

# THUMP

NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS DECEMBER 2019

## Skylar and Her Five Colorful Babies Are Ready for Their Next Adventure

By Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

One of 2019's most significant rescues was a very special family of bunnies we met in May of this year who have faced so many challenges already in their short lives. Skylar was found alone, tragically dumped in Central Park in terrifyingly poor condition, clearly having been horribly mistreated for quite some time even before she was abandoned outside. A kind passerby saw Skylar outside and, wanting to help this poor bunny, brought

her back to his home. Once there, she surprised him with a litter of babies and right away, he contacted Rabbit Rescue & Rehab for help.

When we first saw Skylar shortly after she had given birth, every bone in her small, frail body was visible and all movement was taxing for her in her emaciated state. Tragically, one of her six babies had not survived, and another appeared to be very unwell. We took in the whole family,

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Bean and a holiday gift.



For other festive photos, please turn to page 6.

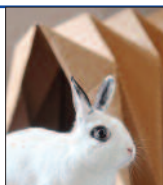
Photos: Alex Mcle



Skylar and her babies.



**Victoria Rules Over the Living Room, Thanks to Adjustments Made for Her Safety**  
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## Babies *(Continued from page 1)*

and first moved them to the vet to be checked and to care for the one baby, who improved during their weeklong hospital stay. The family then moved into their foster homes for close supervision as they recovered and the babies grew.

Skye has been a wonderful mother to her babies. At nursing time, Skye would hop into her favorite cardboard house and thump a few times. Ten little ears would pop up from all around the pen when they heard mom's mealtime signal, and the babies would run in after her and nurse.

Nursing moms use up a lot of energy to feed their babies, and so even with unlimited access to high-quality food formulated for nursing mothers, poor Skye struggled to gain weight while her babies were still nursing. Slowly but surely, she became stronger and filled out, and today, Skye has just about reached her perfect weight. Her fur is now clean and beautiful, especially compared with the awful condition of her fur and skin when she was found outside.

Because many of the babies have needed to be individually monitored for health concerns, and all of them were medicated at various times, we needed to be able to tell them apart. Since they started out virtually identical, each baby got a tiny dot of natural food-grade dye just above the tail. We affectionately started calling them by these colors, and ultimately just liked them too much to change them! And so, Skye's babies were named Pink, Purple, Orange, Blue and Green.

When the babies were only about one month old, we started to see some very unusual behaviors from Green. She would seem to get "stuck" looking straight up in the air, and for 10-plus seconds at a time, would not move and would seem unaware of anything going on around her. This soon progressed to where Green would look up, stand up on her back legs, and then continue to lift her head further and further until she fell straight backwards. At its most severe, this would happen several times an hour.

Photos: Alex Mele



Before: Skye, May 2019.



After: Skye, November 2019.



We needed to be able to tell the babies apart!



Pink.



Purple.

Green's vet gave several possible causes for this behavior, ranging from very severe conditions that would gradually become worse, to something more manageable that would stabilize and

that she would be able to live with. To find out, we would have to wait and watch how Green was doing over time. Luckily, since then, Green has been

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Babies *(Continued from page 2)*

Photos: Alex Mcle



Green.



Orange.



Blue.

having fewer and less-severe episodes. Still, everything in her pen must be carefully selected for her safety, and she can never be allowed to jump on top of anything lest she were to fall off. Her pen is round because on one occasion Green fell backward into a corner that then held her in that position, and she was unable to snap out of her episode without assistance.

Despite this, Green is such a happy baby! She is always excited about everything going on around her, always ready to play, ready to eat her favorite foods, and ready to run up and say hello to everyone. Even when she was spayed, Green was not bothered one bit. She happily watched everything going on around her at the vet, and said hello to anyone who came by for a visit. Even right after surgery, she readily ate everything she was offered. When the babies were just under four months old, we faced a huge scare when Pink became very sick.

One night Pink suddenly stopped eating, and he declined rapidly overnight. He stopped pooping, instead producing a lot of mucus; a sign that he was straining and in great discomfort. Throughout the night, his positions and loud tooth grinding made it clear that he was experiencing a lot of pain. First thing in the morning, he was rushed to the vet. Pink was hospitalized for days without a diagnosis, never returning to normal, but with intermittent periods in which he would seem to be improving. Pink came back to his foster home during

one of these periods, seeming to be doing better, but soon to have his worst night yet. Again he began producing a huge amount of mucus, but it was now mixed with blood, and Pink was in a lot of pain. He was again rushed to the vet in the morning and this time, he was diagnosed with pinworms, which had been wreaking havoc on his GI tract.

The whole family began treatment right away. Everything they had come into contact with was either replaced or thoroughly cleaned. Skye (who had likely picked up this parasite when she was dumped outside and then passed it on to the babies) and all five babies required daily oral medication in multiple courses, since the life cycle of pinworms allows the eggs to survive both in the GI tract and on surfaces for several weeks.

Pink was sent home with strong pain medication and daily subcutaneous fluids mixed with B vitamins, since the whole ordeal had left him in pain and extremely dehydrated. And it sure made all the difference! Pink started to feel better almost right away, and his body finally had a chance to heal. Today, Pink is completely recovered!

Pink led his brothers and sisters with a lot of "firsts." He was the first to try hay and pellets, first to venture farther out on his own into their pen, and first to figure out how to stand on top of the

*(Continued on page 4)*



Skye with one of her litter.



Babies nestling together.

## Babies (Continued from page 3)

twigloo instead of just curling up inside it (a trick he was excited to teach his siblings). Now just over three pounds, Pink is a sweet and personable baby who has loved human attention from day one. He's more than happy to settle down with his head on your leg and fall asleep.

Orange is a huge personality in a small package. Growing up, Orange was the smallest of Skye's babies, though now he's nearly caught up to his brothers and sisters at right about three pounds. Orange is uniquely athletic; he kept his foster parents on their toes when he learned he could jump and climb to the top of a 48-inch-tall pen, and then figured out he could wiggle his way onto the top of the sheet that had been securely clipped atop the pen in an effort keep him safely inside. He gave quite the shock (and concern for his safety – his acrobatics are unlike any rabbit we've known before!) before we made the necessary adjustments to his room to keep him safe.

Of course there are vital health benefits to spaying and neutering rabbits, and Orange is a poster child for the added behavioral benefits of spaying and

Photo: Alex Mele



Family portrait.

neutering. As he grew up, Orange started to exhibit every markedly hormonal behavior in the book. He became territorial, and he was spraying, mounting, etc., to a significant degree. Orange was just recently neutered, and is already enjoying the benefits as he rapidly returns to his sweet and loving self, minus the hormonal frustration.

Ever since he was a tiny baby of just a few ounces, Orange has always gravitated towards humans. When someone sits down with him, he beelines right over for attention, and likes to climb onto laps and drape himself over outstretched legs for long naps. Orange is cute as a button, often seen standing up on his back feet to greet his many admirers.

As babies, Blue and Orange shared the propensity toward shocking and atypically agile behaviors. Like his brother Orange, Blue was capable of jumping to the top of a pen that had been extended to a height of 4.5 feet when he weighed barely one pound. Thankfully, for their safety, they are calming down now after being neutered, and they are learning to channel their energy instead into safe, ground-level activities. Blue is particularly fond of sprinting through his network of accordion tunnels.

Blue loves to relax in his favorite bed and have his face massaged while he lies on his side and stretches his back legs all the way out. He's pretty sure his favorite food is mint, though he's excited to try other new greens.

Last but not least, Purple is the other of Skye's two daughters. As a small baby, Purple was very attached to mom Skye. She loved tucking herself under mom's chin or belly and snuggling there for hours. As she grew, she became just as adventurous as her brothers and sisters, and is today an active and playful little bunny. Purple is a little bit sassy and opinionated; she takes pride in the precise arrangement of her possessions. Purple is an especially sweet baby with a gentle and loving personality. Her favorite hobbies are running in big laps around her room, and eating dill.

Skye's babies were born on May 28, 2019. They are now over six months old, and have grown so much! Skye and all five babies have been spayed/neutered and are now ready for their next big adventure as they look for their forever homes.

Poster: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

**I am NOT a holiday gift!**

**Rabbits have special care needs and live for 10+ years.**

Rabbits require a spacious indoor home and vet care from a rabbit-savvy vet. They are fragile and do not like to be picked up, so are seldom suitable for children and absolutely never as a "starter pet."

**I may be small, but I am a BIG commitment!**

[www.rabbitcare.org](http://www.rabbitcare.org)  
[nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com)



# Bunny Hacks

By Rabbit, Rescue & Rehab

Describing rabbits as “determined” is an understatement! So, as bunny guardians, we learn to improvise. We’ve come up with a few tried-and-true tricks over the years that we hope will help you and your rabbit.

1) The hat. Adding a “hat” to a gate or an X-pen serves as a visual deterrent to help dissuade a bunny from attempting to jump over a barricade (gate or X-pen). You’ll need cardboard, a utility knife and binder clips, and you can custom-create a hat that sits on the barricade. Measure the width and the height you wish to make the hat. Add approximately six inches to the desired height measurement. Cut two pieces of cardboard to the width and height you measured. (Don’t forget to add about six inches to the height.) Put the two pieces of cardboard together, using the binder clips. You can place one or two clips along the top edge, and place two clips along the side at the level you want the “hat” to sit on the gate or X-pen.

2) PVC pipe. This is for the wire and cord chewer. The determination of rabbits makes bunny-proofing an ongoing project. The most dangerous things a rabbit can chew on are electrical wires and cords. PVC cord covers work well to hide and protect wires. You may need the versatility of PVC pipe, available at Home Depot and other DIY stores, for more challenging areas, such as air-conditioner cords with large “wall warts.” PVC pipe is available in varying widths and “elbow” fittings that enable you to run the cords around corners or up a wall. Avoid split cord covers made of poly material. Rule of thumb: If it is pliable, a bunny can chew through it. Split cord covers are designed to organize cords and wires for a neat and tidy look and work perfectly in homes WITHOUT rabbits.

3) Low litter boxes. As a rabbit ages, he may become arthritic, making it difficult for him to jump in and out of the litter box. This affects his litter-box habits and consumption of hay. Cut one side

of the litter box down, leaving a lip of about one inch, sanding the edges smooth. Most of the hay stays within the box and the bunny can easily get in or out without negotiating the high sides of the litter box. This is an enormous help to the rabbit and maintains easy access to the most important part of his diet: hay!

4) Keeping greens fresh and making salad time easier. A little extra effort several times a week helps keep your rabbit’s greens fresh and ready-to-serve. Cut off the ends of the greens and wash as you normally would. Store in containers, cut-side down in a couple of inches of water. Cover with a loose-fitting plastic bag and place in refrigerator. Don’t overcrowd the greens within the container. Your greens will stay fresher longer, and you will always have fresh, washed greens available.

If you have any bunny hacks, please let us know, and we will include them in a future issue of Thump.

Photos: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab



Cardboard to be used for the “hat.”



“Hat” attached to a gate or X-pen.



PVC pipe protects electrical wires.



Low entry litter box.



Keeping greens fresh.





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Rabbits have special care needs and live for 10+ years.

Rabbits require a spacious indoor home and vet care from a rabbit-savvy vet. They are fragile and do not like to be picked up, so are seldom suitable for children and absolutely never as a "starter pet."

I may be small, but I am a BIG commitment!

**RABBIT RESCUE & REHAB**

rabbitcare.org  
nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com



Skye.



Remington.



Remington & Delilah.



Winter.



Nona.

## Ban the Sale of Fur in New York City: Support Intro 1476

Following the news that California's fur ban, AB-44, was signed into law in mid-October, we must focus on a bill that was introduced in the New York City Council to prohibit the sale of fur in New York City.

The city is the largest fur market in the U.S. and one of the largest in the world. A ban on selling fur in New York City would not only have a massive impact on fur sales and trade globally, but also would set a strong precedent for other cities, fashion designers, retailers and countries around the world. The fur industry is a dreadfully violent and cruel business with no place in a humane 21st-century world.

Each year, more than 100 million animals suffer horribly and are killed solely for their fur world-wide. A large portion of these animals are rabbits – the exact same domestic rabbits that we have the privilege of caring for in our own homes.

To our readers in New York City, please call City Council members and urge

them to sign on to the bill if they have not already, and call to thank them for their support if they have. Find your Council member's name and contact information at this [website](#).

Seven Council members are on the committee that will vote on whether the bill will move forward. At least four of them must vote "yes." The committee will gauge support for the bill based in part on how many Council members have signed on to it, so be sure to urge your family and friends to voice their support to their council members as well.

The Council members on the committee are: Rafael L. Espinal Jr. (chair), Justin Brannan (sponsor), Margaret S. Chin, Keith Powers, Peter Koo, Karen Koslowitz and Brad Lander (sponsor).

Please especially take the time to contact these Council members.

Despite growing consumer awareness of the cruelty of fur industry and the steps recently taken by major fashion designers

Poster: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab



to ban fur products (in the past 18 months, Chanel, Phillip Lim, Jean Paul Gaultier, Coach, Burberry, Gucci, Michael Kors and more have all banned fur. See [www.furfreenyc.com](http://www.furfreenyc.com)), there is concern as the fur industry will be pushing hard against this bill. Everyone's voice is needed to speak out in support of Intro 1476 and advocate for the millions of animals unnecessarily tortured and killed each year.

## Voice Your Support to Ban the Sale of Cats, Dogs and Rabbits In Retail Pet Shops in New York State

The New York State Assembly will be back in session in January, so it is important to reach out to legislators, encouraging them to vote in favor of a ban on the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in pet stores all across the state.

A bill was proposed in June, but at that time no progress was made toward passing this legislation.

We remain hopeful that with continued enthusiasm in support of a ban, we will quickly see it come to fruition. In 2016, New York City banned the sale of rabbits in pet stores throughout the five boroughs, and we ask that people continue to voice support for expanding this ban into the entire state of New York in advance of the Assembly's January return.

The need for this bill to pass is enormous. Between June 1, 2018 and June 1 of this year, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab received individual relinquishment requests for a total of 1,268 rabbits, a number that excludes all large-scale surrenders, hoarding cases, and over-reproduction situations that may involve 100+ rabbits in each scenario. A significant number of these surrender requests come from people who purchased a rabbit from a pet store on impulse, received a rabbit purchased from a pet store as a gift, or were given incorrect information (or no information) about rabbits from a pet store and only later learned that they were not prepared for the commitment or the expense. Upon learning about the special diet and care needs, cost, and

commitment involved in rabbit care, many chose to abandon their rabbits or relinquish them to a shelter rather than stepping up to provide the correct home and care to the rabbit that they purchased.

We must work to push our way out of this horrendous situation that leaves intelligent, sensitive, loving animals tossed away as though they are temporary commodities. The first, crucial, step will be banning the sale of rabbits in pet stores. Shelters (the few that are even able and willing to take in rabbits) and rescue groups are utterly overwhelmed by the magnitude of the problem. Following New York City's 2016 ban on selling rabbits in pet stores, we saw a

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## A Room of Victoria's Own

By Paula Rosenberg

When rabbit-savvy guests visit my apartment, the first comment they make is about my living-room layout. “Most people build their bunny’s living space to fit into their room; you’ve built the room around your bunny.” Indeed, the living room is no longer mine. It belongs to Victoria, a sassy English Spot mix.

Before entering the care of Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, Victoria had a sad backstory. As a baby, she was a victim of animal abuse and had her rear left leg amputated as a result of being thrown out a window. She was given a second chance at a wonderful life and thrived under the care of a RR&R volunteer, Austin Torres. In 2017, after a successful speed date with my first rabbit, Milo (who sadly passed away this summer), Victoria came home with us.

My home had been well equipped for rabbits ever since I adopted Milo. Low-pile rugs and slip-proof mats cover my living-room floor. Milo had a great setup with a hidey house, litter box, water and food bowls, unlimited access to hay, and an assortment of bunny-approved fling and chew toys. Despite having a bunny-friendly abode, I needed some adjustments to make the space more accommodating and safe for Victoria.

I replaced regular litter boxes with low-entry ones so it would be easier for Victoria to enter. (Tip: If you need low-entry litter boxes, gardening boxes are the same shape and size.) Victoria loves having the planter box because the wide cover on the edge serves as a roof and makes the back side of the box a perfect-size bunny hiding spot.

I also needed to make sure the room setup didn’t encourage Victoria to climb or jump high, because the risk of injury would be too great. Milo loved the Cottontail Cottage he had, but two-

story hidey boxes weren’t a good solution for Victoria. I replaced them with a wonderful set of cardboard-box houses from [Rabbit Treasures](#). I took out the connector tunnel since I thought its low height might encourage Victoria to jump over it like a hurdle. Instead, I set two houses up in different areas of her space, and Victoria loves having multiple options of safe spaces to hide and relax.

When I first brought Victoria home, I blocked off the sofa and other areas of the room with a pen until I was certain that she wouldn’t attempt to jump up to

high spots. Fortunately, this girl likes to stay close to the ground. I set up a tunnel behind a litter box so it wouldn’t roll, and it’s one of Victoria’s favorite exercises. She loves to run in and out of it, especially if she thinks a treat is waiting for her on the other side.

Victoria doesn’t let her missing limb get her down. She is a little diva, and friends refer to her as “Queen Victoria” because of her regal and disapproving glances. By setting up a safe and comfortable environment, I have tried to help her enjoy a happy and healthy life.

Photo: Paula Rosenberg



Victoria.



## Why It's Important for You to Learn Your Rabbit's Little Quirks and Habits

By Robert Kulka

So, a bunny has decided to come home with you. You did everything you could to prepare for the homecoming. You got the lowdown on living with a rabbit. You set up a bed and comfy corner, with everything safe and bunny-proofed. You got the right hay and pellets to make sure you have what your bunny likes. You have the hay box filled to overflow and a bowl of cool, fresh water. Your bunny has lots of room to run and binky, and the floor covering you put down makes sure to provide traction and comfort. So, you think you are done and off to a happy life with bunny.

Not so fast! This is just the beginning. The journey starts here. First, you want to get a wellness visit with a vet who knows

about rabbits. Check the recommended list for your area, ask around and get references. You want to make sure that the vet you select is the right one and knows all about rabbits. The wellness visit sets the baseline for your new partner. Weight and an overall checkup are the first steps. Your vet may want to do a few other tests, especially if your bunny is a bit older. Make sure you keep a diary of your rabbit's checkups. This way you can easily remember when the last visit was, how much your rabbit weighed and any other things that the vet may have told you. If there are any issues in the future, you will have something to look at as a baseline.

You should observe special behaviors, habits and quirks. And these may change

over time. Rabbits are funny that way. One day they get fixated on something that they never noticed before. Keep an eye on that. As they develop a relationship with you over time, they will let you in on their private world.

Knowing your rabbit (such as what the bunny's likes and dislikes are, favorite foods and typical behavior) will help you develop an important baseline. This way, if the littlest thing is not right, you will notice it. Remember that rabbits will try to cover up anything that is wrong. They don't like others to know they might not feel well. You have to be tuned in enough to your little partner to be aware of the slightest actions that don't seem right. They can't tell you.

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### Ban Pet Sales *(Continued from page 7)*

decrease in the proportion of rabbit surrenders coming specifically from within the five boroughs. This evidence leaves us deeply optimistic about the impact that a statewide ban would have on the rabbit abandonment crisis across all of New York.

We ask that you please call your New York State representatives, tell them that you support a ban on selling rabbits in pet stores, and ask them for their support.

Find your district's Assembly member and contact information [here](#):

Rabbits are counting on us to come together and push for this ban. We are a small community in a very large state, so please ask your friends, relatives, colleagues and neighbors to voice their support to representatives as well. Thank you so much to everyone for your continued support!

Poster: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab Supports:

NEW YORK A.6298

BAN THE SALE OF  
DOGS, CATS, AND  
RABBITS  
IN RETAIL PET SHOPS



Call your assemblymember and tell them you support the pet shop ban A.6298  
INCLUDING RABBITS

Find your district's assemblymember: <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/search/>

## My First Rabbit Rescue Was a Success, Thanks to Apple Slices and Lots of Patience

By Ashley Rockholt

When I saw the post for a rabbit rescue 25 minutes from my house, I felt a rush of emotions. Could I do this? Would I help or hinder the situation? Was I ready? I watched as my newly adopted rabbit, Christian, did a binky in my living room, and I just knew this was the time for me to help out with a rescue effort.

I agreed to help on this rescue around 9 a.m. on a Friday morning, and by 3 p.m. that afternoon I was in a stranger's backyard in Suffolk County with a pen

and carrier. Luckily, I had an amazing partner, Erica, whom I had met several times, and she had conducted the home visit for my rabbit's adoption from Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group. On the way to the rescue site in Port Jefferson Station, I was nervous and excited at the same time. When I arrived and saw Erica, I felt more relaxed and ready to get to work. We looked out on a backyard filled with briar-patches, thorns and tall grass.

Jokingly to Erica I mentioned growing up down South in the woods, so this

would be no problem. Because it was a very cold day, I had worn my thick ski jacket, ski gloves, and ski cap to protect myself from any prickly plants or pests. Erica and I walked around the backyard in search of the mostly black and gray rabbit, but couldn't find her. After searching for about five minutes, we saw the bunny hopping around in the high grass. We decided the best thing for us to do was for me to take the carrier inside the high thorny underbrush of

*(Continued on page 11)*

### RABBIT CARE

#### Little Quirks *(Continued from page 9)*

You have to know. And this is where a rabbit first-aid kit comes in handy. You may need to track temperature or be able to keep the bunny warm. Your veterinarian may tell you to take certain steps before you can get to the vet's office.

Remember that with rabbits it is critical to be able to respond quickly if there is any unusual change in behavior. If they are not eating, if they seem to have no energy or unexpectedly pull away from you, it will be time to contact your vet immediately for an appointment. And this is where knowing the baselines is helpful. Be prepared to explain any new behavior to the vet in a straightforward, detailed manner, covering everything you've seen. You may even have videos so the vet can see firsthand what you are describing. Whatever your vet decides, be sure to understand what the doctor wants to do and what has been recommended. It is OK to ask questions about what might be happening. You play an important role in diagnosis and treatment.

You should not assume that what was prescribed is the definitive answer or



Bunnies can look alike but have very different personalities. Angelina, left, is outgoing, bold, curious and enjoys human interaction. Puffin, right, is shy and careful, and enjoys human interaction from only a very special human.

treatment. Rabbit health can be an elusive thing. If you don't think your bunny is responding to treatment, you must visit the vet again to determine if more tests or exams are necessary. Your rabbit is depending on you.

All the preparations you made, the research you continue to do and your observations about the rabbit's personality

will come in handy if you have to act fast. Remember, if you know the baseline, it will help in keeping you and your bunny out of serious trouble so you can go on enjoying your life together. Your bunny will begin to trust you more and more, and you will be blessed with hours of happy times together.



## My First Rabbit Rescue

*(Continued from page 10)*

the backyard where the rabbit was hiding, while Erica situated the exercise pen for potentially corralling the rabbit in the short grass. We loaded the carrier with apple slices, cilantro, kale, dandelion stems, romaine lettuce and hay, and away I went off into the woods to find the rabbit.

Using the carrier as a shield, I pushed past the high grass and bushes to where the bunny was sitting. Once I was close, she ran off further into the brush. I continued to get closer, and then tossed an apple slice close to where she was positioned. The ravenous rabbit ate the piece of apple; therefore, I knew I had a chance. Next, I threw a piece of lettuce a little closer to the carrier. The rabbit ate the lettuce, too, so I threw another half slice of apple a bit closer to the carrier. This Hansel and Gretel game went on until the rabbit came all the way to the carrier. I was able to hand-feed a slice of the apple to the rabbit, but she would not go in the carrier. Because this was my first rescue experience, I was too nervous to push the rabbit inside the carrier, especially after I had just spent 10 minutes gaining her trust. When I got a little too close to the rabbit, she took off on a chasing game with me in pursuit.

Finally, the rabbit ran into the grassy area where Erica was standing with the exercise pen. I grabbed one side of the pen and Erica had the other side. We were able to enclose the rabbit in the pen and immediately put the carrier inside for the rabbit to hop into. Once the bunny entered the carrier, I shut it and looked up at Erica in pure happiness and disbelief. Jumping for joy, I said to Erica, "We did it! I can't believe we caught the rabbit so quickly!" Within about 35 to 40 minutes of us entering the backyard, we had ensured the safety of sweet Violet. Whoever adopts Violet

will be blessed with a friendly and spunky rabbit.

I had previously been nervous about helping with a rescue. I had no idea what to expect and pictured myself running around with a pen for hours. Having patience and apple slices really made this rescue go smoothly for us. Erica was a great leader, and working

together as a team helped us to achieve our goal of helping to save an abandoned animal. Can I do this? YES! Will I help or hinder this situation? HELP! Am I ready? ALL DAY, EVERY DAY! A special thank you to Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group for making this amazing experience possible.

Photos: Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group



Violet in the finder's backyard.



Violet at Nancy Schreiber's, the Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group's main foster home.

## A Passionate Advocate for Adoption

Photos: Sophia Gresalfi



Sophia Gresalfi outside Petco in Brookfield, Conn., with a copy of the coloring/activity book she created for the Girl Scout Gold Award project.

Sophia Gresalfi, a high school senior from Great Neck South High School, is very passionate about animals. She has taken on the challenge of educating children and their parents on the importance of choosing the right pet for their families and to consider adoption when doing so.

As part of her Girl Scout Gold Award project, titled “Rescue the rabbits and other homeless pets through awareness



Christine Goldstein and Sophia Gresalfi with her pet Snickers at the Petco in Little Neck, N.Y.

and adoption,” Sophia created a coloring/activity book for children and organized educational events at local camps and schools. She has also held adoption events at local pet stores on Long Island. Partnering with Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, Sophia has advocated for rabbit adoption, fostering and volunteering.

Combating the problem of impulse pet purchases, Sophia is seeking to provide

the information necessary to make a sound decision when choosing a pet, in order to reduce the problem of pet abandonment.

She has made adoption materials available at local Petco stores on Long Island.

Her efforts hopefully will help rabbits and other pets in finding suitable forever homes.

### ADOPTIONS

#### Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Thor, Oreo, Luna, Greenbelt, Navi, Maui and Oahu. Honey Bun, Buggy, Iggy and Ziggy, Coco, Elf, Amazon and Microsoft, Mr. Darcy, Syrian, Bugs, Lightning, MacKinac, Hopsy, Hophop, Minouche and Fratzi, Parsnip and Noble.

#### Holiday Appeal

As you hurry to finish your holiday preparations, buy gifts for friends and family, and rush off for vacation or to visit loved ones, please don't forget about all of our furry friends who do not have their own family to spend the holidays with. So many rabbits and other animals will sit in overcrowded shelters and rescue organizations where it will be just another lonely day.

Throughout the year, these little ones rely on each one of us to donate so that they

may have food and receive veterinary attention. Sadly, many go without. Please share your generous spirit in the next couple of weeks and think about donating monetary gifts, toys, soft beds, etc., so that they, too, may have a little joy while they await their forever homes. As always, please do whatever you can to adopt or foster; you will change the life of one of these deserving rabbits. Hopypy holidays from RR&R!



## We Are Looking for Loving Homes:

### These Rabbits Are in Foster Care



Ashton.



Carmela.



Ernie.

#### Ashton

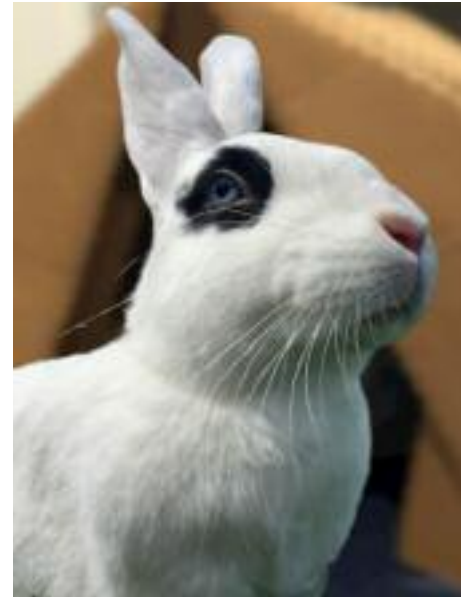
He is a medium-sized dark chocolate Rex who is as soft as he is fabulous! Ashton is a super-friendly, young boy who loves attention. He is an easygoing, inquisitive extrovert. Ashton has been enjoying living in a bunny-friendly home. He has been moderately active, but we have much more to learn about him. If interested in potentially adopting please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com)

#### Carmela

Carmela is a young medium-sized Rex rabbit. Her beautiful coat is mostly white with tan and black spots. She is a sweet rabbit who loves to have her soft nose petted. She also likes to explore her house, but her favorite thing is to relax with a nice soft blanket. Carmela is shy and would likely do best in an adult-only home. She would also likely make a good partner for another rabbit. She has been spayed and is in foster care. For more information and/or to arrange a meeting with Carmela, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

#### Ernie

Ernie is a handsome, medium-sized young bunny who was in bad shape upon being rescued, apparently because he was left outdoors. We got him the vet care and TLC he needed, and now he is looking for a forever home. Ernie has a great appetite for pellets and greens, but still will not eat any hay, so about every three months he must have his molar spurs filed down by a rabbit-savvy vet. This is a relatively quick procedure, and he has always started eating immediately afterward. Ernie is an active and curious rabbit, but still very shy and not much interested in humans (other than when you offer food, of course!), so we think he would be best off as a partner rabbit.



Gussie.

He has been neutered and has very good litter-box skills. If interested in fostering or adopting this resilient, hunky bunny, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

#### Gussie

Gussie is a small, young girl who is cute as a button. This little nugget has big beautiful eyes, one blue and one brown, surrounded in thick black eyeliner. Gussie is very a sweet little cherub. She loves to snuggle with her stuffed animal friend, explore and eat. She is on the independent side, but loves nothing more than to be petted by someone who has gained her trust. She has been affected by some trauma in her life that left her quite anxious. She desperately needs her own person—someone with a calm demeanor who can provide her with a peaceful, quiet and stable home to call her own. Gussie is spayed, litter-box trained and living in a foster home. If you would like to help this little one find happiness, please contact us at [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

*(Continued on page 15)*

## Letters From Adopters

### Snowball

*Snowball was adopted in the late summer by Ayelet and Zahi. They sent us this great update.*

We adopted Snowball at the end of August as a 3-month-old baby.

He is the smartest and most beautiful bunny ever!!

He likes to play and eat! And he especially likes to run and jump around our bedroom, in and out of his pet tunnels, to investigate every corner.

Snowball is so cute and soft, and it melts our hearts when he runs straight to us when we open his cage door, for cuddles and kisses.

He's our little furry baby and we love him so, so much. So if you're thinking about adding a rabbit to your family, please do yourself a favor: go and adopt.

Ayelet & Zahi

Photos: Ayelet Meier



Snowball.

Photo: Angela Russo



Coco.

### Coco

*Coco was adopted by Angela Russo and her family in mid-November. We received this wonderful letter from them.*

Coco is loving it! He loves to run around and jump.

He especially loves the hay I give him. His favorite treats are carrots or bananas.

He for some reason loves to play with toilet paper rolls, which I read up on and I believe he can play with them.

He's so cute and surprisingly very easy to litter train. Coco has become friendlier and friendlier as the days go on.

He originally was timid and didn't want to go near me. Now he likes to stand on

my legs, climb on me, sometimes nibble at my shirt. It is the cutest thing ever!

If I had to choose between him and any other bunny, I would 100% still choose him. I love him so much.

Angela Russo

*(Continued on page 15)*



Photo: Rachel Kieffer



Munchkin (formerly Panda) with Matzah Ball.

## Munchkin

*Rachel and her family adopted Munchkin, formerly known as Panda, as a partner for Matzah Ball in October. Matzah Ball was known as Ruthie when adopted in July at BACC.*

Munchkin (formerly Panda) is doing very well.

She is now fully bonded with my boy, Matzah Ball, made friends with my dog Katie, tries to steal veggies from the fridge every time I open it, and she

loves hugs and cuddles. We are totally smitten and in love.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Rachel Kieffer

## ADOPTIONS

### Rabbits in Foster Care

*(Continued from page 13)*

#### Romeo

Romeo is a medium-sized black-and-white Dutch bunny who was found in the woods in January 2015 and brought home by a Good Samaritan. He is bursting with personality and will totally charm the person who adopts him. Romeo has been neutered and is currently in foster care. For more information and/or to arrange a meeting with Romeo, please contact [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).



Romeo.



## 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:

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

### 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**  
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

**Shachar Malka, DVM**  
Long Island Bird & Exotics  
Veterinary Clinic  
333 Great Neck Road  
Great Neck, NY 11021  
(516) 482-1101

## Adoptable Rabbits

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

To adopt a rabbit in **New York City** or **Westchester**, contact [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com). On **Long Island**, contact Nancy Schreiber at [nschreibmd@gmail.com](mailto:nschreibmd@gmail.com) or at 516-510-3637 ([www.longislandrabbitrescue.org](http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org)).

**If interested in volunteering or fostering for Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).**

Adoptable Rabbit Rescue & Rehab rabbits are at Petco's Union Square location. Rabbit volunteers are present at these stores on Saturday and Sunday afternoons to answer questions.

You can also visit Manhattan Animal Care Center at 326 East 110th St., between First and Second avenues, and the Brooklyn Animal Care Center at 2336 Linden Boulevard.

Rabbits for adoption in Manhattan and Brooklyn can be found by going to:

<http://www.nycacc.org/> and doing an adoption search (for ACC inquiries about adoption/bunny dates, email [adopt@nycacc.org](mailto:adopt@nycacc.org)). 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](mailto: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](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com)

For basic information about rabbits as pets, go to [www.rabbitcare.org](http://www.rabbitcare.org), [www.longislandrabbitrescue.org](http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org) and the House Rabbit Society main site, [www.rabbit.org](http://www.rabbit.org).

## Licensed HRS Educators

### NYC/Westchester:

**M.C. Basile**, Chapter Manager, NYC House Rabbit Society, [bunnytorts@gmail.com](mailto:bunnytorts@gmail.com)

**Mary Cotter**, Founder, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, Adviser to Thump, [mec@cloud9.net](mailto:mec@cloud9.net), (914) 337-6146

**Jeanine Callace**, [Rofoyo.pippin@verizon.net](mailto:Rofoyo.pippin@verizon.net)  
**Alex McIe**, [alexlmcie@gmail.com](mailto:alexlmcie@gmail.com)

**Marcie Frishberg**

**Gabrielle LaManna**, New Fairfield, CT, [gabbysbunnies@yahoo.com](mailto:gabbysbunnies@yahoo.com), (203) 746-7548

**Cindy Stutts**, [bygolyoly@yahoo.com](mailto:bygolyoly@yahoo.com), (646) 319-4766

**Monica Shepherd, DVM**

### Long Island:

**Nancy Schreiber**, President, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, [nschreibmd@gmail.com](mailto:nschreibmd@gmail.com), (516) 510-3637, [LongIslandRabbitRescue.org](http://LongIslandRabbitRescue.org)

**Mary Ann Maier**, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group Volunteer, [altitude8@yahoo.com](mailto:altitude8@yahoo.com), [LongIslandRabbitRescue.org](http://LongIslandRabbitRescue.org)

**Donna Sheridan**, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group Volunteer, [hpocus217@yahoo.com](mailto:hpocus217@yahoo.com), [LongIslandRabbitRescue.org](http://LongIslandRabbitRescue.org)

**Jennifer Saver, DVM**

**Laura George, DVM**

## THUMP DECEMBER 2019

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS  
[www.rabbitcare.org](http://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 by sending contributions to: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab/NYC Metro Rabbit, 333 Mamaroneck Ave, #363, White Plains, NY 10605 or <http://rabbitcare.org/donations.htm>.

To contribute to Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, please go to [www.longislandrabbitrescue.org](http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org).