

THOMP



NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS AUGUST 2011

New Yorkers Mobilize to Halt the Use Of Beheaded Rabbits as Stage Props

By Natalie L. Reeves

July Fourth weekend is usually a time to relax with a good beach read, attend cookouts or watch fireworks. This year, however, a plan to use dead rabbits as stage props in a production at the Lincoln Center Festival made the weekend anything but relaxing for those who love animals. And while there were certainly fireworks over the plan, they weren't the type associated with the Fourth of July.

At 7:33 p.m. on Friday, July 1, I received an email alert from Rabbitwise, an

advocacy group for rabbits based out of Washington, D.C. They were forwarding information provided to them by Janine Motta, a volunteer with the New Jersey House Rabbit Society.

The alert conveyed information that was unfathomable. A blurb in that day's Wall Street Journal entitled "Off With Its Head" reported that as part of this year's Lincoln Center Festival, the Royal Shakespeare Company would be staging a production of "As You Like It" that would feature an actor skinning and beheading freshly killed rabbits during each show. The story even noted that the actors had performed together for the past three years, and "[o]nly the dead bunny is new every night."

On Friday night, I posted the action alert on Big Apple Bunnies on Facebook, and I forwarded it to the NYC Buns Yahoo group and to numerous animal activist friends, including Jane Hoffman, president of the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals. Ms. Hoffman forwarded the alert to her large network of animal advocates, who in turn sent it to others. Friends and strangers who may never have followed a rabbit issue took the time over the holiday weekend to call and email Lincoln Center, requesting

Photo: Mary Ann Maier



Ronkonkoma rabbit, chased into a busy street.

LONG ISLAND RESCUE UPDATE

Tough Times Get Tougher

By Mary Ann Maier

I'm going to chalk it up to the economy. Tough times. People having to downsize, foreclose, move out, move home, cut back, toughen up, tough it out. I get it – I do. But this year, 2011 (The Year of the Rabbit, of all ironies), has turned out to be The Year Everyone Decided to Abandon Their Rabbits. Long Island adoptions are down, and reports of abandoned rabbits are way, way up. It's a rabbit-rescue recession.

Here, without (much) further comment, are some recent cases (not all, just some) that have been keeping the overworked

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Photo: Susan Lillo



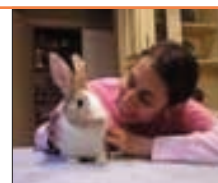
Royal Shakespeare Company banner at the Park Avenue Armory.



These Bunnies Are Looking For Their Forever Homes
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Why Doesn't My Rabbit Want Me To Hold Him?
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Remember Benita, Rescued Last Year? Here's How She's Doing Today
Page 9

In our masthead: Walter and Charlotte, rescued in Alley Pond Park, found their loving forever home with Mildred Cybulski on Long Island.

Stage Props *(Continued from page 1)*

that the production change course and not use rabbits.

If you follow animal causes on Facebook and were online over the July Fourth weekend, it is likely you saw the alert, which went viral. The odds were against us. We had learned about this outrage just days before the show was supposed to begin at the Park Avenue Armory. Worse yet was the timing. How many people would be willing to focus on such a serious issue over a holiday weekend? It turned out that people do care – and they were willing to call and send emails.

“Skinning and beheading rabbits is both sick and sociopathic,” said Lana Lehr, founder of Rabbitwise. Ms. Lehr and Rabbitwise believe that the concept of rabbit rescue needs to be broadened and that problems need to be attacked at the macro-level. Since Rabbitwise has contacts with rabbit and other animal organizations throughout the country, the New Jersey House Rabbit Society sent information about the show to Rabbitwise so that the group could contact its broad network of supporters.

On Sunday morning, July 3, I received a call at home from Nigel Redden, director of the Lincoln Center Festival. Mr. Redden was calling with the great news that “As You Like It” would not be using any rabbits in its New York shows. Mr. Redden asked me to post this message on Big Apple Bunnies and to notify other groups of the decision. “You can tell Big Apple Bunnies and your network of supporters that phone calls really do make a difference,” Mr. Redden said.

Our New York City victory showed that change is possible, even when you are up against extraordinarily established and well-funded institutions like Lincoln Center and the Royal Shakespeare Company. News outlets, including the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times, widely covered this story. Unfortunately, some reports or blogs painted New Yorkers as wimps for not wanting to watch the dismemberment of rabbit bodies on stage, in contrast to Londoners who had not protested to any great degree. It is sad that some took the point of view that gutting a creature for mere entertainment is acceptable.

In my opinion, the key to success here was the excellent specific information provided in the action alert prepared by the New Jersey House Rabbit Society and Rabbitwise. The action alert did not merely ask people to sign an Internet petition. Instead, the alert listed various ways to contact the decision makers, and included their phone numbers and email addresses.

Another important component was the teamwork among individuals and organizations. Along with the efforts of the New Jersey House Rabbit Society and Rabbitwise, members of Big Apple Bunnies, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab and NYC Buns wrote and called and contacted other advocates. Individuals and groups that advocate for bunnies and other animals in New York City and elsewhere posted the alert on their Facebook pages.

Rabbits will continue to be exploited, so we will have lots of opportunities to hone our activism skills. But every time we chip away against a form of abuse, we are making the future path a little easier to navigate.

Disbelief, Outrage: The Reaction Was Swift

“I have never heard of something so completely callous.” – Debra

“Lincoln Center has always been associated with beauty and culture and if it permits this horrific and needless act to occur, then I will never again think highly of your organization and will certainly persuade as many people as is humanly possible to never support it in any capacity, from attendance to financial donations.” – Alisa

“It is a British-based theater company. Can we contact our British counterparts and ask them to join the fight from across the pond?” – Will

“Yesterday, while I was writing an email to Lincoln Center and the Royal Shakespeare Company, I decided to read ‘As You Like It.’ In it I found the perfect word: ‘butchery.’” – Jane

“They appear not to realize that the concept of using animals this way is wrong. After all, they get their message over in plays such as ‘Julius Caesar’ without needing to actually assassinate actors! Having gotten away with an immoral act in one country doesn’t make it okay to go on to commit it in another. I, for one, will keep a very close eye on what the RSC includes in its plays in the future.” – Ros, U.K.

“YAY!! Thanks to everyone who pushed to make this happen! [regarding the decision not to use rabbits in performances]” – Mary

“Congratulations to those who fought on behalf of the bunnies!” – Sabine

“I appeal to your sense of compassion and humanity, and tell you quite frankly that New York audiences have no interest or desire in seeing that kind of gore in a live performance.” – Nadine

Tough Times *(Continued from page 1)*

volunteers of Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group extremely busy.

Babylon Village

In May, seven rabbits were found in a cemetery located next to a wooded area. Four were inside of a box that read, "Free rabbits. Take what you want." The others were loose in the area. One of the females inside the box had a broken back and was humanely euthanized by Long Island Veterinary Specialists on the same day. A benefactor offered a \$2,000 reward for info leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator. We called the SPCA to report the situation, but didn't make it past the screening operator, who informed us there was no case to pursue because the rabbits were, at that point, removed from the original cardboard box location, and we had no proof that they were even abandoned in the first place.

Inwood

Four rabbits were rescued by a woman and her children from an apartment whose occupant was arrested. Apparently, the man was, among other things, selling live animals. Authorities (the SPCA? the ASPCA? the police? we are still uncertain) rescued the dogs, but left the birds and rabbits behind. So the kind family took them in. We came to assist with cages, food and flea treatment. Upon examination, we determined that two of the four needed urgent medical attention. One had heatstroke; the other, an infected toe needing amputation. A third rabbit suffered an eye laceration during a fight with his brother at the foster family's home, so we took him in, too.

Farmingville

A married couple contacted us, albeit separately. She claimed she rescued two rabbits from her neighborhood and was keeping them in her yard, looking to rehome them. Her husband claimed his mom died and left him her beloved rabbits but he would let them loose if we didn't take them. Next, we learned that the rabbits had allegedly "escaped"

Photo: Lori and Chris McAllister



This is not a Photoshopped picture. In Farmingdale, abandoned rabbits (on right) eat grass beside lawn decorations depicting Bambi and Thumper.

from their yard. Multiple calls from us to come assist them in finding the rabbits were never returned.

Uniondale

We went to catch a rabbit abandoned on the grounds of the A. Holly Patterson nursing facility. A few weeks later, not far away, we rescued an abandoned rabbit in a residential area and gave the "finder" (person who spotted and reported the rabbit) a cage, supplies and food. The rabbit got a nail trim and a flea and tick check.

Plainview

A caged rabbit was abandoned near a Friendly's restaurant in a strip mall. The finder said some boys were talking about plans to torture the bun. Thankfully, the finder stepped in and got the rabbit to a foster home.

Stonybrook

Two rabbits were abandoned on the campus of Stonybrook University.

Levittown

A vet tech found a litter of four baby rabbits and their mom. We scrambled to arrange vet checks, etc. The next day, the finder called to report the mama bun had given birth to three more babies.

The finder found foster homes with friends upstate for the original four babies. We fostered the mama and the new litter of three. In the following weeks, all three babies died. Sadly, the mama bun, Luna, died also. Dr. Jennifer Saver of Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital did a necropsy and discovered that Luna was very sick, with multiple problems that included tapeworms. Having never seen this in our years of rescue, we looked it up and learned that, apparently, tapeworm can be contracted when a rabbit grooms herself, and thereby ingests fleas. (Yet another reason to keep your pet rabbit indoors!)

Farmingdale

Volunteers rescued two rabbits off the street in Farmingdale. People were stopping their cars, photographing these rabbits running all around. We reluctantly had to leave behind at least a dozen more rabbits on the street, for lack of adopters, homes, manpower.

Roslyn Heights

Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group volunteers spent long, mosquito-infested

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Tough Times (Continued from page 3)

hours crawling through Roslyn Heights rescuing five rabbits who had been roaming the neighborhood. Most of the neighbors were accommodating and sympathetic. But a few decided they didn't approve of us taking away the rabbits they viewed as entertaining little lawn ornaments, and they didn't wish to be educated on the matter, either. So they called the cops on us. Undeterred, we returned night after night until all bunnies had been rescued. Sadly, one of the rabbits died some time later. The pathologist who reviewed the tissue samples believes she may have ingested rat poison, which would account for the liver and kidney pathology. Also, her lungs had an infection that had been going on for some time...very sick rabbit.

Unfortunately, two more rabbits have been seen in that area recently. Someone is letting them breed, and then letting them loose. No one seems to be willing to report the guilty resident.

Ronkonkoma

Dozens of rabbits were reported to be roaming a neighborhood. Once again, we weren't welcomed there. The rabbits' owners brushed off our concerns and told us all was under control. They told the SPCA officer, whom we had summoned, that the rabbits "all come back to our yard every night." We, however, knew this was highly improbable and we had proof in the form of three dead rabbits found on the street the following week. Leaving behind the other dozens of rabbits was extremely difficult for us, but we had no space for them. Lack of support from the neighborhood and from the Suffolk SPCA made this case exceptionally tragic.

West Babylon

Three rabbits were reported loose in a church garden: a mama and two youngsters. We went out to investigate and caught a baby. The other baby and his mama were never seen again.

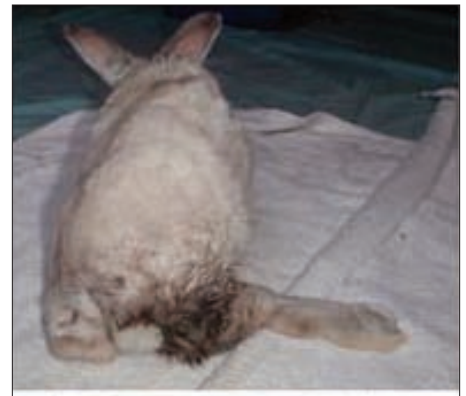
Photos: Mary Ann Moier



Ronkonkoma rabbits are routinely chased into dangerous streets by neighborhood children.

Elderly Angelo

A family contacted us to take their 12-year-old rabbit. The rabbit had a dislocated hip (the owners claimed it had been that way since birth), and he scooted around like a crab. We felt terrible for this rabbit: to be 12 years old (12!) and not wanted anymore. We don't, as a rule, take in "owner-surrendered" pets, but when we saw the photo of his sad little crippled body, we took him in. Angelo is now comfortable on beds of sheepskin, with hay and treats and toys to enjoy for the rest of his days. We are hoping he is well enough to be neutered, which, though risky, would allow him to live in the company of a partner bun. Stay tuned.



Angelo's leg.

Great Neck

Two rabbits were running loose on the same block. Oddly, one bunny had been set free intentionally by her owners, who weren't aware of the dangers. The other rabbit was unrelated to the first. Both are in foster care, awaiting forever homes.

Levittown

A couple in Levittown noticed four small white rabbits on the side of the road. They were able to catch two of them and fostered them in their home. They went back, but unfortunately, never were able to see the other two again.

Carle Place

A couple from Carle Place noticed a beautiful white-and-gray bunny in a park near their home. They were able to walk up to her and pick her up. They contacted the Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group and she was provided a place in our rescue. The bunny, Carla, has been recently diagnosed with cancer and is now being fostered by LIRRG volunteer Gina. Carla is getting (and giving!) a ton of love and has come to be a part of the family.

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Sadly, this beautiful rabbit in Amityville was killed before we could rescue her.

LONG ISLAND RESCUE UPDATE

Tough Times *(Continued from page 4)*

Alona the Lop

A beautiful, sweet black lop was abandoned outside a pet store. The manager contacted the Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group and we took her into our rescue. Since then, unfortunately, we have discovered that Alona has a tumor. She is living out her life in the loving home of one of our volunteers, Michael.

Amityville

We got an email regarding a bunny seen on the grounds of a large church compound in Amityville, and the finder was willing to foster if we caught him/her. We spotted her under a maintenance truck and, later, sunning herself out on the grass. She was a beautiful healthy-looking brown bunny who stayed just out of reach, but loved the treats we offered and stayed within inches of our grasp. When spooked, she took off, but mostly came back to relax under the truck. We brought two puppy pens and almost had her several times with the lure of granola inside the almost-closed pen. She was smart and backed out each time we tried to close the pen. The acres of grounds and abundant hiding places made it impossible to get her without a catch net, which we didn't have, so we

left after dark. A sympathetic maintenance man offered to set a humane trap early in the morning.

The next evening, despite freezing rain, snow and sleet, two volunteers went and scoured the property but didn't see her. The third night, we spent an hour looking in bushes, and under outbuildings and stony areas, since she wasn't in her usual spots. We finally found her lifeless body along a pathway. She may have just frozen to death or gotten into maintenance chemicals.

We don't know the exact cause of death, but we know that, ultimately, the killer was the callous, ignorant and/or selfish person who abandoned her outside.

Kissena Park

Just today (Aug. 1), we got a call about four young rabbits abandoned in the park.

The Year of the Rabbit. I'll be so happy when it's over.

Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group is in need of donations to help defray the costs of purchasing medical care, food, hay, supplies, cages, toys, sheepskins, medicines, etc., for not only the rabbits we take into our care, but also the rabbits we assist "at large": rabbits in the care of kind folks who found them, rabbits whose owners are experiencing hardship, etc.

FOSTERING

We're in Crisis Mode: Please Consider Fostering a Rabbit!

We are faced with one of the worst crises in our history. An influx of abandoned rabbits at the AC&C shelter in Manhattan is putting enormous strain on our resources. Members of our group are taking in some of these rabbits, but we need more foster families. Please consider helping out our bunnies.

The number of bunnies in the rabbit room had remained steady at around eight as of mid-June, but by July 11 the number had surged to 17. As a result, there were no empty cages available for any new rabbits who might arrive. Marcie Frishberg and Cindy Stutts sent out an urgent request to the volunteers, seeking foster homes. The rabbits in residence included Pegasus, Flo, Gretel, Hansel, Thor, Hattie, Rikki and Tiki, Felicity, Rosemary, Milky Way and Bettina, Sherlock, Smoky, Sonny and Chad, and Decker.

Among the volunteers who took in foster rabbits were Casey Easterling, who picked up Sherlock, and Will Leung, who offered to foster Rihanna.

Casey said of Sherlock, "He is a wonderful bunny. I love him. He is good with his litter box. He loves to eat and play, and loves to cuddle and get pets and kisses." Will said on July 12, "Rihanna is with me, eating, sleeping and learning to use the litter box. Unless Duchess approves of her at home, I am only fostering for now." (Rihanna was soon adopted, and Will brought home another bunny, Pegasus, to foster in late July.) Genevieve Hannon picked up Milky Way and Bettina for fostering.

Mimi, the little lionhead who came into AC&C with no fur on her feet (urine scald), was fostered by Fiona MacPhee for about three weeks, spent a few days in Jane O'Wyatt's bathroom and was then adopted as a partner bunny.

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FOSTERING

Crisis Mode *(Continued from page 5)*

Other volunteers, including Alisa, Sari and Emma, also offered to foster rabbits.

Cindy said in a note to the volunteers, “Thanks to those of you who stepped forward to foster a few of the AC&C buns; we will move those buns to Petco as soon as a space opens ... Thanks for all the support for them! Without us, they have no hope.”



Joule, who weighed 8 ounces upon arriving at AC&C, is being fostered by Carol Nelson, Long Island.

The situation remains very difficult, and we appeal to all our readers to consider helping us out. The rabbit room is still filled to capacity, despite the efforts of our fosterers, and we need more foster families immediately.

We have no simple explanation for the unusually large number of abandoned rabbits who are being left at the shelter this summer. The influx is partly a result of the post-Easter dumping of rabbits that occurs each year, but this year is worse than usual. A number of rabbit owners have said they are surrendering their bunnies because the family is moving. Financial issues also are a factor for some people.

No matter the causes, the welfare of these homeless rabbits needs urgent attention, and we can offer pens and other basic supplies for any fosterers who need them.

If you would like to know more about our available rabbits and opportunities for fostering them, please contact Cindy Stutts at bygolyoly@yahoo.com or at 646-319-4766. For other contact information, please turn to the last page of Thump.

Photo: Genevieve Hannon



Milky Way and Bettina.

Genevieve's Fosterlings Are 'Sweet as Pie'

Genevieve Hannon emailed the other volunteers last month to say that her two foster bunnies are having fun:

This is just a quick update on my fosterlings Milky Way and Bettina. They are doing absolutely great here at home with us. I have given them my very large bedroom, which they love exploring and lounging around in.

They love to sit behind my full-length mirror that rests against the wall, as it's kind of like a little hideaway, only usually their little butts are sticking out (I see you....). They are too cute! What great bunnies. They are both confident and social and sweet as pie.

The colander-type hay box that Will sent me home with is great. It really keeps the hay dry. This is particularly good for these two since they love to

lounging in their box. Both are eating well and loving my fresh greens and hay from the farm out by Jim's country house.

Milky Way is a gorgeous Himalayan – outgoing, sweet, gentle, loves being cradled like a baby, just a gem of a rabbit. His wife, Bettina, is the most adorable tiny white rabbit with the tiniest ears, round head, right eyeball missing and lid sewn shut, and a pretty pink/lilac eye just like Milky Way's eyes. She is a touch shyer than her husband but is still very friendly and sweet and social, and she loves to lounge in hideaways I have set up. She is super-duper cute. What a lovely pair. They'd better get adopted soon or you guys may end up having to break into my home and tie me to my couch to take them away.

Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Naomi, Hersey, Monty, Dexter, Tobias, Hamlet, Viola, Barnaby, Eloise, Simon, Commander, Sweetpea, Rosemary, Thor, Sonny, Rihanna, Mimi, Edwin and Pablo, Smokey, Hattie, Otto, Pegasus, Sherlock, Dawn.

We're Looking for a Forever Home

AC&C photos: Jenae O'Wyatt



Gretel at AC&C.

By Kirsten Ott

Gretel is a medium-sized girl with a shiny, all-black coat. She was surrendered by her owner, who cited “personal problems” and simultaneously surrendered a male rabbit who was rather aggressive toward poor Gretel. Perhaps as a result she is somewhat wary; she’ll need a predictable, loving environment where she can learn to trust and to develop a sense of fun. Gretel likes to be petted, and turns herself into a perfect round ball to enjoy the attention. She has excellent litter-box skills and has been spayed.

Humphrey is a small-to-medium-sized hot mix who was surrendered by his owner. This little guy is very enthusiastic about life; it’s hard to sit still when everything is just so interesting! Humphrey is black and white, with a cool-looking mottled pattern on his ears and thick black raccoon-like rings around his eyes. This fun guy would make a good partner for another bunny. He’ll need a lot of exercise and toys or tunnels to explore. Humphrey has good litter-box skills and has been neutered.



Humphrey at AC&C.



Chad at AC&C.

Chad is a small-to-medium-sized bunny who was found in front of a King Kullen supermarket. This cute black-and-white guy seems to be wearing a disguise: he sports a black eye mask and a big black mustache! Chad is very active, but will settle down for petting after some play time. He would make a very good partner bunny. Chad enjoys a well-furnished litter box, but he and his new people will need to train each other in litter-box location, maintenance and use. He has been neutered.

Autumn is a sweet-tempered, medium-sized female bunny who was found in the parking lot of the shelter. This gentle, unassuming soul has a warm brown coat, beautiful eyes, and a cute white

Petco photos: David Mohney



Autumn at Petco, 86th Street & Lexington Avenue.



Bubbles at Petco, 86th Street & Lexington Avenue.

cottontail. Autumn is a little cautious when first approached, but comes around pretty quickly, and is easy to handle. She would do best in a quiet, calm home with gentle, patient humans. Autumn has good litter-box skills and has been spayed.

Bubbles is a young, small-to-medium-sized female rabbit with a gorgeous brown and grey coat. When Bubbles arrived at the shelter, she was outgoing but very

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For information about and/or to meet these and other adoptable rabbits: nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

We're Looking...*(Continued from page 7)*

territorial, lunging and nipping at hands when they entered her space. After just a few weeks in foster care, she learned to share her space very well. Now she will come out of her hideaway to greet you like a puppy, and will reach up to ask for nose petting. Bubbles loves to sit on your lap for petting and grooming, and will express her pleasure by gently grinding her teeth. Not only does she enjoy pampering, but she also likes to return the favor: once she knows and trusts you, expect to be given a thorough bath! Bubbles loves to chew and shred her cardboard hideaway, but she's otherwise a very neat bunny with impeccable litter-box habits. And her healthy appetite will make you feel like the best cook in the world! Bubbles would be best suited for an experienced rabbit guardian who understands how to properly handle rabbits. She should be given lots of space, as she loves to run around. Bubbles has been spayed.

Bubbles, Autumn Entertain At Lexington Ave. Petco

I arrived at 6:30 at Petco to find Bubbles making quite a show of herself, unlike I've seen before, and I wondered if anyone had seen her act like this before. She was in her litter box, shredding newspaper with such great speed and gusto that a few moments later she flipped backwards out of the box! Unfazed, she picked right back up and continued to shred voraciously, also putting any pieces outside the box back in it. When she saw me looking in the cage, she hopped out and started lifting up shreds of paper/hay against the door of the cage, as if trying to push it through the bars. This went on for a couple minutes, and then she exhausted herself and flopped out under her hidey box. —*Alyssa*

Autumn is mellow and loves being petted and will crawl into your lap and sit there...She likes her greens and was right on her apple sliver. She is very gentle and sweet. —*Robert*

Why Doesn't My Rabbit Like Being Held?

By Lisa Carley

Unfortunately for rabbits, they often look like plush toys. And everyone knows plush toys are made to be held and cuddled. Rabbits, on the other hand, are not.

The reason comes down to the prey-versus-predator situation. Rabbits are prey animals, and they are at the lower end of the mammalian food chain. Pretty much everything that eats meat, eats rabbits. That's a pretty scary place to live.

So while you see a cute little cuddle bug, a rabbit may see a potentially vicious predator eyeing dinner. Of course, your rabbit has figured out that you're not going to eat him or her.

In fact, every day I tell my rabbit, Wabbit, that he "is not for eating purposes." I believe it sank in a while back, but it never hurts to reiterate such an important sentiment.

So if your rabbit knows you're not going to eat him, why doesn't he like being held? That comes down to the fact that in the rabbit world the guy next to you may want to eat him. Basically and simply, rabbits use flight to protect themselves. If you are restraining your rabbit, he cannot flee. If he cannot flee, he can possibly be eaten.

This is hard-wired into your rabbit. We've all met rabbits who don't struggle very much when you hold them; generally they're lops. You will notice, though, as soon as you get within a few feet of any surface that may provide a safe landing, even the most nonchalant rabbit makes a break for that surface.

So don't take it personally. Just know that even though your rabbit loves you, he's never going to get over that ingrained fear of being eaten. Come down to his level – the floor is good. You'll be glad you did.



Illustration: Eric Hostford

Pistol and Petunia: Siblings Who Get Along Just Fine

By Emmy Cordero

It had been several years since I last owned a pet. I believe I was 13 when I used to take my Maltese, Coco, for a walk every day through my old Spanish Harlem neighborhood. He is now deceased and I hadn't owned a pet since, until I met Pistol and Petunia.

The desire for a new animal companion grew stronger and stronger as I was trying to balance school and a part-time job. I really needed something to put a smile on my face when I walked in through the door, tired from the day's events. I knew that I couldn't have a dog or cat due to my building's policy, so I researched a different kind of pet. The idea of owning a bunny made me feel warm inside. Rabbits were cute and cuddly, as well as intelligent animals. They were small, didn't make noise, and were perfect for my apartment. Hardly able to contain my excitement, I visited the animal shelter to seek out my new bunny companion.

After meeting a few buns, I completely fell in love with Pistol and Petunia, who were a bonded pair as well as brother and sister. I met them through Sabine, who was fostering them at her home in Sunnyside. She taught me a lot about caring for them during my visit and what really made me want to adopt them were their unique personalities. Pistol is brave and loves to explore, while Petunia is gentle and shy. For a first-time bunny owner, this really impressed me. I had no idea rabbits had their own individual traits.

Having the bunnies adjust to their new home was one of the first challenges I faced with Pistol and Petunia. While they adapted very quickly, I still had to keep them from wandering under my bed, where Pistol would come across many of my shoes and chew them up to

his heart's content. Another thing that was quite common during the first few nights would be their sudden thumping episodes. Because I slept in the same room as them, any little movement I made would scare them. I learned that thumping is natural, and just a way for rabbits to warn each other of any approaching danger. During those nights, I would make sure to get up and gently caress their heads while whispering, "It's okay; it's just me." They've since stopped thumping at night.



Petunia and Pistol.

Playtime is always fun, especially when I come home exhausted from school or work. I usually throw all my bags to the side and lay flat on the floor. Pistol initially would be the first to come forward and jump on my back, signaling to his sister that it was time to play. Petunia would come out cautiously (she is still very shy till this day) and sniff me once or twice before returning back to her cage. I'm still trying to help her warm up to me, and I think I've had a lot of success. Now I am able to pet her without having her run off. She's a real sweetheart.

Overall, I've had a wonderful experience owning Pistol and Petunia. It's so nice having such kind, intelligent and adorable animals as pets. I was even considering adopting more bunnies in the future when I get a bigger place. But for now, it's just me, Pistol and Petunia.

Eight Months Later: Benita Finds a Home



Benita with Christina Rocco.

By Nancy Schreiber

Readers have asked us about Benita, the rabbit who was rescued last Labor Day by Ben McCool. Ben discovered Benita in a filthy cage near his Manhattan apartment. She was covered with urine and an unidentified brownish chemical, and she was suffering from severe malnutrition. Ben took Benita to the Animal Care & Control shelter on East 110th Street, where volunteer Jane O'Wyatt was caring for the rabbits at the time. Jane alerted Mary Cotter, chapter manager for Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, and Cindy Stutts, manager of the NYC/AC&C Rabbit Program. Benita received initial medical care at the shelter, and then was taken home by Mary Cotter for further treatment. Benita recovered and blossomed into a feisty, healthy bunny. She was featured in the October and December issues of Thump.

The Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group looked for a home for Benita, and she was adopted on May 7 by Christina Rocco, who had recently lost her bun of many years. It was love at first sight for both Benita and Christina.

Benita is an "only child," so she gets lots of love and attention in her new

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Benita

(Continued from page 9)

home. She finally has the home that she deserves.

Benita's Adopter Writes:

She Has 'Warrior Spirit That Finds Mischief'

By Christina Rocco

Benita is doing very well. She is an extremely happy bunny and has been kept very busy training me. She is keeping me on my toes!

She has an appetite that is amazingly and unbelievably huge for such a small creature. She has quickly learned where her treats are kept and begs shamelessly. Benita wakes me up bright and early for her breakfast. It used to be 4 a.m., but I pushed it to 7 a.m.

Benita is also enjoying her freedom, and she has a lot of it! Although she had a generous-sized pen she did not feel it was appropriate for her. Benita is an impressive jumper and utilized that talent to continually break free. She was very insistent, and being that the apartment is bunny-proofed, she now spends her time in the kitchen and foyer when I am not home. Benita has taken over the apartment!

She is well stimulated with toys. Her favorite toys are baskets, which she can demolish. When I clean up the pieces she leaves behind, she always supervises me and makes sure everything is put back to her liking. She also takes inventory. Benita is very protective of her toys.

Amazing is the best word to describe her. She is sweet, loving, playful and smart. She has a strong personality with a warrior spirit that finds mischief. I have been spending a lot of time bonding with her and building trust. Given her history, she was difficult to handle at the beginning. However, she has come a long way. She is absolutely a joy to have hopping around the house.

RIP Petunia

By Cathy Zelonis

I received a message that there was a white rabbit on the south shore of Staten Island who needed rescuing. So I went to visit the elderly woman who'd been feeding the female rabbit for two months. The rabbit was missing part of one ear, and she was quite the independent New Zealand white. She visited the woman daily for her much-loved portion of bread.

I brought the rabbit home, but she didn't like being put in a room after living wild for two months. She was so mad about being a captive that she chewed the wood in the room with a vengeance, complete with pinches and growls, grunts and honks.

I think she was also mad at me for not giving her any bread. But she got lots of pellets, greens and herbs of all kinds, and an occasional treat. The secret charm that toned down the grunts and stopped the pinches was my habit of giving her regular petting sessions at least twice a day. I had to work my way up to them, though, by giving a pet here and a pet there, whenever she would allow it. Even then she would make her angry grunts.

Eventually it got to be a routine, so that whenever she wanted a petting session, she would jump up on a box when I walked into the room to let me know. She would put her front paws and her head on my lap as I was petting her. Sometimes she would even make tiny grunts that were like sighs, and I used to imagine that she was saying, "Thank you," as she gobbled down her food.

She was a bossy busybody who would jump up on the cinderblock and put one paw on her Plexiglas door and hang her head over to check out Benjamin Bunny, who sometimes romps around in the living room. One day, after having her for eight months, I came home and she was on her box, so I sat down and started to pet her. I discovered that something was very wrong. She was dying, and I felt frantic and so upset.

Photo: Cathy Zelonis



Petunia.

It's awful to lose a bun who has worked her way into your heart, but I guess it has to be seen as a part of life. Everything has a season, and hers was over. But I'm glad that in the eight months she was with me she got lots of love and good food. I think all of us who foster rabbits know that we make their lives better in so many little ways, but they also make our own lives richer. I always have the question in my mind: who benefits more, the rabbits or us? I'm glad I got that call to get Petunia (Tunie). She was such an endearing character, and I loved her. Now I am fostering seven rabbits. Life goes on.

Getting Happy

By Lori McAllister

Looking back to that New Year's Day in 2005, I had no idea what I was getting into. We went to the pet store to pick up something for my husband's bearded dragon and I walked over to see the bunnies. I had no intention of buying any – we had just lost our first rabbit two weeks earlier and were both still devastated, but something drew me to one of them, and I asked a staffer why the bunny looked so thin and had fur missing. She informed me that perhaps it was because the rabbit recently had a stillborn litter. Whatever the reason, that did it – I knew I needed to take her home.

(Continued on page 11)

Getting Happy (Continued from page 10)

Photo: Lori McAllister



Happy McAllister, center, with Pumpkin, left, and Shadow.

“Happy” was named in hopes of bringing some happiness back into our lives after losing our first rabbit, Bunster. The first few days, however, did not bring happiness. I remember her terrorizing my husband and me in bed. We had brought her there to snuggle with us, as our last bun liked to do. Happy grunted, growled and charged us. There we were, two adults literally HIDING under the blankets from a three-pound rabbit.

Exactly 28 days after bringing her home, Happy surprised us with a litter of four babies. This was back before we were involved with rescue, and we didn’t know as much about rabbits. Four babies! Can you imagine? A pet store sending unsuspecting customers home with a pregnant rabbit? We now know that this is, sadly, not uncommon. Pet stores also routinely sell customers mis-sexed rabbits, who then have unexpected litters once settled in the home.

Surprisingly, and thankfully, Happy was a great mom to her babies. We “adopted” the whole family, and had them all spayed and neutered. Happy shared an enclosure with her daughter, Pumpkin, and son, Shadow. Her two other boys, Bosco and TC, roomed next to them.

Happy maintained her gruff facade as her babies grew. If they did something silly, she’d give them that “disapproving” rabbit look. She couldn’t stand nonsense and made sure her children knew it. But

underneath, Happy was also one of the most loving rabbits I have ever known. She loved her kids and groomed them constantly and always made sure she got her kisses back. She eventually did this with us, too: we would pat her and she’d then pull away and kiss us, then after a time she determined was enough shoved her head back under our hand for more pats.

Happy was a larger-than-life personality in a three-pound body. She had a way to get others, rabbits and humans alike, to do what SHE wanted. She’d win you over with her sweetness or just bully you with her attitude. I recall one time my father was petting her; he had to reach awkwardly into her cage and told me how uncomfortable he was petting her for a good 20-plus minutes. I asked why he didn’t stop, and he told me, “Happy didn’t want me to.” I know that might sound crazy to those who never met her, but I knew exactly what he meant. Happy always made sure you knew what she wanted and knew how to get it.

About a year and a half ago, Happy’s daughter Pumpkin passed away suddenly from bloat. It was heartbreaking watching Happy say her goodbyes – she wouldn’t stop kissing her. A month or so after Pumpkin’s death, I noticed a problem with Happy’s eye. We took her to the vet to find out that it was a thymoma, a tumor growing in between her heart and lung. The vet, my husband and I discussed the risks involved with treatment, and opted not to do anything invasive, but to treat her with steroids as needed.

Happy lived just over a year from the day she was diagnosed, but in that year she taught me so much: to appreciate each day, to run, play and, most importantly, to love everyone with all your heart. I was lucky to be her student for almost six years. She was our tough, tiny “Happy Girl.” She couldn’t speak, but she made sure we knew how much she loved us.

Photo: Laurifer Abrams



Elmo.

For My Little Old Man, Elmo...

By Laurifer Abrams

Elmo was my first bunny. Upon returning to school to get a veterinary technology degree and finally pursue a long-desired career working with animals, I decided I wanted a study buddy of the furry kind – someone to keep me company while I read and did homework.

The rabbit volunteers at AC&C were so knowledgeable, friendly and encouraging that I decided to adopt a bunny. Elmo was the smallest one there and I was told from the beginning that he wasn’t particularly people-oriented. Indeed, as I sat in the fenced area he hopped around me exploring everything – but wasn’t the least bit interested in my proffered hand. But he was small and adorable and had a sense of confidence that I distinctly lacked, so I liked him right away. I met a few more bunnies but I still felt drawn to Elmo. And when he was back lounging in his cage, stretched out like he owned the place, he accepted a forehead rub from me and that was it – he was mine. I took him home and my bedroom became his palace.

I realized quickly that I wasn’t going to be home enough to offer him the attention he would need on a daily basis, so within a week I had decided to adopt him a buddy. We had a speed-dating session with Cindy Stutts that I will never forget. Being six years old and only two weeks neutered, he beelined

(Continued on page 12)

Elmo (Continued from page 11)

for every single bunny put with him and was...overly amorous, to put it politely. He was only 2½ lbs, but he took on rabbits four times his size, bonded pairs, and even other males. Our one saving grace was “Domino,” a recent arrival at AC&C. She graciously put up with his behavior and planted herself next to him until it was declared that they should be able to bond just fine. And they did. In just two short weeks they were living together like an old married couple, each noticeably more jubilant than when they had been living alone. The turning point was when “Domino,” whom I renamed Betty Lou to keep with the “Sesame Street” theme, scrambled over the fence between them to get to him.

For the next 2½ years they lived happily together. Elmo was the leader, Betty Lou the caretaker. She would always race over after I finished petting him to lick his face and remind me that he was actually HERS, and she HIS, and I should consider myself lucky to share their living space. But those two first weeks, when it was just me and Elmo, bonded US together as well, and he was always my special little guy, making me laugh with his happy dances, his love of forehead and cheek rubs, and his angry grunting whenever anyone – myself or Betty Lou – tried to disturb him while he was eating his Timothy pellets.

I like to think I was able to give him the kind of life he deserved – lots of space to play in, a bunny friend to love, fresh vegetables every day, and a slice of banana every morning. For 2½ years he was in great shape and health, belying his advancing age. But yesterday morning (Aug. 3), I lost him after an astonishingly rapid downturn in health. I haven’t experienced pain like this in a long time. I am heartbroken over the loss of my little guy, and while I knew it would happen sometime, I never expected to lose him so suddenly. I am not ashamed to say I have shed many tears for him and will shed many more. Every rabbit is special, but the fact that he picked me

Photo: Laurifer Abrams



Elmo with Betty Lou.

as his person (while fooling me into thinking I’d actually picked him), bestowed a few kisses on my nose in his time, and made me happy every time I saw him makes him the most special to me. I’ll never forget the sound of his feet scurrying through the cardboard tunnel I gave them, the sound of them playing chase games as I was falling asleep – Elmo was always the pursuer – or the way he would sit by his food bowl in the morning and stare at me until I crawled out of bed to feed them.

Betty Lou, Elmo’s partner, is also clearly heartbroken. She was with him when he died so I am sure she knows what happened, for better or for worse, and she has spent the last two days sitting quietly in her cage, barely eating, her sorrow palpable. I am showering her with attention but I know I cannot compare to Elmo.

There are so many reasons to love rabbits and to share our homes and our lives with them. We spend countless hours making salads and giving massages and cleaning cages, and in return we get the genuine love and appreciation of this fascinating creature who shares with us his way of life, his games, and his pure joy of living. Elmo, I love you and I miss you and I will never forget you. My life is not the same without you in it. I thank you for choosing Betty Lou as your partner and for bringing her into my life. Thank you for being such a great partner to her and for taking such good care of her. And thank you for being so darn adorable to the bitter end. You have affected me so deeply and I am broken by your passing. Betty Lou and I will miss you every day. Thank you for sharing part of your life with us.

Photo: Susan Lillo



Cornflake.

RIP Cornflake

By Susan Lillo Lorence

Cornflake joined my family eight years ago, bouncing into his new home with unbounded energy.

We first met him at the apartment of Cindy Stutts, who also helped us in rabbit-proofing our apartment. The puppy pen we decided to purchase was a high one, just to be extra safe. Cornflake leaped out of it on the first day.

In his role as a new family member, he fit right in. Our family enjoys eating, and so did he. And he appreciated every morsel. When my husband served Cornflake his breakfast, he responded with toe kisses and circles of joyful jumps.

He learned how to open the door to our bedroom. Aiming his high jump at the doorknob, he easily got the lightweight wooden door to bounce open. His jumps were purposeful and precise.

For a fellow who had a history of some biting, and whose former family had surrendered him because they had “no time,” Cornflake exuded superiority. He looked the role. A gorgeous caramel-and-white lop, he was soft and fluffy. When we were traveling with him in his carrier, people stopped to admire him.

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Cornflake *(Continued from page 12)*

He had a few medical problems over the years, including a bout of head tilt several years ago, caused by an ear infection. “The Flakester,” as we affectionately called him, endured weeks of treatment with me each morning for the head tilt, and he emerged healthy again. There were also a couple of stasis episodes, one of which prompted me to call Cindy at 10:30 one night. She talked me through the process of microwaving two socks filled with uncooked rice and then using that to help heat him up, and Cornflake got his appetite back.

His favorite toy was a set of hard plastic baby keys that he and I would toss back and forth to each other. His favorite food was endive, and his favorite treat was a Craisin.

He never bonded with our younger rabbit, Rhonda, but he enjoyed watching her antics.

C-F Lorence (my husband’s name for our beloved bunny) left us on June 20, after suffering through a month of pain that left him worn out but not defeated. He fought until the very end, taking his medications and struggling to regain his health. He almost succeeded. He was brave and determined to survive, but his body failed him during the last few days of his battle. When at last he could not bite into his beloved endive and romaine on that final morning, it was a sign that he would be leaving us.

My sincere thanks go to Mary Cotter, who wanted so much for Cornflake to recover and who provided medical advice, kind words and love that my family will never forget. “YOU GO, CORNMAN!!!!” she joked in one email of encouragement near the end of May after I said he seemed to be doing better. Dr. Gil Stanzione provided medical care that was unsurpassed in its astuteness and humanity.

For my husband, our two daughters and myself, Cornflake will always be remembered for his unflagging feistiness, energy and stunning beauty. He was a strong, fearless boy up until his last day with us. He leaves behind a family that is so glad he came into our lives.

Photo: William Leung



Pegasus at AC&C with toys donated by adopters Arlene and Gabi, who went overboard buying playthings for their adopted bunny Webster.

Letters

Photo: Abigail



Napoleon.

Napoleon

Napoleon was adopted by Abigail, who gave us an update in June.

Well, my little hotot honey has shown a lot of resourcefulness in finding things to do here.

He actually located an unfinished basket behind my thread collection that I had forgotten about – perfectly suitable for rabbit demolition, which he proceeded to undertake.

He likes his cardboard hidey box – except when he is bored, he might just turn it over for fun.

I found another basket that he also liked, and he was very cooperative about jumping inside as well as chewing on the edges.

Many of these activities seem to be directed at getting my attention and they certainly are effective, generally leading to some petting.

There was a moment of excitement recently when Napoleon was working on his hay-box tunnel. He made his two excavations meet in the middle and he burst out the other side, very proud that he did it. Of course, I applauded and gave him some apple!

He is enthusiastic about treats. A couple of times when I opened the fridge he stretched up to the shelf with his greens and pulled down a bag of parsley or lettuce.

I am happy to report that Napoleon has made himself at home with me. What a cutie!

Abigail

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Webster at AC&C.

Webster

Arlene and Gabi, who adopted Webster, sent this update in late May.

Hi,

We adopted Webster a week and a day ago.

We are donating some toys to the shelter because we overdid it on stuff for Webs.

Thank you for doing the adoption with us. We love him so much!

Arlene & Gabi

Savannah

Yelena and Mark adopted Savannah, previously known as Viola. They sent us this email in June.

Savannah has been a great addition to our family. We decided to rename her to something that better fit her sweet and timid personality. She enjoys her own room, which contains a roomy dog pen and plenty of space to explore.

Our Shih Tzu puppy, Snoopy, has fallen in love with her, and loves just watching her for hours. You will find them touching noses often. It is so cute.

She eats hay, pellets and fresh veggies. Savannah is very energetic and loves to be petted by all of her new family members. Mark and I want to thank the volunteers from the shelter for all of their help with bringing this special bunny into our lives.

Best,

Yelena Ismailova and Mark Quintana

Photo: Yelena Ismailova



Savannah.

(Continued on page 15)

HAY

Sincere thanks to all of our generous hay donors!

Letters *(Continued from page 14)*

Photo: Beth Capps



Henley.

Henley

Henley, formerly known as Beauford, was adopted by Beth Capps and her family. She sent us this letter in early June.

I wanted to update you on Henley (Beauford) the bunny. He is quite a character! He settled right into his new home and instantly became part of the family.

He is such a laid-back bunny and he's so smooshy. Every morning he rearranges his bedding and then throws his toys around. He loves his rabbit pellets. I barely get them back in his hutch before he has his face in the bowl.

He goes in his fenced-in play area every evening and he loves to run around the boxes, and we're always impressed when he does one of his signature "air hops" from a sitting position.

We find ourselves watching him instead of the TV. He's just so entertaining! He likes to chill out and watch TV, too. We watch him watch TV! We love Henley!

Beth Capps

Photo: Rachel Nash



Twinkle.

Twinkle

Twinkle was adopted by Rachel, who sent us this update in early July.

Twinkle is acclimating beautifully. Being new to bunnies, we were a little nervous about bringing her home, but her confidence is dissipating all our nervousness. It was love at first sight. She's taken a huge liking to my fiancé, and she spends a good amount of time nuzzled

up by his feet, sometimes nudging them with her nose to get petted. We took her for her first vet visit this week (she's in perfect health) and got a lesson in nail trimming. And we're learning a lot about her: favorite veggies, which toys to get, how to deal with mischievous nipping. But overall, she's a sweetheart. I think we'll get along just fine.

With love,
Rachel & Andrew

Photo: Andrea Doucette



Elmur and Sophia.

Elmur

Andrea adopted Elmur (formerly known as Commander) in late June. She sent us an update the following month.

Happy HOT Summer to you. Hope your bunnies are cool. Here's an update on "Commander," adopted June 26 from AC&C.

My Elmur Rabbit has simple needs and desires, and they are happily fulfilled in our home. From day one Rabbit let me know I could relax; everything was going to be ok.

His good-natured way and self-confidence gave him a welcome place in our home almost immediately. Early on he claimed my room and never backed down when confronted by the two curious, lurking cats greeting him. After a couple days of marking my bed, he figured out where to do his business

(Continued on page 16)

Letters *(Continued from page 15)*

and now stops by my bed for snuggles instead.

He makes it known when he needs some love, nudging my hand or resting his body against mine. He surprised me when I found out he likes to rub noses. So cute! Rabbit is very tolerant of the cats, Sophia and Bridgette, and fairly unfazed by their presence. Sophia, on the other hand, finds Rabbit to be fascinating. When Rabbit gets “the crazies” and dashes around the room, Sophia gets a little freaked out. It’s funny to see who’s scaring whom.

Feeding times are a treat for both of us. In the morning, Elmur gets so excited when I get out of bed—knowing pellets are soon to follow—that he dances around my feet and tries to bury his head in the food jar. In the evenings, when I get home, he refuses to eat anything until I give him his carrot. He waits for it.

When he’s lying around on his belly, legs stretched out behind him, I think to myself how much I love my peaceful pets. Life is meant to be enjoyed, and they know it.

In summary, Rabbit fits into our family beautifully and is a pure joy. Thank you for introducing us. (Side note: Although I did give Rabbit a proper name, Elmur, I think he’ll always be Rabbit to me.)

Andrea

Edwin and Pablo

Kirstie and her boyfriend, Jason, adopted Edwin and Pablo in July. She sent this update to Amy Odum.

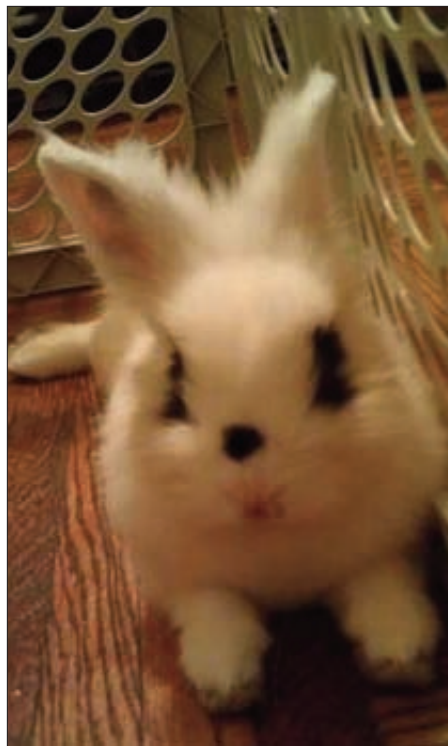
Oh my gosh, we love Edwin and Pablo! They have been so sweet and really fun to have in the house with us.

We already have made a “bunny fort” for them, which they seem to enjoy. Thank you so much for helping us adopt our boys.

Thanks again, Amy!

Kirstie

Photo: Sarah Park



Sonny.

Sonny

Sonny was adopted by Sarah, who sent us this letter in late July.

Thanks for asking about Sonny. I’m starting to see his personality. He’s a lot of fun. He likes cilantro over carrots.

He started peeing on a spot where it’s really awkward to put a litter box, but I guess I have to find a way we can work it out. I am enclosing some photos.

Thanks!
Sarah

Photo: Kirstie LaFemina



Edwin and Pablo.

Photo: Nona Cleland



Orpheus and Flo.

Flo

Nona adopted Flo and sent us this email to Cindy Stutts in late July.

Hi Cindy,

Flo (Rose of Spanish Harlem?) is settling in nicely. She really is a doll, just as you said. She and Mr. Smokey Stewart have not bonded yet, but they haven’t fought yet, either.

What was funny was that not only did he chase her (he’s eight pounds), but she chased him some, too. It’s going to be fine; I just know it.

It’s good to have another bunny in the house. We were definitely short one. Thank you for everything you do for bunnies.

Best,
Nona

P.S. The end of this complicated story: Flo bonded with Orpheus! I borrowed Smokey’s partner Eurydice for Orph when Orph went into stasis after his partner Hubble died of bloat at the age of nine. Eurydice is back with her longtime bonded partner Smokey, and everybun is happy!

Save the Date!

**Rabbit Rescue & Rehab/
House Rabbit Society
Annual Conference
Sunday, Oct. 23, 2011**

Radisson Hotel, New Rochelle, NY

Rabbit-Savvy Veterinarians

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

Long Island:

Jennifer Saver, DVM

Laura George, DVM

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

Heidi Hoefler, DVM

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

Jeff Rose, DVM

Jefferson Animal Hospital
606 Patchogue Rd. (Route 112)
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776
(631) 473-0415

Manhattan:

Becky Campbell, DVM

Deborah Levison, DVM

Symphony Veterinary Center
170 West 96th Street, New York, NY 10025
(212) 866-8000

Katherine Quesenberry, DVM

The Animal Medical Center
510 East 62nd St., New York, NY 10065
(212) 838-7053, (212) 329-8622

Manhattan (continued):

Alexandra 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

Shachar Malka, DVM

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

Westchester County:

Gil Stanzione, DVM

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

Laurie Hess, DVM

Veterinary Center for Birds and Exotics
709 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507
(914) 864-1414

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Jennifer Saver, DVM, HRS Licensed Educator

Laura George, DVM, HRS Licensed Educator

THUMP August 2011

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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.

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 mec@cloud9.net or 914-337-6146 (www.rabbitcare.org).

AC&C rabbit volunteers' email address in New York City is nyc.metro.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.

Many of our rabbits are living in foster homes and you can meet them as well. You also can arrange to foster a rabbit until he or she finds a permanent home. Contact Mary Cotter at mec@cloud9.net or Amy Odum at either amy@adoptabunny.info or nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

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