



NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS MARCH 2021

Precautions We Can Take in the Northeast As Deadly Rabbit Virus Spreads in the U.S.

By Susan Lillo

The first cases of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus appeared in the Southwest U.S. early last year, and already the highly contagious disease has killed domestic and wild rabbits in at least 10 states.

RHDV is expected to arrive in our region this year, according to Anne Martin, who has served as executive director of House Rabbit Society for the past seven years. “The likelihood of it continuing to spread is very high,” she said in an interview.

For rabbit owners in the Northeast, there are precautions to take now in preparation for the arrival of the virus. Certain bio-security measures can be put in place at home, she said. “It will be less scary than having to do that when the virus is at your doorstep,” she said.

In contrast with Covid-19, which is typically transmitted by air, RHDV attaches itself to inanimate objects such as shoes, clothing and vehicle tires. Humans bring the virus into the house, and rabbits become infected. Leafy produce from out of state can carry the virus, and washing may not remove it entirely. Domestic rabbits also can



Anne Martin, executive director of House Rabbit Society, says rabbit owners can take precautions now in preparation for the arrival of the virus.

become infected by a flea or fur mite that has previously bitten an infected rabbit.

Awareness is key, and there are mitigation steps to lower your risk, Dr. Martin said. Here are a few of them.

— Install window and door screens to keep out flying insects that might carry RHDV.

— Purchase a disinfectant that can kill the virus on surfaces. One, called Rescue, is particularly good.

— Because leafy greens brought in from a Western state might be risky, you should

(Continued on page 2)

A Year of Quarantine With Bunnies

By Megan Hilands

As we get further into 2021, we have been passing more and more “quarantine-iversaries” – when each of us had to start living our daily lives around Covid-19 precautions. My quarantine-iversary is March 4, when I was abruptly sent home from a work trip after coming in close contact with colleagues who may have been exposed to Covid-19.

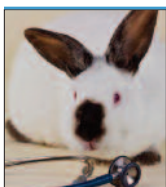
Although the pandemic has brought a screeching halt to a lot of activities I enjoy, I am truly grateful for the extra time I have been able to enjoy with my bunnies. Spending nearly all of our time at home with jobs that have gone remote, I feel the relationship my partner and I have with our rabbits has grown much deeper. We have not only gotten more insight into their daily habits but also have seen their confidence around us grow, much as if we’ve been granted honorary bunny status.

Here are the most meaningful changes I’ve observed with my bonded pair after nearly a year of being together 24/7.

They Explore More

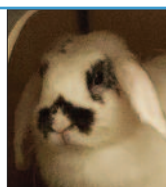
Perhaps because they are rarely enclosed in the pen, I notice my rabbits venture

(Continued on page 3)



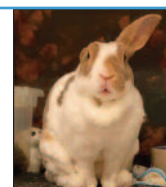
Here Are Some Tips For Putting Together An Emergency First-Aid Kit

Page 4



Beautiful Bunny Diamond Adds Lots of Sparkle To Her Home

Page 6



Quirky Nicknames Tell Us a Lot About Rabbits And Their Owners

Page 7

Rabbit Virus

(Continued from page 1)

think of alternatives such as a local farmers market or greenhouse-grown vegetables. Think of starting your own indoor or outdoor garden.

— Don't use cat or dog food containing rabbit meat, which could carry the virus.

— Your hay supply could be risky, too. Many of the big hay suppliers are taking precautions, so check online to see what each company is doing.

— Always keep your rabbit indoors.


— Stay informed. Dr. Martin suggests that rabbit owners sign up for an HRS newsletter that gives updates twice a month.

The death rate from RHDV is about 90%, she said. There is no treatment or cure. Symptoms may include lethargy, fever, and bleeding from the nose, mouth or rectum. Rabbits often experience sudden death, without showing any symptoms.

“Wild rabbits cover the whole continent,” she said, and the disease has spread widely among native wildlife such as cottontails, jackrabbits and snowshoe hares. It jumps back and forth between wild and domestic rabbits.

Because the disease can be spread by other animals, on the tires of vehicles, on clothes and on the soles of shoes, it is hard to contain. “A hawk or prey animal eats a sick rabbit and then it could fly miles and poop and then the virus is spread,” she said. The virus can live for four months at moderate temperatures before it comes in contact with a rabbit. It is “sticky,” Dr. Martin said, meaning that it attaches itself easily to surfaces.

She noted that the disease can be transmitted to a rabbit in a variety of ways, through direct contact with infected urine or feces, or indirect exposure to fur or meat of a sick rabbit. A rabbit can then become infected through its mouth or eyes when it grooms itself. Fleas or fur mites can



RABBITS & RHDV

- WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW -

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) is a highly contagious and deadly disease caused by a calicivirus that affects both wild and domestic rabbits. It's not contagious to people or other animals. For the first time, the virus is causing deaths in wild rabbits and hares native to North America and is spreading rapidly. Visit rabbit.org/rhdv to see an outbreak map.

The virus is shed in urine, feces, and secretions from eyes, nose, and mouth, and remains present in fur and internal organs and tissues. Rabbits are infected by oral, nasal, or ocular exposure to the virus or by blood-feeding insects. **Even if your rabbit is kept inside, they are still at risk of becoming infected with RHDV.** While RHDV only affects rabbits, the disease can be transmitted to them by people or animals through contact with contaminated objects, animals, insects, or feces.


The virus causes death within 3-5 days of exposure, often with no symptoms. A sudden rabbit death is suspicious and should be reported to your veterinarian as a possible RHDV case. Report sightings of sick and/or dead wild rabbits to your state wildlife officials; **do not touch them.**

PROTECTING YOUR RABBIT FROM RHDV

- ▶ Keep your rabbit indoors with no outdoor playtime and no playtime with other rabbits from outside your home.
- ▶ Wash your hands thoroughly before and after handling rabbits.
- ▶ After contact with other rabbits, change your clothes and wash them twice.
- ▶ Leave shoes outside your home.
- ▶ Disinfect objects that may be contaminated. Visit rabbit.org/rhdv for a list of RHDV-effective disinfectants. Not all disinfectants work against the virus.
- ▶ Keep mosquitos and flies out of your home with window and door screens.
- ▶ Know your hay, feed, and greens sources, and avoid if located in outbreak areas. Consider feeding greenhouse or indoor-grown greens.
- ▶ Do not feed foraged plants, grasses, or tree branches.
- ▶ Quarantine any new rabbit for at least 14 days.
- ▶ Multi-pet households should take additional precautions to protect their rabbit, as the virus can be spread to a healthy, indoor-only rabbit by cats and dogs. (see reverse)
- ▶ Learn how to trim your rabbit's nails and groom them at home, not taking them to higher-risk locations like a rescue or vet's office.
- ▶ Use a monthly flea treatment for rabbits, cats, and dogs. Advantage II and Revolution are safe to use on rabbits. Never use Frontline. Visit rabbit.org/faq-grooming to learn more.
- ▶ If you live in an outbreak state, contact your veterinarian to ask about vaccination. (see reverse)

HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY | FOUNDED IN 1988 | RABBIT.ORG/RHDV

Last updated: 8/5/2020



transmit the disease to a healthy rabbit from an infected one.

Tracing cases is important. Any suspected cases involving a wild rabbit should be reported. In addition, if you suspect your pet rabbit has died of RHDV, call your vet and have a necropsy performed.

There are vaccines for the virus, and veterinarians can apply for permission to import vaccines after cases of RHDV have been reported in their state. A veterinarian must request permission from their State Veterinarian, who provides an authorization letter that the

veterinarian submits to the U.S. Department of Agriculture with the vaccine import permit application. Dr. Martin said there are currently two vaccines being used in the U.S., one from Spain and one from France. She said HRS made a group vaccine purchase in California for 2,000 doses at about \$16 apiece, and was allowed to redistribute the vaccine to other licensed vets in the state.

HRS headquarters in Richmond, Calif., has taken a few mitigation measures of

(Continued on page 3)

Rabbit Virus

(Continued from page 2)

its own in advance of RHDV reaching Northern California, Dr. Martin said. All rabbits at the center are vaccinated against RHDV. Vegetables for the rabbits are vigorously hand-washed three times in a colander, to remove dirt and loose particulates. In addition, hay supplies are stored for four months before being used in litter boxes.

HRS plans additional RHDV prevention protocols, including a two-week quarantine upon intake, once there are cases in Northern California. To learn more about the protocol recommendations for shelters/rescues in an outbreak area, go to [this site](#).

In addition to California, other states that have had outbreaks of RHDV are Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Florida (a single case) and Montana. The disease is widespread in Mexico. (In Manhattan, RHDV killed a number of pet rabbits at a vet clinic in early 2020.) There are two strains, RHDV1 and RHDV2, and the second strain is now dominant in the U.S.

The disease is believed to have originated in China perhaps two decades ago, but probably entered the U.S. from Europe. It currently affects rabbits in 40 countries. The fast spread of the virus was demonstrated in Australia, where it spread from coast to coast in 18 months.

Seasonality is a factor. In Australia, the disease began spreading in the fall and winter, peaked in the spring and was generally absent in the summer.

House Rabbit Society has a page with comprehensive [RHDV information](#), and it is continually updated.

Here are three news articles about the disease:

[The New York Times](#)

[The New Yorker](#)

[The Cut](#)

GETTING YOUR RABBIT VACCINATED

An annual vaccine is required for continued protection against RHDV. Vaccination is expected to be effective for most rabbits—it may not prevent the disease in 100% of cases, but if vaccinated, it helps rabbits survive if they have been exposed to RHDV. Biosecurity measures should still be taken to protect vaccinated rabbits.

Currently, a vaccine is not widely available in North America. In states with a current outbreak, special permission is being given by state and federal agencies to veterinarians to import European vaccines. Contact your veterinarian to inquire about getting your rabbit vaccinated if where you live is affected. Visit [rabbit.org/vet-listings](#) for our state-by-state list of rabbit-savvy vets.

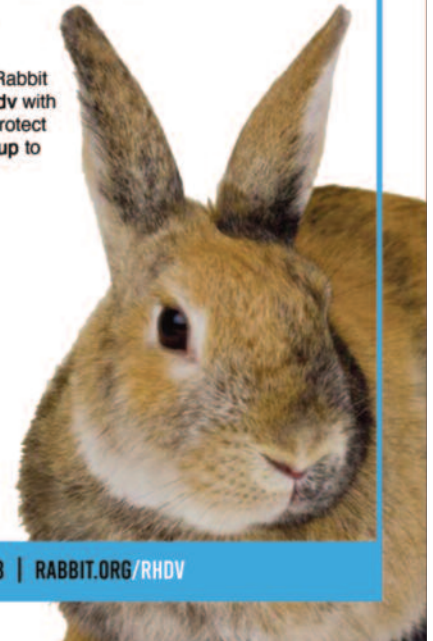
MULTI-PET HOUSEHOLDS

Those who live in a multi-pet household will need to take additional biosecurity measures to help keep their rabbit from getting RHDV.

We recommend using a monthly flea treatment for rabbits, cats, and dogs, especially in outbreak states and if any pets in the home go outside. Advantage II and Revolution are safe to use on rabbits. Never use Frontline. Do not feed dogs or cats raw or freeze-dried rabbit meat—if there is a virus in the meat, it could be spread to pet or wild rabbits by the animal's feces. Keep cats indoors, so they can't bring in the virus from outside. Keep dogs on-leash outside so they don't directly interact with wild rabbits, alive or deceased. Consider having your dog wear booties outside, or washing their paws when going back inside your home. Designate separate areas in your home for your dog and block dog access to areas where your rabbit lives or exercises.

LEARN MORE ABOUT RHDV

As the North American RHDV outbreak develops, House Rabbit Society will continue to keep you updated at [rabbit.org/rhdv](#) with information about the spread of RHDV and how you can protect your rabbit. Subscribe to our newsletter at [rabbit.org/signup](#) to ensure you receive timely alerts about RHDV.



HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY | FOUNDED IN 1988 | [RABBIT.ORG/RHDV](#)

Last updated: 8/5/2020

Quarantine

(Continued from page 1)

much farther than they did pre-Covid. Things that previously did not interest them at all are now fair game – for instance the kitchen, bathroom and end tables.

My daredevil Nala is trying to climb on EVERYTHING, from the stairs to our heaters. And here I thought rabbits were ground-dwellers! That's been a new bunny-proofing challenge, but I think my buns secretly like getting in trouble. After they get caught venturing near somewhere they aren't supposed to be,

such as the treat closet (and you bet they know it!), a binky usually follows.

(Continued on page 4)

Photo: Megan Hillands



Nala hiding behind a ream of computer paper in my office.

Building a Rabbit Emergency Kit

By House Rabbit Society

“When in doubt, go to the vet” is a bunny parent’s mantra. There’s no substitute for seeing a rabbit-savvy veterinarian and getting professional treatment and care, especially in an emergency.

However, due to Covid-19 protocols, staffing shortages and other challenges at veterinary offices right now, it may be difficult to get an immediate appointment with your vet, or even get to an emergency vet. It is a good idea to have a first-aid kit with emergency supplies on hand.

Remember, a first-aid kit is not a replacement for going to a rabbit-savvy veterinarian when there is an emergency. A first-aid kit can help you keep your rabbit stable until you can see a vet.

When putting together your emergency kit, we recommend including:

- Digital thermometer (a rabbit’s normal temperature is 101-103 degrees Fahrenheit). Practice taking your rabbit’s temperature before it is an emergency.
- Water-based lubricant, like K-Y Jelly, to lubricate the thermometer.
- Stethoscope, to listen for gut sounds.
- Heating pad or disc, and cooling pad/ice packs, to keep your rabbit warm/cool, if needed. Only heat/cool a rabbit after taking his or her temperature.
- Blanket or cuddle pod to safely secure your rabbit for syringe feeding or medications.

- A recovery food, like Oxbow’s Critical Care, for syringe feeding if your rabbit stops eating.
- Canned pumpkin (not pie filling) to mix with Critical Care, if needed.
- Infant gas drops (simethicone). While simethicone may not do anything if a rabbit has gas, it is unlikely to hurt, and anecdotally some people feel it helps.
- Oral syringes for medicine and for feeding.
- Pedialyte (unflavored), or apple juice for hydration.
- Hydrogen peroxide, to clean blood off fur or check for blood in urine, seeing if it fizzes.

(Continued on page 5)

Quarantine

(Continued from page 3)

Photos: Megan Hillands



Nala inspecting new parts of our home (please note that there is no carpet only because this was her first time venturing to these rooms; we do have rugs in all areas the bunnies frequent!).

They Listen to Us

My buns aren’t total rebels, though. Because we are spending so much more



Simba keeping her human Nick company during the workday.

time with them, I think they probably trust us more and thus listen much better. Before the pandemic, I could only get my bunnies to come when

called if I had a treat in hand near the pen. Now, they will come to me in other parts of our home most of the time, except when they’re sleeping. Who says you can’t teach a bun new tricks?

They Are More Ingrained in Their Habits Than Ever

With our daily schedules being more predictable, our bunnies have gotten even more demanding about when they expect food, litter-box changes, and the like. Last night I stayed up a bit later than usual and did not clean the litter box by 9:30 p.m. as I usually do. At 9:45 Simba went to the litter box and would not cease thumping until I provided fresh hay.

Both buns have discovered better ways to make noise when we sleep in and are late for breakfast. Their current favorite is moving the pen on top of a ceramic tile (which is there to help them keep cool). They are almost as accurate as alarm clocks, really!

Has your bunny’s routine changed during the pandemic?

Tattle Tail

By Samantha Rowan

I know that I often fall short of my rabbit Lenny's expectations (so many disappointed, judging looks are thrown my way every day), but he took his complaints to a whole new level after his annual wellness check with Deborah Levison at Symphony Veterinary Center in December.

Usually, a trip to see Dr. Levison means that Lenny will grumble for the entire journey. Low-key, consistent grumbling that is barely audible but sounds exactly like he's complaining at the horror of being put into a box and taken out of the nice, warm apartment and then EXAMINED.

Of course, I spend most of the trip apologizing for the indignation and disruption as Lenny stares at me through the slats of his box like I'm a particularly tasty piece of paper he'd like to shred into tiny pieces and spit out onto the floor.

This year's visit went well and Lenny got a clean bill of health. We arrived home, Lenny grumbling as he always does, and I opened the door to his box so that he

Photos: Samantha Rowan



Lenny: "Can you BELIEVE what she just did to me?"



Lenny's tail.

could come out. He hopped right out. But instead of running underneath the couch and thumping, as he usually does, Lenny hopped over to my husband.

Eyes wide and ears forward, Lenny stared at Rob for a long, uncomfortable second. Then he turned, pointed his

head toward the box and then stared at me before he turned his attention back to Rob with a dark, angry expression that said, "Can you BELIEVE what she just did to me?!"

Lenny was telling on me! And my husband and son thought it was hilarious.

"I know!" Rob said. "I can't believe she did that to you either!"

"What a poor little bunny!" That was my son, who probably felt kinship with Lenny. He'd just visited the dentist the day before.

Flustered, I objected. I'd done nothing wrong!

"But he has to go to the vet – Lenny, I told you, you have to see the vet every year!" I whirled onto the humans.

"Why are you taking his side?!"

His point made, Lenny gave me one glare and then darted under the couch to do research or whatever it is he does when he goes there. Defeated – and yet totally in the right – I closed up Lenny's box, put it away and was glad that it would hopefully be another year before our rabbit ratted me out again.

Emergency Kit

(Continued from page 4)

- Pet-safe wound-care spray, like Vetericyn.
 - Neosporin or Polysporin for minor cuts and bite wounds (not the kind with "pain relief"; generic is OK).
 - Q-tips and cotton balls.
 - Gauze and self-adherent bandages, like Vet wrap or CoFlex.
 - Tweezers to remove debris.
 - Blunt scissors to safely trim fur away from a wound or mats (we like children's Fiskars safety scissors).
 - Small flashlight to look in ears and eyes, examine wounds, and to backlight dark nails for nail trims.
 - Styptic powder or cornstarch to stop bleeding if a nail is cut too close to the quick.
 - Saline solution or veterinary eye wash to flush eyes.
 - Washcloth to do a warm compress for a weepy eye or abscess.
 - Bulb syringe to clear mucus out of nostril or administer an enema.
 - Rubbing alcohol (isopropyl) to clean thermometer after use, or to apply to ears of an overheating rabbit.
 - Hand sanitizer (for humans only, if soap and water aren't available).
- Visit rabbit.org/rabbit-supply-list for more information on what other supplies



Heating disc.

you should have on hand for daily rabbit care and for emergencies. You can also purchase many of the items listed above from the HRS online Hop Shop, including cuddle pods, fleece blankets, Critical Care, syringes, and several dietary supplements.

How We Were Blessed to Adopt Diamond, Our Priceless Bunny

By Nathaly Saravia

It was the summer of 2020 and as we all know, there wasn't much to do, thanks to the world being closed. My boyfriend and I decided to have a wine night on a Friday and I mentioned that I had been seeing bunnies all over social media. Our daughter, Arianna, had always spoken about getting a pet, and the only one that ever sounded intriguing to me was a rabbit. I turned to Roberto and asked, "What would you say if we got a rabbit as a pet?" He replied, "Sure."

I came across Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group online and sent them an inquiry about a bunny named Sapphire that was one of the nine bunnies with gem names that were rescued in Mill Neck. Sapphire stood out mostly because her name is my birthstone and I thought fate sent me a sign.

I started researching proper rabbit care and housing and what we would need.

Christina Berner of LIRRG called me and asked, "Does your landlord allow pets?" I nervously texted our landlord, and he asked where we would keep the rabbit, and I showed him a picture of the pen I was planning to purchase. He responded, "Yes, a rabbit would be fine," and said he supported the idea of adopting a homeless pet.

I was told that Sapphire was being introduced to a family who wished to adopt her. So I returned to the LIRRG website and started looking through the rabbits still up available. My heart immediately connected with the beautiful Diamond. I saw that her foster mom, Erica Lanzarone, had posted some Facebook photos of Diamond stretching and accepting pats.

I received a call from Sarah Shamash to arrange a virtual house visit. Sarah asked, "Did you have a rabbit in mind?" I told her we were potentially interested in Diamond, and Sarah told me Diamond was actually going to meet a family for

possible adoption. I was upset to hear this, but Roberto suggested that we should stop getting our hopes up for a particular rabbit because it would only lead to disappointment. I agreed and told myself we would love any rabbit that we were blessed to have. (I did check online, however, and saw that Diamond had not been adopted after all.)

We received a list of the rabbits that seemed suitable for our family, and one of them happened to be Diamond. We agreed to meet Diamond and another girl bunny, Hermione, on Aug. 30. Katie Scarr and Erica arrived with the rabbits, and we were all very excited. We met Diamond first, and she was shy but curious. We let her roam around and she even went in the pen we had set up. Then Hermione came out. She was more interested in hopping around than in attempting to interact with us. Katie and Erica suggested bringing Diamond back out to get a feel for her again. Excitedly we all said yes. She kept

interacting with Arianna, and Roberto became a bunny whisperer. I was happy that she seemed so at ease with us.

We officially agreed to adopt Diamond, and the rest is history. She has been a great addition to our family. We have had to learn how to love her, and sometimes that can be tough because I just want to lie next to her all day long. When we give her space, she goes looking for us. I am convinced grooming will never be easy with her. But I enjoy her morning binkies, and I love how she runs out to Roberto even when he doesn't have food – without getting spooked – and how she interacts with Arianna. It makes our love for her grow every day. She is a diva at times, but we wouldn't change her for the world. I believe fate had it planned that she would be ours.

"I knew I loved you before I met you. I think I dreamed you into life."

– Savage Garden



Diamond.

A Foster Mom on Long Island Shares Her Love With Bennett

By Karen Rosenthal

I wanted to share with you my experiences with fostering the cute little bunnies for Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group.

Many of the rabbits have had a bad experience in the beginning of their lives. My bun Bennett was thrown out in the cold and left hungry and scared. Despite that, he is the sweetest bunny. He loves to have his head petted and massaged.

He came to me when I had a dark time in my life. I lost a dear friend and my beautiful bird died.

A friend recommended LIRRG to me and first I fostered Toyko, who was very

Photo: Karen Rosenthal



Bennett loves to be petted.

curious and VERY active. She made us laugh all the time and was adopted by a wonderful family. It warmed my heart, even though I missed her.

I feel so good giving these adorable, loving bunnies a temporary home with love, warmth, food and toys.

I couldn't have done this without the dedicated, caring volunteers who will come on a dime if you are concerned about something. I am so grateful these little guys are in my life until they find forever homes.

Quirky Nicknames Tell Us a Lot About Rabbits, and Their Owners

Friends of LIRRG is a Facebook community of over 1,000 rabbit owners and rescue volunteers who live on Long Island. We asked our Friends, "What are your rabbit's nicknames and how did he/she/they earn these special monikers?" and here's what they had to say!

"Rosie's full name is Princess Rosalina, but we mostly call her just Rosie or Princess... which somehow turned into Rosie-bug or just Bug. The 'why' I don't recall! Mario's nickname came from his foster mom Cathy Zelonis. She called him "the personality kid." He was from an accidental litter and I think the trouble maker of his siblings so she had to separate them earlier than you usually would. The nickname still suits him very well!" – Katie S.

"Eugene's middle name is Thumper because he stomps. He loves cuddles, hay and his toys. He is the sweetest rabbit and is loved so much by his family. I never knew how a rabbit could have so much personality. Grateful to this wonderful group and enjoy taking care



Mario & Rosie.



Eugene.

of the other rabbits that are lucky enough to be rescued." – Amy H.



Olaf.

"Our rabbit is Olaf. We also call him 'Fluffy' because he's just so soft and cuddly." – Aviva R.

"Ellie, a.k.a. Big Trouble (self-explanatory), Little Miss (she always lies down like a lady), and Ellie Belly ('cause she's just a little chunky...and it rhymes!)." – Emily V.

"Mella... I started calling her Melly Belly because when we first brought her home

(Continued on page 8)

Nicknames

(Continued from page 7)

she didn't have a little belly like my Lola, who is the same size as Mella (also known as Mels). After being with us for a few months, she began getting a little healthy belly, and when she would flop and stretch her legs on the side it was so visible. She also likes belly rubs when she flops (my other bunny does not). So that's where Mella became Melly Belllyyyyyy!" – Sandra N.

"Cooper has been with me for 4 years and has earned himself a variety of nicknames including: Poopy Boy, Coopy and Bubby.

Fiona has been with me for 2 months and her nicknames are FeeFee and Little Girl." – Angelica D.

"Duncan a.k.a. Puppy Dunci. We gave him this nickname because everyone that sees him refuses to see him as a rabbit.

Pumpkin a.k.a. little moo. One day I just randomly came up with this nickname because even though she can have such an attitude, once you sit down with her she is such a mush." – Kirstin T.

"Sassy Pants Peeps, cause if she doesn't know you or trust you she growls and lunges!" – April O.

"Mortimer a.k.a. Mr. Morty a.k.a. Morts Bagorts/Morty Bagorty. My fiancé made up these names for no other reason besides 'well look at him!'

Damien a.k.a. Demon a.k.a. Deeme. When we got him we named him Delilah because we were told he was a she. He was always a troublemaker so we'd call him demon child but after we found out he was a boy we changed his name to Damien – like the little boy from the Omen! He may be a troublemaker but he gets away with everything!" – Amy V.

"Aspen's nickname is Cloud. It came from how she would jump on the couch to relax any time Bob Ross was playing

(Continued on page 9)



Ellie.



Mella.



Cooper & Fiona.



Duncan.



Pumpkin.



Peeps.



Mortimer.



Damien.



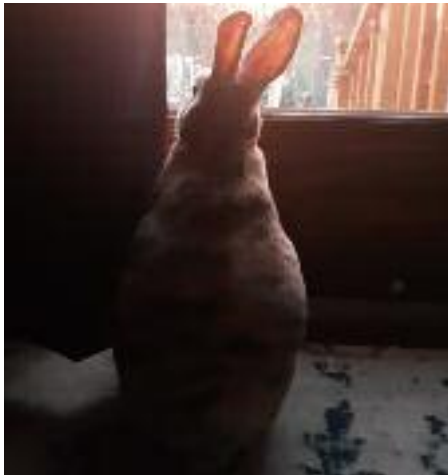
Aspen.

Nicknames

(Continued from page 8)



Isabella.



Marshall.



Loki.



Bugsy.

on TV and how she always seemed to be expressive with a smile and her soft Rex rabbit fur. She is a 'Happy Little Cloud,' like Bob would say on many episodes." – Jill V.

"Busy Izzy, Queen B (bunny). Her name is Isabella. She has way more nicknames but these ones make the most sense. I call her Busy Izzy because she's always up to something, and Queen B because she has a big box she sits on top of. It looks like her throne and she rules the house.

Baked Potato, King and Handsome Mansome. He has many other nicknames. His name is Marshall but I call him Baked Potato because of his colorings, I call him King because he rules the roost and I call him Handsome Mansome for obvious reasons." – Sharon O.

"Loki or Little Man. He thinks he's a giant but he's just a 'little man' at 3 lbs. Then there's Bugsy, a.k.a. stinkers. She is forever getting into things she shouldn't be but looking innocent." – Erica L.

"Davinci was my best friend from the day he adopted me. His nickname was Grinch or Grinchy. My mom and I used to bunny-sit him for one of her friends. Once he came to me on his own and claimed me. I adopted him. Since I was used to calling him Davinci I didn't change his name. But it quickly got shortened to Davinch and then because he was always grumpy, it became Da Grinch. Eventually my friends, my husband and myself all called him Grinchy out of love. I still miss him every day." – Katie M.

"Schnozzy (need I say more??). He lives for his next snuggle..." – Lisa S.

"Diamond the 'diva' (she's extra and gets an attitude), the savage beast (for how she attacks her food), Diamanté (she's becoming bilingual!), our little Floppasaurus because when she flips she flops hard,

(Continued on page 10)



Davinci.



Schnozzy.



Diamond.

Nicknames

(Continued from page 9)

and last but not least baby girl because we treat her like a baby and even when she does wrong it's hard to stay mad at her. Oh and as of late she's a chompsaurus for always finding things to chomp on when she shouldn't!" – Nathaly S.

"Princess Fiona: She was given the nickname Fini (fee knee) because everyone in our house has a family nickname. My nickname is Nini, so we are the dynamic duo Nini and Fini." – Rena D.

"Blaze: I named him that because the person's backyard from which he was rescued was ablaze with beautiful fall leaves that November afternoon. Granted nobody calls him that anymore. My kids and I have taken to calling him Pete because he resembles Peter Rabbit. My husband calls him Brownie or Cinnabun and most recently he has been known as Boy – short for Bad Boy because he's very mischievous.

Lily: named for being found on Easter. She's my foster-fail (thank you LIRRG for your help). We also call her Lily Girl, Lily Mama, Cookie (she looks like a black and white cookie) and Snoopy Rabbit. Sometimes I call her Meatball 'cause she's a bit chunky." – Nancy C.

"Cookie! A popular nickname for her is Bean because she looks like a bean from the back. Other nicknames are Superman (because she looks like Superman flying when she sits down with her paws out), Chicken (because she looks like a hen sitting on her eggs when she is in loaf mode), and Flooper Pooper (because she flops a lot and of course, does a lot of poop!)." – Farah H.

"Mischievous Miss Maisey! (She suddenly passed on Jan. 22, 2021.) It all started when I found her outside of her pen, knocking everything off my nightstand. We realized that she jumped out of her playpen and onto my bed! She had been



Princess Fiona.



Blaze & Lily.



Cookie.



Maisey.



Bungee.



Teddy.

a sneaky little troublemaker from then on!" – Carolyn S.

"Bungee a.k.a. 'Bung Bung' 'Gordo/Fatty' because he loves to eat. 'Cutie patootie' because I mean, look at that face! Isn't he a cutie? My daughter also calls him 'baby' because he is really a big baby. Such a mush, loves massages and to be cuddled." – Joan F.

"Teddy: His main nicknames are 'Monkey' bc he's a little monkey, and 'Bunetti,' which I've decided is his last name bc it goes nicely.

(Continued on page 11)

Nicknames

(Continued from page 10)

Maddie is lovingly called ‘Little Horse,’ ‘Maddie Parattie,’ and ‘Madelinie Bambini’ ” – Jacklyn L.

“Snoopy Poopie: doesn’t sound very original but I swear he (Snoopy) leaves a trail of poops EVERYWHERE HE GOES!” – Chrissy F.



Maddie.



Snoopy.

“Arlo, sometimes known as LoLo, or Lowie, or Arlowie as her feathered older brother would call her. Most of the time we just call her baby Yoda, because well...” – Natale C.

“Elphabunny...a.k.a. Elphie, Elph and Muffin Face. The first 2 are self-explanatory...Muffin Face is because she’s so deliciously cute!” – Colleen P.

“My girl Violet, we call her Violetta because it just sounds pretty, ‘Violet, Jesus’ (because she’s always getting into something!) V, ‘the baby,’ ‘klutz’ bc honestly she’s worse than me, ‘bubblebutt.’ There are more but if there’s this many after only a few months, wow.” – Stevie B.

“Porter: He was named when we adopted him and so far (we have had him almost 5 months) his only nickname is ‘Porta Potty.’ ” – Carla R.



Arlo.



Elphabunny.



Violet.



Porter.

ADOPTIONS

Forever Home Found!

We are happy to report that Archie was adopted since the last newsletter. Congratulations, Archie!

We Are Looking for Loving Homes: These Rabbits Are in Foster Care



Eevee.

Eevee

Eevee is an adorable little brown lop and quite the ball of energy. Eevee would do wonderfully in a home with lots of open space to stretch her legs and to show off her athletic binkies. She loves to stay nearby and keep tabs on what her humans are up to, and will nudge you to a new spot on the floor if she thinks there's a better place for you to be sitting (she usually has a better place in mind!).

Eevee will occasionally settle for petting, but often prefers a playful and interactive relationship with less touching. She likes to keep busy—there is no such thing as too many toys. This wonderful little girl is spayed and ready for her forever home. If you are interested in adopting Eevee, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

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.



Ashton.



JoJo.

JoJo

JoJo is a beautiful 8-pound blue-eyed white and tan rabbit who was found as a baby alone on the streets of Queens. A kind passerby first thought she must have seen a cat, but upon closer inspection saw a little bunny she knew couldn't survive on her own. She took JoJo home to keep her safe and took wonderful care of her until JoJo moved into her Rabbit Rescue & Rehab foster home.



Skye.

Today, JoJo has grown into a big rabbit with an even bigger personality, full of puppy-like affection and enthusiasm. As a very young bunny, JoJo is looking for a forever home where she will have lots of room to run and channel her youthful energy into games and exercise. Very much a “people person,” JoJo craves lots of one-on-one attention both during her exuberant waking hours and her quieter nap times. If you are interested in adopting JoJo, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Skye

Skye is a 3.5-pound Himalayan rabbit and mom to the litter of “colorful” babies (Pink, Green, Blue, Purple and Orange) who all look just like her. Skye 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 passerby thankfully saw Skye outside and, wanting to help this poor bunny, brought her back to his home. Once there, she surprised him with a litter of babies. When we first saw Skye shortly

(Continued on page 13)

ADOPTIONS

Rabbits in Foster Care

(Continued from page 12)

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. Still, Skye was a wonderful mother to her babies and slowly but surely, she gained weight and became stronger. Today, Skye is completely healthy and enjoying some well-deserved free time now that her babies are grown up and off on their own adventures. Skye is looking for a quiet, calm human companion to match her sweet but reserved energy. She is a gentle soul who will form a close bond with her family and enjoy receiving affection, provided she is given the opportunity to approach first. Skye has a particular affinity for her Oxbow woven grass toys and is content to stretch out and fall into a deep sleep for afternoon naps. If you are

interested in adopting Skye, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Pineapple and Sugarplum

Pineapple and Sugarplum are a beautiful pair of large Lionhead sisters who were born in the shelter as part of a litter of five babies, before we took the whole young family into our rescue. Their mother, two sisters and brother have all been adopted and now it's their turn. Pineapple is black and white, while Sugarplum is all black – and both have amazing manes of hair! These girls are shy at first but have tons of energy and are a joy to watch as they exercise – running and binkying with reckless abandon! They have been spayed and are living in foster care. If you are interested in adopting Pineapple and Sugarplum, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.



Pineapple and Sugarplum.

Letter From Adopter

Cookie's Diet

We want our bunny, Cookie, to have the best possible diet.

Hay is the No. 1 item in her daily diet because of its nutrients, and it also helps her file down her teeth. The way that we give Cookie her hay is by putting lots of it in her litter box and then filling a hay manger with extra hay.

We also give Cookie fresh cold water. We place one bowl in her room, and a second bowl in her other bunny-proofed room. Especially in dry or very warm weather, rabbits need access to lots of water.

All bunnies, like ours, will go crazy and run around when they get their salad! Cookie, when she hears “salad bunny,” she knows what it means. Of course, she does huge binkies in the hallway. Cookie loves endive, radicchio, basil,

Photos: Alina Hasan



Cookie's litter box has lots of hay.



Cookie enjoys pellets.

green and red leaf lettuce, dandelion greens, and carrot top leaves (not the carrot itself). Those are some of her favorite leaves so we always get them at the grocery store, but all buns are different.

Cookie enjoys pellets. With the slightest shaking of the pellet bag, she runs and binkies very quickly and doesn't make a sound! She sometimes accidentally bumps into me and it startles me. I don't really mind it, though. When we give her pellets, we make sure not to give too much.

I think the best treats for Cookie are small amounts of fresh, washed fruits, and treat hays such as orchard, meadow, or hay mixed with herbs.

Alina Hasan

I AM NOT AN EASTER TOY

My name is Brooks, and I was left alone in a park because someone didn't want me anymore. I was very lucky to have been found and rescued in time. After Easter every year, thousands of rabbits just like me are abandoned to overcrowded shelters or are left to die outside.



I am not a novelty. I live for 10+ years and deserve a lifetime commitment!

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

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

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

**Bunnies are
NOT Easter
gifts!**



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

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab: www.rabbitcare.org

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. On **Long Island**, contact Nancy Schreiber at nschreibmd@gmail.com or at 516-510-3637 (www.longislandrabbitrescue.org).

If interested in volunteering or fostering for Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, please email 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). 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 rabbitrescueandrehab.org, www.longislandrabbitrescue.org and the House Rabbit Society main site, www.rabbit.org.

Licensed HRS Educators

NYC/Westchester:

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

Jeanine Callace, Rofoyo.pippin@verizon.net
Alex McIe, alexlmcie@gmail.com

Marcie Frishberg

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

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

Monica Shepherd, DVM

Long Island:

Nancy Schreiber, President, Long Island
Rabbit Rescue Group,
nschreibmd@gmail.com,
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 MARCH 2021

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS
rabbitrescueandrehab.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 <https://www.rabbitrescueandrehab.org/donate>.

To contribute to Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, please go to www.longislandrabbitrescue.org.