

THE HUMP

NYC METRO RABBIT

NEWS JUNE 2012



LONG ISLAND UPDATE

Rash of Homeless Rabbits in Bayside; Benny Tossed in Trash

By Mary Ann Maier

Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group has been extremely busy over the past few months. Our team has been tireless in its efforts to find homes for all of the abandoned bunnies on Long Island. Here are some of the rabbits we helped.

Unsafe Outdoor Situation

Our team helped place some rabbits rescued from a well-meaning but uninformed owner who let his rabbits breed out of control. LIRRG received calls from neighbors, appealing for help for these rabbits, who were living outdoors in Queens. We were able to take and place four of the young rabbits with the permission of the owner.

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Photo: Wendy and Craig Giuffre



The girls: Houdini, Squeaky and Beatrix.

Bringing Up Five Babies

By Wendy and Craig Giuffre

We have been fostering five small bunnies since mid-February in our Upper West Side apartment. Craig built them a condo, and they have all been doing great. What a lively group! They arrived on Valentine's Day and are now six months old.

We plan to keep one of the boys, Snowy, and whichever girl he gets along with the best (once the girls are spayed in the next week or two).

The other boy, George, was adopted. His new parents picked him up on Memorial Day.

Here is a little about each of the wonderful girls:

Beatrix: She has recently decided that she loves being petted. She is curious, loves playing with Slinkys and really enjoys

throwing her toys. She seems to be the head of the sisters. Bea loves to lounge about and cuddle up with her sisters.

Squeaky: She loves to sprint, bob, weave and binky. She gets along well with her sisters and seems to be the designated groomer. Although she's a little timid to the touch, if you spend time with her on her level (the floor), she'll come over and check you out and let you pet her – once she trusts you.

Houdini: She is very curious and likes to see and be involved in what you're doing. Houdini loves to run and jump and binky all over the place. She does like to chew, especially rubber and plastic, so give her toys and she's a happy bunny.

For others who are interested in fostering rescued rabbits, contact Marcie Frishberg at mfrish57bun@yahoo.com.

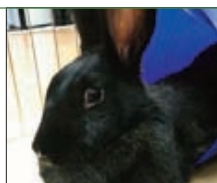
Photo: Donna Sheridan



These Dutch bunnies were rescued in Queens.



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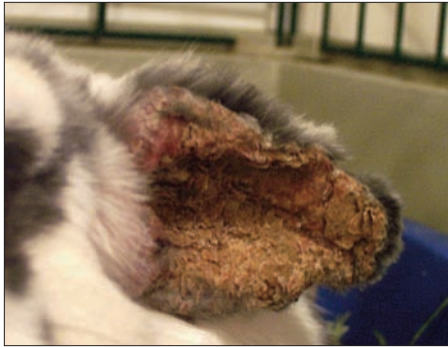


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Long Island Update

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Photos: Donna Sheridan



Alexandria's horrible ear mites, before, top, and after perfect healing, above.

Emaciated With Ear Mites

When we found Alexandria, she was malnourished and had severe ear mites, broken toes, and exposed bone on the tip of her tail. Our vets at Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital said the exposed bone was an injury so old that the bone was already bleached out and the flesh had healed around it, so there was nothing to be done in terms of corrective surgery. Alexandria is now healthy and healed from her mites, and is very friendly. She is available for adoption.

Seven Abandoned Bunnies in Bayside

In the last few months, there have been seven rescued bunnies in Bayside. A New Zealand white with a splayed leg was rescued by a kind person named Michael who is having her treated medically. He and his roommate are going to keep her.

A second New Zealand white was found by pit-bull rescuer Tamara, who has named the bunny Brigit.

Photo: Grace Holl



When someone rescues stray bunnies, often the only place for them on short notice is the bathtub. These two youngsters were found in Alley Pond Park.

The third bunny was rescued by volunteer Vivian Barna. The family who originally reported this stray dwarf is fostering her. She loves being picked up and kissed.

Rabbit number four was rescued on Bell Boulevard and 50th Street by Suzanne, who named him Thumper and is fostering him.

The fifth rabbit was found in a commercial parking lot near Francis Lewis Boulevard and 39th Avenue by LIRRG volunteers Barbara Hausman and Michael Simons. The bunny is a cute black dwarf female with a white nose and one white paw. The volunteers named her Dot. She is spayed and ready for her forever home. She loves to be petted and kissed.

Numbers six and seven were found in an area of Alley Pond Park that runs

along 73rd Avenue. Thankfully, they were brought to Animal Care & Control of NYC (AC&C) by Grace, the kind person who rescued them.

Gemma and Rascal: Long Road to Rescue

After Anita, a concerned homeowner in East Hampton, called LIRRG, volunteers worked together to try to rescue two bunnies who had been abandoned in a very rural and wooded neighborhood. They had been seen over several weeks and were always together.

Luckily, the white bunny, who we named Gemma, was captured right away by Anita and our volunteer Renee. Though LIRRG is diligent in making sure all rescued rabbits are spayed and neutered in as timely a fashion as possible, we got a big surprise a few weeks later when Gemma had a litter of seven babies.

Unfortunately, the little brown bunny was not as easy to rescue. Several trips out to East Hampton were made by our volunteers, Mickey, Renee, Mary Ann and Gina. The geography was a challenge, the rabbit was a hard-to-spot brown color, and he knew his way around the woods very well. After many weeks of no sightings, and after we had given up hope he'd be rescued, he made his appearance again. A neighbor saw him in

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Lops, lionheads, white buns, brown buns: Gemma gave birth to some of each.

Photo: Donna Sheridan



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her herb garden, and with our instruction, Anita was able to surround him with a puppy pen and catch him. Rascal is now at LIRRG and we hope to reunite him one day with Gemma.

Once the babies are all spayed and neutered, they, and Gemma and Rascal, will be available for adoption. You can view a video of the babies at www.LongIslandRabbitRescue.org and on our Facebook page.

Large and Oh So Lovely

When a park worker called us to report a large white rabbit in a park in Massapequa, LIRRG volunteer Gina decided to go check it out. The area where the rabbit had been seen was very close to train tracks. After Gina had walked through the park and was ready to get back into her car, the rabbit appeared. The rabbit ran up to Gina and began eating a carrot out of her hand! Once we got the rabbit to a foster home, Mary Ann removed dozens of ticks from her. This incredibly sweet girl was named Colleen, as she was rescued on St. Patrick's Day. Colleen is more like a dog than a typical rabbit. She is spayed and available for adoption.

Paige

A homeowner in Bethpage was able to rescue a small white rex rabbit in the neighborhood. There wasn't any room at the time at LIRRG, so the homeowner was able to foster her for a month. Paige was kept in a small cage, in a small laundry room, but she was safe and getting food and water. Once space opened up with LIRRG, we were able to take Paige in, but it wouldn't be for long: Paige was just adopted into a great home and has a family who loves her.

Thrown in the Trash

Benny was quite literally thrown away. He was found in a garbage can in Suffolk County. This poor boy is very

Photos: Donna Sheridan



Colleen Rules! The only thing bigger than Colleen is her wonderful personality.

timid and shy and who can blame him? He had some horrible injuries indicative of fights with other rabbits (usually from overcrowding). We hope he finds a loving home soon. Benny's adopter will need some patience to allow him to blossom with time.

Abandoned in Patchogue

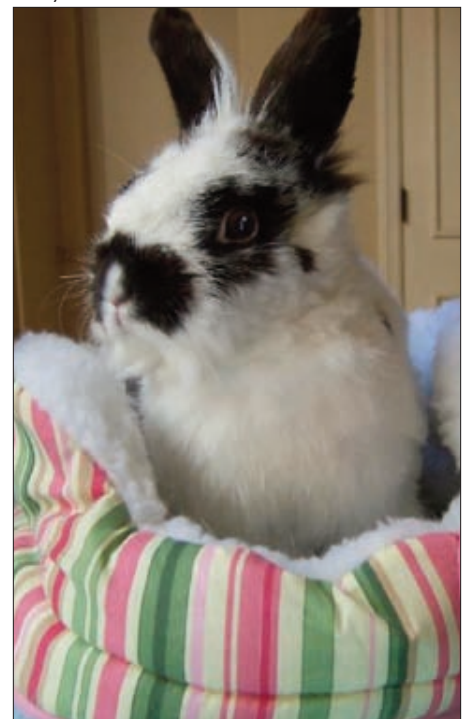
Anastasia is true royalty yet she was abandoned unceremoniously in Patchogue. It is a mystery how a rabbit as beautiful and loving as this girl could have been treated in such a lowly way. Despite all, she has retained her dignity and has become the star of the rescue. All she is missing right now is a loving home.

Lops Left on Highway

On Friday, May 25, five lop rabbits were abandoned on Vets Highway in front of Connetquot State Park in Islandia, N.Y. Kind passers-by were able to capture two. Sadly, one rabbit was struck and killed on the highway. The fourth was hard to catch, so a group returned early Saturday to see if they could catch him. He was rescued after about three hours of searching. LIRRG is gearing up to help catch the last one. Visit the Long Island Rabbit Rescue Facebook page for updates.



Benny.



Anastasia.

Mr. Spock Grabs Spotlight in Westchester

By Mary Christine Basile

Rabbit Rehab & Rescue volunteers attended the third annual Best Friends Super Adoption event on April 28 and 29 at the Westchester County Center in White Plains. Along with the many rows of dogs and cats, more than a dozen rabbits also in need of forever homes were in attendance, receiving the admiration of hundreds of adults and children over the course of the two days. Visitors marveled over spunky Cinnabun's beautiful red coat and the immeasurable cuteness of bonded lop pair Jack and Janet, but it was Mr. Spock, a white-and-black lionhead who stole the show with his mane of wild hair and love for affection.

Further adding to the excitement of the weekend were the successful speed dates that led to the adoption of two lucky rabbits.

First to find his forever home was Winnie, a beautiful male Dutch adopted by Cecilia Moy as a companion for her brown female Dutch after a great speed date. Winnie recently had to have his incisors removed due to chronic dental issues, but will lead a normal life other than needing his greens chopped up to help with chewing.

Next to find not only a new home but also a bunny companion was a black silver marten from the Pets Alive shelter in Elmsford appropriately named – Silver! She was adopted by the bunny-savvy family of Abby Wolf-Feigelson, her husband Gregg and their son Max, who were looking for a partner for Elliot, their “Love Muffin” adopted in Orange County. Elliot, whose rabbit partner had recently passed away, lived up to his nickname, clearly longing for another companion, as he was on his best behavior with all of the ladies he met during his speed dates. It was Silver, though, who seemed the most comfortable with Elliot, and she went home with him (soon to be her very own “Love Muffin”) that day.

Photos: Mary Christine Basile



Mr. Spock.



Jack and Janet.

Despite all of the attention that he received, Mr. Spock did not find his new home during the event, but did the following weekend when he was adopted by Lisette Pizarro as a companion for Share, who had been adopted from Animal Care & Control of NYC (AC&C) a few months prior. Although only two rabbits were adopted during the Best Friends event, volunteers answered

Silver and Elliot.



Best Friends Super Adoption event.



Cinnabun.

many questions from potential adopters who took home informational brochures with intentions of doing further research before deciding if adopting a rabbit would be right for them.

Bunny Profile of the Month – June 2012

Wendy

By Robert Kulka

Wendy is a lively, affectionate, intelligent and, at moments, demanding rabbit. She was recently adopted after being at the Petco on 86th Street for several weeks. This profile was done on the eve of her adoption.

Hello, Wendy. It is very exciting to be speaking with you on the eve of your adoption.

Wendy: I know. It took awhile but I am very happy to be going home with Mylissa.

Where are you from?

Wendy: Hard to say exactly. I had a home for a bit but then was in a foster arrangement before I was brought here to 86th Street. But now I'm going with Mylissa.

You seem very confident and upbeat. And very affectionate.

Wendy: I am very affectionate. I love to just sit and cuddle. I find it so comforting. And it gives me time to ruminate on things. And I do try to be upbeat. I also try to show confidence. I experiment with certain poses to express that.

I have noticed that.

Wendy: Yes. Sometimes I sit up with ears fully extended and pointing upward. Shows I am attentive and alert and not easily distracted by surroundings. Even when I relax, I sometimes stretch out but keep my head up and nose pointed forward like those statues in Egypt.

You mean the sphinxes?

Wendy: Yes, those. I saw them in a book once. I am very bright, you know.

Yes, I see you are very bright. Ouch! What was that?

Wendy: Sorry. But you stopped petting me. Just my gentle way of saying more love, please. I have figured out lots of little things like that. I look forward to teaching Mylissa.

I don't mean to correct you but you keep saying Mylissa. Your new human partner is actually named Melissa.

Wendy: Not any more. Now she is MYlissa. I am so happy about that.

I see you are a good eater.

Wendy: Oh, yes. I like most all greens. Romaine, dandelion, cilantro, basil, Brussels sprouts. Things like that. I like a bit of healthy sweets, too. A few bits of carrots and the occasional bite of apple or banana. Not too much but just a bit. And some Bunny Basics pellets too.

What is the first thing you will do when you get home with "Mylissa"?

Wendy: It really is Melissa to you. But I will scope out things and define my territory and see how we will manage things. Then I will give Mylissa a moment to catch her breath before we settle in for a relaxing cuddle session.

Will you miss anyone or anything when you leave Petco?

Wendy: Well, not that Snowball, anyway. He was my neighbor here for a few weeks. I used to like to terrorize him a bit when we were out for exercise time. Not mean-spirited; just keeping him in his place. And it was a way for me to get attention, anyway. But I will miss many of the nice people who came each and every day to check in on us and give us fresh Timothy hay and water and food. I always tried to keep my cage very neat for them to make their task easier. And I really liked a couple of the special folk who would bring extra treats or toys and play with me. Like tossing the paper tubes, or tug of war with chew sticks.

What would you like to tell the readers?

Wendy: Well, remember no matter what you may think, each of us bunnies has unique personalities, and although some may be smarter or worldlier than others and some more outgoing, we are all bright and definitely a bit clever. We keep our human partners on their toes. But we love and appreciate what you do.

What is your favorite book?

Wendy: All books. I love the ones with pictures especially.

What is your favorite movie?

Wendy: Any of the classics. I love those old black-and-white MGM films and those wonderful studio stars.

Photo: Robert Kulka



Wendy.

Favorite song?

Wendy: They play a wide variety all day here at Petco, but I love anything by Adele. She is so powerful in both her voice and material.

Favorite TV show?

Wendy: Don't watch much but a guilty pleasure is "2 Broke Girls." They are a stitch.

Who would you like to meet some day?

Wendy: Not sure. Maybe Hillary Clinton. I admire her.

Just a few more quick questions?

Wendy: Keep petting my nose and you may ask as many as you like.

Treasured possession?

Wendy: Mylissa.

Secret Pleasure?

Wendy: Terrorizing Snowball.

What do you dislike about your appearance?

Wendy: I look a bit disheveled when I shed. Otherwise nothing.

Greatest Fear?

Wendy: I would not want to relive my last six months of waiting. I am looking forward to the future.

Motto?

Wendy: Always let your light shine for all to see.

Thank you so much for talking to us. We wish you all good things and happiness in your new home.

Wendy: I thank you, too. I hope this offers encouragement to all the other bunnies awaiting their forever homes. But pardon me; shouldn't you be petting me some more?

The Berardi Bunnies of Soho

By Natalie L. Reeves

Soho is a neighborhood in lower Manhattan that epitomizes style, whether it be in fashion, art or real estate. Given that Soho's residents are known trend-setters, we can only hope that the bunny-friendly policies of the Alexander Berardi boutique influence others.

The Alexander Berardi Flagship Boutique (www.houseofberardi.com), located at 174 Prince Street, opened in September 2011 with a novel concept: The business partners and designers who owned the boutique decided that their store would have a family-friendly policy and, to them, their bunnies were family.

Alexander Berardi, the youngest fashion designer to show his line at New York Fashion Week last year, is known for his classic women's clothing. His designs are worn by celebrities and other fashionistas, but increasingly, Mr. Berardi is also becoming associated with his bunny mascots, Jack and Miss Cooper.

Mr. Berardi was an animal lover and wanted a pet. His friend, neighbor and business partner, Christopher Kulukundis, encouraged Mr. Berardi to get a rabbit. Since Mr. Berardi traveled frequently, Mr. Kulukundis offered to care for his rabbit when he was away. Approximately 14 months ago, Mr. Berardi got Miss Cooper, a brown-and-white lop. Soon afterward, he got Jack, a gray-and-white lop, to keep Miss Cooper company.

Messrs. Berardi and Kulukundis loved their bunnies and spent a lot of time researching how to care for them. They had them spayed and neutered and fed them unlimited fresh hay. Beyond that, though, they were fortunate to be able to take their bunnies to work with them. They never took their bunnies on the subway and made the daily commutes to their workplace as stress-free as possible for the rabbits. Their workroom wasn't open to the public, so Jack and Miss Cooper were permitted to run around and play during the day.

Photos: Natalie Reeves



Jack plays in the front window of the Alexander Berardi Flagship Boutique on Prince Street, Soho.



As the two men spent months building out their new boutique, they thought about how much they would miss having their bunnies at work with them when it opened to the public.

Mr. Kulukundis said, "We had the idea that we could build out the store with an area where Miss Cooper could play. We thought about what she would like. We wanted her to have grass. Most bunnies who spend time on grass have so much to worry about with predators constantly hunting them. We wanted our rabbits to have a completely safe and fun area to play."

Jack and Miss Cooper play on recycled nontoxic synthetic grass that is frequently replaced in a window in the front of the store. Throughout the day, employees provide fresh hay to the bunnies, and a bowl of water is there for them at all times, as well. Customers frequently ask about why the bunnies are being fed hay, and the owners and employees of the store are happy to educate them as to its importance.

Some rabbit activists, including many from Britain, were concerned when they heard that the Berardi boutique had

rabbits in its window. Mr. Kulukundis understands their concerns, but said that their fears were misplaced. The Berardi boutique is strictly fur-free and promotes rabbit adoption. Mr. Kulukundis estimates that he tells about five to 10 people a week about what great pets rabbits are and why they should adopt. He's explained to countless visitors why rabbits shouldn't be kept in small cages, why they need hay, and how social they are. Jack and Miss Cooper go home each night with Mr. Berardi or Mr. Kulukundis.

The Berardi bunnies have been beloved members of the Soho community since they arrived in the store. Even though the bunnies were celebrities among Soho residents, no one dreamed that they would become international news, but that's what happened when Miss Cooper was kidnapped in March by a man and woman wearing cowboy hats. While employees were busy helping customers, the kidnappers took Miss Cooper from her window playpen.

The owners and employees of the Berardi boutique were devastated and feared the worst when Miss Cooper was

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A Bun Named River Gets Medical Help

By Sari Krieger

With the assistance of three Good Samaritans, I rescued an abandoned bunny in Riverside Park at 91st Street in early May. We named him River. He was a super-super sweet Dutchie.

He actually smelled like perfume, so it seemed as if someone was giving him love, but obviously not enough. He was very easy to scoop up and he didn't mind being held. He had long nails but was clean. I could feel his spine and he seemed thin. He was unneutered.

River's right eye had a cataract and it looked like something had happened to his left hind leg. He was leaning over in

order to avoid putting any weight on the leg.

River was able to clean himself really well, despite his bad leg. He was a real cutie pie.

He was examined by Dr. Alexandra Wilson at the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine.

River has been able to get around rather well despite his leg problem. He also was found to have bad teeth, however, and may need additional medical care.

River is being fostered by volunteer Erick Rodriguez.

Photo: Anne Watkins



Sari with River in Riverside Park.

Berardi Bunnies

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taken. In many ways, their bunnies had been adopted by the community. Many people visited the bunnies each day. Some of the biggest fan groups were the store's customers, children, dog walkers and the dogs they were walking, and others who lived and worked in the neighborhood. When these people found out that Miss Cooper had been snatched, they were not quiet. Outraged that people would be so cruel, the customers mobilized and contacted the press. Soon there were headlines in media outlets around the world showing pictures of the bunnies and pleading for the return of Miss Cooper.

Mr. Kulukundis credits the Soho community for the safe return of Miss Cooper just 48 hours after she was kidnapped. A homeless man who had seen the story in the press spotted Miss Cooper's kidnappers holding her at a soup kitchen and got them to turn over the bunny to him to take to the police. Poor Miss Cooper, sitting in a fish tank

full of Apple Jacks, was returned to her ecstatic family at the Berardi boutique. Amazingly, after having been kidnapped and fed junk food, she didn't seem to suffer any ill-effects from her ordeal.

The day after Miss Cooper's homecoming, she returned to the Berardi boutique so that Soho residents could see that the bunny they had been so worried about was safe and sound. The store owners wanted to thank everyone who had helped them find Miss Cooper. After that day, though, the bunnies were not permitted back in the store for about two weeks so that the store owners could revamp security. Mr. Kulukundis said that their interest was in protecting the bunnies first and foremost and that neither bunny would be allowed to return to the store until the new security measures were in place.

Never underestimate the power of two little bunnies to make a difference. Mr. Kulukundis said that he has repeatedly witnessed Jack or Miss Cooper cheering up a customer or educating someone. He recalled the time a little boy came

into the store and saw Miss Cooper eating a carrot treat. The boy said he didn't like carrots and had never eaten one. When he saw how much Miss Cooper liked her carrot, he decided he would try one. Mr. Kulukundis said that watching that little boy eating his first carrot in the store was a special moment in the store's history and that the boy was open to eating veggies simply because he wanted to be like a rabbit.

News reports during Miss Cooper's kidnapping saga often mentioned the celebrities who love Jack and Miss Cooper. When Mr. Kulukundis was asked about the bunnies' celebrity fans, he demurred, "It's not about celebrities; it's about the bunnies' universal appeal. Everybody is a fan of Miss Cooper and Jack. All creeds, children, dogs, social demographics. They all love the bunnies. We'll see a man in a business suit who turns into a child around the bunnies. The best thing about the bunnies is how funny they are. They will do 360-degree spins. They laugh when you laugh. They are whimsical and have universal appeal and make everyone smile."

The Way to Your Rabbit's Heart...

By Lisa Carley

You know the old adage: "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach."

Well, the way to your rabbit's heart is through his nose. This may sound familiar because it's a topic I discussed in this column a year ago. (See article on page 9 of the February 2011 Thump at rabbitcare.org.) We decided to revisit the subject because of the recent success we have had with a rabbit named Snowball.

Snowball currently resides at the Petco on East 86th Street in Manhattan. He's a beautiful white bunny with pretty pink eyes. He's quiet and a bit standoffish. It's been hard to coax him out of his shell. When I was sitting with him the other day, I started to think about what a difference a good home would make for this boy.

I had some insight into Snowball's personality because he reminded me of my rabbit. Wabbit is a two-pound

super-alpha Jersey Wooly, who unfortunately for him looks like a plush toy. In the beginning, he was pretty nervous, but after he got comfortable in our home, his personality blossomed.

After Wabbit decided he was here to stay, he took charge. I first noticed this when a cable guy came over, and my once-shy rabbit hopped right into the middle of the living room to oversee things. I was surprised. It was very cute watching this tiny boy assert himself.

Wabbit has developed into the protector of our home. He sits up all night to watch over me while I sleep. He follows me from room to room. He generally sits about four feet away, but is always watching over me. Oh, and he has no problem nipping me if he feels I'm out of line. (You take the good with the bad.)

Like Wabbit, Snowball is not an outgoing guy. I do sense, though, that he has similar alpha tendencies. I say this

because my little alpha monster really started to open up to me when I realized he liked serious nose petting. I'm not talking about full-body petting that starts at the nose. Wabbit requires what I call "direct nasal stimulation."

Recently I sat with Snowball in the pen, and for the first time he was calm and happy being handled. That was because I gave him "direct nasal stimulation." I sat with my right hand on his ears, which were back. My thumb was very busy petting THE NOSE fast and always in an upward stroke. Could this be an alpha-male trait?

As humans, if we want to really bond with our little alpha males, we should learn to speak rabbit. If we use their language to show them that we appreciate and respect their stature as the dominant male, they will become much closer to us.

Any pet you feed (and don't abuse) is going to love you because of that. I believe, though, that by communicating with our rabbits in ways that tell them we are part of their warren, they will open up to us with their true personalities.

Unlike dogs or cats, humans are not important to rabbits simply because we exist or feed them. A rabbit who is out of his comfort zone is probably not going to relate well to you.

One website I've found useful in my 10-year rabbit-parenting career is <http://language.rabbitspeak.com>, which bills itself as "The Language of Lagomorphs." I recommend it as a way to get into your rabbit's psyche. While all rabbits are not alike, this information goes a long way toward helping humans understand their rabbit children.

Obviously, this is not a scientific assessment and I am not an animal behavior psychologist, so I could be reading more into this than I should. Whether or not you buy into my hypothesis, you ignore the nose at your own risk

Snowball.

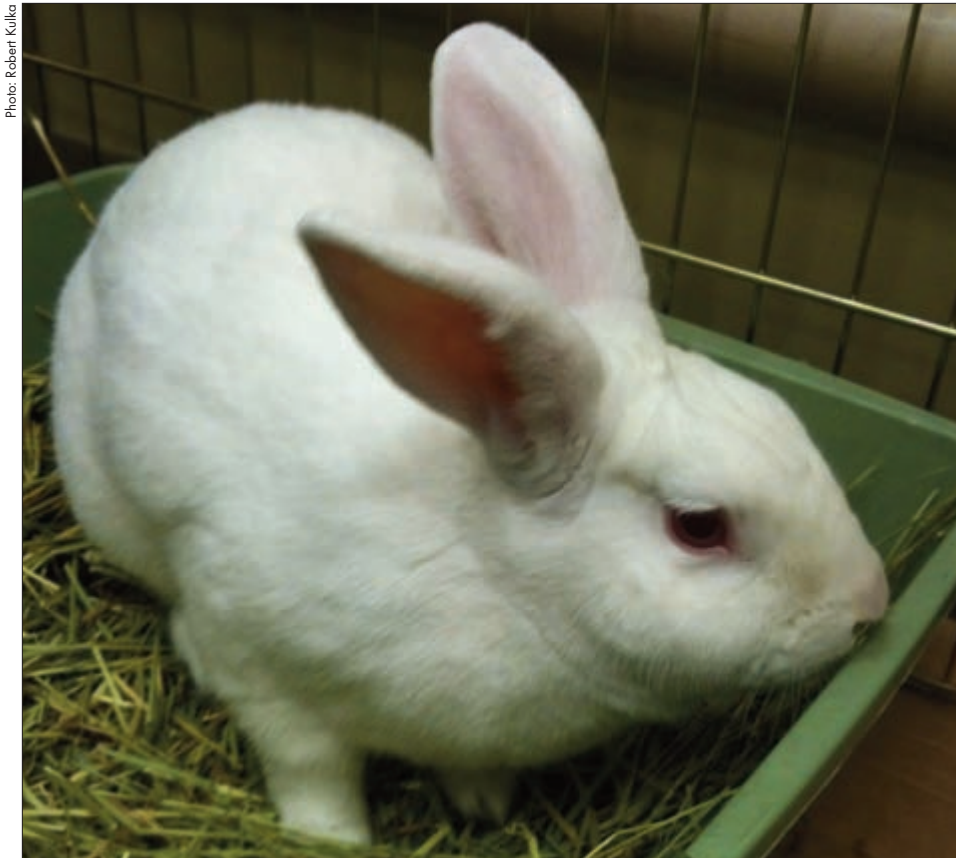


Photo: Robert Kulika

A Portrait of the Writer as a Rabbit

By Sabine Heinlein © 2012

Born and raised in Germany, Sabine Heinlein is a writer who lives in New York. The following are excerpts from her essay "A Portrait of the Writer as a Rabbit," which was a finalist in the Iowa Review Awards and was published in the Iowa Review in Spring 2012. The online link is http://iowareview.uiowa.edu/?q=page/sabine_heinlein

(...)

After a couple of months in New York, I couldn't stand my rabbitless life any longer. I was stuck and needed a teacher, a friend, a playmate. One rainy day I walked past a pet store in the East Village, where, confined to a small terrarium, sat a large, gray rabbit. The raindrops on the store's window made the rabbit's fur sparkle. Clearly, he must be a treasure, I thought. Hoping to make myself whole again, I bought the poor beast. In a spurt of hope – hope for a sunnier sky, a sunnier life – I named my first American rabbit Sunshine. A handsome lagomorph with very large ears, one floppy and the other pointing straight up to the sky, Sunshine was a prelude to a whole new learning experience. Not only did I learn



Memorial painting of Sunshine by Giovanni García-Fenech.

more about rabbits; through him I discovered America.

"When are you going to eat him?" my visitors would ask, and astonished by Sunshine's large size they would add, "Do you even own a pot that big?!"

Being a hunter's daughter, I didn't mind their jokes. What I minded was that my American guests would usually follow their jokes with a morbid childhood experience. "One-day-I-came-down-to-

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Local Media Coverage Helps With Matchmaking

With the local press eager to run Easter stories, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab gained valuable coverage for its rescue work and speed-dating sessions.

Both the New York Daily News and the New York Post ran feature articles over April 7-8 holiday weekend that included photos of rescued rabbits.

The Daily News piece, by Amy Sacks, was titled, "It's bunny love for Manhattan merchant." The story described the Sequin costume-jewelry company's bunny-friendly showroom on West 39th Street. Rabbit volunteer Cindy Stutts was interviewed, as was Mary Cotter.

Noting that five bunnies temporarily were living in the Sequin showroom, the article said, "On a recent visit, Dottie, Biggles and Badger were found huddled beside a display case of colorful enamel bangles, while two less social Jersey Wooly bunnies, Lollie and Fanny, munched on hay in the back."

The article added, "Sequin owners Kim and Linda Renk are long-time bunny lovers and rescue advocates. The savvy sisters provide a forever home for many abandoned rabbits at their small Rhode Island sanctuary. They also donate their jewelry to raise money for rabbit rescue."

The Post article was titled, "Hoppy together." Reporter Amanda Kelly interviewed volunteer Natalie Reeves, who discussed Rabbit Rescue & Rehab's speed-dating sessions. Natalie talked about her own bonded bunnies, as did adopter Tim Kemp, whose rabbit Gilbert found his girlfriend, Truffle, during a speed date.

Here are the links to the two stories:

<http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/bunny-love-manhattan-show-owner-works-save-rabbits-article-1.1057880>

http://www.nypost.com/p/entertainment/pets/hoppy_together_DSNNnqlk88pEu2XylygwN

Writer as a Rabbit

(Continued from page 9)

the-basement-and-my-rabbit-was-dead” was a standard. Other varieties included, “I-had-a-rabbit-as-a-child-but-he-died-after-only-eight-days,” and “My-rabbit-was-mauled-by-our-dog.” American rabbits didn’t seem to last nearly as long as German rabbits. (I began to fear for my life.) But what did I know about my new country? What did my new country know about me? Nothing, really. We were strangers to each other. In America rabbits are commonly sold in pet stores as Easter gifts for children and then quickly discarded – dropped off in public parks and shelters because people are appalled at their obsession for chewing on wood and rubbery things. The same rabbits that are common house pets in Germany are considered an “exotic species” here. Rabbit health isn’t routinely taught in vet school, and the few rabbit-savvy, “exotic” vets in New York charge far more for treating rabbits than their colleagues charge for treating cats or dogs.

(...)

It is true that the health requirements and drug sensitivities of rabbits differ widely from those of dogs or cats. But calling them “exotic” seemed exotic to me. Like humans, rabbits have adapted to nearly every corner of this world. The swamp rabbit has waterproof fur; he can swim and dive across rivers and hide underwater from predators. The desert cottontail eats cacti and satisfies his need for water by drinking the dew on plants. The brush rabbit can climb trees, and the marsh rabbit makes up for his missing tail with extraordinarily broad feet that help him move over soggy terrain. Most notably, these habitually shy and quiet creatures have adapted to us – our small New York apartments, our big, sudden movements and booming voices. One of the rabbit’s “exoticisms” is that he has a very delicate digestive system. To prevent his system from shutting down, he has to eat constantly. His guts have to be in constant motion. Sunshine, for example, inhaled one large Romaine lettuce head,

several pieces of broccoli, a carrot, a bowl of oatmeal, and a bucket of hay per day.

Rabbits commonly go into “stasis” if stressed, fed inappropriately, or not fed often enough. They can die within 24 hours if they don’t eat. It’s likely that the “rabbit-in-the-basement” died because his or her needs were neglected. None of this strikes me as particularly exotic.

Yet the perceived exoticism of rabbits coincided with my observation that Americans tend to perceive deviations from their individual experiences and needs as exotic. (Germans, on the other hand, consider deviations as inept, which isn’t any better. The label of exoticism and ineptitude both alienate “the other.”)

To Americans, I was exotic. “Sabine? And you pronounce the e at the end? That’s exotic!” I began to identify with Sunshine’s exotic status. I had to remind myself how exotic I must appear to those for whom Germany was a small land that lay sleepily on the globe’s back side. It takes years to become an integral part of a new country, and it takes years for the new country to become a part of you. Your body absorbs its new territory much more effortlessly than your soul. Adapting without losing yourself is the main challenge.

(...)

As if trying to make up for the months he had spent in his tiny terrarium, Sunshine was a daredevil at binkies. Rain, snow, or shine, at seven o’clock in the morning he would scratch on the fridge door and demand his morning carrot. Once his white lips had turned emergency-vest orange, he jumped up on the window ledge, squeezed through the bars, and bounced into the backyard. There, he raced around the mulberry tree and ricocheted off the fence and onto the wooden benches. Sometimes, in the middle of his jolt, his behind jerked up as if he had suffered a seizure. Then his front legs touched down like a tornado. Chased by an imaginary pursuer, Sunshine zigzagged through the yard. To my surprise, he – the prey – enjoyed being pursued.

(...)

Carrot-binkies-eating-pooing was Sunshine’s routine for a couple of years, until one day he returned from the yard and refused to eat his second breakfast. I grew worried when around noon he only briefly nibbled on some radish greens and then hid in a corner. By evening it was clear that something was seriously wrong.

What I experienced on Sunshine’s last day of life now seems emblematic of my first years in New York. Despite an abundance of ingenious stuff – duct tape and Goo Gone still blow my mind – a lot was still missing. There was no pet supply store or vet in my Brooklyn neighborhood, and it took me years to find things like needles and thread. See, we Germans are organized. Each town has at least one major department store within walking distance where one can find anything, from sewing material, cosmetics, and pet supplies, to clothes, cigarettes, books, and Boston lettuce. The departments and their most common items are neatly listed on maps near the escalators. How is it possible that in the greatest city in the world one has to visit three or four different stores and neighborhoods to find the stuff one needs on a daily basis? How was it possible that on a Tuesday night at six p.m. there wasn’t a single rabbit vet in all of New York who would see Sunshine? (...)

In the middle of the night, Sunshine’s eyes began to tear a thick, milky substance. Although still breathing and sitting up straight, he looked like he was already gone. At two in the morning, Sunshine suffered a seizure and died. The next morning I dug a grave under the mulberry tree behind the old wooden benches where Sunshine had done his binkies each morning. Placing his limp body into the hole, I was once again astonished by the enormous size of his two hind legs.

(...)

A few years into my time in New York I fell in love with Giovanni García-Fenech,

(Continued on page 11)

Writer as a Rabbit

(Continued from page 10)

a Mexican whose maternal ancestors had come to the New World via Italy and Malta. Fenech is the Maltese word for rabbit. The family's coat of arms bears a grinning white rabbit on a green lawn. Naturally, Fenech and I soon got married.

Seven years ago we adopted Teddy from the ACC. Teddy is a master of reinvention, and we never grow tired of observing his appearances. He has muddy brown fur with blond patches and looks like a stuffed animal that has been washed with too much soap and too much love. Like Margery Williams's Velveteen Rabbit, it is love that has made Teddy real. The only thing we know about Teddy's previous life is that his owner gave him up because he had to go fight in Iraq. This soldier must have treated Teddy nicely. Why else would he be so addicted to cuddles?

Teddy is old now and very arthritic, but he still plays charades. Sometimes he hunches up and stretches his neck like a turkey. In these moments I am sorely tempted to play along and slip paper frills around his ankles. But I know that as soon as I opened the oven door, Teddy would morph into a loaf of bread, a sack of potatoes, or a Volkswagen Beetle or disappear behind the radiator like a roach.

Because we couldn't keep pace with Teddy's insatiable need for attention, we adopted Pooka. She is sweet and loving, but, unlike Teddy, she's an independent

Photo: Sabine Heinlein



Pooka and Teddy.

traveler and free spirit. Pooka was named after a line in the movie "Harvey" ("A fairy spirit in animal form...[t]he Pooka appears here and there, now and then, to this one and that one. A benign but mischievous creature"). With her white fur and large black rings around her eyes, Pooka mostly resembles a panda bear. Sometimes she looks like a Goth whose mascara is running after a good cry. After two hours of binkies and biting our ankles, she turns into a drowsy subway rider, her little head slowly sagging to the side as she dozes off. If a fire truck drives by with its siren blaring, she briefly erects herself and shakes her head in a failed attempt to stay awake. Then she slumps back down in slow motion, leaning on Teddy's shoulder.

I have learned to see the world through my rabbits, but I still wonder who created these odd creatures. And who or what makes me? I am neither superstitious nor religious, but I still regard rabbits as someone's caprice. God is said to have rested on the seventh day – but I suspect it was on that day that He created rabbits, those little useless creatures with their disproportionate legs and ears, their binkies, and their prowess to transform into anything, even a lost girl's soul.

[Sadly, Teddy and Pooka have both died since the article was written. Heinlein and García-Fenech have recently adopted two new rabbits, Kaiser and Peanut.]

Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Emmett, Mochi and Marshmallow, Ramona, Beanie, Huey, Rosa, Margaret, Milky Way, Neville, Lolita, Dustee, Tilly, Hoppy, Cinderella, Holly, Orville, Aladdin, Mr. Spock, Parker, Shortcake, George, Cheese, Whitey, Clove, Wendy, Bella, Pippy, Cinnabun, Buggy, Boomer and Athena, Sam, Ruby and Doc, Petra, Sumi, Camero, DK, Tacoma, Sherry.

Letters

Photo: Nichole Acosta



Pajamas and Slippers.

Pajamas and Slippers

Nichole adopted Slippers (f.k.a. Madison) to be a partner bunny for Pajamas (f.k.a. Humphrey). Volunteer Alisa Christopher provided help with the bonding process.

Pajamas and Slippers are now a fully bonded pair. They are playing and eating, cuddling and grooming each other all the time. None of this would have been possible without Alisa Christopher's help. Before I met her, I had a loving but skittish boy named Pajamas. It seemed nothing I did could get him to calm down, especially to have his nails done. A couple of sessions later, Pajamas turned into a completely calm bunny and even lies down next me in bed. He knows if he's good, he'll be rewarded and not the other way around. Without Alisa's help, I may have never been able to get PJ to be the kissy, calm, playful, fearless bunny he is today. He's my little guard bunny and runs to the door whenever he hears noises in the hallway. Pre-Alisa, he would run and hide.

I later decided to get a female bunny, Slippers. Working with Alisa and all her recommendations for specialty hays, toys and setups has made the bonding process much smoother than it would have been if I tried to do this on my own. They have grown from extremely territorial to extremely friendly, showing all the signs of two happy bunnies who enjoy eating and sharing the same obstacle-course play space with one another. Alisa told me to be patient and consistent; I practiced what she suggested and had smooth sailing.

Much appreciated,
Nichole Acosta

Photo: Ivy Goodman



Roofus and Lola.

Roofus

Roofus, formerly known as Tito, was adopted in mid-March by Ivy. He is now happily bonded with Lola.

After much consideration, and seeing bonded pairs in action, I decided to adopt a friend for Lola. I brought her up to the UWS Petco, where she was pretty indifferent to all three potential partners, but Roofus was immediately smitten with her.

At home, Lola did her share of stomping and remaining under the bed for prolonged periods of time. She was always interested, although the two bunnies were separated from each other.

I came home one day to find Roofus out and not interested in going back. Lola slowly came around to him and now they are bonded.

I do enjoy watching them, and I like to lie on the floor while they jump all over me.

I am glad I got the second rabbit. It is true that two are better than one, and I think they are both happier together. Thanks for all of the assistance in this, everyone.

Ivy

Photo: Laurel Holloway



Persephone and Igby.

Persephone

Persephone (f.k.a. Tilly) was adopted as a friend for Igby in April. Here is Laurel's report on how they are doing.

I just wanted to give you guys an update. Tilly and Igby are doing great! We've renamed her Persephone (Percy for short) and she's made herself right at home.

They're both grooming each other now after less than a week.

They had a wonderful bonding session this morning where he was grooming her, and then they ate greens together and then cuddled. They've had pretty much all day to run around the living room together and they already seem very comfortable together.

She is so sweet, smart and lively and we've completely fallen for her.

Thanks so much for helping us bring them together.

Laurel

(Continued on page 13)

Photo: Marissa Winkler



Lloyd.

Lloyd

Marissa adopted Lloyd, whose previous name was Jellybean. She sent us this update in early May from the West Coast, where she and Lloyd have taken up residence.

I adopted Jellybean at the beginning of March and have since rechristened him Lloyd Dobler. Jellybean just didn't seem right for such a charming fellow, and I felt he should have a new name for his new life.

As soon as I brought him home, he started investigating every nook and cranny of my apartment and found his favorite spots – on top of the coffee table watching TV or sprawled in the middle of the kitchen waiting for the inevitable treat as I walked by. He even joined me at work a few times and completely reduced my coworkers to little puddles of drool as he'd hop up and bop each one who came to visit.

After two short months in Queens, to which Lloyd adjusted in a snap, I found out that we were getting transferred to San Francisco for work. Lloyd the New York bun flew like a pro to California and charmed the heck out of the TSA agents and flight attendants (extra thanks to Alaska Airlines for loving bunnies so much).

We even happened to stumble into an apartment with landlords who want Mr. Dobler's pooplets for their garden in

exchange for freshly grown greens. Even though we've only been out here a short time, Lloyd has once again transitioned easily and is doing flying leaps across the new rugs.

Thanks again (and thank you, Amy, for all your help with the adoption!)

Marissa

Photo: Lisette Pizarro



Share.

Share

Lisette and Marc adopted Share in March, and sent us this great letter.

Share is a wonderful little rabbit with her own personality. At the beginning she was a little fearful of her new home, but in just a few days she started exploring a little more her surroundings. The day we saw her flopping, we understood she is happily learning to be around us!

She is a great companion and loves to jump on the bed and do the happy bunny dance. Share is a pleasure to be around and loves to stand on two feet to show how cute she really is!

We hope you enjoy the picture.

Lisette and Marc

P.S. Share, recently renamed Maya, now has a partner, Mr. Spock, adopted on May 5 after a speed date with Cindy Stutts.

Photo: Mabel Casado



Maxy and Pauly.

Pauly and Maxy

Mabel, who is a recent rabbit volunteer, sent this letter to us in April, along with some photos.

Thank you for the group invite. I am very happy to be working with so many dedicated rabbit lovers like myself. In the first month of volunteering at AC&C I have realized that the rabbit community is such a strong and dedicated group. Keep up the great work everyone! And much thanks to Abigail for teaching me so much about our rabbits.

Hello from some old friends, Maxy and Pauly.

Mabel Casado

Photo: Melissa Koval



Starbuck at home.

Starbuck

Starbuck was adopted in early April by Melissa and Russ. They sent us this letter a few weeks later.

Hi Thump! Starbuck (named for our favorite Battlestar Galactica character) is doing very well. She's eating everything we give her (she LOVES collard greens) and loves to play in her pen with cardboard and her jingly ball.

(Continued on page 14)

Letters (Continued from page 13)

Her favorite spot to sit when she's out is on our couch so we can watch TV together, and she especially likes being knuckle-rubbed on the top of the head. When we do that, she stretches out into what we call "long bunny."

We're so happy to add her to our family (her sisters are a cockatiel named Chi-Chi and a Chinese water dragon named Zhana), and getting her was a perfect way to celebrate moving into our first place together!

Melissa and Russ



Photo: Liz Niles
Baxter.

Baxter

Baxter's family enjoyed the recent holidays. Here is their update.

We just wanted to share our Easter bunny photos. Hope you are all well.

And many thanks again for everything.

Liz (and Lila, Sam and Zach)



Photo: Anthony DiBattista
Braveheart.

Braveheart

Braveheart, formerly known as Hoppy, was adopted by Katrina and Anthony in late April. Katrina sent volunteer Erin McElhinney this email.

Hi Erin!

I'm happy to hear from you. I've been dying to tell you that he's been doing really well.

We're calling him Braveheart. I named him by accident, when I affectionately called him "brave heart," and Anthony liked the name.

He doesn't seem to like the water bottle I gave him so I switched to a bowl, and he seems to be happy with that. He's a good eater, and he's been exploring his room. He's even been bouncing around happily already.

Thank you for all of the information. I'll be sure to keep you updated on how he's doing. I think he's pretty happy though, and so are we.

My vet even said he seemed younger than a year and eight months. He's very young at heart. Also, he was so brave in the vet's office.

Sincerely,
Katrina



Photo: Abigail
Napoleon.

Napoleon

Abigail sent us this letter about Napoleon, who is very busy these days.

I hope you are having a pleasant spring! I have been busy. Fortunately Napoleon keeps me company while I am working.

As you can see here, he decided to conduct a surprise inspection!

XO, Abigail



Photo: Audrey Mahl
Samson.

Samson

Samson, formerly known as Aladdin, was adopted by Audrey Mahl and her family. She sent us this update on May 1.

Samson is really friendly and loves to play hide and seek. He is a little shy but warmed up to his new surroundings. He LOVES lettuce and loves to hop around!

Audrey

(Continued on page 15)

Photo: Abigail McCue



Jordan.

Jordan

Volunteer Abigail McCue and her husband adopted Jordan in March. She sent this email to the other volunteers in late April.

Hey everyone! I posted a photo album of Jordan in his new home. My husband and I adopted him almost a month ago and I thought I'd show him off a little. He's a wonderful addition to our family and provides constant surprises and entertainment.

I want to thank Cindy for all her help and patience, and thank Jane for fostering Jordan while I waited for the supplies to arrive. Also, thanks to Will, for selling me one of his litter boxes and giving me a great starter supply of hay, and offering to lend me a pen while I waited for mine to be shipped. Thank you all!

Abigail

Photo: Daniela Casoria



Draper.

Draper

Daniela adopted Draper, formerly known as Franklin, in March. She reports that he is doing fine.

I hope this email finds you well! Franklin's new name is Draper.

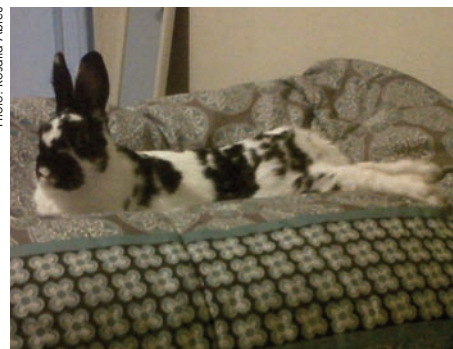
We have had a great first month together, getting to know each other. I think that he is more comfortable around me now and has been a lot of fun.

Everything is going well. Today [April 27] is our first-month anniversary! Time really went by quickly.

Thank you so much for your help!!

Best,
Daniela

Photo: Rosalia Abreu



Rumi.

Rumi

Rumi, formerly known as Elsie, was adopted by Rosalia, who sent this email to Susan Lillo.

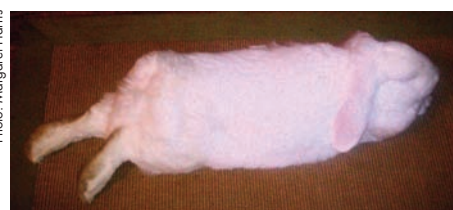
Dear Susan,

I cannot reiterate enough how truly appreciative I am of all your time, efforts and attention today. You shared so much information with me and it was wonderful to see how gentle and loving you are with the bunnies. Rumi is home now with me, grooming – glad to be away from the noisy, crowded trains.

Thank you SO much for trimming his nails!!!!!! I was stressing about it but you definitely helped me feel more relaxed about the way I take care of him. Jeez, I can already see how parenting will be if I am like this with my bunny!

Rosalia

Photo: Margaret Harris



Lolita.

Lolita

Lolita was adopted in April by Margaret, who sent us this letter a week later.

I am attaching a picture of her. She has been so precious. She is such a treat to have around. I will be checking out the newsletter. Thanks again!

Margaret



We are grateful to all of our wonderful hay donors. A special thanks to Best Pet Rx and Robin Sternberg for donations of large bales of hay to the shelter. Also, a heartfelt thank you to volunteers and others who purchase hay for our bunnies on a regular basis. Your generosity is inspiring.

(Continued on page 16)

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Max at AC&C.

Max

Tracy Nuzzo, who previously adopted Kelsey, now has also adopted Max. Here is her May 5 letter to Cindy Stuts.

So we've had a week with Max and he is: mean, angry, grunting, aggressive, scared, and.....well, we absolutely love him! That little charmer!

Each night, Max gets tons of exercise/ jumping time outside his Petwerks condo, ever since the vet said it was allowed. When he's had enough fun, he hops back into the condo, races up the ramp, and stretches out to sleep. In just a week, Max has taken full ownership. He's also become a lot LESS aggressive, hardly any grunting, he no longer devours food. All this from a bunny who has just been neutered and sustained an injury. High stress.

I believe Max decided to adopt us. He loves the condo and he and Kelsey aren't fighting at all. They check each other out, but Kelsey is fine with Max and Max is fine with Kelsey. They are separated. There is no jealousy.

Max loves the food here. Kelsey has trained me well. Max has decided to not eat any pellets (Kelsey did just the same when I brought him home). Dr. Pilny is okay with that decision. They both are good hay eaters and there isn't a day when I don't provide dandelion leaves, dill, cilantro and parsley. Who can blame them for favoring fresh greens?

Max is learning the joy of having toys. He has a round Busy Bunny tunnel that

he delights in rolling around and leaning on to stand up. Max spent nearly half an hour "chinning" Kelsey's toy slinky! That's even funnier because Kelsey has never chinned an item in his time with me. I had ordered a "party deck" from Petwerks and Max loves to jump up there when he's in the condo, and chill. He still won't drink from his water bowl, but he drinks from his water bottle and that's fine.

Max is a good boy and he deserves better than what he's had. He has completely adapted here and it would be wrong to move him, yet again, for a new start. Max is thriving with the routine, consistency and above all, love. I'll come by, either on Sunday or next Saturday and fill out the paperwork and pay the fee. Let's make it official.

I never in a million years thought I'd bring another bunny in, full time. Kelsey is a doll – so sociable and sweet. But Max is so happy here and it's no stress for us to take him in. He is thriving in his new environment.

Max has a new home and we'll take good care of him. He will get proper health care, great food, toys and whatever his heart desires. Not coincidentally, Max had his visit with Dr. Pilny because Kelsey was due for another blood test for his thyroid problems. Kelsey has been checked every six weeks since November and on Thursday, we got the best news.

Kelsey has been on the same dosage of soloxine since November and his t4 numbers have steadily climbed with every test. Thursday's results were Kelsey's best ever and Dr. Pilny said that Kelsey will only require blood tests every six months, instead of six weeks. Kelsey is out of the woods. Hooray!

So Max sends his regards and thanks all of you for caring for him. I noted his surrender date was Friday the 13th. Max's bad luck has already changed.

Thank you, Cindy, for caring so much about the bunnies. Max is tough, but you gave him a shot at a good life and I

hope to bring him to his full potential. Just when I thought I'd given all my love to a single pet, another needy bunny hops along and it's amazing that anyone could love twice as much. It turns out to be the easiest thing in the world.

Welcome home, Max.

tracy+kelsey+max

Photo: Julia Heffernan



Napoleon.

Napoleon

Napoleon, formerly called Parker, was adopted by Julia, who sent us this letter in May.

Little Parker (I now called him Napoleon) has settled into apartment life wonderfully. You wouldn't believe that he spent the majority of his life roughing the elements and surviving a broken foot on the streets of Brooklyn. He loves nothing more than running around my living room, jumping on and off the couch, chinning everything in sight.

Every morning he waits patiently for his breakfast and special blueberry treat. Then he likes to spend a few hours cleaning and primping his furry coat (which gets whiter every day!) and napping in his cardboard castle. When I get back from work he greets me with licks and nuzzles, waiting for some leafy greens and a couple hours of petting. If you stop petting him before he is done, little Napoleon will not hesitate to bump his nose against your leg or arm until you start the petting again. He is the sweetest little guy I've ever met. I couldn't be happier with my new bunny friend! Thanks, House Rabbit Society!!

Julia

(Continued on page 17)

Photo: Katrina Hollywood



Hayley, at top, and Twinkle.

Twinkle and Hayley

Katrina adopted Twinkle and Hayley (f.k.a. Athena and Boomer) in mid-May. Katrina sent this email the day after she brought the two bunnies home.

Thank you for checking in. The girls appear to be pretty happy today and much more comfortable. Everybody in the house has adapted to having them around very well, including the dog. We even caught my husband petting and talking to them.

They have set up their hutch the way they seem to like it, too. We are giving Boomer (now Hayley) a lot of exercise time as well, so hopefully we will get her weight down a bit. We will absolutely provide some updates and photos from time to time.

Katrina

Bunnies and Kids

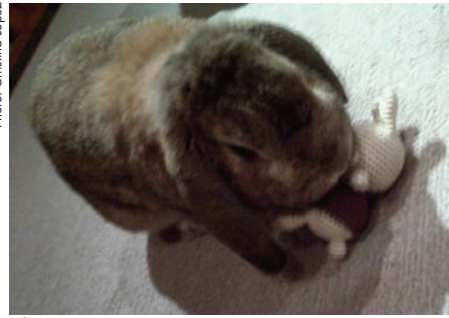
Thank you so much for forwarding this newsletter. I love receiving it and I found the article on tips for families extremely helpful as I am expecting our first child in August. (editor's note: see "Bunnies and Kids: Tips for Parents," in April's Thump)

Every concern I had was addressed in the article, which was great! Our rabbit is like our "son" and my husband and I love him so much. I think caring for our bun will actually help prepare us for parenting somewhat. I am looking forward to this wonderful new challenge in our lives and can't wait to experience it with our bunny Henry.

Thank you again!

Stephanie Collura

Photo: Cristina Lopez



Cheese.

Cheese

Cheese was adopted in May by Cristina, who sent us this nice note a couple days later.

Lol. I'm keeping the name "Cheese." It's such an awesome name and I happen to love cheese, so it's perfect.

This guy is a handful :-). He has a bunch of toys and loves playing with them all. I don't see him eating much of his pellets, but he loves fresh leafy greens.

Cheese is a welcome addition to our family.

Cristina

Photo: Kim Gentles



Bertie.

Bertie

Kim Gentles and her family adopted Bertie in September. She sent this letter to Cathy Zelonis last month.

Hi, Cathy. We are all doing fine.

Talia wanted to have a party for Bertie. We made birthday hats and cookies (for us). We sang "Happy Birthday" and bought him a present. He wasn't too interested in the party but Talia was excited.

I hope you were able to get his sisters adopted. We will keep you posted. Thanks for the birthday wish!

Kim

Photo: Stephanie Riley



Henrik Whidey Strudel.

Henrik Whidey Strudel

Stephanie adopted Henrik Whidey Strudel (formerly known simply as Whidey) in May. She sent this email to volunteer Erin McElhinney shortly afterward.

Erin! It's great to hear from you. Whidey (now Henrik Whidey Strudel) and I are doing well.

He's adjusting really nicely to his new house. He was a little cautious checking out the place, but is quickly becoming more outgoing.

I figured out he loves to have his ears rubbed. If I stop rubbing them before he's done, he'll follow me around making little grunting sounds until I start again.

I'm still waiting for him to feel more comfortable before I introduce him to my roommate's dog. We had an accidental introduction today. Henrik wasn't fazed at all by the dog, but Lola was very interested!

Basically, as you know, he's really a wonderful little bunny and I'm so happy to have him in my home. Thanks for your help and for introducing us!

Bunny hugs and warm regards,

Stephanie

Rabbit-Savvy Veterinarians

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

Long Island:

Jennifer Saver, DVM

Laura George, DVM

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

Heidi Hoefler, DVM

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

Jeff Rose, DVM

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

Manhattan:

Becky Campbell, DVM

Deborah Levison, DVM

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

Manhattan (continued):

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

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 Stanzone, DVM

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

Laurie Hess, DVM

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

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mcc@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

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

All donations go directly to caring for our foster rabbits and are tax-deductible. Please help us help them. Checks should be made out to **Rabbit Rescue & Rehab** and mailed to: Nancy Schreiber, 12 Grace Court North, Great Neck, NY 11021.

ADOPTABLE RABBITS

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

To adopt a rabbit in **New York City**, contact Cindy Stutts at bygolyoly@yahoo.com or call her at 646-319-4766. On **Long Island**, contact Nancy Schreiber at nschreibmd@aol.com or at 516-510-3637 (www.longislandrabbitrescue.org), and in **Westchester** contact Mary Cotter at mec@cloud9.net or 914-337-6146 (www.rabbitcare.org).

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

You can visit **Animal Care & Control of NYC (AC&C)** at 326 East 110th St., between First and Second avenues. Volunteers are there every weekday evening and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, but it is best to arrange an appointment first.

Adoptable AC&C rabbits are also at **Petco's** Lexington Avenue (86-87th) and Union Square locations; rabbit volunteers are present at both stores on Saturday and Sunday

afternoons to answer questions. There are two rabbits living at each of those stores.

Bunny speed dates take place 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays at the Petco store at Columbus Avenue and West 100th Street. To arrange a speed date so that your rabbit can find a buddy, contact Cindy Stutts at bygolyoly@yahoo.com. The bonding sessions sometimes take an hour or more, so only three speed dates are scheduled each Saturday.

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.