



NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS OCTOBER 2015

Whole Foods Ends Rabbit Meat Sales

Whole Foods Market Inc., the natural-foods grocer, said it would end the sale of rabbit meat at all its stores nationwide.

Photo: Nabilie L. Reeves



Handmade sign at Union Square protest Aug. 17, 2014.

The announcement, contained in a two-paragraph statement on Sept. 15, came after a 15-month protest campaign by rabbit-rescue groups and animal-rights advocates. Locally, the demonstrations centered on weekend rallies at Union Square, where protesters gathered across from a sprawling Whole Foods store. They distributed information detailing how Whole Foods' rabbits were raised and slaughtered. The flyers described conditions on meat farms and urged consumers to read more about the issue.

(Continued on page 3)

Out, Out, Brief Candle: The Life and Times of Benny the Bunny

By Caroline David

I would like to share my story about the two most amazing buns I adopted through your organization, Benedict and Beatrice.

Moving to New York City has been one of the best decisions I made in my life. The sheer scale of diversity, activity and energy has provided a never-ending stream of amusement and delight.

Photo: Caroline David



Benny as a little piggy standing in his dinner bowl.

The one sadness I had about moving here was leaving behind my dog, Brutus, whose phobia of elevators and necessity for a large yard would have left him miserable had he come with me. He is happily living with my parents in Baltimore, but my visits on weekends and holidays simply could not fill that need for the companionship that only an animal can provide. There was something missing in my life, something that even New York City could not fill.

As a child, I had a pet rabbit named Bunimus Maximus III— or Bun Bun for short. I remembered how special a pet rabbit could be and how he was litter-box trained, and I thought to myself that a rabbit could be a perfect pet for city living.

So in January 2014 I began my search through Petfinder and came across a picture from Metro Rabbit of a black-and-white lop mix named Finn. I very quickly set up an appointment to meet him, and I learned that poor Finn had been dumped in Brooklyn, that he had

(Continued on page 2)

HARE YE! HARE YE! Rabbit Care Conference Sunday, Nov. 22 Radisson Hotel, New Rochelle See pages 24-25 for more information

Our masthead bunny, Kevin Kaboom, was rescued by the NYC Chapter of House Rabbit Society in 2002. He assisted HRS educators at numerous pet events, and this portrait of him graced the print advertising campaign that National HRS produced for its 20th anniversary. Kevin recently passed away at the age of 13. Photo: Mary Ann Maier.

Benny the Bunny

(Continued from page 1)

terrible urine scald from being left in a dirty cage, and was underweight. Despite all this, there was something so comforting about his presence, something very relaxed and calming, that I knew immediately I had to take him in. He was renamed Benedict Cucumberpatch (after Shakespeare's character in "Much Ado About Nothing" and, of course, the actor) and our life together began. I learned from the wonderful vet staff at the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine that Benny was a little older, and in addition to his urine scald, he had some vision loss and arthritis. But that did not stop him at all from exploring his new home, and I saw him grow from a very shaky little bun, who did not seem to know the deliciousness of fresh greens, to a happy and plump big bun who now knew the sound of the fridge being opened and would beg appropriately for his treats.

The more I fell in love with Benedict, the more I wanted to give him the best life I possibly could. With his urine scald completely healed and his weight up to normal (if not a little on the pudgy side) I read how rabbits were social animals and needed the companionship of other rabbits. Of course, I wanted the best life for Benny, so I thought of adopting one more rabbit.

In May 2014 I set up a time for him to try speed dating with some potential females from NYC Metro Rabbit at the Petco store on 86th Street. The one I had thought might be an excellent match was quickly turned down, but one sweet, timid Hotot/Lionhead mix was a clear stand-out. It was one of those moments that could only be called "love at first sight." I started to cry; that's how powerful it was. The little girl was known as Pinto, but her name was quickly changed to Beatrice (again, after Shakespeare's "Much Ado") and it took less than a week for Benedict and Beatrice to fall in love and share the same cage. It was the first time I had ever seen a bunny "flop"

onto her side. About the second week we had little Bea with us, I saw Benny binky for the first time. I knew that he was finally happy.

Beatrice has proven to be every bit the spitfire her name implies. She is shy at first, but when she gets to know you more, what personality and intelligence in one little bun! But more than that, she has been the most wonderful companion that any bunny mummy could ask for. With my two Shakespeare buns, I finally felt like New York City had become a home.

At the end of July 2015, after returning home from time spent abroad, I found one of Benny's front legs seemed rather fluffier than usual. Begrudgingly, he let me feel what was making his leg seem larger: two massive tumors. I immediately took him to the CAEM and had the vet biopsy his leg, where they discovered he had myxosarcoma, an aggressive type of malignant cancer. I was devastated.

Of course, I had known that his being an older rabbit meant that our time together would not be quite as long as I would have liked, but this news was absolutely heartbreaking, especially since he seemed well. He was still chasing Bea around the apartment, still begging for his fresh herbs, still every bit the wonderful bunny I fell in love with. So I brought him home, carefully monitoring him, all the while knowing that our time spent together was limited.

I know many rabbit parents will tell you just how intelligent their bunny-children are, but it was really fascinating to see just how intuitive they both became after we found out Benedict's diagnosis (although in retrospect, my crying into his fur on a few occasions might have been the biggest giveaway). I made sure that Benny's last days were as special as I could, even taking him out to Central Park so that he might experience grass under his paws for the first time.

But the tumor was every bit as aggressive as the vet said it would be. When he



Benny and Bea during their speed date.



Benny and Beatrice in their Cottontail Cottage.

could barely groom his face anymore I knew it was time to say goodbye. On Aug. 30, my brave little Benny from Brooklyn crossed over the rainbow bridge. I cannot begin to voice how much I am still grieving the loss of his presence in our home. I miss coming home after a long day at work and not having his funny face nudge my shins when I let the rabbits out of their cage. I also miss the way he would chase Beatrice around after finishing his carrot treat and wanting to eat hers as well. It's especially hard because my family doesn't quite understand just how painful this is and my friends all think I've lost my mind. But something, once again, feels missing in my life. The hardest of all, I think, is to see Beatrice without him. They almost always slept side-by-side, with Bea tucked underneath one of Benny's long ears. It seems unnatural to see her sleeping alone.

I'm sure that soon I will email the rabbit volunteers again to arrange for Beatrice to go through another speed-dating session so she doesn't become too despondent without a partner in crime. But I wanted to express my deepest gratitude to everyone at NYC Metro Rabbit for all the beautiful, happy memories I have of my Benedict.

Rabbit Meat Sales End

(Continued from page 1)

Many customers were surprised to learn that Whole Foods was selling rabbit meat.

The Manhattan effort was part of a national informational campaign organized by House Rabbit Society, Rabbit Advocacy Network, SaveABunny and three dozen other rabbit-rescue groups.

NYC Metro Rabbit volunteer Marcie Frishberg was instrumental in publicizing the Union Square protests on Facebook and via email, and local rabbit-rescue volunteers arrived at the rallies with placards and literature. Signs featured pictures of rabbits and messages like “Pets Are Not Food.”

On the HRS website are articles describing how the Whole Foods rabbits were killed (<http://rabbit.org/how-whole-foods-bunnies-are-killed/>), and how they lived before they were slaughtered (<http://rabbit.org/how-whole-foods-bunnies-live-before-they-are-slaughtered/>).

The HRS site also provides links to 46 news articles about the Whole Foods campaign: <http://rabbit.org/wholefoodsnews/>. An investigation this past May by NBC Bay Area looked into the Whole Foods rabbit-meat pilot program, and compiled USDA data on the death rates for rabbit farms: <http://rabbit.org/nbc-bay-area-investigation-sheds-light-on-whole-food-s-claims-about-rabbit-meat/>

Rabbit advocates used these resources to educate the public and to gain support for the nationwide effort to end rabbit-meat sales by the company.

Whole Foods Market’s sale of rabbit meat began in 2014 as a pilot program in certain locations and immediately sparked criticism. On Aug. 17 of last year, a nationwide daylong protest was mounted against the company, with photos from the various rallies posted by HRS at <http://rabbit.org/rabbit-groups-protest-whole-foods/>. A petition on

change.org has been signed by over 57,000 people. One particularly effective video on the topic, “Goodbye, Whole Foods,” was produced last summer by customers across the country who said they would not shop at Whole Foods until it halted sales of rabbit meat:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBSpkaKVRNY>

Margo DeMello, president of HRS, said of the decision to halt rabbit-meat sales, “We could not be more excited that Whole Foods has decided to listen to their customers and pet lovers across the country, and ended their sale of rabbit meat. We thank Whole Foods for putting pets before profits. We hope that other grocery chains will follow in Whole Foods’ footsteps, and make a similar decision: that rabbits, or any pets, are not a viable meat.”

Tara Baxter of Rabbit Advocacy Network (www.rabbitadvocacynetwork.org) said, “We are extremely grateful that a monumental amount of rabbit lives will be saved moving forward. We hope that other grocery chains will follow suit so that the cruelty inherent in rabbit farming will cease forever. The undercover investigation done by Last Chance for Animals of the Pel-Freez rabbit farm proves that there is no humane way to farm and kill a bunny and that these animals suffer immensely when they should be treated like the beloved companion animals they are.”

(For more about the Pel-Freez undercover investigation, go to <http://rabbit.org/please-sign-petition-to-stop-horrific-cruelty-at-pel-freez/>)

Lisa Rockwell, who initiated the change.org protest petition to Whole Foods, said, “I plan to keep this petition active to motivate Whole Foods to stay true to their word and to keep everyone up to date on how things progress. Sadly they plan to continue to kill needlessly through the end of the year. So until every little bunny body is out of their stores we will continue to speak up and fight for those we could not save!”

This is the full text of the Whole Foods Market Inc. statement:

<http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/department/article/rabbit>

Rabbit:

We were pleased to have worked with a small group of farmers to create a rabbit growing system that met our quality standards, unlike any other in the industry. However, the pilot ultimately revealed the sales volume did not justify the continuation or expansion of the pilot to a national program. We expect all remaining product will be sold-through by January 2016.

As always, Whole Foods Market’s knowledgeable in-house butchers are happy to provide suggestions and recommendations for customers seeking lean alternatives like quail, pheasant, buffalo/bison, lamb or venison.

Anna MacLennan of Cincinnati, Ohio, has created a petition to ask another grocery chain, Kroger Co., to stop selling rabbit meat in its stores: https://www.change.org/p/kroger-stop-selling-rabbit-meat-2?recruiter=354128748&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink

Whole Foods has reported slowing sales growth this year at its more than 420 supermarkets amid increased competition, and the company faced allegations this past summer that it overcharged customers in New York City.

To contact Whole Foods, email: <http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/customer-service>; phone 512-477-4455 or 512-477-5566; or write: Whole Foods Market Inc., 550 Bowie St., Austin, TX 78703-4644.

Reactions From Rabbit Volunteers To Announcement by Whole Foods

News of the Whole Foods Market Inc. decision set off a nationwide wave of celebration on social media, with rabbit-rescue workers and animal-rights activists posting comments and expressions of collective relief.

Facebook postings poured in on the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 15, with the news spreading widely within the first hour.

Among the early Facebook reactions were:

Jessica Wolfinger YESSSSSSSS

Nicole Fusco-Evans So exciting!!!!

Kevin Dresser It's a great win. Shows that the bunny world came together and made a statement.

Marcie Frishberg ok, so what's next on the list!!!?

Robert Kulka I am saying a thank you prayer full of gratitude. I am elated.

Patty Melt I'm so freaking happy!!! WE DID IT!!!!

Jeanine Valand When I heard earlier, I almost had a heart attack! I am over the moon !!!! Tears of joy!!!!

Tim Neithercott WE MADE A DIFFERENCE AND WE SAVED SOULS, BEAUTIFUL SOULS.

And it was a similar response on Twitter:

Missouri HRS-KC @MOHRSKC To all those who protested, wrote letters, boycotted, called, and signed petitions - the bunnies thank you!

Alison Jefferies @alisonjefferies Peter Bun and I are thrilled! Thank you @WholeFoods for listening. I look forward to returning as a customer!

Nashville Animal

Adv@Nash_Animal_Adv Victory: Whole Foods ends rabbit meat sales! One down and so many more to go. Keep fighting for the cows, pigs...

New York's volunteers continue to celebrate the victory. Maho Honda, who helped to publicize the Manhattan protests with her photographs, said: It's wonderful news! Thank you everyone who protested and boycotted together! I hope this will lead to truly humane treatment of the other meat products now still on their shelves." Maho wore a kimono and rabbit ears at Union Square when she joined the protest last summer.

Robert Kulka, who had participated in the Union Square demonstrations and purchased several websites amid the protest, said, "Meantime I suppose I can let wholefoodsrecipes.com, wholefoodsrabbit.com, and wholefoodsrabbitmeat.com websites expire now. Or may try to sell at least wholefoodsrecipes.com to them?"

Yumi Nakayama added: This is great news! Even though I joined the protest and tried to tell people, somewhere I was thinking this might never happen since they are such a giant company. So I was rather surprised but so proud being (earlier) part of this! Yay for bunnies!!

Larry Marion summed up the feelings of many rabbit advocates in this way: As a vegan, and activist, an animal rights advocate and a rabbit rescue volunteer, it restores my faith in the process of working toward something that is right and speaking up on behalf of those that cannot speak (at least in human terms) for themselves. If enough people raise their voices we can effect change. Hope is not lost! Faith is rekindled. Although I know it was purely an economic decision, I'm grateful that Whole Foods took the step. As one of my heroes, Patti Smith, so eloquently said, "People Have the Power." There are still billions of animals being imprisoned and slaughtered daily for food, needlessly, that still need us to speak out for them. Whole Foods now



Protest team leaders. Left, Marcie Frishberg.



Maho Honda at the barricades.



Yumi Nakayama with sign.

says on their website that their butchers (boy, that word really gets to me) recommend that people eat lamb, deer (venison), buffalo, pheasant and quail, since they determined that "sales volume did not justify the continuation or expansion of the pilot to a national program." For me, it's about the animals, not the money.

Round-Table Interview

By Robert Kulka

From time to time we feature profiles of individual adoptable bunnies at one of our adoption centers. This time we thought it might be interesting to have the residents provide their insights into their fellow adoptables. We selected our group at Petco on Lexington and 86th Street to provide their impressions of one another. In residence were Ms. Nibbles, Carly, Hughes and Frieda.

Moderator: Who would like to start?

Hughes: I will. So I have been here a couple of months, it seems. I observe that there is much commotion that goes on during the day. I hear stuff from the surrounding cages that is sometimes a little off-putting. There is stomping and jumping and lots of digging and tearing of paper. Especially from my neighbor next to me, Frieda.

Frieda: Just one moment. In my defense I have been here much longer than anyone else. I had eight babies, was taken to someone's home and brought back again and I am terribly bright and assertive. I get bored.

Ms. Nibbles: Bored? I get bored, too, but I behave accordingly. I allow petting and don't give anyone a hard time. I make allowances for different human characteristics and characters—and we have quite a collection of those. I do react to some things however, which can make me jumpy...when someone sneezes, and loud dogs, in particular.

Carly: Yeah. Nibbles nearly jumps out of her skin sometimes. She has a delicate nature. I am much more adaptable while being sweet and cute and girly-like.

Ms. Nibbles: Girly like? You want to tell us about "Cyril"? What was that about? You were presumably a boy when you arrived, and then suddenly you are Carly.

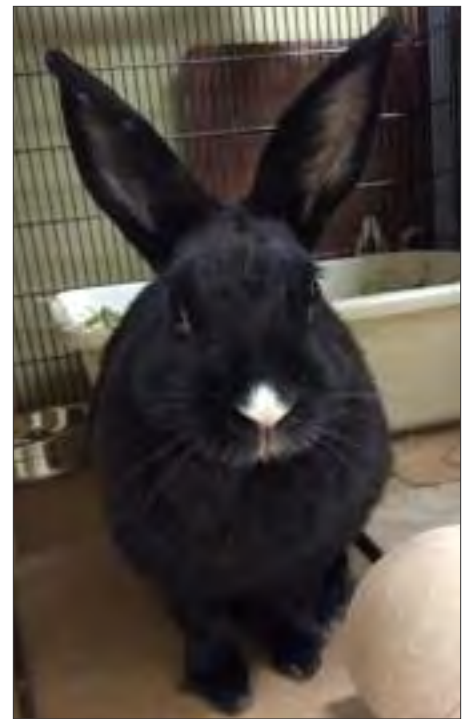
Carly: I know. Not my fault. I was a girl trapped in a vet's wrong sexing of me.



Miss Nibbles.



Hughes.



Carly.



Frieda.

You have no idea what it feels like to be a girl and constantly be referred to as Cyril. I was confused.

Hughes: Is that what all those escape attempts have been about?

Carly: No. I am just curious about the outside world. I like to explore, see what's happening and learn new things. Not like you. You are either hiding behind your litter box or tearing at

cardboard. And when anyone talks to you, then you shy away.

Hughes: I am getting better. I am very easy to handle, and love to run and binky, but I am a bit of an introvert. I'm still maturing.

Frieda: You ought to be more like me. Stand your ground. Show who is boss. Let folks shower praise and lovely

(Continued on page 6)

Runny Eyes, Runny Nose: What Do They Mean?

By Dana Krempels

One of the most frequent questions I am asked via the House Rabbit Society's online rabbit health link (health@rabbit.org) is, "My rabbit's nose and eyes are running. Did he catch a cold from me?" Fortunately, your bunny cannot contract a human cold, as the viruses that cause such misery in humans are not contagious to rabbits. (Note that rabbits can serve as vectors for such viruses. If you have a cold, be sure to wash your hands before you pet your bunny, lest you inadvertently share your "germs" with the next person who pets the bunny!)

As many people are all too aware, however, rabbits can suffer from sneezing, runny

nose, and runny eyes. The particular cause of this in your bunny may require a bit of detective work on the part of your rabbit-experienced veterinarian, but the following information may help.

Upper Respiratory Infection ("Snuffles")

Rabbits can suffer from infections of the upper respiratory tract (the sinuses and other parts of the tract that are not actually parts of the lungs), and this is usually manifested as runny nose, runny eyes and sneezing. Unlike a human cold, which is caused by a virus, rabbit upper respiratory infections are caused by bacteria. The condition is commonly called "snuffles."

"Snuffles" is a nonspecific, "catch-all" term used to describe such symptoms without naming the specific cause. Until fairly recently, many veterinarians believed that "snuffles" was almost always caused by the bacterial pathogen *Pasteurella multocida*, commonly found in rabbits (though often without causing any problematic symptoms at all). More recent information suggests that many different species of bacteria can cause "snuffles." Some of the bacteria most commonly cultured from rabbit nasal discharge include *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, and *Staphylococcus aureus*, though there are many others.

(Continued on page 7)

Interview *(Continued from page 5)*

compliments on you just to get on your good side.

Hughes: Okay Miss Feisty. I mean, Frieda. (Snickering is heard from Nibbles and Carly. Hughes joins in and Frieda tears at her phone book.)

Carly: Anyway I know I am adorable and cute. Everyone says so. They love when I stand on my back legs to peer up at them. I am surprised, however, that I have not been scooped up yet.

Ms. Nibbles: Maybe folks see through the act. Besides, have you seen my coat and my beautiful markings? I am stunning.

Hughes: Humans always comment on my coat....about how beautiful the white and brown are, like a palomino pony.

Frieda: Face it. We all have our own charms and attractiveness, as well as individual personalities. As I am the most seasoned and longest resident here, I have observed that. And we train our human volunteers well to understand each of our quirky traits. It is just a

matter of the right human coming by for each of us so we can convince that person to take us to our loving forever homes.

All: Here, here. Well said. You know it. Isn't that the truth?

Moderator: This has been very enlightening. I must say. You are all very different and very endearing in your own ways. Is there something any of you would like to say now that might summarize your thoughts?

All: (Talking over one another, thumping and jumping in and out of litter boxes and up and down on hide boxes.)

Frieda: Wait a minute. We can't all speak at once. Why don't we have the young boy here speak for us?

Hughes: Me? Okay. I think what we are trying to say is that we all have our own way and personality and that sometimes when a human comes by interested in adopting a rabbit, it doesn't mean the one here the longest, or the neediest one, will be adopted first. It is the chemistry of personalities and who we think we

might fit with best. So some of us are here longer than others, but eventually we find someone to go home with that will be the right one.

Moderator: Does that say it for all of you?

All: Yes. Yes. That's it. He nailed it.

Moderator: So you are saying that you all are different and distinct from one another. Rabbits with their own personalities and looks and benefits and habits. That each of you in your own way is special. And each of you just wants to find your forever home.

All: Yes!

Moderator: Well, thanks all. This has been fun and very illuminating.

Editor's note: Since the writing of this article, Frieda, who had been in residence the longest, was finally adopted by her human to go to her forever home. Less than a week later, Ms. Nibbles was adopted. We all wish these beautiful girls much happiness and joy. They certainly deserve it.

Runny Eyes, Runny Nose

(Continued from page 6)

Because bacterial species (and their different strains) have characteristic sensitivity and resistance to various antibiotics, it is worth your investment to allow your veterinarian to positively identify the pathogen (i.e., disease-causing agent) your bunny has. The best way is via a culture and sensitivity test. This laboratory test is the only way to determine (1) the species of bacteria causing the infection and (2) which rabbit-safe antibiotics will be most effective at killing them.

If your rabbit is sneezing and/or shows signs of nasal and/or ocular discharge, especially if such discharge is whitish and thickened, she needs to be seen by a veterinarian and have a sample of nasal discharge taken and sent to a laboratory for culture and sensitivity testing. Once your vet receives the results of the C & S test, the vet will be better able to prescribe the particular antibiotic (or combination of antibiotics) that should be safest and most effective for your rabbit's infection.

Antibiotic therapy may need to be continued for several weeks, and it should always be continued for several days after symptoms have disappeared to ensure that as much of the bacterial population as possible has been killed. Follow your veterinarian's instructions carefully, and be sure to complete the full course of antibiotics, even if the symptoms go away before the medicine is gone. The reason for this? Even the most effective antibiotics might not kill some of the more resistant bacteria right away. Removing the drug too soon will leave only these particularly hardy individuals to be the progenitors of the new population of bacteria in your rabbit's sinuses, and these will be genetically better able to resist the antibiotics you have been using (i.e., the population has evolved resistance to the antibiotics). Don't stop the antibiotics

early, and don't put off treatment! A seemingly simple condition such as sneezing could develop into a potentially life-threatening problem, such as pneumonia or a systemic infection.

Lower Respiratory Infection

A rabbit with pneumonia may show symptoms such as loud, raspy breathing, and may point his nose high in the air and stretch his neck in an attempt to get more oxygen. A rabbit in this condition is critically ill, and in need of oxygen therapy at your veterinarian's clinic. Experienced rabbit veterinarians will often nebulize such a bunny with oxygen as well as products to open the airways (e.g. aminophylline) and to loosen the mucus and infective material in the lungs (e.g., acetylcysteine solution, brand name Mucomyst). In some cases, the veterinarian will add appropriate antibiotics to the nebulization mix, depending on what a culture and sensitivity test indicates.

Foreign Bodies

In some instances, a foreign object (such as a strand of hay, or a bit of food pellet) lodged in the nasal passage has been found to be the cause of runny nose and apparent chronic nasal infection. Sometimes such a foreign body is not visible without the aid of an endoscopic examination by your veterinarian. Once the item has been located, it is usually necessary to anesthetize the rabbit to allow removal of the object without danger.

In other cases, nasal polyps or other growths are found to be at the root of chronic upper respiratory symptoms. But surprisingly, one of the most common culprits causing chronic "snuffles" is undiagnosed dental problems.

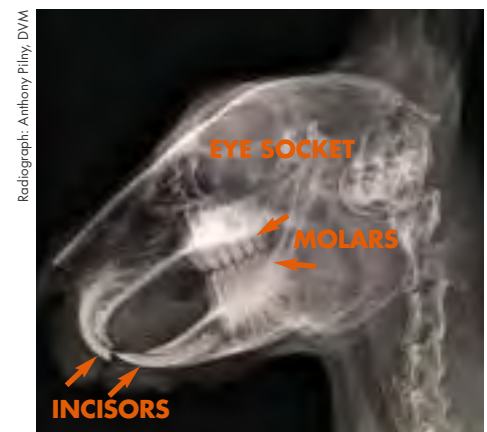
Dental Disorders and Chronic Runny Eyes/Nose

Many people are surprised at how common dental problems are in rabbits, and even more puzzled to learn that

such problems can cause symptoms such as runny eyes and nose. This is more often seen in older rabbits, as these have had time to develop molar spurs, or molar root problems that can cause inflammation or even develop into infections that spread to the sinuses.

In some older rabbits, gradual onset of metabolic bone disease results in loss of bone density (osteoporosis), especially in the already light bones of the skull. When this happens, the molar and/or incisor roots can very gradually be pushed into the thinning bone as the rabbit chews.

Because rabbit teeth grow continually, the visible portion of the teeth may appear entirely normal. It is only upon radiography that the root problem becomes visible as an intrusion of the tooth roots into the skull bones. This sometimes has been called "root overgrowth," though the term is a bit of a misnomer. The roots are not actually "growing" into the skull, but are being pushed there.



A rabbit's molars are located almost directly under the eye socket. Hence, molar root intrusion into the skull bones can cause occlusion (blockage) of the tear ducts, which run through the skull bones, close to the roof of the mouth, just above the tooth roots. A blocked tear duct will cause tearing and

(Continued on page 8)

Clear the Shelter: Seven Adoptions!

By Cathe Rekis

The “Clear the Shelter” adoption event on Saturday, Aug 15, was a big success for our rabbits.

Many rabbit volunteers came in to assist with the adoptions at Animal Care & Control on East 110th Street. We knew that the potential adopters would need

advice and information during the all-day event. Adoption fees were waived in an attempt to send home as many homeless animals as possible.

Nadine Heidinger, Cindy Stutts, Norma Chen Rhee, Stephanie Riley, Erin McElhinney, Amy Odum, Neil Schaiier and Liz Jazwiecki helped interview adopters and matched them up with our adorable bunnies.

The lucky bunnies in the morning were Cosmo, Honey Boo, Pantene, Pocahontas and Barnacle.

Hearty Quinn and Snow were adopted in the afternoon. I facilitated Hearty Quinn’s adoption to Katherine Wong and her daughter. Amy Odum handled Snow’s adoption late in the day.

Two other potential adopters were interviewed, and we hoped they would return at a later date.

We were very happy to see so many of our wonderful bunnies leave the shelter and find their forever homes. The “Clear

(Continued on page 9)

HEALTH ISSUES

Runny Eyes, Runny Nose

(Continued from page 7)

runny eyes, since the tears cannot flow through the ducts and into the back of the mouth, where the duct normally empties. A narrowed duct is more susceptible to becoming plugged with mucus or bacteria. If the duct is not completely occluded, it is often possible for your vet to flush the ducts and help restore normal flow. Whatever discharge comes out the nose from the flush can be sent to a lab for culture and sensitivity testing.

When molar problems (spurs, root intrusion, abscess) develop, symptoms such as runny eyes can be a clue that something’s amiss. Severe molar root intrusion can also be the cause of retrobulbar abscesses (i.e., abscesses located behind the eye, inside the skull). In some cases, the root has been known to puncture through the bone of the eye socket and into the eyeball itself, causing an intraocular (i.e., inside the eyeball) infection. Such severe problems may require the expertise of a licensed veterinary ophthalmologist, and your own vet may be able to refer you to one in your area, if necessary.

Even incisor (front tooth) roots can be pushed backwards into the skull and

occlude the tear ducts. Again, this is usually visible only with radiography. Although your vet may suggest that incisor or molar removal may solve the teary eye problem, there are no guarantees. If the chronic trauma to the area already has caused enough scarring in the bone, even tooth removal may not open a blocked duct. You and your vet should confer to decide whether complete tooth removal, aimed at restoring tear duct function, is worth the risk.

Alleviating the Symptoms of Runny Eyes and Runny Nose

Runny eyes that cannot be permanently repaired via tear duct flush may cause skin burns and irritation where the caustic tears collect on the skin. It is usually helpful to apply warm washcloth compresses to the affected areas daily, to help soften the dried tears, and then gently rub them away. A fine-toothed, small flea comb may be useful in helping remove softened crusts from the fur.

One excellent way to help a bunny with chronic runny eyes is to allow him/her to choose a spayed/neutered mate from among those at your local rabbit rescuer’s foster home. Bonded bunnies spend a good deal of time grooming each other’s

faces, and we know of some bonded bunnies who once had very irritated skin from constant tearing who then became completely symptom-free once they had mates to groom away those tears.

A very clogged nose is definitely a problem, as rabbits are obligate nasal breathers. You can help clear your bunny’s nose temporarily by gently suctioning with a pediatric ear syringe. Ask your vet about using a mild, pediatric antihistamine such as Benadryl to help shrink swollen nasal membranes. Together with a tear duct flush, which also helps flush the nasal passages, these treatments can be very effective at clearing the bunny’s breathing route.

Whatever the cause of your bunny’s problem, the sooner you allow your vet to perform the right tests and prescribe the proper treatment, the better your bunny will be able to breathe easily and be on the road to better health.

*Copyright – Dana Krempels, Ph.D.
Senior Lecturer;
Director of Undergraduate Studies
Department of Biology,
University of Miami*

Buns Star at Adoptapalooza

By Marcie Frishberg

Adoptapalooza on Sunday, Sept. 20, was a fun-filled day with lots of rabbits on hand and many volunteers speaking with prospective bunny owners. Several people who previously adopted from us came to visit at the Union Square Petco and talked about wanting a second bun. We are arranging many speed dates for the near future.

I took applications from interested people and will follow up. The rabbits

all received lots of exposure and love from the volunteers and adopters.

Our information table out in Union Square Park was beautifully decorated and staffed by rabbit volunteers. We handed out lots of fliers to people in the park, and volunteers made attention-getting signs to put on the pens.

Thanks to all volunteers who came to set up, clean up, bring vegetables and transport bunnies.

We all enjoyed being part of this great event.

Photos: Mahle Honda



Reginald Fuzzibottom.



Lucia.



Cooper.



Sebastian.



Kelly.

Clear the Shelter *(Continued from page 8)*

the Shelter” event gave us a great chance to talk to adopters. Much of the day was spent educating people about rabbit care and about the joys of having a house rabbit.

Thank you to everyone who took part!



Cosmo.

Never Give Up

By April Overholser

April Overholser is a nurse practitioner in psychiatry and a friend of Long Island Rabbit Rescue. She lives in Ridge, N.Y., with her husband Gary, 17-year-old son, Liam, and daughter Audrey, 12.

My name is Jasper and I'm one lucky bunny.

My family purchased me at a pet store, and they didn't know much about rabbits. I loved to jump on everything I could reach. Then, one day I decided to jump up on my favorite chair, but when I jumped down, I felt incredible pain in my back. Then, I felt nothing. I couldn't move. I was lying on my side. Here I was, only 10 months old, and I was paralyzed. I thought I was going to be like most bunnies and be dead before my first birthday.

Dad took me to a veterinarian near the house who said he specialized in "exotic pets," and then I was sent me to another doctor who suggested a myelogram, where dye is injected into the spinal fluid in order to do an X-ray of the spine. The test is very expensive, and my family wasn't convinced of its usefulness in my case.

The spine has intervertebral discs that are little jelly-like padded shock absorbers that are between each of the vertebrae. These discs prevent bone from rubbing on bone. If the disc is damaged, then pressure is put on the spinal cord and nerves and this can cause paralysis.

My family finally decided against the myelogram, and they brought me home and put me on "cage rest." I was weak and I couldn't use a litter box. My excrement soiled my fur and made my skin red. All the fur on my legs, belly and tail came off. Mom is a nurse so she knew that she had to keep me clean and dry. She gave me butt baths and put ointment on my skin. But I still couldn't move.

Mom came up with a plan to make my life more interesting. She got a box with handles on it and lined it with soft

Photos courtesy of the Overholser family.



Jasper's butt bath time.

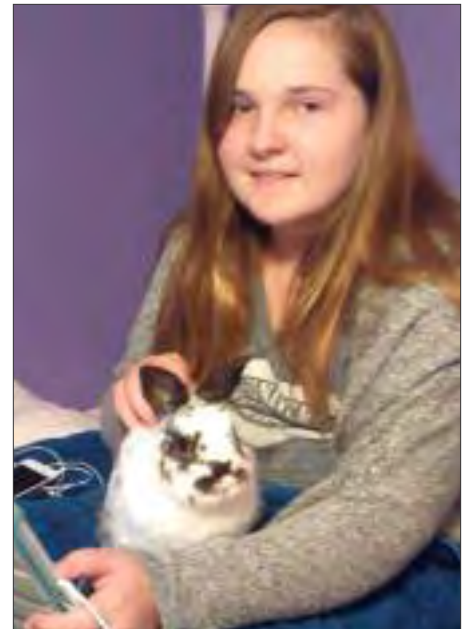


April and Jasper.

towels and she carried me around the house with her. This was much more interesting than just staying in a dumb old cage. I would watch television in the living room with the family. I got to see what everyone was doing and people thought I was cute, and they liked to give me good stuff to eat. One of my favorite things was getting parsley.

Mom continued to look anywhere she could to find out about disabled rabbits. She read "The Small Mammal Health Series" by Susan Brown, DVM.

My family brought me back for a follow-up appointment with the first vet, and he said, "Jasper doesn't feel anything. There is nothing that can be done." He



Audrey and Jasper.

told them, "A rabbit does not cost very much. I can put him down for you."

My human sister, Audrey, started to cry, and mom said, "No thank you. I will take care of Jasper. He is a good bunny."

Mom faithfully cleaned me, moved my legs into proper rabbit position, fed me, and gave me good food and attention. The family tried various things to help

(Continued on page 11)

Never *(Continued from page 10)*

me move my legs. Dad put a furniture slider under my back legs but it would not stay in place. Mom tried a diaper, but it didn't fit right and I didn't like it.

Meanwhile, I noticed I was slowly starting to get some feeling back in my legs after about three months. Mom and dad would let me scoot around in their bedroom because it was all carpet. The first time they let me do this I did a little binky for joy because I felt some freedom for the first time in months!

I was scratching at myself, though, and I had a bald spot in the middle of the back of my neck with white flaky stuff. Mom took me to a different vet to be treated for mites. He took a look at my weak little back legs and asked if he could try using a K-Laser on my back. He said he felt it could help because K-Laser therapy can speed up the body's process of healing itself.

Mom agreed to give it a try and she brought me in for K-Laser treatments about three times a week for a few months. My legs got better and I was able to hold myself up.

Now I can get around rather well. My left back leg is a little stronger than the right. I can go pretty fast sometimes! I can even hop a little like other bunnies.

Another wonderful thing happened. During mom's search for information to help me, she found Long Island Rabbit Rescue. Mom communicated with Mary Ann Maier, who said it was important to have a rabbit-savvy vet.

Mom took me to Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital in New Hyde Park where I met Dr. Jennifer Saver, who gave me a special bunny shave to help with my skin. Dr. Saver knew about bunny skin care, ear care and diet, and she assessed me to see if I needed a wheelchair. Because I had learned to get around so well and my body was off the ground, it was decided that I didn't need one!

Long Island Rabbit Rescue brought another miracle into my life, and her

Photos courtesy of the Overhiser family.



Jasper loves his Lola.

name is Lola. She was a gorgeous bunny left in a box in a park, and she came to live at our house. We became close friends, and my legs got stronger from hopping around and following her.

As I got stronger, I needed fewer butt baths. I learned to enjoy my hay more because my adopted partner Lola loves her hay and she encourages me to come and join her to munch it down. But mom had to make some changes to accommodate each of us. Lola needs lots of space, and I need easy-entry litter pans and soft sherpa fleece to hop on so that I don't injure my legs.

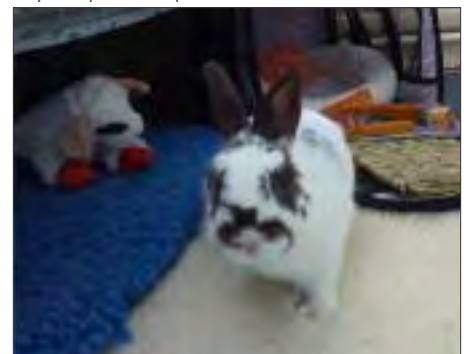
Lola knows I get butt baths when I need them and sometimes she can't wait for mom to wash me as I can get pretty stinky. She hops into the bathroom and checks on me. Lola tries to help with my grooming, but there is only so much she can do.

I will be 3 years old on March 2, 2016. I want to live a long life with my partner.

Lola was a bunny that no one wanted. She only needed someone to give her a chance and not give up on her. And, that's what I needed, too. I needed someone to be patient and give me a chance to get better.



Jasper's special setup.



Jasper's cushioned world.

I am grateful that the people from Long Island Rabbit Rescue helped my mom take care of me by finding Dr. Saver and two other rabbit-savvy vets, Drs. Brian and Jeff Rose in Port Jefferson. LIRRG also brought Lola into my life.

Most of all, I am thankful for a family that never gave up on me.

My Foster Girl Kelly: Full of Trust and Affection

By Rachel Maslow

Fostering Kelly has been one of the best experiences I have had in my few years of being a bunny lover.

I always set my morning alarm clock a little earlier, so I know I have ample time to give her pellets and fresh hay, and to sit with her for a little before my day begins. She makes my mornings so much brighter and happier!

I'm in podiatry school and on I'm my feet seeing patients all day, and sometimes evenings. On the train ride heading home after what seems like the longest day, I always look forward to seeing her again and letting her out of her pen for playtime. I love to cuddle with her.

I have a bonded pair of bunnies, Greg and Naomi, a Harlequin and Lionhead, and I love them very much. Both are sweet bunnies, and they appreciate human interaction. What makes Kelly different from them, or any of the three bunnies that I've fostered in the past, is that she is so trusting.

Photo: Rachel Maslow



Kelly.

She never doubts any human, even if she has never met someone, as long as a person wants to pet her. She will always accept a head rub with a contented look.

Kelly is the cuddliest bunny I have ever met. I can lie on the floor next to her, and for 20 minutes she will flop down next to me at peace. She is also very playful, loves to binky, and of course, she will gobble down any food you give her.

Kelly really needs a home with someone who truly appreciates her and understands how rare it can be to find such a cuddly



Cuddling with Kelly in her pen.



Greg and Naomi.

and trusting bunny. I would keep her myself if I didn't have my bunny pair already! Her warm, trusting personality will light up any home.

Franklin Goes Courting and Selects Bossy Eleanor

By Sari Krieger

My Franklin had lost his bunny wife Aurora in late 2013 after six months of dutifully taking care of her as she became increasingly disabled. After she passed, something seemed missing in his life. So in late January 2015, we decided it was time for Franklin to get back on the dating market.

Although Frankie can be pretty tough toward people, especially strangers, he's a very easygoing bunny toward other rabbits. He met a few eligible rabbit ladies and got along well with a few of them.

But he and a fellow Dutchie who is mostly blind at approximately three years of age seemed to get along best.

Photo: Sari Krieger



Eleanor and Franklin.

She had been in foster care in Westchester in a very loving home. Mary Christine made the match after I told her of my

love for Dutchies and Frankie's desire for a new wife.

Aurora had also been a bossy Dutchie girl, so I figured Franklin knew what he was getting into. But when I got them home, the new girl, whom I named Eleanor (I am a political science professor and what other name would suit a wife for Franklin?) proved even bossier than Aurora.

Frank and Aurora had bonded in two weeks, and Ellie and Frankie got along so well on their first meeting that I expected a quick bonding. But once again the bunnies proved me wrong. After four months of dates, learning experiences and help from Marcie Frishberg, the

(Continued on page 13)

We Are Looking for Loving Homes

Written and compiled by Kirsten Ott

Seinfeld

Seinfeld is a medium-sized boy with a real zest for life. His fluffy coat is mostly white, with black markings on his face, ears and a few spots on his body. He also has some light brown patches – on the nape of his neck, his ears, and around his nose (which makes it look like he just drank a cup of cocoa). Like his namesake, Seinfeld may have a future as a comedian, because he's very interested in playtime.

Honey

Honey is a medium-sized brown lop female. She is blind, with high intraocular pressure in her left eye and a damaged cornea in her right. According to Animal Medical Center's Dr. Katherine Quesenberry, the probable cause of Honey's blindness is trauma, possibly from an attack by a cat or a dog. Honey is also hard of hearing. Despite the fact that she receives only three out of five kinds of sensory data, Honey functions cheerfully in her pen, where furnishings don't migrate. Her senses of smell and taste are robust, possibly compensationally enhanced. Her tactile sense enables her to enjoy being petted and to be aware of the thumping of other rabbits and the footsteps of nearby cats and humans. She has the physical energy of a young rabbit (expressed in vigorous clockwise circling) and she loves to zoom through

her curved accordion-folded cardboard tunnel. She receives her daily eye medications without fussing. And she is a great eater: she devours dandelion, fennel and carrot greens; basil, dill, parsley, cilantro, escarole, kale, and lettuces. She adores eating hay and lounging in it. The combination of Honey's sweet, cuddly disposition and her disability means she'd benefit from a sighted bunny partner. Potential adopters must be compassionate, experienced rabbit people willing to adopt a special-needs bunny. Honey is in foster care.

Carly

Carly is a small- to medium-sized black bunny with a white dot on the tip of her little nose. This darling girl can be a little skittish and hyper when you first meet her, but she warms up very quickly and will eagerly communicate her desire for attention; she loves to have her head stroked. Sweet Carly is very active and curious – she periscopes a lot and is quite the jumper! She is in residence at the Petco store on Lexington Avenue and 86th Street.

Hershey

Hershey is a handsome medium-sized brown and white Dutch boy. This guy is very alert and curious, and he adores

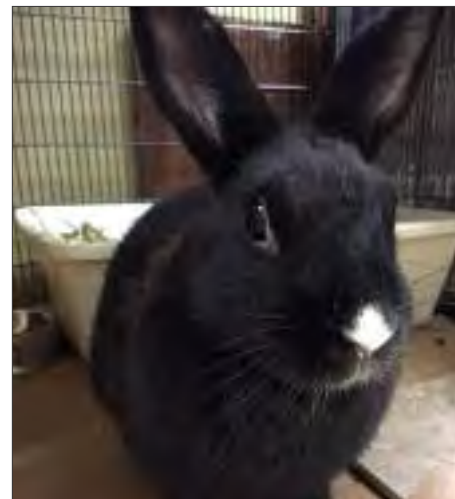
(Continued on page 14)



Seinfeld.



Honey.



Carly.

Franklin and Eleanor

(Continued from page 12)

rabbits seemed to have found some balance between them. But still there wasn't much grooming, and there was still humping on her part. Ellie simply wanted to be the boss!

One day I decided that things were peaceful enough – they would lounge comfortably on their dates – that it was worth trying to put them together in a

pen. That turned out to be the right decision because they really fell in love in their new place together. Franklin grooms her most of the time, and sometimes she reciprocates. They are very much in love and are almost always snuggling together.

Franklin and Eleanor are now living happily ever after in their big pen. Like the famous couple of history, these two bunnies are a memorable matchup.



Franklin and Eleanor in their pen.

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 13)



Hershey.

attention – he'll let you rub his cheeks for days! Hershey's brown coloring isn't exactly chocolate-y – it's more of a warm reddish-brown, with darker brown fur around his face – but his personality is certainly every bit as yummy as a chocolate treat.

Larry

Larry is a young New Zealand White boy who's already large, and getting larger! This guy hasn't yet grown into his ears, which are enormous – he probably picks up Bulgarian radio stations. He also has a nice profile, with a long, aquiline nose. Larry's desire for affection is as big as his ears, if not bigger; he's a sweetie.

Carlyle

Carlyle is a medium-sized white bunny with scattered brown markings. He is quite the looker, with a round face, extra-large luminous eyes, satin-y mottled ears, and a cute little semi-mustache. And Carlyle's personality rivals his looks – he is bright, curious and friendly, and loves to have his head and ears stroked.

Ira

Ira is a medium-sized bunny who was rescued – along with about 20 other rabbits – in Brooklyn. He was partnered with a female (probably his sister) at the time, but is now a widower. Because he's been in a close relationship, he would probably make a great partner for another bunny, and he'd probably appreciate a new bunny companion as well. Ira is



Larry.



Carlyle.



Ira.

very active – he loves to run, explore, and binky – so his home will require thorough bunny-proofing. The effort will be well worth it, though, because he's such a dear boy – he's friendly and adores affection. Ira is mostly white with some delicate tan markings, mostly around his face and ears. He is currently in foster care.

Kody

Kody is a 14-pound, 3-year-old Flemish Giant and one of the sweetest bunny hunks around. Despite his young age, Kody has a mature cataract in his left



Kody.



Cutie.

eye and glaucoma in his right eye, which requires monitoring by a veterinary ophthalmologist and treatment with daily eye drops. His adopter must be able to continue with his eye care. His limited vision does not slow him down at all, however, and he is a binky machine during exercise time! He also loves to sit next to humans for extended petting sessions, during which he will pancake his head down and tooth purr in delight. Kody is living in a foster home.

Cutie

Cutie is a medium-sized brown and white Dutch mix. This girl is very friendly and desperate for affection – she'll perform all kinds of antics in her cage to get your attention, then smush

(Continued on page 15)

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 14)

right down for petting. Cutie is definitely deserving of her name. Her looks are very special – she has a double-wide Dutch triangle on her face, beautiful pale gray eyes, and a Dutch white bib that covers her throat but didn't quite make it around her back. This lovely girl will demand a lot of time and attention in her forever home!

Chiquis

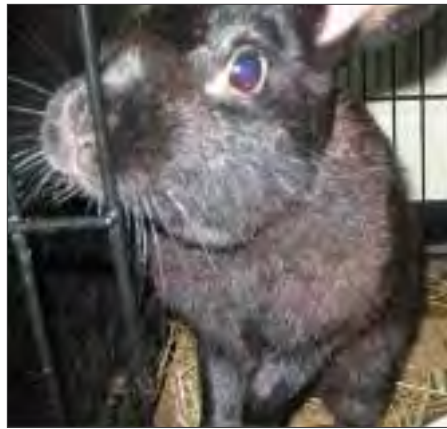
Chiquis is a large, dark brownish-black female with an inquisitive streak. This girl likes to explore her environment, including the people in it – she'll come right up to you to get a good whiff and see if you're to her liking. If you pass muster, she'll soon settle down and let you pet her for a long time, her eyes closed contentedly and her nose wiggling continuously, as if to express her pleasure. She loves to nudge her nose into your palm. Chiquis's coat is dark, but is flecked with some white fur, giving it a slight salt-and-pepper look.

Gladstone

Gladstone is a small black and white boy with a very sweet personality. This adorable little guy has a cute round face with a white triangle that suggests some Dutch ancestry, and his coat has an unusual mottled pattern. Sadly, he may have been a lab rabbit early on, because he has a brand in his left ear. But he certainly doesn't seem to hold that against humans, because he's a total love. He sits sweetly still, front feet neatly together, eyes closed, while you rub his cheeks. If you stop petting him, he'll approach you gently to politely ask for more love. This little peanut would make a good choice for a first-time bunny owner.

Roberto

Roberto is a medium-sized English Spot mix and a total doll. This guy is very easy-going and will smush right down so you can pet his super-soft coat.



Chiquis.



Gladstone.



Roberto.

Roberto is very handsome: he's white with some black markings, including jet-black ears and a marvelous big smudge on the right side of his nose, and he has nice round cheeks.

Mustard

Mustard is a large female Chinchilla lop. This poor girl was found with extremely long nails, suggesting she was a neglect



Mustard.



Lex.

case. She must be adopted by a patient and experienced bunny person who can gradually earn her trust. She's a gorgeous big girl, with a classic Chinchilla coat and a large dewlap.

Lex

Lex is a small to medium-sized Harlequin male – and a living doll! This little guy is very easy to handle and loves to be petted. He'll smush right down wherever he is, and if you stop, he'll rush right up to you and gently butt your hand with his head to get more of the love. Lex is as beautiful as he is sweet. His coat is mostly a mix of gray and an orange-y cream color, and he has wonderfully fluffy cheeks.

Teela

Teela is a large female lop with a great personality. This girl is very friendly and adores attention. When you pet her, she relaxes completely, resting her head sweetly on her dewlap as if it's a big

(Continued on page 16)

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 15)



Teela.



Max.

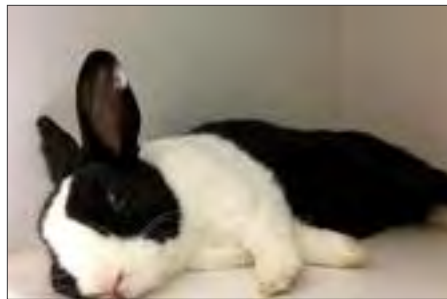


Sally.

pillow (which it is, in a way). Teela is a real beauty too – she’s mostly white with soft grayish-brown markings. Once you make friends with this girl, she won’t want to let you go.



Altus.



Whittney.



Patches

Max

Max is a small to medium-sized bunny with a gentle disposition. This little guy has an unusual yet beautiful coat. It’s white with some light gray fur mixed in, especially around his cheeks and ears. The gray fur on one cheek makes him look like he has five o’clock shadow! He also has a distinctive darker gray spot under his little mouth. Max has a bright, alert face with large dark eyes. He’s friendly, but not aggressively so, and he loves head scratches.

Sally

Sally is a medium-sized snuggle bunny. This girl adores affection, and isn’t shy about it. She’ll come right up to you to

request it and, if you’re amenable, spend hours hanging out with you. Sally is mostly white, with dramatic dark brown eye makeup around beautiful grayish-blue eyes and a few dark spots around her body. Her face shape suggests she’s still on the young side.

Altus

Altus is a medium-large dark gray lop. This guy can be nervous, but some gentle head strokes and neck rubs will relax him. Because he tends to be a little uptight, he would probably do best in a rabbit-savvy home without small children. Altus has a nice round lop head and big back feet.

Whittney

Whittney is a large black-and-white Dutch male with a very easy-going disposition. This guy is well-socialized and loves to be petted; if he were a person, you might say he was well-mannered. Whittney has pretty classic Dutch looks, with a few interesting quirks – his ears are black, but the left one has a streak of white on it, and the triangle on his face is comically crooked.

Patches

Patches is a medium-sized male bunny with a nice, friendly personality. This guy is white with black markings. He has black patches (hence the name) on his face, especially a nice big one on the left side of his nose. He also has fun long black whiskers. Patches loves affection, including having his head and ears stroked and the nape of his neck rubbed. He has a very fluffy coat. Patches’ casual friendliness would make him a good choice for a first-time bunny owner.

Phoenix

Phoenix is a medium-large brown and white Dutch female and a total love sponge. This girl is very welcoming. She cranes her neck and stretches her whole body toward you, eager for petting and massaging. She doesn’t mind a fair amount of pressure as you stroke her –

(Continued on page 17)

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 16)



Phoenix.

sort of a Swedish massage enthusiast! Phoenix has a slender face, and you can take her whole head into your hand, which she loves. This girl's brown fur is a gorgeous chocolate-y brown color – almost as yummy as she is!

Share Bear

Share Bear is a gorgeous medium-large female Lionhead mix. This girl's coat is dreamy, with beautiful pastel-like shades of cream and brown. Share Bear is just as friendly as she is stunning. She'll sit perfectly still to soak up the affection as you stroke and kiss her pretty head. This well-socialized, affectionate bunny would make a good choice for a first-time rabbit owner.

Too Too

Too Too is a large black lop female. This big girl has nice energy – she can be quite feisty – but she also has a snuggly side to her. And she's lots of bunny to love! You'll enjoy her sturdy body, broad ears, and nice big feet. Because she can be a bit ornery at times, Too Too would probably do best in a home with experienced rabbit people.

Fernando

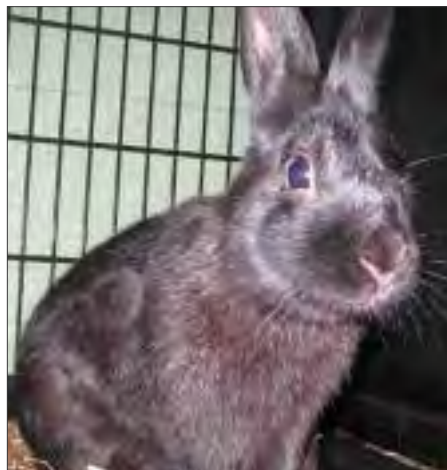
Fernando is a medium-sized black bunny with an outsized personality.



Share Bear.



Too Too.



Fernando.

This bold guy has tons of energy. At this point in his life, he is more interested in play and mischief than in cuddling. Fernando is not the least bit shy, and he will let you pet him. With more exercise time in his forever home, he's likely to get tuckered out and grow to love quiet time with his human companions.

Forever Homes Found!



Sir Reginald Fuzzibottom.

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Stevie B, Akeeta, Clover, Cupcake, Velvet, Jessica, Drew, Lola, Mario, Clooney, Loretta, Mr. Whiskers, Crunchberry, Ms. Einstein, Hazel, Macho, Lady Gray, Milo, Jane, Raven, Bastion, Adele, Cooper, Rushmore, Ralphie, Tommy, Rhett Butler, Mr. Rabbit, Frieda, Ms. Nibbles, Casey, Harmony Bear, Otila, Meatball, Sir Reginald Fuzzibottom, Lapin, Tuesday, Gargoyle, Leo, Coffee, Lanie and Lionel, Velore and Smokey, Heart, Reuben, Star Child, Harold, Bambi and Timmy.

Letters From Adopters

Bjorn the Cinna-bun

Hi everyone! My name is Bjorn Bentov and I finally found my forever home with my forever humans. I am officially a downtown bunny and I honestly couldn't be more excited. Living next to the farmers market is Heaven. I came home after being fixed in August and I was really scared and really sore. My mommy, Marisabel Santiago, took care of me and gave me the medicine I was prescribed. It was so nice to finally be in a big space where I could stretch and run around. My dad, Yaneev, came in and gave me a lot of pets, which helped me fall asleep.

My mommy didn't know that I couldn't have a lot of treats, and unfortunately it gave me a lot of gas. I know she meant well, but it really hurt. Fortunately, the wonderful Cindy Stutts taught her to give me gas drops, and this which helped me out a lot. After a very expensive trip to the emergency room, I was licking

them in thanks. A couple of days later, I met the awesome Dr. Alexandra Wilson at the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine. She was so friendly and warm, and I had no choice but to charm her. I later found out that I had coccidia. It was a rough week. Luckily, I have such loving parents, and the snuggles, kisses, brushing and lettuce they game me made me feel so loved.

Nowadays I love cuddling with my mommy and eating my weight in hay, DAILY! I love to sometimes escape my play space to hang out with mom and when she's busy, I love to make loud scratching noises until she comes over and pets me. I am so smart, too! I learned how to use the litter box all by myself. I still have little accidents but I tend to run toward my litter box when I feel it coming. I also learned how to come when I am called. My favorite movie is "National Treasure" and I adore green



Photo: Marisabel Santiago
Bjorn.

leaf lettuce. I also love to be read to. My favorite story is "Bunnica." I love my home and my parents. It is the best! And you can follow me on Instagram @bjornlecinnabun.

—Bjorn

Photos: Frances Lopez



Luna and Spirit.

Luna and Spirit

Frances and Edwin adopted Luna in July as a partner for Spirit. The bonding process is going well, and they advise, "Be patient with bonding."

We are now the owners of two rabbits, Spirit (aka Boogie and also known as Michael Jackson) and our adopted Luna (formerly named Poe, from AC&C).

We are being VERY PATIENT with the bonding process. At first Spirit was very afraid, and Luna was biting. She was adopted a week after she was spayed, so perhaps her condition made her overprotective or defensive – although



Spirit and Luna.

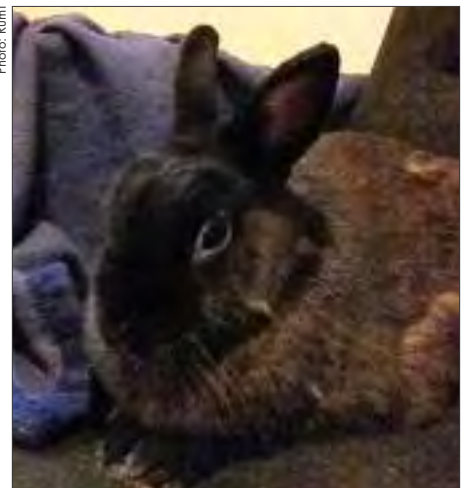
she was the more aggressive one when compared to our docile male, Spirit.

Now, Luna seems to be less aggressive. We have had her for almost a month (adopted on 7/23).

We do our bonding sessions for at least 3 minutes or more since they are now a bit more used to each other. However, we do have Spirit and Luna very close to each other. They are still divided in a large pen, with a gate. Recently they have come close and put their noses together. We like it when they do that!

Frances and Edwin Lopez

Photo: Rumi



Tyrone.

Tyrone

Tyrone was adopted in mid-August by Rumi and Jose. They sent us this email the next day.

We successfully adopted Tyrone yesterday, and he is happily running around and exploring his new home, He is the

(Continued on page 19)

Letters *(Continued from page 18)*

sweetest little thing – we especially love it when he spreads himself out and puts his head down to rest.

He is also very friendly. He will run up to either of us and look at us expectantly (almost like he is saying, “pet me, please!”)

We really think Tyrone is adjusting very well.

Best regards,

Rumi and Jose

Clooney

Laura and her family adopted Clooney in September as a partner bunny for their girl bunny, Morgan. The two rabbits are getting along well.

My first experience with bunnies was about three years ago, when I adopted a little Netherland dwarf that I named Morgan. Before I adopted her, Morgan had been caged for nine months, taunted by dogs that barked at her constantly. I didn't know very much about rabbits at the time, but one of my parents was a veterinarian, and his lessons resonated in my head and heart. I could not deny Morgan a loving home.

We built trust over the years, but knowing that she was not very social with humans, I did some research and found that she could benefit from having a bunny companion. When I first thought of this, I lacked the space and time to oversee the bonding process. But in September, a year and a half after my research, it was the right time.

Handsome Mr. Clooney was among the list of bunnies up for adoption. Other than the cute pictures, what caught my attention was his story. It really felt similar to Morgan's difficult history. He, too, had a rough time, being taunted and chased. I knew he would be a good match for Morgan, and I hoped that she would think the same thing if she had the chance to meet him.



Morgan, top, and Clooney during their speed date.

Mary Christine, Clooney's wonderful foster mom, helped us prepare. She set up our home for a second bunny, and she answered questions whenever they arose. Once all was in order, we ventured into Union Square's Petco on Sept. 12 to meet the bunnies. Marcie Frishberg and Jeanine Callace kindly guided us through the dating process, providing all the information and tips we needed. They taught us the essentials for a successful date and later, for bonding.

With the other boy bunnies she met that day, Morgan was receptive for the most part. But from the moment Clooney was placed in the pen, it was perfection; he was so shy, quiet, nervous and sweet. The date was gentle and completely positive. When it was over, it was unanimous. The volunteers, as fierce judges as they are with the matches and adoptions, were sold on the match. Then we began the happy journey to bonding our rabbits.

We have had Clooney for a little over a week now. The change from that first day up until now is extraordinary. He has broken a bit out of his shell, and he is getting comfortable with our home and all of us. The rabbits both are eager

to interact and they separately imitate each other's actions in their side-by-side set ups – eating at the same time, standing or lying in the same areas, and even playing. The dates just started a few days ago and each time they gently approach each other, it is with a mixture of curiosity and shyness, always ending their sessions in a good note. We feel strongly about this bond we are nurturing. We are blessed to have the chance to help these little ones and provide them with their forever home.

Laura Vientos



Jasper lounging.

Jasper

Jasper was adopted in July by Alex and Helen, who sent us this great update in late September.

We knew within minutes when we met Jasper over the July Fourth weekend at Animal Care Center of NYC, that he was the bunny for us. Ridiculously cute on the outside, but a complicated little guy on the inside.

Here is what we've learned about Jasper so far.

Jasper loves to: eat (he waits by his food dish bright and early every morning);

(Continued on page 20)

Photos: Helen & Alex



Alex kisses Jasper.



Jasper parking.



Jasper in the mirror.

nose bump our faces/tickle our feet; binky around his pen; explore any place new; attack his favorite toy (a baby batman teether plush); ponder at his reflection in the mirror; help vacuum his living space with his Dad; throw himself down to the ground for a long nap; hop around to loud video games and movies (the more explosions and unsettling alien sounds, the better); do construction on his cardboard hidey house; rearrange all of his stuff; listen to New Orleans jazz; give us the side eye; be petted into a flattened pancake.

Jasper hates when we order in takeout, funny TV shows and most of all, his nemesis, the Sodastream. Jasper is starting to like our laps and be brushed :).

Jasper's adoption is also kind of an interesting story. When we took him

home, we all thought he was somewhere between 4 and 8 months old and a late bloomer. After three months had passed and two vet visits, there was still no sign down below he could be neutered. In fear of cryptorchidism, next steps were a scheduled sonogram and then likely exploratory surgery.

Our last hope was to try and dig up more information about his past, since Jasper came with a microchip. At first, the microchip was a dead end since the company it was currently registered to had little information beyond what had been provided at the time of his surrender (it didn't even list he was a rabbit). However, after many hours of scouring the Web, we tracked down another microchip company with information last updated almost a year

ago. We called the number and he did in fact have a file. Jasper was named Bean and he was 2 years and 8 months old! From there, we traced him back to another shelter in Connecticut where the microchip was implanted. And, after being in touch with that shelter, they were able to send us a full medical report and confirm that Jasper had already been neutered. We were so relieved he was ok, but also sad that Jasper had been let down by at least two previous owners.

There's no question this bunny has had a tough first 2 years and 5 months of life. But we are hoping after his most recent three months, our little Jasper Bean has learned from us that he's finally made it home and will always be loved (and spoiled).

Alex & Helen



Ms. Einstein.



Samson.



Peter.



Kelly.



Ryan.



Sara and Suzette.



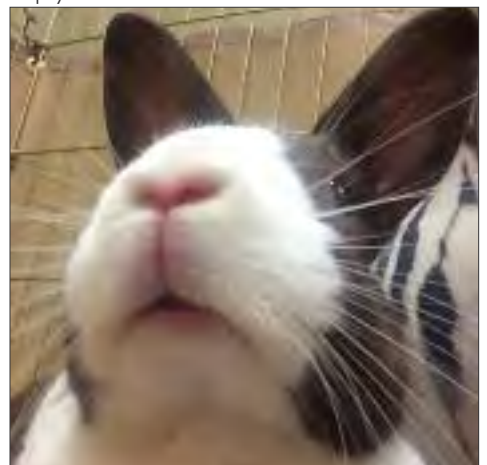
Marshmallow.



Nona.



Stephy.



Cupcake.

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.

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

Long Island:

Jennifer Saver, DVM

Laura George, DVM

Kristen Miller, DVM

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

Heidi Hofer, 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

Licensed HRS Educators

NYC/Westchester:

M.C. Basile, Esq., President, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, BunnyTorts@gmail.com

Mary Cotter, Founder, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, Chapter Manager, NYC House Rabbit Society, Adviser to Thump, mec@cloud9.net, (914) 337-6146, rabbitcare.org

Gabrielle LaManna, New Fairfield, CT, gabbysbunnies@yahoo.com, (203) 746-7548

Mary Harnett, mmharnett@optonline.net, (914) 948-7976

Marcie Frishberg, mfrish57bun@yahoo.com, (718) 724-4105

Cindy Stutts, bygolyoly@yahoo.com, (646) 319-4766

Kerstin Aumann

Monica Shepherd, DVM

Long Island:

Nancy Schreiber, President, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group,

nnschreibmd@aol.com, (516) 510-3637,
LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

Mary Ann Maier, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group Volunteer,

altitude8@yahoo.com,
LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

Donna Sheridan, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group Volunteer, hpocus217@yahoo.com,
LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

Jennifer Saver, DVM

Laura George, DVM

THUMP October 2015

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 public on rabbit care through publications, phone consultations, home visits and presentations. This newsletter is published by RRR/NYC HRS, which is solely responsible for its content. We retain the right to edit all submissions, which become the property of the NYC Chapter and cannot be returned.

All donations go directly to caring for our foster rabbits and are tax-deductible. Please help us help them. Mailing address for contributions: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab/NYC Metro Rabbit, 333 Mamaroneck Ave, PMB 363, White Plains NY 10605. To contribute to Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, please go to www.longislandrabbitrescue.org.

Adoptable Rabbits 🐰

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

To adopt a rabbit in **New York City**, contact nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com. On **Long Island**, contact Nancy Schreiber at nnschreibmd@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.

In addition, NYC Metro rabbits are at the Petland Discounts store on West 72nd Street.

You can also visit Animal Care & Control of NYC (AC&C) at 326 East 110th St.,

between First and Second avenues. Rabbits for adoption can be found by going to:

<http://www.nycacc.org/> and doing an adoption search. Volunteers are there every weekday evening and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, but it is best to arrange an appointment first.

Bunny speed dates can be arranged by appointment only on weekend afternoons at Union Square. Please contact nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com to make arrangements.

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

Hare ye! Hare ye!

RRR/HRS 21st Annual

Rabbit Care Conference

WHEN: Sunday, November 22, 2015 • 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

WHERE: Radisson Hotel • One Radisson Plaza
New Rochelle, NY • Hotel: (914) 576-3700

PRE-REGISTRATION through 11/16/15; see coupon below: \$35 (includes local NYC HRS membership cost), \$10 each additional family member

SAME-DAY REGISTRATION: \$40 (\$10/family member)

Please register early! Space is limited!



Featured Topic:

IT'S A GUT THING: Rabbit Gastrointestinal Anatomy, Physiology and Nutrition. Presentation by Micah Kohles, DVM, MPA

— This presentation will discuss the high fiber diet essential for a rabbit's good health and an in-depth look into their gastrointestinal system in a clear and fascinating way!

— Dr. Kohles is currently the Director of Veterinary Science and Outreach at Oxbow Animal Health, Professor at the University of Nebraska, Veterinary Associate at the Nebraska Animal Medical Center and serves on the Board of the Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians.

Q&A Session with veterinarians. Please bring your questions!

Demos on temperature taking and nail cutting with HRS Educators!

Bunny Boutique (goodies to buy for your bunny), Silent Auction and Raffles. All proceeds support RR&R!

Lunch available for purchase on or off premises.

Please note: No children under 13 will be admitted. Please do not bring your rabbit!

TO PRE-REGISTER: (\$35 per person and \$10 per additional family member)

(1) Use the Paypal link on the "Donations" tab at <http://www.rabbitcare.org/> (Please include a note that it is for 2015 Conference Registration and the names of those attending.)

or (2) Mail this section by 11/16/15 to: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, 333 Mamaroneck Avenue, Suite #363, White Plains, NY 10605. Include a check or money order payable to "Rabbit Rescue & Rehab."

Name(s) of people attending: _____

Address(es) _____

Phone #(s) _____ Email(s) _____

You will not receive tickets or confirmation of your registration, but you will receive your entrance tag at the door.

For more info, please contact us at NYCRabbitRescueRehab@gmail.com

Note: For **NATIONAL HRS** membership, check here and include a **SEPARATE** check for \$18 made out to "House Rabbit Society." Thanks.



Directions

FROM NYC BY TRAIN:

- Metro North from Grand Central Station to New Rochelle (approximately 30 mins.).
- At station, walk up the stairs and locate Huguenot St. (first corner), which is a one-way street.
- Walk along Huguenot AGAINST TRAFFIC, until you get to the Radisson (ten-storey building on left – 8-min. walk from station).

FROM NYC, LONG ISLAND, or points south by car:

- I-95 north to EXIT 16. (From L.I., cross Whitestone or Throgs Neck Bridge, follow signs to I-95 North.)
- At exit, keep left at the fork in ramp onto Garden St., and make the first RIGHT onto Cross Westchester Ave./Cedar St., and go UNDER the UNDERPASS.
- Get into one of the left lanes, proceed to the first light. Make a left.
- Turn right into the parking lot of Radisson. Drive around to front of hotel.

FROM NORTHEAST WESTCHESTER OR CONNECTICUT:

- Take I-95 south to exit 16 in WESTCHESTER (Note: NOT exit 16 in Norwalk, Connecticut!)
- Enter traffic circle. Be sure to stay in the circle (bearing to your left); staying too far to the right will take you off the circle too soon.
- Go halfway around the circle (follow signs to Cedar St.) until you come to a stop sign in circle. From there bear right and go UNDER the UNDERPASS.
- Get into one of the left lanes, proceed to the first light. Make a left.
- Turn right into the parking lot of Radisson. Drive around to front of hotel.

FROM NEW JERSEY:

- From GW Bridge, proceed on I-95 north, and follow “NYC” directions.
- From Tappan Zee Bridge, proceed on 287 east to 95 south; then follow “WESTCHESTER/CT” directions



For any further help with directions, contact the Radisson at 914-576-3700



Hope to see you there!