



Volunteers' Hard Work Pays Off: Bunnyland Is a Huge Success

By Natalie L. Reeves

The bunnies' singles scene was hopping at the First Annual Bunnyland event held on April 27 at Petco Union Square. Sponsored by New York Metro Rabbit and supported by Petco Foundation, Bunnyland was a tremendous success.

Four rabbits up for adoption found homes that day and several more were subsequently adopted by people who had attended the event. Marcie Frishberg, the New York Metro Rabbit member who runs the Petco volunteer program for the group, was ecstatic with the outcome. "More than 400 people stopped by Bunnyland and learned about rabbit adoption. Hopefully, some of those people will return to us to adopt when they are ready," Marcie said.

Marcie had worked many hours during the month before the event organizing all the necessary elements. She arranged for 27 adoptable rabbits, most of whom were in foster care all over the tri-state area, to be at Petco. She coordinated her efforts with Petco Union Square Manager Joshua Axelband, who, on behalf of

Photo: Natalie Reeves



Top, Bunnyland sign by Cathe Rekis.
Bottom, NYC Metro Rabbit logo by Kathy Rokita.

Petco, donated litterboxes, hay, pellets and lots of toys for the bunnies in attendance.

Other organizations also donated invaluable supplies and services. The Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals

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Photo: Robert Kulka



Isabella at Petco, 86th Street and Lexington Avenue.

Forever or a Day

By Dan Frambach

I was on a bus when the phone rang. My best friend called to say, "Be as honest as possible: Can you foster a rabbit on short notice?" I am a dog person and never fostered a rabbit before but, life being life, I said, "Yes, when?" He said, "Nine o'clock tonight," and that was that. A few hours later, Isabella arrived

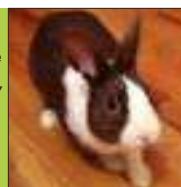
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Bunnyland a Success

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supplied the cages for the event. Striking Paws professional pet photographer Sophie Gamand volunteered by taking excellent photos of all the adoptable bunnies. The photos are being used to promote the bunnies on social media, Petfinder, Thump and elsewhere.

Charlie, a young brown lop who had been fostered by volunteer Helen Chen, was the first rabbit to be adopted. He was one of the bunny bachelors who met his match on a speed date that Marcie supervised. Charlie was adopted to be a buddy to a handsome white lionhead named Toby. And since Charlie was one of the first three adoptions of the day, his adopter received a nice gift package donated by Petco Foundation.

Like Charlie, other bunnies were adopted as a result of speed dates. Alesha, a brown-and-white bunny, befriended a bonded pair of rabbits who were brought in by their guardians. Alesha had been shy with humans but was very friendly with her two new bunny friends. The dating trio attracted a crowd eager to see if there would be a love match.

Kids also enjoyed meeting the bunnies. Regular Petco volunteers are accustomed to children wanting to pet the bunnies, and Bunnyland was a great opportunity to educate people of all ages as to a rabbit's special needs. Some kids enjoyed sitting in the pens with the bunnies, and one special young visitor named Sofia

Photos: Natalie Reeves



A three-bunny speed date.



Tippy in Sofia's lap.



Helen Chen, left, with her foster Charlie, who was adopted as a partner to Toby by Joanna Ung.

was besotted with Tippy, a female harlequin rabbit who is in foster care. Sofia already has a rabbit at home and wasn't able to adopt Tippy, but she was an excellent rabbit ambassador as she told onlookers that her rabbit loves her because she doesn't pick him up. Sofia proved her point when her gentle manner made Tippy feel safe enough to jump on her lap.

Bunnyland was one of the best events in New York Metro Rabbit's history, thanks to the many volunteers who worked so hard to make it happen. Marcie Frishberg led a team of volunteers including Cathe Rekis (who spent many hours making the numerous festive signs and displays that were posted throughout the store), Thea Harting, Helen and Kevin Chen, Cathy Zelonis, Larry Marion, Adam Tenney, Steve Bowe, Doug and Jon Lee, Charlie Hendee, Jennifer Case, Beth Stellato, Eugenia Uskova, Mindy Jackson, Cindy Stutts, Victoria Sloan, Brian Linden, Tracy Nuzzo, Will Leung, Zhen Heinemann, Sari Krieger and Kelly Howard.



The speed date of Bentley and Tribeca.

Forever or a Day

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with her entourage of rescuers carrying what a bunny needs when a bunny moves in.

I knew before I met her that her early days had been a misery but only the ominous tattoo in her ear told that tale. Otherwise, to look at her was to see the archetype of a pet rabbit – big, pure

Photo: Alisa Christopher



Isabella stretches out in her new home.

white, and with sparkling garnet eyes that, seen from certain angles, look to be lit from within. Shortly after showing up, she settled herself into her nest of fresh hay, brought her long-lashed lids down to half mast and turned her attention inward. This was a rabbit of some gravity.

The plan had been to bond her with my friend's own rabbit. Their house was to

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Candy Is Getting Married!

By Tracy Nuzzo

Candy came to me as a foster bun, with her mom, Trixie. After my last foster bunnies, Sophia and Duke, were adopted at the Union Square adoption event on April 27, Trixie and Candy's foster dad, Will Leung, approached me. He asked if I would consider taking these two lop-eared beauties home. Well, of course I would!

Candy is a tiny girl. At 10 months old, she weighs just one pound, 14 ounces. There had been some ongoing discussion about her possible health issues, but I knew I would be taking both girls to the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine for spays. I was certain that my vet, Dr. Anthony Pilny, would be a great resource to help Candy. Of course, I never realized

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Photo: Andrew Chen



Momo and Candy.

Forever or a Day

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be her forever home. That turned out not to be possible, so the question arose: What next for Isabella? How ever to find her forever home? (And is there a more daunting word to humans than forever?) Friends and I pondered her future as she made her way around the daybed, explored the view from an easy chair, lounged like a chubby cherub on the rug and, occasionally, life being life, snarled in a way I didn't know bunnies could snarl and nipped at us with the lightest of touches to let us know we had transgressed in some way. She demonstrated more than a few times that she had the teeth, if not the heart, to stop us if we didn't change our ways.

Clearly, her life had led her to be more on guard and less trusting than her sweet face and largely endearing antics conveyed.

Friends and I pondered her future as she made her way around the daybed, explored the view from an easy chair and lounged like a chubby cherub on the rug.

My rabbit-savvy friends gave me lessons in how to respond so that she would learn a new way of being.

One morning, about two weeks into her stay, I was adding hay to her box when she surprised me yet again. Out of nowhere, at least to my eye, she lunged at me, sounding another little growl and boxing at my hand, before darting into her wooden hidey box. It was then that I saw the bigger picture – that we

creatures are all desperate to protect ourselves and whatever little piece of turf has come to be our home. No matter what our limitations as to size or strength, it is in us somewhere to do whatever we must to chase away threats to our safety and our happiness. It was then I remembered, too, that forever is only daunting when we forget that forever consists of life today.

I had not wanted to add a rabbit to my life. My own circumstances were too precarious for me to add a wholly dependent animal to the mix. It just couldn't happen right now. When I got the call saying that Isabella was being requested to meet with another rabbit on neutral ground to see if the two of them could form a bond, in hopes of adding her to the household of that forever home, I knew it was too late: She was already mine; I was already hers, and we were already home.

Candy

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that Candy's spay appointment would change her life.

On May 14, I had to drop the girls at CAEM early in the morning for spay surgeries. Initially, I feared that Candy might be too tiny for anesthesia, but after a full physical, it was decided that she would get the surgery. I was very relieved. Later that afternoon, I got the news that the surgeries were complete, both girls did extremely well, and they would be ready for pickup that evening. I was elated that Candy got spayed, knowing full well that it was an important step on her road to adoption.

As I was getting ready to pick up Trixie and Candy from CAEM, I got a call from Andrew Chen. He works at CAEM and he was happy that my girls were at his place of work. It seems that Andrew has a gorgeous lop-eared bunny named Momo. Momo is a fluffy white boy with cornflower blue eyes. As handsome as Momo is, he was still lonely, and Andrew was looking for a partner bun. He asked if I could leave the girls overnight – he would be able to care for them post-op, on his shift. He wasn't looking to simply make a match; he also wanted to love the new bun who would be a big part of Momo's life. Caring for any sick or post-op bun seemed like a great bonding technique. I contacted Cindy Stutts and she agreed.

The girls spent the night at CAEM and the next day, Andrew brought Momo to work. We all knew contact would be ill-advised, but he placed Momo in a pen near Trixie and Candy. When I collected the girls that evening, Andrew definitely was in love with Candy. We just needed to wait until the girls were recovered fully from surgery and then an introduction could be made. In the meantime, Andrew and I exchanged iPhone messages with the cutest photos of our bunnies. Love was in the air!!

Photo: Tracy Nuzzo



Candy, right, eating dandelion leaves with her mother Trixie.

Two weeks later, I emailed Cindy regarding a play date and I was thrilled that she offered to come and facilitate it at CAEM. Hopeful for a good result, I packed up Candy and headed to the veterinary office. Cindy arrived and it was calming to know how much partner-bun/speed-dating expertise she brings with her. Cindy suggested we all go to an exam room and put the bunnies on the floor. Initially, it didn't seem like love. However, there was something good in the interaction between Candy and Momo. After watching their nonaggressive behaviors, we decided to place both bunnies in an X-pen, while carefully monitoring them. The bunnies shared some dandelion leaves and napped together in the litter box. Success!

I went back to pick up Candy at the end of Andrew's shift. Hook, line, and sinker – he is in love with Candy and so is Momo! We snapped a few photos and sorted out our schedules as to when he can officially adopt Candy.

Dr. Pilny has given Andrew the green light to adopt Candy. He feels she is in good health. Still, it's nice to know that she will be a part of the CAEM family and have access to the best health care. Initially, I was relieved when Candy was able to be spayed, but that surgery directly led Candy to the love of her life, Momo.

I brought Candy back to my apartment and I broke the big news to Trixie and my two full-time bunnies, Kelsey and Max. Candy is engaged! She is in love and who would have guessed? Candy is set to be a June bride!

Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Cinnabun, Dolly, Chestnut, Isabella, Brownie Bits, Georgette, Sky, Bagi and Boci, Polar Bear, Snoopy, Easter, Zoro, Duke and Sophia, Schroeder, Noelle, Nemo, Cinnabun, Houdini, Rizzo, Charlie, Buddy, Alesha, Abby, Mocha, Luciana, Kingston, Calvin and Hobbs, Midnight, Daffodil, Stanley, Nicole, Octavia, Clovis, Mocha, Bunny, Beau, Edwin, Tank, Theo, Gepetto.



Nutmeg and Clovis during a speed date.



Luciana.



Polar Bear.

Help Spread the Word!

By Mary E. Cotter,
Chapter Manager, NYC HRS

Anyone who has lived with Big White Bunnies can attest to their intelligence, kindness, humor, gentleness, and tolerance. But potential adopters often reject these wonderful creatures because of their eye color.

This poster was created in response to frequent requests by HRS educators for materials to share with potential adopters about the joys of living with New Zealand White rabbits. Please print it out, distribute it, and help us spread the word!

There currently is a group of New Zealand Whites who desperately need foster or forever homes. For further information about them, please contact Mary Ann Maier at altitude8@yahoo.com.

The poster is available at this House Rabbit Society link:

<http://rabbit.org/articles/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/NZWposterFINALRev8.5x11.pdf>

In celebration of the ruby

Did you know that ruby-eyed bunnies (a.k.a. albinos or New Zealand Whites) are some of the most intelligent and affectionate pets around? However, because some folks don't like the color of their eyes, these poor bunnies sit for months or even years in shelters, unadopted and unloved. Take a minute and read what experienced "ruby lovers" have to say about these oft-overlooked treasures!

**Treat yourself to a real gem:
Adopt a ruby-eyed bunny!**

www.rabbit.org

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Testimonials in speech bubbles:

- "He's like a Golden Retriever in a white bunny suit!" —AC
- "I'm blessed to be owned by her!" —NR
- "I've never had a white, red-eyed bunny. I've ever met has been a doll!" —CS
- "Big, white, docile bunnies have the best sense of humor—they make their own jokes and laugh with their whole bodies!" —NR
- "I love his larger-than-life personality!" —LP
- "I will always have a New Zealand White in my family!" —JZ
- "I love that she knows her name and comes to me when I call her!" —LF
- "I wish I could rescue them all!" —AT
- "Forget the others, he seemed to say at the shelter, 'I am your bunny!'" —AC
- "Everyone who meets him is amazed at how sociable he is!" —JT
- "Her huge spirit shines like light through her ruby eyes!" —CF
- "Red eyes used to spook me, but now they seem more expressive than any other color!" —SR
- "She demands affection and kisses me when I lie down in her room!" —CF
- "He waits for me at the door like my dog would!" —AV
- "When I get home from work, he comes bounding over!" —JR
- "To me, those eyes are gems, just like my BooBoo is!" —JR
- "The bigger they are, the harder you fall—in love with them, that is!" —SL
- "I used to think they all looked the same, but now each looks so distinct!" —LF
- "They are so loving and really seem more appreciative of having a home with us!" —LX

When They Can't Tell You What's Wrong (Part Two)

By Robert Kulka

Lara had been with me for almost six months. During that time, she underwent a series of tests and treatments, but any positive signs were short-lived, and each time symptoms returned, they worsened. Her right front leg was clearly painful to her and it was causing her to slow down and pull back from any affection or bonding.

After an aspiration biopsy proved inconclusive, I wanted to explore options and maybe get a fresh perspective. I brought her to see Drs. Jennifer Saver and Kristin Miller on Long Island. The recommendation was to do a full biopsy of the area to see what was going on and hopefully provide more direction on what to do for her. The two doctors scheduled a biopsy for later that week. Lara would need to recuperate overnight with them and I would to pick her up the next day.

When I brought her home, she was not only recovering from the biopsy but was now angrier with me than ever. For over a week we waited for the results. My stress level was rising precipitously. Finally the results came in and once again results were not 100% certain. There was a good chance that she had myxofibrosarcoma. The cancer possibly was in the nerve sheath, and there was a great deal of necrotic debris.

The recommendation was to amputate. Amputate? I was horrified. Was this the only option? I was told that if the diagnosis of cancer was accurate, not doing anything would mean it would spread and she would not make it. This wonderful rabbit who had been through so much already was now facing even more trauma.

I had to make the decision and make it quickly. I consulted again with Dr. Gil Stanzione and, based on results, he also

Photo: Robert Kulka



Lara at home after surgery.

felt that the removal of the leg was the best option. I consulted with Dr. Diana Chang as well. She was very familiar with rabbits. She, too, advised that this might be the only option. She cautioned that if it turned out not to be cancer, I should think about how I would feel about putting her through the surgery. I posted on forums for advice. I even contacted David Louis, a pet communicator whom I and friends had used in the past. He confirmed that she was in a lot of discomfort. When I asked him to explain what would happen to her if we amputated, Lara responded to him, "How bad could it be?" That was my girl in a nutshell – a survivor.

Dr. Stanzione would perform the surgery. He walked me through the process and told me I could even be there through the surgery and when she

awakened in recovery. I would also be able to take her home that day in order to minimize her stress of being away from home.

At 9 a.m. on April 25, Lara and I showed up at Dakota Veterinary Center for the procedure. From blood test to pain-med administration to shaving and sedatives, I held her in my arms. I delivered her to the operating room and then watched as she was prepped for surgery. I stayed there with her for the hour or more that it took. I watched how carefully and skillfully Dr. Stanzione performed the surgery. My heart was broken as I saw the final cut and her right leg separated from her body.

After the surgery, she was wrapped in a towel and a heating pad and I held her

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What's Wrong

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for two hours until she came around. Little by little she squirmed and poked her head up and became alert. By three we were released to go home and begin our new chapter.

Only three hours after surgery we were home. Almost immediately, Lara was standing! She was eating dandelion and actually walking around. I was amazed. This was one resilient fighter.

Within two days Lara was off pain meds, moving around quite well and eating big as always. I noticed her rapidly adapting to her new situation and, in fact, seeming happier. I was still sad when I looked at her shaved sweet body, and I wondered if this had been the right thing to do.

A week later it was clear. Lara was running around, climbing up on things, and being affectionate again. She was acting as though nothing happened. Clearly there was relief from the pain. We developed routines to adapt to her tripod life. At her nine-day check-in with Dr. Stanzione, she was showing tufts of hair and peach fuzz as the healing continued. Lara was the model patient. I was so proud of her.

In the weeks since, she continues to be active and happier. Still with some bald spots, she is just as beautiful and regal a lady as ever. And the surprises continue. She and I have a new and deeper bond. I think she knows I was there with her through all of it. She now settles in each morning for our routine of face and ear washing. When I notice her trying to use her left foot to pull down her right ear I assist by holding her ear for her. She licks the ear and then my fingers and I run my licked fingers over her ear. We continue this for minutes at a time and I think she is glad to have me groom her. It makes me feel good in her acceptance of me as her partner.

Where this leads I don't know. I am grateful to everyone who supported us,

Photos: Robert Kulka



and for all the advice and counsel. The prayers and thoughts helped us to get through this. When I look at her I know I am in the presence of one of God's most remarkably gentle and resilient creatures. I am very thankful and blessed for that.

Final results on the pathology of her amputated limb indicated no cancer, fortunately. There were multiple infections that infiltrated both muscle and bone. What caused it isn't certain. What we did to arrest the spread was in the end the only option for Lara's well being.

So the story continues – hopefully now as a long, pain-free and happy life. Here is to you, Lara! My brave girl.

Left, Lara listening.
Below, relaxing.



Knieval Ends His Days as a Bronx Daredevil

Photo: Mary Fayet



Knieval.

Knieval had been running around a Bronx neighborhood for about two weeks. Concerned residents spotted the bunny and had tried unsuccessfully to catch him. Knieval was too fast for them.

Several residents reached out to dog-rescue volunteers who lived in the area. Mary Fayet, who works with dogs, contacted Michael Simons of Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group. He advised the group on how to catch the rabbit and to bring him to Animal Care & Control of NYC.

The neighbors managed to place a milk carton over the rabbit, while dog rescuers brought a crate and managed to get Knieval into it. They placed the crate in the shade, and gave the hungry bunny some romaine lettuce to eat. He was

transported to AC&C on April 28, and the staff named him Knieval.

Mary Fayet said later, “Thank you so much. My neighbor’s daughter, Lauren, in particular, was very worried about the bunny.” Mary added, “Having the guidance from all the rabbit people made the difference.”

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab volunteer Cathie Rekis said she was impressed by the rescue effort. She told Mary, “Our biggest thanks for not giving up on Knieval! Thanks for bringing him to AC&C. We will make sure he’s in good condition, take care of any medical needs and get him a permanent great home!” (Knieval is now called Kendrick.)

Photo: Kaley McCarthy



Desmond after being caught by Ron.

Desmond Hops From Union Square Park Into a Safe Home

He was spotted on April 11 in Union Square Park as he darted behind a large statue of George Washington. The terrified bunny was trying to hide from the many dogs and people.

Mary Cotter received two calls about the rabbit, and she sent out an email alert on nycbuns@yahoo.com.

A few hours later, Kaley McCarthy informed the group that her husband had managed to catch the bunny. She said, “My husband, Ron, brought the bunny to our vet (Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine). The bunny is an unneutered male, probably less than a year old and weighs about three pounds. He seems healthy – just dirty feet from being in the park. They treated him for fleas as a precautionary measure and are keeping him overnight to make sure that he is eating and pooping normally. They’ll also test him for any parasites, etc.”

Kaley added, “Ron and I would very much like to foster him, and knowing

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FOSTERING

You Have Mail!

By Tracy Nuzzo

In the last issue of Thump, I was thrilled to announce that two of my fosters, Jett and Dylan, had been happily adopted. Two and a half months later, the good news just keeps coming.

Jett has been given a new name, Juno, by her new mom and dad, Sarah and Kirk. The new name is sheer perfection and suits that girl to a tee. Dylan is now known as Owney – or Oni. (This is the name of the U.S. Postal Service dog, and Dylan earned the name by stealing the family's mail and running through the apartment with it in his teeth.)

In the days following the adoption, Sarah and I traded nearly constant emails. She had some questions and I had some

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Juno, formerly Jett, top, with Owny, formerly Dylan.

RESCUES

Desmond

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Ron, this little guy will probably end up as a permanent member of our family. We will keep everyone updated and thanks to those who reported seeing the bunny and for offering help!”

The bunny, Desmond, is now safe at home with Katey, Ron and their three other bunnies. Katey said, “I thought everyone would like an update on the cute little bunny my husband (Ron) was able to catch in Union Square Park! He came home with us after getting a clean bill of health from the vet. He is a chocolate-and-white Dutch bunny, and we’ve named him Desmond! He has a small tear on one of his ears, but the vet said that it’s been healed for awhile and shouldn’t cause him any trouble. Other than that, he’s perfect! He weighs a little less than three pounds and is very excited



Ron and Desmond.

to have access to hay and pellets...poor little guy. He’s hopped around the bunny-proofed areas of our apartment a bit, and is getting more confident and playful. It’s wonderful to see and we are so glad

to be able to give him a home!” Desmond was neutered at the end of April.

Katey and Ron’s other three rabbits – George, Layla and Penelope – are all adoptees from Animal Care & Control of NYC. Katey said, “We’ve been working on bonding Penelope and George, which is going pretty well, now that we’ve moved to a larger apartment with neutral space and room to put one of them in a pen next to the other. With another boy in the mix with Desmond, we’ll see if he and Layla might hit it off in a couple of months. For now, we’re pleased that we’ve been able to give four (five, if we count our rabbit who passed away in 2011) wonderful rescue bunnies a loving home!”

She added, “Thanks, everyone, for your work rescuing, taking care of and spreading knowledge about house bunnies!”

Mail

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answers, but mostly Sarah shared day-to-day milestones that never failed to make me smile. Juno immediately began to jump on the family couch. Sure, it's cute when any bunny does this, but Juno is a tripod bun! Juno has always been a big kisser and when Sarah and Kirk adopted, I showed them a few ways to pet her that always results in kisses. Juno likes to meet her new dad at the door, after work, and demands attention.

Dylan was such a shy guy at my house. He was the smallest of the litter and was inseparable from his mom. Once he went to his new home, Dylan began to really develop his identity. He is more independent and adventurous, but despite his efforts, he just couldn't jump on the couch the way his mom did. Two months later, Sarah shared the big news via a photo in her email. Dylan mastered jumping on the couch. Victory!

Photo: Sarah Willson



Owny in the sun.

Most weeks, I open an email from Sarah and view the latest photos. I see that Juno and son love to chase sun spots in their new apartment so they can nap with the sun shining on them. I see their surroundings, fresh food, lots of toys. I know, in my heart, how loved these bunnies are. I have never wavered that they found the most incredible home.

On April 27, I was invited to bring my remaining fosters (Juno's remaining son and daughter, Sophia and Duke) to the foster adoption event at Petco, Union Square. I already had collected their best photos and written the narrative for Petfinder. Unlike Juno, these buns were not special-needs and don't require a no-kids clause. At six months old, Sophia was newly spayed, Duke was neutered, and both weighed more than 5.5 pounds.

I left early for the event, leaving Sophia and Duke's Petwerks condo intact, fully expecting I would be bringing them back the same afternoon. The volunteers did the most amazing job with the Bunnyland adoption event! I found a space for Sophia and Duke and I sat with them as many people came by, requesting general information on bunnies or simply wanting to pet my foster buns.

In a show of solidarity, Sarah and Kirk attended the event – just to meet Juno's other babies and as newly adoptive parents. It was inspiring to see their enthusiasm regarding bunnies. It's always great to see them in person, and by way of sheer coincidence, just as Sarah and Kirk arrived, so did the man who adopted Sophia and Duke!

Sophia and Duke in their new home.



Photo: Steven Ramsey

Marcie Frishberg walked over to me with a young man named Steven. He had visited the Union Square Petco the previous weekend. He had been interested in a specific bun and Marcie counseled him to go home, bunny-proof, research and read the info she was able to provide him. When he came back to Petco, his intended bun had been adopted, but Marcie had an idea. Perhaps he'd be interested in a brother and sister pair? As Marcie walked him to our pen, I was chatting with Sarah and Kirk. I was able to introduce Sarah and Kirk to Steve, the potential dad. It had all come full circle. I have been thinking that Juno sent Sarah and Kirk to this event, just to make sure her babies got a good home.

It turns out Steven is a biochem Ph.D., the youngest in his class, and he had some familiarity with bunnies as his stepmom has one. Almost instantly, he fell in love with Sophia and Duke, and before I could process it all, he was being counseled by Marcie and filling out adoption papers. Suddenly, all my fosters were gone. But then just as quickly, a new opportunity presented itself!

Will, an amazing foster dad, had a pen set up very close to us. As my fosters

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Mail

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were being packed up, Will approached me and asked if I would consider helping him. His story has been well documented in Thump because he took in Trixie and all her babies. As Will was telling me that it would help him if I would consider taking two of his buns, I shrugged my shoulders, knowing the foster bun setup at my house was waiting. “Sure,” I told him. “Just box them up. I’ll take them.”

Sarah had been right next to me during this exchange and she touched my arm. She asked, “Are you really taking in new bunnies?” Well, of course I was!

I was in a cab headed back to the Upper East Side with Trixie and Candy when my iPhone signaled a new message. It was from Steven. He was home with Sophia and Duke. He already had a space set up, thanks to Marcie’s advice, so he sent me a picture of Sophia and Duke in their new home.

Now every morning, when I log on to my computer, I look forward to some news from the new adoptive families. Steven sends photos of both his bunnies, who have found a love for sitting in his apartment window and watching the world go by.

When I first took in Jett and her babies, I couldn’t imagine them anywhere else. Jett had a splayed leg and the babies were three weeks old. Now, Jett is Juno and she has a full life with her son and her new parents. Sophia and Duke are adored by Steven. All these bunnies have tremendous freedom. I study the incoming pictures and something has happened that I hadn’t anticipated: I see them in THEIR homes, not mine, and I feel so fortunate.

My life now is different. Aside from my “full time” bunnies, Kelsey and Max, I have gotten to dote on Trixie and Candy, who are so full of life and personality! I

Photo: Steven Ramsey



Sophia watching the world go by.

know that IF I didn’t have such stellar adopters, I might really miss Juno, Dylan, Sophia and Duke, but I can’t help but be so happy for everyone involved.

We all know that taking in fosters means providing a very necessary stop gap for bunnies in desperate need. When someone comes along who not only wants to adopt, but can provide a loving home, our job is done. The icing on the cake is seeing a photo of a confident, beloved bunny who we once knew had been tossed aside. I explain to

my own mother that I find such satisfaction in taking in these broken bunnies, rebuilding their trust through love, and then finding them a forever home. It’s a short-term job, but if you do it right, you get the long-term benefit of making a big difference. And if you are luckier still, you get heartwarming photos of your former buns living the good life.

Warm Weather Brings Heightened Risk for Abandoned Rabbits

By Lanette Raymond

“Urgent: Abandoned domestic rabbits in our yard,” read the ominous post.

Ideally, no domestic bunnies would be abandoned anywhere. Abandonment outrages all of us at Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, but unfortunately, it’s rampant here.

We are grateful to the people who observe these rabbits, and take the time to contact us. And we value the folks who then volunteer to invest their time and energy in helping us trap them, especially those who then offer to foster (or find fosters for) them. If only we could shorten the time between observation of abandoned bunnies and call/capture...

I realize that there is a romantic, hopeful, even fairytale-like quality, to watching adorable bunnies, especially young ones, frolicking in the garden. But this is a sad cautionary tale, one that hopefully will spur more observers to quick action.

We named her Audrey, Audrey Hepburn, for her fragile appearance and determined spirit. We wanted her to have a beautiful name to help her forget the difficulty of her experience.

Audrey and at least two other bunnies had been observed for about five months in a rural neighborhood near Riverhead. A woman named Cheryl called us when she noted that one of these bunnies appeared ill or injured and dirty. Within hours we had juggled work schedules and veterinary options, and I helped coordinate a relay so that Cheryl could capture the sick bun, and we could get her into one of our foster homes for late-night triage and later, a morning trip to Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital.

At hand-off it was apparent that this sweet girl was in desperate condition, practically skeletal and caked in poop. Still she came to the front of the carrier, letting me pet her head. Triage revealed maggots as warm water loosened the feces. Mary Ann Maier and Nancy Schreiber arranged for a telephone consultation with veterinarian Jennifer Saver, and they were able to remove all the maggots (a real miracle) and give her pain

Photos: Mary Ann Maier



Audrey was brought in emaciated, covered in feces, and, it turned out, besieged by maggots.



Audrey recovering at Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital.



Audrey, seemingly safe at last.

meds and penicillin. Mary Ann took her home and monitored her through the night, checking her condition every hour or so, as concerns included shock, toxicity and hypothermia.

Audrey never stopped eating, which was our only real hope that she might make it. She was still with us in the morning, so

Mary Ann took her to the vet. When Nancy saw Audrey later that afternoon, she looked much better, and seemed very sweet and receptive to pets and kisses.

Audrey went home to Rabbit Rescue the following day, Thursday, with a diagnosis of coccidiosis (a parasite, most frequently seen in cats and dogs, that infects the intestinal tract and causes diarrhea, sometimes death; it is highly communicable within species, but not generally across species). Antibiotics seemed to resolve the diarrhea by Saturday (real bunny people know the joy of seeing a bazillion scattered pellet-poops). Many baths and blow-dry sessions were allowing her to feel clean and comfy. And Audrey continued to eat and eat. She allowed everyone who provided food to pet her, and seemed to appreciate the hope and love we showered on her.

And for nearly a week it seemed possible that recovery was imminent. Then Thursday came around again, and diarrhea crept back into the picture. Audrey seemed very tired, though she hopped up to receive head pets at midday. Friday morning the diarrhea was very serious. A volunteer rushed Audrey to Dr. Saver, but she was unable to stabilize Audrey and didn’t believe the rabbit would survive further testing. We all felt that it would be kinder to offer her a gentle passing rather than push her poor little body any further.

Audrey was such a sweet fragile spirit. I know that she appreciated the love and care she received. She seemed comforted by soft stroking on her face up to the last moment Friday afternoon. I am so very glad that with Cheryl’s help, we were able to make Audrey’s last week or so less than desperate. I just wish that we’d been able to do more. With the help of LIRRG, Cheryl remains committed to rescuing Audrey’s remaining family living in her Riverhead neighborhood. We are all hopeful that, with quick capture, these bunnies will not suffer as Audrey did.

Lanette Raymond, Ph.D., is a volunteer with Long Island Rabbit Rescue and president of Long Island Parrot Society.

We Are Looking for Loving Homes

By Kirsten Ott

Aidan

Aidan is a small lionhead mix who will wow you with his beauty. This guy has an ultra-soft, creamy white coat with hotot-like light brown ears and makeup around his luminous dark eyes – and, appropriately, a light brown beauty mark on his rump! Even though he's still young, his broad forehead and whiskers give him a somewhat mature aspect. Aidan is very sweet and friendly. He enjoys being petted and especially loves to have his cheeks rubbed.

Tara

Tara is a medium-sized silver marten who was abandoned at the Manhattan shelter. This girl is charming. She's not shy at all, and she adores affection. When you begin petting her, she'll turn herself into a round ball, close her eyes, and wiggle her nose contentedly. It really looks like she's smiling. She also has a cute way of lifting her nose into the air to get you to pet it. Tara has a beautiful, silky black coat and the classic cream-colored eye makeup of her breed. She would make a good partner for another bunny.

Quinn

Quinn is a small boy who was found, along with a couple of other adult rabbits, near Goose Pond in Jamaica, Queens. This little guy is mostly white with some attractive brown markings and reddish-brown ears. As cute as he is, Quinn still needs socializing; he hangs back, and becomes nervous when you first approach him. He would do best with an experienced bunny person who could help him develop trust. He would probably also benefit from a bunny partner.

Isabella

Isabella is a medium-sized brown-and-agouti bunny. This girl is on the older side, and has a cataract clouding her left eye. But she is as sweet as can be: she's very easy-going, well-socialized, and obviously eager for companionship and

affection. Isabella has a delicate, doe-like appearance and a very pretty face. She deserves a quiet home with attentive people where she can enjoy the rest of her life in peace and comfort.

Precious

Precious is a big, brown female bunny with fun helicopter ears and a great personality. This sweet girl loves to snuggle and enjoys all types of petting, especially cheek rubs. She's pretty mellow most of the time; however, sometimes she decides it's time for action and throws herself into a major paper-ripping project. Precious would make a very good family bunny or partner for another rabbit.

Amanda

Amanda is a lovely medium-to-large agouti bunny. She has a pretty, slightly pointy face and beautiful, almond-shaped eyes. The best thing about Amanda is her winning personality: she is very spirited and playful, but also enjoys a nice flop and a stretch when playtime's over. She seems to bask in human attention whenever it's available. Amanda would make a good family bunny.

Kendrick

Kendrick is a small-to-medium-sized young brown bunny who was found in someone's yard in the Bronx. This guy has the joie de vivre of youth. He's very outgoing, bounding like a puppy to his cage door when you come for a visit. He's also very curious and active, and will need lots of room to exercise his lean, athletic young body. Kendrick is nearly all brown, but he has white front feet and a cutely imperfect white triangle on his nose. He has oversized ears, suggesting he might still have a little growing to do.

Gemini

Gemini is a lovely big, brown female bunny who is ready for some serious loving. This girl is very large. When she is hunkered down she looks kind of like an oversized football. And boy, is she



Aidan.



Isabella.

cuddly! She responds immediately to offers of petting, plastering her ears against her back. While you're stroking her head and ears, she expresses her enjoyment by tooth purring and licking her chops! If you stop, she'll lunge forward, ears in ready position, as if to attack your hands – but she just really, really wants more affection. Needless to say, Gemini will need very attentive people in her new forever home.

Moonshine

Moonshine is an adorable little all-black boy. This guy has a gorgeous, shiny coat and some lionhead whiskers around his cute cheeks. Moonshine is very active, but somewhat shy. He will approach you and sniff your hands, quickly retreat to safety, and repeat the cycle over and over. It seems like he's gradually building up his courage. Moonshine needs some socializing, and probably would be best off with experienced bunny people.

(Continued on page 14)

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 13)

Maximus

Maximus is a handsome young New Zealand white boy who was found in a backyard in Brooklyn. This strapping fellow is in beautiful condition and exhibits the vitality of youth; he's curious and energetic, frequently periscoping to check out his surroundings, including you! His small eyes make it look like he's squinting quizzically when he's looking at you. Maximus probably hasn't reached his "maximum" size yet, as his ear/head ratio is still rather high. He's medium-sized now, but may get a little bigger.

Dale

Dale is an absolutely adorable little caramel-colored lop. Not only is Dale the ultimate cutie, he's also super easygoing and very appreciative of human affection. When you pet Dale, he'll hunker down and lie still, as if he's soaking in and relishing every stroke of your hand. If you stop, he'll eventually lift his little head to politely request more. Whoever adopts this yummy little teddy bear will be lucky indeed!

MooMoo

MooMoo is a wonderful medium-sized boy who was inexplicably surrendered by his human. This guy is white with fun brown patches all over his body, including brown ears. Best of all, MooMoo is very friendly and easygoing. He loves to curl up like a baby when you pet him, and especially likes cheek massages. When he's not in a bunny trance, MooMoo is very alert and looking to get in on any action. He would make a good family bunny.

Denise

Denise is a diminutive lionhead who was found on the street. This pretty little girl is a soft brown color, with delicate almond-shaped eyes and long lionhead whiskers. She's somewhat shy, but she will submit to having her forehead petted by an unfamiliar person; she'll likely open up quickly in her new forever home. Because Denise has long fur, she'll need regular grooming to prevent matting.



Maximus.



Belle.

Bianca

Bianca is a medium-sized rex bunny who was surrendered by her owner. Despite what her name suggests, Bianca's coat is a deep brownish-black color; she has a slender face and a rather prominent dewlap. This girl is a real love sponge. She adores petting, and will stare at you till you comply. Bianca has a great temperament. She's easygoing, gentle, and sweet as can be.

Marcus

Marcus is a small- to medium-sized guy who was found in Marcus Garvey Park. This boy seems fairly young, and may be an Easter bunny; with his rich brown coat, he actually looks like a chocolate Easter bun! Marcus is very affectionate and smushes right down so you can pet his whole long, lean body. Let's get Marcus a real, loving home, where he's treated as something more than a temporary toy.

Rex

Rex is a gorgeous medium-sized chinchilla/lionhead mix. This fellow has a gray and brown/agouti coat, beautiful eyes, and warmer brown fur lining his cheeks. Rex is very relaxed and well-socialized; he loves it when you pet his large, regal head. He needs a home where he'll be treated like the king he is. Rex would probably make a good family bunny.

Corey

Corey is an ultra-cute medium-sized boy with an outsized personality. This guy is very cuddly-looking; if he weren't jumping around constantly, you might mistake him for a stuffed animal. Corey has a coat of bright white with brown patches around his body and fun orange-y patches behind his brown ears. And what a face! His head is adorably round and he has the world's best chubby cheeks. Corey is very active, and will need lots of stimulation and play space in his new home.

Pepper

Pepper is an adorable little male bunny with a super-sweet disposition. He has a deep brownish-black coat and big, silky ears that he's probably still growing into. Pepper is very friendly and easy to handle, considering his age and sex. He loves to be petted when he's not exploring his surroundings. This guy is a real catch!

Belle

Belle is a small, very sweet agouti cutie. This little girl just adores affection – she curls herself up into a round ball when you're petting her incredibly soft fur. Belle truly has the sweetness and manners of a Southern Belle. She would make a good partner for another bunny.

Stella

Stella is a very pretty young New Zealand White with energy in spades. This girl is desperate to explore her world! You'll find her climbing the walls and bars of her cage, seeking a way out. She also wants to explore humans: she's very friendly and outgoing. Stella still has to grow into her ears – right now she bears a slight resemblance to Dumbo – and jewel-like little ruby eyes. She'll need a home where she can get lots of exercise!

Charlie

Charlie B is a very big, powerful harlequin mix who was found on the street. This guy is the quintessential gentle giant: he has the thick, muscular body of a bruiser, but he's a lamb on the inside. Charlie B is friendly, unassuming, and really likes affection; during nose scratches, he lifts his nose into the air to indicate his pleasure.

Easter Bunnies Who Bring Year-Round Joy

By Kevin Sim

When you are a happy sweet-natured ball of fur, you have the gift to flat-out disarm any defensiveness that your newly acquired human acquaintance may have. When you are two fluffy cute bunnies, you are guaranteed to melt away any anxiety and stress your human friends may collect throughout a long, exhausting day. Meet Marshmallow and Mochi, even mushier and sweeter than their names suggest.

If you have ever as a kid fallen in love with a bunny portrayed in a children's book or a Disney film, Marshmallow is the one you dreamed about. Covered entirely with soft white fur, Marshmallow comes complete with the quintessential long floppy ears and pink eyes. It makes you sometimes wonder if he sees everything in a shade of pink. Hidden within his cuddly physical exterior, however, is his inner mischief, eager to emerge. He will gladly drag out any veggies you have carefully put in the dish and throw them all over the floor, but not before he devours all the green leaves and gives the harder stems to his sister. He parades around proudly to show off his artistic leafy stalks while doing his "joy-to-the-world" binkies.

His sister, Mochi, commands an immense power inversely proportionate to her smaller size. As she hops over to you, lifts up her neck and sniffs at you to say "hi" in her own way, her big, dark almond-shape eyes quietly but surely draw you in and mesmerize you into pledging your allegiance to her – to protect and to serve her in all her needs till the end of time. When she is satisfied with your effort, she happily chomps away her veggies – and no, she is no quiet, graceful eater – or hops over to her brother and swiftly snatches the leafy greens right beneath his nose, and thus a game of snatch-eat-and-tug-of-war ensues.

It's almost a year since we have adopted our bunnies on Easter of 2012. As we add to our milestones a number of how-to's

with our babies in the last 12 months – their first health check, our heart-racing first nail-trimming session, coping with separation anxiety during our first prolonged time away, cleaning and dressing their first bruises – we continue to learn, to decipher, to comprehend and to grow with our bunnies, learning what it means to be a loving and responsible companion, not only for the bunnies but also between Matt and myself.

In the coming months, we will likely continue our debate on the best diet for

our babies, and worry about their physical needs and their emotional state of mind. But just as surely, we know Marshmallow and Mochi will continue to give us their loving trust and share their raw unconcealed emotional and happy binky dance with us, as we dutifully design and build their tunnels, castle mazes and towers, so as to keep them entertained in their own game of seek-and-destroy, as we contentedly clean up their mess.

Photos: Kevin Sim



Mochi with Matt.



Marshmallow and Mochi.

Letters From Adopters

Photo: Joe Petrulo



Misty.

Misty

Joe adopted Misty in early March and he reports that she is a fast learner.

Misty is very smart. She learned to use the litter box in the bathroom in less than three weeks. She is also very affectionate. She loves to lie on the sofa and snuggle when I am watching TV at night. She gets plenty of affection as her Nonna checks on her during the day when I am at work. I am starting to trust her to be out alone when I run out to do errands and I know that soon she will be totally hutch-free except for bedtime – although she does like napping in her hutch.

Also, Misty has her own air conditioner for the summer heat as well as a large cage to stay at Grandma's house when I need to travel.

Joe

Photo: Lauren Brown



Priya and Copernicus.

Copernicus and Priya

Lauren adopted Copernicus, formerly known as Wendall, as a partner for Priya. They are now happy partners. We received this letter in early April.

Our bunnies are finally bonded after a long and treacherous journey. My three-year-old Netherland dwarf, Priya, came from a breeder and was very unfriendly and territorial. She didn't even let us pet her until my boyfriend, Alex, came along – she really took to him.

Alex wanted to get her a friend, so we adopted Wendall, now renamed Copernicus. They seemed to get along

when they met, but she was still fearful. In my small Manhattan studio, we kept the bunnies in two cages side by side and did their meetings in a bin of hay. Eventually, Copy would sniff her and she'd get startled and growl. Or if they both accidentally got loose, they'd go after each other, fur flying. After one bad fight, we had to start the bonding process all over again.

Just this past weekend, we took the bunnies on a bus ride to New Jersey in the same carrier. They didn't fight, and leaned up against each other. Back in New York City this week, something changed. They are more comfortable around each other and have started grooming each other. They nuzzle their heads up to each other and it's adorable.

They're officially lovebirds. I can't keep them apart. We love our new bunny so much and are very happy that we got him.

Thanks again!

Lauren

Sadly, we have learned that Copernicus passed away recently.

Photo: Haniff Mohammed



Patrick

Patrick was adopted by Haniff, who sent this update in early April.

Patrick, the bunny, is an angel in our home.

He is welcomed by everyone.

He symbolizes warmth, love and tenderness – surely, a model of excellence.

May he be blessed in all ways!

Sincerely,

Haniff Mohammed

(Continued on page 17)

Photo: Jessie Marrero



Buffy.

Buffy

Jessie, who lives in New Jersey, adopted Buffy in mid-March. Everything is going very well.

Thank you for your help.

FYI she's very happy here.

Jessie Marrero

Photo: Adriana Araya



Nikki and Nunu.

Nikki and Nunu

Nikki, formerly known as Whitey, was adopted as a partner bun in November to a former volunteer, Adriana Araya. Nikki is the husband to another male, a black-and-white rex named Nunu. Nikki is cleaning Nunu's ears daily and they are coming along as a great couple.

I wanted to send a photo of the lovebirds.

Nikki loves to flop around and nap all day and loves to groom Nunu. They are very sweet to look at and you can really see the love.

Thanks,

Adriana

Photo: Sueminn Cho



Labbit.

Labbit

Labbit, formerly known as Captain, is thriving according to his adopter, Sueminn.

Labbit has taken really well to my home. He has free run of the house now, and is really well behaved. I've started to compost his poop as fertilizer for my fire-escape garden. He's so full of personality and I've really been enjoying my time with him.

I've known rabbits make excellent pets, but I feel like he has more personality and charm than dogs or cats I've owned in the past. That was a cool surprise. I can even leave him alone all day and he doesn't chew anything in the house anymore.

Here's a short video of him hanging out:

https://vine.co/v/bFA9vgnUpiV?fb_action_ids=4439719001190&fb_action_types=vine-app%3Apost&fb_source=aggregation&fb_aggregation_id=288381481237582

Sueminn

(Continued on page 18)

Photo: Amy Sacchetti



Polar Bear with cat Sasha.

Polar Bear

Polar Bear was adopted in late April by Amy, who has a cat named Sasha. The bunny and cat are enjoying each other.

Polar Bear is sooo fantastic. For some reason I want to rename him Avalanche, but he is my second fuzzy little polar bear. Sasha, my first, has become more comfortable, but hasn't decided how she feels about Polar Bear yet. He, on the other hand, seems to be quite smitten with her. He follows her around the house and chases her until he can't reach her. He is making sure he gets a piece of the territory, but he is a very polite roommate. I accidentally fell asleep for a bit last night while he was out and he didn't chew anything he wasn't supposed to, and just lay next to me. He has made himself quite at home. He tried to get on the bed this morning actually. It was very cute.

He is a very active bunny, running around and doing little heel-clicker jumps all

over. He is eating and using the litter box well, and he eats the pellets straight away. I've started portioning them over the day. Also, he seems to be drinking a lot of water. Cats don't really drink much, so I'm not really sure how to gauge.

I have a double-decker hutch (even though he basically runs anywhere he wants) and a bunch of fun toys are on the way. He actually seems to like the cat doughnut toy and magazines the most so far.

So, as the Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom Manhattan continues... Polar Bear discovered he can jump onto the bed. Awesome! Sasha was asleep on my pillow and I came out to find him nuzzling her. When she realized it wasn't me she jumped off but it was sooo cute. I need my camera available at all times to catch this.

Amy Sacchetti

Photo: Yuka Fujimori



Abby, foreground, and Clover.

Abby and Clover

Abby was adopted in early May as a partner for Clover, who is giving her his undivided attention and love, according to Yuka, who sent this note to Cindy Stutts..

Hi Cindy,

Abby is doing great. She is anything but shy and wary like her ad said. She's a bundle of energy!

Abby and Clover are getting along fabulously. They nap together, groom each other and do binkies together. I think they were romantically involved hours after she came out of the box.

Clover is SMITTEN with Abby and won't let her out of his sight, follows her everywhere, and sleeps in weird places just so he can keep an eye on her. It's so cute!!

Thanks again for the chance to meet and adopt Abby! She is a gem. We love her!

Yuka Fujimori

(Continued on page 19)

Howard and Snow White

These two bunnies are doing well, their adopter, Leandra, reports.

Howard is the tamer of the two. He likes to get close to humans--sort of asks, "er... What's up, doc?" When displeased with the food offered, he does a running head butt to the hand. Sometimes he gets on his hind legs to box like a kangaroo.

Snow White is a wild one. She digs tunnels all the time. She will snatch a treat from your hand in a flash--no chance to tackle her. She never used to jump but has learned from Howard.

Bunnies, we love you!

Leandra Barbieri

Photo: Darren Allcock



Chewbacca and Oreo.

Oreo and Chewbacca

Darren Allcock adopted Oreo (formerly known as Dolly) in April to be a partner for Chewbacca (earlier known as Roger). The two bunnies have become good friends, and Darren wrote this letter to Cathe Rekis in mid-May.

Hi Catherine,

The bunnies are doing really well. They share a playpen, toys and everything. Chewie is protective, not aggressive, of Oreo. She runs to him when feeling overwhelmed or scared.

We have noticed she is hot or cold toward us. One day she's all over us, and then she'll avoid us for two days. She

comes off as very shy, reserved and timid. She's shedding a lot and barely allows us to groom her. We are just cleaning up the fur for now so we don't traumatize her by grooming.

We are going to set up a checkup to be sure nothing is wrong with either bunny. We haven't had a chance yet since the schedule has been hectic. We are planning for this coming weekend.

We would like to introduce a third bunny. However, we are still thinking it over. We don't want to upset the balance these two have with each other.

Take care!!!

Darren

Photo: Michelle Nunnelly



Nicole.

Nicole

Nicole was adopted in mid-May by Heather and Michelle, who sent this update to Cindy Stutts.

Cindy,

Hello! I wanted to let you know that Nicole's first night was great! She loves her cage -- especially her litter box. She's been behaving really well.

She did even better the second day and said hello to Heather and me several times. She only got really upset with me when I

cleaned out her litter box. Ever since, she's been sitting in her litter box with me in her vision.

I've given her some space since then as I realize she probably didn't want me touching her box.

Thanks again for helping Heather and me with Nicole! So far she's been really happy here and I hope she comes to love me.

Best,

Michelle

Photo: Eva Obadia



Luciana.

Luciana

Eva and her family adopted Luciana, and we received this letter in late May.

(Continued on page 20)

Letters (Continued from page 19)

We are so happy to have adopted Luciana. She is so sweet and cute.

Bunnies are a great pet! My daughters love her and I have to say I am getting more attached to her every day.

She has been with us almost two weeks.

Best,

Eva



Photo: Miriam Lieberman

Lottie.

Lottie

Lottie was adopted in mid-March by Miriam Lieberman and her daughter, Ava. Lottie is definitely getting lots of love. Miriam sent us photos of Lottie and Ava.

Here are the photos I had promised you a while back. Sorry for the delay!

I think it is quite clear from these images how lucky both Lottie and Ava are to have found each other. :-)

Best,

Miriam

Photo: Easter Bagley



Arielle and Mel.

Mel

Easter and her family adopted Mel in March. They sent us this thank-you letter recently.

My name is Easter Bagley. I adopted Mel, aka Cottonball, for my daughter, Arielle, on March 23. I originally refused to have a raspberry-eyed rabbit in our home. But Mel won us both over immediately. He is so sweet, loving and handsome. And he loves to be petted all the time.

To tell you the truth, Mel picked Arielle and me to be his family. And we fell head over heels in love with him.

Thank you, Erin, for helping us. You are a jewel to the AC&C shelter.

Easter

Rabbit-Savvy Veterinarians

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

Long Island:

Jennifer Saver, DVM

Laura George, DVM

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

Heidi Hoefler, DVM

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

Jeff Rose, DVM

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

Manhattan:

Becky Campbell, DVM

Deborah Levison, DVM

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

Katherine Quesenberry, DVM

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

Alexandra Wilson, DVM

Anthony Pilny, DVM

Cynthia J. Brown, DVM

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

Shachar Malka, DVM

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

Westchester County:

Gil Stanzione, DVM

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

Laurie Hess, DVM

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

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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. Mailing address for contributions to **Rabbit Rescue & Rehab**: Gabrielle LaManna, 7 Carriage Lane, New Fairfield, CT 06812. Mailing address for contributions to **Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group**: 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).

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 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.