



NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS JUNE-JULY 2014

Photo: Nathalie L. Reeves



Marcie supervising a speed date at the Union Square Petco store.

Volunteer Wins National Award For Her Rabbit Rescue Work

By Natalie L. Reeves

It's official: NYC Metro Rabbits volunteer Marcie Frishberg has a "Heart of Gold." Marcie won the national "Hearts of Gold" contest sponsored by Boyds Bears and held in conjunction with National Volunteer Week, which was April 6-12. As her prize, Marcie will receive a one-of-a-kind stuffed bear, and Rabbit Rescue & Rehab will get a \$1,000 donation.

Marcie became a "bunny person" almost 10 years ago with the adoption of her beloved rabbit, Frank, who still lives with her. Within a few years after adopting

Frank, Marcie was devoting much of her free time to helping homeless rabbits at the Manhattan shelter – and then in 2009 at Petco when the chain began allowing rabbit adoptions in its stores. For the past five years, Marcie has given up nearly every Saturday to help find homes for the rabbits at Petco's Union Square location.

For two years, Marcie also volunteered every Sunday at Petco's Upper East Side (86th/Lexington) location, thus spending most of her weekends helping rabbits.

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Rabbit Rescue & Rehab Is Branching Out

By Susan Lillo

Marcella, a gold-and-white rabbit who was abandoned in a vacant apartment with two of her offspring, now spends afternoons stretched out in her window cage at a Pet Valu store in Westchester, catching the eye of passers-by. Two female rabbits, Pinto and Ruby, moved into cages at the Petland Discounts store on West 117th Street in Upper Manhattan, and both were quickly adopted.

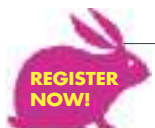
Photo: Mary Celler



Louis, in cage at Westchester's Pet Valu store, watches Mary Christine Basile and Mary Harnett.

As Rabbit Rescue & Rehab (RRR) expands its adoption initiatives throughout the New York metro area, some rabbits are being placed in local pet stores. Pet Valu

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Don't miss the first-ever national HRS Rabbit Conference in St Louis, Mo. See details at end of this issue!

Volunteer Wins Award

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Just getting to her volunteer location was exhausting. She would pick bunnies up from various places and take them to Petco while transporting all of her supplies in a shopping cart she schlepped on the subway. She had come up with the shopping-cart idea after her habit of carrying all the bunny supplies in a huge backpack led to severe hip pain. Petco eventually allowed the rabbit volunteers to keep their supplies at the stores, making life easier for Marcie and other volunteers.

Marcie works hard while volunteering – from scrubbing and cleaning equipment to setting up large pens – but she makes the work look fun by often wearing whimsical bunny-themed outfits or antlers at the annual holiday adoption event, Whiskers in Wonderland. Her good nature is infectious.

With her time spent training the volunteers for New York City's Petco rabbit adoption program, running successful adoption events such as Bunnyland, and working each weekend at Petco, you might be surprised that Marcie also has a full-time job as a sign-language interpreter for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. She has said that her work with kids has taught her patience, which helps her with the bunnies as well.

Marcie's heart is huge. When she found out that a man in Brooklyn had permitted rabbits to breed out of control in his backyard, Marcie went to his home every day after she got off work to care for his almost 50 bunnies, many of whom had health problems due to their living conditions. Marcie worked to rescue these bunnies and led efforts to find homes or safe placement for them after they had been spayed and neutered. She fostered many of them herself, including a handsome white boy named Laurel who is still looking for his forever home.

On a personal note, Marcie was extraordinarily kind to me when I lost my beloved boy bunny, Robin, in July 2012.

Photo: Nobile L. Reeves



Marcie in a bunny-themed outfit.

My heart was broken, compounded by the fact that Robin was only 5 years old when he died unexpectedly. I had considered Marcie a friend at the time, but I didn't know her as well as I would have liked. Marcie accompanied me to Hartsdale, N.Y., for the private cremation of my boy because she didn't want me to be alone. Not many people would have taken a day for such an occasion, but Marcie did, and I know that Marcie routinely helps others (people and animals) as she did me. Word seldom gets out because Marcie is too modest to allow anyone to brag about her good deeds.

In early February of this year, I saw the announcement of the Boyds Bears "Hearts of Gold" contest, which required each applicant to submit an essay about the person he or she thought was most deserving of an award honoring volunteerism. Everyone who volunteers

to help animals is an angel in my view and deserving of recognition, but I could only nominate one person, and the first to come to mind was Marcie. I only had 250 words to explain why Marcie deserved to win, when I could have written a book about all the great things Marcie does. I never told Marcie I had entered her in the contest, until I was notified by Boyds in March that she had been named one of the six national finalists.

The six finalists were named on the Boyds Bears Facebook page, and the winner was to be determined based, in part, on the voting on the page, and in part by a panel of judges. Thump readers, other fans of Marcie and supporters of rabbit rescue were thrilled to vote for Marcie and her charity, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab. Voting was open for about a week, and most of the time Marcie was far in the lead. But in a last-minute surge, another worthy finalist garnered a large number of votes and slightly surpassed Marcie. After being in the lead, Marcie's supporters were crushed at the likely loss of an award that would have helped so many homeless rabbits.

A couple of weeks after voting had ended and it appeared another finalist had won, Marcie received a call from Boyds congratulating her on winning the "Hearts of Gold" contest. She was told that the company had no idea that rabbits faced the same homelessness issues as do dogs and cats and that Boyds wanted to help bunnies. Thank you to Boyds Bears for recognizing a woman who does so much for rabbits and people, and for your \$1,000 donation to our group to help fund veterinary care for homeless rabbits. But thanks most of all to Marcie for all that you do and for inspiring us to follow in your footsteps.



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RRR Branching Out

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and Petland Discounts are working with RRR to bring homeless rabbits into several of their retail locations. The joint efforts are just beginning, with the stores agreeing to care for a small number of rescued rabbits and to work with RRR volunteers to get the rabbits adopted.

NYC volunteers are hopeful that the Petland Discounts program can expand gradually. A key issue is the number of volunteers required to accomplish this goal. “We’ll see how it goes,” says Cindy Stutts, head of volunteers in Manhattan. “Our plan is to start with the 117th Street store, 86th Street and Chelsea. Then we hope to move on to more.”

In Westchester, Mary Cotter, president of RRR and vice-president of House Rabbit Society, reports that two bunnies from the New Rochelle Humane Society, Louis and Piper, have already been adopted from the Pet Valu store at the Rye Ridge Shopping Center in Rye Brook, and another rabbit has been placed in foster care.

She and the other Westchester volunteers involved in the Pet Valu program – Jeanine Callace, Gabrielle LaManna, Mary Christine Basile and Mary Harnett – are delighted with Pet Valu’s willingness to promote rabbit adoptions. Gabrielle hopes to bring a rabbit to the Ridgefield, Conn., Pet Valu store shortly.

Kelli Irish, manager of the Rye Brook, N.Y., and Ridgefield, Conn., Pet Valu stores, explains that the regional pet-store chain “doesn’t want to ever promote puppy mills or animal mills of any kind; Pet Valu’s primary concern is the safety of the animals, so that people come home with good animals that deserve great homes.” The store is providing spacious and comfortable cages for the rabbits, and its stock of rabbit supplies includes top-notch brands at competitive prices. RRR volunteers say that local shoppers frequently come into the store, attracted by the antics of the rabbits in the front window, so this is a “win-win” situation.

Photo: Mary Cotter



The “team” at the Pet Valu store in Rye Ridge Shopping Center: Left to right, back row: Jeanine Callace, Mary Cotter (holding Louis), Mary Harnett, Mary Christine Basile. Front row: store associates, left to right: Quest Carter, Judy Mahan, Monica Vargas.

One of the Pet Valu employees at Rye Ridge, Monica Vargas, notes that, “It’s been a pleasure working with the rabbit volunteers,” adding, “We love the bunnies.” A co-worker, Quest Carter, calls the adoption effort “a wonderful program,” and says he appreciates the fact that RRR volunteers regularly stop by the store to check on the rabbits and to see if any supplies are needed. Quest also personally has been gratified to see a rabbit arrive at the store acting skittish or shy, and then watch as the rabbit becomes very gentle and responsive to people as a result of the care and attention that is provided.

Another employee at the Rye Ridge Pet Valu store, Judy Mahan, adds that, “It’s going beautifully,” saying, “We couldn’t have had a better rescue group to work with.”

These latest partnerships follow a successful five-year adoption program at two Petco stores in Manhattan, at Union Square and Lexington Avenue (at 86th St.). Petco said in December 2008 that it would stop selling rabbits in all of its stores nationwide, and the company joined with RRR the following fall to

install cages at the two Manhattan stores, and to promote adoptions at some of its other Manhattan locations. The Petco rabbits are taken care of by rabbit volunteers who visit daily to clean the cages, feed the rabbits and provide exercise time. Most adoptions are conducted on the weekend. In contrast, the rabbits at Pet Valu and Petland Discounts will be fed and cared for by store employees, with periodic visits from local RRR volunteers.

Margo DeMello, president of HRS, looks forward to more such partnerships. “I am pleased to hear that Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, House Rabbit Society’s New York City chapter, is setting up these pilot programs with two additional New York metro area pet-store chains,” says Margo, adding that “if these programs are successful, it will be another step in helping to end rabbit sales in pet stores across the country. This is how we helped end rabbit sales at Petco stores, but I want to note that the process took many years and a number of starts and stops before it was successful. For now, I am cautiously

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RRR Branching Out

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optimistic and will be watching New York to see what develops!”

The Manhattan program with Petland Discounts was spearheaded by Jane Hoffman, president and chairman of the Mayor’s Alliance for NYC’s Animals. Jane, along with her deputy director, Melissa Donaldson, met with Petland Discounts executives to map out a rabbit adoption plan. The eventual goal is to move more adoptable rabbits into additional Manhattan Petland Discounts stores, many of which currently sell rabbits. As adoptable rabbits go into a store, that store will stop selling rabbits of its own.

Cages for the Petland Discounts stores were provided by NYC Animal Care & Control, which had some large three-tier cages that weren’t being used at the shelter. AC&C officials offered their support for the new Petland Discounts program. RRR will bring rabbits to the stores from the shelter and from foster homes; supplies for the rabbits will be provided by Petland Discounts.

At both Petland Discounts and Pet Valu, volunteers will stop by to drop off fresh vegetables, and to answer any employee questions. Ideally, the volunteers and store employees will develop a supportive long-term relationship.

“We are really grateful for the input of the employees at the Rye Ridge Pet Valu,” says Mary Cotter. “Early on, they noticed a change in behavior of one of our rabbits that could have indicated an incipient health problem, and they called us immediately. Thankfully, the rabbit was fine, but this kind of careful observation and timely reporting is really impressive.”

At the Petland Discounts store on 86th Street in Manhattan, volunteer Erin McElhinney is helping out with rescued bunnies Porsche, Heaven and Roderick, who were transferred into the store from the shelter in May. Nadine Levy plans to visit the Chelsea store, and Cindy Stutts is assisting at 117th Street.

Photo: Susan Lillo



West 117th Street Petland Discounts store employee Donnel Johnson stands with Pinto.

Photo: Susan Lillo



Pinto in her cage at the West 117th Street Petland Discounts store.

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Store manager at Petland Discounts on 86th St., Neil Montiel, with Cindy Stutts and Melissa Donaldson, deputy director of the Mayor’s Alliance for NYC’s Animals. The rabbit is Roderick.

“The staff at the 117th Street store told us, ‘We’re so glad you’re finally doing this,’” Cindy explains. “Everyone is so happy to be helping out, finding homes for these rabbits.” Cindy intends to supply informational pamphlets and other literature to the stores, and hopes that the stores may decide to expand their selection of rabbit supplies. She envisions that each rabbit volunteer will function as a “fairy godmother/father” for each participating Petland Discounts store.

Jean Dukens, the store manager at the 117th Street Petland Discounts, notes that the new rabbits are “doing great.

They are fantastic.” One of the store’s employees, Donnel Johnson, especially likes the new cages and appreciates the opportunity to learn more about rabbit care and dietary needs. He says, “Some people just like rabbits when they are babies, and then they don’t want them anymore. We are giving these rabbits a second chance.”

At the East 86th Street Petland Discounts, store manager Neil Montiel is enthusiastic. “I am very happy that the company is doing this,” he tells a visitor. “It is much better to do adoptions rather

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RRR Branching Out

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than selling rabbits.” Employee David Hammond points out that the store already sells a wide selection of pellets and hay.

The rabbits at Petland Discounts and at Pet Valu will be listed on Petfinder, and rabbit adoptions will be handled by RRR.

Separately, proposed pet-care legislation is pending in the New York City Council that would affect the sale of rabbits. One proposal states that no store can sell rabbits that have not been spayed and neutered – and that the rabbits cannot be spayed or neutered until they are four months old. This is aimed at stopping the sale of baby rabbits. Meanwhile, another proposal could ban the sale of rabbits altogether in the city.

“We have 600 rabbits come into the rescues and AC&C every year,” says Jane Hoffman of the Mayor’s Alliance.

At Pet Valu store in Rye Brook, NY:

Left, Mandy, on box, with her daughter Suzie. Right, upper level, Sammy; lower level, Suzie.

Photos: Mary Christine Basille



Photo: Susan Lillo



Ruby, at the West 117th Street Petland Discounts store.

“I support either of these proposals, and I am waiting to see when the City Council moves forward on these.”



Baxter and Quincy at Maddie’s Pet Adoption Days.

Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include:

Charlie Girl aka Charlene, Pomona, Boop, Snow, Rumble, Grace, Magic, Charlene, Marbles, Libby, Robert, Gobbles, Buddy, Bam Bam, Shylo, Petal, Beans, Butter, Chewy, Mocha, Elvis, Ruby, Pinto, Marilyn, Sunday, Lyle, Cinnabun, Motin, Mumu, Sassy, Baxter and Quincy, Tandy, Hester, Oreo, Bun, Cyrus.



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Girls' Weekend with Ginger Madeleine

By Erin McElhinney

Now that summer has unofficially kicked off, I find myself daydreaming about drinking out of coconuts with a straw, tropical breezes and napping on a hammock. However, like most of Thump's readers, these daydreams remain just that, dreams. I have rabbits, and one frequent topic of conversation I have with fellow rabbit people is how we can never get away. Traveling with prey animals is such rigmarole, and I can't imagine being in a room with no precious little bunny faces looking up at me, so leaving them behind is out of the question.

This past Memorial Day weekend, after way too long without a break from the grind of city life, I decided to put to a test some of the travel suggestions provided by Kerstin Aumann in the December 2009 Thump (<http://www.rabbitcare.org/Thump%2012.09.pdf>). Having my core four buns, plus two more, necessitated that I would have to leave some buns at home. I decided to take my beloved Ginger Madeleine with me as she is one of those rabbits who prefer the companionship of people. I thought she would appreciate the quiet time with me more than the others. Below are some tips I would suggest so that you can learn from my mistakes.

Planning for your trip:

Do not rely on airline websites to make sense of their pet policies. Some of them (I'm looking at you, Delta) are shockingly confusing and poorly outlined. For instance, they do allow rabbits but only as checked baggage. It cannot be said enough: NEVER check your rabbit as baggage. For my domestic flight, United Airlines was the best option. They allowed rabbits on board as a carry-on for a \$200 fee each way. I had to call

United in advance to let them know what flight I was going to book, and then I had to book online and call them back to "reserve" a space for Ginger Madeleine on the flight. United, like most airlines that allow pets, only allows up to four animals in the cabin per flight. It is first come, first served.

With the flight booked, I was ready to find a pet-friendly hotel. This part was pretty easy. There were no additional fees for me to bring my little Ginger Madeleine. The hotel I stayed at was even so excited about their first lagomorph guest that when I checked in, I was ordered by the young lady at the desk to take Ginger out of her carrier so she could kiss a bunny. Always on duty as a rabbit advocate, when the young lady told me her desire to adopt a tiny dwarf bunny, I told her about all the midsize and larger rabbits who are super-friendly and languish for months or longer (if they're lucky) at animal shelters. She told me there was a Humane Society in her town and she would go and see what rabbits they had available. Naturally, I shared with her our rabbit.org link.

In terms of hotel etiquette, I was told when making my reservation that my bunny must be secured in a cage if I was not in the room with her. I asked the reservations desk what their policy was for cats and was told that cats must be litter-box trained to stay at their hotel so they don't have a cage policy for them. It was another great opportunity to address a rabbit policy that is based on old or irrelevant information. When I told the desk that my rabbit was spayed and litter-box trained, they said that she could be considered as a cat then and would not have to be caged. This saved a lot of room in my suitcase! Normal rabbit-

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Photos: Erin McElhinney



Ginger Madeleine in the hotel.

Girls' Weekend

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proofing still applies on vacation, though, and I had to move all cords out of Ginger's reach. I unplugged everything whenever I left the room as an extra precaution.

One caveat about pet friendly hotels: they tend to designate the worst rooms as pet-friendly rooms. We had a lovely first-floor hotel room that overlooked... a parking lot.

Two weeks out from your trip:

- Schedule a wellness exam/bunny checkup with your rabbit's regular vet. Most airlines require a signed certificate of health from your veterinarian. My Ginger Madeleine is approximately 9 years old so I just wanted to have her vitals taken and her tear ducts flushed as needed.
- Head to your local rabbit-adoption-friendly pet store to look at approved airplane carriers for your pet. You want something sturdy with enough room for the rabbit to lie down and turn around in, and preferably have room for some water and treats and a pile of hay. Of course, it still has to fit under the seat in front of you, so you are limited in terms of height. A well-ventilated carrier will help your rabbit stay cool and breathe easy. Most approved carriers state on the label that they are airline-approved.

- For any bunnies you must leave behind, coordinate with your bunny sitter. It is best to have the sitter over before you leave on your trip, so that he or she can see the apartment's layout and so you can run through any special instructions in person. See Jane O'Wyatt's article in the December 2009 Thump, page 6 (<http://www.rabbitcare.org/Thump%2012.09.pdf>)

for more information on how to properly communicate with your pet sitter.

Two nights out from your trip:

- Pack your rabbit's bag! If you're anything like me, you will find some reason to put off packing your own bag until the morning of the trip and then you will overpack the most ridiculous items – two different face serums, four bikinis and zero toothbrushes for a three-day trip. This is fine because you can always buy a toothbrush and toothpaste just about anywhere. Forget your rabbit's necessities, however, and you could be in trouble.

I thought of literally nothing beyond Ginger's comfort and safety during travel.

- At a minimum, you will need to pack a litter box, hay, Critical Care, Timothy pellets, any medications your rabbit might need, and food and water bowl. I also threw in a frozen water bottle that was much appreciated by Ginger to help her cool down during the flight, and some extra veggies that I stored in the fridge in the room. And because Ginger Madeleine demands them, I also had to pack her favorite Oxbow barley treats.

Lessons I learned on the trip:

Hindsight being 20/20, I wish I had brought some of our rabbit leaflets with me. When going through security, you have to remove your bunny from the carrier and walk the bunny through

security with you. Ginger Madeleine is stunningly gorgeous and people around us were shrieking in disbelief at this tiny, beautiful bundle in my arms! Children ran away from their parents to come over and pet her, and adults rushed over, leaving their suitcases and baggage unattended as they were caught up in the magic of seeing a rabbit in such a sterile and drab environment. I used every opportunity on this trip to talk about house rabbits and all that goes into caring for them, but I would have felt better handing out leaflets that people could refer to when the rush of seeing Ginger wore off.

Travel definitely took its toll on Ginger. It took a full day at our destination for her to wake up and explore the hotel room. She lay in her litter box, seemingly too nervous to move much. She never ate her pellets, instead preferring to devour her fresh greens and hay each day. I contemplated supplementing her diet with Critical Care, but she is a voracious hay eater and also ate all of her greens, so I held off.

Travel certainly affected me as well. I thought of literally nothing beyond her comfort and safety during travel. By the time we both returned home, relief was written all over our faces. I collapsed on the couch. The stress and panic I felt throughout our flights as I ran through each worst-case scenario in my head – ranging from stasis on the flight to what do I do if our plane started to go down and Ginger needed oxygen – was exhausting. While I will always cherish our trip together, I know that I am lucky to have a network of so many knowledgeable and caring bunny people so that there is really no need for me to travel with my rabbits.



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'Going the Distance' for a Rabbit-Savvy Vet

By Thea Harting

One of the most important aspects of caring for rabbits is finding good veterinary care. There are many vets in the New York City area who "see rabbits" and I hope that someday, after many more years of experience, they will be as qualified as the vets listed on <http://www.rabbitcare.org/vets.htm>.

Unfortunately, however, many of us don't live in neighborhoods with easy access to the vets on the Rabbit Rescue & Rehab list, and we must scramble when our rabbits are ill.

I live in Brooklyn and travel at least an hour to see my favorite rabbit-savvy vet. I've even taken days off work to make the trek there and back. This is more than an inconvenience: in an emergency, I worry about the stress of travel on an already compromised rabbit and the length of time it will take to get medical help.

For those of us who don't have a rabbit-savvy vet nearby, here are some suggestions:

- 1) Learn as much as possible about rabbit health and medicine. In an emergency, you will have to advocate for your rabbit in a veterinary practice that may not know much about rabbits at all (even if they think they do).
- 2) You must have a basic rabbit first-aid kit and know how to use it. This includes things like simethicone, Metacam, a thermometer and a heating device, at the very least. Having appropriate pain medication and knowing how to take your rabbit's temperature can save his or her life and is especially important when you have to travel a great distance for medical treatment.
- 3) Developing a relationship with a rabbit-savvy vet is worth the investment.

Get an annual checkup with one at your convenience (even though this is never actually convenient).

You'll need to be a current client so that you can call the vet in an emergency. This is critical during any emergency visit to a local, less experienced backup vet. A few years ago, my rabbit Lulu was having trouble breathing, so I rushed her to a vet in Brooklyn who I had already checked out. This new vet put my regular vet on speakerphone and the three of us discussed Lulu's treatment options and prognosis. Though in this case, sadly, I chose to have Lulu euthanized, I'm confident that the consult with my

rabbit vet ensured that Lulu received the best care possible.

4) Figure out all your options for transportation beforehand. This sounds silly, but it's important. If you don't have a car, find people who do and may be willing to drive you. Consider renting a Zipcar. Get an estimate from a car service and have the number handy in case of an emergency.

Lastly, there is really no quick fix for this. For me, finding good veterinary care in Brooklyn is the most challenging aspect of having a pet rabbit.

Lulu.

Photo: Thea Harting



Unlimited Hay!

By Jane O'Wyatt

“Perhaps the single most important item in the rabbit diet is grass hay, and it should be fed in unlimited quantities to both adults and baby rabbits.”

– Dana Krempels, Ph.D.,
“What Should I Feed My Bunny?”

At a Rabbit Rescue & Rehab conference a few years ago, Dr. Rebecca Campbell was asked about “wasting” hay. Her reply: “Find out what kind of hay your rabbit likes, and order lots of it. Keep so much hay on hand that you don't worry about ‘wasting’ it. Be generous!”

My first visit to AC&C's rabbit room was in 2007, as a vet-tech-student intern in the medical department. My mission then had been to deliver a banged-up, feisty white hen to a cage in the one quiet, sweet-smelling room in the shelter. The only sounds in the rabbit room were the susurrations of rabbits digging in the Timothy hay of their litter boxes and the soft, reassuring voice of a volunteer scratching the forehead of a tiny gray lop. I was tempted to linger in this fragrant, almost serene, place, but didn't. In subsequent years, after rabbit volunteer Amy Odum introduced me to rabbit care at AC&C, I often saw staff members taking short breaks in the rabbit room. “It's so peaceful,” they would say. “It smells like a meadow in here.”

The rabbit room also had a calming effect on frightened rabbits, who, after being surrendered or dumped, were usually subjected to a lengthy wait before being logged into the shelter. They would sit for hours in cardboard or open-wire carriers, forced to listen to cries of distress from cats and dogs queued up nearby.

Since I did a weekly volunteer shift in the afternoons, I helped to place countless arrivals into clean cages with salads, rabbit pellets, water bowls and litter boxes. It was heartening to watch these



Sleeping Beauty at AC&C.

rabbits as they became less fearful: they examined their new neighbors, explored and chinned their surroundings, drank water and nibbled on pellets – and discovered their litter boxes. While many of these bunnies didn't consider fresh greens edible, they were inevitably drawn to the donated Timothy or orchard grass hay, atop an absorbent substrate, in their litter boxes. They instinctively understood that hay was palatable and good for bedding, and then they began to manipulate it by sorting, digging and burrowing. Those rabbits with superior litter-box skills peed and pooped in their boxes' corners, leaving the remaining hay unsoiled.

From the size, color and consistency of most of their first on-site poops (in or outside litter boxes), it appeared that few of the shelter bunnies had been given much, if any, hay in their former homes. Yet these rabbits, like their wild relatives, seemed hard-wired to appreciate hay.

I started fostering rabbits in 2011, which made entering my bathroom barefooted an adventure. Next came the purchase of tall metal pens so that foster bunnies could live in the living room. After that, I bought hay in 35-pound boxes, and the living room began to smell like a meadow.

One day, in the midst of putting clean hay in my foster bunnies' litter boxes, I

felt the exhilaration of a vivid childhood memory: my brother and I were playing in a pile of freshly-mowed, sun-dried hay in a wagon behind a stalled tractor on its way to someone's barn. The weedy floral scent and springy softness of the loose hay were blissful. Hay!

In the wake of this recycled epiphany, I am entirely convinced that house rabbits really love hay – and the more you give them, the better. (Anthropomorphism?) My belief is confirmed every time I give my foster bunnies a fresh litter box. They leap right in and start chewing, sorting, burrowing, smoothing, bulldozing, digging. For them, hay in putatively “wasteful” amounts does more than fulfill an essential dietary requirement; it provides entertainment and an opportunity for species behavior. And, possibly, bliss.

My foster Charlie Girl aka Charlene with hay garland.



Six Bunnies Find Homes at Bunnyland

By Natalie L. Reeves

On Saturday, April 26, Petco and Rabbit Rescue & Rehab/NYC Metro Rabbits partnered on a “Bunnyland” event where many rabbits in foster care got to meet potential adopters at Petco’s Union Square location. Six bunnies (Gobbles, Marbles, Magic, Libby, Charlene and Robert) were adopted at the event, and several customers expressed interest in adopting in the future.

Cages and pens holding foster rabbits filled Petco’s lower level, and people came in droves to see the bunnies. Many hoped to bond their own rabbits on speed dates chaperoned by volunteers. Robert, a young lop who had been fostered by Mary Christine Basile, found a lady love on one such date monitored by Amy Odum. His new mom, Nicole, was immediately smitten with Robert, just as her little female bunny had been.

Marcie Frishberg and her team of volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the day setting up and taking down pens and cages, monitoring dates, answering questions, and teaching adopters how to clip nails and care for their new bunnies. Helen Chen and her husband traveled in from Long Island to help, and New York City-based volunteers were out in full force. As she has done on numerous occasions, Tai Shimizu volunteered by taking beautiful photographs of the bunnies, but sadly for us it was Tai’s last event in New York City before she and fellow volunteer Jessica Wolfinger moved to Hawaii.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the event, made signs, stopped by to see the bunnies, and promoted Bunnyland on social media. Your efforts made all the difference to the six wonderful bunnies who found homes that day.

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Photo: Natalie L. Reeves



Mary Christine Basile (right) talks with her former foster bunny Robert’s adopters, Vinny and Nicole Fusco-Evans.

Photo: © Tai Shimizu



Robert and his new partner, Pixie, during their speed date.

ADOPTIONS

Bunnyland (Continued from page 10)

Photo: © Tai Shimizu



Buddy.

Photo: © Tai Shimizu



Charlie Girl aka Charlene with Bramble on a speed date supervised by Amy Odum.

Photo: © Tai Shimizu



Gobbles.

Photo: © Tai Shimizu



Motin.

Photo: © Tai Shimizu



Volunteer Helen Chen and Quincy.

Photo: Nabbie L. Reeves



Dutch litter mates.

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ADOPTIONS

Bunnyland *(Continued from page 11)*

Photos: © Tai Shimizu



Marcie Frishberg supervising a speed date.



Claudio fka Clover.



Quincy.



Tina.



Laurel.

Photos from Maddie's Pet Adoption Days, May 31-June 1

Photo: PawPrintsbyDave.com



Leo Bentley was the biggest bunny present.

Photo: Susan Lillo



▲ Sassy was adopted. ▼ Maxine and admirers.

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Photo: Maho Honda



Vanessa calmly watches a dog.

Photo: Maho Honda



▲ Donated bunny balloons. ▼ Tandy enjoys petting.

Photo: Maho Honda



Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Motin with his adopters.

Photo: Susan Lillo



Cathe Rekis with Baxter, and Tracy Nuzzo with Quincy.

We Are Looking for Loving Homes

Written and compiled by Kirsten Ott

Porsche

Porsche is a medium-sized gray and white Dutch female who was found in the Richmond Hill section of Queens. This girl has a very tender, sweet temperament, and she is clearly very hungry for affection. She adores being petted and having her nose rubbed. Porsche's coat is beautiful – white and an unusual slate gray with a bluish cast. She appears to be a little overweight, suggesting that her prior owner didn't care for her properly. She needs a home with people who will give her proper food, lots of exercise, and, most important of all, the affection she craves.

Sweet Pea

Sweet Pea is an extra-large brownish-black female who was found on the street in Queens. Even though she's very large, she feels vulnerable; she likes to be petted, and seems to find it comforting. This lovely big girl will definitely become a love sponge in her forever home. She would also probably benefit from a bunny partner.

Jerry

Jerry is a strikingly beautiful Silver Marten bunny. This guy could be a bunny model – he has a perfect two-toned Silver Marten coat, with contrasting jet black and cream coloring and a brown neck patch, and an adorable face with slightly rounded cheeks. Jerry is very athletic, and likes to show off; when you approach him, he'll jump around gracefully for a bit, then pose briefly, and then nicely request your affection. You'll love to pet his incredibly velvety ears.

Annabelle

Annabelle is a very large New Zealand White princess who was inexplicably returned by her adopter. This big girl is

truly stunning to behold– she has a long, strong body, beautiful giant ears and intelligent eyes. Best of all, Annabelle is a big ol' smush– snuggle sessions with her can go on forever. She would make a great family bunny or partner for another rabbit. Annabelle is spayed and is currently in residence at the Petco store on Lexington Ave. and 86th St. in Manhattan.

Roderick

Roderick is a very large, very mellow bunny who was found in Flushing, Queens. This cozy guy needs loving, and needs it now! Roderick absolutely adores being petted; he might take a little break to groom himself, but that doesn't mean you should go anywhere–cuddling can be an all-day thing, as far as he's concerned. This guy is white with brown and orange markings. He's a bit overweight, so he'll need to get on a proper diet and get lots of opportunities for exercise in his forever home. Roderick would make a very good family bunny. He is currently in residence at the Petland Discounts store on 86th St. between 1st and 2nd Aves. in Manhattan.

Merly

Merly is a small to medium-sized female lionhead. This girl is an adorable tan-colored fluff ball. She's curious but quite shy, and will peek out at you, nose wiggling, from a safe hidey place. She'll eventually let you scratch her petite forehead, which she likes quite a bit. Merly would do best in a quiet home. She would also probably benefit from a bunny partner.



Porsche.



Sweet Pea.



Jerry.



▲ Annabelle. ▼ Merly.



Don't miss the first-ever national HRS Rabbit Conference in St Louis, Mo.

See details at end of this issue!

Bunny Therapy At Local Hospital

By Gwen Fried

Here at NYU Medical Center's Hospital for Joint Diseases, two of the most popular residents are soft, fuzzy and have long ears and "cottontails." Clovis and Nutmeg are 4 ½-year-old bunnies who were adopted from NYC Metro Rabbits to do a very special job. But let's start at the beginning.

More than 12 years ago, the horticultural therapists at Rusk Rehab were inspired to add a bunny to our treatment team. The bunny was such a success that animal-assisted therapy with the bunny became a permanent part of our department's programming.

Clovis and Nutmeg currently live on the 13th floor of the hospital in the garden room, surrounded by plants and people. Their favorite treat is a piece of banana, but we insist that they eat a very healthy diet of hay and fresh greens. During the warmer months, we grow fresh veggies and basil for them on our terrace garden.

More interesting, however, are the experiences that they have every day. The bunnies spend their time visiting with patients and collecting hugs. Their favorite activity is snuggling, but they also love being brushed and petted. They recognize patients that they have met before and are always willing to meet a new friend.

Bunny visits are requested by doctors, nurses, therapists, patients and family members. The bunnies will hop onto their cart to go down to the patient's room, day room or therapy gym. As they travel, staff members and visitors alike come by to say hello.

The unit clerk often announces their arrival on the unit, asking if we would have time to stop by after we finish with the patients. When patients see Nutmeg or Clovis arrive, their demeanor changes. Smiles appear as they are distracted from pain or worry. Nutmeg likes to visit many people for short visits, hopping from

Photo: Gwen Fried



Clovis.

place to place, to everyone's delight. Clovis likes longer cuddles and will often stay with one person for as long as an hour.

Patients, family members and staff can also meet with the bunnies in the garden room or terrace garden. Often the bunnies help patients during therapy sessions. Patients may be able to stand longer or move an arm more easily when motivated or distracted by the interaction with a bunny. One patient made almost all of her therapeutic gains after Clovis participated in her therapy sessions.

Nutmeg and Clovis have the perfect temperament for this kind of work. They are loving, patient, and know just what their person needs. Many patients have gone on to adopt a bunny of their own after meeting Clovis and Nutmeg. They are important members of the Rusk Rehab family here at NYU Medical Center.

Gwen Fried is manager of horticulture therapy services at NYU Medical Center's Hospital for Joint Diseases.

Book Review: 'Bunny Buddhism'

By Robert Kulka

Throughout the ages, humankind has searched for the meaning of life. At the very least, we have tried to find answers to our questions on how to live better lives. From the first bite of apple in the Garden of Eden, the search has spawned many philosophical teachings, students seeking their guru, and ultimately the world's great religions.

In recent times the availability of mass media brought us televangelists, late-night motivational infomercials and now even modern-day apps to assist with meditation. However, many of these require more time, energy and commitment than I personally have.

I recently came across an unassuming little handbook called "Bunny Buddhism" by Krista Lester, published by the Penguin Group with illustrations by Durell Godfrey. Krista Lester is the creator of @BunnyBuddhism on Twitter.

Those of us who live with and are close to the world of the bunny will understand that it took the simple carrot to shed light on finding our path. This interesting little manual gives simple, yet helpful, answers to our questions about life and living it well. Some examples of those

Photos: Robert Kulka



The meaning of hay...?

are: "The wise bunny knows we rarely see things as they are; we see them as we believe them to be," or "Bunnies hop. It is neither good nor bad; it simply is." One of my personal favorites is, "Every hop we hop resonates throughout the entire universe."

"Bunny Buddhism" is something to keep by your side to guide you throughout



At peace with bunniness.

your day, help you get through those difficult times, or provide topics for daily meditations. I would be remiss if I did not mention that the author neither dedicates the book to a bunny nor mentions a bunny in the forward to the book. In fact, she appears to be a dog person! This gave me pause initially. And then I realized that once again the all-knowing, all-powerful "bunny council" of wise elders had intervened and spoken through the author. I wonder if Krista even realizes this. But just observe the world of bunnies and you know it has to be true. How else would Krista know such an important tenet of bunny Buddhism: that the carrot contains the meaning of life?

Lara reflecting on Lara.



I am bunny, therefore I am.



Frank

By Samantha Rowan

Our bunny Frank, who was adopted in September, died unexpectedly in May. We met Frank (our nickname for his more formal name, Francis) at the Union Square Petco at the end of last summer. We felt a really strong connection with Frank right away and after meeting him a couple of times, we were able to bring him home.

Frank adapted to life at our apartment very quickly. We discovered he was the kind of rabbit who loved being in the middle of everything. His place was on the carpet by the coffee table, where he could get petted and see what was going on. He greeted visitors by hopping over to say hello and then sitting on their feet to ask for pets.

Everything was going well until one morning when Frank seemed a little subdued. He was also not eating his food, in a way that appeared to be GI stasis, so we went to see Dr. Deborah Levison at Symphony Vet later that day. She thought the same and sent him home with some meds. Back at home, Frank had some food and a little water. And then a couple of hours later, he just collapsed. Dr. Levison thought he had a stroke and believes that the change in his behavior was from a neurological issue.

We were devastated. We had only had Frank for a few months and while we knew he was a middle-aged rabbit – he was about five or six – we thought we'd have at least a few good years with him. He had so much spunk! And he still did a lot of happy jumps!

A co-worker of mine recently asked me if we still would have adopted Frank if we'd known that he would be gone so soon. And I replied that absolutely, we would have. Frank was an exceptional rabbit – friendly, funny, playful, smart



Photo: Samantha Rowan

Frank.

and gutsy – and we were very lucky to have him in our lives. We're also glad that we were able to give him a home for his final months.

One of the hardest things has been watching our son Nate, who is four, adjust to life without Frank. Shortly after Frank died, Nate said to me, "Mom, I want to talk about Frank. He's dead and I miss him. I love him." And I said, "I miss him, too. We all loved him a lot." And then Nate said, "Maybe

when we're not sad anymore, we can get another rabbit. But not now because we're sad." And I said, "That's right. Someday the time will be right and we'll bring another bunny home when we're less sad."

A lot of people helped guide Frank to us and we're very grateful for everything that everyone did for him. And we're very grateful for the time we had. Frank was one for the ages.

Photo: Susan Lillo



Rhonda and Melvin.

Rhonda Diva Lorence

By Susan Lillo

Rhonda came into my life unexpectedly. After a train trip to New Jersey with Amy Odum, I brought Rhonda into my home and hoped that she would become a friend for my boy bunny, Cornflake. This was not to be. The two rabbits disliked each other from the start, and even a therapy session with Cindy Stutts could not turn around this star-crossed relationship.

When Cornflake passed on, Rhonda had a promising speed date at the shelter with a brown lop boy named Commander. Bonding efforts continued for months, until I completely gave up after nearly a year. So it was a surprise when Rhonda and Commander, now called Melvin, decided to become friends shortly after I had determined that they would never become a couple.

For more than two years, Rhonda watched over Melvin as his spirited guardian angel, cleaning his eyes and ears assiduously and waiting in vain for him to reciprocate (well, once in a while, he would lick her face and quickly turn away). The two buddies egged each other on when it came to minor acts of destruction and nighttime mischief in our living room. They were never out of each other's sight, and if one decided to romp across the carpet to explore what was under a table, the other bunny was not far behind.

Rhonda had a bout of head tilt a few years ago, but she bounced back with no

residual medical issues. She always seemed to be a picture of bunny health, with fantastic pep and strength. Melvin was lucky to have such a playful, feisty girl as his partner, and he often would rouse himself from slumber to follow Rhonda on one of her marauding missions up onto the couch or in the hallway. She was the instigator and he was the willing boyfriend, knowing that she could be trusted to make life fun and crazy.

Last August, Dr. Alexandra Wilson treated Melvin for an ear infection. We brought Rhonda along for the appointment, just so Dr. Wilson could take a look at her, too. Unfortunately, Rhonda was found to have kidney failure, and her prognosis was poor. However, her blood levels improved after regular sub-Q injections, and we hoped that she would live a lot longer. She never had any

symptoms, except for an increase in water intake, and her energy level was as amazing as ever.

Rhonda, seven and a half years old, died on the morning of May 13 of an apparent heart attack. She was lively and active until the very end.

Life with Rhonda was always unpredictable and wild, and I will cherish my memories of her darting around the apartment, racing toward another adventure. She also will be missed by my daughters, Stephanie and Heather, and by my husband, Roger, who gave her the middle name Diva so that she would have the same initials as his. Rhonda, you were a great friend to Melvin, and you were an entertaining presence in our lives for many wonderful years. We can't believe you are gone.

Oreo

(Regina's beloved bunny Oreo died on May 18.)

I'm sorry, Oreo, for letting you down,
when the 'silent rabbit killer' of gastrointestinal stasis crept around.
I grieve for you like a mother would for a child.
I would have done anything to keep you alive.
You spent your final moments by my side.
I felt you shake and your eyes opened wide.
It was then I knew you had said your final good-bye.
Now all I have are memories of your sweet little rabbit face.
Everyone says, "just get another,"
but no one could ever take your place.
You were my funny bunny Oreo.
You were my saving grace.
Oreo...you were truly the best.
I will never forget this Sunday,
which was your day of eternal rest.
You were and will always be,
my dearest rabbit friend until eternity.

— Regina Scotton

Oreo.

Photo: Regina Scotton



Letters From Adopters

'Huge Thank You' for Rabbit-Care Videos

I recently finished watching all of Mary Cotter's rabbit-care videos on Howcast with Amy Sedaris and I just wanted to say a huge thank you.

I will be moving in to a new apartment with my boyfriend of four years soon and we are going to be getting a house rabbit once we can arrange finances and get an agreement from the landlord/landlady (which I will be persistent about, because I am determined to have a house rabbit). I've had a rabbit before, but due to my mum developing severe allergies, sadly the rabbit had to live most of her life in an outdoor hutch/run and the indoor patio during winter.

This time, I want to make sure my bunny gets a lot more attention, space and exercise, and while I know my previous bunny was happy, I feel like I could have done much more for her. So your videos have really helped me get ready to prepare for things like rabbit-proofing the house. I am chronically ill and I spend most of my time indoors (I also study from home), so a bunny would be a great companion – and I hope I would be a great companion for the bunny as well! <3

I will be spreading the word of your videos and your rabbitcare.org website on my blog of 16,000+ subscribers because I feel, especially after Easter, awareness on proper rabbit care needs to be increased!

Fluffy hugs and thanks,

xoxox

Ruth Brain, aka Peachie

Terrance

Terrance was adopted by Arabella and her family. She sent this update in early April to Susan Lillo.

I've wanted to write you for a few weeks now to let you know how Terrance is doing. For one, he is extremely loved by his family. Two? He is very, very loving. You were absolutely right about his energy and his love of exploring. And in the time that he has been here, all rooms have become his.

Yes, he likes his pen (he'll even go in it on his own) but more often than not, he's running around the apartment, hanging out underneath furniture and seeing what new things he can discover. We learned that he can jump onto unexpected things very easily but he's always good-natured about being told no and asked to come down. Once on the ground he might stamp his back paws. But he is still very loving and recovers from his annoyance quickly.

Photo: Arabella Friedland



Terrance.

He has a very healthy appetite and is eating well.

The lovebirds get along very well with Terrance. He likes to lay down underneath the table where their cage sits – or jump onto the table beside their cage and explore a little more.

All in all, he is a very happy bunny. And we would love to come visit you soon!

Thank you so much for bringing this funny, sweet little piggy into our lives.

Love,

Arabella, Jim and Dan

Photo: Denise Baughn



George in a Bunny Sandwich: Left to right: Rory, George, and Amy.

George

Denise Baughn adopted George in October. She sent this great letter to us in April.

I owe an apology for not writing in about George sooner. I brought him in for a speed date recently and it was wonderful to meet people who cared for him while he was sheltered by NYC Metro Rabbit. George has been a lot of work but he's been more than worth it. During our first month together I became very familiar with George's teeth. I have scars on my hands and feet that remind me of that wonderful time in our lives. But we worked on it.

After that first month he stopped biting me (mostly), but he was still a grumpy bunny. When I let him out for exercise, he used to dash under my desk, hunch down on his forelegs, point his ears

(Continued on page 20)

Letters *(Continued from page 19)*

back, look at me and thump as loudly as he could. I'd never owned a rabbit before George. His thump was the first I ever saw and he did it with such determination and vehemence. Six pounds of righteous rabbit fury thumping at me! I laughed until I couldn't breathe. Then I thumped back and he thumped at me and I thumped at him, back and forth for quite a while before he decided that I was hopeless and ducked behind the bookshelf for a nap.

Eventually he decided he'd rather explore than hide. Whenever he hopped by me, I'd pat his head or rump. He'd grunt at me and hop away. Then one day when I patted his head, he decided he wanted to be petted. He became this rabbit who binkies when I enter the room and turns into a bunny pancake when I pet him.

He kept me sane while I was working on my thesis. I have an ottoman next to my desk that is George's chair. He'd hang out there and I'd read my thesis to him. He also gave me the supreme joy of being able to turn in a script draft that he'd munched on and getting to say the words "my bunny ate my homework."

George is now in the process of bonding with a pair he picked out from a local shelter. Despite all the trials and tribulations that go with bonding, George has been overjoyed to have company. He's still a demanding little boy, but he's my demanding little boy and I love him. I don't like to think about what would have happened to George without organizations like NYC Metro Rabbit. Thank you for taking care of George.

Denise



Dixie Do and Bosco Bean.

Dixie Do and Bosco Bean

Lenora Faitak adopted Angie as a partner for Izzy. The rabbits are called Dixie Do and Bosco Bean, and we received this letter in early April.

Angie and Izzy are now Dixie Do and Bosco Bean. With the strong possibility of them never getting along (speed date gone bad) we took it slow. Needless to say they are now totally bonded.

They basically have the run of the apartment and spend time looking out the window and at the three cats. They have been pretty happy and healthy.

Lenora Faitak



Madame Bushwick and Sir Ziggy.

Madame Bushwick and Sir Ziggy

Natalie sent us this recent update about her bonded rabbits, Madame Bushwick and Sir Ziggy.

I adopted an adorably cute lionhead from the NYC Animal Care & Control shelter in June 2013, and at the time she was called Maxine. Her name has since been changed to Madame Bushwick in honor of being found in the neighborhood of Bushwick, Brooklyn. She has an immense personality (she's a little diva) and loves to play, cuddle and eat. As of November 2013 she has been bonded to a Mini Rex named Sir Ziggy who is her faithful companion and husbun.

Thank you,

Natalie Pitheckoff

Stanley

Nicole Fusco-Evans and her husband, Vinny, adopted Stanley, formerly known as Robert, at the Bunnyland event on April 26. Stanley is enjoying his friendship with Pixie.

My husband, Vinny, and I are smitten with Robert! However, we changed his name to Stanley because Robert was my ex-boyfriend's name. ;)

So, Stanley is doing great! He's a ball of energy and he's getting along with our other bunny, Pixie. It's been a week and they are already flopping together. They even shared a bowl of greens together.

(Continued on page 21)

Photos: Nicole Fusco-Evans



Stanley.



Pixie and Stanley.

It's so cute! He loves his cage and really made himself at home here. I think he likes us, too. He's still shy about being petted but is slowly letting us give him a stroke or two.

Thanks!

Nicole, Vinny, Pixie and Stanley

Photo: Timothy J. Mahood



Rumples.

Rumples

Timothy Mahood, who adopted Rumples, sent us this update in early May.

I'm still learning about Rumples' personality. It's hard to say exactly what he is like (other than affectionate).

He seems to be doing great! It took him less than half a day to figure out the ramp to the second floor of his rabbit duplex. He is very well litter-trained. In terms of playing, we don't really play

that much. Our time together usually consists of him laying right next to me and me petting him (teeth chattering away in enjoyment).

Also, he seems a little skittish at times. However, I think he is still getting accustomed to the new sounds, smells, house, etc.

Overall, he seems like a great little guy who loves his veggies and hay. (I don't have a comparison point as he is the first rabbit I have ever owned.) I am extremely pleased with him. I look forward to getting to know him better and learning more about building trust.

Anytime I am near his cage, he begs for attention and if he doesn't get it – THUMP – he lets me know he is mad. Ha ha.

Thanks to Abigail McCue for all of your help. I am so glad I adopted this little guy.

Thanks,

Tim

Photo: Janet Nemeth



Marbles and Lily.

Marbles

Janet Nemeth and her family adopted Marbles at the Bunnyland adoption event in April. She sent us this letter in early May.

Marbles or "Marbs" is doing great! She is a very active, inquisitive and affectionate bunny and also somewhat of a daredevil,

(Continued on page 22)



Don't miss the first-ever national HRS Rabbit Conference in St Louis, Mo. See details at end of this issue!

Photo: Janet Nemeth



Marbles.

which we love. lol. She is such a blessing to our family and we are so glad we found her and are able to provide her with a happy home. She and my 6-month-old daughter, Lily, are socializing well and are always monitored, of course, to maintain their safety.

We are experienced bunny parents who lost our first little guy of 6 years back in December, and it has been a huge hole in our home. Marbs is such a delight! Our vet says that she is very healthy and will be ready to be spayed in August/September, so we will follow up.

Thank you so much for placing your trust in us and letting us take this wonderful little girlie home. We just love her!!!

Janet

Grace

Grace, who had babies in the shelter on Feb. 26 while volunteer Cathy Zelonis was on duty, and then was fostered by Tracy Nuzzo (see April 2014 Thump, pages 9-11 <http://rabbitcare.org/ThumpApril2014.pdf>), was adopted in early May by the Hinckley family, who live on Long Island. Here is a letter they recently sent to Tracy.

Dear Tracy,

Happy birthday 3-month birthday to Grace's babies! We are so glad that they are doing well and think they should find nice homes easily.

We wanted to let you know how wonderful it is to have Grace (aka Gracie) in our lives now. She is a wonderful, loving rabbit and she is very accepting of

Photo: Glen Hinckley



Grace.

the love we give her. She came into our lives at just the right time. Our previous rabbit, Violet, joined her partner in bunny heaven in April after 13 years on this planet, 12 of which we were fortunate to spend with her. Our kids grew up with these rabbits and were raised knowing how to treat and respect rabbits, but they were never able to get the love back from the rabbits that they put in. So they deserved a rabbit that they could share their love with and connect with.

Grace is just that rabbit. She is so comfortable with the kids that even

when they are engaged in boisterous games, she comes bounding out to explore. She will stop and take a gentle petting whenever she passes them. They look forward every morning when they wake up, and every day after school, to letting her run around and play. And she is happy to oblige. One day they were chasing her around and I was about to scold them, until I noticed that she was binkying every so often. She enjoyed being chased and playing with them. She will nuzzle under our feet at

(Continued on page 23)

Photo: Glen Hinckley



Scarlett, Grace and Everett.

the table to be petted, even by a foot! She constantly stretches out and flops over throughout the house, a sign of a very comfortable rabbit.

And once the kids are in bed, then it is really her time! She has done sprints around the house and finds her favorite hiding spots. She has explored every inch of our house, including figuring out how to jump up on the couch. She has joined us on the couch sometimes when we least expect it, but, of course, only staying for a brief pet before she is on her way. And she is pushing her boundaries constantly, and has even climbed to the top of our stairs and into our non-bunnyproofed second floor.

Thank you again for all you have done! From Grace's personality, it is obvious that you gave her lots of love and attention and showed her that people can be wonderful companions. If it weren't for you, we would not have such a precious joy in our life. Grace is just the rabbit we were wishing for, and we hope that we are the family that she was wishing for. You do such wonderful work with rabbits and we know that Quincy, Baxter and Maxine will have wonderful lives because of your care and dedication.

Thank you again for all you do!

The Hinckleys: Glen, Michelle,
Everett, Scarlett, and Grace

Photo: Stephen Romano



Carl.

Carl

Carl, previously known as Beans, was adopted in mid-May by Stephen Romano, who sent us this update.

Everything is still good. Beans, as of yesterday, is now Carl.

He's been a very playful bunny. We love everything about him and are learning new things every day.

We bought him all types of new toys and discovered which veggies and treats he likes the best. It's hard to resist giving him more than the allotment of treats he can have, but we restrain ourselves.

My father has been very involved in taking care of him, which Carl seems to appreciate very much. He loves being petted and likes the boxes we have placed in the pen.

His eating habits have been normal, and he has a scheduled appointment for a check-up this week. We are very happy together.

Stephen



▲ Thumper. ▼ Queen.



Nail clipping.



Scribble and Trixie.



▲ Charlie Girl aka Charlene. ▼ Herbie.





Robbie.



Buttercup.



▲ Dark Cloud. ▼ Coco.



▲ Famous and Elvis. ▼ Puddles with Rudy and Rusty.



Oreo.





▲ Annabelle. ▼ Quincy.



▲ Skylar, Stella and Jill. ▼ Petal checking out Beans.



Rabbit-Savvy Veterinarians

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

Long Island:

Jennifer Saver, DVM

Laura George, DVM

Kristen Miller, DVM

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

Heidi Hoefler, DVM

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

Jeff Rose, DVM

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

Manhattan:

Becky Campbell, DVM

Deborah Levison, DVM

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

Katherine Quesenberry, DVM

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

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
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Laura George, DVM, HRS Licensed Educator

Monica Shepherd, DVM, HRS Licensed Educator

THUMP June 2014

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Rabbit Rescue & Rehab is a not-for-profit,
tax-exempt corporation in New York State.

Our purpose is to rescue, rehabilitate and
find permanent homes for abandoned,
abused and neglected rabbits, and to
educate the 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 to Rabbit
Rescue & Rehab: Gabrielle LaManna, 7 Carriage
Lane, New Fairfield, CT 06812. For contributions
to Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, please go
to 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
Cindy Stutts at bygolyoly@yahoo.com or call
her at 646-319-4766. On **Long Island**, contact
Nancy Schreiber at nschreibmd@aol.com
or at 516-510-3637 (www.longislandrabbitrescue.org), and in **Westchester**
contact Mary Cotter at mec@cloud9.net or
914-337-6146 (www.rabbitcare.org).

The rabbit volunteers' email address in New
York City is 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.

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
either at Columbus Square or Union Square.
Please contact Cindy Stutts at
bygolyoly@yahoo.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
Mary Cotter at mec@cloud9.net or Cindy
Stutts at nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

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

HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY



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HRS Educational Conference: Taking Rabbit Knowledge to a Higher Level

Mar 8, 2014 by HRS



House Rabbit Society's first ever Educator Conference, *Taking Rabbit Knowledge to a Higher Level*, will be held  [Print](#) **September 26-28, 2014** (to coincide with [International Rabbit Day!](#)) at the [Humane Society of Missouri](#). The conference is hosted by [St. Louis House Rabbit Society](#), and is being organized by the [HRS Conference Committee](#).

All House Rabbit Society Educators are invited and the cost is free for them. For others, please check the [registration form](#) for information on costs. There will be a charge for meals for all attendees.

Speakers include Carolyn Harvey, DVM, Susan Brown, DVM, Micah Kohles, DVM, Peter Fisher, DVM, Avery Bennett, DVM, Anthony Pilny, DVM, Marinell Harriman, Margo

DeMello, PhD, Joy Gioia, Marlene Larkin, MS, Diane McClure, DVM, Debby Widolf, Dana Krempels, PhD, Mary Cotter, EdD, LVT, Nancy LaRoche, Dawn Sailer, MS, Susan Smith, PhD, George Flentke, PhD, and Anne Martin, PhD. (Bios for the speakers can be found [here](#))

To see the schedule of events, visit the [schedule page](#).

To find out about getting to St. Louis, where to stay and what to eat, visit the [lodgings page](#).

To find out details on each class, visit the [classes page](#).

To find out about sightseeing in the St. Louis area, visit the [St. Louis information page](#).

To find out about the vendors who will be attending, visit the [vendors page](#).

To find out about the lunches on Saturday and Sunday, visit the [Lunches page](#), and to find out about the Saturday evening dinner and program (HRS reps, speakers, and families only), visit the [Dinner page](#).



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PLEASE REGISTER EARLY – SPACE IS LIMITED TO 200! (As of June 2, we are at 129 registrants.)

Use [this form to register](#) and use [this page to pay for meals and any non-educator attendees](#).

This will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet other HRS educators and the leadership of House Rabbit Society, including House Rabbit Society founder Marinell Harriman, and as a bonus, we will be visiting the new shelter owned by St. Louis HRS!

House Rabbit Society is grateful to have the sponsorship of the following generous and amazing companies and organizations:



If you are interested in making a donation to help support the cost of this conference, [please click here](#).

If you'd like to find out about sponsorships, being a vendor at the conference, or advertising in the conference program, including placing a small memorial ad in memory of your rabbit, please email [Margo DeMello](#).

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HRS CONFERENCE

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