

THUMP

NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS AUGUST 2010

July 3: One Day, Seven Adoptions In Manhattan

By Lisa Carley and Susan Lillo

Saturday, July 3, was a record-setting day for Rabbit Rescue & Rehab in Manhattan. It was the best-ever adoption day for the group, bringing together adopters, potential partner buns, eager shelter rabbits and volunteers. At the end of this amazing, exhausting and magical afternoon, SEVEN rabbits had found new families.

The day actually started out with high hopes because a large number of adopters had arranged to be at the shelter that afternoon. With a significant number of potential adopters slated to show up, Marcie Frishberg, Cathe Rekis, Cindy Stutts and Maddy DeLeon also rounded up rabbits from the two Manhattan Petcos, so that everybun would have a chance to find a good home.

Cindy, Marcie and Genevieve Hannon were up early, making calls to organize the logistics for the day. With so many adoption possibilities on one day, every available adoptable rabbit had to be in attendance at AC&C.

Meanwhile, volunteers continued to staff the Petcos, to make sure that any interested people would be instructed to head up to the shelter. Cathe had a particularly hectic afternoon, bringing vegetables from the farmers market to

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Photo: Jeremy Poller



Photo: Joanne Ung

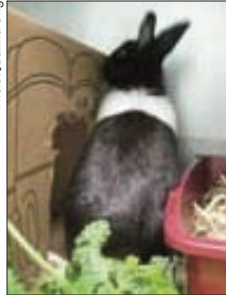


Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



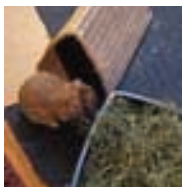
Among the rabbits who were adopted on July 3 were Hermione, Connor and Nicolas.

Long Island Volunteer Teams Defy Wasps, Poison Ivy, Brutal Heat

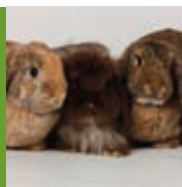
Photo: Mary Ann Water



Fort Totten Park, Queens rescue: Long Island volunteer Nancy Schreiber herds "Totten," a brown Dutch, through dense thicket toward a pen. **Page 3**



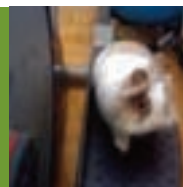
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Seven Adoptions

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the shelter; helping transport bunnies to the shelter from the Union Square Petco; staying to clean a few cages, and then taking rabbits back down to Union Square, where she stayed for the remainder of the day.

The day was crazy with people and even one dog, all lined up to meet the assembled bunnies. As adopters showed up, they were interviewed so that Cindy could choose appropriate rabbits for them to meet. Volunteers Lisa Carley and Lindsay Oliver also helped orchestrate the marathon adoption and bonding session, which rivaled a major sporting event in its excitement and bunny starpower. Everyone needed extra adrenaline and stamina to get through the afternoon.

Marcie did nail-clipping and temperature-taking, and showed the adopters the correct way to pick up and hold their bunnies. Adopters knew that they would be able to contact volunteers by phone or email with any additional questions.

What made it all the more impressive was that this huge number of adoptions took place on a sweltering Saturday on a holiday weekend, when most New Yorkers were either at the beach or at home in their air-conditioned apartments watching the World Cup quarterfinals. All of the adopters who ventured up to East 110th Street persevered throughout the afternoon, showing their determination to adopt a rescued rabbit.

There was no better way to spend a hot summer holiday weekend than to watch this frenzied adoption phenomenon gain momentum. There were the initial bunny sniffs, thumps, licks, jumps... ..followed by adopters' nods of approval and smiles, laughter and kisses.

The first guy out the door was Nicolas; he went home with Emma's new family. Everyone was ecstatic for him. As background, rabbits Emma and Nicolas are the parents of adorable babies, Darcy and Grayson. Emma, the mom, had been adopted by two sisters from Staten Island a couple of weeks earlier as a partner for Mordecai, their recently single male. The sisters originally



Photo: Sari Krieger



Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



wanted two rabbits but figured it might be easier to introduce one at a time. They had taken Emma home a few hours before Nicolas showed up at AC&C. On Saturday, they came back for Nicolas, reuniting the two rabbits. Appropriately altered, Emma and Nicolas can now rekindle their friendship without fear of overpopulating their new home.

Meanwhile, Lucky Lady and Giselle both went home with lovely families.

Lucky Lady is now the proud owner of Timothy and Terese, as well as their mother, Ana. With their dad, they had been frequent visitors to the Upper East Side Petco, where the family learned all about house rabbits. By the following Monday, after adopting Lucky Lady, Ana and Timothy were back at Petco, chatting with volunteer Helen Chen. Helen reported that Lucky Lady would be renamed Snowball. "Lucky Lady is very lucky indeed," Helen said, referring to Lucky Lady's rescue from a Brooklyn park in May (see her story in the June Thump newsletter at www.rabbitcare.org). "Ana is very thoughtful and gentle. She has that ability to get into the mindset of a rabbit and she's using it to make the best home for Lucky Lady. Her whole family adores the bun – not just her kids."

After constantly being first runner-up in the bonding sweepstakes, Giselle won the love of a teenage girl, and went happily home with her new family as well.

In the speed-dating corner, Clark, Aaron and Hermione made love matches with

Clockwise from top left, Lucky Lady at AC&C; Clark (now Franklin), right, with his new partner, Aurora; Giselle; Aaron.

other bunnies; Connor, with a dog. And a young woman with a Yorkie and dachshund seemed like she might be a good human for Reba, or at least that was the hope. (update: Reba ended up being adopted on July 18 by a great family. See the letters section.)

So July 3 turned out to be a wonderful day to be a rescued bunny in the sizzling Big Apple. Never before had this many rabbits been adopted in one day in New York. The successes of this particular day, in this heat and on the day before the Fourth of July holiday, were all the more amazing. By evening, the volunteers were exhausted but exhilarated. It was an important milestone that will inspire volunteers for weeks to come, as they attempt to set yet a new record.

"It was a banner day," Cindy said. When people ask me why I do this, well, today is the reason!"

No Summer Vacation for Long Island Rabbit Rescuers

Photo: Mary Ann Maier



Totten safe at last in car with Nancy Schreiber.

By Mary Ann Maier
And Nancy Schreiber

Ah, summertime on Long Island. Beaches and boating, the Gold Coast and the Hamptons. But under this veneer of carefree fun lies Long Island's shameful secret. Long Island is a dumping ground for pet rabbits.

Every month, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group fields about 150 calls and emails from people looking to surrender their pet rabbits or from people who have found pet rabbits on the street. This statistic would be startling even if it weren't compounded by the fact that most of the shelters on Long Island simply don't take rabbits.

We've received reports from almost every park, apartment complex, golf course and cemetery on Long Island and in Brooklyn and Queens. There are abandoned domestic rabbits this minute in Hempstead Lake State Park, St. John's Cemetery, Eisenhower Park, Bethpage, you name it. Think about it: 7.5 million people live on Long Island. Rabbits are sold in over 50 Petland Discounts stores, in garden centers, malls in Nassau County, feed stores in Suffolk County, and by breeders. Hundreds of places are selling them; very few people are rescuing them.

Because only municipal shelters will take rabbits, and those shelters are "kill"

shelters (more on that distinction in a bit), much of the rescue work we do on Long Island is out in the field. We drive all over Nassau, Suffolk, Queens and Brooklyn to catch rabbits, set up foster rabbits in people's homes, and advise on husbandry, bonding and behavioral problems. Even on the hottest days, we traipse through wasps' nests, thorn bushes, tick-infested grasses and poison ivy. We climb fences and squeeze under porches and cars. We trespass when we have to.

We put hundreds of miles on our cars hauling cages, crates, traps, nets, pens, food and hay for roundups. We have to arrange vet visits – sometimes emergency ones; we have to arrange (and fund!) every single spay and neuter.

The municipal shelters often have no choice but to operate as "kill shelters," but this is an unfair label. Common sense, and the laws of physics, dictate that an infinite number of animals cannot be sheltered in a finite amount of space. Animals are put down to make room for more animals. And indeed, shelters that boast that they are "no kill," routinely reject aggressive dogs, feral cats and, almost always, all rabbits.

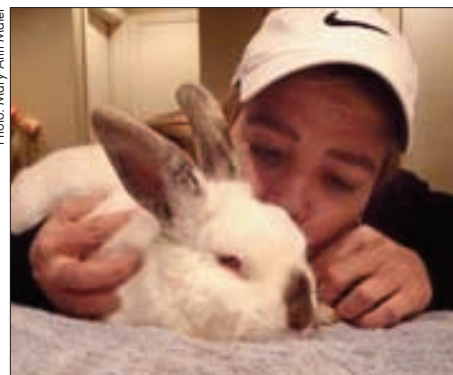
So make no mistake: though we ourselves are "no-kill," Long Island rabbits do die on the streets when we are unable to rescue them for lack of foster or permanent homes for them.

Occasionally, shelters on Long Island will accept rabbits, but almost all of those shelters adopt out with minimal screening, no fee, and no spaying or neutering. A couple of years ago, a shelter adopted out three rabbits to a kind woman who felt sorry for them. The rabbits were unneutered and unsexed. Natch, the female was pregnant and had 13 babies. The woman called us for help and we brought her cages and food and volunteers to assist with cleaning and socializing, and we brought the rabbits into our rescue over the months, as our foster spaces allowed. This was merely one case, caused by, ironically, a (careless/overworked/

indifferent – you fill in the adjective) animal shelter, and it took us two years to find homes for all those rabbits. Two whole years.

Much of Long Island is a contrast of the affluent and the agrarian. We get calls from folks who purchased a rabbit for their kids, but who now want to be rid of the rabbit because they are getting a new [puppy/baby/leather sofa] and hope to "donate" their pet to us. Others have become bored with their bunny, like the lawyer who wanted to give away her 13-year-old rabbit now that her kids were away at college (she planned to tell them the bunny died).

Photo: Mary Ann Maier



Snowball, abandoned near a school in Uniondale, with his rescuer and adopter, Nancy Sullivan.

Many people still keep rabbits in outdoor hutches. One Suffolk family didn't even know that one of their two rabbits was dead and frozen solid in the hutch; she was still out in the hutch with the live rabbit when a contractor who was working on the property noticed, and called the SPCA, who called us. Endless cases involve people who move and leave their rabbits behind in hutches – and dicey "adopters," like the man who called and wanted an outdoor rabbit because his former rabbit died of flystrike. (Flystrike is a deadly maggot infestation occurring when a fly lays eggs on a rabbit's hind-quarters. It primarily affects rabbits who are kept – you guessed it – outdoors.)

These are some recent Long Island cases we are working on. I can't make this stuff up:

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No Summer Vacation

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Huntington

In June we responded to a call from a Huntington woman whose neighbor let a group of rabbits loose. Since the caller agreed to foster a rabbit, we were able to go catch him. When volunteers Carlina Jarmel and Renee Fischer drove “Eric” back to his foster home after his neuter, they were horrified to find even more rabbits on the street.

They tried to talk with the rabbits’ owner, who had released them to the street. She was resistant to any advice. The bunnies were outside, living in and out of the owner’s garage. Carlina and Renee had seen enough. They scooped up the other rabbits and got them into the car. Making matters worse, the fosterer’s home proved to be unsuitable. The volunteers’ trip, intended to deliver a bun into foster care, ended up adding four needy rabbits to our own already-full foster homes. Eric found a wonderful home with a family in Merrick, who, unbelievably, found another stray bunny and rescued her the day after they adopted Eric! Lois, Catherine and Clyde are still awaiting loving homes.

West Babylon

In June, one of our foster moms in West Babylon found a very lethargic bunny on the street, lying next to the curb. Concerned about her condition, and fearing she was pregnant, Laura Bonavia brought the bunny to Mary Ann Maier, who at first thought the rabbit was injured or even paralyzed. Luckily, the rabbit was merely dehydrated and obese. Miraculously, her owners surfaced and were missing her. So they came to fetch “Emily” from Mary Ann, who sent them home with information and advice. This included info on the dangers of the outdoors, diet guidelines and a vet recommendation for spay.

A few weeks later, Emily’s family found a lionhead rabbit in their backyard! Carlina Jarmel brought them a cage, supplies and food. They are either fostering or possibly keeping the new foundling.

Photos: Donna Sheridan



Bert, top, and Logan, the bunnies who spent the last year and a half in small cages kept in a truck-repair shop, are amazingly people-friendly and lovable. They hope to be adopted soon so they can catch up on playing and binkying in homes of their own.

Wyandanch

In mid-July, Nancy Schreiber received a call from Bonnie, an employee of a Wyandanch truck-repair company, where two bunnies had been for the past year. A former employee had abandoned them there.

We felt bad about them since they had no play time, were exposed to fumes and loud noises all day, and were simply being fed and watered. Plus, with the heat wave in full swing, we felt we had to take them into rescue. Logan and Bert are friendly, beautiful and healthy and are available for adoption. They are not bonded, so may be adopted out separately.

Brentwood

On July 19 we received a call from a woman, Allison, who spotted a domestic bunny in her backyard. Sadly, because of the overpopulation of unwanted pet rabbits, we couldn’t go out to catch him, since Allison couldn’t foster.

Two days later, Allison called again and reported she had found the bunny lying down under a bush and that he couldn’t move. Rescue volunteer Carlina Jarmel asked her to bring him to her home, to receive pain medication and await a visit to a vet.

X-rays showed no broken legs or back, so “Dandelion” was sent to Allison’s with Metacam. However, Allison’s in-laws would not allow him in their house, so back to Carlina’s he went. He was still paralyzed, yet alert, and eating and drinking, so a course of steroids was started. After a few days, though, Carlina noted that he seemed to be in pain, despite the medications, so she made the loving decision to have him euthanized.

Coram

During one of the brutal heat waves in July, Nancy Schreiber received a call from a woman who found five stray rabbits in a park in a housing complex in Coram. The woman’s seven-year-old daughter told her that she had found a Tupperware container the previous day. The container was closed, and the child could see that there were live animals inside, so she opened it up to let them out.

When the woman heard this, she went back to the park, and found five rabbits in the playground: an adult, assumed to be the mother, and four babies. She was able to capture all of them without difficulty. She then called Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group.

Nancy arranged for an overnight foster with Lisa Signorelli, one of our volunteers who lives in Suffolk County. The buns appeared to be okay despite their ordeal, except for one who was visibly shaking and not eating. The next day, Lisa brought them to Dr. Hoefler to be sexed and examined. It turned out there was an adult male and four juveniles – three females and one male. All of the buns were okay, including the one who wasn’t eating the day before. The males and females were separated and taken into two foster homes.

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Not Quite an Obsession, but Darn Close: HAY

My first bunny didn't get much hay. I gave him lots of alfalfa, at a time when I didn't know that a healthy adult rabbit required large amounts of grass hay daily. My neighborhood pet store did stock hay, but it was brown and musty, and the bags of green alfalfa looked so much more appetizing. Now I know better. For an adult rabbit, large, unlimited quantities of grass hay are a necessity. Rabbit litter boxes should be comfortably large, providing lots of fresh hay for a rabbit to enjoy at all times. New York pet stores currently stock many varieties of good hay; Petco, for example, carries fragrant bags of Timothy with mint leaves.

However, the quest for hay remains a preoccupation for me and other rabbit lovers. Knowing that hay is a key to good health for our rabbits, we are always asking other adopters and volunteers, "Where do you get your hay? What hay do your bunnies crave?"

I asked some of our volunteers to describe the hays that their rabbits like. Here then, are some suggestions for making your bunny binky blissfully with delight. Mangia!

—Susan Lillo

Belvedere's Choices

Belvedere gets a little spoiled when it comes to hay since my boyfriend and I are both allergic to Timothy hay. We mix together a bit of Timothy hay with orchard grass from Sweet Meadow Farms. It comes in longer pieces than what you can find in a Petco and he digs right in. His favorite "treat" hay is the orchard grass from Petco, though. It is definitely sweeter than what he normally gets.

—Melissa Schroyer

Clover for Chloe

I order my hay from Sweet Meadow Farms. They offer bulk packages of most of their hay. They deliver shipments in nicely packed cardboard boxes and they arrive pretty quickly, within four days. Chloe loves the random clover flowers

in the hay, and since we started getting it she eats about twice as much hay as before. (I get her Timothy and then I get a couple of bags of Meadow Grass as a treat.)

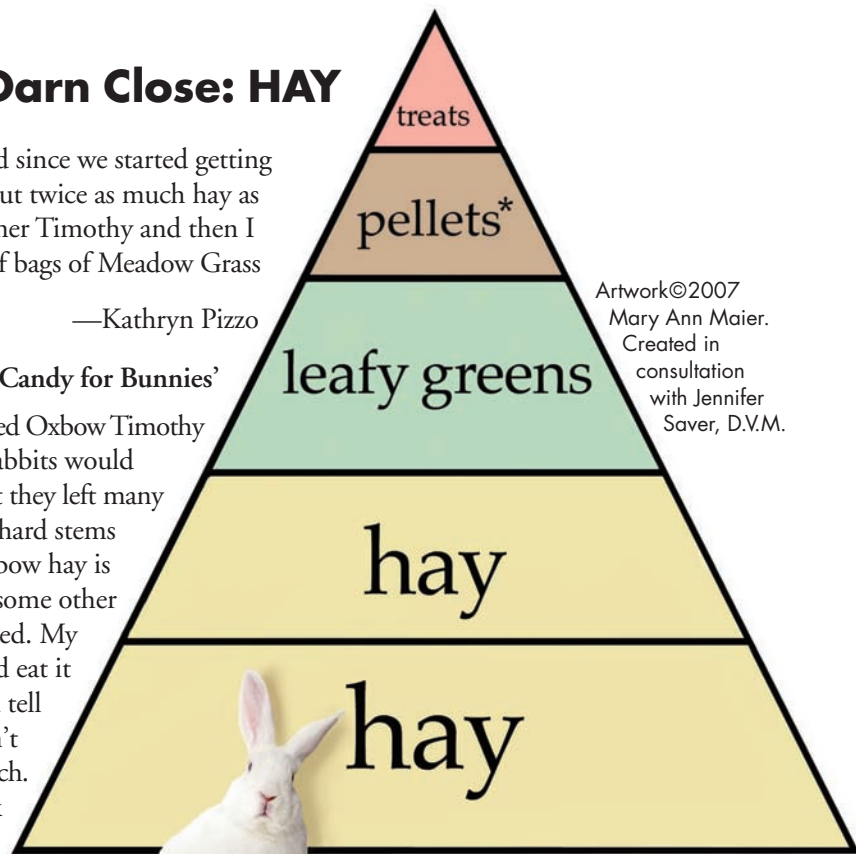
—Kathryn Pizzo

'Like Cotton Candy for Bunnies'

I have purchased Oxbow Timothy hay and my rabbits would chew on it but they left many little uneaten hard stems and ends. Oxbow hay is heartier than some other brands I've tried. My bunnies would eat it but you could tell that they didn't like it very much. That is a stark contrast to

Kleenmama's 3rd-cut Timothy hay. Kleenmama's 3rd-cut Timothy hay is an appetizing bright green color and smells as fresh as newly cut grass. The texture is soft and fluffy like cotton candy for bunnies, and mine ate it up. My bunnies were eating baskets full of hay daily, finishing off every last bit of it. Sweet Meadow Farm's 2nd-cut Timothy hay is as advertised – it smells just like a spring meadow. The hay has some dried flower buds and stems and bits of red clover mixed in, enticing bunnies with its sweet aroma. My rabbits really enjoyed this sweet variety of Timothy as well.

On occasion my bunnies also get orchard grass from Oxbow and Kleenmama. Oxbow's orchard grass is a welcome change from Timothy for the bunnies, but my crew really love Kleenmama's orchard grass, a brand of hay Kleenmama calls "bluegrass." It is so called because of its deep, rich color. So far, every shipment of bluegrass I've received has not disappointed. Each piece of bluegrass is long and chewy for a rabbit to gnash on happily. I switched to bluegrass when



Rabbit Food Pyramid

my springtime allergies kicked in. Orchard grass, especially Kleenmama's clean, dust-free bluegrass variety, irritates my allergies significantly less than Timothy. Both my bunnies and I are huge fans of Kleenmama's bluegrass. While my rabbits eat more Kleenmama's 3rd-cut Timothy hay than any other type, I supplement bluegrass to give their teeth something harder to chew on as well for dental health.

—Helen Chen

Stocking Up on 2nd-Cut Hay

When I started, I used to buy hay from local stores, but then soon found Farmer-Dave's on eBay. I have been using his stuff for a good four years. At first I only used 1st-cut hay, but the rabbits were 'eh' with it. So I tried 2nd-cut hay and they loved it far more, especially hay with clover. So I used to get both – the

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HAY

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1st cut for litter layering, and 2nd cut for adding on top every day. FarmerDave's was really convenient and they ship it to your door; it usually would cost about \$40 total with shipping for 25 pounds of hay. I suspect it's a little bit more than a bale. But sometimes they didn't have the 2nd cut, or had it only in smaller sizes. And eventually they weren't offering the clover in the hay. So this year I started to drive out to Long Island to get 2nd-cut hay directly from Agway, where for \$40 I can get three bales. My rabbits love it just fine.

—Will Leung

Hay Connoisseurs

My two guys (Filli and Irving) are real hay connoisseurs. I've tried many kinds with them, and their favorites are Timothy Gold from American Pet Diner and FarmerDave's 2nd Cut with Clover. I also give them FarmerDave 1st Cut regularly because it's especially high in fiber.

FarmerDave is a good source because the hay arrives quickly—usually within a couple of days. I usually have to wait about 10 days for American Pet Diner hay, which is difficult if I'm running low and haven't ordered in time ... I think Irving is actually addicted to it! ;-)

FarmerDave isn't offering the 2nd Cut with Clover right now, because the latest crop didn't come out well. He says it should be available again in September. My guys just adore the dried clover stems and blossoms. I wish I could find a place where you could just buy those!

I've also tried Oxbow Timothy and Sweet Meadow Timothy – they weren't as popular as the APD hay.

Finally, I used to give them orchard grass till I realized I was allergic to it.

—Kirsten Ott



Photo: Will Leung



Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Photo: Helen Chen

Pickles, left, and Filli, middle, inspect their hay. Penny, right, wears hay as a hat....

How to Stretch the Hay Budget

My guys are hopelessly addicted to American Pet Diner's Timothy Gold (2nd-cutting Timothy) hay. This is a little bit of a problem because it's quite expensive, but I've never found another hay they will eat as much of. I take the sting out of the price a little bit by also buying FarmerDave's "bedding hay," which is quite inexpensive, using it as the bottom layer in the litter boxes and topping them off with the APD. This stretches the hay budget a bit. I used to do the same thing with wheat straw – which did an even better job and was cheaper still – back when Oxbow used to sell it. You could probably do the same with inexpensive baled hay if you have a source.

—Amy Odum

Yummy Organic Hay

There have been good early reviews for Organic Hay Co.'s product, which is a sun-cured mix of Timothy and meadow grasses with clover. The hay is 100% USDA-certified organic, pesticide- and GMO-free, and it's grown in Upstate New York. A portion of the proceeds will help build and sustain a barn for rescued rabbits at Coming Home Animal Sanctuary. <http://www.organichayco.com>.

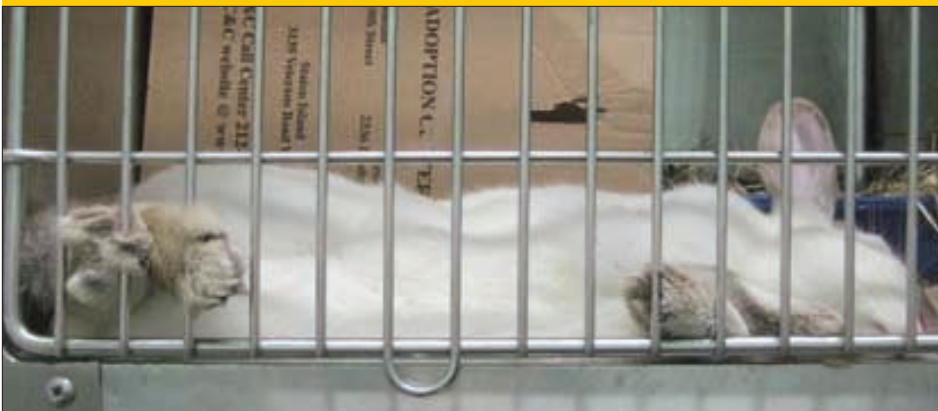
—Jane O'Wyatt

Distinctive Preferences

Each of my bunnies has his or her own distinct hay preferences. Thus, all of my bunnies get their favorite hays as staples, but I will often try other varieties of hay from different areas of the country to add interest for them. Mopsy and Robin always must have Sweet Meadow Farms Timothy hay (www.sweetmeadowfarm.com). They are happy with either the organic Timothy with herbs or the classic Timothy varieties. These are both soft and fragrant varieties of 2nd-cut Timothy hay. Goldie and Queenie prefer a mix of a variety of hays, so I hand-mix several types of hay for them. They always have a fairly equal mix of FarmerDave 1st-cut Timothy (www.farmerdave.biz) and Kleenmama's 3rd-cut Timothy (www.kmshayloft.com) with a smaller amount of the oat blend hay from Bunnyluv (www.bunnyluv.com). Then I also add a 2nd-cut Timothy hay to their mix from Sweet Meadow Farms or some other source. I frequently sprinkle a hay topper over the hay consisting of a mix of the following organic herbs and flowers I have ordered from Kleenmama's: dandelion root, burdock root, rose petals, rose buds, white willow bark shreds, chamomile, and red clover blossoms.

Also, as a side note, I prepared a chart for my own interest in February, comparing costs of ordering various hays with shipping to New York City. I found that it is important to remember when you look at the price of a specific hay, the quoted price is meaningless until you consider the shipping cost.

—Natalie Reeves



Foster Homes Needed

Temporary help desperately needed in Manhattan!

Not quite ready to adopt yet?

How about fostering?

If you can open your home to a bunny on a temporary basis (1-3 months), please call Cindy Stutts at 646 319-4766 or email her at bygolyoly@yahoo.com.



SAVE THE DATE

RABBIT RESCUE & REHAB'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SUNDAY,
OCT. 24

RADISSON
HOTEL

NEW
ROCHELLE,
NY



At their reunion, from left, are Goldie, Robin, Queenie, MJ, Tadpole and Mopsy.

Some Family Reunions May Make You Cringe, But How Can You Lose With Six Flopping Lops?

By Natalie L. Reeves

In the spring of 2007, five lop angels were born at New York's Animal Care & Control to parents Mocha Jane (MJ) and Thaddeus Joseph (Tadpole), a loving couple whose story was told in the February Thump.

MJ and Tadpole's babies were born shortly before I adopted my first rabbit, who I named Mopsy McGillicuddy. She was a black fuzzy lop, left at the shelter without information about her age, name or background. When I leaned into her cage at the shelter, she put her tiny paws on my shoulder and kissed my cheek. (Mopsy hasn't kissed me since.)

Soon after, I watched a local news program featuring Rabbit Rescue & Rehab volunteers Cindy Stutts and Loraine Kopf, who appeared with three of MJ's babies. Loraine was fostering the lop babies, Robin, Goldie and Queenie. After seeing those long-haired beauties on TV, I fell in love with them. Had I not just adopted Mopsy, I would have adopted all three bunnies, but I never thought seriously about that. There was no way I could have four bunnies in my apartment. That would be crazy.

Although I knew I couldn't adopt the trio, I chose to torture myself by going to meet them at an adoption event in Central Park. They were cute on TV, but in person, they were unforgettable. I tacked their pictures onto my bulletin board.

I heard that Robin, Goldie and Queenie were going to be broken up because an adopter of three rabbits couldn't be found. One bunny would be adopted as a partner bun; the other two would stay together.

Meanwhile, several volunteers said it would be good for Mopsy to have a friend. So in the fall of 2007, Mopsy had a series of dates at Loraine's apartment. Kerstin Aumann and Erin McElhinney were there to help with the bonding and brought foster bunnies for Mopsy to meet. After five speed-dates, Mopsy chose Robin, and he came home with us the same night.

I should clarify that by choosing Robin, Mopsy seemed moderately interested in him. At home, she made Robin's life difficult (although he certainly wasn't afraid to fight back). Sweet little Mopsy could transform herself into a raging monster. Meanwhile, the addition of Robin to our family crystallized my position as Mopsy's servant. I could continue to live in her world as long as I prepared her meals on a regular basis. But since Robin didn't bring her food, Mopsy treated him as a mere annoyance.

Mopsy's reign of terror over Robin made me relinquish my dream of adopting Robin's sisters and having a warren of four rabbits. That didn't mean I stopped loving Goldie and Queenie. Quite the contrary. I adored them, visited them at adoption events and even went to see

them when they were adopted by a new family. When Goldie and Queenie were adopted in early 2008, I was both happy they would have a forever home and heartbroken that the home wasn't mine.

In the meantime, Mopsy and Robin continued dating and after nine stressful months, they became a loving couple. All of the bruises I had suffered from walking into side-by-side exercise pens during bonding sessions were worth it.

Then, in early 2009, Goldie and Queenie's adopters told Rabbit Rescue & Rehab that they were moving overseas and needed to find a new home for the girls. I was trying to be analytical in deciding whether to adopt them, but in my heart they were already mine. On March 1, I brought Goldie and Queenie home. Because Mopsy is territorial and I didn't want to risk damaging Mopsy and Robin's bond, I haven't tried to bond Goldie and Queenie to Mopsy and Robin. My two pairs are in separate rooms.

It had been a dream to have Robin, Goldie and Queenie meet their parents, who were adopted by Erin McElhinney. Since neither Erin nor I have neutral space, I proposed a reunion at a Petco where a professional photographer was visiting and could thus capture pictures of the event. The reunion took place over the recent Memorial Day weekend.

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Reunion

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As soon as we had set a date, I decided my girls needed a few intensive lessons in good manners. I didn't make little Robin attend because he is my peacemaker. With Goldie and Queenie together and Mopsy on her own, I lectured over and over – honor your father and mother (or mother-in-law, in Mopsy's case): no nipping, scratching, growling, boxing or any other naughty behavior.

On Sunday, May 30, I carried my crew in two separate carriers to the Union Square Petco. I was excited, but nervous that one of the bunnies might show aggression. We met in a special room where the photographer had lighting equipment set up. Erin and I were immediately challenged because none of our bunnies wanted to sit still and pose. They were more interested in exploring the lighting equipment behind the photo backdrop.

I quickly realized that not including Robin in the etiquette classes had been a mistake as he somehow thought it was acceptable to hump his mother, father and sisters – all in front of his jealous girlfriend, Mopsy. Luckily, Robin's friskiness was the only incident and the bunnies were otherwise on their best behavior.

MJ and Tadpole seemed to love their children and vice-versa. The biggest surprise was the bonding between Mopsy and her mother-in-law, MJ. At one point, Mopsy briefly groomed MJ, which was shocking behavior for my tough little girl and her equally tough mother-in-law. MJ also gave personal attention to each of her children.

Erin and I had fun comparing the bunnies' appearances and personalities. MJ and Tadpole have short hair, but three of their children—the ones I adopted—have long hair.

After the bunnies exhausted themselves by exploring every corner of the room, they flopped all over each other with little feet sticking out in an image that will forever be ingrained in my memory. There may be no better experience in



life than being in a small room permeated with bunny joy. Can't wait until the next reunion!

And, as an aside, if you think you may have adopted one of the other two bunnies who were a part of this family, we would love to hear from you and see pictures of your bunny. The two other bunnies born to MJ and Tadpole (on April 4, 2007) had short hair; one was golden and one chocolate brown. At the time, shelter volunteers referred to them as Bronxie and Stat.



From top to bottom: a joyful reunion pileup; Robin, right, kisses his mom; MJ meets her daughter-in-law, Mopsy, right; Goldie, right, and her dad.

RESCUE & REHAB

An Evening at the Shelter



Manhattan volunteers take care of the rabbits at the Animal Care & Control shelter on East 110th Street as well as at two Petco locations. Volunteers visit on a daily basis, providing fresh greens, giving each rabbit some time to romp in a secure exercise pen, and checking for any problems. After each visit, the volunteer sends a group email, updating everyone.

Here is one email, sent at 11:14 p.m. on Tuesday, June 29, by Kirsten Ott,

who was at the shelter that night with Katelyn Belyus.

The email shows the work that volunteers do daily, and how observant each group member is. The information from one day's email is helpful not only to the volunteer who will be handling duties on the next day, but also to the rest of the group. Often members will weigh in with their opinion about a particular rabbit, or advice on how to handle a problem. Everyone ends up gaining additional expertise.

Tues. 6/29/10 at AC&C

Tonight's highlights:

Cindy took Ferdinand to CAEM. Turns out his "wound" is a cracked molar. They'll remove the molar and neuter him, so he was not at the shelter tonight.

We observed the new lop trio, and the male (Frankie) was being very aggressive toward the two females, constantly chasing the girls. It created a lot of stress in the pen. The bunnies all started circling/chasing each other. It was getting chaotic, so we decided to separate Frankie from the two girls, and he's now in a separate cage, and the girls are chilling together. The orange and white girl, Zuzia, looked pregnant to us. I know Jane has alerted Medical, and hopefully both girls will be spayed very soon.

The pair of lionhead boys also merits watching, in our opinion. Grayson appears to be the dominant bun and has started to exhibit a lot of aggression toward Darcy. We gave Darcy some out time by himself, since he seemed a bit stressed. We also wondered whether it was best to keep them together or separate them (either temporarily or permanently). Anyone have any thoughts on this? They're still together, for now.

Maybe this is normal for young siblings. *(Postscript: the boys were adopted as a pair and are doing fine together.)*

We treated Raoul's lip with Nolvasan and Healx. (Tomorrow's volunteers: the Nolvasan gauze pads are in the refrigerator.) The tech came while we were there to give him his pain medication and Pen G.

We washed Jessy's oil-soiled back with some dishwashing liquid and water. She is an amazing bunny, great personality.

We still couldn't find the nail clippers Katelyn donated a number of weeks back. Some of the buns need mani/pedi treatments, so some volunteers might want to bring clippers from home over the course of the next week to do some trimming.

Once again, there are some cats with ringworm in one of the smaller back cages.

So 15 rabbits total:

- Reba
- Giselle
- Aaron
- Grayson and Darcy
- Nicholas
- Nancy
- Jessica

Jessy – The prior posts have said F/S, but it doesn't say she's spayed on her cage card. Can we check this?

From top, Ferdinand, Tosia and Frankie, Zuzia, Darcy and Grayson, Jessy

(Continued on page 11)

Shelter

(Continued from page 10)

Connor
Raoul
Hermione
Frankie (by himself right now)
Tosia and Zuzia

Database is updated.

*Good night everyone!
Kirsten (and Katelyn)*

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Raoul

Email from Katelyn the Next Morning:

Just an fyi: In case the gauze with the Nolvasan is dried out, there are clean gauze squares in the medical box.

Note that Nolvasan is a brand name for "chlorhexidine diacetate." If you need to mix fresh chlorhexidine, there is a bottle labeled in the medical box. Use 1 part chlorhexidine to 10 parts water.

Be sure that the solution is room temp. to make comfortable for poor little Raoul!

gracias-
kb

ps. thanks to jane for once again saving me in the world of medical terminology :)

RESCUE & REHAB

Ashes in the Spotlight, Post-Amputation

By Genevieve Hannon

My little foster girl Ashes is at the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine (568 Columbus Ave.) as the window showcase rabbit. She is up for adoption.

Ashes is an amazing bun. She came to us with a compound fracture in her left hind leg, necessitating an amputation (done at CAEM). After her surgery (amputation and spay, poor thing), she was placed on heavy painkillers for a few days until we moved her onto Metacam. I administered famotidine (Pepcid) sub-Q injections as an inhibitor of stomach acid and Trimethoprim-sulfa (TMS) suspension orally as a broad-spectrum antibiotic. I syringe-fed her Critical Care for a week, as she was not eating on her own. She adjusted at my house very well, living in my big bathroom on a heavy kilim rug for traction with a low-entry litter box and a bowl of water. One week after her surgery, she was eating on her own and hopping around like nobody's business.

Her left front leg had been splayed out to her side for a couple weeks (to compensate for the loss of a hind leg on that side), but made its way back underneath her eventually. She now hops and runs like any four-legged lagomorph!

Ashes is a young, petite, black, shiny, adorable Jersey Wooly girl with a long fluffy furry trim, dark eyes and just the best personality in the world. She is confident and playful and loved my four cats and two dogs, and they loved her right back. She also loves every human she meets and is a major licker. You stand at the sink brushing your teeth and she's licking your ankles. You hold her in your arms and she's licking your arms and neck. She loves to snuggle and be held and brushed and is a real charmer. I miss her so much and was sad to say goodbye, but I am sure CAEM will find her a great forever home where she'll be really happy and where everyone who meets her will fall in love with her just as I did.

Ashes

Photo: Genevieve Hannon



Rabbits Can Make Great Therapists

By Natalie L. Reeves

While some bunnies wile away the hours dreaming of salad time, the rabbits of Rabbit Rescue & Rehab volunteer Loraine Kopf are helping the less fortunate. For the past eight months, Loraine and her bunnies have made monthly visits to patients at Coler-Goldwater Hospital on Roosevelt Island. Loraine has participated as a volunteer for the Animal Medical Center Pet Outreach Program.

AMC's Pet Outreach Program matches volunteers and their pets with people in nursing homes, hospitals or other facilities. The patients are blind, deaf or mobility-impaired. Volunteers with dogs, cats, rabbits and parrots make regular visits.

Marilyn Peoples runs the recreational therapy program at Coler-Goldwater Hospital and says that patients look forward to the visits by volunteers with their pets. She explains that the pet therapy program consistently meets its goal of brightening up the patients and making them smile.

Ms. Peoples recounted one particular breakthrough with a patient who was terrified of dogs. After encouraging the patient over a long period of time to attend a pet outreach session, the woman

eventually agreed to do so and gradually overcame her fears, ultimately even coming to cherish her time with the dogs.

Not all animals are qualified to participate in the program. AMC's Pet Outreach Coordinator, Phyllis Brody, emphasizes that pets must be comfortable traveling to the venues and be at ease interacting with other animals and people. These criteria certainly would mean a large number of rabbits wouldn't be eligible because of the stress involved in this type of activity. Nevertheless, three of Loraine's four rabbits accompany her on hospital visits, and Loraine believes they enjoy the interaction.

Loraine's rabbits may be more suited for therapy work than the average rabbit because she regularly transports her rabbits from the city to a weekend home. For her hospital visits, she rotates her rabbits so that the patients get to see different rabbit breeds. One of Loraine's rabbits, Lavender, is a nipper, so she doesn't participate in the program.

At Coler-Goldwater, therapy sessions take place in an auditorium where folding chairs are set up for the volunteers. Loraine carries a small litter box with hay with her so that her bunny can sit in

his or her litter box on Loraine's lap. The patients, most of whom are in wheelchairs, position themselves next to Loraine and talk to and pet the bunny. One patient, Julia Soto, who has been hospitalized almost a year while recovering from a stroke, was very excited when Loraine's bunny, Abbie, licked her hand. On previous visits, Loraine has taken her angora bunny, Stuart, who has attracted lots of attention, and her Rex bunny, Ariel.

Loraine said, "The more I work with animals, the more I'm convinced that we human beings are born with an intuitive connection with animals, and the depth of that connection is forgotten as we lose our innocence and get involved in what we call 'life.'"

She added, "Volunteering at Goldwater, I see that connection once again when a patient pets a bun and smiles. It's so gratifying to see the face of someone who lives in a wheelchair light up at the touch of a living creature."

AMC's Pet Outreach Program welcomes volunteers who are available to visit hospitals or other facilities on Monday or Tuesday mornings, or on Tuesday evenings. Visits generally are an hour long and most are in Manhattan. Volunteers may participate on a regular basis or only as their schedules permit. If you would like more information about the outreach program, contact AMC's Phyllis Brody at 212-838-8100, ext. 7348. Loraine Kopf is also happy to discuss her experiences and can be reached at kopf.loraine@verizon.net.

Volunteers from the Pet Outreach Program at Coler-Goldwater Hospital. Loraine's angora bunny, Stuart, is at the left, in front.

Loraine Kopf, left, holding her rabbit, Abbie (a hotot mix), speaks with patient Julia Soto at Coler-Goldwater Hospital.



Photo: Loraine Kopf



Toffee and S'mores Find Sweetness Together

By Ruby Gu

My fiancé and I agreed that Toffee, our dwarf mix adopted from the AC&C in the fall of 2008, had way too much personality to be left alone for 8-10 hours a day while we were at work. So this past January, following a speed-dating session at the Long Island Rabbit Rescue, S'mores (a cuddly Dutch mix boy) came to live with us. We were ready for some bonding, after reading 10-plus articles about bonding on Rabbit.org, and we embarked on a journey now known amongst our friends as "parenting boot camp," because rabbit bonding, much like parenting, is a lot of "learning as you go."

We did the bonding sessions as instructed – a play pen in a "neutral" area, using sneakers on our hands to stop any potential aggression. S'mores began with curiosity, and Toffee began with a case of extreme nerves. Whenever he approached, she would jump two feet into the air, startling him. A startled S'mores would then become aggressive and defensive. We tried our best to interrupt the boxing and the biting, but nevertheless, fur flew. A second vet trip later (S'mores scratched Toffee's eyelid, which healed in less than a day), I made a "what else can we do?" phone call to Nancy at the Long Island Rabbit Rescue. She was gracious enough to offer to try bonding at her place, so off to Long Island we went.

Two weeks later came the good news. S'mores put his head down for Toffee to groom, and she groomed him! Nancy said they were now able to play together without bad energy, and that we should observe them during playtime for another week or so. They came home to their overjoyed parents, and for three days we watched them groom, binky and play. But on day four, S'mores put his head down for Toffee to groom, Toffee shook her head "no" and S'mores bit a chunk of fur the off of Toffee's neck. Bonding was on hold again.

It was now May, and we decided to use this break time to take the buns to their new vet, Catnip & Carrots in New Hyde Park, for their wellness checkup. While we were there, we had a nice chat with Dr. Saver (golly, I wish she would see humans so she could be MY doctor!!). She gave us a small dropper bottle of anti-anxiety Rescue Remedy to rub outside the buns' ears before bonding sessions, and said to not lose faith! After more kind words and a few tips from Dr. Saver and Nancy, we took a deep breath and gave it another try.

What ultimately worked for our buns, I feel, is that we stopped being "referees" who oversaw their bonding, and instead stepped into the pen to participate in the bonding. We had been so caught up in trying to give them neutral space to get to know each other, that we forgot that WE'RE a part of the family, too. One of the things Nancy told me to try was to give both buns head rubs while they were close together, so they associate the happy feeling with each other's presence. It took a few tries to get them both to stay still and enjoy the head rubs, but it worked! A week of daily 10-minute, Rescue Remedy-infused head rubs later, the buns were ready to play nice again.

We gradually decreased our participation, and by June 1, they were playing together every day for four to five hours and all day on weekends. It was as if they'd never had their months-long tiffs. They now go out of their way to mush together during naps and they groom each other. S'mores does his thunderous binkies, and has learned to move out of the way when Toffee does her Bunny 500s.

We moved them into their "together home" this weekend, and I slept on the futon next to them, "just in case." I woke up Sunday morning with Toffee trying to pull my pillowcase into their pen, and S'mores looking at me like "Silly mom! How about some bananas?"

It took six long months, but it was worth every minute to see them so happy together. When S'mores first came to live with us, all he wanted to do was nap, but now he has learned the "how-to-approach-without-sound-and-trip-human" technique from Toffee. Toffee was never really into food. But now with S'mores, she finishes every last bit of her salad and pellets. Just the sight of them sitting together in their big litter box and munching on hay together ... this is what Heaven must be like!

Toffee and S'mores



Photo: Ruby Gu

No Summer Vacation

(Continued from page 4)

Massapequa

In July we received a call from a woman named Michelle, who reported seeing a stray rabbit in the Massapequa Preserve, a vast wooded area in this Nassau town. Michelle walked her dog in this area, and had been seeing the all-white rabbit for a month. She became alarmed when she got a close look at the rabbit and noticed that she was covered with ticks. Michelle agreed to provide foster space if we could catch the rabbit.

That same steaming hot day, Mary Ann Maier and Nancy Schreiber loaded up their cars with nets, pens, traps and the gear needed to set the rabbit up in a home, and went to the preserve after work to meet Michelle. We sighted the rabbit in the woods, an area of dense brush and poison ivy. We hoped to be able to get her into a clearing where it would be easier to capture her, but she proved to be way too wise for us – one month of being out in those woods made her very familiar with the geography and at the same time very leery of people. We tried setting a trap, but she wouldn't go into it. She came close to a clearing at one point, so Mary Ann went to the edge of the clearing near the rabbit and was very still. When the bunny relaxed, Mary Ann was able to quickly and safely net her.

This bunny, who we named Michelle, was emaciated and covered with tenacious ticks that took us days to get off. But she is now tick-free, beautiful and healthy. Super-friendly, she'll bonk you to get you to pat her. She'd love a home to call her own.

Wantagh

According to neighbors, the loose rabbit in the area was a baby whose siblings were killed by cats. Lori McAllister was able to scoop "Budgie" up and asked one of the other LIRRG volunteers, Jean Mellano, if she could foster. Well, once Jean named him and took him under

(Continued on page 15)

Our Initiative With Long Island Petco Stores

We are now working with Long Island Petco Stores to find homes for rescued rabbits.

Lori McAllister of Wantagh reports:

This spring, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group partnered with two Petco stores on Long Island to help rabbits find homes. I am a volunteer in the Levittown store at 2965 Hempstead Turnpike; we also have volunteers in Garden City Park (2300 Jericho Turnpike).

I am always looking for an opportunity to tell people about what we do. Petco has provided a great outlet for educating the public about rabbit care. There hasn't been a time at Petco when I felt I hadn't taught someone something, whether it's just a general question or stressing the importance of spaying. Some customers didn't know the risks of cancer for rabbits before talking with me. Then there was the person I probably talked out of adopting by explaining what it's like to care for a rabbit (he thought it was similar to caring for a hamster). I saw the light bulb go off in his head when he understood what I was trying to say, which was that "rabbits shouldn't be an impulse purchase."

One of the people who adopted from us at Petco has kept in touch with me, sometimes with a call asking, "Why is my rabbit stomping her foot?" Mostly it's to tell me how much she loves the new addition to the family and how after a short time in their home they couldn't imagine life without her.

Jean Mellano of Wantagh reports:

The rabbits that have come through Petco in Levittown are a varied bunch and all have their share of sad stories. However, their lives have changed for the better, thanks to some wonderful adopters and fosterers:

Dante: About eight months old when rescued from a hoarder situation in the Bronx. He is now known as Caramel and was adopted by a great family in Bellmore. The daughter is a real animal lover and researched on the

Web about the care and feeding of rabbits before adopting. She wrote a three-page report all about bunnies. She certainly did her homework and was excited to bring Dante home.

Ruby: She was bought last Easter and her former owners had their six-year-old taking care of her. Ruby lived in a doghouse on the dirt in the backyard and escaped during the winter. When we found her, she was skin and bones and very pregnant. She is now being fostered by one of the volunteers who regularly visited her at Petco. She is a real binky bunny!

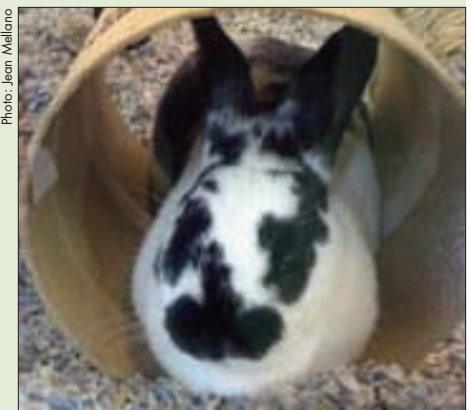


Photo: Jean Mellano

Wanda

Wanda: A BIG girl and is such a mush, just loving her pets. She was found wandering in Babylon and is now with a woman and her son in Levittown. Wanda rules the roost in their apartment!

Penny: A lovely sweet bun who was probably about six months old when she was rescued. She found her forever home with a nice family in Farmingdale. She is the center of attention in their kitchen and the home is filled with love, life and laughter.

Buddy: A mixed lop who waited what seemed like several long weeks at Petco to find his home. He went home with a volunteer who visited him several times and whose family fell in love with him.

Simba: A black lionhead with an adorable personality. The newest bun to arrive at Petco Levittown, he turns heads with his beautiful black fur and no doubt will be adopted soon.

No Summer Vacation

(Continued from page 14)

Photo: Jean Mellano



Steve Tarpinian kisses Budgie Bunny.

her wing, it was no longer a foster situation and now Budgie Bunny has found his forever home, where he is spoiled rotten and is in the process of being bonded with Snoopy Bunny – another beautiful rabbit we rescued, along with his brothers and sisters, from Cedar Creek Park in Seaford almost four years ago.

These are just a few of the cases that we have responded to recently. There are

other cases unfolding daily: sightings of rabbits abandoned by the Wantagh Parkway, in Levittown, in East Northport – the list goes on.

We respond to callers who can foster by sending out a “swat team” of volunteers bringing expertise in catching rabbits, along with cages or puppy pens, litter boxes, water bowls, hay, pelleted food, fresh vegetables, etc. Your donations assist us with the costs of these items and with the costs of spaying and neutering, flea medication, wound cleansers, pain medication, antibiotics, dewormers and other medical care.

All of this field work detracts from adoptions, adoption events and Petco adoption participation, which are important in order to maintain adoption rates and enable us to keep saving rabbits. Therefore, we need volunteer participation – much more than we currently have. There are so many opportunities: We need people to help return calls and emails, people to help clean bunny cages, help with adoptions on Sundays, people to keep up our

stocks of educational flyers by making copies, folks to post adoption flyers in vets’ offices, pet stores and libraries. People with cars are desperately needed to transport bunnies to vets, deliver cages to foster homes, pick up hay, assist when a fosterer is out of town. In addition, we need donations.

Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group is the L.I. division of Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, an all-volunteer, New York State nonprofit covering the N.Y.C. metro area. You can support our rescue work with either your time or your tax-deductible donations. To volunteer, please contact Mary Ann Maier: altitude8@aol.com (Long Island); Cindy Stutts: bygolyoly@yahoo.com (NYC); Mary Cotter: mec@cloud9.net (Westchester County). To make a donation, please send a check made out to “Rabbit Rescue & Rehab,” c/o Nancy Schreiber, 12 Grace Court North, Great Neck, NY 11021.

Photo: David Motney



Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Edwin, Coco Pop, Reese, Eleanor (aka Bun Bun), Barbara, Damon, Emma, Dagwood & Blondie, Jack, Bette, Rex, Tribeca, Abigail, Cassidy, River & Rascal, Clark, Felicia, Connor, Lucky Lady, Clark, Hermione, Aaron, Giselle, Nicolas, Grayson and Darcy, Chip, Knightley, Carol and Joey, Jeremy, Reba, Addie, Elsie, Frankie, Bettina, Lucy, Nancy, Sgt. Pepper, Poker Face, Rafferty.

Nancy, adopted July 31

Remembrances

R.I.P., Samson

By Megan Krieman

I wrote an article in the last newsletter about my boy Samson, the elder bun. I never imagined that I'd be writing another piece about my beloved Samson so soon, most especially a remembrance piece.

I had the privilege of caring for Samson, a rescue from AC&C, for only 3 1/2 years. While this wasn't nearly long enough for me, clearly it was his time to go.

"Handsome Samson" had a quiet but huge personality. He eagerly ran out every morning for breakfast and did a circle dance around my feet while I prepared his breakfast – much too slowly. Even



Samson

after Sam went blind, this routine didn't change. He was truly an amazing fellow who overcame tremendous difficulties with

dignity and grace. Samson, as mentioned in my prior piece, was a special-needs bunny. He dealt with mobility issues, cataracts, blindness and glaucoma.

He was also a wonderful partner to his beloved Delilah. Always patient with her endless demands for attention, he groomed her constantly, just as she liked it!

Samson was a joy to have in my home and is missed beyond what words can express. Delilah and I share a melancholy that will only diminish with tears and time.

Sam was a very special bunny who will be remembered, loved and missed terribly by Delilah and me always.



Storm, front, with husbun Joshua, December 2009

R.I.P., Storm

By Kerstin Aumann

Sadly, my beloved little old lady, Storm, had to be assisted across the rainbow bridge on July 29. She was 11 years old and her condition, which had always been frail and fraught with health problems during the three years she

lived with me, had deteriorated rapidly in the last couple of weeks.

She had lost her mobility, which for those who knew Storm realized that this was a huge loss of quality of life for her. She loved zooming around my living room! And at the end of July, she lost her appetite. Having lost her partner, Joshua, about six weeks earlier didn't

help. It finally became clear that it was time, and she barely survived the trip up to Symphony. Trying more treatments just didn't make sense anymore.

I'm happy to say, though, that we were together in her final moments, which I'm sure is what she wanted most, and she went across the bridge with dignity and that indomitable spirit she has embodied throughout her final years.

Our warren feels empty without her and Joshua. It was terribly sad to lose both of them over such a short period, but maybe this is what was planned by a higher power.

Storm and Joshua, such a very special, unforgettable couple, were the subject of articles in the New York Daily News (http://www.nydailynews.com/lifestyle/2009/04/11/2009-04-11_unhappy_holidays_rabbits_are_ofte_n_easter_gifts_only_to_be_abandoned_soon_after.html) and in the October 2009 Thump (<http://rabbitcare.org/NYC%20Metro%20Rabbit%20News%20Fall%2009.p df>).

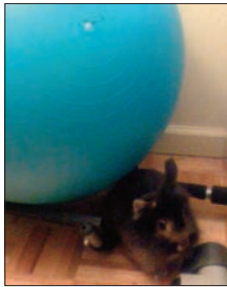
Letters

Photo: Karen



Pasha and Bella

Karen, who adopted Pasha as a partner for Bella, sent this update to Cindy Stutts in mid-July.



Bella and Pasha are doing really well! It's wonderful watching them interact together and seeing their relationship develop. They're quite amusing! Even though Bella is three pounds smaller than Pasha, she is definitely the boss of him—and everyone else, actually! Pasha is such a sweetheart and so tolerant of her bossy ways. Often he'll jump up on the couch and keep us company for awhile before he goes off looking for Bella. It's so sweet to see them snuggling together or sharing a meal. It's a relief to know that when we're at work, Bella now has a companion to keep her company. When I see them together, I know that she is much happier now than when she was a single girl!

Karen

Photo: Dawn



Bella and Jack

Dawn sent us this letter in June about Jack and Bette.

I just adopted Jack and Bette—now known as Bella since she is so beautiful :) I wanted to say how wonderful the experience of adopting these precious souls was with you.

You all made me feel very comfortable and gave me the extra push I needed to once again share my life with not only one bunny, but two!

Jack is doing great. He has made himself right at home and enjoys jumping up on the couch to sit next to us or even on our laps. He is such a sweetheart!

Bella is also doing well. Her incision site looks great. She has been active, and she has been eating everything in sight (which I hear is quite surprising right after being spayed).

Again, thank you so much for my new additions and for all that you do to help these gorgeous creatures find loving homes.

Dawn

(Dawn wrote again on Aug. 5: They are now bonded (it took only four days) and they love each other so much! I've never seen a bonded pair before. They are so adorable.)

Photo: Michael Coffen



Arturo and Hermione

Michael and Leya, who adopted Hermione on July 3 as a partner for Arturo, sent these updates the following week to Genevieve Hannon.

July 4

Hi, Genevieve (cc-ing Cindy)!

Just wanted to let you know how things shook out at the shelter today. Arturo did great. We discovered he's quite a lady-killer. After lots of hard work and effort from Cindy and Lisa, we decided that Hermione was the rabbit for Arturo. They seemed to be very much on the same wavelength.

We got them home and had a bonding session in the kitchen, which went really, really, really well. So well, in fact, that my girlfriend and I decided to try them out in the hutch, just to see. After they got settled, they immediately set about the task of snuggling. They've been sitting with their heads together for about a half hour. I think we've made both bunnies much, much happier. Thanks for ALL your help!

Michael

July 6

We had a great weekend. The couple is doing great. They're still on "supervised visitation," but they started grooming each other yesterday, so they're well on the way.

As far as the hutch goes, I actually built it. My father is a shop teacher, so furniture construction is sort of in my

(Continued on page 18)

Letters

(Continued from page 17)

Photo: Michael Colten

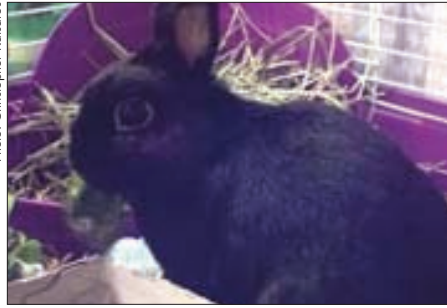


Indoor hutch for Hermione and Arturo

blood. We originally wanted a Leith, but it was slightly too wide (by about an inch) to go through one of our doors. Our hutch is two stories. The dimensions of each floor are: 4 feet wide, 21 inches deep and 2 feet high. The second story doesn't have a roof; I think they enjoy being able to see the ceiling. The floor is flat (not wire or slotted), with linoleum tiles for easy cleaning, and with towels around so they have something soft to stand on as well. It's strictly an indoor hutch. We love our buns and would never put them outside. Also, I used untreated wood for the construction, so if they get curious and chew the frame a bit, it's ok. I've attached a picture, so you can see what it looks like and where it is. Also, I've installed a large (20 inches wide, 10 inches deep) hay rack on the left side of the hutch above the litter box. Your thoughts on design would be greatly appreciated.

Many Thanks!
Michael

Photo: Christopher Kataros



Knightley

Jessica adopted Knightley in July. She sent this enthusiastic note to Genevieve Hannon about his progress.

Hey Gen! Thanks so much! I love him! I picked him up Monday.

Knightley is very happy in his home. He was so frightened on Monday between the car ride home, and being transported everywhere, that he was shivering and hiding the entire time. Since then, he's warmed up to my entire household. He allows everybody to pet his head without

shying away, and he even nudges our hand sometimes to ask for a rub. He's out all the time poking around and playing with his toys (His favorite is the Timothy hay ball I found at Whiskers).

Yesterday night after I gave him a tiny piece of carrot, he even did the flop! I was so happy. I played with him this morning, and he's just genuinely happy. When I left for work, I saw him lounging around one of the corners. (He's already rearranged all his furniture.) Knightley really doesn't like being picked up, though. When I try, he runs away into his corner and I have to apologize a million times and offer my hand for grooming again. He's a very forgiving bun, though, and he loves getting groomed.

I am interested in bonding because Knightley deserves to have a happy companion to play with. Thanks so much for everything!

Jess

Snowball

Ana and her family adopted Lucky Lady, now known as Snowball. They sent this update in mid-July.

Lucky Lady got a new name – Snowball! She is a female, white and a perky rabbit.

When we got her, we thought it would take a while for her to get used to us, but to our surprise, she felt very comfortable right away.

We understand Snowball almost died from a skin disease, when she was rescued by people who treated her very well. We think that is probably why Snowball seems to love people and is very trusting.

We made a little "house" out of a cardboard box and it is her favorite place! She loves two things: food and being petted.

Snowball loves to chew things, especially the cardboard at the bottom of the playpen (she does not chew furniture – yet? – which is great for us!). She usually won't come out of her playpen (even if we open the door) unless a person is there to give her attention. She often comes to greet people whenever someone comes close to her.

Photo: Ana Saito-Schneider



Top, Snowball in her new home. Bottom, Laura and Ronny Gonzalez, who rescued Lucky Lady after she was abandoned in a Brooklyn park in May, visited her at the AC&C shelter in June.

Her favorite place in the house is the kitchen (...food! She smells greens and bunny pellets from miles away). Snowball is very loving, friendly and comfortable.

Snowball licks our hands and purrs (and we thought purring was only for cats!). She seems to be a very happy bunny. We are lucky to have her!

Ana

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Letters

(Continued from page 18)

Photo: Sari Krieger



Aurora and Franklin

Franklin, formerly called Clark, was adopted as a partner bun on July 3 by Sari, who sent us this report.

Hey Gen and Cindy,

I am happy to report that Aurora and Franklin are now a free-roaming happy couple. They have been doing some grooming (I have seen both groom, but it's mostly Franklin grooming her) and they are cuddling and very comfortable with each other.

I worried at first because Aurora is a very willful bun, but after only two weeks of progressively longer dates filled with yummy snacks like carrots and lettuce, the two became inseparable. Aurora is still mostly the top bun, but Franklin convinces her to groom him sometimes and doesn't let her push him around too much.

Although Franklin came to me with the remnants of a leg injury, he can hop onto the couch with ease to beg for treats along with Aurora. He is a friendly and loving bunny, who is quite cuddly and doesn't seem to mind being picked up.

Thanks for all your help.

Sari



Joey, at top, and Carol

Christiana and her husband adopted Carol and Joey in mid-July. Christiana provided this update a couple days later.

The people at the shelter were so helpful and patient; it was a great experience.

We weren't sure about taking two nonbonded rabbits, but Amy explained how we could socialize them and how much easier it would be to bring them both home at once.

What she said really made sense. They had their first "bonding" session last night, and it went all right. They're both stubborn, so this could very well take a few months, but it was cute.

I think the rabbits were in shock for the first 24 hours after leaving the shelter, but this morning when I saw them, they were so excited that they were bouncing in place. I'm really looking forward to having them together and free to roam in their "room."

Thanks again for your help!

Christiana

Photo: David Mohney



Mimi

David and Bonnie adopted Mimi in February. Bonnie filled us in on Mimi's latest antics last month.

Our girl has done it again!

As we know, she is a very neat and smart little girl – and likes a very organized space.

Soooooooooooo today I needed to mix it up a bit, just to offer her another fun opportunity. I made a little toilet paper/hay roll and put it in front of her. She immediately picked it up and began pulling out the hay, which is exactly what I expected her to do.

Now, back story: Mimi lives in her own room with cool mini stone tiles, a small flat square rug and a large metal container that houses a large pile of hay and her litter box. The only things that she allows on her floor/rug area are her toys. Her hay and toilet needs stay very neatly in the large metal container....her choice! :)

The funny part: When she began pulling the hay out of the roll and it fell on the floor, she stopped, looked at me and picked up the roll and the rest of the hay and – ready for this? – SHE TOSSED THE ENTIRE THING ON TOP OF HER HAY PILE!!!

I couldn't believe it!!! It seemed that she did not want the hay to fall on her floor, so she placed it with the rest of the hay.

This is one smart bunny!!! I could almost see her figuring out what to do so that the hay would stop falling on her floor. She is too much, our little girl!

You guys have to come and visit her. :)
Have a good week!

Bon

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Letters

(Continued from page 19)

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Cookie

Alma and her family adopted Cookie, formerly known as Nacho, in May. Alma's 15-year-old daughter Kaylah sent Marcie Frishberg this update in July.

Hi Marcie. I hope you like my story!

After my sweet rabbit Kevin died after 12 years, (yes, I know...can you believe it, 12 years??) I felt like I couldn't live in a home without any animals. "Mom, can we get a new rabbit?" I asked.

"Absolutely not!" she replied. Well, my mom and I went to Petco one day to get some fish and start an aquarium after I had begged her for a new pet for weeks. Those fishies were so boring to me.

When we went back to Petco to get accessories for the aquarium, we saw the cutest little bunny called Nacho. I actually thought that was kind of a weird name for a girl. I thought she looked like a white cookie with chocolate chips so I called her Cookie.

Sometimes I would find a reason to go to Petco with my mom just so she could see how cute Nacho (Cookie) was. My mother DID think Cookie was cute. Ok, good start. So, while she would go to see the birds and talk with them in Petco, I would go to see Cookie. I was falling in love with this creature. I couldn't get her out of my mind. I had dreams of her playing in my home.

Well, day after day, week after week, my mother really got tired of me begging. "Mom please. We can adopt her and she is trained. Please, I will take care of her so well." Mom replied, "No Kay. Absolutely not!"

Then, on another visit, Cookie was playing in her pen and my mom couldn't resist (hee hee). I thought, this is it; she is gonna love her the way I do. To my surprise, my mom greeted the bunny and asked if she could go in the pen with her.

When Cookie saw my mother sit down, the bunny came up to her and stood on her legs and put her nose up in the air. My mother moved in closer and their noses touched. "WOW, a bunny kiss!!" Mom said. "Awwww...." I knew it would work. My mother thought Cookie was the cutest thing ever. She started talking to her: "C'mere, bunny mama." I was smiling ear to ear.

Well, after meeting the great caretakers of the bunnies, including Marcie, the adoption was on its way. After about two months from when we first saw Cookie, she is home with me now. She loves to run and hop in the air, but she doesn't like anyone touching her litter box.

She gets along with our two parakeets, Sunni and Skyy. (Mom loves birds.) And the fish – eh, Cookie is not really interested in them.

I love my bunny Cookie and I know she loves us too....hmmm, Cookie kind of reminds me of a Dalmatian...I wonder. Cookie would love a pup playmate, I think, jokingly. "Awww mom...come look at these cute Dalmatian puppies on YouTube, do you think we could..." Mom looks at me very seriously and stops me and says, "KAYLAH! DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!!" (weird pause) Then we both start to laugh.

Kaylah

Photos: Breck Hobeffer



Reba

Breck and Greta, who adopted Reba in July, sent this email about her later in the month.

Hi Genevieve and Amy,

I thought I'd send you a picture of Reba in her standard "laying down to be petted" position. She has settled into our home nicely and spends a lot of time next to myself or Greta being petted.

She is so gentle and sweet! She's really curious and outgoing and has explored every inch of our apartment and even kind of follows us around.

She likes to hang out in the kitchen if I am there and I almost think she is looking for food, as if she were a dog. She stands up with her front paws on my legs, begging.

She is the funniest thing! Anyhow, I wanted to thank you guys again for the great work you do and for introducing us to Reba who we love very much! You really helped us find a rabbit who was a good match for our family.

Breck

Rabbit-Savvy Veterinarians

Here's our recommended vet list for the New York metropolitan area. Please note that many clinics have multiple veterinarians, and our recommendations are for specific veterinarians in those clinics. If you can't get an appointment with a recommended vet at one clinic, don't assume (no matter what you are told by the clinic) that other vets in the same clinic can help your rabbit. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the vets on this list, please contact Mary Cotter at (914) 337-6146. When you make an appointment with any of these vets, please tell them you were referred by us.

Long Island:

Jennifer Saver, DVM

Laura George, DVM

Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital
2221 Hillside Ave., New Hyde Park, NY 11040
(516) 877-7080

Heidi Hoefler, DVM

Island Exotic Vet Care
591 East Jericho Turnpike
Huntington Station, NY 11746
(631) 424-0300

Manhattan:

Becky Campbell, DVM

Deborah Levison, DVM

Symphony Veterinary Center
698 Amsterdam Ave., 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

Manhattan (continued):

Alex Wilson, DVM

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

Anthony Pilny, DVM

Veterinary Internal Medicine
and Allergy Specialists
207 East 84th St., New York, NY 10028
(212) 988-4650

Westchester County:

Gil Stanzione, DVM

381 Dobbs Ferry Road, White Plains, NY 10607
(914) 421-0020

Laurie Hess, DVM

Fine Animal Hospital
Bedford Hills, NY 10507
(914) 666-8061

Bond Animal Hospital, 250 Central Ave.
White Plains, NY 10606
(914) 949-8860

Licensed HRS Representatives

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

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Mary Ann Maier, HRS Licensed Educator,
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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 general public on rabbit care through publications, telephone consultations, home visits and public presentations. This newsletter is published by RRR/NYC HRS, which is solely responsible for its content. Letters, photographs and other submissions to the newsletter become the property of the NYC Chapter and cannot be returned. We retain the right to edit submissions for publication.

Donations

All donations go directly to caring for our foster rabbits and are tax-deductible. Please help us help them. Checks should be made out to **Rabbit Rescue & Rehab** and mailed to:

Nancy Schreiber
12 Grace Court North
Great Neck, NY 11021

Adoptable Rabbits

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

To adopt a rabbit in New York City, contact Cindy Stutts at bygolyoly@yahoo.com or call her at 646-319-4766. On Long Island, contact Nancy Schreiber at nschreibmd@aol.com or at 516-510-3637 (www.longislandrabbitrescue.org), and in Westchester contact Mary Cotter at mcc@cloud9.net or 914-337-6146 (www.rabbitcare.org). Our group's email address in New York City is nyc.acc.rabbits@gmail.com.

You can visit the New York Animal Care & Control Center at 326 East 110th St., between First and Second avenues. Volunteers are there every weekday evening and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, but it is best to arrange an appointment first.

Adoptable AC&C rabbits are also at Petco's Lexington Avenue (86-87th) and Union

Square locations; rabbit volunteers are present at both stores on Saturday and Sunday afternoons to answer questions. There are two rabbits living at each of those stores.

On Long Island, there are adoptable rabbits in the Garden City Park and Levittown Petco stores. Volunteer hours are variable. For more information, call Nancy Schreiber.

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 Amy Odum at amy@adoptabunny.info or nyc.acc.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.

To contact us at the Thump newsletter, email nyc.acc.rabbits.news@gmail.com.