

THUMP

NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS APRIL 2016

Photo: Teija Kajander



Toast, relaxing after her ordeal.

Volunteers Mobilize To Rescue Rabbit On the East Side

By Teija Kajander

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab volunteers received an urgent email on Feb. 11 from M.C. Basile about an abandoned rabbit outside a residential building near Bellevue Hospital Center on the East Side. The temperature outside was barely 20 degrees and the building's management had decided to buy poison to get rid of the poor rabbit.

The first person to respond to the late afternoon alert was Carol St. Hilaire, on her way to Petco Union Square for her

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Her Sign Said 'Use Caution' But Steph's A Sweetheart

By Krystina Busacco

I first met Steph when I started volunteering at the Manhattan shelter last March. She was a feisty little bunny who'd growl and pounce at any new entrants to her cage, which was labeled with a "Use Caution" sign. The sign deterred potential adopters before they even got a chance to get to know her, but it didn't deter me from spending time with her in the playpen whenever I was at the shelter.

Being out of her cage relaxed Steph significantly, and after hopping around

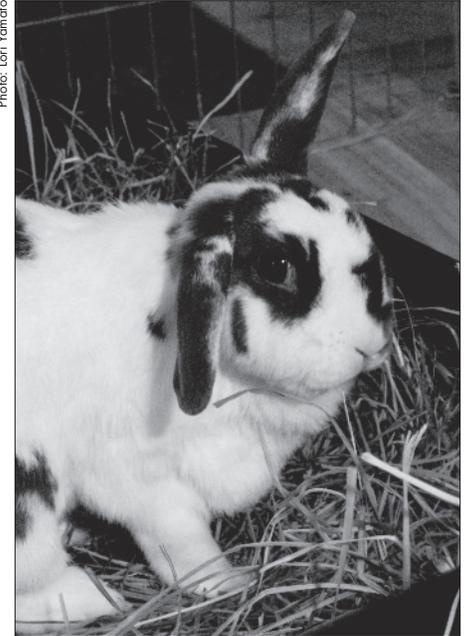
(Continued on page 3)

Photo: Neal Schaefer



Stephy and Krystina at the shelter.

Photo: Lori Yamato



Funny Face.

Funny Face: In Memoriam

By Lori Yamato

On Jan. 29, not too long after Jane O'Wyatt's interview with me about my elderly rabbits was published (December 2015) in these pages, at just past 14.5 years old, Funny Face died. At that point, she had been mostly paralyzed for half a year and had borne this new life stage with grace and bunny humor. Her final decline was as gentle as one could ask – I could tell in the day or two prior to her passing that she was slowing down,

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Nine Lucky Bunnies Find Homes at Adoptapalooza
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Raising Baby With Rabbits 'Best Thing I Ever Did'
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Here Are Tips for Winning Over A Shy Bunny
Pages 8-10

Our masthead bunny, Justine, strikes her signature pose in her favorite hidey-toy. Although she's a nervous girl and not an ideal candidate for adoption, donations are needed to help us continue to provide a good life for her. Two more photos of beautiful Justine appear on page 8. If you can help by sponsoring sweet Justine, please visit www.longislandrabbitrescue.org. Photo: Mary Ann Maier.

Volunteers Mobilize

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Thursday shift. She offered to help after her shift ended at 8. The only information available to volunteers was the address – 332 East 29th Street between First and Second avenues – and a blurry photo of the rabbit.

An hour later, David Feld offered to visit the apartment building with Adrienne Hamilton. By that time, Neil Schairer and Stephanie Riley, both volunteers at Animal Care Centers of NYC, had arrived and spotted the rabbit under a bike rack. At that point, I was on my way downtown with a pet carrier and some treats, and my husband, Andrew, was navigating crosstown traffic over from the West Side toward Bellevue.

When I arrived, Neil, Stephanie, Dave and Andrew had found big pieces of cardboard to use in lieu of exercise pens for fencing the area around the bike rack, and they were feeding the rabbit red leaf lettuce. We could see tiny honey-colored ears carefully listening under the bikes while the bunny ate lettuce that Neil offered to her. It was already dark but the building's backyard was lit.

The bunny had settled herself under the bike rack and seemed to be quite comfortable there, out of reach. When anyone tried to approach, she would hop a bit farther away. After a while, she was on the move, hiding under a bush next to a wall. Dave and I tried to corner her, offering treats while others blocked the bush with carriers. The bunny was smart enough to get the treats but stayed away from us. When she had had enough, she hopped to the other side of the yard and hid under a car. At that point, our only objective was to keep her away from the street and traffic. She let us corner her again, but then disappeared to the other side of the yard, under the bike rack. After making us follow her back and forth a few times, she seemed tired. We all were freezing at that point and the wind was making it hard to maneuver the cardboard.



Toast at Petland.

A few feet away from the bike rack, there was a concrete passage with a gate at the end. Neil blocked the gate with cardboard and we began to slowly move the rabbit in that direction so that we could keep her in a smaller, enclosed space. She disagreed with our idea, apparently deciding to stay under the bikes. Dave called Adrienne for ideas and then took off his coat to use it for gently guiding the rabbit. At that point Neil was standing in between bikes and gave the bunny a little nudge from behind and she finally gave up and hopped into our self-made pen. Andrew and Neil rushed to block the way back with cardboard, and – using a phone as a flashlight – Dave managed to grab the rabbit. We put her in a carrier. After a short discussion we decided to not bother her anymore and to keep her in the carrier. Andrew and I took her home.

During our cab ride home, it was quiet in the carrier. When we got home, the bunny was too exhausted to leave the carrier. She came out only to flop right next to her food, and for hours she didn't seem interested in eating at all. We tried adding pineapple juice to her water, and we offered her two types of pellets, all the greens we had in the house and treats.

Three hours after we brought her home, around midnight, she tasted a pellet and after that she spent a long while loudly gulping water and inhaling her pellets. The next morning we woke up to see she was sleeping next to her food bowl. She had pooped everywhere except in her litter box.

We had tried to think of a suitable name for the bunny while she was sleeping in her cage that first night, all stretched out. She could be Belle, Cinnamon, Cinnabun...? At one point, when Andrew and I were both getting quite hungry, he made some toast while we waited for food to arrive – and then we knew what the rabbit's name would be. Toast! She was so hungry, and we wanted to feed her everything so she would feel better and know that from now on, she would always have a full belly.

For the first few days, Toast was mainly sleeping in the cardboard box we gave her to hide in. We had rescued her just in time, because the temperature over the weekend dropped close to zero. After Toast had had time to relax, we examined her as best we could. She was tiny and scared but did not seem to have any

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Toast at Teija's and Andrew's.

Stephy

(Continued from page 1)

and binkying a bit she would lie down next to me and let me pet her. To me, she was just a misunderstood bunny who probably had a rough past and just needed a bit of love and attention – which she wasn't likely to get from an outside adopter, as her label and cage behavior scared away so many of them. I wanted to help her. My family and I wanted to find a partner rabbit for our boy Charley anyway, so I convinced my parents to foster Stephy with the intent to adopt if she adapted well enough to our house and Charley. We brought her home last May.

We officially adopted Stephy in January, and now her behavior is almost unrecognizable, compared to her behavior in her cage at the shelter. While she still has the feisty spark that makes her who she is, she is a sweetheart. The mischievous little girl is full of kisses, and loves to snuggle in our laps or next to us on the couch. She joyfully binkies and grooms

her stuffed animals during playtime, and enjoys being brushed and petted – but isn't shy about swatting at us if we stop petting her! During her afternoon naptime, she either lies down in her hidey house or contentedly loafs or flops on her rug. She's happy now, and she makes us happy, too. Stephy and Charley aren't quite bonded yet – she attempts to befriend him, while he is a bit less welcoming – but we are working on that and just keep them separated for now, aside from bonding sessions.

Stephy used to rip up her bogus paper at the shelter like there was no tomorrow, but more recently she has been able to use her ripping skills on her first Christmas to help us unwrap presents. She gets the love and attention she needs all the time now, especially thanks to my mom, who is her official adopter and caretaker as I am away at school most of the time. We've fallen in love with Stephy, and are so glad she's here. This little princess got her happily ever after, just as all rabbits should.

Volunteers Mobilize

(Continued from page 2)

sores or broken bones, except for a missing nail.

Toast is a confident little girl and she is enjoying life. She performs big binkies and relaxed flops. She got used to flying around our living room during her exercise time and is completely litter-box trained now. She still doesn't recognize treats and prefers Romaine over carrots. We can't feel her spine anymore and she seems a lot rounder than she was – a good sign of her healthy appetite. She has been spayed and is growing her belly fur back.

Editor's Note: Toast was adopted and went to her new home on April 1. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to rescue this joyful, playful girl. And thanks to those who cared for her during her brief stay at the West 72nd Street Petland Discounts store.



Stephy helps to unwrap Christmas presents.

Funny Face

(Continued from page 1)

but she continued to give and receive affection to the very end. She ate her breakfast pellets and her beloved parsley and rolled oats even on her last day, tolerating cheerfully our patented full-human-body bracing of her little legs and chest, and then sat in my lap and purred. She had surprised us with her resilience so many times, and after so many setbacks, that we had (almost) stopped guessing at when her time might come. She slipped away quietly that evening, with my husband by her side and her husbun nearby.

And what of her partner, Plain Face?

We worried about him greatly at first. Funny Face and Plain Face were never as overtly affectionate with each other or us as some of the charming bunnies featured in these pages are; they tended toward companionable proximity rather than ecstatic cuddling and grooming. But they had been together since conception and clearly had an intricately worked-out relationship agreement. Part of their agreement seemed to be that she would be the sentinel: he slept while she kept watch. (I always wondered whether she was more prone to illness because she got so much less sleep than he did.) When Plain Face had surgery to remove an odontogenic tumor in his cheek (at age 11!), she was there to watch him. One of the few pictures I have of a younger (relatively speaking) Funny Face sleeping is of her sprawled in their alfalfa treat dish after a long day of looking out for post-surgical Plain Face.

As her motor decline progressed, she spent more and more time in their safe geriatric litter box; eventually, her usual position was entirely stretched out along the length of the litter box. As you might imagine, this left little room for Plain Face. As a blind AND clumsy bunny, he often tripped on Funny Face. So he was given a second litter box, in which he obligingly munched hay and did some of his business – but he always preferred

Photos: Lori Yamato



Funny Face and Plain Face.

the communal litter box, whether or not Funny Face was in it (and in his way). We started to put Funnybee on a faux sheepskin rug for more and more of the day, fearing for her eye and skin. But we tucked her into the big litter box – and tucked Plain Face into his second box – every night. And every morning, the



Funny Face asleep in the alfalfa treat dish.

two of them would be side by side contentedly doing bunny things as best two elderly disabled rabbits could.

Plain Face seems to be adjusting amazingly well to being an only-bunny. We left Funny Face's body with him for a few hours, but he didn't seem very interested. Her gradual dwindling was a gift to him, too, I think. His carriage is a little different now – his ears, which we think hear but little, are more often held to the front or sides. (As the progeny of a lop and a hotot, Funny Face and Plain Face had a lot of ear mobility and expressivity at their disposal.) His gait is ever more unsteady and he sometimes needs help getting up, but he accepts this all with his customary (sleepy) equanimity. He recently had some blood work done to make sure he could still tolerate his Metacam. Dr. Becky Campbell sent me a surprising email: "So, his internal organ function is perfect. I can't believe it!"

We don't know how much longer we'll have with him, but each day is a joy.

Nine Adoptions at Adoptapalooza!

Adoptapalooza took place Sunday, April 10, at Union Square Park and inside the nearby Petco. The cat, dog and rabbit adoption event was presented by the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals. This year there was a short parade in honor of the ASPCA's 150th anniversary.

Adoptapalooza was a big success for Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, with nine rabbits adopted: Duke, Simon, Sebastian and Annie, Wesley, Temple, Chloe, Cookie and Peter.

RR&R President M.C. Basile said, "Thanks so much to all of the fosterers, volunteers and adoption counselors who gave so much of their time and effort to make Sunday so wonderful!" She said that many potential adopters hopefully will follow up in the near future.

Congratulations to all the volunteers who made Adoptapalooza a success!

Photos: Meho Honda



Cathe Rekis, Austin Torres and Neil Schaier.



Jimmy and friend.



Sugarplum and Pineapple.



Abraham.



Checkers.

Long Island Volunteer Writes of Bunny's Rescue

Denise Bertolotti, a member of Long Island Rabbit Rescue, recently wrote an online article about the January rescue of a bunny named Savannah. The article, titled, "Baby Rabbit Rescued After Being Terrorized for Weeks by Pen Mate in a Filthy Cage," appeared in the online newsletter, "One Green Planet."

(www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/baby-rabbit-rescued-after-being-terrorized-pen-mate)

Denise told the story of a family that brought Savannah into their home and put her into the cage with their other rabbit. The two rabbits fought, and the family contacted Long Island Rabbit Rescue for help.

When the Long Island volunteers came to the home to see Savannah, a beige-colored lop, she was terrified. She had

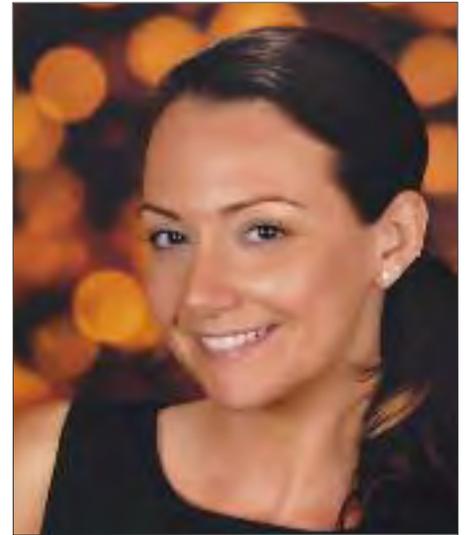
Photo: Denise Bertolotti



Savannah.

been attacked and scratched multiple times by the family's other rabbit.

The Long Island group found a foster home for Savannah, who is thriving now. She has recovered from her



Denise Bertolotti.

wounds and she is no longer afraid. She will soon be available for adoption.

Bongo and Pippi Appear on Broadway.com

Photos: Jane O'Wycill



Bongo.



Pippi.

Foster rabbits Bongo and Pippi appeared in a recent video with actress and writer Susan Blackwell as she interviewed actor Christopher Fitzgerald for "Side by Side"

on Broadway.com. Pippi gave Susan kisses, and Bongo's hair got all over Christopher's face and sweater. Christopher is appearing in the musical "Waitress."

Susan and Christopher discussed rabbit adoption, and spent time petting Bongo during the interview. They also fed cilantro to Pippi. The Rabbit Rescue & Rehab banner appeared at the end of the video, as Susan and Christopher encouraged people to learn about rabbits, to donate and to adopt.

Nadine Heidinger, who fosters Bongo and Pippi, coordinated the video's filming at her home. To watch the great performance, use this link:

<http://www.broadway.com/videos/156785/side-by-sides-susan-blackwell-gets-in-a-bunny-cuddle-puddle-with-waitress-christopher-fitzgerald/?page=1&sort=newest#play>

Raising a Baby Along With Rabbits 'Was the Best Thing I Ever Did'

By Jessica Chambers

Having a baby is arguably the most exciting and nerve-racking time in a person's life. There are so many unknowns and the anticipation creates exciting questions: Boy or a girl? When will he/she arrive? There are also stressful experiences: body changes, endless doctor appointments, making sure you acquire all the gear, having everything prepared in time.

In the spring of 2015, I learned my husband and I were expecting our first child, a baby girl. We were thrilled; the happiness and excitement we felt was indescribable. One thing I quickly learned was how much of the experience was out of my control.

However, when this little person already seemed to be running the show and hadn't even arrived yet, I found comfort in my three rabbits.

Our rabbits were a part of this journey as well. Most of my routines with them stayed the same: litter boxes, feedings, exercise time. Not only was it not a hardship, it was actually therapeutic for me to have some consistency in my life!

Because while everything around us was changing, the structure and stability of a routine was greatly welcome.

Caring for the rabbits was never a health issue according to my doctor. There is nothing unsafe about changing a litter box, and my rabbits' food is arguably the most organic stuff on the planet. When the litter boxes started to get heavier and my balance started to waver, my husband helped me clean them. Every now and then he would find me stuck over a cage, trying to clean a water bowl. It certainly gave us some comic relief!

Nevertheless, as the pregnancy went on, the questions started coming: Are you keeping those rabbits? How are you going to care for them with a baby? Isn't that too much work for you?

I was always amazed at the irony of it all. Here I am, bringing a new life into the world, and people think it is socially acceptable to "get rid" of my pets – as if they aren't living, breathing creatures themselves? As if they aren't my first "babies."

My little girl was born right before Thanksgiving. Once we were home, it

Photo: Jessica Chambers



Franklin.

Photo: Jessica Chambers



Baby having a supervised first meeting with Olive.

took a while for everyone to get adjusted. Again, I found a sense of normality spending time with my rabbits. Their

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Photo: Dennis Chambers



Jessica with the late Gus, a Flemish Giant.

Photo: Jessica Chambers



Linus, formerly Wilson.

Photo: Jessica Chambers



Olive.

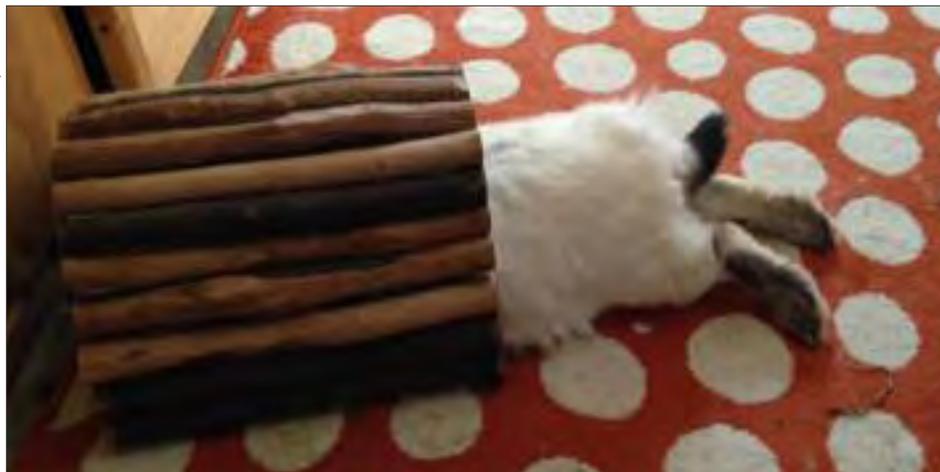
Winning Over A Shy Bunny

By Dana Krempels

One of the most common misconceptions people have about rabbits is that they like to be held and cuddled. This is probably because they look like plush toys. Unfortunately, many people buy rabbits without realizing the true nature of rabbits, and that's one of the main reasons these lovely, intelligent creatures are "dumped" shortly after they reach sexual maturity and begin to assert their strong personalities.

You are distressed that the bunny does not like to be held. Consider for a moment, however, the natural history of the rabbit. This is a ground-dwelling animal that is a prey item for many predators. It is completely against the nature of the rabbit to be held far above the ground where it cannot control its own motions and activities. When you force her to be held against her will, you reinforce her instinctive notion that you are a predator who is trying to restrain her. Holding her while she struggles and kicks is not only dangerous for you and the children (You may have noticed her sharp claws by now!), but also for the rabbit. I wish I didn't know how many young rabbits come into our vet's office with broken

Photos: Mary Ann Moier



Justine, Thump's shy masthead bunny (see page 1).



Justine out of her comfort zone.



Philomena.

legs, necks and spines because people insisted on carrying them around and handling them against their will. If you love your bunny, you won't do this.

Think about it: if your dog or cat didn't like to be carried around, you probably

would not force the issue. Why treat your bunny any differently, simply because of her superficially "toylike" appearance? To understand rabbit behavior, you have to begin to think like a rabbit!

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Baby *(Continued from page 7)*

quiet nature guarantees they will never wake the baby. When she is napping, they are exploring. When she is playing, I feed them dinner. It has never felt like more work. We simply adjusted our routines with our pets while adjusting to all the other necessary changes.

Fast forward to today, and I honestly cannot put into words how much joy is in my life. My daughter is 4 months old,

and has recently started to notice the rabbits. She smiles at them and giggles while they binky and run around. As she gets older, I look forward to the life lessons she will learn from her rabbit family members. She will learn to be gentle, compassionate and kind. She will learn to be a good listener, to be soft spoken, and to be patient. She will recognize and understand the needs of others and to be respectful. She will learn to seek adult supervision before

interacting with another animal. She will learn to love and maybe even be more inclined to eat her veggies! Most important, I will never have to tell her that I had to get rid of them so I could have her. Having a baby along with having my rabbits wasn't irrational; it was the best thing I ever did.

Editor's Note: Jessica Chambers is a volunteer with Long Island Rabbit Rescue.

Shy Bunny (Continued from page 8)

First, buy yourself the “The House Rabbit Handbook” (now in its fifth edition) by Marinell Harriman. It’s the most accurate book about rabbits available today.

Second, remember that a rabbit, unlike a dog or cat, evolved as a prey species. Dogs and cats are predators, and most do not have a natural fear of being held. Reinforcing this natural tendency, breeders have selected generation upon generation of domestic dogs and cats so that their descendants have a short “flight distance.” This means that domestic dogs and cats are generally not afraid of humans.

Domestic rabbits are very different in this respect. For centuries, rabbits have been bred primarily for meat, fur and physical characteristics. That means that when you adopt a rabbit, you adopt a beautiful animal with domesticated physical features – and the heart and spirit of a wild animal. It is much more challenging to win the trust of this kind of sensitive, intelligent creature than it is to win the heart of a puppy or kitten who has been bred to trust you from birth.

Most rabbits are naturally shy. It is up to you, the flexible human, to compromise and alter your behavior so that the bunny understands that you are a friend.

Following are a few steps you can take to win your shy rabbit’s trust.

1. You and bunny should be together in a private, quiet room. No other pets. No distractions. Many rabbits – especially shy bunnies – are intimidated by direct eye contact (the infamous “predatory gaze”) or frontal positioning. You can mitigate their fear by sitting sideways to them, and avoiding eye contact. Don’t worry – you will see everything you need to, using your peripheral vision, until your bunny is more comfortable in your presence.

2. Have a little treat, such as a carrot or a tiny piece of apple, banana or a little pinch of oats in your hand. (These foods

are only for small treats! Rabbits fed a diet with too much digestible carbohydrate are excellent candidates for serious gastrointestinal disorders!)

3. Lie on your tummy on the floor and let the bunny out of his “safe haven.” It’s quite crucial that his living area have a door that is accessible to the rabbit so that you don’t have to lift him when you take him out or put him back in. The bunny should have absolute freedom to choose when he comes out. Don’t force the issue. The bunny’s natural curiosity will bring him to you.

4. Don’t expect your bunny to approach you right away. Remain quiet and patient, even if it takes an hour or more. Rabbits are naturally curious, and eventually, he will come over to sniff you.

5. Resist the temptation to reach out and pat the bunny. Instead, let him sniff you, hop on you and just get to know your smell. This will teach him that you are not a threat.

6. If the bunny finds the treat you have, hold it while he nibbles.

7. Do this every day. Gradually, you can start to touch the bunny by giving him a gentle “scratch” on the forehead (bunnies love this!). Never force anything, and never chase the bunny. This will only undo all the patient sitting you have done to gain his trust. A rabbit does not generally like to play “chase” with an animal that is 30 times his size. It is simply not natural behavior for him, and it is not a sign of low intelligence!

8. As the bunny gradually becomes less shy, you can become more familiar with him, stroking his back, letting him lie with his side pressed against your arm... whatever feels comfortable and natural to both of you. Many rabbits seem to find a face less threatening than a hand. Your bunny may gladly allow you to give him a warm “nose nuzzle” (especially if you hum very low and soft; this is the way rabbits sometimes communicate

Photo: Mary Ann Maier



Shandi.

among themselves), even if he won’t let your hand come close.

9. Once the bunny learns that you are a friend, he will bond very strongly to you. It’s important to have him neutered (or her spayed, if it’s a girl) once he or she reaches sexual maturity, because otherwise the rabbit will want to make love to everything, including you – whatever appendages happen to be within reach. Spay/neuter will stop this behavior, and it will eliminate the very real risk of reproductive tract cancers in females. Spay/neuter will also make litter-box training easier and more reliable. Be sure you have this done by a veterinarian who is very experienced with rabbits! If you do not know of an experienced “rabbit vet” near you, please check the House Rabbit Society Veterinary Referral Center.

In implementing the steps above, remember to imagine what the world looks like to this little, furry stranger. She’s surrounded by a new environment, and there’s a big, odd-smelling animal that’s always looming over her. She has no idea you’re trying to be friendly. Her hard wiring says: “AAAAAAA!!! It’s going to EAT MEEEE!!!!” So it’s up to you, the new bunny parent, to provide her with quiet, safe space where she can learn to feel secure. (Be sure all electrical wires and phone cords are out of the bunny’s reach!)

Try to see the world through your bunny’s eyes. Put yourself in her place. No one

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Shy Bunny (Continued from page 9)

speaks her “language,” she has been taken from her family and perhaps the only home she has ever known, and she has no idea whether you plan to love her, cage her forever, or eat her! You need to gradually and patiently earn her trust. It can take days, weeks or months, and depends on the personality of the individual rabbit.

One complaint we often hear from people who bought a bunny for their children who turns out to be shy is that the rabbit is “not turning out to be the sort of pet we wanted for our kids.” Try to banish this kind of thinking!

Rather than being disappointed that the rabbit is not what you expected (it is quite possible that she will never learn to like to be held), take this opportunity to teach your children respect for an animal who is different from them, who has different needs, perceptions and behaviors than a dog or cat, and who is NOT a casual plaything. (See article by Jessica Chambers on page 7.) If the children really want something to carry around, they need a stuffed toy – not a live rabbit.

Finally, remember that the ultimate responsibility for the rabbit’s welfare belongs to the adults in the household – not the children. Most human children

are pretty well into their late teens before they truly understand the necessity of constant, devoted care to another sentient life form. This can be your opportunity to get an early start in teaching them that all-important life lesson.

Your rabbit is a highly intelligent, potentially loving, loyal creature who can become a member of the family, if you allow her to be what she is – a rabbit! If you and all your family can do that, you are in for the most delightful companionship imaginable.

*Copyright – Dana Krempels, Ph.D.
Senior Lecturer;
Director of Undergraduate Studies
Department of Biology, University of Miami*

In celebration of the ruby

Did you know that ruby-eyed bunnies (a.k.a. albinos or New Zealand Whites) are some of the most intelligent and affectionate pets around? However, because some folks don't like the color of their eyes, these poor bunnies sit for months or even years in shelters, unadopted and unloved. Take a minute and read what experienced “ruby lovers” have to say about these oft-overlooked treasures!

Treat yourself to a real gem:
Adopt a ruby-eyed bunny!
www.rabbit.org

Testimonials in speech bubbles:

- “He’s like a Golden Retriever in a white bunny suit!” —AC
- “I’m blessed to be owned by her!” —AR
- “Every white, red-eyed bunny I’ve ever met has been a doll!” —AR
- “Big white, fiber bunnies have the best sense of humor; they make their own jokes and laugh with their white bodies!” —AR
- “I love his larger-than-life personality!” —LS
- “I will always have a New Zealand White in my family!” —EU
- “I love that she kisses her name and nuzzles me when I call her!” —R
- “I wish I could rescue them all!” —R
- “Forget the others, he seemed to say at the shelter. I am your bunny!” —AR
- “Everyone who meets him is amazed at how adorable he is!” —R
- “Her huge giant shines like light through her ruby eyes!” —R
- “Red eyes used to speak me, but now they seem to be expressive than any other color!” —R
- “She demands affection and shows me when I let her go to her room!” —R
- “He waits for me on the door like my dog used to!” —AR
- “When I get home from work, he comes bounding over!” —R
- “The bigger they are, the harder you fall – in love with them, that is!” —SL
- “To me, those eyes are gems, just like my Booboo is!” —JB
- “I used to think they all looked the same, but now each looks so distinct!” —LS
- “They are so loving and really seem most appreciative of having a human with us!” —LS

We Are Looking for Loving Homes:

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

By Kirsten Ott

Frosting

Frosting is a medium-sized black female bunny. This girl is very sweet and adores affection. She has an unassuming nature, and if you leave her side, she'll wait patiently for you to return. Frosting has a tiny white dot on the tip of her nose, and her right front foot looks as though it was dipped in white paint. She also has a cute little dewlap.

Funyun

Funyun is a small- to medium-sized Hotot mix. Though she's on the small, and young, side, this girl has glamorous looks. She's white with black markings, including a pretty mottled pattern on her ears and a few stray beauty marks on her back. Best of all, she has large eyes with dramatic "makeup" that enhances their size – it seems like her eyes take up half of her face! Funyun is very friendly and easy to handle. She has the curiosity and fearlessness of youth. When she's not busy exploring, she enjoys being petted.

Bigwig

Bigwig is a large agouti/brown female. This lady is quite statuesque, with an aura of power as suggested by her name. But don't be mistaken – Bigwig is first and foremost a cuddler! She'll come over and nudge you to request affection, which she adores. Bigwig has a nice big white cottontail and a sweet little dewlap.

Skier

Skier is a medium-sized male bunny with a very assertive personality. This guy is active, curious, and quite demanding – he always seems to be pushing an agenda, whether it be "out time" or food or just attention. Skier's coat is white with interesting jet black markings, including raccoon eyes and a stripe across his forehead that sort of make him look like he's wearing goggles. He will let you pet



Frosting.



Funyun.



Bigwig.

him if he's in the mood, but is often too wound up for affection. Skier would probably do best in a bunny-savvy home.

Alfreda

Alfreda is a lovely large brown female. This lady has a quiet dignity about her, and responds well to gentle attention. When you pet her, Alfreda flattens her pointy head against her generous dewlap as if it's a big pillow. Her favorite spot to be petted is on the top of her head, between her ears – when you rub that



Skier.



Alfreda.



Sprinkles.

spot, she flattens her head on the floor in utter contentment. Do that a few times and she'll follow you anywhere! In addition to that impressive dewlap, Alfreda has pretty eyes with dark lashes and giant ears that are a beautiful pink on the inside.

Sprinkles

Sprinkles is a beautiful medium-sized female bunny. This girl has a very fluffy, smoky-brown coat – it seems as though you're looking at her through a Vaseline lens. Sprinkles is quite reserved, but does like to be petted in a secluded corner or in the safety of her litter box. She would probably do best in a quiet home. This girl arrived at the shelter

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ADOPT US!

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 11)

rather underweight, but she is gradually filling out.

Fairmount

Fairmount is a wonderful large strawberry blond female. This girl is a little shy, but loves to be petted in a safe corner of her habitat. She'll flatten her head against her big, puffy dewlap, which looks like a huge muff. She especially loves cheek rubs and neck massages. If you stop petting Fairmount, she pops up like a jack-in-the-box and looks at you quizzically – it's very comical. It's even funnier because she also has kooky ears that can't decide if they're up or down – often they'll stick straight out like wings.

Athena

Athena is a large gray and white girl with a great personality. This girl is very gregarious – she'll greet you at her cage door and immediately present her head for petting. She'd be happiest as someone's couch potato. However, she was not properly cared for in her last home, and she's quite overweight. So... she'll have to earn that couch time with lots of exercise and a proper diet. Even after she's at a healthier weight, she'll still be plenty of bun to love!

Patsy

Patsy is a medium-to-large bunny with a wonderful temperament. This girl is very friendly in a laid-back way. She's a total snuggler. She loves kisses, and her nose wiggles contentedly as you pet her. Patsy is mostly white with mostly black – but some brown – markings, including black ears and eye rings and a cute semi-mustache. She would make a good choice for a first-time bunny owner.

Navi

Navi is a medium-sized agouti female. This girl is very bright and alert. She seems a bit nervous when you first meet her, but gradually relaxes as you pet her, eventually morphing into melted butter. If you stop petting her, she sits up and



Fairmount.



Athena.



Patsy.

looks at you incredulously, nose wiggling as if to express her disbelief. Navi has large dark eyes, a cute little dewlap, and a white patch on the end of her nose.

Poppy

Poppy is a medium-sized charcoal/brown and white Dutch mix. This girl is very dear – she's easy to handle, well-mannered, and adores affection. She sits very still while you pet her, as if she wants to absorb every precious moment. She especially likes cheek rubs. Poppy is mostly Dutch, but has an oversized, slightly irregular bib. One of her front legs is white, and the other is brown with a white mitten.

Georgia

Georgia is a large Cinnamon/lop mix with a proud, feisty spirit. This girl likes



Navi.



Poppy.



Georgia.

to be in charge of her habitat and her agenda, and will do her best to boss you around. Underneath all that pride, though, is real vulnerability – it's as though she has a hard time admitting how much she loves affection. Georgia actually loves to be petted as long as she gets to choose the time and place. As you make friends, she'll let her guard down more and more, and she loves neck and cheek rubs. Georgia has runny eyes, so she would benefit from a bunny-savvy home and a rabbit partner who could help with grooming.

Bloomie

Bloomie is a medium-to-large tan female. This girl is a bit tense when you first

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Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Ivory Lilly, Ryan, Thelma and Louise, Chiquis, Tuscaloosa, Samosa, Mariner, Fig and Coconut, Ciro, Tabitha, Bronx, Bun Bun, Pixie, Monico, Malta, Arnie and Yoffree, Petunia, Regina, June, Bethany, Batik, Fluffy, Adrian, Layla, Twinkle Toes, Tom, Cola, Fudge, Chewy, Honey, Polly, Midnight, Toast, Daisy, Aiko, Mocha, Milk, Duke, Simon, Sebastian and Annie, Wesley, Temple, Chloe, Cookie, Willow, Fluffynutter, Peter, Twilight and Cupcakes.

ADOPT US!



Bloomie.

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 12)

introduce yourself, but she will let you pet her, and you can feel her muscles getting softer and softer as she gradually relaxes. Bloomie is quite a beautiful girl, with a lean face, dark, close-set eyes, and a sweet little dewlap. She would probably do best in a quiet home.

Oscar

Oscar is a medium-size gray and white Dutch mix and a real sweetheart. This guy is a little on the timid side, but he warms up and gets attached very quickly. He loves to bury his face into a corner



Oscar.

of his cage or side of his litter box while you rub his head and cheeks. He is very smart, too – he senses right away if you become distracted and uses subtle wiles to get your attention back. Oscar has a very cute face with an unusual feature: part of his white bib has crept onto the left side of his face, next to his mouth, giving him a sweetly comical look. He has only the slightest vestige of a Dutch triangle on his forehead. This sweet, well-mannered bunny would probably make a good partner for another rabbit.



Bubble.

Bubble

Bubble is a small black-and-white Dutch female. This girl is on the young side, and has a very bubbly, energetic personality. She's super curious and loves her "out time" – she'll explore and chin everything in her environment. Her high energy level makes her more interested in playtime than in affection right now, but she's not shy at all and will let you pet her when she's taking a break from her antics. Bubble may grow a bit more, but won't be large, and her lean face should fill out somewhat. She has big, wide eyes, and her back feet are half black and half white.

Letters From Adopters

Cupcake and Cannoli

Annie Kravet adopted Cupcake in January as a partner for Cannoli. The two rabbits are getting along fine.

I adopted Cupcake in early January after she caught Cannoli's eye during bunny speed dating at the Petco at Union Square. It wasn't love at first sight, but seemed promising: "A match made in the bakery!" as my sister said.



Photo: Annie Kravet

Cannoli and Cupcake.

After about six weeks of dating, the two are now very happy together and already getting into all kinds of bunny mischief! My kindergarten students love hearing "Cupcake and Cannoli stories," and there is no shortage of bunny cuteness and shenanigans to share. Cupcake is a wonderful addition to our home!

Best,
Annie

Marshmallow

Megan Law and her fiancé, Riza Susel, adopted Marshmallow in February. They are having a lot of fun together.

We have had Marshmallow for a little over a month now and she is a great addition to our family and brings us much happiness with her companionship. When we first brought Marshmallow home, she was nervous, but she quickly became used to her new surroundings. Now she is eager to explore every inch and nook and cranny of our home.



Photo: Megan Law

Marshmallow.

We love playing with Marshmallow in the mornings and evenings and watching her binky and gallop like a horse around her pen. We also enjoy watching her devour her vegetables (her favorite is basil) and then proceed to assume the "loaf" position with her arms and legs tucked in.

We look forward to letting Marshmallow have free range in our home and making new memories together.

Megan and Riza



Photo: Caroline David

Brandon and Beatrice.

Brandon

Caroline adopted Brandon, formerly known as Hughes, in January as a partner bunny for Beatrice. Things are going very well.

Whittney

Erin and Curtis Batson-Edwards adopted Whittney in January, and they sent this great letter.



Photo: Curtis Batson-Edwards

Whittney.

My wife and I are thrilled to have Whittney, and he seems to have adjusted to his new home nicely. Whittney is perfect in every way. We definitely found the bunny that is right for us. He's spunky, curious, affectionate and loves lots of petting. Plus, his litter-box skills are impeccable.

We couldn't have asked for a better bunny, and we hope he feels the same about us!

Best,
Curtis

I want to thank all the volunteers for taking such good care of Hughes. I can tell he had been loved quite a lot as he was very tolerant about all the kisses I gave him.

Hughes is now renamed Sir Charles Brandon (or simply Brandon or Bran).

He is such a funny bunny, running circles and binkies around the apartment! I've never seen such a spirited bun! But more than anything I love how already he's brought out so much of Beatrice's personality.

I can happily announce that he and Beatrice are now best friends (for nearly two months) and constant snuggle

(Continued on page 15)

Letters *(Continued from page 14)*

buddies. He no longer seems to need kisses from his mama, and prefers instead the kisses from his new friend, Bea. He has been an absolute joy and such a wonderful bunny. They both are getting ready to deliver goodies on Easter Sunday!

Warm regards,
Caroline David



Photo: Amanda Friedland
Mister Cannoli.

cuddler and loves to cuddle both us and his stuffed pig.

He loves to be the star of the show and quickly gets annoyed when you stop petting him. He will continuously nudge and swat at you until you pet him.

Amanda Friedland



Photo: Crystal Dombrow
Scarlett.

Scarlett

Crystal, who adopted Scarlett last year, sent us this letter on Feb. 15.

One year ago on Wednesday, a sweet little bunny named Scarlett came home to me! Just reporting that she is a happy, skippy little bun and I'm still in love with her!

Thank you to everybody at Rabbit Rescue & Rehab for your support in my adopting her!

Crystal Dombrow

Mister Cannoli

Amanda adopted Mister Cannoli, formerly known as Floppy Gomez, in January. He is doing well!

We adopted Floppy Gomez and renamed him Mister Cannoli. He is settling into his new home nicely and he has already stolen our hearts. He is very playful and friendly and loves to have his head petted.

Mister Cannoli has decided he loves bananas and is super loving toward both me and my boyfriend. He's an awesome



Photo: Abigail
Napoleon and Albertina.

Napoleon and Albertina

Abigail adopted Napoleon, who now has a wonderful partner, Albertina.

It has now been over five years since I adopted Napoleon (then called Twist) at the 86th Street Petco. He has been a great companion, always cheering me up with his grumpy but adorable personality. And he became romantic when I took in Albertina (found by my friend Lori Yamato in Prospect Park) three years ago. Fortunately, they were able to get together little by little, and now they are cozy and take care of each other as well as me. I really appreciate what all of the volunteers do! Special thanks to Cindy Stutts for years of help and advice with my bunnies.

Best wishes,
Abigail

Nino

Sarah Locke adopted Nino in mid-February, and she sent us this update on his adventures.

I wanted to send you an update on Nino. We recently renamed him Jack, but since he's our little boy, we still call him Nino.



Photo: Sarah Locke
Nino.

Things have been going GREAT. We've settled into a routine and are getting to know each other. He really enjoys his morning and evening salad (especially cilantro!) and devours his hay like a machine.

Nino loves to spend his days lounging and flopping inside of his maze haven or in his twigloo. Nights are filled with bunny 500s, binkies and some digging sessions. He loves to groom his mama's face with sweet kisses and adores being petted.

He is still startled by loud sounds, but has really begun to relax a bit and tolerate a little more. I hope in time he will not be so scared if I clumsily bump a table or his maze haven.

Nino would like to say thank you to Susan and Robert and all of the other volunteers at the 86th Street Petco that took care of him for so long. He misses you all.

Best,
Sarah

(Continued on page 16)

Buddy

Elena Ardrey adopted Buddy, formerly known as Ronnie, in January. He is doing really well.

Three weeks ago I adopted my pet bunny. I named him Buddy and from the first look I knew he was special.

About two years ago I had the idea of having a new addition to the family. But we had a dog, Comet. She was an English Setter, and that breed has a strong hunting instinct. So the idea faded away. One year later, Comet died at the age of 15. We were very sad but a year after we adopted a new dog, Wrinkles! She is very sweet and could care less about squirrels and pigeons. So the idea struck again.

I asked my mom for the bunny. I had been doing so much research about bunnies that I was ready to have one. My mom said I needed to get better grades though, and about a month later I had a lot of good grades, so my mom said yes.

We looked online for shelters and the ACC on 110th Street had rabbits that needed a home, so we decided on a Saturday afternoon to go there, but only to look – at least that's what my mom thought!

The people who worked there were so nice and very helpful. Cathe, the woman who helped us, had a lot of knowledge about bunnies. She told us everything we needed to know. She introduced me to Ronnie. He came right away to my hand and seemed to like to be petted. I fell in love with him and wanted to bring him home. After spending three hours at the shelter to make sure that we were right for each other, I convinced my mom that this was the perfect weekend to bring him home. It was a three-day weekend and I would have plenty of time to spend with him before going back to school. My mom agreed. I was so excited.

One the way home we were trying to think of names for him but we just

Photo: Elena Ardrey



Buddy with Wrinkles.

couldn't come up with any. We were almost home when my mom said, "Don't worry buddy. We are almost home." Just like that, Buddy became his name!

It has been three weeks now and Buddy is very comfortable here. He runs around free, and he and Wrinkles really surprised us with an unlikely friendship.

Buddy makes a great new addition to the family. I love my bunny so much and I owe it all to the ACC shelter. Thank you.

Elena

Photo: Libby Allen



Leonard.

Leonard

Leonard, also known as Leo, was adopted by Libby Allen in late January. She sent us this update in mid-February.

Leonard has been a great addition to our home and I already have many cute bunny stories. I also have many great photos.

When we moved our old futon into Leonard's bedroom, it was as if he knew this piece of furniture is for sleeping. Every night, when I turn out the lights Leonard hops up, and burrows down to sleep at the end of the futon. When I check on him in the night, he is always in that exact place.

Thanks!
Libby Allen

Photo: Tamsin Doherty



Dandelion.

Dandelion

Dandelion, earlier known as Naruto, was adopted in February by Tamsin Doherty. Dandelion is enjoying his new home.

Dandelion, the rabby formerly known as Naruto, is incredibly sweet and gentle. He really enjoys lying against a human's chest for warmth while getting petted head to toe.

His favorite place to sit is under the chair in the corner of the room. He is a little thumper, the first rabbit we've had that expresses himself this way.

He is very curious, and seems to be enjoying his new life very much.

Thank you for all you do,
Tamsin

(Continued on page 17)

Photo: Amanda Cranney



Alan Rickman.

Alan Rickman

Amanda Cranney adopted Alan Rickman, previously known as Adrian, in mid-March.

I officially adopted Adrian (now renamed Alan Rickman in honor of my favorite actor) on a Sunday and eagerly waited until Thursday to bring him home. The wait was more than worth it.

He was such a joy, starting with the moment I opened his carrier, and he immediately wanted to explore. He has a small room next to my bedroom where he knows he can always relax, play, and most importantly, eat!

When he's in the mood for some exercise, he hops over to my sitting area and loves

to run in zigzags all across the carpet. I try to get videos of him running and binkying, but whenever he notices me, he stops and hops over for one of his guaranteed head rubs.

Alan Rickman and I are super excited about having a bunny speed date to find another wonderful bunny to join our home. Thank you so much to everyone at the Animal Care Center of Manhattan for allowing me the opportunity to meet this spectacular bun.

Thank you so much!
Amanda

Vivi and Coconut

Anna Fyodorova and her family adopted Coconut and Vivi, formerly known as Fig, in late February. The sisters, who had been fostered by Erin McElhinney before taking up residence at the 72nd Street Petland, are enjoying their forever home.

Photo: Anna Fyodorova



Vivi and Coconut.

The girls are wonderful, we love them! Thank you for this opportunity to welcome them to our family. We go to your conferences every so often! Thank you for all your support; everyone was so helpful, encouraging and supportive! A few of our adult friends who stopped by were so impressed with the girls' intelligence and playfulness that they might consider adopting, which is a win-win situation.

My daughter created an instagram account just with the girls' pictures:
<https://www.instagram.com/viviandcoconut/>

Best,
Anna



Ira.



Stuart.



Bethany.



Navi.



Cola.



Clancey and Viola aka Jade.



Honey Boo.



June.



Wesley.



Chevron and Stitch.



Alfie.

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

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

Westchester County:

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

Westchester County (cont.):

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 Hofer, 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

Licensed HRS Educators

NYC/Westchester:

M.C. Basile, Esq., President, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, 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, nschreibmd@aol.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 April 2016

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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.

Adoptable Rabbits

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

To adopt a rabbit in **New York City** or **Westchester**, contact nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com. On **Long Island**, contact Nancy Schreiber at nschreibmd@aol.com or at 516-510-3637 (www.longislandrabbitrescue.org).

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

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

In addition, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab rabbits are at the Petland Discounts store on West 72nd Street.

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

for adoption can be found by going to: <http://www.nycacc.org/> and doing an adoption search. Volunteers are there every weekday evening and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, but it is best to arrange an appointment first.

Bunny speed dates can be arranged by appointment only on weekend afternoons at Union Square. Please contact 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

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.