

THUMP

NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS • DECEMBER 2009

HOLIDAY SAFETY

Go Ahead and Buy That Poinsettia... But Bunny-Proof Those Holiday Lights!

Compiled by Kerstin Aumann

It's that time of year again... festive holiday decorations, parties and travel to celebrate with friends and loved ones. Below are a few pointers to make sure the holidays are safe for your rabbits:

Decorating Your Home

Opt for bunny-friendly decor. Pine cones are safe for your rabbit if untreated with pesticides or other chemicals, such as scents or dyes. Untreated wood or wicker ornaments are also good options.

Go ahead and buy that poinsettia. They're festive and safe. Contrary to popular belief, poinsettias aren't toxic. That, however, doesn't mean they should become part of your bunny's holiday salad. They can cause mild intestinal discomfort if your rabbit has a sensitive stomach.

Photo: Matthew Cayton



Bobo inspects the tree for hazards.

Some holiday greens are toxic. Although poinsettias are in the clear, many other holiday greens are toxic. This includes holly, mistletoe and certain types of ivy. To be on the safe side, make sure all plants and greens are out of your rabbit's reach.

Keep hazardous materials out of reach. Keep in mind that coffee tables and end

tables are often easily accessed by rabbits, and some rabbits are avid climbers.

Keep these things safely out of reach:

🚫 Decorations made from synthetic materials, including tinsel or garlands. When ingested, they can cause tummy trouble and impactions, necessitating

(Continued on page 2)

The Adoption Option: Better Than New

By Mary Ann Maier

I once had a co-worker who decided to get a pet rabbit. She told me she'd only feel comfortable buying a new baby rabbit rather than adopting. "Don't worry," she said, "I'll only buy from a very reputable breeder." When I told her it's better to adopt, she replied, "I know I really should adopt, but I want a perfect, healthy bunny. I want a 'new' one."

And she's not alone. Here in the New York area, there are pet shops that sell

rabbits in almost every neighborhood. But what the thousands of people who purchase baby rabbits every year don't know can hurt their chances of having an enjoyable relationship with their new pet.

We all know that adoption is the humane thing to do. Adoption saves the adopted rabbit's life, of course. But adoption also helps save the lives of other rabbits waiting for shelter space. Third, adoption doesn't contribute to the miserable lives

(Continued on page 4)

Photo: Mary Ann Maier



Bam Bam found a new home after being rescued in Elmhurst, N.Y.



Snow bunnies Ollie and Maya.

Bunny-Proof!

(Continued from page 1)

an expensive emergency visit to your veterinarian.

🚫 Potpourri. Your bunny may find it irresistible, but it's often chock full of dyes and chemicals.

🚫 Candles. Fireplaces also can be a hazard to curious buns. Cold ashes are harmful, too, and caustic when wet.

🚫 Gift-wrapping materials, including tape and ribbon. These are attractive to bunnies, but can be dangerous. To let your bunny participate in the gift-wrapping and unwrapping action, give him some white or brown (nonglossy) tissue paper to play with.

🚫 Candy, chocolate, salty snacks and other goodies for humans. Salty snacks can be fatal if too much salt is ingested. Chocolate is toxic for bunnies, especially dark chocolate. Sugary snacks can cause digestive trouble. And because bunnies often don't bother to peel off the wrapper, any foil that is ingested can cause impactions with fatal consequences.

Don't forget to bunny-proof your holiday lights. Holiday lights often mean extra cables and extension cords around the

house. Be sure to bunny-proof these with plastic cord covers (available at RadioShack, Home Depot, Ikea, etc.). Keep an eye on your bunnies to make sure they don't chew the plastic covers. Ideally, tuck all bunny-proofed cables and wires out of sight and out of reach.

Oh, Christmas tree! Christmas trees can be a fine snack for your bunny, but only if untreated with pesticides and flame retardants. Be sure to ask about this when purchasing your tree. Also, steer clear of trees that have paint or glitter.

When decorating your tree, keep in mind that low-hanging ornaments are inviting to rabbits but may be lethal.

If you put electrical lights on your tree, your best bet is to keep the tree out of the bunny's reach, either in a different room or by blocking it with a puppy pen. Alternatively, you could buy a smaller tree and set it up on a table. A balcony can be a great place to enjoy a tree adorned with sparkling lights—with you and your bunnies admiring it safely from the inside.

If your bunny does have access to your Christmas tree, make sure you block access to the water in the base—it's teeming with all kinds of bacteria.

If your bunny munches on your tree, you might find that his urine is a deeper orange than usual. This is normal.

Entertaining

Don't be shy about setting ground rules.

Prepare your guests and lay down some ground rules about interacting with your rabbit:

🚫 Instruct your guests on how best to pet and interact with the rabbit. Encourage your guests to do so on the floor. If you allow them to pick up your rabbit, be sure to show them how to do so properly.

🚫 Never leave your rabbit alone with any underage visitors. Small children, especially, may inadvertently hurt or mishandle your rabbit, which could result in a serious or fatal injury.

🚫 Don't let anyone feed your rabbit. Your visitors may not know that some of the goodies you set out for them, like cookies, chocolate or crackers, are a no-no for bunnies.

🚫 Don't permit smoking around your rabbit. Of course you know that second-hand smoke is toxic, but it is even more damaging for your rabbit's delicate respiratory system. If you allow guests to smoke in your home, make sure that your rabbit is in a different room, away from second-hand smoke.

Give a primer on "Psychology of Prey Animals 101." Having friends and family visit your home for the holidays is a great opportunity to educate them about rabbit behavior and care. Explain why most rabbits prefer to interact with people on the floor. Discuss his dietary needs and preferences. Show off your bunny's stellar litter-box track record and awesome toy collection.

Minimize stress for your rabbit. Some rabbits are party animals, comfortably mingling with unfamiliar people like social butterflies. But many find the presence—the smell, the noises—of strangers in their home unsettling and

(Continued on page 3)



Bobo, top, and Ophelia rip around on Christmas morning.

Bunny-Proof!

(Continued from page 2)

stressful. Consider moving your rabbit to a quiet room away from the action for most or all of the time when visitors are in your home.

Travel

Plan ahead. Don't wait until the last minute to make arrangements for your rabbit if you plan on being away from your home during the holidays. Never leave your bunny home alone. Not only would that be a sad holiday for him, but it could also be fatal if the bunny becomes ill.

Consider taking your rabbit with you on your trip. This a good option if you're

going someplace that is rabbit-friendly—for example, a friend or relative's home. Be sure to bring all your supplies and educate your host about your rabbit's needs. For example, ask if there's an area where he can exercise safely. Consider bringing a puppy pen for that purpose. Most rabbits travel quite well by car or plane. Make sure your bun is traveling in a carrier that feels familiar and safe to her. If traveling by plane, keep in mind you need to buy a ticket for your furry companion. Airlines limit the number of pets allowed in the passenger cabin, so make your reservation early. Never allow your rabbit to travel in the cargo hold.

If you cannot safely travel with your rabbit, it is important that you leave your

rabbit in the care of rabbit-savvy people who know the basics of proper diet and care, and who can spot red flags and signs of illness.

In-home care. Consider hiring a professional bunny sitter (your rabbit-rescue volunteers will be happy to provide referrals), or exchange bunny-sitting services with another rabbit owner. In-home care is a great option because it minimizes stress for your rabbit by allowing her to remain in her usual environment. Your in-home caregiver should visit once a day (more often if your rabbit has special needs or medical issues). If your rabbit has special medical needs, make sure your bunny sitter is trained to provide the required care (such as giving injections or fluids).

Boarding. You can board your bunny at your rabbit-savvy vet, or with a rabbit-savvy friend. Boarding within a private home can be a good option because it may offer more opportunities for exercise and social interaction than most professional boarding facilities (at veterinary hospitals) can offer. Boarding your rabbit at a rabbit-savvy vet can be a good option if the bunny has special medical needs or requires daily injections.

The above article was adapted from material at these House Rabbit Society Web links:
<http://www.rabbit.org/care/holidays.html>,
<http://www.rabbit.org/care/poinsettia.html>
and
<http://www.rabbit.org/faq/sections/travel.html>.



For Santa Binkie, partying was exhausting.



Santa Snowball: visions of sugarplums.

Adoption Option

(Continued from page 1)

of mama rabbits (“breeder does”) confined to producing litter after litter until they die or are slaughtered at the end of their production years.

Fourth, adoption doesn’t finance an industry that puts profit over the well-being of companion animals. Unfortunately, sometimes well-meaning people think they are rescuing a rabbit when they purchase one from a store with deplorable conditions. Make no mistake, however: the store owner will happily take your money and replace that rabbit with another from his wholesale breeder. These breeders operate like puppy mills. A better way to help: don’t purchase from pet stores at all. If people stop buying rabbits, the mills will stop breeding them.

Interestingly, what many people don’t realize is that adoption is not only better for the rabbit; it is better for the adopter, too. There are several compelling reasons why. When you adopt from a rabbit-rescue group, you get a socialized, spayed or neutered, litter-trained adult rabbit who is **known** by us or a foster parent.

Adult: There will be no big hormonal changes when the bunny goes through puberty, because he’s already gone through puberty. No behavioral issues for you to deal with; no changes in personality. What you see is what you get, with no unwelcome surprises.

Socialized: The adopted rabbit won’t be fearful, biting, hiding, cage-defensive, catatonic, etc. We sometimes rescue bunnies like this who are demonstrably stressed. However, we work with them for as long as they need before making them available for adoption.

Spayed or neutered: Spaying and neutering is recommended for many health and behavioral reasons. For one thing, spaying eliminates the risk of uterine cancer, which can reach 50% to 80% as females age. And people who adopt a spayed or neutered bunny enjoy all the benefits of having a rabbit who’s not living at the



Top, Rufus (center) was found in Wading River, N.Y. Bottom, Jenny (left), found in Massapequa, N.Y., snuggles with Tofu, adopted from New York AC&C.

mercy of his or her hormones. An adopter brings home a rabbit with improved health and better litter-box habits, without the stress and expense of going through a surgical procedure and recovery period.

Litter-Trained: Need I say more?

Known: Chances are that the adopted rabbit, who by this time will have lived weeks or months (sometimes a year or two) in foster care, will likely have already experienced any latent illnesses or

(Continued on page 5)

New Year's Resolutions for Bad Hare Days

We all love New Year's resolutions—not for us, but for others. In the spirit of fun and futility, we came up with a list for our rabbits. The inspiration is “The Bad Bunny List,” published in 1997 and found at:

www.badpets.net/BadPets/BadBunny/BadBunny.pdf.

1. I will not sneak into the bathroom when my human is in the shower and pretend that we're re-enacting a scene from “Psycho” at Norman Bates' motel.
2. I will not lurk beneath the futon and wait to attack the ankles of any human who may decide to visit me. This tends to terrify humans, and my nickname of “Shark” isn't cute, even if it makes me chuckle to myself.
3. I will try to contain my excitement when breakfast is served. I will not spill my pellets by pouncing on my bowl before my human can put my food safely on the ground.
4. I will not play my humans against each other to get extra meals. If one of them comes home early and feeds me, I will not rush to the refrigerator and pretend to be famished when the second one gets home.
5. I will not chew the back corner of my human's beloved piano, and if she tries

Photo: Kerstin Aumann



Photo: Philip Forrest



Top, a trashed bedroom, courtesy of Bella and Jerry. Bottom, Maya lurks under futon (see resolution No. 2).

- to foil my attempts at such exuberant chewing by placing a metal rubbish bin between me and the piano, I will not paw the bin, bite it or stare it down in an effort to frighten it into submission.
6. I will not jump onto the bed in order to chew holes in my human's sheets, no matter how clean and delicious. Beds are for people; nests are for bunnies.
 7. I will not dig a nest of snowy white stuffing from my human's sofa, especially

not a deep trench over a foot wide that could easily house an entire family of buns.

8. I will not chew my human's carpet in a rented house, especially not one that was recently replaced at the cost of \$400.
9. I will respect the supreme craftsmanship of Italian shoe designers and will not chew through the zipper of my human's favorite pair of boots, which cost a fortune. No amount of money can replace them, and besides, I am smart enough to know not to anger Mr. Ferragamo.
10. I will not treat the produce drawer in my human's refrigerator as my own special lunch spot when my human's back is turned. I cannot outsmart my human; she always will be able to spot me as I wiggle my tail trying to launch myself into the drawer brimming with leafy greens.

11. I will not eat the last blooming flower in the garden. I will let my humans enjoy it, at least for a little while.

12. I will not park my nine-pound furry white self in the litter box until my human has completed the cleaning process and the litter box has been placed in its proper position in my condo. I am too big for litter box adjustments while I'm in it.

—Compiled by Katelyn Belyus

Adoption Option

(Continued from page 4)

conditions to which he or she may be prone. This isn't to say that a healthy bunny won't get ill later in life. But if a rabbit has, for instance, a dental issue, the foster parent will have begun to rectify the problem with veterinary care and medical management, or sometimes even diet adjustment. The fosterer will inform the adopter about that bunny's complete needs. Even perfectly healthy rabbits benefit from foster-parent insight: If the bunny enjoys kale, or hates escarole, if he fears children or likes cats or prefers

a particular litter-box material, the fosterer will know and will be able to share that information with the adopter before adoption.

Baby pet-shop bunnies, on the other hand, are a different story. We have found that many baby rabbits in pet stores have infectious diseases like coccidia due to unsanitary breeding facilities, unnatural levels of stress, inadequate nutrition, and needless antibiotics that suppress good bacteria. Often, illnesses aren't detected until weeks after onset, after the bunny has been purchased by unsuspecting customers who are left to pay huge

medical bills or who end up with a bunny who dies shortly after being brought home.

There are so many advantages to rabbit adoption. Rescue groups like ours bring people together with their ideal rabbit companions. We have wonderful rabbits of all types, sizes, ages and personalities. At any given time, we have access to far more choices than any pet store or breeder, and we have the training and desire to help you find the right one. So let the buyer beware, and let her adopt instead.

—Mary Ann Maier works with the Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group. She designed the newsletter's Thump nameplate.

What to Tell Your Pet Sitter

By Jane O'Wyatt

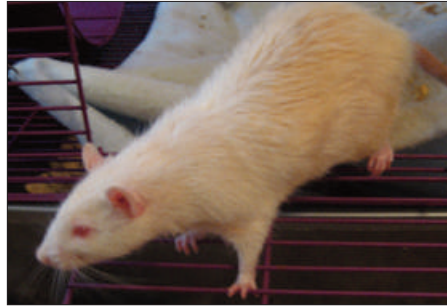
Many pet-sitting clients don't provide complete written instructions. So when a pet sitter meets clients and their pets for the first time, she will take notes and ask questions. A handful of clients prepare pet-care documents that include medical histories,

genealogies and back stories: e.g., all about Laila's immune system; how Goldie and Queenie evolved from angelic baby bunnies to monster adolescent biters to sweet, destructive adults; why Amaroq doesn't have a tail. For all their wealth of information, however, these treatises don't cover everything.

Photos: Jane O'Wyatt



Zoe hiding under the bed, as seen by flashlight.



Warning: Lucky bites!

Tell your pet sitter about hiding places:

Snowball, Xena and Luna, let out of their Leith condo, have been binkying and running around the living room for an hour. Now pellets and salad tempt them back into their cage. But where's Luna? The living room is small and uncluttered, so the pet sitter kneels to look under the couch, whose floor-level perimeter is solid wood. Yet where else could Luna be? Concerned that something will shift or drop and hurt the bunny, the pet sitter carefully takes the couch apart and finds Luna in her IKEA burrow.

A maitre d' cat named Charlie welcomes the pet sitter as she enters the apartment of a client who has emailed that she now has three cats, two rabbits and 10 rats. The head count is going well when the pet sitter discovers three rats MIA. But wait. The email says they're probably – yes, they are – in the oven. The missing rats left their (unlocked) cage in the bedroom and journeyed to the kitchen where they got into the (unlit) oven, which they consider a good place for a nap.

Tell your pet sitter about any people – friends, relatives, cleaning ladies and repairman – who may be in your place while you're away:

The pet sitter enters the apartment and finds a French woman in bed with a severe cold. "Égoïste" she calls her absent hostess for leaving Creamy the cat alone so much. Another time, same apartment, the pet sitter encounters an unknown nuclear family in pajamas watching TV. The adults identify themselves as friends who've just flown in from the West Coast, and all are sick with stomach flu. Luckily, they say, their hostess informed them that the pet sitter would be coming to take care of Creamy.

Puzzled to find the door unlocked, the pet sitter enters the apartment and looks for Furface the cat. Instead she finds a tall, dark stranger in the bedroom. She asks what he's doing there. He gives her a blank look and walks out. Her client's laptop and the pet-sitting money are gone, and Furface is hiding under the bed. The pet sitter realizes that she has interrupted a burglar.

—Jane O'Wyatt, a volunteer at Manhattan AC&C who is also a pet sitter, can be reached at jowiyatt@nyc.rr.com.

Making a List, Checking It Twice

Since remaining in familiar surroundings is the least stressful option for pets, you have chosen to leave your pet home while you are out of town. A pet sitter should have the following information:

Owner's name and street address, email address and home and cellphone numbers
Contact information for local friends and neighbors

Travel directions to the owner's home

Owner's itinerary with dates: hotel names, addresses and phone numbers; host names, addresses and phone numbers

Pets' names, descriptions

Medical conditions

Hiding places

Problem behaviors

Toys

Frequency of visits:

___ Once daily, with preferred time

___ Twice daily, with preferred times

Veterinarian's name and contact information. ___ Credit card info on file?

Food, serving size

Food location

Supplements/treats

Litter-box instructions

Location of litter, hay, newspapers, etc.

Location of garbage bags

Location of garbage disposal

Location of animal carriers

Treatments/medications/grooming

Reports to owner

___ Email ___ Text ___ Phone

How often for routine reports?

Keys

___ Provided ___ Pick up from doorman

Does landlord allow pets?

Building superintendent's name and contact information

Names of other people with access to client's home

Miscellaneous: how microwave works, location of light switches, etc.

Documents

A pet sitter should have the following documents:

Authorization signed by owner for pet sitter to enter apartment

Authorization signed by owner for pet sitter to decide on emergency medical care and/or necropsy

Blank check signed by guardian to pay for emergency care

Bunny Conference: Infectious Diseases, Senior Buns, Medical Emergencies

By Natalie Reeves

Although the general population is likely to associate the beginning of October with cooler weather and the approaching holidays, for bunny lovers October heralds the annual Rabbit Conference sponsored by New York's Rabbit Rescue & Rehab. The event is well attended by those who love rabbits, from new rabbit guardians to veterinarians with many years of experience treating rabbits. Given the diversity of backgrounds of the attendees, the conference planners aim to create a rewarding event for everyone.

This year's rabbit conference was both educational and social. Rabbit-savvy veterinarians (including Dr. Becky Campbell, Dr. Anthony Pilny, Dr. Jennifer Saver, Dr. Laura George and Dr. Laurie Hess) and House Rabbit Society educators answered questions regarding rabbit health and behavior. Mary Cotter, manager of New York's House Rabbit Society chapter, demonstrated temperature-taking and the administration of subcutaneous fluids on a very cooperative Dutch boy, Amsterdam, who was subsequently adopted. In some ways, the humans who worked so hard to put the conference together were of secondary importance as the bunnies stole the show. A number of people were amazed that the most active adoptable bunny was a little tripod, José, who showed everyone that he

didn't need a fourth leg to steal hearts. He was adopted and taken to his new home the day of the conference.

Attendees enjoyed shopping for the cause; sales proceeds went to help rabbits in the New York area. Rabbit guardians could pick up useful items, some of which can be hard to find, at bargain prices. Purchasers could obtain implements for their bunny first-aid kits, such as simethicone, feeding syringes, Critical Care and thermometers. Toys and chewables, such as Oxbow treats and grass mats, were popular. Bunny paraphernalia was sold for the humans, too. Many lined up to purchase "I Brake for Bunnies" bumper stickers and rabbit T-shirts.

One popular table displayed bunny-themed jewelry donated by Kim Renk, one of the founding designers of Sequin, a company whose jewelry is sold at stores such as Henri Bendel and Bloomingdales. Ms. Renk is a rabbit rescuer who even has bunnies hopping around the Sequin showroom. While jewelry lovers were able to purchase trendy jewelry featured in fashion magazines, the pieces they acquired were special; each piece featured bunny and/or bunny-related charms not generally available for sale.

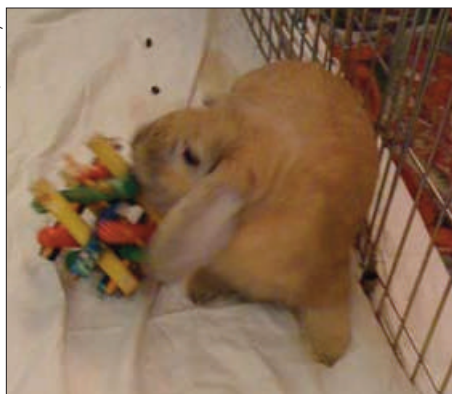
Dr. Pilny, a veterinarian with practices in Westchester and Manhattan, was the keynote speaker. He provided an update on infectious diseases, with a particular emphasis on *Pasteurella multocida* and *Encephalitozoon cuniculi* (EC). Some of the points he made included:

Pasteurella multocida—*Pasteurella* is a bacterium that can only be diagnosed following a positive culture, but the presence of *Pasteurella* doesn't mean the rabbit will necessarily develop the disease. Many rabbits are exposed to *Pasteurella* at birth and never exhibit symptoms. If a rabbit shows symptoms that indicate *Pasteurella* and a culture indicates that the rabbit does indeed have the disease, the veterinarian will prescribe an antibiotic based on a culture/sensitivity test. Most commonly, infected rabbits are treated with injectable penicillin, but other treatments (including surgery) may be necessary. *Pasteurella* is spread by direct contact with nasal secretions. Unfortunately, *Pasteurella* bacteria can survive for days in moist nasal secretions or in water. Not all rabbits who have an infection caused by *Pasteurella* show symptoms; the infection may be present in deep tissues with no respiratory signs.

Encephalitozoon cuniculi—Rabbits are the hosts of the EC protozoan in which signs develop in adults. A high number of rabbits in the U.S. have been infected with EC, but few develop clinical disease. Typical EC symptoms are apparent drunken-like behavior, eye-rolling, head tilt, seizures, urinary incontinence, a stiff rear gait and posterior paralysis. EC is shed through the rabbit's urine. If a rabbit tests EC-positive, this only means that the rabbit has been exposed to EC, not that he will develop the disease. Fenbendazole is the drug frequently used to treat EC, which must be treated long-term. One study Dr. Pilny discussed described

(Continued on page 8)

Photos: Jane O'Wyatt



José, at the bunny conference, is too busy to hold still for the camera.



Dr. Pilny examines Meadow, a shelter bunny.

Bunny Conference

(Continued from page 7)

eradication of EC when the rabbit was treated with Fenbendazole at 20 mg/day orally for 28 days. Motion-sickness medication may be used concurrently, and severe cases may require treatment with steroids.

Licensed House Rabbit Society educators participated in a panel, answering questions from the audience. The educators provided practical advice based on their years of experience. Some topics they addressed included:

—Senior rabbits: A number of people asked how to care for senior rabbits. A few educators suggested giving an elderly rabbit (with a rabbit-savvy vet's approval) Cosequin to help with arthritis. (Not all elderly bunnies are afflicted with arthritis.) Some vets, including Long Island's Dr. Saver, advised putting Cosequin in a chewable tablet that rabbits will take more easily. Alternatively, Cosequin can be sprinkled on a rabbit's pellets.

—Rabbits that are incontinent or have urine scald must be kept dry. In these circumstances, a vet may shave the bunny's bottom. Several educators recommended the Bounty-brand paper towels as being the best paper towels for pressing against a rabbit's wet bottom to absorb any moisture. Fleece beds, such as those made by Palace Pets, are good for disabled rabbits. One of the speakers recommended stacking the fleece beds and removing layers as they get wet.

—With proper care, disabled bunnies can live full lives. Some may benefit from custom-made wheelchairs, but other rabbits

don't adapt to them. Since measuring a rabbit for a wheelchair can be tricky, Mary Ann Maier, who can be contacted at info@longislandrabbitrescue.org, volunteered to help anyone needing her assistance by measuring bunnies who are candidates for the walking aids.

—The panelists outlined steps bunny guardians should follow if their rabbit stops eating. Rabbits should be treated by a vet on an emergency basis if they have stopped eating, but often these emergencies occur overnight or when there isn't a rabbit emergency vet available. The following is the procedure that was recommended for such situations:

1. Take your rabbit's temperature. If you don't know how to take your rabbit's temperature, you should ask your vet or one of the rabbit-rescue volunteers for a demonstration. You can't tell if your rabbit is hot or cold by touching the ears or any other part of the rabbit. Mary Cotter recommended taking the rabbit's temperature while he is sitting in your lap or sitting on a towel on a table. Make sure to put Vaseline on the thermometer before inserting it in the hole closest to the bunny's tail. Turn the thermometer on and push it a little past the silver tip, making sure not to force it. Take the rabbit's temperature three times in a five-minute period to make sure that you took it correctly. The normal range for a bunny's temperature is between 101 and 103 degrees. If your rabbit's temperature is under 101, the bunny needs to be warmed immediately.

2. Don't feed your rabbit if he is cold (between 95 and 98 degrees). To warm your bunny, you can use a SnuggleSafe pad (best tool for these situations; can be ordered online through Amazon), a heating pad or an old sock filled with rice that you have heated in the microwave. Be careful not to overheat your rabbit. You will need to check his temperature every 15 to 20 minutes. You can place your rabbit in a carrier or litter box with a heating pad inside, but in a position where the rabbit isn't directly exposed to the heat source.

3. If a rabbit's temperature is too high, you can cool her down by placing her near an ice pack or box of frozen veggies.

4. If a rabbit isn't eating and her temperature is in the normal range, she may have a tooth problem. This is especially evident when a rabbit grabs a treat but then drops it.

5. As long as your bunny's belly doesn't feel like a blown-up balloon, you can try massaging to move any gas bubbles that may be present.

6. Consider asking a vet to demonstrate how to give subcutaneous fluids; a rabbit may need liquids administered when he isn't eating.

7. Give your rabbit pediatric simethicone (look for infant gas drops). You can give 1cc orally every hour for three hours and then 1cc every 3-8 hours.

8. Give your rabbit Critical Care or, if you don't have any on hand, crush pellets and mix the powder with warm water to feed through a syringe.

Make a Date

"Time Out New York" magazine, in its "Sex & Dating" issue for the first week of December, includes a great assortment of photos of adoptable rabbits from Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, along with pictures of dogs and cats from other rescue groups. Under the headline, "Best Dates for Every Personality and Mood," the article encourages readers to find your "perfect (animal) companion," without stepping foot into a pet store. Make sure to click on all the photos featured online, including the outtakes. Use this link: <http://newyork.timeout.com/articles/sex-dating/81052/best-date-ideas->

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.

Westchester County:

Anthony Pilny, DVM

Animal Specialty Center
9 Odell Plaza, Yonkers, NY 10701
(914) 457-4000

Gil Stanzione, DVM

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

Laurie Hess, DVM

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

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

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@att.net 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).

You can visit the New York Animal Care & Control Center at 326 East 110th St., between First and Second avenues, where we have a rabbit room. 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 available at Petco's East 86th Street and Union Square

Long Island:

Jennifer Saver, DVM

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

Heidi Hoefler, DVM

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

Manhattan:

Becky Campbell, DVM

Symphony Veterinary Center
698 Amsterdam Ave., New York, NY 10025
(212) 866-8000

Katherine Quesenberry, DVM

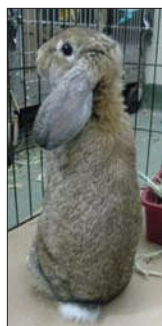
The Animal Medical Center
510 East 62nd St., New York, NY 10065
(212) 838-7053, (212) 329-8622

Alex Wilson, DVM

Linda Pesek, 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



Francine at AC&C.

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. A volunteer also spends one night a week at the Petco at Broadway and 92nd Street.

Many of our rabbits are living in foster homes and you can meet them as well. You also can arrange to foster a rabbit until he or she finds a permanent home. Contact Amy Odum at amy@adoptabunny.info.

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

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

Licensed HRS Representatives

Mary Cotter, HRS Licensed Educator, Chapter Manager, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, mec@cloud9.net, (914) 337-6146, rabbitcare.org

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

Cindy Stutts, HRS Licensed Educator, Manager NYC/ACC Rabbit Program, bygolyoly@att.net, (646) 319-4766, nycacc.org

Mary Ann Maier, HRS Licensed Educator, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group Volunteer, altitude8@yahoo.com, (516) 671-6654, longislandrabbitrescue.org

Donna Sheridan, HRS Licensed Educator, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Volunteer, hpocus217@yahoo.com, longislandrabbitrescue.org

Kerstin Aumann, HRS Licensed Educator, NYC/ACC Volunteer, nyc.acc.rabbits@gmail.com

Jennifer Saver, DVM, HRS Licensed Educator
Laura George, DVM, HRS Licensed Educator

THUMP December 2009

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS
56 West Pondfield Road #5C
Bronxville, NY 10708
www.rabbitcare.org

Editor: Susan Lillo
Creative Director: Jane O'Wyatt

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

Donations

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

Cindy Stutts
512 East 119th Street, #2
New York, NY 10035