a bonding session at Lisa's house, and Ali got so scared that he jumped out of the pen.

Lisa said she didn't think Ali wanted a bunny partner; he just wanted to be bonded to me.

When I picked Ali up at Lisa's after his bonding visit, he latched onto me like his life depended on it. He snuggled his head into my neck. I put him in his

carrier, took him to my car, buckled him up and got in. Then the tears came and wouldn't stop. My mom was in the car with me and she asked, "What's wrong? Did he get hurt?" I told her, "No. I just didn't know he loved me as much as he does."

When we decide we want a friend for our rabbit, it's often because we think they would do better with another member of their species, one that actually speaks their language and can be there for them in ways that we cannot. That's

not always the case. Every rabbit is different and has different needs, just like humans. We need to realize that before we start making decisions based on what we think is right, rather than looking at the bigger picture.

Percy has a better chance of being adopted now because he's more confident. Ali is happier than ever at home, giving and receiving unlimited cuddles and kisses. If a rabbit is happy and content with just being with his human, sometimes it's best to let that be. Always listen to your heart.

## New Medical Director Appointed For Animal Care Centers of NYC

Animal Care Centers of NYC appointed Robin Brennen, DVM, as its senior medical director in mid-October. Dr. Brennen will be responsible for overseeing veterinary medical and surgical functions across the three full-service care centers in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Staten Island as well as the two admissions centers in Bronx and Queens.

“We are delighted to welcome Dr. Brennan to Animal Care Centers of NYC,” said Risa Weinstock, ACC’s executive director. “She has exceptional experience in shelter veterinary medicine and a true understanding of the unique challenges facing animal welfare in New York City, having been a NYC resident for many years.”

Dr. Brennen is the commander of the National Veterinary Response Team, and team commander of the Veterinary Medical Assistance Team. These response teams spent weeks at Ground Zero caring for the search dogs, and in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, where Dr. Brennen served as veterinary director at Lamar Dixon, the largest evacuation shelter. She is also the founder of Pets without Vets, an international spay and neuter organization. Over an eight-year period she has coordinated and led spay/neuter clinics in six countries, resulting in more than 4,000 animals altered. Dr. Brennen graduated from Tufts University School of Veterinary

Medicine and has a B.S. in business administration from the University of New Hampshire. She has been a small animal veterinarian for over 20 years in private practice and focused on shelter animals. She moved full-time into sheltering and for seven years served as vice president of program operations and chief of veterinary medicine at Bideawee.

“Leading the medical team at a busy open-admissions shelter will have its challenges,” said Dr. Brennen. “I look forward to tackling some of the issues facing the city’s homeless and abandoned animals and being part of the team that makes ACC one of the most progressive animal welfare organizations in the country.”

## Bunnies Visit Staten Island

By Cathy Zelonis

A group of our adoptable bunnies visited the Charleston Shopping Center on Staten Island on Saturday, Nov. 19.

Kristin Cutler, the Brooklyn Animal Care Center’s adoption outreach

*(Continued on page 11)*



Cottontail.

## Verdict on Bunny Hoarder

Rabbit owner Dorota Trec was convicted on 100 counts of animal cruelty by a Brooklyn jury on Nov. 21.

Prosecutors in the trial presented evidence that rabbits kept in a yard in Gowanus by Ms. Trec had suffered from injuries and health conditions. The six-person jury acquitted Ms. Trec of 25 other cruelty counts.

Last January, police officers seized 176 rabbits from the yard during a snowstorm. The charges against Ms. Trec were related to those rabbits, which were turned over to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The 36-year-old Brooklyn woman is awaiting a January hearing to determine how much she owes the ASPCA for care of the confiscated rabbits.

Ms. Trec acted as her own lawyer during the trial before Brooklyn Criminal Court Judge Curtis Farber.

Ms. Trec had more recently acquired a new group of rabbits. She said there were 90 new rabbits in the vacant lot. Police officers and the ASPCA seized 45 of these rabbits on Dec. 14.

## LONG ISLAND NEWS

**Monica Mae** *(Continued from page 9)*  
the dedicated directors of LIRRG, Nancy Schreiber.

Monica Mae had ear mites and received a dose of Revolution, a treatment for parasites that is safe for rabbits. She was then introduced into her new indoor

living area. Within a minute of realizing she was safe, she had contentedly settled into her litter box full of fresh hay.

There are no coincidences. Monica Mae was meant to be seen that day during that legislator’s taped interview, and she was meant to be rescued. It was no

coincidence that I spotted those lovely red eyes through the fence. I know that I was exactly where I was supposed to be when I saw her piercing eyes. In that moment, I knew she was going to be okay – and she did, too.

## Police Officers Promote Adoptions

By Cathe Rekis

In spite of the cold and rainy weather, the NYPD ACC Adoption event was busy with lots of visitors on Oct. 22. Four potential adopters visited the van, and one couple were interested in a pair! One policeman asked to set up a speed date for his rabbit, Lea. One policewoman fell in love with Hank and hopefully will be returning to adopt him.

Super thanks to rabbit volunteer Norma Chen Rhee, and to Megan Novak and Alejandro Martinez for making the event so successful. Megan is in charge of the Animal Care Center adoption events

and drives the ACC van. Alejandro is the staff adoption counselor.

We brought eight rabbits who rode in the van to Lexington Avenue and 86th Street. The van windows are visible to the street so people passing by could view all the rabbits, which attracts scores of people to come into the van and meet the bunnies. The rabbits seemed to enjoy all the attention and new sights.

The 19th Precinct police officers who sponsor and attend the NYPD adoption events are fantastic! The officer in charge of the events, Maria Sexton, makes dozens of copies of rabbit-care information to hand



Photo: Norma Chen Rhee  
The ACC van had lots of visitors despite the weather.

out and compiles a notebook of colored photos of all the rabbits at ACC for people to review. She has a bonded pair of rabbits at home and shares her love and knowledge of rabbits with all the visitors, promoting adoptions.

The commitment of this group of police officers to help the ACC dogs, cats and rabbits find forever homes is truly remarkable.

## Veronica's 6th Adoptaversary

By Amber Spradlin

Veronica celebrated her 6th adoptaversary this past weekend. She rocked her big day by joining my husband and me for a trip to the local antique store, where she got to sit on every couch – and fluff the pillows.

Veronica had several adventures this year. She and her "husbun," Thumperino, rode on a ferry for the first time. They also visited Block Island, traveled to the Berkshires for apple picking, and went to elementary schools in Queens for

Easter. Together they attended several rehearsals to inspire the actors in my recent production of "Superbunny Meets the Mummy" during Halloween (she approved of the actress playing her live on stage), and they made another appearance on Westchester Public Television.

Veronica is now over eight years old and still runs through the house faster than a rocket!

For more about her and Thumperino, go to



Photo: Amber Spradlin  
Veronica.

[http://www.hocksout.com/Hocks\\_Out/Welcome.html](http://www.hocksout.com/Hocks_Out/Welcome.html)

Hug a bunny today and think of Veronica!

## Staten Island

*(Continued from page 10)*

coordinator, and Caleb Joslin, an adoption counselor, took part in the adoption event. We were at the shopping center all afternoon.

The rabbits who came were: Bloomie, Sara, Laurel, Ireland, Cottontail, Scarlet O'Hare, Charlie and Oscar. Many visitors asked about Oscar, in particular.

We had lots of inquiries all day long. It was a nice day, and even if no



Laurel.

adoptions come of it, the people learned necessary things and might adopt at another time.

## Bunnies at 'Whiskers In Wonderland'

A number of shelter rabbits participated in the "Whiskers in Wonderland" event on Nov. 13 at the Petco store on Lexington Avenue. The rabbits spent the afternoon at the store, along with volunteers who explained the adoption process to store visitors. It was a great opportunity to introduce the rabbits to the public, and to talk about bunnies as pets. Thanks to all the volunteers who took part.

## Bathing a Rabbit's Messy Bottom

By Dana Krempels, Ph.D.

University of Miami Biology Department  
House Rabbit Society of Miami

If your rabbit has a messy bottom due to either runny stool or urine leakage, the most important thing to do is to determine the source of the problem, starting with a full exam by your rabbit-experienced veterinarian (<http://rabbit.org/>). This should include a full dental examination (including molars), as well as blood chemistry and blood cell counts. This can reveal undetected health problems that are manifesting as gastrointestinal or urinary tract signs. Treating these will be the ultimate way to solve the messy bottom problem.

Consideration of your bunny's physical and emotional well-being during a bath are of utmost importance. Whenever you handle your bunny, it's important to be firm, gentle and *ready to release the bunny safely at ground level if she starts to struggle*. One unexpected kick can sublaxate or even fracture the spine if the bunny is not being held correctly. Believe it or not, a bunny's stress at being restrained against her will can actually kill. Never force your bunny to submit to any procedure if she is unduly upset by it.

That said, a messy bottom is both uncomfortable and unsanitary, inviting worse problems such as skin scalding and even fly strike (<http://www.rabbit.org/journal/2-12/fly-strike.html>). Relieving this problem while your vet does the detective work to find out the root of the problem will keep your bunny comfortable. One way is with a careful, gentle "butt bath" to keep caustic bodily fluids away from the skin. There are two methods one can safely use to clean a messy bunny bum: Dry or Wet.

### Dry Bath

If the mess on the bunny's bottom is dry, this method is preferable, as a wet bath can be stressful. You'll need a cornstarch-

based baby powder (see item #1 below), a secure countertop with a traction mat, a hand-held vacuum cleaner and a fine-toothed flea comb.

1. Purchase baby cornstarch powder (scented or unscented) from your local supermarket or drug store (baby supplies section).

**DO NOT** use powder that contains talc, which is a respiratory irritant and may even be carcinogenic.

**DO NOT** use commercial flea powders or other pesticides on your bunny. Use only baby-safe cornstarch powder for best, safest results.

2. Place bunny in a comfortable, belly-up position so that the soiled parts are easily visible and accessible. Be sure bunny's back is cushioned and that the back and neck are well supported to prevent any injury from a swift kick. Talk soothingly to let bunny know all is safe. If bunny struggles, never force him/her to stay in this position! Avoid stress or injury, above all. Let bunny get up, and then calmly and gently try again.

3. Apply cornstarch powder liberally to the soiled areas, and gently work the powder around dried poops, into the fur, and down to the skin. (If you have someone available to help, have that person use a hand-held vacuum to suck up the floating powder, so that neither you nor bunny inhales much of it. Even cornstarch can be a respiratory irritant, and the less inhaled, the better.)

4. Work the powder around any stubborn clumps of debris gently. As the powder coats the mess, it should release from the fur and slide away easily.

5. If necessary, use a fine-toothed flea comb to *gently* tease dried poop or other debris out of the fur. Don't pull too hard, as a bunny's delicate skin can tear surprisingly easily.

6. Pat the powdered areas well to remove loose powder. Use that hand-held

Photo: Mary Ann Maier



This rabbit needed a wet butt bath.

vacuum to remove floating powder from the air around the bunny.

With this technique, bunny should be clean and dry in just a few minutes. Rabbits generally don't seem to mind a dry bath, and most will lie quietly as the soothing powder takes away the sting of urine burn.

### Wet Bath

If your bunny's bum is very messy, wet and smelly, it may be necessary to administer a wet bath. You'll need a suitable shampoo (see item #1 below), a clean bathroom sink, a large, soft, absorbent towel (maybe two, if your bunny is very furry), a blow dryer (preferably one with a stand so you can point it where you wish, and then use both hands to dry the bunny), a secure countertop with traction for drying, and a suitable emollient ointment or cream (see item #12 below).

1. Use a hypoallergenic, nonmedicated shampoo. Most popular shampoos for humans—including baby shampoos—are not recommended for use on rabbits, as they can contain harsh ingredients that can dry out or irritate delicate rabbit skin. Pet shampoos containing pyrethrins and other "herbal" or "natural" insect-killing ingredients are not recommended, either. Plants make toxic compounds to kill their herbivore pests, and just because something is

*(Continued on page 13)*

### Messy Bottom *(Continued from page 12)*

“herbal” or “all natural” doesn’t mean it’s safe for a bunny! Organic, environmentally friendly (and cruelty-free) products with emollients to soothe the skin (but with as few unnecessary additives as possible) are ideal.

2. Fill a clean bathroom sink to about 2.5-inch depth with slightly warm water (about 90 degrees F).

3. Add about a tablespoon of shampoo to the bath water, and mix well.

4. Keep one arm wrapped around the bunny, under the bunny’s elbows, and bunny’s head and shoulders against your chest, with your other hand supporting the bunny’s rear end. As always, be firm and gentle so that bunny can’t jump and be injured. Bend over toward the sink and lower bunny’s back end into the warm bath. When bunny’s feet touch the bottom of the sink, you can release the hand holding her bum and use it for washing. (But always be ready for that unexpected jump!)

5. Gently lave the solution onto the soiled areas to remove the mess. There is no need to go beyond the soiled areas: it is not advisable to wet the bunny any higher up than the tail and lower tummy. If the bunny is very messy, you may have to change the water and repeat this procedure a few times until the water is clean when bunny is lifted out of the bath.

6. To rinse, fill the sink with slightly warm water again, but no shampoo. Lower bunny’s bum into the clear bath and rinse well, laving with your free hand. You may have to drain the water and repeat this several times until the rinse water is free of any bubbles or shampoo residue. ***Be sure to rinse all washed areas well so that no shampoo remains.***

7. Lift bunny out of the bath and very gently wring water out of the wet fur with your hands, supporting the rear end with your elbow. You can squeeze legs and feet very gently, as well, but be

considerate of your bunny’s sensitive areas. If bunny objects, don’t insist. A towel will have to do the job.

8. Place bunny on a soft, cushioned surface with traction and towel-dry all wet areas carefully. Be sure not to rub too hard against irritated skin. Soft cotton or absorbent microfiber towels work well for this purpose.

9. Once bunny’s fur is towel-dry, finish with a blow dryer on *warm*, not hot. If possible, use a dryer with a stand attachment so you’ll have both hands free for grooming.

10. Keep your hands close to the area where the dryer’s air is blowing, so you can monitor temperature. Adjust as necessary, making sure never to let hot air contact the skin. A fine-toothed flea comb can help separate the fur for quicker drying, but be careful not to pull too hard and tear delicate skin. Be sure to dry between skin folds, since moisture there can cause further irritation.

11. Once bunny is fluffy dry, you may wish to trim the fur away from areas where skin is irritated. Do this with blunt-tipped hair trimming scissors, and never trim where you can’t see. If you can’t see the skin, or are doubtful where skin ends and fur begins, then ***do not clip!*** Rabbit skin is extremely thin and elastic, and even a small wound can expand to alarming proportions! Don’t take chances. If you’re not confident you can do this without injuring your bunny, then skip this step.

12. Apply a very thin layer of soothing balm, such as calendula cream (from a natural-foods store) or triple antibiotic ointment (with no topical anesthetic added!) to areas where skin is red or irritated. A little goes a long way.

You can repeat the wet bath procedure as necessary (some bunnies need bathing twice a day, though this is unusual), but do not continue if the rabbit seems unduly stressed by the experience. Bunny’s safety is always paramount.

Remember: the “butt bath” is merely treating the symptom of what might be a more complicated disorder. It’s important to discover why your bunny has urinary incontinence or runny stool (usually cecal), and get to the root of the cause for a complete cure.

### ADOPTIONS



Abraham was adopted on Nov. 12 at the Union Square Petco by Janet Werther, left, and Jennifer Varn.

### Forever Homes Found!

Sky, Baker, BonBon, Stormie, Deimos, Austin, Abraham, Pearse, Heloise, Tiny, Chewy, Boots and Slate, Tweety, Susu, Louie, Latrice Royale, Mindy, McFlurry, Peach, Labyrinth, CJ, Sheldon, Kylo Ren, Peter Rabbit, Charlotte and Lola, Ori, Allure, Amalie, Irina, Oscar, Oreo, Judy, Sally, Galadriel, Buckerella, Ireland, Shaggy, Reese, Scarlett O’Hare, Skip, Ariel, Igor, Friday, Max, Charlie and Lea.

## We Are Looking for Loving Homes:

### These Rabbits Are Available At Manhattan Animal Care Center (NYC ACC)

#### Pepe

Pepe is a large, all-black bunny with a gentle soul. This guy is very sweet, with a cozy, somewhat reserved demeanor. He loves affection, and will flatten his head into a pancake to make the most of it. Pepe is also very handsome, with a sturdy body and large ears that move around a lot as if they're trying to tell you something.

#### Clyde

Clyde is a pastel gray and tan Lionhead boy who's got the energy of ten rabbits. This young guy is very eager for adventure and not shy at all. He's got loads of personality – you could easily sell tickets to the shows he puts on! Clyde is very hormonal, and will calm down a bit post-neuter, but he's certain to remain very active. He'll accept a bit of petting, but he's more interested in play and exploration at this point in his young life. He also has a very healthy appetite – offer him a batch of fresh cilantro and you'll have a friend for life!

#### Mike

Mike is a medium-large Cinnamon lop with a fun, slightly quirky personality. This guy is very curious and active; when you first introduce yourself, he doesn't seem terribly interested in affection. But after a few moments, he'll select a "safe" spot such as his litter box and hunker down to express his readiness for petting. Mike absolutely loves to have the nape of his neck and the area between his ears rubbed – it seems like those spots are itches that can never, ever be scratched enough!

#### Bunnihana

Bunnihana is a medium-large all-black male bunny with oodles of energy. This guy is still on the young side, and is very active, curious, and bright. When you first introduce yourself, he seems a little



Pepe.

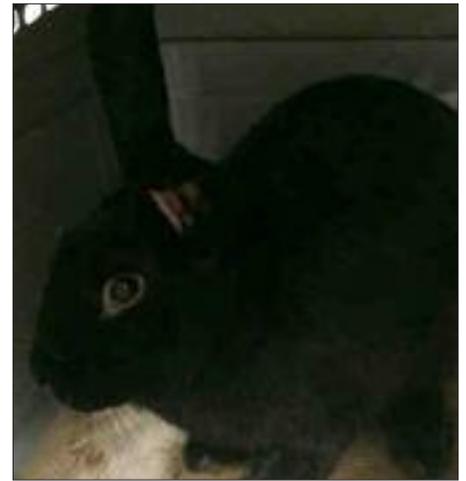


Clyde.



Mike.

confused – as though he hasn't quite figured out the role of humans in his life. He'll approach repeatedly to sniff you but will quickly hop away. However, if you're persistent and manage to sneak in some head strokes, he'll realize that humans might actually be useful, and he



Bunnihana.



Clover.

succumbs to the love. He'll warm up quickly in his forever home.

#### Clover

Clover is a medium-sized orange male bunny with a wonderful disposition. This guy adores human company – he watches and waits for you from inside his cage like a little kid waiting to meet Santa. When you do visit him, he hunkers right down for that long-awaited affection, teeth purring contentedly. Clover's mellow, sweet demeanor would make him a good choice for a first-time bunny owner, and probably also a good partner for another bunny.

#### Benson

Benson is a medium-sized agouti boy who wears white mittens on his front feet all year-round! He also has a cute patch of white fur on his chest and a

*(Continued on page 15)*

## Looking for Loving Homes

*(Continued from page 14)*

sweet white cottontail. Benson darts about nervously when you first approach him, but luckily there's a trick to calm him down: massage his temples (the zone between his eyes and the base of his ears). He really enjoys it, and it magically relaxes him! Once he's calm, he'll let you pet him in other spots. He likes head scratches a lot, but nothing beats those temple rubs! Benson will relax even more in his forever home, and would probably do best in a quiet, adult-only environment.

### Rex

Rex is a large agouti helicopter lop with a great personality. This guy is very bright and alert, and at first it seems like he'll be too active to want a lot of affection,



Benson.

but – lo and behold – he hunkers right down for an endless amount of petting. If you stop for even a second, his head will pop up and he'll give you his trademark death glare – which is particularly effective because he has such dark, shining eyes. Rex's ears often stick straight out to the sides as though he's poised for



Rex.

takeoff, and he has a bit of white fur on his front "toes." This fun, friendly, super-soft bunny would make a great choice for a first-time bunny owner.

## These Rabbits Are in Foster Care

### Nona

Nona is a medium-sized brown bunny with a very sweet personality. She is looking for a forever home and a bunny partner to share her adventures with! Nona arrived at the shelter with a case of malocclusion, so we took her into our rescue and had her incisors removed. Therefore, she needs to have her greens chopped up into bite-sized pieces. Nona has been spayed and is currently in foster care. For more information and/or to arrange a meeting with Nona, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

### Angelina

Angelina is a strikingly beautiful medium-sized Hotot who has been waiting for a forever home for over two years now. She was cruelly abandoned outside in a cardboard box but despite her prior mistreatment, she loves nothing more than to be petted by gentle humans. When you start petting her she presses her head down, starts tooth purring and closes her eyes in complete contentment.



Nona.

Angelina needs a peaceful and rabbit-experienced home with no young children where she can feel completely safe. She is a typical young, healthy rabbit with lots of energy for running, binkying and shredding cardboard! As you can see in her picture, she does spectacular



Angelina.

jumps and binkies! She is spayed, litter-box trained and living in foster care. If interested in adopting Angelina, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

*(Continued on page 16)*

## ADOPTIONS

### Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 15)

#### Andaz

Andaz is a medium-sized male rabbit with perfect black and white Dutch markings. He's so handsome that he was filmed and photographed for Vogue.com – yep, he's a supermodel rabbit! He is a few years old, full of curiosity and needs a home where he will get a lot of exercise and affection. He can often be found in the Superman pose in his favorite spot, on top of an air conditioning vent! Andaz loves to be petted on the top of his head and is a wonderful companion for adults. Andaz is neutered, has good litter-box habits, and is living in foster care. If interested in adopting Andaz, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).



Andaz.



Juliet.

#### Juliet

Juliet is a gorgeous medium-sized black and white Dutch bunny. She knows she is a pretty girl, although she is very sweet. Juliet is somewhat shy and would be happiest in a calm, adult-only home. Juliet has been spayed and is in foster care. For more information and/or to arrange a meeting with Juliet, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).



Lucia.

#### Lucia

Lucia is a medium-sized black and white Dutch. She is a very happy, interactive and relaxed bunny. Lucia has been spayed and is currently in foster care. For more information and/or to arrange a meeting with Lucia, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).



Cruise and Mandy.

#### Mandy and Cruise

Mandy and Cruise are a bonded mother-son pair of English Spot rabbits. Mandy is the larger bunny with lighter markings, and Cruise has the darker markings. They are curious, friendly, and enjoy being petted. Both are full of young bunny energy and need a home where they will receive lots of exercise time, enrichment and affection. Mandy and Cruise are currently living in a foster home. Mandy has been spayed

and Cruise has been neutered. Both are small to medium-sized. For more information and/or to set up a meeting with Mandy and Cruise, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

#### Rosebud

Rosebud is a gorgeous female English Spot who was born in November 2013. She loves to be petted and will delight her adopter with her sweet personality and friendliness! She is hoping to find an adopter who will treat her like the



Rosebud.



Peanut.

star that she is. She has been spayed and is living in foster care. If interested in adopting Rosebud, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

#### Peanut

Peanut is a small young, neutered male Harlequin bunny. Peanut was about to be released outdoors when a Good Samaritan rescued him and brought him to a local cat and dog shelter – not a good place for a little rabbit to be! Peanut is just adorable. He is very friendly and has a sweet disposition despite all of the trials and tribulations that he has endured in his young life. He has excellent litter-box habits and is ready for a safe, loving, indoor home of his own. If you are interested in adopting Peanut, please contact [rabbitsforadoption@hotmail.com](mailto:rabbitsforadoption@hotmail.com).

# Letters From Adopters

## Munchie

*Jamie Tretola and her family adopted Munchie in October as a partner for Spotty. Here is an update on how the bunnies are doing.*

Munchie is the most gentle and docile rabbit. She is very calm and loves to have her ears rubbed! We welcomed her into our home a few weeks ago. We were hoping the bonding process with our boy Spotty would be an easy one, but things have not turned out that way (just yet). Spotty isn't too thrilled to have a roommate. So for now they are getting to know each other with cages next to one another.

Hopefully in time he will settle down and accept the new addition to our

Photos: Jamie Tretola



Munchie (the Dutch bunny), Spotty and family.

home. In the meantime, Spotty and Munchie are doing well. My children are so happy to have two pets now!

The Tretola Family

## Igloo and Indigo

*Nancy Crowfoot adopted Igloo and Indigo in early October. Here is an update on how these two great bunnies are getting along.*

Things are going great with Igloo and Indigo.

When I lost Scooter, my beloved New Zealand White, to cancer at the end of the summer, I was completely heart-broken. But having learned from him what wonderful companions rabbits could be, I knew I wanted to adopt again. With the patience and support of the volunteers at Rabbit Rescue & Rehab and Manhattan Animal Care Center, I was matched with Igloo and Indigo, seven-month-old sisters who had been at the shelter since they were babies.

Photo: Erin O'Keefe



Rune.

## Rune

*Rune, known previously as Carrots, was adopted in October by Erin and Allison, who sent us this nice update.*

We are beyond happy with our new family addition. We have named her Rune, and she has settled in wonderfully. She has taken to giving us nose kisses, and plopping down next to us to get all the pets. So far she is a big fan of fresh organic kale, spinach and the salads we have been making her, along with her hay (and some Oxbow pellets, as well). She even loves to be brushed with the FURminator already, so we don't expect any problems keeping her magnificent lady beard and butt ruffle well groomed.

Rune is absolutely the best! She is living the good life, and makes us so happy with all her adorable antics. She is getting along great with the cats. We have an adorable indoor hutch set up for her, but she pretty much gets the run of the kitten foster room with a baby gate at the door when we are home.

She is very curious and loves to explore. We are already thinking we will bring her for a bunny speed date to get a friend.

Thank you so much for all your help with the adoption, Zhen Heinemann! Rune is really just the cutest.

Erin and Allison

Photos: Nancy Crowfoot



Top: Indigo, front, and Igloo.  
Bottom: Igloo, left; Indigo, right

I'm pleased to report that it's taken them very little time to become comfortable in their forever home. Their hobbies include binkying, rearranging their bunny condo, and exploring every inch of the apartment. They constantly keep me on my toes, and I couldn't be happier with them.

Nancy Crowfoot

*(Continued on page 18)*

## Patrick, Grace and Now Kenny

*Kenny was adopted in October by Breda Keating. He now has a bunny partner, Grace. Breda recently lost her other rabbit, Patrick.*

Oct. 9 was a very difficult day for me because I had to say good-bye to Patrick, my 10-year-old lop rabbit. Patrick enjoyed great health for most of his life. In his later years, he developed tear-duct issues. Also, his teeth needed monthly filing as a result of malocclusion. My sweet rabbit never allowed those issues to have a negative impact on his life.

On Oct. 8, Patrick spent most of the day in the hospital because he had stopped eating. The situation worsened the following day when he was unable to stand. At that point, it became clear that the dreaded day had arrived. The final trip to the vet's office was beyond painful. I stayed with him as the life left his body. After saying my final good-bye, I left the vet's office with a broken heart and an empty pet carrier.

Grace, my small Silver Marten rabbit, was there to greet me when I returned home. She certainly eased my pain but my apartment was incomplete without a second rabbit. On that note, I knew we would be welcoming another rabbit into our home but I was not exactly sure when that would happen. One week later, I decided to stop by the animal shelter on 110th St in Manhattan to meet some potential adoptees. It was not my intention to adopt a rabbit that day. After walking around for about 20 minutes, a cute foxy-colored lop called "Kenny" caught my eye. I adopted him that day and brought him home to meet Grace. They have separate enclosures but enjoy each other's company through the bars. It is not a love-at-first-sight story but I see bonding potential down the road.

Kenny is very sweet and full of energy. I was surprised at how quickly he settled

Photos: Breda Keating



Patrick.



Kenny.



Grace.

in. He felt very comfortable from the beginning and never felt a need to hide in his wooden house. It is difficult to understand how anybody could drop him off at a shelter and walk away. I wish people would do their homework before bringing any pets into their homes. One thing I know for sure is Kenny will never end up back at a shelter because he has found his forever home.

Breda

## Funduka

*Funduka, formerly called Frenchie, was adopted in October by Konstantinos, who sent us this great report.*

It has been less than a month since Frenchie found her forever home. I was told that her name was "FrenchFry," shortened to "French-y" (Frenchie). Even though her name was cute, I didn't feel it was representing her accurately, so I was calling her "the bun." A week after she came home with me, I walked in the room and with a quick glance I saw what looked like a giant hazelnut. It was the bun. She goes by the name Funduka now and she even has her own social media site, [www.instagram.com/funduka/](http://www.instagram.com/funduka/) where her fans can enjoy pics of her during her daily activities (most of the photos show her chilling). Her name is pronounced Foon-do-kah and it means a female hazelnut in Greek.

Photo: Konstantinos M.



Funduka.

In the limited time I have been calling her mine she managed to steal my heart. I am very happy with my decision to adopt my first bunny and I am grateful I was given the chance to do so. I want to thank all the people from Rabbit Rescue & Rehab who have shown faith in me, and I am glad I have their support.

Funduka is an avid explorer. She also loves her cooling tile and she spends most of her day on it. Every morning

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without fail, she puts on a show, starting with her 500s and continuing with her binkies, three rounds clockwise followed by two rounds counterclockwise.

Funduka has a mellow personality and loves to be petted, all day if possible. She gets overly excited whenever something is being lowered to the ground – food, toys, even her litter box. She has to investigate immediately.

She is not shy at all and she is adorable in every way. I couldn't have asked for a better companion!

Regards,

Konstantinos

Photo: Megan Adinolfi



Pearse leaving carrier.

### Pearse

*Megan Adinolfi, who adopted Pearse, sent us this great update in mid-November.*

Our family is happy to announce a new addition. We have adopted Pearse! He came to live with us on Nov. 5 and is slowly adjusting to his new home.

He enjoys carefully exploring new territory in the house and we have just started to see some binkies! So far he has not attempted to enter any room that does not have a carpet; he simply leans as far as possible into the room to peek around without letting his feet leave the rug.

### Mephistopheles

*Natalie and James adopted Mephistopheles, formerly known as Peter, in late November and they sent this update a short time afterward.*

Exactly one week ago my boyfriend and I adopted a rabbit from the Animal Care Center of NYC in Manhattan after two months of preparing to be first time pet owners and meeting dozens of rabbits over several visits.

We interacted with an array of unique, furry characters and learned a lot from the helpful, informative volunteers including Thea Harting and Erin



Pearse keeping his feet on the rug.

Pearse can easily be won over with food and is quick to come out and climb on our legs as long as we are holding food.

Pearse has been very alert and curious. He seems to feel comfortable and safe in his enclosure and is quick to jump back in if he is unsure of something.

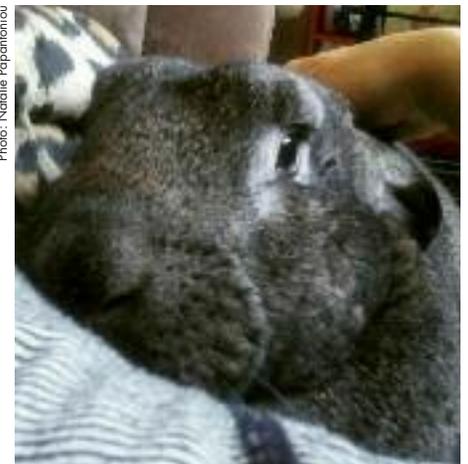
We are very excited to offer him a forever home and can't wait to learn more about his personality as he becomes more comfortable in our family.

Megan Adinolfi

McElhinney. Finally, on Nov. 26, we adopted Peter, the eight-pound agouti American rabbit (likely between the ages of 3 and 5). He had a calm, curious disposition, an insatiable love for being petted, and an enormous head. After deciding that "Peter" is likely the "John Doe" name of the rabbit world, we renamed our beloved pet Mephistopheles.

Our journey home started with an unexpected (understandable) panic attack from Mephy as soon as we got to the car. This formerly composed rabbit was tearing apart his cardboard carrier from the inside out with vehemence and ferocity. I decided to risk his jumping out by opening the box and letting him see what was going on, in the hope that it would calm him. At this Mephy stuck his head out, allowed me to pet him, and proceeded to spend the better part of an hour in traffic looking out the window at the city lights, propped up in his box as if he were a dog.

Photo: Nadelle Papantoniou



Mephistopheles.

We'll always be perplexed by and grateful for this well-mannered, loving creature that emerged from hardship evidenced by fading sore hocks, matted fur and malnourishment. Mephy continually amazes us with his impeccable litter-box habits and disinterest in chewing anything in our home that isn't paper or

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## Letters *(Continued from page 19)*

cardboard (we're in the process of moving our favorite books to the top shelves). He works tirelessly to keep his coat as clean as possible and does not discriminate when it comes to all greens or veggies.

Best of all, he expresses his trust and love for us with excited greetings,

mirthful nudges, and cuddles that make us consider moving our bed into the living room. We are reciprocating by gradually replacing all of our furniture with his cardboard castles as he takes over our home and our hearts.

Natalie Papantoniou

Photo: Catherine Ducey



Honey, left, and Bear, right.

### Honey and Bear

*In November, Catherine Ducey adopted sisters Honey and Bear, previously known as Charlotte and Lola. The girls are settling in nicely at home.*

I have a passion for adopting animals, and the two bunnies (renamed Honey and Bear) bring so much happiness to our home!

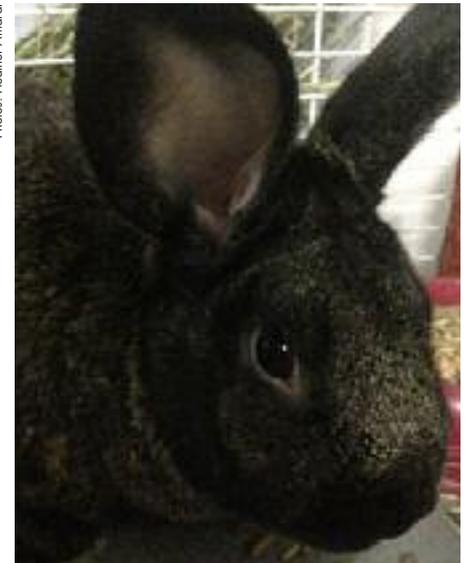
It's only been a few days after several months in the shelter, but the sisters are already starting to feel more at home.

Their little personalities are beginning to shine through. Honey is the brave one, always the first to explore, and Bear is a little more skittish, but she is always grooming Honey and very affectionate.

I'm slowly trying to introduce them to human contact.

Catherine Ducey

Photos: Heather Amaral



Sheldon.

### Sheldon

*Heather adopted Sheldon in November, and she says he is doing great.*

Sheldon is very shy but likes to be petted.

My husband and I think he is named after Sheldon from the show, "The Big Bang Theory" because we always find him in one spot of the cage – and if we change that area or put anything in that spot, he tosses it and redecorates his cage.

He is a sweet and lovable bunny. Just don't mess with his special resting spot!

I love him to bits. I'm so happy that I adopted him.

Heather Amaral



Emma.



Inky.



Babs.



Luke.



Judy.



Jay.



Sara and Laurel.



Brandon fka Hughes with Beatrice fka Pinto.



Lora.



Vanilla.

## 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.

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

### 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

### 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

**Shachar Malka, DVM**  
Long Island Bird & Exotics Veterinary Clinic  
333 Great Neck Road, Great Neck, NY 11021  
(516) 482-1101

## Licensed HRS Educators

### NYC/Westchester:

**M.C. Basile**, bunnytorts@gmail.com  
**Mary Cotter**, Founder, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab,  
Chapter Manager, NYC House Rabbit Society,  
Adviser to Thump, mec@cloud9.net, (914)  
337-6146, rabbitcare.org  
**Gabrielle LaManna**, New Fairfield, CT,  
gabbysbunnies@yahoo.com, (203) 746-7548  
**Mary Harnett**, mmharnett@optonline.net,  
(914) 948-7976  
**Marcie Frishberg**,  
mfrish57bun@yahoo.com, (718) 724-4105  
**Cindy Stutts**, bygolyoly@yahoo.com,  
(646) 319-4766

**Kerstin Aumann**  
**Monica Shepherd, DVM**

### Long Island:

**Nancy Schreiber**, President, Long Island  
Rabbit Rescue Group,  
nnschreibmd@gmail.com, (516) 510-3637,  
LongIslandRabbitRescue.org  
**Mary Ann Maier**, Long Island Rabbit  
Rescue Group Volunteer,  
altitude8@yahoo.com,  
LongIslandRabbitRescue.org  
**Donna Sheridan**, Long Island Rabbit Rescue  
Group Volunteer, hpocus217@yahoo.com,  
LongIslandRabbitRescue.org  
**Jennifer Saver, DVM**  
**Laura George, DVM**

## THUMP December 2016

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

Editor: Susan Lillo  
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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: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab/NYC Metro Rabbit, 333 Mamaroneck Ave, PMB 363, White Plains NY 10605. To contribute to Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, please go to [www.longislandrabbitrescue.org](http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org).

## Adoptable Rabbits

There are lots of adoptable rabbits available in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Westchester and Long Island.

To adopt a rabbit in **New York City** or **Westchester**, contact [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com). On **Long Island**, contact Nancy Schreiber at [nnschreibmd@gmail.com](mailto:nnschreibmd@gmail.com) or at 516-510-3637 ([www.longislandrabbitrescue.org](http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org)).

**If interested in volunteering or fostering for Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).**

Adoptable Rabbit Rescue & Rehab rabbits are at Petco's Union Square location. Rabbit volunteers are present at these stores on Saturday and Sunday afternoons to answer questions.

You can also visit Manhattan Animal Care Center (NYC ACC) at 326 East 110th St., between First and Second avenues. Rabbits for adoption in Manhattan and Brooklyn

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 at Union Square. Please contact [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.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 [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).