

THUMP



NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS OCTOBER 2013

Adoptapalooza Draws Bunny-Loving Crowds to Union Square

By Natalie L. Reeves

Five lucky bunnies were adopted at the biannual Adoptapalooza event held on Sept. 8 in Union Square Park. Sponsored by the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals in conjunction with the Petco Foundation, the event featured approximately 50 animal-rescue groups, including Rabbit Rescue & Rehab.

NYC Metro Rabbit's Marcie Frishberg spearheaded the group's involvement by working with the Mayor's Alliance and Petco, arranging for foster rabbits to be transported to the event, organizing the team of volunteers and handling countless other tasks. The volunteers were integral to the success of the event as they manned adoption areas in the park and in the Petco store. Among other things, they set up cages and pens that had to be cleaned and dismantled after the event, cared for the rabbits, counseled prospective adopters, talked to adults and children alike about the joys of bunnies, made intricate signage promoting the event and supervised rabbit dates.

The volunteers' efforts were rewarded when they saw their bunnies being adopted by excited families who understood the commitment necessary to care for the animals. Rabbits who were adopted include: Beatrix, a small Dutch rabbit

Photo: Natalie Reeves



This artwork, created by Cathe Rekis, made visitors smile at Adoptapalooza.

who had been dumped at a Petco and who had been fostered by Sari Krieger;

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Lectures and Workshops Are Offered for Rabbit Owners

By Cindy Stutts

Many people have contacted RR&R recently, asking about our annual conference. At our RR&R board meeting this year, we voted to hold a series of smaller events in New York City, rather than having a single conference in Westchester. The idea is to make our educational sessions available to the maximum number of bunny parents from all five boroughs. To that end, we are planning a series of lectures and workshops. Of course, I would love to hear from any of you privately if there is a topic you would like to see highlighted for a future lecture.

Each lecture and hands-on workshop will be approximately one hour, with a follow-up Q&A session. Each will be designed to be intimate, with the workshops being "BYOB" (bring your own bunny). Space, therefore, will be limited, so we suggest you register as early as possible. Prior to each workshop, there will be a one-hour opportunity to do some serious bunny-shopping designed to benefit both your bunnies and our rescue efforts.

Checks (please make out to Rabbit Rescue & Rehab) can be sent directly to

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Our masthead bunny is Fiona, a baby rabbit abandoned in Forest Park, Queens, in August. A park worker, Chris, found her and emailed a photo to Nancy Schreiber at Long Island Rabbit Rescue. To see his original photo, turn to page 3. Photo: Chris Colella.

Adoptapalooza

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Maximus, a handsome white bunny who had been fostered by Jane O'Wyatt and who was to become a partner bunny to Pebbles after their speed date went well; bonded boys Ross and Conrad, who had been fostered by Rea Dabelic; and Bennia, a bunny fostered by Amy Odum who was adopted to be a partner to Sherlock.

Matchmakers extraordinaire Cindy Stutts and Amy Odum supervised speed-dating sessions and provided their expertise as to which rabbits would bond most easily after continued dating sessions at home. Volunteer Cathe Rekis spent many nights at Petco before the event to paint the beautiful signs that filled the store and added a festive atmosphere to the event.

While all of the rabbits in attendance were stars, little bunnies Ariel and Tuxedo,

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Cindy Stutts supervises speed date between Pebbles and Maximus.

Photo: Natalie Reeves



Tracy with Ariel.

each of whom had been abandoned outside in separate incidents and had suffered debilitating injuries as a result, stole the show. Their foster mom, Tracy Nuzzo, educated visitors about why these bunnies are great examples of what happens when rabbits are released outside, explaining that disabled rabbits have all the spirit and loving natures of their able-bodied counterparts.

Photo: Natalie Reeves



Ariel.

Even better than finding homes for five wonderful rabbits was that volunteers were able to educate hundreds of

prospective adopters about rabbits, and hopefully some of those people will adopt a homeless bunny in the future.



Our masthead bunny, Fiona, had been abandoned for a couple of weeks in Forest Park, Queens, and a park worker, Chris Colella, was able to catch her and take her in, but he released her when someone told him she was a cottontail. The bun was still hanging out near him so he wondered whether the bun was wild or domestic. Nancy Schreiber shared this photo with Mary Ann Maier, Donna Sheridan, Laura George, DVM, Jennifer Saver, DVM, and Cindy Stutts, and the consensus was that she was a domestic rabbit. So Chris re-rescued her and she is now comfortably living in his home.

Lectures and Workshops

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our treasurer, Gabby LaManna, 7 Carriage Lane, New Fairfield, CT 06812

Space isn't confirmed until your check has been received. If you aren't sure you can make it, you can email me the day before at bygolyoly@yahoo.com and ask if space is still available.

First Lecture

Our first lecture will feature Dr. Leilani Alvarez, head of Animal Medical Center's rehab department: "Physical Rehabilitation for Rabbits."

It will be Sunday, Nov. 10, 3 p.m.-6 p.m. at Gotham Café, 1298 2nd Ave. (between 68th and 69th streets). The sponsor is Best Pets Rx.

Refreshments will be served: snacks, sandwiches and salads will be available for purchase. Space is limited to 50, and the cost is \$30/\$20 for second family member.

Dr. Alvarez will demonstrate range-of-motion exercises you can do with your bunny.

The "star" of the lecture will be our very own foster girl, Ariel, who was lucky to be awarded an "AMC to the Rescue" grant to give her the chance to regain use of her hind legs.

Second Lecture

Our next lecture will feature Dr. Anthony Pilny and will be titled, "Dental Abscesses in Rabbits." It will take place Sunday, Dec. 8, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Sequin, 234 West 39th St., 10th floor, and will be sponsored by Sequin. Refreshments will be served. Space is limited to 50 for the lecture, and the cost is \$30/\$20 for second family member. Sequin jewelry will be available for sale afterwards, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (great for holiday gifts!), including bunny charm jewelry. As always, proceeds will be donated toward our foster bunnies.

Workshops: Dates to Be Announced

Mary Cotter will offer hands-on, low-stress rabbit-handling workshops based on the principles of applied behavior analysis. You will learn science-based techniques for approaching, handling, lifting and restraining your rabbit for various procedures, such as temperature-taking, nail-cutting, belly massage and administering oral medications.

I look forward to seeing many of you at these lectures and workshops.

Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Thumper, Luna, Coffee, Jazzy, Ben, Ebony, Rex, Francis, Chewy, Petunia, Oreo, Apple, Isabella, Kira, Sandy, Maximus, Cookie Dough, Milky and Creamy, Beatrix, Ross and Conrad, Bennia, Peter, Belle, Bagel, Regina, Mobo, Stella, George, Sylvia, Ben and Franklin, Athena, Alex, Trixie and Bunz, Eve, Louella, Casanova, Prince, Enchilada, Dahlia, LL Cool B, Thurston, Brownie, Bertie and Daisy, Manny, Darryl, Pepper, Thumper, Peanut, Greyson, Juliet, Bogie.



Maximus waiting to meet Pebbles at Petco.



Pebbles.

Two Big White Bunny Adoptions Three Years later

By Jane O'Wyatt

Josh fka Houdini

AC&C's rabbit room, January 2009. The hefty New Zealand with a disheveled coat and a bite-sized notch at the tip of his right ear looked like trouble. His previous life had doubtless been difficult, and the shelter's ambiance was, well, institutional. Easily startled, he became known as a serious biter. But his virtuosity as an escape artist earned him the name Houdini.

Amy Odum, who took Houdini home as a foster bunny, says:

"He was a tremendous climber, and was never fooled by any of the tricks that will usually keep a climber in a pen. The trick of pinning a sheet over the top of the pen didn't work at all. He was smart and utterly fearless and would test everything, so it didn't take him long to figure out that not everything that looked solid actually was (like the sheet).

"As much as he seemed to hate the pen – if his attempts to climb out were any indication – he was also very protective of his space, and I've got the scars to prove it. (He was pretty quick for a chubby rabbit!) Though he was conflicted and had 'trust issues,' Houdini was a sweet boy at heart; he always loved attention and petting."

It took months of TLC before Houdini felt safe enough to moderate his "bite-first-and-ask-questions-later" modus vivendi. Amy's forthright Petfinder description of him made it clear that Houdini needed an extraordinary adopter.

Almost a year and a half after Houdini left AC&C with Amy, he had a speed date with rabbit volunteer Erin McElhinney's bunny Ginger Madeleine. At Petco, the match looked promising, but at home, Erin says, she made the (common) mistake of trying to rush the bonding. "They got into a fur-pulling scuffle, with Houdini losing. After that, every

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Josh fka Houdini at AC&C.

Right, top, Josh and Amelia (puppy pad is because Amelia's antiseizure meds cause her to have accidents sometimes).

Right, bottom, Josh stealing a treat out of Amelia's mouth!

time I put them together, Ginger would aggressively charge him! Poor Houdini!!" (See Erin's "Going with the Flow of Bunny Love," Thump, May 2010.)

Post bunny-bonding fiasco, Erin figured out secure separate housing and protected exercise space for Houdini (whom she renamed Josh) and Ginger. These two now share Erin's small apartment with her other bunnies Mocha Jane and Thaddeus (aka Tadpole), one or two fosters – and a pit bull named Amelia Pudding.

Feeling strongly that Josh fka Houdini needed more exercise, Erin decided to let him hop around in the same space with Amelia, who is usually leashed. "Hyper-supervised" is how Erin characterizes the interactions between Josh and Amelia: Erin is always present. Unlike dominatrix Ginger, Amelia is subservient to Josh. The big dog is "fascinated" by the rabbit and loves licking his ears. Josh reacts to having his ears soaked by trying to bite

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Photo: Erin McElhinney



Big White Bunny Adoptions

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Amelia's cheeks (Erin's vigilance prevents this), and he "compulsively chins her entire body." Josh may still, Erin thinks, be pining for ferocious Ginger, but he and Amelia have an amiable partnership.

Does Josh still bite? Yes, and he bites hard. But nowadays he needs a lot of provocation before he nails you, according to Erin. "He definitely bites but only if you are plucking him like a chicken or taking too long to clip his nails. Josh is not a believer in the warning nip!"

No longer feeling the need to escape, Josh fka Houdini uses his climbing skills to join Erin for a cuddle on the couch, where he falls asleep as she reads or watches movies.

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Reba's AC&C rabbit room mug shot, June 2010.

Reba

In June 2010, Kirsten Ott wrote the following accurate and endearing Petfinder blurb:

"Reba is an absolutely fabulous giantess – an enormous, highly intelligent California mix with huge ears and a larger-than-life presence. This girl doesn't love being lifted, but once she's back on terra firma she's a total love sponge. Reba's crazy for affection, and will thank you with a kiss after you've petted her for a while. She also loves to

loungue – you're likely to find her stretched out nibbling on greens ancient Rome-style. Because she's so large, she'll need plenty of room to spread out and explore. Reba would make a good family bunny or partner for another bun."

Reba's story was – and is – a rabbit rescuer's dream. Although she was extremely friendly when she arrived at AC&C, her rabbit-volunteer devotees worried that it might prove difficult to find her a home because of prevailing prejudice against big white bunnies and those with lavender-and-dark-red (aka pink aka red) eyes. Also, Reba's physical condition indicated less-than-perfect previous care. She was a little scruffy: her coat had urine stains and fur mites. Like most shelter bunnies, she had not been spayed. All of these conditions were treated by the time adoption counselor Amy Odum introduced Reba to Breck Hostetter and her daughter Greta. Amy remembers:

"How incredibly sweet and patient Reba was but without being dull. She clearly loved hanging around with people. She was so good with little Greta – who to her credit was a very gentle child, but was still only four at the time. I think what sealed the deal for me at the time was when Greta leaned over and just rubbed her whole face into the top of Reba's head right between her ears, with Reba flattened out in the classic

'presentation' position. I guess it still qualified as a head rub as far as Reba was concerned – she just closed her eyes and relaxed."

Against the odds, a mere month after she arrived at AC&C, Reba went home with Breck Hostetter and her daughter Greta. Thump readers may remember humorous, doting letters, accompanied by photos, from Reba's adopter (Thump, August 2010 and February 2012).

I visited Reba as her bunny sitter this past August, so I can confirm that she lives in a loving home with people who value her largeness of body and spirit, her social skills and her extraordinarily beautiful eyes. The weekend I took care of Reba was atypical, because she normally goes with her family on weekend trips (though she doesn't love riding in a car.) Reba is as involved in her human family's life as a bunny can be.

Photo: Breck Hostetter



Reba beside Greta's toy piano, February 2012.

Reba eating breakfast salad, August 2013.

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Ariel's Progress in Rehab: 'Don't Count Me Out!'

By Tracy Nuzzo

The phone rang on the afternoon of July 16 and it was Cindy Stutts, who explained that there was a bunny who was found outdoors, injured, and in dire need of a foster home. With that description, I knew immediately that the bunny could use my help.

My fosters were having tremendous success with being adopted to excellent homes. Candy had found the love of her life (Momo and his dad, Andrew Chen). Trixie had a speed date set for that upcoming weekend and although there would be two other shelter girl buns in attendance to meet the eligible bachelor (Cappuccino), I just knew Trixie was destined to be a partner bun, so her future in our apartment would shortly end.

If Trixie got adopted, that left just Opal and Pearl as fosters, the last of Trixie's two babies – adorable bonded sisters who had just been listed on Petfinder and were sure to be adopted quickly. On the outside, that may have seemed like a lot of balls in the air, and maybe even some wishful thinking, but looking back now, it all worked out according to plan. (Trixie was adopted on July 20 as a result of the speed date and Opal and Pearl were snapped up by another ideal home in early August.)

As you can see in this July photo, Ariel's right rear leg had some power and muscle tone to it. Her left is useless.

Photo: Tracy Nuzzo



The very next day, I traveled to the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine, where the poor, abandoned bun had been sent for assessment and care. As soon as I saw her face, I knew why Cindy thought of me – this bunny looks so much like my two fulltime boys, Kelsey and Max, the now-bonded handsome silver marten boys I had adopted from the shelter, separately, in 2011 and 2012. She was so small and fragile, totally eclipsed from view when cupped in my two palms. All anyone could see was her huge ears, disproportionate from her teeny frame.

I brought this little wisp of a bunny home. There was some confusion about the name she had been given just after a good Samaritan found her. Some said "Aida" and some said "Arie." The debate was put to rest her first night in our home – this angel loved to glide back and forth in her new X pen, dragging her lifeless rear limbs behind her. I was so struck by this image: the first thing I thought was she was the tiniest, most beautiful mermaid ever. And so, she was quickly named Ariel, just like the character from the Disney movie, "The Little Mermaid."

The first few days with Ariel were fraught with some concerns. Ariel suffers from hind leg paresis, which means she is unable to hop. Litter-box training is futile. She is incontinent and requires daily "butt" baths. Ariel weighed less than a pound and I feared, maybe irrationally, that she might die. In the early days, I didn't realize what a fighter Ariel is, and I certainly underestimated her sheer will to live. Had I known, I might have slept through the night, instead of awaking, in a panic, every 2-3 hours and frantically checking on her.

Within a week, I realized that giving Ariel a traditional setting of an X pen was a mistake. Sure, she loved her

newfound freedom and she would glide, like a mermaid, from one end of the pen to the other, but no matter what material I placed underneath her, she was missing fur due to friction.

I made a quick trip to a local pet store that doesn't specialize in rabbit supplies. Furry Paws on Second Avenue and 64th Street is a traditional pet store that caters to dogs and cats, but over the course of the past year, the owner started ordering the large bag of Oxbow Timothy hay for my buns. When I fostered Jett last October, I often went to Furry Paws to buy soft, sherpa products to line the pen for Jett after her rear leg amputation. One evening, not long after Ariel moved in, I returned to Furry Paws in search of more sherpa supplies to make Ariel comfortable.

I chatted with the owner, explaining my dilemma with Ariel and her fur loss, plus my quest for soft sherpa to help her. He left me at the register and spent quite a few minutes in the storeroom. He returned with the largest sherpa carrier I had ever seen, complete with wheels! It can accommodate a 25- to 30-pound dog and I chuckled because I had forgotten to tell him a key detail – that Ariel weighed less than a pound.

As I began to object to this carrier, the owner stopped me. It turned out a customer had purchased this bag for her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, in anticipation of a trip by airplane, earlier in the week. After examining it at home, she was displeased with the way the wheels operated and returned it the following day. The owner of Furry Paws then contacted the bag manufacturer and was given a credit. He wanted to return the bag, but the manufacturer didn't want it back.

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Ariel's Progress

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The store owner told me he had stored it in the back room and in his words, "You need it more than I do." Exhausted from getting up every few hours each night to check on Ariel, I was touched by the kind gesture.

By week two, Ariel had a bad case of urine scald. Even worse, during one nightly butt bath, Ariel's entire tail came off into my hand. In shock, I examined what was left behind, and it resembled an old leather shoelace. I cried and cried – wondering if I had hurt Ariel and if, despite all my good intentions, I was doing more harm than good. I called the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine and was given an appointment for the same day.

I entered the office with a huge lump in my throat. But Dr. Anthony Pilny thought Ariel's skin looked great! It was pink – not red, inflamed or infected. Dr. Pilny explained that Ariel had been caked in urine and feces when she was found and that her fur was damaged. There was no harm in its loss, he said. He even razored her hair shorter to make blow-drying (part of my daily routine after her bath) easier.

The next step was moving Ariel from her jumbo sherpa carrier to something a little bigger. Ariel had been growing, and she was no longer as fragile as when we met (she was estimated to be about 3 months old when dumped). I began reading as much as I could online and one of my favorite resources was www.disabledrabbits.com. On that site, a crib was described as a great place to house a disabled bun.

After reading that recommendation, I raced out to Buy Buy Baby. Since I have no children, the store was foreign to me, but they had exactly what I needed.

Photo: Tracy Nuzzo



For this photo, I pulled in my favorite "in house model," Mr. Kelsey. I wanted them together to show that Kelsey, a touch under three pounds, looks like a giant next to Ariel. But also note, her ears are twice as long as his! Right after this shot, she nipped him, as she is consistent about, and reinforced his fear of the tiny girl!!

Within minutes, I was home and assembling a Pack 'n Play. The playpen has wheels on it so I can wheel her from room to room, to be part of the action, and park her next to my bed at night.

By early August, the urine scald was under control, and Cindy emailed about rehabilitation for Ariel. Woo hoo! What a relief to be making long-term plans for Ariel, instead of micromanaging the day-to-day.

We made a consultation appointment on Aug. 5 at Animal Medical Center of New York. The center's rehab room features a jetted tub, massage table, cold-touch lasers, underwater treadmill and fun extras like skateboards, trampolines and an obstacle course.

The doctor in charge of the rehab is a DVM named Leilani Alvarez. Dr. Alvarez and her staff measured Ariel's limbs, performed agility exercises, and seemed to really get to the heart of Ariel's problems.

Cindy Stutts emailed me soon after our consult. She was aware of a program offered by Animal Medical Center called "AMC to the Rescue," designed for shelter pets with disabilities. In their own words, "This fund was established specifically to provide subsidized specialty care to animals currently cared for by rescue groups, whose health has become an obstacle to their adoption."

We needed to apply for the grant, and Cindy filled out the paperwork, with Dr. Pilny writing an evaluation.

A week and a half later, the email arrived. Ariel had received the "AMC to the Rescue" grant.

Now, in late September, we have celebrated the two-month mark of Ariel being in our home. She is hardly recognizable. She is at least twice as long as she was when we met her and she has gained weight. Ariel attends each rehab session with unbridled moxie. She is very angry and frustrated because, at one time, hopping came easy to her. Thankfully, it's very easy to channel her anger and frustration into her workouts.

Just recently, Ariel refused an apple slice during her workout. She wanted to forge ahead, without distraction. She doesn't just want to hop – this girl wants to run! Dr. Alvarez and her staff have given us new hope for Ariel's future.

Something else has happened since Ariel got the grant for rehab. She now gives kisses. There is a softer side of Ariel, which is a bit of a relief because "old Ariel" was a bit of a fighter, a biter and a boxer.

Some really crummy things happen to house rabbits. I will never forget Audrey Hepbun of Long Island, and Pinta, a bun featured in Thump whose fur was dyed pink.

But we can't overlook the fact that there is an entire team helping Ariel now: Dr. Pilny and the staff of the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine, and "AMC to the Rescue" with Dr. Alvarez and her team. None of this journey would have been possible without some of the world's finest veterinarians and support staff, who have never wavered in their belief in a tiny, abandoned bunny. We fondly call them Team Ariel.

Ariel now has a Facebook page: www.facebook.com/teamariel2013

Guide to Bunny Poops

This is a short guide to bunny poops, prepared by Christie Taylor, a House Rabbit Society educator-in-training. Rabbits can communicate a lot of data

via “poop-o-gram” if you’re paying attention, as Christie’s guide demonstrates. Excerpts of the online resource, <http://imgur.com/a/5N4lD>, are

reprinted here by Thump with permission of Christie Taylor.

Photos: Christie Taylor



Average-sized bunnies will make 200-300 poops per day. They should be uniform in size and shape, which means rounded and pea-to-garbanzo-sized. The size of your bunny won’t always determine the size of his poops.



They should also be friable. Friable means that they’ll have a stable form, but if you apply gentle pressure and roll them between your fingers, they’ll fall apart into something resembling sawdust, as in the photo.



Once you’ve tested the friability of a poop, inside you should find lots of chewed-up hay. Testing them regularly will give you a baseline for what’s normal for your bunny.



These poops are completely normal; usually bunnies eat them to ensure that they get enough protein and B vitamins in their diet. Sometimes bunnies will make more than normal when they’re stressed or are getting too much sugar in their diet. This is okay as long as the bunny doesn’t get a messy bottom (by sitting on the cecals) and it doesn’t happen all the time. If it does, it might be time for a change of diet.



These poops are linked together by shed hair. This isn’t a problem - the spacing suggests that the bunny’s gut is working normally and the hair is getting pushed through with all the other fiber. I would suggest giving the bunny more fresh greens (in addition to free access to hay) to keep things hydrated and moving and brush more regularly, but otherwise this bunny seems healthy.



The “doubles” at the top of this image occur when a bunny’s gut slows for whatever reason and 2 pills collide during their formation, creating a double poop. These can be caused by stress or advanced age. If your bunny starts making more than two or three doubles (or triples) per day, it might be time to ask your vet about a stimulant to get your bunny’s gut back to a normal pace. Their pills should be uniform in size and shape like those at the bottom of the image.

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Photos: Christie Taylor



Poops can become small for any number of reasons: stress is the most common one for small round poops. A strange noise or a stressful experience can cause your bunny's poops to be smaller temporarily. They should go back to normal within a few hours. Chronically small poops can indicate chronic pain, narrowing of the intestine or a partial blockage, and a vet visit is an order.



Cecal dysbiosis is poop that isn't completely formed and is doughy or pasty and is usually quite smelly. It can be caused by stress, illness or a diet too rich in starch, fat or sugar. This shouldn't be confused with normal cecotropes that have been smooshed by your rabbit's feet or bottom. If you're not sure, you may have to poke around to see if the mess comes apart in layers (cecotope) or if it's completely formless (cecal dysbiosis). The alternative is to watch for the next batch. You should monitor any bunny with dysbiosis for signs of illness. Take his temperature to rule out an infection. If the dysbiosis persists or isn't reduced by eliminating treats, schedule a vet visit.



Small misshapen poops can mean your bunny isn't eating enough. This can happen after surgery, if your bunny's teeth are hurting, or for any other reason your bunny might not want to eat. Post surgery, this is a good sign - your bunny's digestive tract is working; there just isn't a lot of food in there. Otherwise, your bunny's poops are telling you to go



True diarrhea is very rare in rabbits and is cause for alarm. Rabbits with diarrhea may be infected with deadly parasites or possibly have been exposed to poisons. Very young rabbits with watery runny stools may have been weaned before they're ready. Regardless of the age of any rabbit with diarrhea, getting them to a vet as soon as possible should be first priority. If it's an option, bring some of the runny stool for your vet to examine.

Photos: Tracy Nuzzo



Tuxedo: An Affectionate Girl Who's Always Dressed Up

By Tracy Nuzzo

Not much is known about Tuxedo's prior home because this tiny girl was found outdoors in New York City, abandoned and alone. She was brought to the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine, where she was treated for urine scald. It was subsequently discovered that as a direct result of being dumped, she was full of parasites.

Thanks to great medical care, the parasites were quickly treated and eliminated and her urine scald was managed. After the most immediate concerns were taken care of, some more permanent medical conditions remain. Tuxedo (or Tuxxy, as she is affectionately called) is very likely an elder bun who is unsteady on her feet and unable to hop. Instead, this little lady walks. She occasionally stumbles and tips over, but she is able to get back up and continue on her way. Nothing seems to bring Tuxxy down.

Tuxxy will soon be looking for her forever home, but her adopters should know that although some extra work is required, the rewards are great. Tuxxy needs a daily butt bath to keep her clean, but it's the highlight of her day. Unlike most buns in a bath who wiggle and squiggle, Tuxxy just gives kisses.

In fact, Tuxxy is unlike most house rabbits in that she LOVES to be held and cuddled. She currently lives in a small X pen, configured at half its size. Tuxxy

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We Are Looking for Loving Homes

Written and compiled by Kirsten Ott

Blanche

Blanche is a wonderful young New Zealand White girl. She's got a very big body and an even bigger personality! Blanche loves to get your attention. She'll periscope, press her nose through her cage bars, whatever it takes. She adores affection, soaking up everything you give her. Blanche was quite a bit smaller when she arrived at the shelter, and has grown quickly into the gorgeous giantess she is today. She would make an excellent family bunny.

Leona

Leona is a medium-sized black bunny who was left in the lobby of the Manhattan shelter. This girl was pretty stressed out and territorial when she arrived – she would twitch and shudder when you first approached her. However, persistence and gentleness pay off with this girl – gradually she gets comfortable and transforms into a cuddler. Leona would do best in a quiet home with gentle adults.

Santo

Santo is a gorgeous medium-large Himalayan male with a great personality. This guy is extremely friendly, yet easygoing. He's eager for affection, but

has a gentle disposition, and you'll catch him looking at you with pleading eyes, waiting for you to return to and administer cheek and ear rubs. Santo's beautiful red eyes are a dazzling contrast against his bright white coat and classic soft gray Himmy markings. He would make an excellent family bunny or pet for a first-time bunny owner.

Oliver Flemmie

Oliver Flemmie is an extraordinary Flemish Giant who is looking for someone to give him lots of attention. Recently relinquished by a family who said he was 2 years old, Oliver likes to jump on the couch and cuddle against his foster mom. When she cleans the big cement mixer tray that he uses as his litter box, he flops on his side next to her so that she can pet him while she works. He'll even let her rub his belly like a dog.

Jingles

Jingles is a beautiful large Californian female who was rescued in Queens. She has truly regal stature, classic Californian markings, and a very wise expression in her ruby eyes. She also sports an unusual light-brown dewlap – probably another symbol of royal lineage! Jingles is

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Tuxedo

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doesn't hop, so a cozier space works best and she loves to be surrounded by soft things like sherpa and her favorite doll. She is not litter-box trained due to her mobility issues, but we simply line her pen with puppy housebreaking pads and microfiber towels that absorb the urine. Tuxy has a great appetite for greens and is an excellent hay eater.

In a bunny world sometimes filled with rabbitude and foot stomps, Tuxedo is

just sunshine and kisses. Whoever adopts Tuxy should probably have the Guinness World Records book on speed dial because this lady is a contender for breaking the record on bunny smooches given by one bun! Tuxedo will be listed as a special-needs bunny, but a daily bath and a comfortable, clean living space are easily given out of the love we all have for our bunnies. These kindnesses will be returned tenfold, by Tuxy, in kisses and snuggles. Who will be the special adopter for this special-needs girl?



Leona.



Santo.



Jingles.

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 10)



Corey and Howie.

independent-minded and rather wary; she has to assess new people for a while in order to decide whether they're trustworthy. But you might catch her tooth purring while you talk to her in a soothing voice. Jingles would do best in a quiet home with gentle humans.

Corey and Howie

Corey and Howie are a bonded pair of small, senior Dutchmen whose owner had no time for them. Howie is the more dominant of the two, and is also somewhat more active; however, he is shy around humans – moreso than his mate. Corey is a total sweetheart – he loves to be petted, and will lie on his foster mom's chest for hours if she'll let him. Both bunnies were kept for years in small cages, so they are rather weak. They will need plenty of room for exercise so they can develop stronger muscles. Corey and Howie won't be placed in a home with small children – they deserve a peaceful home with attentive humans where they can enjoy their golden years.

Mim

Mim (short for Miriam) is a medium-sized white lop with brown and black markings. When Mim arrived at the shelter, it was clear she had been severely neglected. She was taken into foster care right way, and though scared at first, Mim quickly realized that people can be okay if they love and care for you. Today, Mim is a healthy, happy rabbit, and has



Mim.

completely recovered from her ordeal. Her three favorite things to do are eat, eat and eat, so you'll have to be careful not to spoil her. Mim has a beautiful silky coat with interesting color patterns: the back of her head has a kind of tawny brown and black mullet; the curve of her back has three perfectly spaced black spots; and finally, she has what some have called a "mustache," two patches of brown fur on either side of her nose. Mim's foster mom named her after a favorite teacher, who was an elegant woman with a feisty personality. She felt the name Mim encapsulated this rabbit's most endearing qualities.

Rachael

Rachael is a medium-sized black-and-white Dutch mix who was found in Brooklyn. This girl is very cute. She has small ears, pretty blue eyes, and round cheeks that give her face an adorable jowly look. If Rachael could talk, she'd probably tell you she's "half-Dutch," because she's all black on one side of her body. Rachael is quite timid, though she will allow you to pet her. She would do best in a quiet home where she can calm down and learn to trust people.



Rachael.

Tater

Tater is a small dwarf/palomino female. She's on the older side, and has a bad back leg, but she doesn't need much special care beyond a low-entry litter box, plush rugs and alfalfa pellets. Ideally, Tater would be adopted to a partner rabbit, because she has difficulty cleaning her own ear. She is in foster care.

(Continued on page 12)

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 11)

Selma

Selma is a large white helicopter lop. This girl is both a great beauty and a first-rate comic – imagine a rabbit version of “I Love Lucy.” In addition to her scrumptious vanilla coat, she has amazing blue eyes accentuated with lots of light brown “eye shadow.” But her fun helicopter ears, high energy and spunk give her a decidedly comical aspect. When she’s not too busy making you laugh, Selma will enjoy some snuggling.

Treble

Treble is a large brownish-black helicopter lop boy who was found on East 124th Street. This guy is a total love sponge. He loves to have his cheeks, neck and oversized ears scratched. His big round head, wild ears and puppy-like personality make him really fun to watch. Treble needs a home where he’ll get lots of attention. He would make a very good family bunny.



Selma.



Flavio.

Flavio

Flavio is a medium-sized young tricolor Dutch mix. This guy wants to come out and play! He has the energy and athleticism of youth, and his cute white nose wiggles constantly to convey his



Treble.

keen curiosity. Flavio doesn’t sit still for affection very easily right now, but once he’s in his forever home he should benefit from more exercise and be able to settle down from time to time. Flavio’s coat has an interesting color pattern –

it’s mostly black and white, but has light-brown accents, including a patch on the nape of his neck.

In Memory of Amazing Megatron, I Hope to Help Other Rabbits

By Dana Glover

The bond forged with a pet is unlike any other. There's an emotional relationship I've been able to foster with animals that I simply cannot cultivate in human interactions.

The first animal I established this type of connection with was a mini lop who I named Megatron. On the day I brought him home, he was shy, frightened and hesitant to trust me. Through countless hours of patience, attentiveness and unconditional love – as well as treats – he began to come around and allow me to be his caretaker. I gave him sprawling carpets to binky upon; unlimited Timothy hay and the highest quality pellets; leafy greens to supplement his diet; tart apple wedges and sweet banana slices as treats; cardboard to furiously dig on and boxes to sneakily hide in. It was truly the most rewarding experience, and the love I felt for Megatron ran deep.

Rabbits are incredibly complex creatures with multifaceted personalities and diverse needs. Megatron was the type of rabbit who did not give away his trust or affection easily, and he especially did not give it to just anyone. Over time, he allowed me to see more and more of these intricacies. He was a loveable curmudgeon, grumpy and aloof until placated by cheek rubs and ear massages. When hard at work at my drafting table, I could always count on him to be lazily stretched out behind me waiting for more hay. Any time I walked into the room, he would enthusiastically pop his little head up for but a moment before flopping once again on his side or settling into a neat loaf with all paws tucked beneath his body.

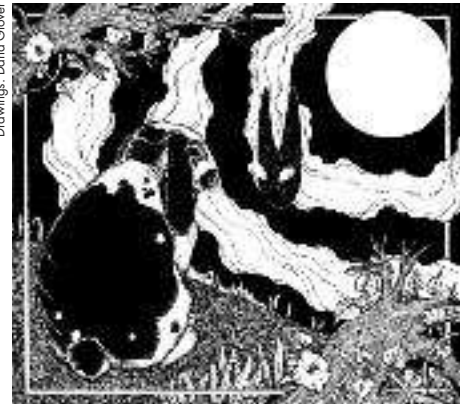
On the morning of May 11, 2013, my boyfriend, Alex, and I were startled awake by Megatron violently thrashing in his cage. We sprang out of bed, thinking something must've startled him and that

I'd soon calm him down by stroking his head. As I reluctantly pieced it together in my mind, Alex paused and asked, "Is Megatron having a seizure?" I couldn't understand how it was possible; he had been his normal self just hours prior. I swaddled him while trying to keep him cool and stable. We rushed out the door and arrived at the vet after what seemed like an eternity. He fought for his life the entire day while the vets did everything they could. That evening, I was sympathetically informed that nothing more could be done; even if he did pull through, he could be blind or completely paralyzed due to extensive brain damage the lengthy seizure had caused. The medical team brought Megatron to me in a blanket, still paddling his legs slowly with laborious breath and watering eyes. I cradled him close through sobs and told him I was sorry. He responded to my voice, struggling to look up at me as he let out a cry I'll never forget; he inhaled deeply and went limp. I gently moved my hand to his chest and could feel his heart beat no more.

Any pet owner knows that losing one's companion is utterly devastating. I'm still coping with Megatron's death, gradually moving through grief. A sweet, gentle helicopter lop named Desmond is taking my hand on this journey. As a means of catharsis, I made a series of three ink drawings, but also in the hope that other rabbit owners could relate to the iconic imagery of the Black Rabbit leading a pet bunny's spirit away from bodily pain and off to a place without suffering. When I look at these images, it's bittersweet, but they give me a sense of comfort, and I hope they can do the same for others.

I hand-printed a limited edition of 9" x 10" silkscreens. Each is an edition of eight, while I've also created a separate edition of four sets of all three. Individual prints cost \$30, while a set costs \$75. To

Drawings: Dana Glover



honor Megatron, I'm selling these silkscreens on my etsy (www.etsy.com/shop/followtheblackrabbit) and donating half of the proceeds to NYC Rabbit Rescue & Rehab. I want to spend the rest of my life giving rabbits a better life; I can't think of a better way to commemorate Megatron.

Our Bunny Sunny, a Wise Soul

By Karina Yuen

My husband, Norman, and I recently lost one of our male bunnies named Sunny. He was beautiful, sweet, smart and loved music and the color blue.

Sunny really was like sunshine, and he was our hero. I always used to say that there was so much wisdom in his eyes when he looked at us. Some rabbits just have a certain depth in their eyes, and they communicate their emotions so well.

We never knew Sunny's past history – only that he was abandoned and found on a lawn. This made his gaze even deeper, and we always wished he could tell us his long story. He seemed so wise, with a quiet intelligence about him. Maybe he had the spirit of a great philosopher in him – who knows? Even more interesting is that he was a black-and-white Dutch,

so he always looked all suited-up like an old English man.

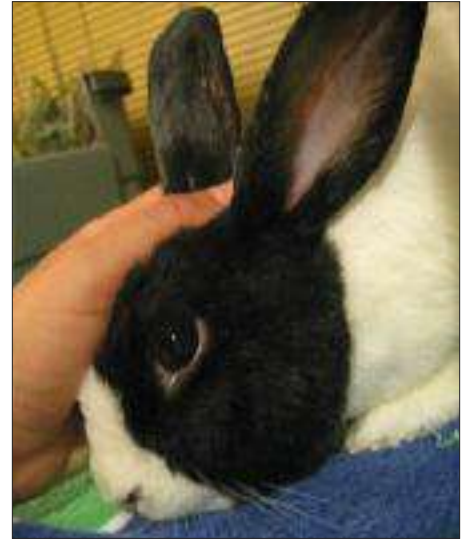
Reading about all the rescued buns and stories of adoptions gives us comfort and hope, as Sunny was himself abandoned by someone and adopted by us. We miss him greatly. We have another four who keep us going strong every day. It is impossible to be sad for too long when we see all of their expectant faces waiting for cuddles, playtime, veggies and treats.

Rabbits are amazing animals who challenge our spirits beyond what we can grasp. I wish everyone could experience how amazing they are.

As a former volunteer at Animal Care & Control of NYC (AC&C), I am hopeful that many of the abandoned rabbits will find loving homes, thanks to the efforts of everyone from Rabbit Rescue & Rehab.



Sunny and Lola.



Sunny was a gentle, sweet boy.

One Evening in the Life of a Petco Volunteer

NYC Metro rabbit volunteers care for the rabbits living at Petco stores in the city. Each night, and on weekends, volunteers clean cages, feed and groom the rabbits, and give everybun some exercise time out of the cage. Both Petco and shelter volunteers also interact with the public, providing adoption information and basics about bunny care. After completing their shifts, the volunteers provide emailed daily updates for the rest of the group. Here is an example of one such email from Alisa Christopher.

When I arrived Monday eve, I was happy to see that Louella had eaten. Her pellets and greens from the day before were all gone and a lively little girl was waiting for what adventures may come and they did starting with a road trip. She and I went to get her meds over at

CAEM and a weight, since she is so tiny – 3 pounds 2 ounces of sweetie pie.

When we got back to Petco she was put in her cage and the big girls got to come out first, playing big time in big pens. Stella also got a paper towel bath as Louella had successfully rained pee down to the bottom condo and Stella was spotted quite a bit!

Jingles was mellow, funny and lively as was Stella, and they went back to their respective cleaned cages after an hour out time and then the smaller girls came out for their turn to romp. Leona is a love but a bit skittish when first approached – she can be tempted with food and LOVES being petted. Dinner was spring mix, carrot and watermelon and

everybun had a good appetite to match their spirits.

In terms of Louella, I cleaned her some more with a little butt bath and cleaned anal glands and applied HEALx to reddened skin areas. She tolerated well her grooming session and was rewarded with a full body massage which she loved. Note: all the current 86 St. girls love cheek rubs!

Brought in some more vinegar and supplies all around are good. Spoke to potential adopter for Leona who may come back in tomorrow for vetting. She is new to the world of bunnies. Started her with the usual literature and our website – hope she follows up and that lots of bunnies find their forever homes this week.

Till next time,
-a

Photo Moments

Photo: Jill Salvatore



Stella enjoying life.

Photo: Andrew Chen



Candy and Momo...the love story continues.

Photo: Paula Szafrenski



Sandy.

Race to the Finish

Juno and Owney love to eat. How much do they love their greens? Watch this video.

http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=nFv1sNrXHHE&desktop_uri=%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DnFv1sNrXHHE

Photo: Marcie Frisberg



Regina with adopter Jennifer Lee.

Photo: Kelly Rutherford



Actress Kelly Rutherford with Domino and Cracker.

Photo: Kitty Pizzo



Luigi, left, one of the rabbits rescued from a Brooklyn backyard, was adopted as a buddy for Grace.

Photo: Judith Kineke



Louella smiling.

Photo: Steven Ramsey



Duke, King of his castle!!!

Photo: Steven Ramsey



Sophia at the window.

Letters From Adopters

Photo: Brooke Perrin



June and Louise.

June and Louise

Opal (now June) and Pearl (now Louise), were featured in the last Thump. In August, they were adopted by Brooke Perrin, who sent this letter about the girls.

Growing up in Montana, I had many rabbits in 4-H and to this day they have always been my favorite pets. Since moving to New York, I have babysat on a few occasions for a friend with a house rabbit. I absolutely fell in love with the idea of having a bunny in my home.

I came across Opal and Pearl (now June and Louise) online through NYC Metro Rabbits and fell totally in love. Needless to say, meeting these sweet little darlings

and their amazing foster mom, Tracy, totally sealed the deal.

The girls have been here for two weeks now and I cannot imagine my life without them. The happy looks and hops I get when I wake up in the morning and return home from work make my heart swell.

Their favorite activity is surveying their domain from the top deck of their bunny castle. Very regal, these ladies.

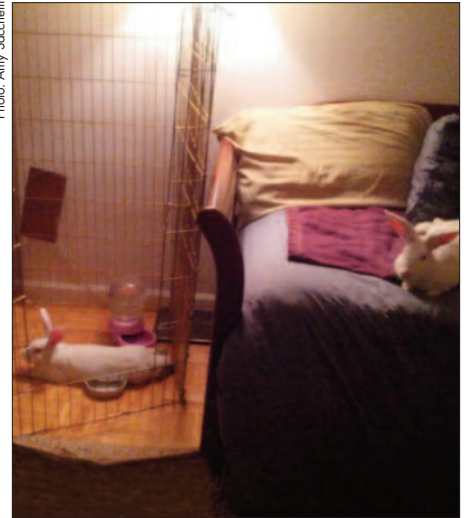
June was a love bean with me right away and likes to perch on my knee while I'm sitting on the floor with her. Slowly but surely, shy little Louise and I are creating a bond, too. This morning, she and I shared a quiet moment allowing me to pet her while she lay up against me for the first time. It almost brought tears to my eyes to see the trust forming.

I can't thank everyone enough for all the info and support I've received as a new mom. I am so grateful to be sharing my life with these little angels. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

The girls have a Tumblr, so please visit them at <http://juneandlouise.tumblr.com>.

Brooke

Photo: Amy Sacchetti



Curly and Moe.

Curly and Moe

Amy Sacchetti is fostering Curly and Moe. She sent us this letter.

I saw the big write-up in Thump for Curly and Moe. It was awesome. Moe is really a well-behaved boy. Curly's litter-box skills need some work.

They are pretty funny rabbits!

Amy

Photo: Sarah Bellis



Apple.

Apple

Sarah adopted Apple at the beginning of September, and she is looking forward to many years of fun with this delightful girl.

I want to say thank you to everyone who helped me out with the adoption of Apple. I recently lost my lionhead rabbit after five years to the silent killer also known as *Encephalitozoon cuniculi*. She had never had any previous health problems, ever. She was a beautiful rabbit, on the larger side for her breed, and enjoyed watching TV, cuddling, organizing all her toys, kissing herself in mirrors and getting belly rubs. You could have sworn she didn't act like other rabbits. Her name was Oreo, known for her stylish hairdo and wacky loving personality. So you could understand my heartache at the sudden loss of my clever furry friend.

I saw Apple online after looking at hundreds of rabbits at many rescues. My father had even insisted that he introduce to me another bunny, a little chocolate dwarf bun, but that wasn't the bunny for me. I kept going back to Apple's picture online. I had to meet her. I knew she wasn't going to be available for long. If I waited too long, she would be gone.

You can tell Apple has a big heart by the curious look she gives you and her need for affection. I hope to give Apple a great life, similar to the life that my other bun enjoyed. Once again, thank you for all your help.

Sarah Bellis

(Continued on page 17)

Photo: Abigail



Napoleon.

Napoleon Shows Off His Amazing Shades

My little charmer Napoleon has been bothered with sneezing fits for some time now. He is otherwise healthy and hopefully happy with me and Aly, his bunny girlfriend.

A nasal culture indicated the problem is not caused by pasteurella, thank goodness. Various courses of antibiotics helped a bit but didn't get rid of the sneezing.

Finally, on Dr. Anthony Pilny's referral, I took him to the Animal Medical Center for a CT scan that showed a problem on one side of the sinus cavity. What that is remains a mystery.

There is some thought about doing a rhinoscopy on him, but he has had trouble tolerating anesthesia, so in the meantime he is getting laser treatments at the rehab department of AMC to promote internal healing in the affected area.

It has helped reduce the frequency of the sneezing, so I hope he feels better.

Here's a photo of him in protective goggles getting ready for a session! He is being held by a technician.

Abigail

Caboose

Sara Martin adopted Caboose (fka Halo) in January as a partner bunny. She recently sent this letter to Cindy Stutts.

Hello! I wanted to give you an update on Halo, now known as Caboose. He's doing very well – such a sweet and silly rabbit. He loves tossing anything he gets his mouth on.

I never did get him successfully bonded to Sadie. They're living happily in exercise

pens side-by-side and are fine free-roaming the house at the same time, but she has made it clear she wants her own living space, which is okay by me as long as everyone is happy.

Caboose flops like no other! I constantly find him dead asleep on his side, ears all over the place. It's adorable!

Sara

Photo: Sara Martin



Caboose.

Photo: Robert Kulka



Francis.

Francis

Francis was adopted in early September by Samantha Rowan, who reports that he is doing just fine.

I just wanted to drop you all a line and let you know that Francis (we are calling

him Frank for short) is doing very well. He's eating and drinking, flopping onto his side and coming out of his cage for nose rubs. He is really getting comfortable in our home and does this adorable ear-up thing sometimes when he is listening!

I have an appointment to take him to see Dr. Levison at Symphony Veterinary Center so that we can figure out the best diet for him and I can get a refresher on taking his temperature. I'm good with nail-clipping and picking him up, having done that frequently with past bunnies.

Thank you again! Of course, his formal name is still Francis...Frank is for every day!

Sam

(Continued on page 18)

Photo: Vanessa Cohen-Hyman



Monty and family.

Monty

Vanessa Cohen-Hyman adopted Monty (fka Tank) in June, and says he is a beloved member of the family.

I knew Monty (formerly known as Tank) was our newest family member the second I saw his picture online. His big expressive eyes and cute little face had me hooked!

Before I met him, I would find myself thinking about him and even planning on how I would head-tilt-proof our apartment (padded floors and soft blankets/rugs).

Our family members have always been big advocates of adopting/rescuing special-needs animals so Monty was perfect! Our Shih Tzu, Noodles, loves him. She would spend all day in his room if she could. I find them taking naps together and sharing lettuce.

He's such a wonderful fit for us and, despite his head tilt, he gets around just fine. Sure, he doesn't run, and rolls into things all the time, but he can fling toys

around and drink from a water bottle – something many head-tilt rabbits cannot do.

Every morning I wake him and his guinea-pig siblings up with a “good morning kids!” and he gets right up, excited to start his day.

Whenever I'm on the floor cleaning his pen, he always feels the need to remind me that he's still there waiting for attention. He'll lick my elbow or my leg while trying to step on my feet without falling over.

Whenever somebody meets him, they automatically lean their heads to the side to look at him. We laugh because we no longer do it; we've gotten so used to his head tilt that it's just normal for us now.

For such a little thing, he sure does have a huge appetite and would do anything for a treat. I could go on and on. But the fact of the matter is, he makes us very happy and he loves it here. He has made our family complete.

Vanessa

Photo: Rayna Erlich



Blu and family.

Blu

Rayna Erlich and her family adopted Blu (fka Luna) in August. Rayna sent this letter to Cindy Stutts and Erin McElhinney.

Hi Cindy and Erin,

Just want to report that Luna is safe and sound at home with us. We have renamed her “Blu” and we are all enamored.

She is very mellow indeed!

Rayna

Photo: Michele Nalette



Rosie.

Rosie

Michele Nalette has been fostering Rosie as a partner for Wiley. Here is a letter Michele sent to Cindy Stutts.

Hi Cindy,

Rosie is doing awesome and has proven that she has a very easygoing nature with

(Continued on page 19)

Letters *(Continued from page 18)*

people. It is still a little tense between her and Wiley but we are getting there. Slow but sure is my motto.

Rosie is wonderful. She seems to have settled in nicely and anytime I am in her area she lays right down for pets or climbs in my lap for snuggles. I am loving this since none of my previous rabbits ever liked to be cuddled.

Thanks,

Michele



Heather and Axel.



Chewy and Oreo.

Oreo and Chewy

Darren Allicock recently adopted Oreo (fka Dolly), who is blind in one eye, as a partner for Chewy (fka Roger). Darren sent this letter to Cathe Rekis.

Just wanted to share with you how Oreo is doing. She has some personality, still a little hesitant but she's finding herself all over our house, spends a lot of time playing with the toys and boxes we have for them and, in general, is getting on well.

She put on about 1.5 pounds. The vet said she was underweight when we initially got her. She's very lovable and will run to us sometimes for petting. She seems to like the bathroom a lot. We don't let her in but if the door is closed she will try to push it open with her front paws. Above all else, we can tell she is very strong to overcome her handicaps. We consider her a special-needs rabbit but she amazes us how independent she is :)

Take care,

Darren

Axel

Heather Drake adopted Axel (fka Casanova and fka Thumper) in August, and sent us this letter shortly afterward.

Thumper's been renamed Axel. He is such a lover. I sit on the floor with him and he just covers me with kisses while I scratch his ears. What a gentle and loving boy!

Axel came home with me and just settled himself right in. It's only been a few weeks, but I can't remember my house without him. He's a super friendly little guy who just wants to cover you in kisses. He's also a terrible thief and will steal apples and bananas right out of your hands. It's hard to stay mad at him, though. He just cuddles up and kisses you and you forget all about his sneakiness. He's been an amazing

addition to my family and I'm so glad I found him.

Once upon a time, a bunny saved my life, and I'd like to return the favor. To do this, I have pledged to donate 20% of all proceeds from my "Keys for Bunnies" jewelry line to Rabbit Rescue & Rehab. Each key comes strung on either brown cord, black cord or a silver chain. I will soon be adding smaller key charms and earrings to the collection. Be sure to bookmark and check back.

<http://tinyurl.com/keysforbunnies>

Here's another link for more info:
<http://www.peacockandpoppy.com/2013/08/keys-for-bunnies.html>

Thanks again!

Heather and Axel

Corey and Howe

Mabel fostered two senior rabbits, Corey and Howe, over the summer. She sent this update in mid-August. The rabbits are now being fostered by another volunteer.

Corey and Howe have been doing well. They came in to the shelter very weak. They aren't used to moving around too much because of lack of space in their old cage. Every day I give them exercise time outside of their cage. I have seen improvements in them both.

Howe is much faster at running away now compared to not being able to run well before. Howe is a little more shy and scared than Corey. I think that with continued exercise they will become stronger and move around like any normal rabbit.

Corey is a sweetheart who loves to cuddle. I removed matted fur from his face and body. I'm still working on some matted fur in the neck area. I trimmed their nails. Some had never been cut and others were bent.

(Continued on page 20)

Corey seems to have a splayed left back leg. When he walks, his front legs cross. The more he has been walking, I see him trying not to cross them. I adjust them if I see him crossing them when he stands.

So far, so good.

Also, I was told today that they were kept in separate cages at home. I've had them together since Saturday and they were in the same cage at AC&C. If they weren't bonded before then, they are now.

Anyway that's all for now. Take care.

Mabel



Photo: Christy Bencosme

Kira.

Kira

Kira was adopted in September by Christy and Omar. Christy sent us this email the next week.

Things are going well with Kira. She is still getting used to her new home, but has adapted more and more in the past three days. At first she was reluctant to get out of her cage but now she explores the surrounding areas.

She has taken specific spots to her liking. One of her favorite places is near a stack of books. She is still shy. With a carrot treat, or when we catch her relaxed in her favorite spot, we pet her and she allows it with ease.

She is warming up to us, and us to her.

Sincerely,

Christy and Omar



Photo: Wilfried Teiken

Stan and Ollie.

Stan and Ollie

Meredith Kramer and Wilfried Teiken adopted Stan and Ollie, who originally were at AC&C. This is an update on how they are doing.

My boyfriend and I adopted a bonded brother and sister pair from Pets Alive Westchester, but they originally came through AC&C of NYC.

Much like their namesakes, Stan and Ollie are the comedians of the family. Stan is

Flip Flop

Flip Flop (fka Peggy) was adopted in July by Anne Nichols, who sent us this letter.

Peggy has been renamed. She is now Flip Flop and doing very well, bouncing around, and even does a happy-dance, darting from one spot to another, super fast.

Flip Flop still likes to chew a lot of whatever is accessible: paper bags, or my sneaker shoelaces, and only when they are on my feet. It's to call my attention to the fact that she is super-cute and I should pay homage to her by petting her ears, etc. I then take a moment to reassure her that "yes, you are the cutest bunny on the planet." And this seems to satisfy her urge to chew on my shoelaces for a moment, but that moment is brief and fleeting. Only because there are other things to do occasionally, other than appreciate my bunny during the day, I've switched to Crocks.

skinnier and shy, but is warming up, letting me pet him outside the cage, and lounging beneath the coffee table when we watch TV.

Ollie (Olive) is larger and more outgoing. She is the boss! She steals carrots from Stan's mouth, and always eats first.

They groom one another, but aren't attached at the hip. They take turns exploring, always touching noses before one goes back into the cage, like a tag team. They do lots of binkies, and chew everything in sight! (Sometimes they even chew what they're supposed to. We buy lots of wood toys. We're working on the rest.)

We are so happy they adopted us! Our family already included a domestic long-hair cat, Leia, aka Bears. We are grateful for organizations such as Pets Alive Westchester, AC&C in NYC, and for all the volunteers who make these adoptions possible.

Thank you,

Meredith, Wilfried, Leia, Stan & Ollie

What can I tell you? Flip Flop has gotten bigger and has free run of the space. When I rig the ramp it creates a mouse-trap-game effect, and this is the ultimate fun in Flip Flop's world, i.e., to run up the ramp to bask on the countertop in front of the air conditioner, or lounge on the wooden table soaking up the day.

Other than darting about in bunny-ecstasy or lounging on the second-story patio that the ramp provides access to, Flip Flop's head is buried in the hay bin. She also enjoys the experience of a little banana, apple peels and baby carrots, a super treat.

There you go: Flip Flop is super happy, bouncing around with free reign of the space to do what she wants.

Sincerely,

Anne

(Continued on page 21)

Photo: Mandy Velez



Milo.

Milo

Milo, formerly known as Bagel, was adopted by Mandy Velez and her friend, Ryan. Milo is doing great.

I had been looking at bunnies for a few weeks before I saw Milo (previously

known as Bagel) for the first time at the Adoptapalooza event. He was outside and when I saw him, and I knew that he was the bunny for me. How could anyone resist his big, loving eyes and beautiful coat? After meeting him a few times, we finally took him home on Sept. 14.

I look forward to seeing his excited little hop before I feed him each morning. He loves hanging out under our futon with his legs outstretched, and also loves hopping around the apartment.

I love him so much and am so happy that I adopted him.

Mandy Velez

Photo: Courtney Brown



Belle.

Belle

Belle was adopted by Courtney and Ben, who say she is settling in nicely at home. Courtney sent this update a few days after the adoption.

Things are going great. She's drinking water now and she seems happy. She

loves exploring our apartment and flopping for cheek rubs.

Thanks,

Courtney

Photo: Megan Smith



Hazel, at bottom, and Swanson.

Hazel and Swanson

Hazel, previously known as Petunia, was adopted by Megan as a partner for Swanson, who had recently lost his partner.

After losing my female lop in August, I was very worried about her husbun, Swanson, being depressed and bored all day while I was at work.

I contacted Cindy Stutts and set up a speed-dating session. Swanson fell in love on his second date option and was immediately grooming "Petunia" (who I now call Hazel). I was told that Hazel had also lost her partner, too, so now they can keep each other company.

When I brought Hazel home, she took over the apartment. She is definitely the boss in the relationship with Swanson and also thinks she owns my bed and will recline with me for hours and nudge me if I dare to stop petting her. She's a very sweet and well-behaved bun, and Swanson and I are glad to have her as a part of our family.

Our days have been filled with cuddles, binkies and flops. It was a joy to work with Rabbit Rescue & Rehab.

Megan Smith

Rabbit-Savvy Veterinarians

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

Long Island:

Jennifer Saver, DVM

Laura George, DVM

Kristen Miller, DVM

Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital
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 Stanzone, 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

Licensed HRS Representatives

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

Nancy Schreiber, HRS Licensed Educator,
President, Long Island Rabbit Rescue
Group, nschreibmd@aol.com, (516) 510-
3637, LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

Cindy Stutts, HRS Licensed Educator,
Manager NYC Metro Rabbit Program,
bygolyoly@yahoo.com, (646) 319-4766,
nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com

Mary Ann Maier, HRS Licensed Educator,
Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group Volunteer,
altitude8@yahoo.com,
LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

Donna Sheridan, HRS Licensed Educator,
Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group Volunteer,
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LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

Kerstin Aumann, HRS Licensed Educator,
NYC/AC&C Volunteer,
nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com, nycacc.org

Gabrielle LaManna, HRS Educator-in-
training at large, New Fairfield, CT,
gabbysbunnies@yahoo.com, (203) 746-7548

Jennifer Saver, DVM, HRS Licensed Educator

Laura George, DVM, HRS Licensed Educator

THUMP October 2013

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS

56 West Pondfield Road #5C
Bronxville, NY 10708

www.rabbitcare.org

Editor: Susan Lillo

Creative Director: Jane O'Wyatt

Masthead Logo Designer: Mary Ann Maier
Rabbit Rescue & Rehab is a not-for-profit,
tax-exempt corporation in New York State.

Our purpose is to rescue, rehabilitate and find permanent homes for abandoned, abused and neglected rabbits, and to educate the 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. For contributions to **Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group**, please go to www.longislandrabbitrecovery.org.

ADOPTABLE RABBITS

There are lots of adoptable rabbits available in Manhattan, Long Island and Westchester. To adopt a rabbit in **New York City**, contact Cindy Stutts at bygolyoly@yahoo.com or call her at 646-319-4766. On **Long Island**, contact Nancy Schreiber at nschreibmd@aol.com or at 516-510-3637 (www.longislandrabbitrecovery.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.longislandrabbitrecovery.org and the House Rabbit Society main site, www.rabbit.org.