

---

---

# NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS

Newsletter of the NYC Chapter of the House Rabbit Society

Fall 2003

---

---

## Osbourne's New Eye

by Mary Ann Maier in consultation with John Sapienza, DVM and Jennifer Saver, DVM

September 12, 2002 was supposed to be a happy day for Osbourne. He was going to leave the shelter for his new adoptive home to start a whole new life. But as soon as I saw him that morning, I knew something was very wrong. There was a strange white spot right in the middle of his left eye. I knew it had not been there when I visited him at the shelter last week, and I also knew he couldn't go anywhere until he saw a vet. After a quick phone call to his adopter, off we went to see Dr. Jennifer Saver.

Upon examining Osbourne's eye, Dr. Saver suggested we run a blood titer\* to test him for *E. cuniculi* (a protozoan parasite that can cause signs ranging from head tilt, to incoordination, to paralysis, to blindness). She then referred Ozzie to a specialist: veterinary ophthalmologist Dr. John Sapienza at Long Island Veterinary Specialists.

In a pitch black room, wearing an indirect ophthalmoscope (head-piece with a specially focused light), Dr. Sapienza examined Ozzie's eye. He explained that the white spot was a granuloma —



Dr. Sapienza and Osbourne size each other up.

a growth resulting from an inflammatory process in the body. But what he told me next made my heart sink: this growth was probably the result of infection by *E. cuniculi*. "This white spot is ruptured lens tissue. It's called 'phacoclastic uveitis' and we're seeing more and more rabbits with this condi-

tion," said Dr. Sapienza. "Sometimes it is treated with topical antibiotics or steroids. However, I usually recommend surgery." Surgery?! Yes, he explained, the damaged tissue has to be removed, and one way to do this is to remove the eye. Squeamish at the thought, I shuddered.

But Dr. Sapienza offered me an alternative. He proposed giving Osbourne a prosthetic eye. Visions of Peter Falk and Sammy Davis Junior filled my mind. "I can open the eye between the cornea and the sclera, remove the tissue within, and insert a (cont'd p.2)

\*A titer is an "indicator" only. It can determine whether an immune response has been mounted to an invading organism, but cannot be relied upon for a definitive diagnosis.

## SWIMMING TO SUCCESS

By Barbara Rainey

January 2003 was not only the beginning of a new year. It was the beginning of a whole new life for my bunny, Biggles. The Tampa Bay House Rabbit Society had invited me and my two rabbits to participate in an HRS booth at the North



Biggles takes to the pool with hydrotherapist Tom Nowicki.

American Veterinary Conference in Orlando. At the booth, Mary Cotter (NYC HRS) noticed that Biggles looked a bit stiff and sore, and asked if I had had him checked for arthritis. I told her that Biggles had received treatment for a dislocated hip some eight months earlier, and I thought his stiffness was a result of that injury. Then, a few weeks after the conference, his condition worsened. He could not lift either of his hind feet to scratch his face and he could hop only a few paces before his hind legs gave out. He'd try to pull himself around by his front legs, and he became incontinent. I remembered Mary's question and took him in for an exam. X-rays confirmed he did indeed have arthritis in his spine and hips, as well as 2 collapsed spinal discs. His vet, Dr. Kerry Jackson, of the East Orlando Animal Hospital, describes his condition:

"During the exam his hunched posture was noted, and decreased musculature in the lower back and hind legs. Radiographs were repeated, and osteoarthritis in the hip joint was noted, but more remarkable was the extent of spinal curvature. Both abnormal lateral (scoliosis) and dorsal (kyphosis) positioning of the vertebrae were evident." (cont'd p.4)

(*Osbourne, cont'd*)

gel-like substance, much like a rubber ball, in its place," he said. Dr. Sapienza performs this procedure several times a week on dogs with glaucoma, and has used it with rabbits as well. The benefits are obvious: an almost-normal looking, blinking eye, symmetry of the face, overall aesthetics. And he pointed out an additional benefit: The procedure itself does not require cutting anywhere near the venous sinus — a large network of blood vessels behind the eye which, if nicked or punctured, can result in massive blood loss and possible death. As Dr. Sapienza put it, "You could end up losing the bunny for an eye



problem." That was enough for me: I decided on the prosthetic eye. In preparation for the surgery, Dr. Sapienza sent us home with a topical antibiotic to be applied until the surgery was performed.

Meanwhile, the titer test came back positive for *E. cuniculi*, adding support

*"Stents" help with the healing process.*

to Dr. Sapienza's opinion as to the cause of the problem. Dr. Saver prescribed oxibendazole, which, like albendazole and fenbendazole, is used to treat suspected *E. cuniculi* infection.

Osbourne was an amazingly good sport about it all, and accepted both his daily eye medication and daily oxibendazole without a fuss. However, in spite of the medications, the white spot continued to grow rapidly, finally overtaking most of the surface of his eye. As instructed, I watched for any indication of pain from glaucoma (a condition secondary to the inflammation), but Ozzie showed no signs of discomfort.

Finally, the day of the surgery arrived. The procedure itself took less than half an hour, and the veterinary technician on the phone reported that all had gone well. Happy and optimistic, I went to pick up Ozzie, never thinking to prepare myself for his appearance. What a shock. First, half his face had been shaved. (It's quite a revelation to see how small our rabbits' skulls are — those irresistible cheeks are mostly fur!) Second, he had a black eye worthy of a prize fighter, with swelling that made me wonder if Dr. Sapienza had put in too big a prosthesis. Third, his eyelids were partially sewn shut with a little device called a "stent" to ensure good blinking (according to Dr. Sapienza, Oz was a "crummy blinker").

I was to administer drops and apply warm compresses several times daily. But Ozzie seemed not to mind at all, and even leaned into the compress, showing me how good it felt. Within days the swelling was down, the eye was opening a bit, and tufts of fur were growing back. Things were looking so good to me that at first I didn't realize the cornea was getting infected. Dr. Saver noticed, however, and sent Oz and me back to Dr. Sapienza. He had never seen post-operative cornea irritation in any of his cases before, and he increased Ozzie's antibiotics to fight it. Dr. Saver suggested we also use blood serum in Oz's eye to speed healing. It's a ghoulish-sounding procedure: a

small amount of blood is taken from a healthy rabbit and processed to separate the serum from the other components. The serum is then used as eye drops, and put directly into the patient's eye. Serum only keeps for a few days, so it was a good thing I have a house full of healthy rabbits to serve as blood donors!

The infection finally under control, Osbourne's eye started to look almost normal. The stent was removed, and, as expected, the eyeball became red for a time, indicating the cornea was becoming revascularized, with fresh blood supply bringing healing. It then seemed to have settled in to a blue/gray color. More important, all signs of infection had disappeared. When friends asked if Oz was back to normal, I told them that he was never not normal; throughout his entire ordeal he never showed signs of discomfort, never missed a meal. Even now, when I squirt a bit of lubricant into his eye (he needs this daily—he's still a crummy blinker!), he acts as if I'm patting him.

Would I do it again? Probably. The post-op infection scared me, and the need for frequent medicating was taxing on my schedule. But the excellent surgical and veterinary care available to Osbourne, and the relative safety of the prosthesis surgery as (cont'd p.7)

---

## From Stray in a Park, to Parked in my House

by Molly Turner

In July 2002, I lost my beloved rabbit to malignant melanoma. After a few months of grieving, I began to long for another bunny in the house. There's just nothing that can replace the sensation of burying your face in a sunny-smelling bunny after a hard day at work.

An internet search led me to House Rabbit Society educator Mary Ann Maier, whose passion for bunnies made me feel instantly comfortable. So off I went to meet Mary Ann and her furry housemates:



Henry in his Superman pose.

perky little Osborne, golden-boy Gibson, and Julian, an offbeat boy with such an unusual, kinky coat that he looked like a bun in sheep's clothing. Then there was Henry, with his Holstein-cow spots. Henry, who loved to lie with his limbs outstretched like Superman. Henry, who, for some incomprehensible reason, was abandoned in Prospect Park. I went home to consider our choices, but all I (cont'd p.6)

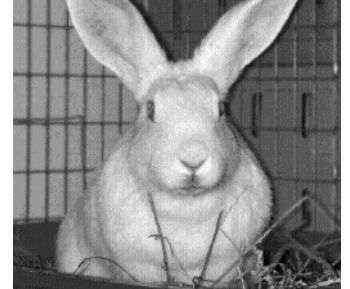
---

---

# Human Companions Wanted!

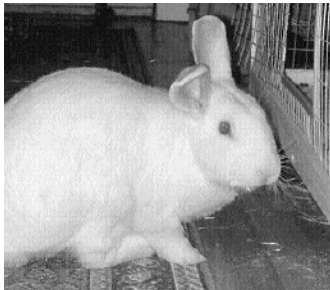
These are just a few of the many bunnies in our foster care who are looking for permanent homes.

**Nelson** A big, bouncy, smart-alec, comical boy. This is Mr. Personality, and he is funny! Nelson wants what Nelson wants when Nelson wants it. Watch out for your shoelaces and pants legs if you do not serve him fast enough. Neutered and impatient for his own home.



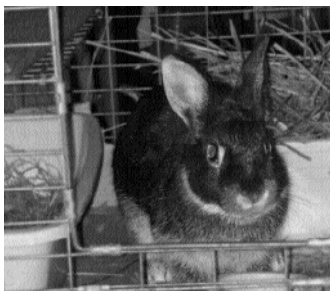
**Nicole** Gentle and quiet, but loves her cardboard projects and will shred anything brown and corrugated. Nicole loves to be patted and is an exceptionally “easy” bunny. She has been treated for an ear abscess with antibiotic beads, and is doing beautifully. Spayed and ready to give herself to the right lap.

**Rowan** A nutty minilop who looks like a buffalo and stamps like a flamenco dancer. Rowan is recovering from demons past, and responds beautifully to a safe and loving environment. Neutered and ready to roll.



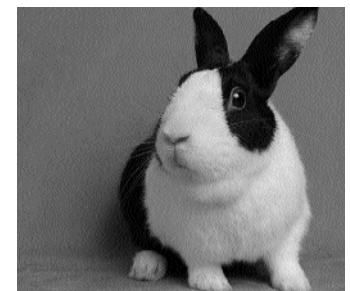
**Theresa** A one-year-old “lab rabbit” who is spayed and would like a home with an understanding human. She is big and she is shy, but not too shy to beg for bananas. A kind person would help her to blossom. Though she eats well, she is hungry for love!

**Gibson** A neutered elder gentleman of about 8, Gibson has the energy and enthusiasm of a bunny half his age. He loves to be patted which is good because he is silken and irresistible to touch. Rescued from a horrific life, Gibson greets each day with hope and joy.



**Stuart Little** A beautiful, neutered dwarf Silver Marten boy, with just the tiniest bit of an attitude. Stuart has certain decorating requirements which he will make clear to his new human, whoever that might be (might it be you?).

**Dickens** A shiny and beautiful neutered black and white Dutch boy. Dickens is intelligent and easy to negotiate with. Loves patting and will flatten to any palm. Needs to be an only child.



**Kevin** “Kevin Kaboom” earned his nickname because he likes to climb on chairs, pull books off shelves, and make noise! He is young and very energetic and needs a human who can invent fun things for him to do and who will tirelessly rub his head.



## Chapter News & Notes



Mary Cotter and Monica Gardon (Gainesville) manned a booth at the International Conference on Exotics in Florida in June. Mary also did hands-on demonstrations for a rabbit workshop offered by Dr. Teresa Lightfoot at the conference.

Mary Ann Maier and Mary Cotter worked with Dana Hakes (Tampa Bay HRS) and other Florida volunteers to man a booth at the North American Veterinary Conference in January.

Mary Cotter did a hands-on "BYOB" (bring your own bunny) workshop at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine in April. The workshop was organized by Missy Ott and Monica Gardon — both of Gainesville Rabbit Rescue.

Cindy Stutts, Cecelia Bishop, Mary Cotter and Mary Ann Maier manned an HRS educational booth alongside the ASPCA adoption van outside the New York Historical Society's "Petropolis" exhibit in July.



Cecelia Bishop at the Petropolis Event booth.

Mary Ann Maier, accompanied by foster rabbit Jessica, was interviewed by News 12 Long Island during Easter season, and urged parents to avoid impulse purchases of live "Easter bunnies."

*(Swimming, cont'd)*

Dr. Jackson prescribed antiinflammatory and pain relief medications, and sent Biggles to Dr. Connie DiNatale for chiropractic treatment and acupuncture. Biggles responded beautifully, and the treatment had an unexpected and very welcome additional benefit: it cured his incontinence!

But by now Biggles' once-muscular back legs were very thin. Dr. Jackson advised keeping Biggles active: movement, she said, would strengthen his muscles, which would help to hold the hip in place. At this point, I had an unorthodox idea: what about hydrotherapy? I'd seen hydrotherapy work with horses and dogs, so why not rabbits?

I asked Dr. Jackson if she thought hydrotherapy would help build up the muscles in Biggles' hind legs. After conferring with Dr. DiNatale, she recommended contacting HipDog, a nearby orthopedic rehabilitation center for dogs. Dr. Erin Holder (Union Park Animal Hospital), another of Biggles' vets, agreed that hydrother-

apy might help his condition. All three doctors advised using extreme caution due to Biggles' already compromised spine. A broken back could result if Biggles were not handled properly, and too much stress could also prove fatal.

I emailed HipDog and, to my great surprise and delight, Kristina Latimer and Tom Nowicki (partners and hydrotherapists) agreed to take on the challenge.

Because they had not worked with rabbits before, Tom conferred with Wellsprings Dog Massage and Swim Spa, a facility in Seattle, which had had experience with rabbits. The therapists at Wellsprings explained their technique and offered recommendations for handling a rabbit.

The HipDog staff also did extensive research on rabbit anatomy, consulting with Dr. DiNatale several times. They recommended getting Biggles accustomed to being in water before his first hydrotherapy session, so Biggles and I

## Conference 2003

*Clockwise, from left:*

*Speakers/authors Margo DeMello and Susan Davis, signing their book; Dr. Heidi Hoefler, speaking on *E. cuniculi*; Amy Sedaris, selling her famous cupcakes; Alice Layne, tending a bunny boutique table; Mary Cotter teaching Dawn DelGreco how to take a rabbit's temperature; Dr. Jennifer Saver, describing life with a head-tilt bunny.*



*This year's conference drew over 125 attendees!*



took the plunge. I filled our bathtub with a few inches of warm water, and gently eased Biggles into it. I was pleasantly surprised to see that he did not seem the least bit stressed. Next, I filled the tub all the way up so his legs wouldn't touch the bottom and I got into the water with him, supporting his back and chest and "motoring" him around the tub until he started paddling himself. Once again, he showed no signs of stress. We were ready for hydrotherapy!

Biggles' first session went beautifully. The therapists were incredibly gentle, and took things very slowly. They urged me to get into the water along with Biggles, explaining that animal patients feel better when their owners participate. Biggles showed no fear at all. In fact, we had agreed that if he appeared stressed he session would stop. Dr. DiNatale, concerned about hypothermia, had suggested we limit his time in the water to five minutes. However, the pool water is 92 degrees and since it was a very warm day, and Biggles was doing so well, we decided to take things on a moment-by-moment basis.

Tom was very careful to monitor Biggles' heart rate and temperature. He alternated swimming with rest and massage. Biggles relaxed and purred during the massaging in the heated jets of water in the pool. He was able to stay in the water for the entire one-hour session, after which we wrapped him in warm towels and drove him home, with the car heater running. Once home, I brushed and blow-dried him, and put drops in his ears to dry them out and to prevent any infection.

After his second hydrotherapy session, Biggles was able to scratch his face with his hind legs once again. I decided that he would continue swimming as long as he continued to show progress. And week after week, he did. His hopping improved. He began pushing off with his hind legs instead of pulling with this front. He became sleeker and more muscular, and happily used the ramp on his bunny gym. He zoomed around the hallway, terrorizing the cats. After seeing the change in Biggles, there is no doubt in my mind about the healing capacity (cont'd p.6)

## News & Notes continued



Writer/actress/comedian/adopter Amy Sedaris was made an "honorary educator" by NYC HRS. Amy packed her appearance on the Caroline Rhea show with information about rabbit adoption and living with a house rabbit, and has been helping individual rabbit owners with information on diet, housing, and general husbandry.



Cindy Stutts' educational booth at the 92nd Street Y street fair.

Cindy Stutts organized HRS booths at a series of street fairs in New York City from May through October. Cindy also donated a spectacular white canopy to upgrade our presence at our public appearances!

Helping to man the booths along with Cindy were volunteers Mary Ann Maier, Amy Odum, Alice Layne, Cecelia Bishop, Sarah Goodwin, Morrisey Perfetti, and Lindsay Dunlop.

Special thanks to Jeanine Callace and Anne Flynn, for their loving and tireless behind-the-scenes work with our foster rabbits.



*Special thanks to our amazing conference volunteers, without whom our annual conference would not be possible: Cindy Stutts (who handles all our registration), Jeanine Callace (who does pre- and post-conference inventory), Cecelia Bishop,*

*Joyce Chee, Maryann Laronga-Emmett, Alice Layne, Linda Levine, Mary Ann Maier, Kristin Miller, Amy Odum, Amy Sedaris, Susan Stein, Shane York.*





---

---

## Congratulations to our Recent Adopters & Adoptees!

*Rochelle, to Thea Harding*

*Sabrina, to Nilda Nystrom*

*Duncan, to Elissa Lash*

*Oreo and Nadia, to Alice Layne*

*Jacques & Marie, to Julia Mitreviski*

*Harry, to Selina Law*

*Jenny, to Ted and Helen Dickes*



**Fausto, to William Vanderhorst**

*Mister Beans to Dennilee Brown*

*Becky, to Stacy Semler*

*Pignoli, to Sandy Berkowitz*

*Mia, to Carla Walsh*

*Rhonda, to Bob Logan*

*Joseph, to Anne Woolsey*

*Judy Blue, to Debbie Jackson*

*Lewis & Jessica, to Debra Velez*

*Nora, to Brad and Christine Ford*

*Monty, to Mary Schultz*

*Artemis, to Amy Stackpole*

*Dusty, to Amy Sedaris*

*Noella & Warren, to Paula Steinert*

*Marty and Stevie, to Susan Stein*

*Lucy, to Rachel Carter-White*

*Eleanor, to Greg Feigelson &*

*Abby Wolf*

*George, to Laura George*

*Chester, to Lorraine Benson*

*Ken & Barbie, to Laura Simpson*

*Osbourne, to Lauren Spooner*



**Jake, to Cheryl Kossin**

*Mick, to Teresa & Bill Stasi*

*Niko, to Lisa Lynch*

*Bea, to Linda Levine*

*(Swimming, cont'd)*

of hydrotherapy and acupuncture. Dr. DiNatale explained how the two therapies work together, "Acupuncture helps improve neurological function and enhances circulation. It helps relax the muscles and decrease pain. The hydrotherapy helps to increase flexibility, improve muscle strength and improve circulation." She added, "Biggles is an unusually docile rabbit. It is also unusual that he maintains his temperature during swimming."

Dr. Holder, as well, was very pleased with Biggles' recovery. "I was skeptical about the hydrotherapy," she said, "because of Biggles' condition—his subluxated lumbar area. Any further trauma to this area could have been devastating. But Biggles has done magnificently and I believe it has helped him immensely."

During one of Tom Nowicki's rare, quiet moments at HipDog, I had a chance to ask him why he even considered taking on a rabbit, once he knew all the potential problems that lay ahead. He responded, without hesitation, "Biggles needed us." Tom also felt that rabbit hydrotherapy would provide new and challenging learning opportunities for



Biggles, in session with Tom and Barbara.

HipDog. "I'd heard rumors that other hydrotherapy facilities had worked with rabbits and cats, so it wasn't so far fetched an idea. I had only two reservations: would this be feasible? would it do any good?" His concerns were allayed by Sheila Wells, at Wellsprings, who generously shared her rabbit experience with him. "Speaking with Sheila resolved my doubts," he said. "I felt very at ease with the idea of keeping Biggles in the warm water for as long as possible. The longer he could tolerate it, the better it would be for his body."

Today, Biggles continues his hydrotherapy sessions as needed, and gets acupuncture treatments every three months. He has taught us all that rabbits, like dogs, cats, and other

species, can benefit tremendously not only from traditional veterinary medicine, but from complementary therapies as well. My heart sings when I look at my little bunny-boy and see him happy and active once again. For Biggles Rainey, everything is now going swimmingly!

*Author's note:*

*The idea of taking Biggles to hydrotherapy was born out of my desperate desire to help him get better. I wanted to share his story because his case might help other rabbits. I also want to express my profound gratitude and joy to Tom and Kristina of HipDog, for having the courage and compassion to help an animal others may have looked upon as unworthy of their time and energy.*

Kristina Latimer, Tom Nowicki  
HipDog  
www.hipdog.net

Kerry Jackson, DVM, MS  
East Orlando Animal Hospital  
Orlando, FL  
407-277-3497, www.eoah.com

Connie DiNatale, DVM  
Veterinary Acupuncture and Complementary Therapy,  
Winter Park, FL,  
407-644-0080

Erin Holder, DVM  
Union Park Animal Hospital  
Orlando, FL  
407-273-6010

Sheila Wells  
Wellsprings Dog Massage and Swim Spa  
www.wellspringsk9.com

---

*(Prospect, cont'd)*

could think about was Henry. So back I went for a second visit.

This time, I planted a kiss right on Henry's nose. Then another. And another. I knew I already loved Henry. But would he love me?

Fast forward through adoption papers, a trip to the market for fresh greens, and a long ride home. When we arrived, Henry hopped right into his puppy pen and, after a few exploratory sniffs, plopped down in his Super-man position, as if he knew he belonged.

Very shortly, Henry started training me. First he taught me to provide him with feet for him to sit on. I'd do the laundry, Henry would sit on my feet. I'd brush my teeth, Henry would sit on my feet. I'd visit the bathroom, and, yes, Henry would sit on my feet. Soon I realized that this would be a toasty-warm winter, with my feet constantly wrapped in rabbit fur!

Next Henry trained me to provide space for him in my bed. I learned to contort myself to accommodate his body safely in the center of the bed. From this (cont'd p.7)

(Osbourne, cont'd)

opposed to enucleation were big considerations. And, of course, the ever-unflappable Osbourne was able to keep his dashing good looks.



Author's note: Within a few months of his surgery, Oz was adopted by Lauren Spooner, in whose loving home he lives happily with new galpal Greta.

(Prospect, cont'd)

position, he likes to telescope up on his hind legs for a look around in the middle of the night, like a fat prairie dog in the moonlight. And now it's Henry who awakens me each day with a furry nuzzle — at 5:30 a.m., right before the alarm goes off. (I am still looking for his snooze button for the weekends!)

Finally, Henry has trained me to be sensitive to his creature comforts. He negotiated for an air conditioner and won. He dines on kale and dill salad. He has claimed our whole upstairs as his exercise area.

Henry has come a long way from Prospect Park — even though it's quite close by. These days, he greets me joyfully whenever I come into his room, and hums and buzzes with pleasure as he does figure eights around my feet. I think it's his way of telling me that he has definitely decided to keep me.

## Please support our rescue work — Join House Rabbit Society or renew your membership

### 1) LOCAL MEMBERSHIP:

Membership in NYC HRS: \$18 per year—includes NYC newsletter. Mail your check (*made out to Rabbit Rescue & Rehab*), along with form below, to Cindy Stutts (see below)

### 2) NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:

Membership in national HRS: \$18 per year—includes quarterly House Rabbit Journal. Mail your check (*made out to House Rabbit Society*), along with form below, to Cindy Stutts

### 3) COMBINED MEMBERSHIP:

If you join national HRS and NYC HRS simultaneously, you pay only \$15 for each. To join both, please send *two separate checks*, in one envelope as follows:

- One check made out to Rabbit Rescue & Rehab for \$15
- One check made out to House Rabbit Society for \$15

Mail *both checks in one envelope*, along with the following form, to  
Cindy Stutts 1199 Park Ave. Suite 14D, New York, NY, 10128

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (HOME, WORK) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please check whichever applies:

I am sending a single check (\$18) made out to “Rabbit Rescue & Rehab” for local membership.

I am sending a single check (\$18) made out to “House Rabbit Society” for national membership.

I am sending two checks, in one envelope, for combined membership: one (\$15) made out to “Rabbit Rescue & Rehab” and one (\$15) made out to “House Rabbit Society.”

## Can't adopt right now? You can still help a bunny!

Send your donation check (made out to Rabbit Rescue & Rehab) to Cindy Stutts  
1199 Park Ave. Suite 14D, New York, NY, 10128

### Your donations are used for:

- spaying and neutering all rescued rabbits
- providing veterinary care for needy rabbits
- food (including fresh vegetables) for foster rabbits
- hay for foster rabbits
- cages and cage supplies
- puppy exercise pens
- food and water bowls
- commercial garbage bags
- towels
- toys,
- carrying cases
- litterboxes
- carpet strips
- washable cotton rugs
- synthetic sheepskin
- pill crushers
- feeding syringes, etc.
- prescription (and other) drugs and subcutaneous fluids for foster rabbits
- creating and distributing educational materials

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab is a not-for-profit corporation in N.Y. State. Donations to Rabbit Rescue & Rehab are tax-deductible.

## Recommended Veterinarians in the NYC-Metro Area

Please note: Many clinics have multiple veterinarians, and our recommendations are for specific vets in those clinics. If you cannot get an appointment with a recommended vet at one clinic, do not assume (no matter what you are told by the receptionist!) that other vets in the same clinic are equally knowledgeable or experienced with rabbits. Please also note that changes, additions, and deletions to this list between newsletters will be posted on our website: [www.rabbitcare.org](http://www.rabbitcare.org). If you have any questions about any of the vets or clinics 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 NYC HRS.

### WESTCHESTER COUNTY:

Gil Stanzione, DVM  
381 Dobbs Ferry Rd.  
White Plains NY, (914) 421-0020

John Pisciotta, DVM  
Rye Harrison Veterinary Clinic  
Rye, NY, (914) 921-2000

Kathy Quesenberry, DVM (2 days per week; schedule variable), Laurie Hess, DVM (2-3 days per week; schedule variable)  
Katonah Bedford Vet. Center  
546 North Bedford Rd.  
Bedford Hills, NY, (914) 241-7700

### LONG ISLAND:

Jennifer Saver, DVM  
(and Laura George, DVM, part-time)  
Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital  
2221 Hillside Ave.  
New Hyde Park, NY,  
(516) 877-7080

Heidi Hoefler, DVM  
West Hills Animal Hospital  
800 West Jericho Turnpike,  
Huntington, NY,  
(631) 351-6116

Brian Rose, DVM  
Jeff Rose, DVM  
Jefferson Animal Hospital  
606 Patchogue Road (Rte 112)  
Port Jefferson Station, NY,  
(631) 473-0415

### NYC:

Becky Campbell, DVM  
Symphony Veterinary Center  
698 Amsterdam Avenue  
(between 93rd & 94th St.),  
(212) 866-8000

***What if my rabbit has an emergency and my vet's office is closed?*** We continue to receive disturbing phone calls from members who have taken their rabbits to after-hours emergency clinics where the veterinarians in attendance were not knowledgeable or skilled in rabbit medicine. If your vet does not handle his/her own after-hours emergencies, and you cannot find another rabbit-savvy vet, please call Mary Cotter ([mec@cloud9.net](mailto:mec@cloud9.net)) at 914-337-6146, or contact your nearest RRR/HRS representative (see list at bottom of this page) for help in finding a vet who can treat your rabbit.

### *NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS* Fall 2003

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

Editor: Mary E. Cotter  
Art Director: Mary Ann Maier

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation in New York State. Our purpose is to rescue, rehabilitate, and find permanent homes for abandoned, abused, and neglected rabbits, and to educate members of the general public on rabbit care through publications, telephone consultations, home visits, and public presentations.

This newsletter is published by RRR/NYC HRS, which is solely responsible for its content. Letters, photographs, and other submissions to the newsletter become the property of the NYC Chapter and cannot be returned. We retain the right to edit submissions for publications.

### NYC HRS REPRESENTATIVES

Mary Cotter, Chapter Manager,  
[mec@cloud9.net](mailto:mec@cloud9.net),  
(914) 337-6146

Cindy Stutts, Educator  
[bygolyoly@att.net](mailto:bygolyoly@att.net)  
(212) 831-7107

Mary Ann Maier, Educator,  
[altitude8@yahoo.com](mailto:altitude8@yahoo.com)  
(516) 671-6654

Jennifer Saver, DVM, Educator

Laura George, DVM, Educator

## NYC HRS Nail-Cutting/Handling Video – more rave reviews:



*“I just wanted to say I got my nail cutting and handling video from New York House Rabbit Society; tried it last night and it worked!! We trimmed our two buns’ nails last night...no fuss!!! My husband put Maddy up on the table and I left the room for a minute, when I came right back, he was done with her nails – and she is our hardest one to do!!”*

– Sarah Anderson

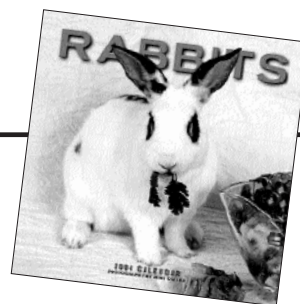
*“Check out the New York City HRS web site for an excellent video which shows an amazing, much less stressful and much better way to handle and trim nails. I’ve actually had rabbits flop down and relax when I’m trimming their nails using this technique.”*

– Kirk Lewis

*“Check out the nail-cutting video ([www.rabbitcare.org](http://www.rabbitcare.org)). The technique shown for picking up rabbits is terrific. Using the method shown, I can pick up any rabbit, even those who are scared and aggressive. I work at a shelter, and this video is a godsend.”*

– Kathy Spalding

To order, make out your check to “Rabbit Rescue & Rehab” and mail it to: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab  
56 West Pondfield Rd. Suite 5C, Bronxville, NY 10708  
The video is \$20 and priority postage is \$3.85 (total \$23.85).  
Please write “Nail Video” somewhere on check.



## “RABBITS 2004” CALENDARS ARE IN!

Photographed by the NYC HRS chapter manager Mary Cotter, all rabbits featured in this calendar are rescued rabbits. Calendars can be purchased through the link on our website: [www.rabbitcare.org](http://www.rabbitcare.org) or picked up from Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital or from Mary Cotter ([mec@cloud9.net](mailto:mec@cloud9.net)).