

THE HAMP

NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS JANUARY 2022



Indigo.

Thank You for Your Support

Happy New Year from Rabbit Rescue & Rehab!

Looking back over 2021, we extend a special thank you to our incredible volunteers, adopters, fosterers and donors. Without you, none of what we do would be possible. Thank you for all of the hard work, time, effort and love that has been selflessly given to help the many rabbits who will go into 2022 safe and with brighter futures ahead of them. We wish everyone a happy and healthy 2022.

Our gorgeous gentle giant Indigo, who came to RRR in 2021, is now available for adoption. Indigo looks forward to spending his next New Year's with his forever family!

Best Bunny Buys: The Top Toys (as Rated by My Buns)

By Megan Hilands

While this year's holiday season may be at an end now, any rabbit parent knows a good bunny always deserves a new toy (or two!). But as we also know, bunnies can also be quite discerning judges of the trinkets their humans buy for them. Some of the toys my family and I have purchased for the buns over the years have been – at best – just stared at and then relegated (or exiled?) to a corner of the X-pen without further thought by said picky bunny.

Nevertheless, there are several toys that stand out as definite winners with my rabbits. These are used almost daily by

Photo: Megan Hilands



Nala loves to sit in the moving boxes.

our bunnies, and they have resulted in endless amusement by humans and

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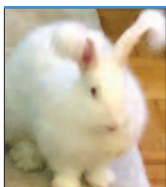
New York Update on RHDV2

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has confirmed a case of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus 2 in a domestic rabbit in Montgomery County in upstate New York.

There is no known cure for RHDV2. It is highly contagious and deadly, and the virus is extremely hardy.

RHDV2 is the first of the rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus strains to affect both domestic and North American wild rabbit and hare species. RHDV has an extremely high death rate and a very short incubation period. As many as 70% to 100% of rabbits exposed to the

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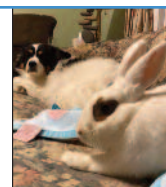
I'm Taking a Break After a Decade And a Half Of Bunnies, Piggies

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A Senior Rabbit Is Hopping Into Old Age With Love and Trust

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Long Island's Rabbits Are Setting Lots of Fun Goals For the New Year

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Please Remember My Colleen; I Can Never, Ever Forget Her

Photos: Gina Pipia



Colleen touched the hearts of those she met.



This was the day I took her home to foster and my Butterscotch wanted to welcome her.

By Gina Pipia

Long Island Rabbit Rescue
Group volunteer

In March 2011, a phone call came into the rabbit rescue about a large white rabbit seen in a local park. When I arrived at the park, I walked the grounds over and over but I couldn't find a rabbit. As I was getting ready to leave, heading to my car, with keys in my hand, I saw something out of the corner of my eye, underneath big evergreen trees. When I looked closer there was a big rabbit! Since it was March in New York, she was eating branches off the bottom of the trees, trying hard to find something to eat.

On the other side of the trees were the railroad tracks. I knew I couldn't leave her there. I crawled under the trees with a carrot in hand and sure enough this bunny came right to me and started chomping away. We played a little bit of "catch me if you can," but after a while I needed to make the move and grab her before I lost my opportunity to save her. I was very concerned about being so close to train tracks. I finally grabbed her, and she let out a huge scream. I was terrified, as was she. I never heard that sound come from a rabbit (and I NEVER want to hear that again). I got her into the carrier to take her to the rescue so

she could be checked out. I thought I hurt her when I grabbed her, but nonetheless this bunny ate bananas, greens and whatever we put in front of her! It happened to be St. Patrick's Day, so I decided she needed a good, pretty Irish name (because she was also so pretty). She became Colleen that night. My lucky Irish bunny.

Over the next few months, we noticed that Colleen had some physical issues. She had sore hocks, was wobbly from a neurological disorder that she got from a parasite after being set free outdoors, and she had arthritis in her right knee (possibly due to trauma). We determined she was going to need a lot of care by whoever adopted her, so she became a "special-needs rabbit." Month after month and, sadly, year after year, adopters walked past her and didn't even give her a second thought, for a few reasons: She was big, she had red eyes and she required a lot of care.

Colleen had broken my heart since the day I rescued her. So, when I finally got my own house, I took Colleen in to foster. Within a couple of weeks of being with me and my other bunny, Butterscotch, Colleen no longer wobbled, her sore hocks began to clear up, and she ran around, binkied, jumped on furniture,

and ate anything she wanted to her heart's content! She was no longer a "special-needs rabbit" and no longer needed special fleece bedding, nor did she need pain medication. The only need she had was for love. We updated her profile and sure enough, we got many inquiries for adoption. The reality of losing her to another family, though, was something that I just couldn't bear. After a couple of years of being part of my family, it was clear this was meant to be her forever home. So, I adopted my beautiful girl. Everyone always said Colleen was meant to be mine. It was just a formality at that point.

Colleen had a very independent attitude and basically said to me, "Feed me and go away!" I would get an occasional kiss allowed to her but that was about it. Then in 2017, I had multiple losses. Within 10 weeks I lost two of my beautiful boy rabbits, Rascal and then Butterscotch, my soul mate. I changed jobs, and then tragically, I lost my 26-year-old nephew.

Colleen showed me another side of her. She knew how much I needed her. It was instinctive and she just stepped up to the plate and she was there for me from that moment on and pulled me

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Colleen

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out of so many dark days for the next several years. She was there whenever I needed her. She just knew what her role was in my life. She would listen to me and look deep into my eyes with her beautiful ruby red eyes, she would let me cry to her and get her fur all wet, but she didn't care. Colleen just sat there and listened and allowed me to hold her paw. The past couple of years have been a challenge for Colleen as her mobility started to decline because of her age and arthritis (Colleen turned 11 this year). I did everything I could for her: vitamin supplements, glucosamine, pain meds, therapy wheels, heating pads with massages, range-of-motion exercises for her joints, and injections of adequan. (Colleen was under the care of a rabbit-savvy vet). We got her a bunny wheelchair that she took to immediately.

The past two years, she slept in the bed every night with me, with a heating pad on her legs, and went right to sleep while I held her paw during the night. (Colleen was not able to really use her legs anymore and she was surrounded with pillows.) She fought and fought and fought and stayed as strong as she could for as long as she could and I'm so incredibly proud of my girl for her strength and her resilience and her desire to want to stay with me for as long as she could. Colleen knew how much I needed her in my life, and she felt as if she couldn't leave me. She had a purpose, and it was me.

The last week of her life she fought so hard and rallied and declined and rallied again but my girl just couldn't hold on anymore. I had to let her know that it was OK to let go and that I would be OK without her, although I would miss her every single day. I told her that our love was eternal and that we would always be together in some sense. And then with that, I had to help my beautiful girl cross the rainbow bridge. I held her

Photos: Gina Ripio



This was the morning after she was rescued. She was content knowing she was safe.



This is how Colleen and I went to sleep and woke up every day.

in my arms, and I hugged and kissed her, and I thanked her for being my bunny. I told her how much I loved her, how proud I was of her, and not to be afraid and that I would see her again someday. I told her it was OK and that she could now rest. I'll be OK, Colleen.

Colleen was not just a rabbit; she was a soulmate, a therapy pet, a best friend. She was there when no one else was. I may have saved her life that day in the park, but she saved my life every day since. Colleen touched the hearts of everyone she met – those she knew in person through the rescue and those who knew of her through my social media



Curious Colleen.



This was her famous bunny butt Friday.

posts with the rescue (I know many volunteers gave Colleen extra salad and treats during her time at the main foster home). The outpouring of concern, love, prayers and comments and private messages to me let me know that Colleen was no ordinary rabbit. She was magical, spiritual and sentient. Colleen had a real purpose to being on earth. Now she has another role. In my head, I know she lived a long life, a good life with me. She knew she was loved and safe, and that I did everything in my power, above and beyond, for her. My heart can't accept it though. I'm so

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When Nibbles Stopped Nibbling

By Christine Edwards

For whatever reason, Nibbles was meant to be my bunny. My husband saw her on our property, and it was obvious that this was not a wild rabbit. He jokingly told me “If you catch it, you can keep it.” We tried to lure her over with some romaine lettuce, but she outsmarted us every time we got close to her. That’s when I knew I had to call in the experts at Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group. The amazing LIRRG team came over and rescued Nibbles within 10 minutes! After being checked out by the vet, she came to live with us. She was a beautiful brown and white Dutch rabbit with a tattoo that said “Knapf” in one of her ears. We assumed that could have been the name of a breeder but we had no luck in finding someone with that name in our area.

Over the next five years, Nibbles was thriving. She was a happy and healthy bun. Nibbles loved to eat and would run around in circles and do binkies because she was so excited. Bananas and Oxbow apple and banana cookies were her all-time favorite treats. She loved to take naps on the artificial grass that was on the base of the cat tree in her room. She would also jump up on the couch and sit on a blanket waiting to be petted. If the petting stopped, she would nose bump you and rest her head on your leg to continue. After her fifth “gotcha” anniversary, she went in for an annual checkup at the vet. The doctor said she was “perfect” and had a clean bill of health. Little did I know that this would quickly change.

One day, out of the blue, Nibbles stopped eating hay. This was very concerning given her love of food. She still ate her pellets, bananas, greens and treats. I thought maybe the hay was the issue, so I tried many different brands and cuts of hay as well as grasses and sprinkled herbal medleys to encourage foraging.

Photos: Christine Edwards



Nibbles when she was first found.



Nibbles loved to eat.



The black bunny with Nibbles is her buddy Chewy.

None of this worked. She then stopped eating pellets, which made me think there was an issue with her mouth because she was able to eat the softer foods.

I brought Nibbles to the vet, who could not believe it was the same rabbit that she had just seen two months earlier. She was concerned about Nibbles’ sudden weight loss and after some blood work and X-rays, it looked as if her teeth might indeed be the issue. The front incisors were a little overgrown and there were some teeth on the left side that were ground down to the gum line and looked infected. The doctor trimmed the front teeth but said she wasn’t sure if that would help. She said that she had seen rabbits with much

worse dental disease who still managed to eat. So now I had to syringe-feed Nibbles to keep her weight up and give her pain medicine and antibiotics.

Nibbles still was not eating hay so she was put on an appetite stimulant. This wasn’t working either, so I brought her back to the vet and Nibbles was put under anesthesia so the doctor could take a good look in her mouth. Unfortunately, her dental disease was progressing quickly, and when her mouth was opened, some teeth and bone fragments immediately fell out.

Within a few weeks, Nibbles’ bottom jaw was no longer aligned with the top

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Nibbles

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and she was losing more weight. I felt so bad for my little bunny, thinking about how much pain she must have been in. We went back home with the instructions to keep syringe-feeding her, and she went on another course of antibiotics and pain medicine. She soon started drooling, which made the fur under her chin constantly wet. She had some bald spots there, too. Nibbles was a good patient. She would take her medication without any problems and was very tolerant of me trying to syringe-feed her and clean her fur.

I was doing whatever I could think of to help her. My sweet, beautiful bunny was deteriorating in front of my eyes. I had no prior knowledge of dental issues in rabbits so I started researching and reading up on the topic. In addition to LIRRG, I reached out to rabbit groups all over the world. I have learned over the years that the bunny community is resourceful and made up of very caring people.

I had another vet appointment set up to discuss our plans going forward. However, a week before the appointment, I noticed that Nibbles' front teeth were overgrown so I dropped her off at the vet to get a tooth trimming while I went to work. I received a call from the vet that afternoon saying that Nibbles had a lot of necrotic tissue under her tongue and her jaw was pretty much locked up. It was determined that Nibbles was too far gone and it was time to let her go. I drove to the vet's office to spend my remaining time with her. I knew the end was coming but was not prepared when it actually happened. On Nov. 8, 2021, I said goodbye to Nibbles. I told her she was the best bunny and that I would love her forever. I was with her until the very end, petting her head gently as she went over the rainbow bridge. It was a heartbreaking experience.



Nibbles waits to be petted.



Investigating the snow.

I always felt as if I had a special connection with Nibbles. I had other pets (three cats and one rabbit) at the time, but I had only dreamed about Nibbles. It would always be the same dream about her being lost and I would be frantically looking for her. Strangely, the day after she died, I had the feeling of her climbing up on me as she did when she wanted me to pick her up and bring her

to her pen. It felt so real but I knew she wasn't here anymore.

The vet kindly saved some of Nibbles' fur for me. It was in a cute little container with a flower on the lid. When I opened it, I saw that the fur was placed in the same pattern as Nibbles' body – half brown and half white. It was such a nice gesture and I instantly felt at peace once I placed the fur in my bunny room. In a way, Nibbles was back home.

As a tribute to Nibbles, I decided that I would try to help or support another bunny family every day. I have been giving advice when I can, as well as offering prayers and moral support when needed. When someone inquires about the purchase, care or rescue of rabbits, I always refer them to the LIRRG website for information and urge them to consider adoption rather than purchasing rabbits, since so many need good homes. I am also now an official LIRRG foster mom and took in a bunny named Rene. He will be sharing a room with Nibbles' old roommate Chewy.

Bunny Toys

(Continued from page 1)

lagomorphs alike in our home. Here are the toys I would definitely recommend getting for your bunnies if you're looking to spoil them a bit.

1. Sturdy Moving Boxes

Every rabbit parent knows a bunny loves a good box. My bunnies' personal favorites are the moving boxes we purchased from Home Depot (originally in preparation for our move to New Jersey in 2020). The reason we love these particular boxes is that they come unassembled without any tape or labels attached, so there is no need to fear any bunny will inadvertently ingest a piece of label or tape you might have missed. They are also an excellent size for a bunny "hidey" box and are durable so they will (hopefully) take a long time for your bunny to, ahem, rip into tiny pieces.

2. Stackable Multicolored Cups

I was introduced to these cups (or a very

Photos: Megan Hillands



Our set of stackable cups, left; Charlie takes one of his cups into the 'hidey' box as company for his nap, right.

similar variety) when I started to volunteer with Rabbit Rescue & Rehab several years ago. Many of the rescue bunnies in residence at the Petco Union Square location at the time went crazy over these cups. Rabbits, being adorable little masters of destruction, appear to love that they can disassemble the cups with ease when stacked. Our bunny Charlie especially enjoys his cups. They were actually the first toys he reached for when we brought him home. Charlie is



particularly interested in how, when knocked over, the cups make a lot of noise to get our attention.

As a bonus, the cups are budget friendly, can be purchased at many locations including big box stores, are easy to sanitize, and travel well.

3. Wooden Dumbbells

Simba's favorite toy is by far the wooden dumbbell. These toys are fun if you like to

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GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Colleen

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incredibly broken, even now, over two months since she has been gone, and I'm crying as I write this. I thought when I lost my Butterscotch that I would never have a bond like that again. Colleen showed me differently.

So, please remember my Colleen. She is the true face of rescue, what rescue is all about. She was the Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group's mascot. When you decide to bring a pet into your family, remember Colleen. Remember the one who has been looked past, the one that no one gave a chance to, the one that's been in the shelter the longest or the older one. Then remember my Colleen. Remember the life she had with me and what she gave back to me, unconditionally. Remember that big, white, ruby-eyed bunnies are soulful, playful and have an

Photo: Gina Pipia



Colleen's beautiful profile.

incredible way of looking into our souls and vice versa. Remember my Colleen when you are thinking about getting a rabbit and understand that it is a 10+-year commitment of love and sacrifice. Remember my Colleen when you are looking to add a pet to your home and think it's better to go to a breeder instead of a rescue or shelter. Remember my Colleen if you have any horrific thoughts

that a domestic rabbit can survive outside or can be set free or that they are "happy in a hutch." They cannot survive and they are not happy in a hutch. Colleen was who she was because of the love and care and the home I gave her. Because she was rescued that day after a heartless person set her free to die a horrific death. Remember my Colleen when you say that your heart is too broken because you lost your pet, and you can never have another pet again. Remember the bond and the comfort that my Colleen gave me after I lost my Butterscotch. Remember that St. Patrick's Day isn't about leprechauns; it's also about the lucky big white bunny who found her soul mate and got a chance at a life when she was thrown out and discarded. But overall, please, just remember my beautiful Colleen. I can never, ever forget her and I will never be the same again because of her.

Bunny Toys

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Photos: Megan Hillands



This is just one of the several bunny dumbbells we have.

work out, as you can imagine your bunny is also getting in a few sets along with you. Whether it's the shape, the noise the dumbbell makes when it's picked up, or that Simba just likes to work on her strength – this toy is a big hit.

I've seen these dumbbells in plastic and wooden varieties. They are inexpensive and available at stores like Petco in addition to smaller retailers like Binky Bunny.

4. Seagrass Play Mats

Seagrass mats are pretty widely available from bunny retailers like Binky Bunny and Small Pet Select (among others). My bunnies' favorite are the varieties that have extra toys and treats attached to them, like the "Bunormous Round-up" from Napoleon Bunnyparte. They love working on removing the toys, which typically consist of tasty (bunny-safe) wood, pinecones and fun bits of cardboard.

A word of caution: if you purchase seagrass mats for your bunny, be sure that they are made of raw, untreated materials. Seagrass is now a popular material for some home goods (like storage baskets) but these options are usually coated in other materials and are not safe for bunnies.



Simba and Nala enjoying a seagrass toy.

5. Hoppy Hampton Bunny Castle Keep

I saved the big ticket-item for last. Simba and Nala love their castle (from Napoleon Bunnyparte) more than anything else I've ever bought for them. At over \$150, it's also the most expensive nonessential bunny item we have in our home. I think the castle is worth it, though, given that Simba and Nala nap in it every afternoon, and it also serves as a vehicle for adventure. Nala enjoys "mountaineering," meaning she will often scale the second and third floors of the castle. We have also had the castle for over two years and it shows almost no signs of wear, despite Simba and Nala occasionally chewing on the wood.

Crafty bunny parents could probably fashion something like the Hoppy Hampton from untreated wood on their own.

While writing this list, it strikes me that my bunnies have a lot of treasured possessions. I think they are quite important as they help to keep Charlie, Simba and Nala stimulated and entertained while we humans are working and unable to give them the utmost attention they deserve (nay, demand).



Nala climbs the castle while Simba rests below.

I'm sure our bunnies are crossing their paws that I will consult with other bunny parents as a result of this article and discover even more toys for them to love.

After a Decade and a Half With Bunnies and Piggies, I Am Taking a Break – but It Won't Be Forever

By Sari Krieger Rivera

“So you're not going to have any more rabbits or guinea pigs at home for now,” Dr. Jennifer Saver said, when I brought my rabbit Eleanor in to Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital for euthanasia in December. It would be the first time my home included none of these small mammals in almost 15 years.

That day, Eleanor – probably about 12 years old – had stopped eating. After years of being a tough little Dutchie Diva, being strong through countless tooth trims, eye issues and congenital blindness, she had gotten thin and was ready to go. She was spunky up until the very end – even charming my friend Thea Harting with her zest for cranberries only about two weeks before she passed.

Ellie, as we called her, came into our lives in January 2015 through Rabbit Rescue & Rehab. My Dutchie Franklin picked her on a speed date at Petco – probably because she looked exactly like his first bunny-wife, my original Dutchie Diva, Aurora, who passed a few years

Photo: Sari Krieger



Eleanor and Franklin's speed date, with Sari and her husband, Edwin, in January 2015.

prior. Aurora had picked Franklin, aka Frankie, as a partner in 2010 and they bonded within two weeks. Eleanor, however, really wanted to show Frankie who was in charge, and it took them four months to bond. Ellie would still

hump Frankie from time to time and he seemed to accept that as part of the deal.

And later there was my foster-to-almost-adopt bunny, Cloudy, who died suddenly

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RHDV2

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virus will die within 48 hours to 10 days after exposure. Rabbits who survive are carriers and can infect other rabbits for at least 42 days or longer as they continue to shed the virus.

As of now, there have been confirmed RHDV2 cases in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming, as well as in Canada and Mexico.

The most important things you can do are: keeping your rabbits inside (including

no outdoor playtime), following biosecurity measures at home, and vaccinating your rabbit.

Medgene Labs' RHDV2 vaccine has been granted emergency use authorization by the USDA. Contact your rabbit-savvy veterinarian to inquire about availability. Previously, to import European vaccines for RHDV, state veterinarians were requiring a confirmed case of the virus within their state. With the new Medgene vaccine, that is no longer the process. More than 40 states have authorized use of the new vaccine as well as Washington, D.C. Learn more about the Medgene [vaccine](#).

Unfortunately, House Rabbit Society says it expects RHDV2 to continue to

spread. In 2015, in Australia it spread coast-to-coast in the rabbit population in 18 months (about 3 million square miles compared to the United States' 3.8 million square miles) after it was first detected in the country. In Australia, RHDV outbreaks start in the fall and winter, peak in spring, and are mostly absent in summer, which has mostly been the case with the North American outbreak.

House Rabbit Society continually updates its information about RHDV2 and protecting your rabbit from it.

Taking a Break

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and mysteriously in 2018, shortly before I was married. I had planned to try bonding a trio with him, Ellie and Frankie.

Various guinea pigs have also strutted and wheeked in our home over the years. I adopted Wilbur, Piglet and Pumpkin in 2010 and we had many lovely piggy years together. The legendary Miss Piggy came later. I thought I knew what a bossy pet was like, but no one compared to that sassy girl.

In October 2020, weeks after I left a two-year-long job working at Animal Care Centers, I agreed to foster a group of three guinea pigs, but they came with a surprise. In December, three became six, as one of them gave birth! Over time, my guinea pigs have passed after living long, happy lives. Frankie passed in the summer of 2020, and my last foster guinea pigs were adopted out this past fall.

Recently, Ellie had bonded more with my husband, Edwin, as I had to travel to teach at University at Albany a few days each week. It was just the two of them in the apartment while I was upstate with our 13-year-old disabled Shih Tzu, Nennie, who was much more amenable to travel than a rabbit. While we were away, Ellie would run to greet Edwin every day as soon as she heard the “click click click” noise he made that signaled her server had arrived to feed her.

I had shown him how to give her eye drops and pain medicine. He has certainly picked up many tips on bunny care in the seven-plus years we have been together, such as the proper way to give head pets, which Ellie loved. He took good care of her during the week and I cleaned her diligently on weekends when the eye discharge became hardened and painful and she couldn't groom herself much anymore.

She stood strong throughout the semester, hopping around and showing signs of enjoying life, even though her eye condition worsened and she became

Photos: Sari Krieger



Franklin, on the right, and his first wife Aurora, sometime in 2010.

increasingly arthritic. Then, almost as if she waited for me, she told me it was time to go only days after I returned home for the winter break.

All of my rabbits and piggies had been to Catnip & Carrots over the years. From regular check-ups to tooth trims to weird growths, the doctors and staff had seen me more times than I could count. So when Dr. Saver noted Ellie was the last of my small mammals at home, she certainly knew what that

meant to me. She also told me something that hadn't occurred to me before: It's okay to take a break.

I protested that I wouldn't know what to do without rabbits or guinea pigs around. It would be the first time since 2007 that I would be without them. But I knew she was right. Nennie the dog has plenty of health issues to keep me and my wallet busy, and traveling for another semester has made it impossible for me to adopt or even foster any bunnies or piggies for now.

I've almost gotten used to saying goodbye to rabbits and guinea pigs, as I've done this so many times, and sometimes in quick succession, over the years. I also learned the pain of losing a beloved dog, with the loss of the gentle giant Teddy in June 2019. I know Nennie won't live forever.

Maybe a forced break for now is okay. Maybe it's okay to take some time and let myself grieve for what has been lost. So, a break it is. For now, but not forever.

Sari Krieger Rivera is a House Rabbit Society educator.



Four of six foster pigs: Mom Tater and surprise babies, in January 2021.

Hopping Into Old Age

By Samantha Rowan

Lenny, our senior rabbit, has never been a conventional bunny. He's not a creature of habit, often changing up his daily routine and coming up with innovative ways of expressing his needs and wants. And as Lenny has gotten older – we figure he's 9 or 10 now – he is still doing his own thing. He's also been very lucky – so far, Lenny hasn't demonstrated any of the behavior changes or health challenges that senior rabbits can encounter.

As long-time friends of rabbits, we've always been very attuned to Lenny's body language. And as he has gotten older, we've watched for the tell-tale signs of arthritis or other age-related issues that could make it hard for him to groom, jump into his litter pan, or do his zoomies

on the couch. So far, Lenny's coat is immaculate, groomed several times a day, and he's still zooming up a storm. He flicks his hind legs at us with great ease when we tell him “no,” and has even started flicking water at us from his bowl when we displease him in other ways.

One thing that is interesting, though, is that Lenny (thankfully) no longer believes it is a good idea to jump on a chair, jump on a table and then jump to the windowsill (he managed that once), or to simply measure the distance from the windowsill from the floor and try to jump 4 feet off the ground to land there. I am not sure if that is old age or wisdom, but either way I now worry less about finding Lenny staring at me from someplace high where he shouldn't be.

Lenny is probably a little lazier these days. He is still quite fast when he decides he needs to be someplace urgently, but no longer makes the long run down the hallway to our bedroom. Making a break for the bedroom was for years a favorite pastime of Lenny's – he figured out pretty quickly that we, like many good New Yorkers, store a vast quantity of Costco food underneath our bed – but it has been a couple of years since we have had to cajole him out from the tightest space in the apartment. Interestingly, he has never tried to go into our son's room, probably because there are always Legos on the floor and Lenny learned from watching us that stepping on small, hard pieces of plastic is quite painful.

The biggest change, however, is the increasing richness of our interactions with Lenny and his ability to communicate what he wants to us, either through nose nudges followed by intense staring or simply intense staring at us and then at what he wants. We are not sure how much of this is because after eight years, our bond with Lenny is exceptionally strong, or if the pandemic literally brought us all closer. It is definitely a different kind of relationship when you are with your companion rabbit almost 24 hours a day.

At his most recent wellness visit, Lenny got a clean bill of health and his first-ever blood test that showed good numbers and a solid outlook. We continue to watch Lenny closely and also enjoy his companionship. While Lenny has always been cranky, he seems a bit more tolerant of our nonsense over the past year or so and seeks us out more aggressively than he used to. But the most wonderful thing is the way he looks at us and we look at him, knowing that we're a four-member team. We love and trust each other and have been through a lot together. Here's to many more good years with our senior boy!

Photo: Samantha Rowan



Lenny at his latest vet appointment.

A Reminder That Rabbits Are Not Gifts

By House Rabbit Society

The start of a new year is a good time to remind the public that adopting a rabbit means adopting him or her for life. We encourage you to help spread the word to help keep rabbits out of shelters. You can also direct people to [learn](#) more about what it takes to care for a house rabbit.

Anyone considering bringing home a rabbit should know:

- Rabbits have an average lifespan of 8-14 years.
- Rabbits need to be spayed/neutered to prevent cancer and unwanted litters. Up to 80% of female rabbits will develop uterine cancer by age 4-6 if not spayed.

- Rabbits require a diet of hay, pellets and fresh vegetables.
- Rabbits need to live inside the home for their safety and health, with two to four hours of exercise time in a bunny-proofed environment each day.
- Rabbits need regular veterinary care by a vet with additional training in exotics.
- Rabbits are not “low-maintenance” pets. They need as much care and attention as dogs and cats. It can take longer to bond with them since they are prey animals and can be more fearful.
- Most children lose interest in a live rabbit after only a few weeks.
- Rabbits must have an adult as their primary caregiver.

- Rabbits are the third most frequently surrendered animal at shelters, and the third most euthanized.
 - According to a study by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, rabbits are more expensive to own than cats or guinea pigs – coming just after dogs in expense.
- For adults who have thoroughly educated themselves about rabbit care and have decided to share their home with a rabbit, House Rabbit Society recommends adopting from a shelter or rescue organization. Find your local HRS chapter or HRS ally.



What Are Your Rabbit's Goals for the New Year?

By Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group

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 goals for 2022?" and here's what they had to say!

"Bennett's goal for 2022: train the dog to fetch him bananas." – Carolyn.

"Aria the foster girl: to learn it's ok to let humans pet her." – Wendi S.

"Princess Penelope Godiva's goal is for her male companion to let her get a treat first. Ladies are always first." – Susan A.

"Oscar wants to hang out with his humans (on his terms of course!), and maybe find an almost as adorable forever companion (perhaps with a little less hair)." – Sherry.

"Ellie wants lots more cuddles, to lull mom into a false sense of security so she can finish chewing on every piece of molding she can reach!" – Emily V.

"Bugsy dreams of more treats. Loki dreams Bugsy stops stealing all his treats." – Erica L.

"Ginny's goal is to get the dog to cuddle instead of just bringing over toys." – Katie.

"Kyle's goals are to train the human to provide hay, pellets, water and treats with more subtle cues, and to acquire more real estate with greater variety of structures and comfy places." – Lanette R.

Finn's goals: "Go on dates, get a girlfriend! And also guarding his spot on the couch." – Pamela K

"Olaf's goal for 2022: learn how to use the toilet." – Aviva R.

"Our goal for Basil and Georgie in 2022: To get them fully bonded so they can cuddle without the common wall." – Gabby O.



Bennett.



Oscar.



Aria.



Ellie.



Princess Penelope Godiva.



Loki and Bugsy.

"Winnie's goal for 2022 is to hopefully get a new fur-sibling. Her beautiful sister shown in the photo passed away two years ago." – Angela S.

"Luna wants to be painted like one of Leonardo DiCaprio's French girls." – Jessica D.

"Glen's goal is to catch the perfect sunset." – Jessica D.

"Sophie's goal is to become friends with her brother, Dante (the bird) and to not be afraid of him." – Danielle P.

(Continued on page 13)

Your Rabbit's Goals

(Continued from page 12)

“Trixie’s goal is to finish eating all of her hay box in 2022.” – Heather F.

“Diamond’s 2022 goal is to explore more when we move in our new home and make sure to be the queen of the whole household.” – Nathaly S.



Olaf.



Glen.



Ginny.



Basil and Georgie.



Sophie.



Kyle.



Winnie with late sister.



Trixie.



Finn.



Luna.



Diamond.

These Rabbits Are Available for Adoption From Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group

Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group has many rabbits available for adoption. Here are a few of the wonderful bunnies looking for homes. For more information about adoptions, please contact LIRRG at this email address: information@longislandrabbitrescue.org



Rene.

Rene

Rene is a true gentleman of a bunny. He is curious and responsive, and very polite when asking for pets. He loves treats and welcomes calm head pets after spending some time with you. He loves being petted, and gets very excited for his favorite treat, called doodles. When he isn't playing with his toys, Rene also enjoys taking naps in his hop n' flop! He will thrive in a home with an adopter who can appreciate his understated ways and quiet nature.

Facts about Rene:

- Rescued May 2020
- Estimated age upon rescue: 1 year



Otto.

Otto

Otto, a beautiful rabbit with stunning earthy-toned coloring, was found in Nassau County during the fall of 2021 and showcased her blended personality of playful and gentle almost immediately upon being rescued.

Otto's fur-ever home can be promised the best of both worlds, as she identifies as active and playful with a love for destroying toys and binkying, as well as calm and gentle with an eagerness to be petted. Driven by curiosity, she has a love for exploring and could brighten up any home with her friendly persona as she seeks companionship with no limitations.

Facts about Otto:

- Rescued October 2021
- Estimated age upon rescue: 1 year
- Cat- and dog-friendly; does well with gentle kids
- Seems curious about other rabbits, so bonding may be a possibility
- Would thrive best with an ample amount of space to exert her energy
- Needs an adopter who can tune in to both sides of her personality and meet her needs as an outgoing, sweet loving girl



Jewel.

Jewel

Meet Jewel! This past summer, Jewel was abandoned in Suffolk County, and luckily, she was rescued by a concerned and caring human who brought her to safety. Jewel then came to the Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, where she was welcomed into a safe, indoor foster home. As a new rescue, Jewel is still learning to trust and understand that she is safe. She does warm up to people quickly and once she does, she shows her vibrant and cuddly personality. She is friendly, sweet, curious, and has a huge appetite. If you offer her some pellets, she will be your new best friend. While exploring new rabbit-safe fruits and vegetables, she has also quickly discovered that bananas and apples are some amazing treats.

Jewel is a Californian breed. She's a beauty – her ruby-red eyes allow you to look right into her soul and allow you to see her inner beauty as well. Oftentimes, the bigger, white, ruby-eyed bunnies are some of the most playful and soulful breeds. Jewel is a real gem and ready to

(Continued on page 15)

We Are Looking for Loving Homes:

These Rabbits Are in Foster Care With Rabbit Rescue & Rehab



Skye.

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 after she had given

LONG ISLAND NEWS

Available for Adoption

(Continued from page 14)

bring her glimmer to your home, but you have to promise to provide a safe, loving home for her forever.

Facts about Jewel:

- Rescued August 2021
- Estimated age upon rescue: 1 year
- Shy but warms up quickly with patience and love. Sweet, loving and very curious



Indigo.

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.

Indigo

Indigo's puppy-like playfulness is as endearing as his ears are enormous! Indigo arrived at ACC showing signs of terrible neglect. When we pulled him from the shelter, the veterinary treatment he was receiving had already filled an 8-plus-page-long medical record in that short



Ruby.

time. He was facing an abscess, severe sore hocks, skin conditions, parasites and more. Today, Indigo has settled in beautifully and gained a whole 3 pounds since he first arrived at the shelter (currently tipping the scales at a magnificent 9.5 pounds!). Now living on cushy, appropriate floor material, Indigo's once infected and painful hocks are growing in nice new fur to protect his wonderfully giant feet. Indigo has been neutered and is living in foster care. He hopes to soon meet his forever family who will enjoy playtime and cuddle time as much as he does! If you are interested in adopting Indigo, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Ruby

After being brought in as a stray, this young NZW was cleverly named Rabbit Deniro during her stay at ACC, but this true gem of a bunny deserved a more fitting name. So we introduce you to Ruby, an incredibly beautiful, curious, friendly and affectionate large female rabbit. She is a magnificent companion, always interested in what her foster humans are doing and taking breaks between her binky sessions to sit beside them. Ruby deserves a forever home

(Continued on page 16)

ADOPTIONS

Rabbits in Foster Care

(Continued from page 15)

where she will receive lots of attention, time and space to exercise. Ruby is spayed and living in foster care. To inquire about adopting Ruby, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Blue and Purple

Blue and Purple are a young brother/sister pair of 3.5-pound Himalayan rabbits. Blue is the more outgoing of the two, and enjoys being wherever his people are at all times. He loves having his cheeks rubbed and will happily melt into the floor for long petting sessions. Purple is shyer than her brother, but is never far behind Blue and enjoys occasional head pets from quiet, gentle people whom she trusts to respect her boundaries. Blue and Purple are a wonderful pair who are very affectionate with each other and spend a lot of their down time closely snuggled up together or grooming one another. Blue and Purple are neutered/spayed and living in



Purple and Blue.

foster care. To inquire about adopting Blue and Purple, please email 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



Carmela.

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.

These Rabbits Are Available At Manhattan Animal Care Center (NYC ACC)

*(Check Petfinder for Updated Listings;
Some Rabbits Have Found Homes!)*



Snuffles.



Belinda.



Jojo.

(Continued on page 17)

ADOPTIONS

Rabbits at Manhattan ACC

(Continued from page 16)



Peter Paul.



Stubbs.



Eileen.



Mr. White Socks.



Shirley.



Blueberry.



Cali.

Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Eeyore, Thiago, Elettra, Cordelia, Kennedy, Redford and Newman, Pearl and Yeti.

ADOPTIONS

**These Rabbits Are Available
At Brooklyn Animal Care Center (NYC ACC)**

(Check Petfinder for Updated Listings;
Some Rabbits Have Found Homes!)



Tully.



Snow Bun.



Honey Bun.



Sherlock Holmes.



Folger.



Sweeney Todd.



Charlie.



Basil.



Dumbo.



Colada.



Muriel.



Vanilla Bean.



Aloe.

Close Encounters of the Furry Kind: Understanding Your First Rabbit

By Dana Krempels

Before you begin, you should treat yourself and your bunny to a copy of “**The House Rabbit Handbook**” (5th edition) by Marinell Harriman, the most up-to-date and accurate book on rabbit care. It is available at most major bookstores, or can be ordered at any online book source. No rabbit home should be without it. More information on rabbit care can be found at www.rabbit.org.

The Rabbit Personality

“Is a rabbit more like a cat or a dog?” It’s one of the most frequent questions we rabbit folk are asked. The answer: neither. Dogs and cats are predatory animals, with evolutionary histories completely different from those of herbivores such as rabbits. Whereas the ancestors of today’s dogs and cats were bred for centuries to lack their natural fear of humans, domestic rabbits have been bred primarily for meat, fur and other physical characteristics. This means that when you adopt a bunny, you adopt a “domestic” animal with much of the heart and spirit of a wild creature whose ancestors survived only if they were alert, easily startled, and had a natural tendency to avoid large, scary-looking animals like humans. It may be more challenging to win the trust of this sensitive, intelligent creature than it is to win the heart of a puppy or kitten that has been bred to trust you from birth, but it’s worth the effort.

The myth that certain rabbit breeds make better pets is just that: a myth. We have known aggressive lops (a breed supposedly gentle and friendly), super-affectionate dwarfs (supposedly hyper and mean) and every type of personality you can imagine in our “mutts.” Some rabbits are friendly from the day they’re born, whereas others are shy and

retiring. Once in a while, we’ll meet a true Attila the Bun, with an aggressive nature that can’t easily be tamed. There are as many rabbit personalities as there are rabbits.

Rabbits are highly intelligent, social and affectionate. They also can be bratty, willful, destructive and even vengeful. It takes a special type of person to be able to coexist happily with such a complex, demanding little soul.

Unfortunately, many people buy rabbits without understanding their true nature, and this is one of the main reasons so many rabbits are “dumped” soon after reaching sexual maturity, when they begin to assert their strong personalities.

Bunny Handling – and Not

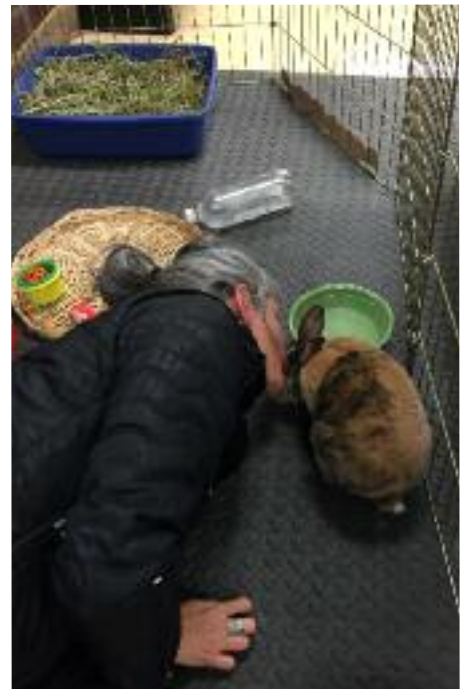
One of the most common misconceptions people have about rabbits, possibly because they look so much like plush toys, is that they like to be held and cuddled. Many people are disappointed to learn that their bunny does not like to be held. But consider for a moment the natural history of the rabbit. This is a ground-dwelling species, and a prey item for many predators. It is completely against a rabbit’s natural tendency to want to be held far above the ground where he cannot control his own motions and activities.

When you force a bunny to be held against his will, you reinforce his innate notion that you are a predator trying to restrain him. Holding a rabbit while he struggles and kicks is not only dangerous for the human (sharp claws!), but also for the rabbit. A rabbit is built for quick escape, with powerful muscles attached to a relatively light, flexible skeleton. When a bunny is held in the air, he lacks the natural “brake” of the ground against his hind feet, and one powerful kick can hyperextend the spine, causing

Photos: Jane O'Wyatt



Olivia, a former Rabbit Rescue & Rehab bunny, in her new home.



At Petco Union Square, rabbit volunteer Nadine Heidinger lies down on the floor to snuggle with Bongo, her former foster bunny.

it to sublunate or fracture. We have seen an alarming number of young rabbits with broken backs and legs because people (usually children) insisted on carrying them around and handling them against their will. A very few rabbits enjoy being held and cuddled. The vast majority do not, and prefer to snuggle on the ground, with you lying close (like a fellow bunny). If you love your bunny, you’ll respect his preference,

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Close Encounters

(Continued from page 19)

Photos: Jane O'Wyatt



Spooky, who weighs 9 pounds, presents less of a temptation to people who might want to grab and pick up a bunny.

knowing that his safety and well-being depend on your playing with him on his own terms.

This is not to say that a rabbit can never be picked up. Sometimes, as for trips to the vet, a rabbit must be handled, and it's best to learn to do this safely before you have an emergency. A rabbit should never be handled by the ears. To safely pick up a bunny, gently and simultaneously place one hand scooped under the rib cage, and the other splayed around his rear end. Lift quickly and confidently, and turn the bunny so that his feet are placed against your chest. This will make him feel more secure, and less apt to struggle. If he struggles wildly, carefully and firmly lower him to the ground and release him, and then try again. Practice makes perfect. But remember that for playtime situations, it's better not to force the issue of holding and cuddling.

Getting to Know Your New Bunny

To understand rabbit behavior, try to think like a rabbit. Remember that as a prey species, a rabbit is naturally shy and wary – much more so than a predatory dog or cat. It will be up to you, the adaptable human, to compromise and alter your own behavior so that the bunny understands you are a friend. Once you have done this, you will have won the unending love and loyalty of a most amazing creature, whose ways of communicating with you may be as subtle as a nose bump on the leg (“Hi, Mom!”), or as overt as a skin-breaking nip (“Put me down!”) or an adamant thump of the hind foot (which can mean anything from “Mom! There’s something scary outside!” to “Hey! Pay attention to me!”)

Imagine what the world looks like to this bunny. She’s surrounded by a new environment, and there’s a big, strange-smelling animal that’s always looming over her. She has no idea you’re trying to be friendly. Her “hard wiring” tells her: “AAAAAAGH!!! It’s going to EAT ME!” Imagine yourself in her bunny slippers: No one speaks her language; she has been taken from her family and has no one of her own species to comfort her; and she has no idea whether you



Cute Lil Britches would probably try to bite a stranger who tried to pick her up!

plan to love her, cage her forever, or have her for dinner. You must gradually and patiently earn her trust. It can take an hour, a day, or even weeks or months. It depends on the personality of the individual rabbit, and on your willingness to be patient and loving.

You and bunny should be together in a private, quiet room. No other pets. No distractions. If children are present, they should be instructed to lie on the floor, too, being very quiet and emulating the behavior of the adult in charge. Stress to the children that getting to know a bunny is a little bit like waiting for a butterfly to land on your head, rather than chasing it around with a net and forcing it to hold still.

Have a little treat – such as a carrot or piece of apple, banana or a little pinch of oats – in your hand. Lie prone on the floor and let the bunny out of her pen. (This should be at ground level so that the bunny can come out and go into the pen as she pleases. Having to grab the bunny every time you want her to come in or out can undo hours of patient trust-building.

Don’t expect the bunny to approach you immediately. Remain quiet and patient, even if it takes an hour or more. Rabbits are naturally curious, and eventually she will come over to sniff you, and perhaps even climb up on your back for a look around.

If the bunny is very shy, resist the temptation to reach out and pet her. Instead, let her sniff you, hop on you and get to know your scent. Eventually, when she sees that she can move freely around you without being touched or grabbed, she will learn that you are not a threat.

If bunny smells the treat you have, and comes to investigate, hold onto it while she nibbles, instead of letting her grab it and run off to eat in a private place. This will establish that she can safely eat

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Close Encounters

(Continued from page 20)

in your presence without worrying that you're going to grab and restrain her.

Have a “bunny playtime” like this every day until it becomes routine, and bunny loses her wariness around you. Touches should come gradually. Extending a finger or hand for her to sniff is a polite overture, and she may allow you to gently rub her forehead, ears, or her temples (the smooth areas on the sides of her head, just below her ears). These are favorite rabbit “scritch spots,” and a shy bunny is more likely to allow you to touch her head than she is to let you rub her back or any other area where she can't really keep an eye on you.

If bunny withdraws from your attentions, let her. Be patient, and never force anything. Never, ever chase the bunny. Despite what you might hear from other sources, we've never met or heard of a rabbit who truly likes to “play chase.” That's a predator's game, and is more likely to cause terror and stress in your bunny than entertain her. This is one reason that boisterous children and rabbits are NOT a good match.

Rabbits and Children

In most cases, children and rabbits are not ideal companions. A rabbit's delicate skeleton and prey-species nature predisposes him to be fearful of the attentions of most active, happy children, however well-meaning they might be. It takes a very special, mature child – willing to follow the procedures described above – to make a good companion for a rabbit.

Some people tell us they are disappointed that the rabbit is “not turning out to be the sort of pet we wanted for our kids.” Such folks may have had unreasonable expectations for a rabbit, expecting him to behave more like a dog or cat than a rabbit.

Rather than being disappointed that a rabbit is naturally shy, and not what you might have expected, take the opportunity to teach your children respect for a very different kind of animal whose behaviors and ways of communication are not the same as their own. If a child wants something to carry around and cuddle, provide a stuffed toy – not a live rabbit.

Even if your rabbit is the “family pet,” an adult should always be his primary caretaker. Young children don't have the sense of responsibility necessary to properly care for a rabbit, and should not be expected to behave as adults, especially if the safety of your companion rabbit is at stake. Parents also should be ready to take over the rabbit-care duties of the teenager who goes off to college, leaving Fluffy in their care. A well-cared-for house rabbit, spayed or neutered, can live eight to 12 years, or even longer.

She Is a Sentient Creature, Not a Toy

Look at your rabbit with enlightened eyes. Understand that nature made her just as surely as it made you, and that, like yours, her personality is at least partly a product of her ancestry. She is not a toy; she is a highly intelligent, loving being who can become an interactive, loyal member of the family if you allow her to be what she is – a rabbit. The person who can do this is in store for the most delightful companionship of a lifetime.

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

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Marshmallow, at Petco Union Square, is protected from an impulsive admirer.

Photo: Kerstin Aumann



Rabbit volunteer Kerstin Aumann trained her son Alex (seen here with Snowball) how to behave toward bunnies.

Foster a Rabbit for the New Year

Staying home during the cold weather? Open your heart and your home to a foster rabbit from Rabbit Rescue & Rehab!

If you aren't able to make a lifetime commitment to a rabbit at this time, then fostering may be a good fit for you. It's also a great opportunity for people new to rabbits to decide whether a rabbit is really the right pet for them long-term.

Fostering makes a difference. You are the link between a homeless animal and a new family.

You can help a rabbit learn that he or she is loved and special, no matter what happened before you met.

It's fun. You get to meet lots of wonderful animals with all kinds of personalities.

It's flexible. Many people opt to foster who love animals and want to help them, but can't commit to having a pet year-round.

It feels great. You can see rabbits who are scared, upset, or neglected blossom into happy family members.

You can save another life by fostering because it opens up space at a rescue for another rabbit to be saved.

The goal of fostering is to provide a bunny with a safe, loving environment until the rabbit is adopted. Commitment times for fostering range from a few weeks to indefinitely and are based on your availability.

You can contact Rabbit Rescue & Rehab at nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Foster Homes Needed



Every day we receive requests to help rabbits in need, but we can only help as many as there are foster spaces available for. By fostering, you are helping to save the life of a bunny who has nowhere else to go and giving them the opportunity for a better life. To learn more about fostering, email us at nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com



It feels great. You can see rabbits who are scared, upset, or neglected blossom into happy family members.

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 nshreibmd@gmail.com or www.longislandrabbitrescue.org.

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. 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.

If interested in volunteering for Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Peter Rabbit.

Donations

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.

THUMP JANUARY 2022

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.

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) 643-0515. 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 Street,
New York, NY 10065
(212) 838-7053, (212) 329-8622

Alexandra Wilson, DVM
The Center for Avian and
Exotic Medicine
568 Columbus Avenue,
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
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Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital
2056 Jericho Turnpike
New Hyde Park, NY 11040
(516) 877-7080

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

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6320 Northern Blvd
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639 Route 112
Patchogue, NY 11772
(631) 475-1312

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
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333 Great Neck Road
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Jennifer Saver, DVM