

# THURSDAY

## NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS AUGUST 2015



### My Weekend With Two Special Senior Buns

By Natalie L. Reeves

There was a time when the anticipation of a summer holiday weekend alone in the city while my friends were jet-setting

Photo: Natalie L. Reeves



Mocha Jane and Thaddeus share a meal.

might have depressed me. Not so this year: I was counting the minutes to the Memorial Day break when I would be hosting two very special house guests – Thaddeus and Mocha Jane McElhinney.

Thaddeus, or Tad, and Mocha Jane, or MJ, stole my heart years ago. Soon after being left at the ACC shelter in April 2007, MJ gave birth to five babies, three of whom (Queenie, Goldie and Robin) I eventually adopted. Although I'd never had the slightest interest in tracing my own family tree, I was obsessed with learning all about my bunnies' heritage.

Like a child who insists her parents must read the same book over and over,

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Photo: David Feld and Adrienne Hamilton



Killer B Binkin.

### Love Outweighs The Heartache

By David Feld and Adrienne Hamilton

Our first bun was appropriately named Killer B Binkin for her no-nonsense attitude and zest for life. Found with her parents and siblings in a cardboard box on the side of a road, she was a little Heinz 57 hotot mix, fitting in two hands when we brought her home. She was sweet on her own terms, with just the right amount of attitude. Many of our friends were intimidated by her bossy demeanor, but she loved us. Every morning and every evening we would cuddle on the couch as she meticulously groomed our faces and arms. If we upset

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### Blind Bunny Seeks Partner, Home

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Honey's afternoon siesta. **Page 8.**

## Love Outweighs Heartache

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Photos: David Feld and Adrienne Hamilton



Killer with Dave.



Adrienne with Killer.

Photo: Nobile L. Reeves



Conrad and Ross at Petco.

her she would reprimand us with her teeth, followed by vigorous bunny kisses.

She ruled over us with an iron paw, and so our lives revolved around her. “What? Take a quick flight to Texas? We prefer to rent a car and spend two days on the road. Our little Binker doesn’t fly.” She was an adventure bunny and a constant source of love, joy and laughter for our seven years together. Last year she passed away and it was devastating. We have given up on conveying to others how heartbroken we were and still are. We swore off pet rabbits last summer, but of course that wasn’t realistic.

As autumn rolled in we began to realize we needed a companion. We thought about getting a cat, but we quickly realized that we were missing that bun personality. We found NYC Metro while browsing Petfinder and began looking into the bonded pairs. We were taken with two brothers, Conrad and Ross, who were being fostered by rabbit volunteer Marcie Frishberg. Well, it didn’t take long before they were binkying around our living room (really, their

living room) and circling our feet when they heard the fridge open. It was a big change from our bossy girl to these two perfect gentlemen. We could feed them banana without fear of losing a finger. What banana lovers they were!

Who knew rabbits could be sweet, gentle creatures? Conrad was shy, very shy. We were allowed to touch him if and only if he was touching his brother. Ross was a bit cautious but also curious. A sweet boy who liked to explore, Ross was our way in. He helped Conrad to relax with us. In the beginning they both were afraid of us and the noises outside, but within the first month they began to take food from our hands and we could see the trust building. We loved seeing them flop next to each other or follow each other on an adventure. They were the best of friends.

Sadly, a couple months after welcoming them into their forever home, Ross was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer that’s almost unheard of in rabbits. As we came to terms with Ross’s diagnosis our concern for Conrad’s well-being led

us to realize he would need a friend whenever Ross’s time came. Conrad and Ross were litter mates and had never spent one day of their lives apart from each other. When that final day came, Marcie was kind enough to meet us at the vet and share our last moments with Ross. That truly touched our hearts and helped us as we mourned the loss of our second rabbit in less than a year. He was a sweet, gentleman of a boy. We are grateful for the time we had with him and miss him so very much.

It didn’t take long before Conrad needed a friend. He appeared depressed, wasn’t hopping around much and gained weight. We took him to Marcie for a speed date at Petco where he met Lil Britches (formally known as Princess Leia). She is a fearless Lionhead mix with a history of headtilt. She is half Conrad’s size, and full of young bunny energy. She moved in and adjusted to us without batting an eye. Her head is on straight and she’s getting stronger as she runs and jumps, but she still has a few

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## Love Outweighs Heartache

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coordination issues. She's not perfect at standing on her back legs.

Conrad and Lil Britches are now living separately but side-by-side while they are getting to know each other and working out the all-important question of dominance. We are hopeful that they will get cozy soon. Meanwhile, we are enjoying our one-on-one time as we get to know them both and we look forward to years of love, joy and laughter with them.

For the seven years we were with Killer, we were convinced that we were the crazy rabbit people. When friends gushed over the new thing their kid had learned, we couldn't help but make comparisons to Killer. To the surprise of everyone we talked to, Killer's personality had both depth and breadth. She wasn't the fluffy, simple animal that most people were expecting. She was sweet, loving, brave, adventurous and curious as well as mischievous, cunning and manipulative. It wasn't until we met the volunteers of NYC Metro that we realized we were not alone in our love and awe of rabbits. We still might be the crazy rabbit people, but now we have company. Everyone we have met has been warm, welcoming and full of quirky rabbit tales. The volunteers have been a constant source of information and support through this year's ups and downs. The outpouring of sympathy for Ross was much appreciated, and the interest in finding a new friend for Conrad was overwhelming. Word travels pretty fast in this group. Thank you to all of the people who are part of NYC Metro, and a special thanks to Marcie. Volunteers, adopters, all of the crazy rabbit people out there, you are amazing.

Photos: David Feld and Adrienne Hamilton



Conrad and Ross at home.



Lil Britches.

## My Weekend *(Continued from page 1)*

I made my friend Erin, who had adopted MJ and Tad, repeat stories about them: “Tell me about Thaddeus trying to visit his kids at the shelter,” or “Tell that one again about MJ screaming during the thunderstorm,” I’d say. Erin would patiently recount the tale, solidifying my conviction that these lops were extraordinary.

In 2010, Erin and I brought our bunnies together for a family reunion, and we were ecstatic that Mocha Jane and Thaddeus seemed to recognize their kids, and my bunnies thankfully treated their mom and dad respectfully and lovingly. But I’d never gotten to spend overnights with them.

Preparation for the weekend was intense. Mocha Jane and Thaddeus were seniors with health issues, and I wanted to make sure I could properly care for them while their mom was away. MJ had lost much of the use of her back legs and scooted around her pen using her front legs, and Tad had severe arthritis.

Erin and I visited our friends at Long Island Rabbit Rescue who were ready to give us a primer on caring for senior rabbits with mobility issues. Dr. Nancy Schreiber kindly hosted us for hours in her home, where she and Mary Ann Maier answered a multitude of questions and provided demos.

Given Mocha Jane’s disability, keeping her clean and dry was of paramount importance. Mary Ann showed us how to clean MJ’s bottom using lukewarm water in the sink and to ensure she was thoroughly dry after blow-drying her with the temperature of the dryer low and aimed a safe distance away, so as not to burn Mocha’s delicate skin.

Bathing a senior bunny who can’t clean herself has always made me nervous, and I gained confidence as Mary Ann showed us her techniques. I’ve modified her method slightly for my own senior girl Mopsy, who needs baths fairly regularly, by adding an inch or two of water to a painter tray I bought at Home

Photos: Natalie L. Reeves



Thaddeus gets to the pellet bowl by draping himself over Mocha Jane.



Tad serves as MJ’s pillow.

Depot for about \$5. I top the tray with a towel, with the natural slope of the tray making it easier for me to lower Mopsy’s bottom into the area where the water is. I place the tray on the floor where I sit while giving her a gentle bath,

following up by snuggling my girl in a warm soft blanket and then blow-drying her. Nancy taught us the importance of creating a layered bedding for senior bunnies who can’t move around well.

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Mary Ann and Erin doing post-bath grooming.



Mary Ann and Nancy cleaning MJ's ears.

## My Weekend *(Continued from page 4)*

Based on what I learned from Nancy and friends with disabled rabbits, I set up layers in Mocha Jane's pen, consisting of Sofnit washable (do not use the disposable) underpads (34" x 36") on the floor, thick towels in the middle, and a large synthetic sheepskin (Essential Medical Supply Sheepette Synthetic Lambskin, 30" x 40") on top, all of which is available on Amazon or from a hospital supplier. This set-up was critical for helping to wick away any moisture from her body. I spent a lot of time washing the bedding, but luckily the bottom layers absorbed much of the moisture, so I didn't have to wash the thick faux sheepskin as much as the towels and underpads.

Often the anticipation of a great event far exceeds the actual experience, but in this case my high hopes for quality time with Mocha Jane and Thaddeus were more than satisfied. I've never witnessed greater love between humans or animals than what I saw between these two bunnies. MJ and Tad were always touching, with Tad usually serving as MJ's pillow. I wanted every sweet moment to be etched into my memory.

With her mobility issues, I was shocked by MJ's high activity level. She didn't sit still for long, moving from one area of

the pen to the other with relative ease despite her handicap. I made it easier for her by providing a large potting tray I'd purchased on Amazon as her litter box, which allowed her easy entry since it had a flat side. I also provided food and water in a couple of spots in the pen, just in case she didn't feel like scooting to reach her stuff.

While MJ was zooming around, Tad was quieter, sleeping much of the time, but perking up whenever I walked by in the hope he would score greens or treats. After losing my beloved Goldie last summer, I was grateful to have her lookalike dad in my home. Watching him was like having part of my precious little girl back. Thaddeus's gentle nature reminded me of his son (Robin). Mocha Jane passed on her sass and spirit to all her kids, but especially her daughters Goldie and Queenie.

Queenie never got to visit her parents while they were with us. When they were all younger, they had loved their reunion, but given their current frailties I didn't want to risk stressing any of them by arranging a meeting. When my little Queenie was being particularly artistic during one of her shredding

projects, however, I threatened to tell her mom and dad if she didn't clean up her mess. As Queenie ignored me and continued to diligently work on her project, I figured she was telling me she was making a masterpiece for her parents.

Senior rabbits are a blessing. They can be more work than a young, healthy bunny, but they repay the humans who care for them a million times over. While I wished that MJ and Tad were still young and healthy, of course, I didn't pity MJ for her twisted body or Tad for his severe arthritis, because they demonstrated more joy in every moment than most able-bodied people I know.

I found myself getting up multiple times in the middle of the night to check on my guests, to ensure they were okay, and to pick up and straighten Mocha Jane's back end to lightly stretch her muscles, but mostly to marvel over how these two made every minute count. Thaddeus didn't mind when MJ sat on him, and Mocha Jane thought it was fine when Thaddeus ate his meal over her. All we can ever hope for our bunnies (or ourselves) is that we experience the great love that these rabbits shared.

## What Do Rabbits See?

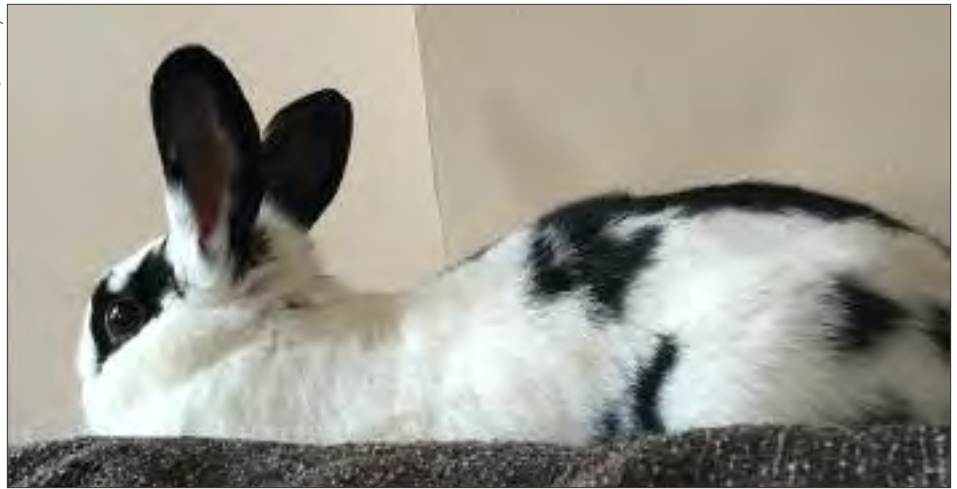
By Dana Krempels

Many house rabbit “parents” are curious to know what the world looks like to their lagomorph companion. Why does it seem difficult for my bunny to find food right in front of his face? Why is my bunny so easily startled or frightened if I enter the room holding a box or a grocery bag? Can my rabbit see colors?

The first thing to remember is that a rabbit’s visual system evolved under evolutionary pressures completely different from those which “designed” your eyes. We human primates, like our simian cousins, have forward-placed eyes which confer binocular vision and depth perception. This is essential for an animal originally designed to leap through the trees. Also, we have excellent color vision, a trait which helped our ancestors to find ripe fruit and tasty flowers in the forest canopy.

On the other hand, the rabbit visual system is designed – not for foraging and locomotion – but to quickly and effectively detect approaching predators from almost any direction. The eyes are placed high and to the sides of the skull, allowing the rabbit to see nearly 360 degrees, as well as far above her head. Rabbits tend to be farsighted, which explains why they may be frightened by an airplane flying overhead even if their human companion can barely see it. (It could be a hawk! Run!)

The price the bunny pays for this remarkable field of vision is a small blind spot directly in front of his face, but forward-placed nostrils and large, spooning ears compensate for that minor loss of predator-detecting space. For an animal to have binocular vision, the field of view of both eyes must overlap to some degree. The central blind spot in the rabbit’s field of view precludes a three-dimensional view of nearby objects. When your bunny cocks her head and



Tori.



Watson.

seems to be looking at you “sideways,” she is actually looking as straight at you as is possible for a bunny. As far as we know, she does not have a primate’s level of depth perception at such close range.

What about color vision? In general, vertebrates have two different types of photoreceptor cells in their retinas: rods and cones. Cones confer high resolution, and, if more than one cone type is present, they also confer the ability to perceive various wavelengths of light as distinct colors. For example, we humans have three different categories of cone –



Ms. Einstein.

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## What Do Rabbits See?

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their maximum sensitivities in the red, blue and green regions of the spectrum. The differing sensitivities of each cone type enable us to perceive different (visible) wavelengths of light as the colors of the rainbow.

Behavioral studies published in the early 1970's indicate that rabbits do have a limited ability to discriminate between some wavelengths of light, perceiving them as different colors. Evidently, they can discriminate between the wavelengths we call "green" and "blue." Although rabbits may not perceive green and blue the way we do, they can tell them apart. This means they have limited color vision, probably conferred by two different categories of cone cells (blue and green).

The other type of photoreceptor, the rod cell, confers high visual sensitivity in low light situations, but relatively poor resolution (i.e., a "grainy" picture). The rabbit retina has a much higher ratio of rods to cones than the human retina has. Although a rabbit can see better than a human in low light conditions, his low light image has much poorer resolution (clarity) than the daytime images formed by your cone-rich, primate retina.

Now you may wonder: "Can my rabbit see me clearly, or am I just a big blur?" As you read this page, you are focusing on the letters with a very tiny part of your retina called the fovea. This is a minuscule, cone-shaped depression in the retina, lined wall-to-wall with high resolution cone cells.

Rabbits, too, have small retinal areas with more cones than rods. However, this area centralis is not indented, and it has far lower cone density than our fovea has. The image formed by the area centralis is relatively "grainy" compared to the one formed by your fovea, but it serves the rabbit well. Using this image, your voice, body movements and scent

Photos: Jane O'Wyatt



Buggles' head-tilted view is the result of *E. cuniculi*.



Teandra aka Little T.



Squeaky.

as cues, your rabbit can recognize you (his favorite human) – as long as you're not carrying a scary box that completely changes your familiar shape!

Knowing a little more about how another creature sees the world allows us to



Emily.

come one step closer to understanding its behavior – and modifying our own to make life happier for everyone. Remember that the next time your rabbit gazes at you with those deep, ancient eyes.

*Copyright – Dana Krempels, Ph.D.  
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## Honey, a Special Needs Rabbit, Begins Her Search for a Partner

By Jane O'Wyatt

Since December of last year, I have been fostering a youngish orangey-brown lop named Honey. She was surrendered in late November 2014 at AC&C, Brooklyn. The vet who examined her wrote, "Adult rabbit, both eyes look to have severe issues. OS [left eye] severely cloudy; OD [right eye] has neovascularization indicative of a possible melting corneal ulcer." Arrangements were made for Honey to be taken directly to the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine, Manhattan, where Dr. Cynthia Brown noted, "I got a tono-pen reading today on the left eye and it is elevated (32mm/hg). I would suggest that we start her on some Dorzolamide. We do not have that here. Will need to Rx it for you. I would suggest that you get an ophthalmologist consult on Honey and get her eyes sorted out before we proceed with a spay or anything invasive that requires anesthesia."

Honey was blind, with high intraocular pressure in her left eye and a damaged cornea in her right. At CAEM, her right eye was sutured to protect it. Rabbit volunteer Cathe Rekis, who agreed to foster Honey for a short time, picked her up at CAEM and settled her in her kitchen. Cathe said, "She's very smart, very curious. Once she knows where her food is, she will know where to go when



Photos: Jane O'Wyatt

Honey in her pen with wheat grass, a gift from an admirer.

hungry. I've been feeding her by hand as it helps her. She is so very sweet. She has a good appetite, looks like she's on the thin side." Cathe suspected that Honey might be hard of hearing, and after she arrived at my place a couple of days later, I noticed

that she didn't pick up auditory cues the way my other foster bunny Hardy did.

Animal Medical Center's Dr. Katherine Quesenberry, to whom I immediately

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Dec. 6, 2014. Right eye was sutured to protect it and to allow administration of ophthalmic medication.



Dec. 11, 2014. Right eye, after sutures removed, shows neovascularization in ulcerated cornea.



Dec. 11, 2014. The "severely cloudy" left eye has high intraocular pressure.



**Honey** *(Continued from page 8)*

took Honey for an exam, said the cause of her blindness was trauma, possibly from an attack by a cat or a dog. Ophthalmologist Dr. Alexandra van der Woerdt, consulted by Dr. Quesenberry about Honey's condition, confirmed high intraocular pressure in the left eye (treatable with drops). Having removed the sutures from Honey's right eye, Dr. van der Woerdt observed that its ulcerated cornea was healing but would need frequent lubrication and flushing to remove debris. After Dr. Quesenberry relayed to me what her colleague had said, I asked if Honey would recover any vision. She sighed and murmured, "Not today." Which I interpreted to mean that Honey's chances were slim.

Despite the fact that she receives only three out of five kinds of sensory data, Honey functions cheerfully (and unterritorially) in her 16-square-foot pen, where furnishings don't migrate. Her senses of smell and taste are robust, possibly compensationally enhanced. Her tactile sense enables her to enjoy being petted and to be aware of the thumping of other rabbits and the footsteps of nearby cats and humans. She has the physical energy of a young rabbit (expressed in vigorous clockwise circling) and she loves zooming through her curved accordion-folded cardboard tunnel. She receives her daily eye medications without fussing. Nor is she a picky eater: she devours dandelion, fennel and carrot greens; basil, dill, parsley, cilantro, escarole, kale, lettuces. She adores eating hay and lounging in it. After a couple of months' mutual incomprehension, she and I figured out that she requires two litter boxes.

Honey's disposition and disability qualify her for adoption as a partner to a sighted bunny. Several years of bunny sitting for a blind-and-sighted bonded pair named Delilah and Hugo underlie my belief that Honey would greatly benefit from having a sighted partner.

Delilah and Hugo were bonded devotedly for about a year before Delilah's cataracts stole her vision and Hugo became her guide and protector. I have seen Hugo rescue Delilah when she has gotten lost and started circling anxiously; he nudges her gently back to their home pen. And their meticulously attentive human guardian does everything to ensure their well-being. Honey, deprived of her sight through human carelessness (at best), deserves a companion like Hugo and a safe, loving home.

But the condition of Honey's eyes had to be stabilized before she could be spayed, which is a prerequisite for a bonding speed date. The upshot of this was that while Honey's eyes were still "a mess" (Dr. Quesenberry's term), I had my first experience of living with a young intact female rabbit.

During the five years I volunteered in AC&C's rabbit room, I met hundreds of unsplayed females and unneutered males. I was indiscriminately nipped and circled and sprayed and humped and grunted and growled at by numerous intact male rabbits. Yet since the females – often pregnant when surrendered or abandoned – were spayed as soon as possible, I was not exposed to the full flowering of female hormonal behavior until I witnessed it in Honey. During the months before she was considered a good candidate for spay surgery, Honey cycled into two 12-to-14-day phases of what house rabbit sources called "sexual receptivity."

When I entered her pen during these high hormonal periods, Honey would circle me so enthusiastically – wrapping herself around my ankles – that I had to move with utmost caution to avoid stepping on her. Her circling was punctuated by emphatic thumps, and she whimpered and honked and hummed buzzily (I regard the latter as bunny infrasound). She nipped and humped me, and her scent glands broadcast a pungent aroma. During one of Honey's horndog phases,

I was taking care of Sweet Pea, an intact male lop, in his home in East Midtown, and his behaviors, though less vehement than Honey's, were almost identical. (One courtship skill that Sweet Pea deployed that Honey didn't was spraying.)

In mid-May, Dr. Quesenberry deemed the condition of Honey's eyes stable enough for spay surgery. The procedure, which coincided with Honey's second bout of raging hormones, went well. In surgery, her uterine horns were found to be red and engorged – which was consistent with her behavior at the time. Afterward, she quickly reverted to cuddly docility.

Rabbit volunteer Cindy Stutts, who originally asked me to foster Honey, was eager to find her a sighted partner to increase her adoptability. Cindy had many years of experience in bonding able-bodied and special-needs bunnies, including Delilah and Hugo, the blind-and-sighted pair whose loving bond I regarded as a quality-of-life paradigm. So I was thrilled when Cindy contacted me in June about a speed date with Larry, a healthy, recently widowed black and white male whose guardian was Dr. Alexandra Wilson, a bunny-savvy vet at the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine. Under Cindy's supervision, Larry would meet Honey and two other special-needs females: Thumbelina, with severe head tilt, and Gugu, with severe depression. The speed date's location would be

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June 15, 2015. Speed date: Cindy Stutts and Larry.

## The First Part of Forever

By Dan Frambach

As readers may remember, Isabella came to stay with me about two years ago. She was a foster who had been retrieved from a placement that was supposed to be permanent, but had turned out to be temporary. Our friend Robert placed her with me while steps were taken to find her a forever home.

Like so many of our rescued friends, her early days are a mystery. She was found in a park in Queens where she had been living rough for God only knows how long, and worse, her left ear bears a tattoo that the vet said is a laboratory marking. It is the only visible sign that her early days were full of peril and, apparently, near-misses.

She is a beautiful snowy white New Zealand with glowing garnet eyes. Although we are working on her figure, she has a rounded, chubby body that is formed around a perfect, sculptural bone structure. When she stands up with her front paws on the bars of her X-pen to request a treat, she looks like a

toddler in a pure white sleeper, with a little paunch that we call her “Isabelly.” She has the elegantly equine ears of her breed but her sturdiness is accented with distinctly feminine touches like her long, lush platinum eyelashes and those dainty, pointed little front paws that look like the slippered feet of Scheherazade.

Knowing her has been an education for me. I am a lifelong dog lover who, at first, found her quiet, rabbit-y ways to be completely inscrutable. I wanted to do my best by her, and to compensate for the nightmares we surmised she had lived through, but other than keeping her safe and giving her food, water and space to relax, I felt I had little to offer. For example, she seemed to like being petted, but only to a point. Before too long, I would invariably hit one of her invisible “bunny buttons,” (which are never in the same place twice) and she would disappear from the end of my arm as if into thin air.

In our early days, there were a few times when, before her training of me was

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Photos: Dan Frambach



Isabella.

### Honey *(Continued from page 9)*

spacious, neutral territory: a large exam room at CAEM. What an auspicious occasion this would be! High hopes for Honey!

Yet when sightless Honey met Larry, she did nothing but circle and circle, in a frenzy of disorientation. The bonding session was quickly ended, because Larry, thoroughly alarmed by Honey’s behavior, appeared about to attack her. Larry’s new partner turned out to be Gugu, who visibly brightened in his company.

Honey and I took a bus home, where Honey acted as though she had been granted a stay of execution.

My hopes for a quick pairing dashed, I wondered in what comfortable

Photo: Jenie O'Wyatt



June 15, 2015. Speed date: Cindy introduces Honey and Larry.

circumstances Honey might be able to meet potential bunny partners – accompanied by compassionate, experienced rabbit people willing to adopt a special-needs bunny. To eliminate the stress for Honey of an unknown location, might the “neutral territory” requirement be lifted – and suitors invited to her own digs? In future speed dates, who would be the most promising candidates for Honey to meet? Following the disappointing and informative event at CAEM, Cindy suggested that, in addition to being healthy and having been in bonded pairs before, the best candidates would probably be older bombproof males. Meanwhile, Honey can stay with me until she meets her own Mr. Hugo.



## Shelter Bunnies Need Your Help

By Natalie L. Reeves

The Manhattan location of New York City's Animal Care Centers (ACC) ([www.nycacc.org](http://www.nycacc.org)) is overflowing with adoptable rabbits. With 50-65 rabbits at any given time in recent months, there has never been a greater need for adopters, foster parents, and volunteers.

ACC is the public open-admission shelter in New York City and takes any rabbit brought to it. Surprisingly, this is not always the case for other municipal shelters throughout the country; many are only open admission for dogs and cats.

Although ACC has full-service locations in Brooklyn and Staten Island as well, currently only its Manhattan branch houses rabbits. You can meet the rabbits in a room on the second floor of the shelter located at 326 East 110th Street between First and Second avenues from noon to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, or 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends.

On a recent day at the shelter, numerous varieties of rabbits were represented: lops, Lionheads, Flemish Giant, Dutch, long-haired, solid and spotted varieties, big and small. As visitors walked past

the banks of cages, many of the bunnies would eagerly press their noses through the cage bars for attention.

Several mother rabbits were also being housed with their babies. The shelter doesn't, of course, breed rabbits, but often pregnant females are left at the shelter or entire litters are relinquished. In these cases, the babies aren't adopted out until they are old enough to be spayed or neutered, but foster parents are desperately needed to care for these bunnies until they are old enough to be altered. What could be more fun than caring for a family of bunnies?

Rabbit volunteers are always in demand. With so many rabbits, it is challenging for volunteers to give more than a few minutes attention per bunny during any given day. Tasks could be as easy as checking to make sure all the bunnies have bowls of clean water or sufficient hay in their litter boxes. Many bunnies arrive with overgrown nails or unkempt fur and could greatly benefit by receiving grooming from volunteers who are comfortable doing so. Cleaning cages, taking pictures for the shelter's website, and socializing the bunnies are all jobs volunteers help with.

Photos: Natalie L. Reeves



Mom with babies.



Rex.

ACC requires individuals interested in volunteering or fostering to complete a training program. For more information, please see <https://nycacc.org/VolunteerOpps.htm>. In addition, you can always email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com) for further guidance.

## FOSTERING

### First Part *(Continued from page 10)*

complete, I accidentally cornered her. When this happened, she would startle me by unleashing a throaty, choking snarl of a sound as she boxed at me, hard, with those slippered front paws of hers.

While my brain took in the sight as something endearing and nearly ludicrous – this tiny, creature taking on a giant 20 times her size – my heart always registered a pang. In those moments, I saw for myself what life is for a rabbit living

outside of a safe refuge. And in those moments, she came alive as the nearly helpless, undefended animal of prey that she is in the natural order. But in those moments, she also showed me how she had somehow slipped away from the vivisectionists and gone on to live unsheltered among the dogs, rats and hawks and human sadists of New York City's parklands until she, by some route none of us will ever know, came to find herself under an IKEA chair in the corner of a shabby living room on the Upper West Side.

A few weeks after these outbursts (which ended when I learned how to approach her without scaring her), Robert called to ask if it would be all right to pick Izzy up that weekend for a speed-dating event at which, it was hoped, she might find a compatible bunny mate and a new and permanent home. I told him it would be fine to come get her, over my dead body.

That's when I realized it was too late – Isabella and I were already well into the first part of forever.

## Volunteer Spotlight

*Erin McElhinney is a longtime volunteer with Rabbit Rescue & Rehab.*

### Erin McElhinney

*How long have you been volunteering for RRR?*

Approximately eight years.

*What types of volunteer work do you do now?*

I train new rabbit volunteers monthly at ACC and volunteer there with the rabbits. I also foster rabbits.

*What first brought you to RRR?*

I had the TV news on early one Saturday morning and I saw people holding rabbits that were going to be at a Petco Union Square adoption event later that day. I had been thinking about adopting a rabbit for several months and I thought I would swing by and check out what I would need to bring a rabbit home. I went to Petco and immediately saw my future love and best friend, Ginger Madeleine. I had seen her on TV that very morning! I talked to Cindy Stutts for a long time and she showed me everything I needed to buy to get started and she told me about the nycbuns message board. About a month or two later, I saw her post on the board about a need for volunteers at the shelter and I emailed her back, re-introduced myself and told her I'd love to help out at ACC. I've been going back ever since!

*What keeps you coming back as a regular volunteer?*

I think most of us volunteers have suffered compassion fatigue or burnout at various points. Sometimes, it's not even related to the work we do as volunteers, but just our busy personal and professional lives spilling over. Whenever that happens, I will step away and either just foster or just volunteer. After a week or so, though, I start to feel antsy and anxious. Then, I will log in to our ACC message group and read about all the superheroes I

Photo: Nadia L. Reeves



Erin with Thaddeus.

volunteer with and the beautiful little souls in cages in the rabbit room and before I know it, I'm back at 110th Street! To be more concise, I would say it is a true desire to help as many of these innocent little buns as I can and also a spirit of camaraderie with all of these amazing volunteers. Even though I only see some volunteers once or twice a year at various adoption events, I feel a sense of belonging with them because we all pour so much of our heart and soul into our volunteer work that reading people's weekly shelter updates can sometimes be as raw and personal as reading their diaries!

*What changes have you witnessed in NYC's rabbit scene since you started volunteering?*

We have so many amazing rabbit volunteers now!! I think the diverse crew of people we have working their bunny tails off at various Petcos, Petland Discounts and at ACC has helped create such a positive buzz. Of course, the downside of that positive buzz is that more people than ever now know they have an "out" when they don't want their rabbit anymore.

*Tell us about your own rabbits.*

I have a bonded trio of buns: the amazing Ginger Madeleine; a Lionhead rabbit named Josie Bear who came to ACC with a terrible mouth infection and had all except 1½ teeth rot out of her mouth; and their boy bunny, Joshua Shefik. Joshua was a formerly angry NZW at ACC but after spending a long time in foster care with Amy Odum, he is now the most loving and affectionate little boy. In the morning, he will charge at me, then circle my legs, which is rabbit for "pick me up and carry me around while kissing me; I want to get fur all over your work clothes!"

I recently lost Mocha Jane's husbun, Thaddeus, aka Tadpole. He was a beautiful golden harlequin lop who was so sweet and gentle and loved having his chubby cheeks rubbed. He died of lung cancer. Mocha Jane is still hanging in there, but each day with her is a precious gift. Although she is separate from the other buns, Joshua has taken up residence outside of her puppy pen and the two of them like to keep tabs on each other.

I also have an honorary rabbit, a pit bull named Amelia Pudding. Amelia will eat any cilantro stems or kale stalks that the rabbits turn up their noses at. Amelia also loves sticking her whole face into bags of hay and then sneezing uncontrollably!

*What would your rabbit tell us his/her favorite thing to do with you is?*

I can't believe I'm admitting this but...I play a game called "there's a mouse in my house," where I spot a rabbit on the floor and in my best damsel in distress voice declare that there is a mouse in my house and I bop the rabbit on its cotton ball tail with a cupped hand. They will hop a few paces away, look back at me and then run towards me again where the exercise is repeated until they get sick of me! We also do Saturday morning dance parties while I clean their pens/litter boxes.

*(Continued on page 13)*



## VOLUNTEERS

### **Volunteer** (Continued from page 12)

#### *What is your day job/profession?*

I work in investor relations/communications at a hedge fund where I spend most of my time daydreaming about Ginger Madeleine.

#### *What would you say to others who are thinking about volunteering?*

Through my time volunteering, I have made great friends, have used several volunteers for references during various job searches, and learned all about veganism!

As with anything, showing up is the most important part. The work is hard; it's not glamorous and talking about your experiences at dinner parties may result in polite, yet sympathetic nodding or glazed eyes from your friends. In other words, there is no recognition for your hard work but if you show up and keep coming, your heart will open up and new experiences and relationships will flood in.

#### *What are your best tips for new bunny parents?*

I always suggest that people gradually give their rabbit access to their homes to help prevent the bun from feeling overwhelmed in such a big, new space and to help discourage marking. I also recommend farmers market greens and their free carrot tops.

#### *What is your favorite memory from your volunteer work?*

Years and years ago, before ACC had a structured volunteer program, my sister used to help me out at ACC whenever she was in town. One day she was there with me and I had a chinchilla rabbit who was known to be a biter named Babs in one pen and an agouti lop who had recently given birth at the shelter in

another pen. I casually asked my sister to put Babs back in her cage but my plan backfired as my sister remembered me telling her of Babs' biting nature and she said she would put Mocha back in her cage and I could handle Babs. Well, funnily enough, Mocha bit my sister's arm hard and I scooped up Babs and gently placed her in her cage without incident. I eventually ended up adopting Mocha Jane and to this day, my sister and I still burst out laughing at that incident!

#### *What do you like to do when you aren't volunteering?*

I enjoy taking my dog to Central Park during off-leash hours, hanging out with my buns, jogging, eating at as many amazing NYC restaurants as possible, reading books about nature and doing Bikram Yoga! Oh, and drinking tons of coffee to power me through everything.

#### *What inspires you?*

I love hearing about my foster success stories. It is so hard to part with my foster buns, and it always warms my heart when their new families keep in touch with me and share with me how happy the bunnies are in their new home.

#### *Anything else you'd like to share?*

A strange thing happens when you become a "rabbit person." Suddenly, you start noticing rabbits everywhere. You will meet other rabbit people at parties or on the train; a colleague will come to work rocking the coolest rabbit earrings you have ever seen; you will see a beautiful sweater with rabbit prints at Bloomingdale's, etc. I have heard that you get back what you project out into the universe, so just be aware that when you first enthusiastically start being involved with bunnies, you will see them all over pop culture!

## Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Burrito, Dutchie and Brownie, Douglas, Herman, Rudolf, Liesl, Sleepy, Baby, Jasper, Luisa, Roxanne, Arthur, Tootsie, Sangria, Redford, Rosalie, Samantha, Meow, Licorice, Wordsworth, Dumpling, Kimba, Lacy, Poe, Lucia, Lindsay, Bronte and Sylvia, Rosina, Quicksilver, Butterscotch, Mannie, Billie, Bjorn, Ramsey, Amigo, Tristian, Charles, Lemur, Charlie, Sherlock, Page, Whitman, Razzle and Dazzle, Cosmo, Honey Boo, Pantene, Pocahontas, Barnacle, Hearty Quinn, Snow, Nero, BumBum, Harley, Imani, Tyrone, Thumper, Tessie, Lu and Luca.



Bjorn.



Cosmo.

## We Are Looking for Loving Homes

Written and compiled by Kirsten Ott

### Milo

Milo is a large bunny whose brownish-black fur is flecked with bits of white fur, giving it sort of a salt-and-pepper look. (He's still young, so it's not as though he's going gray.) Milo is a very sturdy guy with an impressive big head and a brawny body. He's very friendly, and will lumber happily up to greet you. He loves to be petted, and he's definitely a lot of bunny to love! Despite his size, Milo has a lot of energy and will need tons of room for exercise. He also seems very curious about the bunnies around him, and was surrendered at the same time as two other bunnies who may have been litter mates, so he might do quite well as a partner for another rabbit.



Milo.



Lucas.

### Lucas

Lucas is a large black bunny with a very gentle demeanor. This guy just loves to be petted and kissed, and he's kind of a clinger – he implores you to come back if you turn your attention elsewhere. This mensch of a bunny has flecks of white on the tips of his fur, giving him a salt-and-pepper look (though he's definitely on the young side), and a tiny white spot on the tip of his nose. Lucas would make a good choice for a first-time bunny owner.

### Frosty

Frosty is a large white female lop with some light-gray markings and gray ears. This beautiful girl will let you pet her, and seems to derive comfort from gentle attention. She would probably do best in a quiet home without small children or dogs.

### Loops

Loops is a medium-sized Cinnamon lop male with the cutest face you can imagine. He's all brown, with darker brown fur around his muzzle and ears. Loops will play a kind of loopy game with you: he likes to hide his little head behind a box while you're petting it (privacy please!), but when you stop, his head pops right back up like a jack-in-the-box.



Frosty.



Loops.



Liza.



Ralphie.

It's the cutest, funniest thing. This little guy is sure to make you smile!

### Liza

Liza is an adorable little girl with a decidedly mixed heritage: she's part Hotot, part helicopter lop, and part Lionhead! The combination is unbelievably cute. Liza's fur is extra soft and fluffy. She's mostly white with black ears, black eye makeup, a few assorted black spots on her body, and – best of all – an irregular black smudge on her little nose. In addition to being off-the-charts adorable, Liza is a super cuddler. She adores petting and will stick her nose through her cage bars, begging for more.

### Ralphie

Ralphie is a very handsome large Himalayan bunny. This guy is rather shy – he'll come up to sniff you, but mostly hangs back. He'll need some socializing, but is sure to open up after a brief period of time in a bunny-savvy home. Ralphie has a very dignified appearance and demeanor – a lean, aristocratic-looking face, smoky gray

*(Continued on page 15)*



## Looking for Loving Homes

*(Continued from page 14)*



Ryan.

ears and nose, and small ruby eyes. This special guy deserves a nice, quiet home where he can develop trust.

### Ryan

Ryan is a small to medium-sized black helicopter lop found in Queens Village. This sweet guy is clearly on the young side, and may be an Easter dump. At the shelter, he seemed traumatized by his recent experience, and was still rather skittish. He certainly deserves much better than what he's been dealt in his short life so far, and will need a good home where he can gradually learn to trust people. Ryan has been neutered and is currently in residence at the Petco store on Union Square in Manhattan.

### Taffeta

Taffeta is a medium-large New Zealand White. This girl has a very handsome face and almond-shaped pink eyes. When she's stretched out, she looks like she's modeling for a fashion shoot. Taffeta is rather wary of new people, so she would probably do best in a home with experienced bunny people.

### Luther

Luther is a very handsome large New Zealand White boy. This guy's rounded

cheeks and active nature suggest he's still on the young side. Luther is interested in exploring his surroundings. This big, strong guy would do best in a home with experienced bunny people.

### Garfield

Garfield is a very large strawberry blond lover boy. He may have been named for Garfield the comic-strip cat, but his coloring is more along the lines of Morris the cat. This guy is the ultimate in chill – he loves to flop, stretch out and generally lollygag. You might liken him to a big family dog. Garfield will take affection whenever it's offered, no matter what lazy posture he happens to be in. He would make a good choice for a first-time bunny owner.

### Alfie

Alfie is a small- to medium-sized brownish-black Lionhead mix. This little guy is very excitable; he quivers with energy and will beg you to let him come out and play. He needs lots of opportunities for exercise in his forever home. In addition to being high-energy, Alfie is high on the cuteness scale, with adorable round, fluffy cheeks.

*(Continued on page 16)*



Taffeta.



Luther.



Garfield.



Alfie.

## ADOPT US!

### Looking for Loving Homes

*(Continued from page 15)*

#### Cooper

Cooper is a small- to medium-sized Jersey Wooly female. This cutie looks bigger than she actually is, because she's at least 40% fur! Cooper's head is a warm brown, and her fluffy body is a lighter brownish-gray. She has a cute flat face and adorable round cheeks. Best of all, Cooper is a super sweet girl. She adores petting, especially cheek rubs. She will need lots of attention, and regular grooming, in her forever home.

#### Jessica

Jessica is a small pale grayish-brown Lionhead with dramatic whiskers and cute, perfectly triangular ears. This girl is shyly sweet. She hesitates around new people at first, but warms up very quickly and becomes a total love sponge. Jessica adores cheek and forehead rubs. Her marvelously fluffy coat will require regular grooming.

#### Crunchberry

Crunchberry is a small- to medium-sized brown and white Dutch boy with a very nice disposition. This guy is sweet and well-socialized, and he adores petting and kisses. Crunchberry has some gray fur mixed in with the brown around his face and ears, and he has a fun brown splotch on his white bib – as if to distinguish him from other, “ordinary” Dutchies! He would make a good choice for a first-time bunny owner.

#### Lady Gray

Lady Gray is a medium-sized, sleek, all-gray bunny and a total love. This girl is very bright and outgoing, and will stretch her long body out for petting as soon as you come near. She has a very athletic, lean body and a slender face – you might say she was built for speed. She also has nice long ears atop her elegant-looking face. Lady Gray would make a good choice for a first-time bunny owner.



Cooper.



Jessica.



Lady Gray.



Crunchberry.

## Make a Difference!

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab needs dedicated volunteers to help care for our wonderful rabbits while they are waiting to find their forever homes. If you would like to volunteer, email us at [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).



## Desmond, Our Wild and Crazy Boy

By Susan Lillo

When we adopted Sam in December as a partner for our girl Rosie, my husband wanted him to have a distinctive name. Sam became Desmond Llewelyn, after the actor who played Q in more than a dozen James Bond movies and invented the gadgets Bond used. My husband had named Rosie Dorabella (known to the volunteers as Petal) after an opera character. The actor and his opera singer partner bonded quickly, and their months together were full of energetic fun.

Desmond devoured his greens with gusto, whereas Rosie munched delicately. Desmond tossed his muscular lop body high into the air when he raced around the living room, but Rosie liked to propel herself like a little white rocket very close to the rug. Both rabbits were fast on their feet, with rapid reflexes, especially for their morning banana slice.

When he was in his exercise pen, Desmond spent his time trying to escape so that he could run into the kitchen or bathroom without supervision. Rosie would watch from the sidelines as he pushed the pen around and tried to lift it up. He enjoyed exploring all the corners of the apartment, especially closets when he could hide from us. And he liked to leap onto cardboard boxes and his Cottontail Cottage from a nearby platform or box, just to challenge himself with a new athletic feat. Because of his quirky nature, his fearlessness and his stealth, my older daughter said, "He was clearly meant to be a Desmond. Sam is a much too normal name."

Among the humans in his household, Desmond favored my daughters and my husband, Roger, who prepared the bunnies' salads in the morning and evening. I often got nipped in the beginning, primarily if I came between Desmond and his food bowls. My younger daughter, Heather, was amused

Photo: Susan Lillo



Rosie and Desmond.

at this because he never tried to bite her. "He really worshiped dad, though," she said.

He was a young, healthy boy, and we looked forward to many years with him. On July 9, he uncharacteristically stopped eating. We brought him to the vet's office the next morning, and began a regimen for stasis. He did not bounce back, though, and died the following Sunday. The cause of death was found to be liver lobe torsion.

What my family will remember the most about Desmond is his wonderful, unstoppable energy and his attachment to Rosie. He was a bright light, ever shining and always ready for an energetic romp. His black fur was thick and

shiny, and his large black eyes were always alert. As for his lop ears, they often were held in a horizontal position because Desmond did not really enjoy any form of relaxation. He always had to be ready to go!

My daughters loved him so much, as did Rosie. Desmond, rest in peace. We wish you could have stayed with us longer.

Thank you to Amy Odum for fostering Desmond when his name was still Sam, and to Cindy Stutts for supervising Sam's original speed date with Rosie. This was a really wonderful bunny match, and it ended far too soon.

## Letters From Adopters

### Herman

*Herman was adopted in June by Carolyn Lo, who sent us this update about the "Professor."*

Herman has completely settled into his routine after a week. The dark fur on his face is shaped like spectacles so visitors are now calling him Professor Herman, which is very fitting since he is extremely inquisitive. He tries to climb on top of everything and needs to sniff and inspect everything.

Herman has no fear: he remains stretched out calmly during Fourth of July fireworks,

doggy visitors, and pots and pans clanging. Though he isn't the biggest cuddler, Herman is very entertaining to watch. He is so cute that I had to set up a bunny cam so I could check in on him during work. Everyone agrees that he is a very cool bunny. Thank you, NYC Metro Rabbits, for fostering the Professor and preparing me properly for a bunny.

Also Herman has his own Instagram account @professor.herman if you are interested in keeping up with him! I know he was a popular guy at both Petco locations.

Carolyn Lo



Herman.



Arthur and Quinee.

### King Arthur

*Arthur was adopted in early July by Quinee and Jimmy, who sent us this great letter.*

We feel so lucky to have taken home such a sweet and silly rabbit. Arthur came home to us on the Fourth of July. He was confused at first but has come to fall in love with his home. He's a curious bunny and is still exploring the room. Arthur loves running through his tunnel and hiding in his cardboard castle (or

sometimes using it as a step to jump on top of the bed). Once he's comfortable enough, he can leave the room and start exploring the apartment. He's been adjusting quickly, so we imagine that will happen very soon. Perhaps he's getting a little too comfortable and spoiled but he is, after all, King Arthur.

Quinee Quintana and Jimmy Espinoza



Barnabas and Starburst.

### Barnabas and Starburst

*Barnabas was adopted in April by Luis Santana, who says the two bunnies are getting along really well.*

So it's been a couple of months now with Barnabas. There were many reasons why I adopted Barnabas. First and foremost I wanted to get a companion for Starburst. She is also from NYC Metro Rabbit and the second rabbit I adopted. The second reason was because I really like Barnabas. I visit the Petland where he was staying and I had grown attached to him. The last reason was because I had two great conversations with some of the volunteers.

Starburst may not have even possibly come into my life if it weren't for NYC Metro Rabbit. Not only did NYC Metro Rabbit rescue her from a horrible

*(Continued on page 19)*



living situation, they also saved her life by treating her broken leg. Starburst is a tripod, but that has never stopped her. She has been the faithful company to two elderly bunnies (Emmett, Chauncy) and I wanted to make sure she was going to have a long lasting relationship this time! Starburst is a great companion bunny!

It took me a while to set up a date, mainly because I am picky about these things. At long last, though, the rabbits had finally met and it was a dream come true. I think at first Cindy Stutts and I weren't too sure, but when Cindy had given the okay I was so happy! I set up a pen and carefully introduced the bunnies. Immediately I noticed that Starburst

couldn't contain herself; she was always right by his side. Barnabas wasn't the most interested, but I suspect he was unsure of what was going on.

I noticed that they became more and more eager to be together so I decided to let them mingle. At first Starburst was giving all the affection, but Barnabas was quite a gentleman and stayed close to her the whole time. Now I would say they are pretty much inseparable and I couldn't be happier.

While they are complete opposites, they couldn't complement each other more. Starburst is a middle-aged tripod, petite and very ladylike. Barnabas is a young big ol' cotton ball of love. They can be

found throughout the bedroom, but always together. They usually stay under the bed, but they can also be found sunbathing together!

Since Barnabas has come to live with us, I refer to them as BarnaBurst. I have also noticed a drastic change in Starburst. She is happier, more alert, grooming herself better, and just more active. I can tell these two are really enjoying each other and I am so happy! I really feel blessed to have both Starburst and Barnabas. None of it would have been possible without NYC Metro Rabbit.

Thanks for bringing these joys into my life.

Luis B. Santana

## Greetings From Ciabatta

Hello, my name is Ciabatta.

I love long walks on the beach (I mean my exercise pen), cheek rubs, putting all of my food bowls in straight lines and lots of kale. I do NOT like the vacuum, being picked up or when my humans put all the hay back that I purposely took out of the bowl to sprinkle about.

I used to live at Animal Care & Control of NYC and folks called me Allena. While I loved Amy and all those that took care of me, I was ready to bust out of that place for more room and attention. This nice couple, Jaclyn Bouton and Zach Halper, took me home on May 31. They let me run around the living room and I was in heaven. I put on a big old binky show and snuggled my new loves. But then it was potty time--this whole place is mine right, including all the carpet? Also look at all those tasty wires...oh, and what's underneath that big chair? That seems like a fun place to hide.

They quickly got wise and limited my space so I could calm down and learn to use my litter boxes. Now I have a double hutch and some pen space and guess what? I always use the litter box! I'm a

Photo: Jaclyn Bouton.



Ciabatta.

smart girl, after all. As a reward I got even more space and yummy treats.

Now I run amok down the hallway and through the kitchen. No wires, and plenty of space. I'm learning all the new foods I like, such as Brussels sprouts and carrots. I don't care for asparagus. Actually, asparagus is pretty fun to throw around, but not so much fun to eat.

I like to confuse my humans by licking the carpet and their pants often. I like to sit on the top floor of my hutch and survey the landscape – it's a great view! I also spend a lot of time with my favorite toys, a stuffed dog, a cardboard box, some chew toys and my absolutely favorite--a paper towel roll with a bell ball inside. My favorite pettings are a finger stroke from nose to ears and a good strong cheek rub. I'll settle in for a long time and lavish the love. Then I'll give their hands a good licking as a thank you. It's a pretty good life.

When I'm all done running around my new space, there's no better way to unwind than by stretching out on the carpet and drifting off. Mm, just thinking about it is making me a little sleepy, come to think about it....Zzz

(Continued on page 20)

## Theodore and Madison

*Theodore was adopted in May by Rae Raven and her husband as a partner for their rabbit Madison. Here is an update on how the two bunnies are doing.*

This is actually an amazing story. Last August my husband and I were considering fostering a rabbit so we called up the New York HRS chapter and they told us that a litter of baby rabbits desperately needed foster homes and asked if I was willing to take on two rabbits of the same litter.

I had never owned a rabbit before so I told the volunteer that I was only willing to foster one rabbit to see how it went. We were given our wonderful Madison, but as you can imagine, young unaltered rabbits are a handful and very hard to deal with. Her spay date came, and what a relief! Her personality mellowed a lot but she still kept her young bunny spunk and finally bonded to me for good. We decided to officially adopt Madison because she stole our hearts. We spent countless hours together very happy, but I noticed whenever I would leave to run errands or go to school that she wouldn't move much and lost motivation in playing without me. I had a conversation with my husband about adopting another rabbit to bond with Madison to help her remain happy in my home without getting sad every time we left, and he agreed that this was a good idea.

I contacted Mary Christine Basile about setting up dates for Madison at the Petco location in Union Square, and she told me that Madison would be set up with three rabbits to have a speed date. One of the rabbits was her biological litter brother; he had been bonded to another sister but became single due to her passing. We first tried the other two rabbits since they were already housed at Petco, and the dates were okay at best.

When we had the date with Theodore, Madison seemed very interested and the bunnies attempted to cuddle a little. I do not know if they recognized each

Photo: Rae Raven



Madison and Theodore.

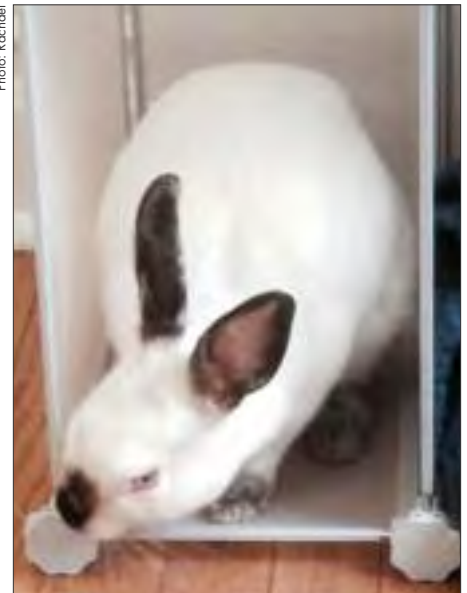
other from way back when or if their personalities worked well, but we knew it was fate to have them bond together.

So far Theodore has been here for two weeks and is already warming up to his new home. He presents us with loads of binkies every time he gets floor time. Madison and Theodore still haven't quite figured out their hierarchy as both want to be very dominant but only time will help them decide :)

Rae Raven

Update as of July 2: Madison and Theodore figured out their bunny manners and bonded within six weeks after Theodore's adoption! They are now so in love and inseparable. They take turns grooming each other daily and copy each other's behavior. They were truly a match made in heaven and they are both so happy in my home now. We are very happy and know we made the right choice to adopt Theodore, now known as Mibo. He's so comfortable here with everyone and loves to jump into everyone's laps to cuddle. My relationship with Madison has only strengthened through this process as bonding the rabbits gave me an opportunity to learn their behaviors and helped me understand rabbit language more. I feel much better about leaving them together during the day because Madison doesn't seem lonely anymore!

Photo: Rachael



Penny.

## Penny and Hops

*Rachael adopted Penny after a speed date at the Union Square Petco. Here is an update on how Penny is doing in her new home with Hops.*

I am writing to thank you all for introducing me to Penelope (aka "Miss Bunnypenny," "P-bun," "Pretty Penny") and letting me welcome this wonderful girl into my life and home. I'm especially grateful to her awesome foster dad, Austin!

For starters, Penny seems to love her new home, especially when she is running around getting in her daily playtime. As soon as she gets let out, she does several binky-filled loops around the entire apartment at lightning speed every day. She is one of the most playful bunnies I've ever met, and she seems to make everything a toy; empty cereal boxes, paper towel rolls and cat toys are her favorites, but she's also attempted to use her water bowl and my hair.

She is also an absolute sweetheart who simply loves being cuddled. Although she is a bit shy around new people, as soon as you make your intent to give her some head pets clear, she instantly

*(Continued on page 21)*



collapses into a relaxed pile of mush. And if you stop petting her when she isn't quite ready for you to stop, she will give you some nudges and then mark your feet to remind you who is boss. Sometimes she even climbs into my lap and is perfectly content to sit there for hours. Unfortunately, her affection for humans isn't quite as strong towards her fiance Hops; their bonding is taking longer than we had hoped, but we continue to see progress on their dates and remain hopeful that they will soon live happily ever after.

I'm so happy that I adopted Penelope, and I'm glad that she seems to feel the same way!

Rachael



Photo: Christina Pirrone

Redford.

### Redford

*Redford was adopted in mid-July as a partner for a girl named Rupy. Here is an update on how Redford is doing in his new home.*

Redford came into our home just the other day. We adopted this sweet little furbaby from NY ACC.

We had two bunnies, Rupert (Rupy) and Thumper. Thumper passed away and Rupy was sad. We decided that she shouldn't be lonely and needed a friend. My sister and I went on the ACC website and found a few bunnies we thought would make a good friend.

So we took Rupy for a trip into Manhattan to choose her new bunny buddy. We met Cindy Stutts, who was great and showed us two bunnies that Rupy might like.

You could see how happy Rupy was again to have a friend. Redford passed the test so we took him home. He is such a sweet boy.

Redford is a 7-year-old lop mix. He loves coming out to play in his new home. He gets lots of greens and hay to munch on. He's already loved and spoiled by the family.

He loves playing with his new chew toys and bumping us with his head when he wants to be petted. We are so excited to have him as part of our family. ♡

Christina Pirrone



Photo: Amysue Hansen

Molly with Maggie.

### Molly

Here is some news about Molly, who was adopted a couple years ago.

I wanted to give you a quick update.

We adopted Molly back in 2013. She is a feisty little bun who is full of energy. She's doing great and now has an adopted younger sister, Maggie. They even match, redheads with freckles. Maggie loves grooming Molly, and Molly loves chasing Maggie around the house. Molly definitely runs the house, though. She is the alpha bunny! What an odd couple!

Hope all is well with the rescue.

Amysue Hansen



Photos: Inha Kang

Chubbie.



Lovie.

### Chubbie and Lovie

*Inha Kang adopted Chubbie, formerly known as Dumpling, and also Lovie, who was formerly known as Rosina.*

I adopted both of these great rabbits! Dumpling was renamed to Chubbie, and Rosina was renamed Lovie. I fell in love with both the moment I saw them. I couldn't bear having either one becoming lonely, given that they're social beings, so I ventured to get two and ended up with the most adorable duo. Although my favorite right now is Chubbie because he's outgoing and adventurous, they're both lovable. They genuinely make me happy simply because they're cute, friendly and fuzzy. They're currently at the stages of gaining my trust, and I witness daily progress. Rabbits are unique, so learning about their behavior is certainly helpful in bonding with them.

They haven't spent much time with each other yet. Again, I'm waiting until Lovie's full recovery from spay surgery until I begin really bonding them.

Best,

Inha



Cupcake.



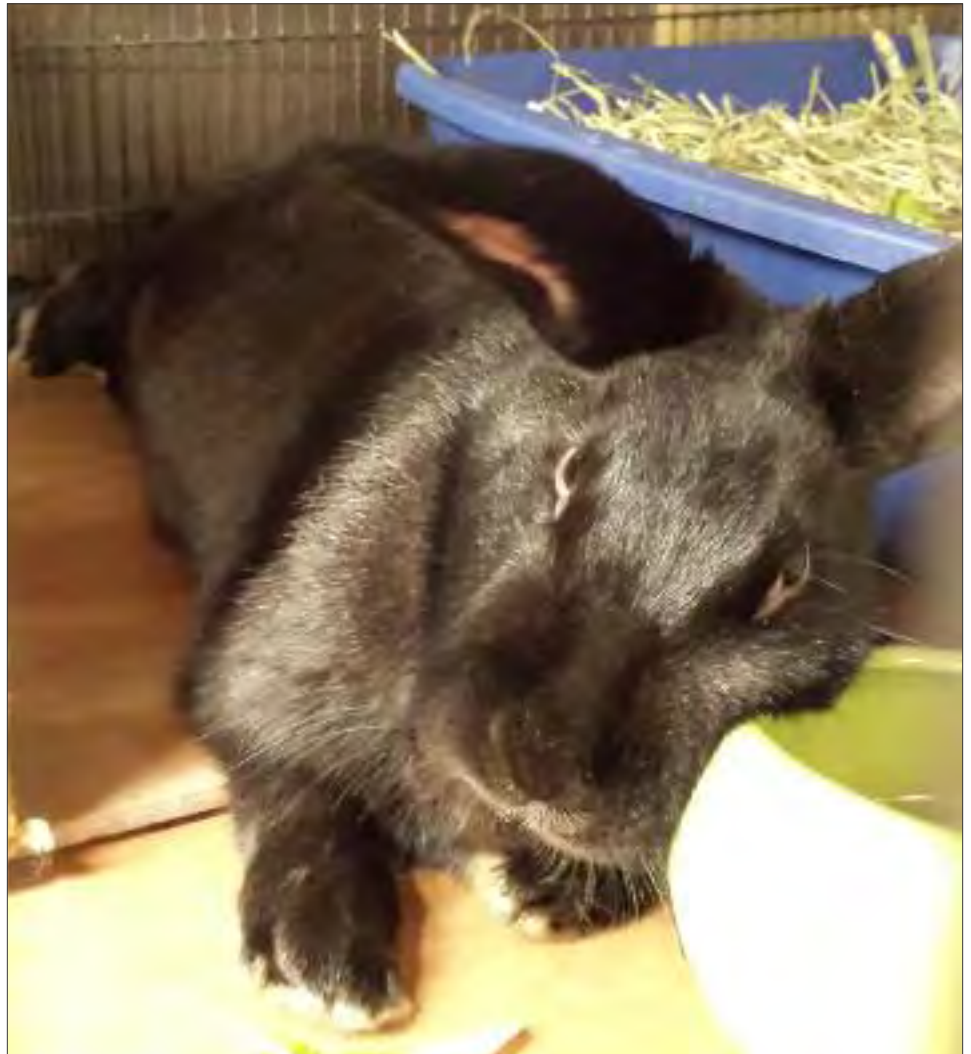
Akeeta's babies.



Lanie and Lilac.



Sophie.



Arthur.





Brownie and Dutchie.



Pipi.



Kelly.



Hughes.



Evelyn.



Tristan.



Baby.

## Rabbit-Savvy Veterinarians

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

### Manhattan:

**Becky Campbell, DVM**

**Deborah Levison, DVM**

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

**Katherine Quesenberry, DVM**

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

**Alexandra Wilson, DVM**

**Anthony Pilny, DVM**

**Cynthia J. Brown, DVM**

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

**Shachar Malka, DVM**

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

### Westchester County:

**Gil Stanzione, DVM**

Dakota Veterinary Center

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

**Laurie Hess, DVM**

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

### Long Island:

**Jennifer Saver, DVM**

**Laura George, DVM**

**Kristen Miller, DVM**

Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital  
2056 Jericho Turnpike, New Hyde Park,  
NY 11040 • (516) 877-7080

**Heidi Hofer, DVM**

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

**Jeff Rose, DVM**

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

## Licensed HRS Educators

### NYC/Westchester:

**M.C. Basile, Esq.**, President, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, BunnyTorts@gmail.com

**Mary Cotter**, Founder, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, Chapter Manager, NYC House Rabbit Society, Adviser to Thump, mec@cloud9.net, (914) 337-6146, rabbitcare.org

**Gabrielle LaManna**, New Fairfield, CT, gabbysbunnies@yahoo.com, (203) 746-7548

**Mary Harnett**, mmharnett@optonline.net, (914) 948-7976

**Marcie Frishberg**, mfrish57bun@yahoo.com, (718) 724-4105

**Cindy Stutts**, bygolyoly@yahoo.com, (646) 319-4766

**Kerstin Aumann**

**Monica Shepherd, DVM**

### Long Island:

**Nancy Schreiber**, President, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group,

nnschreibmd@aol.com, (516) 510-3637, LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

**Mary Ann Maier**, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group Volunteer,

altitude8@yahoo.com, LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

**Donna Sheridan**, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group Volunteer, hpocus217@yahoo.com, LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

**Jennifer Saver, DVM**

**Laura George, DVM**

## THUMP August 2015

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS

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[www.rabbitcare.org](http://www.rabbitcare.org)

Editor: Susan Lillo

Creative Director: Jane O'Wyatt

Masthead Logo Designer: Mary Ann Maier

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation in New York State. Our purpose is to rescue, rehabilitate and find permanent homes for abandoned, abused and neglected rabbits, and to educate the public on rabbit care through publications, phone consultations, home visits and presentations. This newsletter is published by RRR/NYC HRS, which is solely responsible for its content. We retain the right to edit all submissions, which become the property of the NYC Chapter and cannot be returned.

All donations go directly to caring for our foster rabbits and are tax-deductible. Please help us help them. Mailing address for contributions: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab/NYC Metro Rabbit, 333 Mamaroneck Ave, PMB 363, White Plains NY 10605. To contribute to Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, please go to [www.longislandrabbitrescue.org](http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org).

## Adoptable Rabbits 🐰

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

To adopt a rabbit in **New York City**, contact [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com). On **Long Island**, contact Nancy Schreiber at [nnschreibmd@aol.com](mailto:nnschreibmd@aol.com) or at 516-510-3637 ([www.longislandrabbitrescue.org](http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org)), and in **Westchester** contact Mary Cotter at [mec@cloud9.net](mailto:mec@cloud9.net) or 914-337-6146 ([www.rabbitcare.org](http://www.rabbitcare.org)).

The rabbit volunteers' email address in New York City is [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

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

In addition, NYC Metro rabbits are at the Petland Discounts store on West 72nd Street.

You can also visit Animal Care & Control of NYC (AC&C) at 326 East 110th St.,

between First and Second avenues. Rabbits for adoption can be found by going to:

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

Bunny speed dates can be arranged by appointment only on weekend afternoons at Union Square. Please contact [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com) to make arrangements.

Many of our rabbits are living in foster homes and you can meet them as well. You also can arrange to foster a rabbit until he or she finds a permanent home. Contact [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com)

For basic information about rabbits as pets, go to [www.rabbitcare.org](http://www.rabbitcare.org), [www.longislandrabbitrescue.org](http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org) and the House Rabbit Society main site, [www.rabbit.org](http://www.rabbit.org).