



## NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS MARCH 2022

### Our Experience With the Medgene RHDV2 Vaccine

By Megan Hilands

With the Covid-19 pandemic, I think it's fair to say that most people's stress levels have been a bit higher than usual over the past few years. Considering that Covid-19 has occurred simultaneously with the spread of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Type-2 in North America – well, let's just say it wouldn't be surprising if bunny-loving humans have ingested a few extra carrot-tinis since 2020.

In February 2022, my bunnies Simba, Nala and Charlie completed a milestone I'd been anxiously awaiting since I first heard of RHDV2 outbreaks in the U.S. – they received their second shot in the Medgene vaccine series against this horrible, deadly disease. I can seriously say that I breathe easier knowing my three rabbits are protected against RHDV2.

When Covid-19 vaccines started to become available to the general population in 2021, I remember reading a lot of articles about people's experience with the vaccines and what side effects they experienced (or didn't experience). I personally found these articles to be very

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### The Importance of Vaccinating Your Rabbit As Deadly Virus Continues to Spread in U.S.

By House Rabbit Society

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Type-2 is a serious and extremely contagious disease. Morbidity and mortality rates are high in unvaccinated animals; in some groups of infected rabbits, most or all may die. The disease has been known to cause dramatic declines in some wild rabbit populations. House Rabbit Society strongly encourages rabbit guardians to vaccinate their rabbits. Rabbits of all ages are affected by RHDV2.

Even indoor-only rabbits are at risk of RHDV2, since the virus can be transferred to them by people (on their shoes and clothes), other animals (including dogs and cats, especially if they go outside), and even insects.

The most important thing you can do to protect your rabbits is to get them vaccinated, in those areas the vaccine is available. (The new Medgene RHDV2 vaccine is available in most states and Washington, D.C.) The vaccines are safe and effective. So far, Medgene safety testing studies report only rare instances of swelling at the injection site which resolve within 48 hours. Other possible side effects are a temporary slight fever and/or lethargy for one to two days.



Photo: Jane O'Wyatt

Baby Push.

Over the past month, four new cases of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Type-2 were identified.

- RHDV2 was confirmed for the first time in Tennessee, on Jan. 28, in two indoor rabbits.

- On Jan. 24, Georgia officials confirmed RHDV2 in unvaccinated, domestic rabbits housed indoors at a single location.

- On Jan. 13, RHDV2 was confirmed in a wild cottontail rabbit in central Colorado.

- On Dec. 13, RHDV2 was confirmed in a black-tailed jackrabbit in Oregon.

As of now, there have been confirmed cases in Arizona, California, Colorado,

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**Remembering Volunteer Cathe Rekis, Who Cared for Rabbits With Respect, Kindness**  
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**It Takes Time To Understand The Magical and Joyful World of Rabbits**  
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**Chewy Has Helped Me Appreciate The Special Traits Of Lionhead Bunnies**  
Page 11

Our masthead stars are, at the far left, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group adoptable bunnies Judson and Emery, with Bowie posing by himself inside the "U." Judson was rescued in rough shape, having malocclusion and a bad upper respiratory infection. After removal of his incisors, he is now fully healed and is one of the happiest rabbits in foster care—he gives lots of kisses and can't chew your furniture! Emery is a tiny, adorable, very sweet and shy girl who is looking for a calm forever home with a family that has the patience to allow her to warm up and come out of her shell. Lucky Bowie was adopted last year. Masthead design: Mary Ann Maier. Photo: Katie Scarr.

## Medgene RHDV2 Vaccine

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helpful and comforting to me when it was my turn to get vaccinated. I wanted to write a similar piece about my bunnies' vaccination so that other bunny families might similarly know what to expect.

### Before the jab

The long story short is that my experience with the Medgene vaccine, as well as the team who administered it, was extremely positive. I signed up my bunnies for their appointments almost as soon as I saw a social media post from Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital advising that they had vaccines available. I started the process by filling out a simple online form with my desired times (one for each bunny, though fortunately I was able to get them all on the same days!). Shortly thereafter I received a call from Catnip & Carrots confirming my appointments. About a week prior to the first dose, Catnip & Carrots called again to charge my credit card for the vaccines.

### Dose 1: Jan. 23

I read as much as I could about the Medgene vaccine prior to my first appointment. The House Rabbit Society website noted some rabbits might feel lethargic and have redness or irritation at the injection sites. I was admittedly a little nervous about how my rabbits would react. Bunnies that don't feel well sometimes don't want to eat, which is of course dangerous and can lead to gastrointestinal stasis. Though I had some Metacam at home in case of emergencies and knew every bunny's dosage, it is never particularly fun for me to syringe-feed medication.

When we arrived at Catnip & Carrots, I filled out three releases, and then one of the veterinary technicians took Simba, Nala and Charlie inside to be vaccinated. (In order to prevent the spread of Covid-19, pet parents at Catnip & Carrots are asked to wait outside during appointments.) It was only a matter of minutes before they were tucked safely back in the car. I received some paperwork

Photos: Megan Hillands

Vaccine	Lot Number/Manufacturer	Date	Veterinary Clinic/Veterinarian
1st Dose RHDV2	Medgene P11207471	1/23/22	Catnip & Carrots
2nd Dose RHDV2	Medgene P11207471	2/12/22	J. S. Smith
Other			
Other			

The bunnies' vaccination cards are much cuter than mine.



Charlie feeling back to normal and cuddling next to me while I watch TV.

about the vaccine and three CDC-style vaccination cards, each with an adorable image of a masked bunny. A big kudos to Catnip & Carrots for adding this—it certainly brought a smile to my face!

Fortunately, after the first dose of the vaccine every bunny was absolutely fine. If they were experiencing any side effects, they certainly didn't show it and ate and used the litter box normally. There were even some sprints and binkies that evening (after an appropriate period of being annoyed at me for taking them in the car, of course).

### Dose 2: Feb. 13

With the Covid-19 vaccine series, I knew the second dose often causes increased symptoms compared with the first. However, I wasn't overly concerned for my bunnies since the first dose had gone so well. Simba, Nala and Charlie might have known what was coming this time, though. Charlie definitely resisted more than usual when it was time to go in the carrier!



Nala (and Simba in the background) are back to their usual antics of begging for treats.



Simba always looks at me like this when she wants something!

Again, when we arrived at Catnip & Carrots a veterinary technician collected our bunnies from the car and brought them inside. About 15 minutes later the buns were back in the car again, and the vaccination cards were updated with the information for the second dose.

Later that evening, I did notice the bunnies were acting a little unusual. Simba and Nala seemed to be napping quite a bit. Charlie actually sat in his litter box and started to nap, which initially worried me because in my experience bunnies

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## Medgene RHDV2 Vaccine

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might do this when their tummies are upset. However, when I went to pet him he perked up a little and all three bunnies eagerly accepted a peace offering of an Oxbox treat from me. No bunny ever stopped eating or using the litter box normally. So, I think the descriptions of side effects I read were quite accurate. My bunnies were all a little lethargic but that was about all. By the next day, all three of them were behaving normally again.

The day after both doses, Catnip & Carrots called me to see how my bunnies were doing, which was very much appreciated.

### The future

I am extremely grateful to have three fully vaccinated bunnies and truly do feel like a weight has been lifted from my shoulders. Although I would not have traveled much anyway due to Covid-19, I feel as if I can leave Simba, Nala, and Charlie in the care of a bunny-savvy sitter and visit friends and their bunnies without any anxiety over the virus at all. It's been a long and sometimes stressful two years, and while I'm not quite ready to give up my mask, I feel as if the world where viruses rule my daily life is finally on its way out the door.

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## Vaccinating Your Rabbit

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Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming, as well as in Canada and Mexico, affecting both wild and domestic rabbits.

House Rabbit Society continually updates [rabbit.org/rhdv](http://rabbit.org/rhdv). Be sure to bookmark the webpage to stay current on all RHDV2 news.

## Cathe's Last Bunny

By Jane O'Wyatt

Although her friends knew that rabbit rescue volunteer Cathe Rekis was seriously ill with cancer, we were all shocked when she died last month. For many years Cathe had been ubiquitous in the Manhattan rescue scene: doing volunteer bunny care at the Petco store in Union Square, at the ACC shelter in Harlem and with several local rescue groups. She fostered dozens of rabbits at her apartment in Stuyvesant Town – in her kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. Cathe was a generous, gregarious, knowledgeable, funny, energetic, reliable colleague, and her compassion for abandoned house rabbits, especially those who were disabled and those whose coats were extremely matted, was boundless.

I met her more than 10 years ago in the rabbit room at ACC on a day when I was feeling totally overwhelmed. Out of the blue Cathe appeared and went to work cleaning litter boxes and cages. May I use the overused phrase “bright-eyed and bushy-tailed” to describe my first impression of her? Unlike volunteers who only wanted to sit and pet the bunnies, Cathe cheerfully tackled the scut work, and she treated both the bunnies and me with respect and kindness. I was so impressed!

Over the years we groomed a number of matted bunnies together, and Cathe was always patient and gentle. (See the story of a matted Jersey Woolly called Greyson: Thump August 2014, pages 9-10).

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Photo: Maho Henada



Cathe Rekis (left) with rabbit volunteer Sherry Riad at Petco Union Square.

## Cathe

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Before they came to me, my bunnies Hardy and Honey had each lived in Cathe's kitchen. We were neighbors, so when she was out of town, I took a bus across 14th Street to care for her fosters and her own Mr. B. and Chloe, both of whom predeceased her.

**Monday, Feb. 7.** Cathe texted me: "I'm in the hospital. Went in yesterday. Can you feed Kay?" I said yes and, knowing that she had a horror of hospitals, asked how else I could help. "That's all. Feed, water, hay. Afternoon is the best time to visit Kay. Thanks." She didn't reply to my question about visiting her.

A while later, Alan, owner of the black SUV known to rabbit volunteers as the "Bunny Limo," called and said that Cathe had asked him to drive Kay to Catnip & Carrots so that Dr. Jennifer Saver could examine and treat her runny eyes and the inflamed skin on her face. Would I be able to meet Alan some morning at Cathe's apartment and hand over Kay in a carrier? I agreed and texted Cathe, who replied: "Dr. Saver said Alan can bring her in on Wednesday for a drop off." A flurry of texts about alternate dates followed.

That afternoon, when I went to Cathe's apartment, Kay was sound asleep in the bathroom, behind the toilet, but she came out eagerly to munch on pellets and be petted. Her eyes and the irritated, furless skin around them looked bad. I texted Cathe, who answered: "I use warm salt water-soaked pads on her crusts to soften them. I press very gently." Remembering that the bunny would soon be getting a ride in the Bunny Limo to Catnip, I had searched for Kay's carrier. Now I asked where it was. "In the back room on top of the cabinet. I use the soft one," came Cathe's reply. And that's exactly where the carrier was.

**Tuesday, Feb. 8.** Around 7 a.m. I texted Cathe, who had always been staunchly nocturnal: "Ordinarily I wouldn't try to text you so early, but hospitals, well... I

Photo: Marie Honda



Cathe with Austin Torres and Neil Schaier at Adoptapalooza in 2016.

am planning on taking care of Kay until they let you go. Alan got information about your room number and hospital visiting policy, and I wonder if I can visit you." One of the reasons I received no reply was that Cathe's cell phone had died – she had neglected to bring a charging cable with her to the hospital. Later, while visiting Kay, I heard the sound of someone trying to unlock the door to Cathe's apartment. I opened the door, and there stood Cathe's kind-looking friend Marie Poppoff. We introduced ourselves, and I learned that Marie, a retired nurse who had known Cathe since the 1980s, when they were both art students at Pratt Institute, had driven into the city from Pennsylvania to see her. Marie had just gotten a call requesting that she bring a charging cable to the hospital. How reassured I was to find out that Marie was Cathe's healthcare proxy! A warm and calm medical professional who loved Cathe, Marie knew how very sick her friend was and understood how doctors and hospitals worked. We exchanged phone numbers and searched for the charging cable; Marie found one in the kitchen.

Because of Covid-19 restrictions, NYU's Langone Medical Center limited visiting hours and the number of people who

could visit, but it wasn't clear to me whether two visitors a day or two visitors at a time were allowed. In view of that protocol and because Cathe really wanted to see Marie and her husband, I returned home instead of going to the hospital. Later Marie called with the news that Cathe felt much better and wanted to go home because, as she said, "They keep waking me up! I can't get any rest here!" So Marie was planning to collect Cathe and drive her home the next morning. Meanwhile I should continue visiting Kay.

**Wednesday, Feb. 9.** Marie called while I was on my way to see Kay. "This morning I spoke with Cathe's doctors," she said, and they told me that she took a turn for the worse last night. They can't release her because she needs more care than she could get at home. She is now in hospice. Please bring Kay home with you." Deeply shocked, I did. Guessing that both Kay and my recently bereaved Honey might appreciate each other's company, I set up a pen for Kay next to Honey.

**Thursday, Feb. 10.** This might be my last chance to ask Cathe about taking care of Kay, I thought as I headed over to the hospital with a tuft of Kay's fur in

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## Cathe

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Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Kay.

my pocket. I cajoled a reluctant staffer at the visitors' desk into letting me go upstairs, but I was too late. Cathe had died just minutes before. In a daze I took an elevator back down to the lobby, where I surrendered my visitor's pass. Then I got a text from Sherry Riad, who had come with Thea Harding to see Cathe. They had been rejected by the guy manning the visitors' desk, who said they couldn't go up to Cathe's room until I had left it. The three of us met outside and tried to make sense of what had just happened. In disbelief that Cathe had left us so suddenly, we stood mourning her together. Thea mentioned that she had imagined visiting Cathe in the hospital with Kay smuggled in under her coat, and we all smiled. Sherry said that she and Thea knew the perfect partner for Kay: a handsome, well-mannered Harlequin Rex named Toro fka Sexy Lexy fka Lexington, whose conscientious owner wanted him to have a mate. We all knew Toro: Sherry had fostered him, and Thea and I had trimmed his nails. Gradually our conversation turned to throwing a party to celebrate Cathe's life – in the spring, when we could be outside.

Cathe's last rabbit Kay is staying with me for now, and it is a privilege to care for her. She is a pretty six-year-old black-and-white lop who is somewhat disabled due to spinal injuries. She is prone to poopy butt and drippy eyes,

and I suspect that she is deaf. In 2020 Cathe wrote:

I did Kay's adoption at ACC to a wonderful family. They travel extensively so I was always bun sitting. Then they moved to Budapest. So I took her in as she is crippled because someone dropped her during her spay. I brought her to Catnip & Carrots and it was confirmed that several vertebrae at her shoulder and tail were compressed from trauma (dropped). This caused her to drag her hind legs. Her shoulders are deformed, and her front paws are crooked. Now she has a lesion where the spine is compressed. I have Dr. Saver monitoring her. So she is mine now. And what a comfort to come home to her after I said goodbye to Chloe. Kay is my little angel.

For the first three days in my home Kay was sad, shy and sedentary, and she rarely emerged from her accordion tunnel. She refused to use the shallow litter box that Cathe had gotten for her. Fortunately, however, she kept eating hay and pellets, and she seemed comforted by Honey's presence nearby. Although Honey is

deaf and blind, she appeared to like having Kay as a neighbor.

Kay is now out of mourning, less withdrawn and more physically active. Mealtimes excite her, and she welcomes petting; she and Honey often lie near each other in their respective pens. While Kay doesn't binky or periscope, she can thump, and she gets about five inches of air hopping in and out of her litter box. (Dr. Saver observed recently that Kay has learned to compensate for the injuries that Cathe described above.) Kay lets me bathe her face around her lovely greyish blue eyes and keep her butt and hind legs and feet clean. She has become a little feisty, which is probably a good sign. Many of Cathe's rabbit-rescue friends have offered to help find a new home for Kay, who Cathe had said would be "a difficult adoption because of her limited mobility and gut problems." But the fur around her eyes has not grown back yet, so she's not ready for her close-up (i.e., the flattering photograph that her listing as an adoptable rabbit would require) – and Honey and I are tempted to keep her.

Photo: Marcie Frishberg



Cathe Rekis with Austin Torres at Petco Union Square in late 2017.

## Get to Know a Rabbit

By Robert Kulka

None of us shows our real self at the beginning of a relationship. If you think about it, we are usually somewhat guarded when with a new group of people that we may not know. When we want to impress someone we would like to know, we are usually careful about what we say and do around them. Until we know that person better, we may not let them see certain things, wanting to make sure those attributes will be acceptable or at least not a deal breaker for them. It takes us a while to develop the closeness and intimacy we are hoping to nurture. Trust and closeness take time.

So, when you think about it, we are not very different than rabbits. Rabbits are generally cautious initially. After all, they have many enemies out in the world.

They will exhibit the basic behaviors of a bunny that help in their survival. Each of them has a unique personality just as people do, and it may take some time for them to develop the trust necessary to begin to show their true nature. In fact, it is that uniqueness of their personality that may not be obvious for a while.

Having gone through what all of us have in the last two years, we have spent more time at home with family including our bunny family. I guess the silver lining in all of that is that the bonding process and trust building could be seen very closely. As I observe my roommate rabbits, I think I see more clearly than ever that the personality of a rabbit is very parallel to my own. It may well be why I have been drawn into the world of the rabbit and why they have allowed me to see them more fully. We have been drawn to one another in a kind of kinship.

People fall into certain broad categories. There are the extroverts and the introverts, the loners and the ones that crave companionship and family. This is

not unlike rabbits. Some seem braver than others and are more curious and adventuresome, while others hold back at a distance and observe their surroundings and the humans that loom over them.

Being around bunnies for almost 20 years, I think I understand their nature and process better than ever. Living with each other almost 24 hours a day gave me a much deeper insight into how they behave. For instance, just when I think I can see their unique personality, another layer of behavior is revealed. It is almost as if, as they observe us around the clock, the result is they grow increasing more willing to let down their--hare? There is a life that lies beneath that is personal and private. As we are around one another all the time, it means each of us must

reveal all our facets and characteristics. Learning about each other is fun and funny, and helps develop a new sensitivity that we may not have been fully aware of in the past.

Rabbits are of this world and are seen according to the basic expectations we may have of them. But, more importantly, they have their own world that is a secret and private place in their own minds. It is a privilege to realize that they invite us in more and more. It is also a benefit for each of us. We know what we can do to maintain the trust and we behave as they expect us to behave. Ultimately, we become guests in their house and as such must be polite and aware of what is expected of us. In

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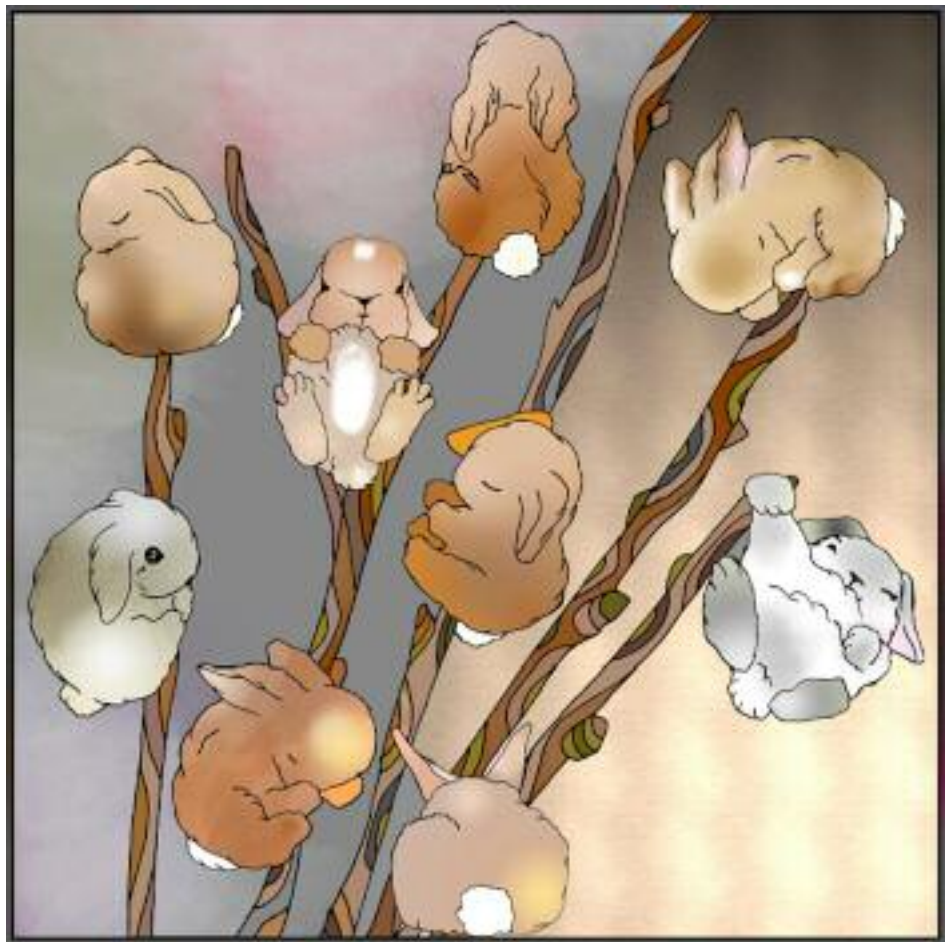


Illustration: 'Spring of the Bunny Willow,' colored by Robert Kulka using Pigment (#pigmentapp)

## The No-Fun Bun

By Samantha Rowan

Lenny, our senior rabbit, has never been the kind of guy who likes to unwind at the end of the day with a cardboard box and a dish of water. From the day Lenny hopped into our lives, he hasn't wasted time playing with toys, tearing up boxes, or luxuriating on a soft mat on the floor. He's had more important things to do.

Fun, from Lenny's perspective, seems to involve sniffing things, sleeping in what seem to be extremely uncomfortable positions, pretending that he hasn't been fed, doing what we believe is a long-term research project from his unofficial office under the couch, and ignoring every single toy we have ever offered him.

As a life-long friend of bunnies, I'm well-versed in the kinds of things most rabbits enjoy. A good cardboard box or tube can provide weeks of entertainment. Hard plastic cups can be shoved around, usually in the middle of the night. Newspaper can be torn into great, messy strips, and custom-made, bunny-sized quilts have always been a soft place to rest tired paws at the end of a long day of digging or scratching.

Lenny, however, has baffled our family because he just doesn't seem to like toys, quilts or comfort.



Lenny inspecting my notes.

Since Lenny came to live with us more than eight years ago, I cannot tell you how many times we've cut rabbit-sized holes in cardboard boxes and left them in tempting places around the apartment (most recently last week). Or the number of times I have sat on the floor with Lenny and a stack of New York Times sections and painstakingly ripped the Weekend paper into little bits, just in case he didn't understand that it was okay to tear up paper. We've tried organic bunny play walls and hay mats, and we even bought a couple of cunning little hay bungalows in the hope that Lenny would settle inside. But Lenny has never given them the time of day.

One of the funny things about this is that our rabbits have always seemed to sense when something is for them, be it hay or litter or a fresh bag of food, and expressed intense curiosity by trying to scoot underfoot as we carry a massive box across the floor. Lenny, however, just watches impassively as we replenish his supplies. I guess he knows he'll get whatever it is eventually.

There was one time when Lenny did express interest in a possible toy. I'm a journalist and, last summer, when I was sifting through a pile of notes for a very long story, a few pages dropped to the floor. Lenny roused himself from a deep, midday slumber, perked up his ears and hopped slowly toward one of the pages. I froze, waiting as Lenny sniffed the pieces of paper...and then settled down into a loaf on the floor, with my notes firmly under his bunny bottom.

Needless to say, the story was not finished that day.

The long and short of it, though, is that it's important to remember that not all rabbits are the same. Lenny might not like to play with toys, but he sure does love head rubs and sitting as close to us as he can. If that's what makes him happy, we're happy, too.

### Get to Know a Rabbit

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turn, they show us so many different levels of trust that we develop a deep level of communication. We each sense nuances in the behavior of one another. The resulting benefit is that as we see their behaviors and activities, we can be alerted to small changes in them. Rabbits are not inclined to be complainers. They do not want to show any weakness as they must appear healthy and strong to the outside world. Knowing your

bunny so much better can alert you to almost imperceptible changes or actions. Those observations can head off problems earlier or make you attentive to those that might come up. We can then respond more quickly and with more insight about what to do.

If we are patient and allow rabbits to guide us, we will see them and communicate with them and therefore enjoy one another more deeply. Remember that each is unique as each of us are. Sometimes they will show themselves quickly and

other times you will still be learning new things after many months of observing one another. If you recognize how to behave around the bunny, you will be invited in more and more to the remarkable world of this gentle soul. We may not always understand at first, but for those of us who do, the world they share with us can be magical, joyful and a place we can go whenever we need some love and a little escape.

## Jolie Gets Good News

By Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

Jolie had a very encouraging visit to her veterinary ophthalmologist recently.

Since we pulled Jolie from Animal Care Centers of NYC in July (where she was called Madame Pierre), she's been on several eye medications to control the high pressure in her right eye and to treat the corneal edema that is responsible for some of the blueish opacity that can be seen in her eye.

Her ophthalmologist said that Jolie's cornea is looking dramatically improved compared to her last visit, and he was also happy with her current eye pressure. He needs to see her back in four to five months for a recheck, but advised that no additional treatments need to be considered



Jolie.

at this time and she can stay on her current medications. This is great news.

Jolie's story is in the September 2021 issue of Thump (pages 2-3). She was diagnosed with congenital glaucoma and is a very young rabbit.

Jolie is an exceptionally outgoing and personable rabbit who loves people and playtime. She is extremely athletic; her home base is made up of 48-inch-tall pens following an escape attempt out of a shorter one. She eats a truly incredible amount of hay every day, which we absolutely love to see, and while we maintain constant awareness of her inability to see on her right side so that we don't startle her, you would never know about her vision loss by watching her active and confident personality.

## A Peach for Winter

By Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

Adorable Peach lives in one of RRR's sanctuary homes.

In 2019, we were saddened by the passing of our senior sanctuary bunny Iko, which left his partner Winter grieving and in need of a companion.

We worried it would be difficult to find a new partner. Winter was physically fragile because of his age and orthopedic issues from injuries sustained earlier in his life.

We were growing disheartened after three unsuccessful introductions between Winter and other candidates, but when we tried him and Peach together, it was a better match than we could have hoped for!

We love Peach for the adorable, playful, clever individual that she is, and are so grateful to her for being such a gentle, loving, and patient partner to Winter.



Winter and Peach.



Peach and Winter.



Peach.

## Beauty Comes in All Sizes

By Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

Some of our rescued bunnies are similarly colored, and we've been asked whether Indigo is related to or part of the family we rescued in 2019 (Skye and her babies). We realized that separately, their photos don't really give a sense of scale.

Pictured below is Pink, a Himalayan and one of Skye's babies, next to Indigo, a Californian who isn't related to the family. Pink weighs just shy of 3.5 pounds, and is fully grown. Indigo has just passed 10 pounds, and is a young bunny who probably still has a little left to grow. Indigo is available for adoption.

They are both sweet boys with the same beautiful color pattern – but they are very different in size!

Pink and Indigo.





## How About a Partner?

By Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

Bunnies are very social animals who enjoy the love and attention from their human families, but also benefit from the close companionship of a bonded bunny partner.

It is important for rabbits to choose their own partner. If you are interested in finding a partner for your bunny, initial interactions happen with several candidates at a bunny “speed date,” under the guidance of an experienced rabbit volunteer. Following the speed date, the bonding process continues at home with the chosen partner. Once bonded, a pair must never be separated.

There are also many already-bonded bunny pairs waiting to be adopted, and they can have a harder time finding homes than single bunnies. Adopting a pair of bonded rabbits cuts out the work of the bonding process, so it’s a win-win for the bunnies and their new human family.

Photos: Jane O'Wyatt



Sammy and Bullet.



Izzie and Arnie.

## Spay/Neuter Awareness Choose a Rabbit-Savvy Vet

By House Rabbit Society

Did you know that unfixed female rabbits have an 80% chance of developing uterine cancer? Or that one pair of unfixed rabbits can produce over 3.5 million more rabbits, significantly contributing to the overpopulation problem? For these reasons and many others, it’s important to spay or neuter your rabbit.

Spaying and neutering rabbits is a safe procedure when performed by experienced rabbit veterinarians. Don’t allow a veterinarian with little to no experience with rabbits to spay or neuter your rabbit. Paying money to have your rabbit see a veterinarian who doesn’t have experience treating rabbits is just throwing your

money away and can cost the life of your furry friend. Use House Rabbit Society’s state-by-state [vet list](#) to find a rabbit-savvy vet in your area if your rabbit needs to be fixed or just needs a checkup. If your area isn’t listed, contact your closest rabbit rescue for vet recommendations. House Rabbit Society recommends a rabbit see a rabbit-savvy veterinarian once a year, and twice a year or more for senior rabbits (6 years+).

In 2022, HRS will expand our medical education program to assist in increasing the number of rabbit-savvy veterinarians and veterinary staff to aid our rabbit companions with their not-uncomplicated medical needs.

## We Need Foster Homes

Please consider opening your home to a bunny in need.

Every day Rabbit Rescue & Rehab receives requests to take in rabbits, but we are limited by the number of foster spaces we have available.

If you think you might be able to help us help a rabbit in need, send us an email at [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com) for more information. We cover all veterinary expenses, and no prior experience is necessary.



## Share Your Bunny Love

Share your love for bunnies while supporting Rabbit Rescue & Rehab's rescue efforts with an "adopt"/"rescued" keychain!

Lovingly made by @love\_and\_liberation\_jewelry, these handcrafted stamped-metal keychains are \$18 each for your choice of "adopt," or "rescued."

Best of all, 100% of proceeds go directly to the rabbits for essentials like veterinary care, medications, and food for our foster and sanctuary rabbits.

To order, email us at [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com) with the number of keychains, text you would like, and your name and shipping address.



## Ways to Prevent Pet Poisoning

By House Rabbit Society

National Pet Poison Prevention Week is celebrated in March. While this most likely brings to mind dogs eating human medication off a countertop or consuming a dangerous amount of chocolate, there are several things rabbit guardians should be aware of that are toxic to rabbits.

Rodenticides are pesticides that kill rodents, and should be kept away from rabbits, whether in bait or trap form. Depending on the type, mouse and rat baits can cause bleeding, kidney failure, seizures or even death in pets, including rabbits. For 17 states, including California, the most common pet toxin that people contact the [Pet Poison Hotline](#) about is rat bait, according to the ASPCA. Keep rodenticides far away from rabbits, including areas they might exercise in, and consider more humane methods of rodent control.

If your rabbit has mites or fleas, never use Frontline on them. Frontline (fipronil)

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Pippi and Dashie.

has been linked to neurological damage and death in rabbits, although this product is apparently safe for dogs and cats. The manufacturer (Merial) has placed a warning on the Frontline label stating that Frontline should never be used on rabbits. Safe treatments to prevent and kill fleas on rabbits include Advantage (imidacloprid), Program (lufenuron), and Revolution (selamectin). Learn more at [rabbit.org/faq-grooming](http://rabbit.org/faq-grooming).

Toxic plants most often cause nausea, but may result in death. Don't assume that if a bird, squirrel, or pig ate a plant without any problems, others (rabbit or

human) can do the same. Common toxic plants and plant parts include agave leaves, apple seeds, buttercup leaves, daffodils, holly (berries), hyacinths, irises, mistletoe (berries), sweet potato, and tomato (leaves). Learn more at [rabbit.org/poisonous-plants](http://rabbit.org/poisonous-plants). Research any plant before bringing it home. Be mindful of where in your home it is placed, and whether your rabbit can access it or its branches or leaves should they fall onto the ground.

As rabbit guardians know very well, rabbits are determined to find trouble and more often than not will chew and eat things they shouldn't. Be aware of what items you leave lying around your home, in places where a bunny might reach or hop up onto. Keep cabinets with household cleaning chemicals shut and secured away from your rabbit. Home-improvement projects can expose your rabbit to potential toxins like paint or spackle. While accidents can always happen, the less accessible potentially dangerous items are, the less likely your rabbit is to get into them.

## In the Lion's Den

By Christine Edwards

One day, I received a call from a neighborhood mom whose children went to the same elementary school and dance studio as mine. She called me from the school athletic field where her son was playing football and said that there was a rabbit eating grass and it did not look wild. She knew about Nibbles, my Dutch rabbit who was rescued a year prior, and I sent her the contact information for Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group. The rabbit was successfully captured and the mom agreed to foster it. LIRRG brought over supplies and a pen and helped her set up an area in their home for the new arrival.

The rabbit was a male, double-maned Lionhead. He was a cute black ball of fur. They named him "Touchdown" since he was discovered during the football game. The family was very attentive to their new pet, but it quickly became clear that this wasn't going to work out. As you know, rabbits require a lot of care and are not usually fond of being handled. Touchdown was very skittish and he was in a very active household. His cuteness was irresistible, and the children liked to pick him up and hug him. After a few days, I received calls from the mom and LIRRG asking if I would consider taking him. Of course, I agreed!

I set up a new pen next to my rabbit Nibbles and he moved in. I renamed the rabbit "Chewy." It took him a long time to warm up but he seemed happy to be in a more serene setting. He grew to love Nibbles and would groom her through the bars of her pen, and they would often lie next to each other.

Chewy had the opposite temperament of Nibbles. Nibbles was very affectionate and trusting; you could do anything to her and she didn't care. Chewy, even to this day, is very territorial and grunts at me when I attempt to clean his pen. He



Nibbles, at rear, Kiwi and Chewy.



Chewy.



Juliette.

nips my leg when I block his path so I have to keep him busy while I enter his space. On occasion, I've had to resort to locking myself in his pen while he was free roaming so he wouldn't get me! I never take it personally as I know it is his way of communicating. Nibbles, on the other hand, would allow me to enter her pen with the understanding that she would be petted for several minutes. My

cat, Kiwi, would even hang out with her in her pen sometimes.

Both Chewy and Nibbles would always end up in the area I was trying to clean. For example, if I went to replace their litter box, they would stand in the spot where I needed to place it. They also would thank me by leaving a fresh pile of poop after I was done or throwing a chew toy into their water bowl.

Since Nibbles' passing in November, I have been fostering. My first was Rene, a male Havana bunny who was adopted and will soon become part of a bonded pair. I am now fostering Juliette, who happens to be a female, single-maned Lionhead. She is a young little ball of energy, full of sass and sweet as can be. Like Chewy, her inner lion behavior comes out on occasion. While she hasn't grunted at me, she has nipped me a couple of times when I try to enter her pen and one time for attention when I stopped petting her. Carrying on in bunny tradition, Juliette also stands in the way when I am trying to clean and has left me a pile of poop after I am done.

Living with two Lionheads keeps me on my toes. There are times when I think they believe they are real lions. I've learned to do things mostly on their terms and when I must do something they won't approve of, I need to prepare wisely or face the consequences. Despite their episodes of "ferociousness," the majority of the time they are lovable and entertaining. It is fun to interact with them and they always do something to make me laugh.

As Chewy has become older, he has mellowed out and is turning into a big mush. Juliette is a breath of fresh air, always exploring and searching for treats. I am happy to provide them a safe, caring environment that allows them to live their best lives.

## Noah Meets Visitors at Floral Park Library

By Amanda Shapiro

Two days before the day of love, volunteers from Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group gathered at the Floral Park Public Library for an indoor education event.

As people were coming in, spokesbunny star Noah was given plenty of pets and

Photos: Amanda Shapiro



Floral Park Public Library.

attention while volunteers educated children and parents with fliers and activity books for the kids to take home.

Once everybody was settled in, children, parents and volunteers got to hear the story of “The Forgotten Rabbit” by Nancy Furstinger. The book tells the tale of a rabbit purchased as an Easter



Noah.

gift and then neglected by his family. The book ends with the rabbit being taken in by a very knowledgeable owner.

The visitors asked many questions, and the Long Island volunteers provided information about basic rabbit care.

The children were invited to make toys to give to LIRRG’s foster rabbits.

Thank you to all the volunteers that worked hard at this event, including Shari Zagorski (proud owner of Noah), Sabrina Mahboob, Karen Linda Goodovitch-Rosenthal, Doreen Olvet, Bridget Tambini, Aviva Reschke, Anthony Squicciarino, Deanna Calhoun, and their families. We hope to see you at our next event!

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Tiny Tina.

## Bring On the Hay

By Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

Hay is the most important part of a rabbit’s diet. Fresh, quality hay must be freely available at all times and in unlimited quantities.

Always offer several types of Timothy hay. There are many varieties to choose from, and providing two or three types together is more enticing than only one.

Your rabbit will quickly let you know which are his or her favorites! Other grass hays can be fed as well, but avoid clover hay and alfalfa. These are only appropriate for baby or elderly rabbits, and on your veterinarian’s recommendation.

A rabbit that eats no hay, little hay, or discontinues eating hay must be seen by a rabbit-savvy veterinarian.

## What My Family Learned From Graham

By Megan Nguyen Chan

When my family decided to adopt our rabbit, Graham, we learned to take turns feeding, cleaning and generally looking after him.

Although my youngest sister, Emma, who is in elementary school, enjoys petting him and feeding him occasional small treats, it mostly fell to my parents, my sister Kaylee and me to make sure Graham was properly cared for.

Kaylee (ever the creative one of the family) took up the task of constantly creating new safe toys for Graham and watching him during his daily exercise time, while my parents were in charge of feeding Graham. I clean his litter box.

We wanted to make sure Graham had enough space, but we also thought about the location of his enclosure. Although rabbits may be frightened by sudden movements and loud noises, we thought a great way to get him used to the smells and sights of our home was by placing his enclosure in a room that is usually filled with people. My family placed Graham's enclosure in a safe corner of our kitchen, a place that always has one or two people moving in or out. By doing so, we were able to interact with him constantly so that he eventually got used to our presence.

We also learned that Graham had to be supervised when running outside his pen. My family always tries to make sure at least one person is watching our rabbit after he is let out. We saw that he loved to dig and chew, but we didn't want him to chew furniture or the carpet. Kaylee constructed toys for Graham, by cutting up cardboard boxes to make him fun tunnels and balls, and she also bought him new toys.

My family knew it was important to find an experienced pet sitter to care for Graham when we went on vacation. We found a close family friend who had once owned a rabbit, and she was more

Photo: Megan Nguyen Chan



Graham.

than happy to have the company and comfort of a furry friend while we were away. She enjoys his company so much that sometimes even when we return, she will ask for him to stay a couple more days.

Other families may not be ready to adopt a rabbit, but there are many ways to help, including fostering. This is a great opportunity to see what owning a rabbit would be like. Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group is always looking for fosterers. When my family was considering getting a rabbit, my father had various concerns, so we decided to foster rather

than adopt. In this way, we could make sure that our family was able to handle the responsibility of having a pet.

However, if you don't think you have the time to properly care for a rabbit but still want to get involved, there are plenty of other ways to help – you can volunteer with a rescue group if you want to care for rabbits without fostering or adopting, or you can donate to the cause by raising money for a nonprofit organization. Rescue groups need money to cover the costs of spays and neuters, regular vet care, feeding and supplies.

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## Cookie Will Always Turn an Ear to Listen

By Raisa Hasan

We haven't had Cookie for long, but she fits right in.

She's reserved and manipulative – but adorable, like any properly raised being in this household should be. She's even a bit of a therapist in the late hours of the night, after her pen is closed and she's sitting on her favorite orange blanket like the Sphinx.

Whether I am reveling in the bittersweet ending of a show, or experiencing another lethargic episode after binge eating, her soft gray fur will be there to comfort me. And be assured, she will always turn an ear to listen.

Photo: Raisa Hasan



Cookie.

## Twelve Years Was Not Enough

By Jean Mellano

In 2017, I left the home that Steve and I lived in for almost 30 years and moved to Greenport, N.Y. The community where I live now has freestanding homes as well as one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. The selection criteria I used to purchase my new residence primarily involved the space I would need for my two bunnies and their food and supplies.

In my community, there are 300-plus residences, and since I am the only person with pet rabbits, I am often referred to as the “bunny lady.” A year after I moved here, Snoopy passed away at the ripe old rabbit age of 12. Then it was just Budgie and me. Sadly, in mid-2021, Budgie developed arthritis in his hind legs and was no longer able to hop.

### Rabbits Are Playful And Unique

More than one person has told me they think rabbits must make boring pets. What these people don't realize is that one needs patience for a rabbit to come around and show his or her true self. Every bunny is unique and each has a distinctive personality. My Snoopy was neat as a pin and at times grumpy. Budgie was a slob and always loved to play and get into mischief. If he wasn't supposed to be in a particular part of the house, Budgie would make a beeline for that place when I let him out to free roam.

One endearing behavior is the binky – jumping in the air while twisting their body and head before landing. A binky is an expression of pure joy and is guaranteed to make someone smile when they witness this adorable expression of happiness. Some rabbits also head binky. This is where their head may twitch and flick. Snoopy and Budgie would typically binky when it was time to eat, get treats or free roam.

To those who say, “It's only a rabbit”? They are uninformed and have no clue

Photo: Lori Wendelken-McAllister



Budgie as a baby.

Photo: Diana Kronenberg



Budgie at Diana's.

Photo: Jean Mellano



Steve and Budgie.

as to what rabbits are capable of. These people are missing out on the subtle joys that such a wonderful pet can offer. To gain the trust of an animal that is afraid of its own shadow because it is a prey animal and is at bottom of food chain is truly a treasured gift.

### Budgie Is Struggling

Recently, Budgie's mobility was becoming more limited and he was incontinent.

His hind legs were becoming stiff and gnarled. Budgie was my buddy. He never failed to make me smile with his antics and I did not feel so alone with him in my home. As his arthritis progressed, Budgie would still greet me with a head binky in the morning, but he could no longer move his arthritic body very much.

In the grand scheme of things there are so many others who are suffering far greater

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## Twelve Years

*(Continued from page 14)*

losses than I, but to me, losing Budgie was huge. He was the last connection to my life partner, Steve, who died by suicide in 2015. Steve and I had both agreed to adopt Snoopy and Budgie and give them their forever homes. (Snoopy passed on his own terms in 2018.)

By January 2022, I knew there was no hope for a miracle for Budgie to be cured. Arthritis in rabbits can be quite debilitating and it typically severely affects their quality of life. I was getting close to having to make the dreaded decision many pet owners fear: euthanasia. It is gut-wrenching because we don't want our beloved pets to suffer; yet, we also don't want to let them go.

Photos: Jean Mellano



Budgie the Bunny.

### How Did I Know It Was Time?

Many have told me that our pets will let us know when it is time for us to end their suffering. I never got that from Budgie, who was 12. In his case, I think he may have sensed how lonely I was and that I needed him. I don't think he wanted to leave me. Sometimes I think we don't give animals enough credit for having feelings we consider to be more human than animal.

Budgie was feisty till the end and he didn't want to let go, just as I did not

want to let go of him. I knew his arthritis was irreversible and that his health was not going to improve. He was losing weight and was starting to feel like just fur and bones. Budgie's hind legs were very skinny. I tried everything: lined his pen with fleece to ease the pressure on his hind legs, used an Assisi Loop and Metacam for pain and inflammation, took him to the vet for Adequan shots and gave him glucosamine/chondroitin supplements to try to inhibit any further cartilage loss and joint deterioration. I even had a bunny wheelchair made for him, but Budgie wanted no part of that.

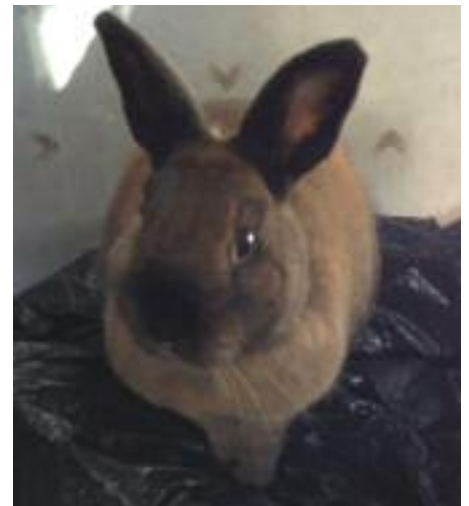
One morning I woke up and saw Budgie had not moved much from the spot where I saw him the night before. He was lying in his excrement and urine. At this point, Budgie was still eating (albeit not as much and only if I put the bowl right under his nose), giving me head binkies and getting excited for his treats. However, I decided to make the call to the vet before I could change my mind.

Then I started second-guessing myself; was I being premature with this irreversible decision? However, he was deteriorating quickly and both the vet and I believed his crossing the rainbow bridge was inevitable. One of the co-founders of Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group (LIRRG) said when rabbits lose mobility like Budgie did, they can't do the most basic things that rabbits normally do 24/7, like scratch an itch, clean their face or stretch their backs. She went on to say: Imagine having a terrible itch and not being able to reach it. In addition to the outward signs of lost quality of life, I knew I must also consider these factors.

The vet agreed to come to my home to euthanize Budgie so that he would be in familiar surroundings when he passed. While getting the first sedative shot, Budgie was struggling and fighting to get away until I was able to soothe him with my voice and by petting him. He



Budgie, 2019 New Year's.



Budgie in the kitchen.

trusted me to protect him from danger. I still second guess myself and wonder if I made the right decision.

### Budgie's Last Moments

A few hours before the vet arrived, I wanted to spoil Budgie. I opened up his pen, lay on the floor and hand-fed him his favorite treats. I could hear him purring as I petted him. This is the memory I never want to forget.

The bond I had with Budgie is something most people will never understand (unless you have had a rabbit).

Budgie is with Snoopy and Steve now and I can only hope that someday I will see them all again. Until then, it is just me, coming home to an empty house. I miss how Budgie never failed to make me laugh. May he be at peace.

## What Do Rabbits See?

By Dana Krempels

Many house rabbit “parents” are curious to know what the world looks like to their lagomorph companion. Why does it seem difficult for my bunny to find food right in front of his face? Why is my bunny so easily startled or frightened if I enter the room holding a box or a grocery bag? Can my rabbit see colors?

The first thing to remember is that a rabbit’s visual system evolved under evolutionary pressures completely different from those which “designed” your eyes. We human primates, like our simian cousins, have forward-placed eyes which confer binocular vision and depth perception. This is essential for an animal originally designed to leap through the trees. Also, we have excellent color vision, a trait which helped our ancestors to find ripe fruit and tasty flowers in the forest canopy.

On the other hand, the rabbit visual system is designed – not for foraging and locomotion – but to quickly and effectively detect approaching predators from almost any direction. The eyes are placed high and to the sides of the skull, allowing the rabbit to see nearly 360 degrees, as well as far above her head. Rabbits tend to be farsighted, which explains why they may be frightened by an airplane flying overhead even if their human companion can barely see it. (It could be a hawk! Run!)

The price the bunny pays for this remarkable field of vision is a small blind spot directly in front of his face, but forward-placed nostrils and large, spooning ears compensate for that minor loss of predator-detecting space. For an animal to have binocular vision, the field of view of both eyes must overlap to some degree. The central blind spot in the rabbit’s field of view precludes a three-dimensional view of nearby objects. When your bunny cocks her head and



Tori.



Watson.

seems to be looking at you “sideways,” she is actually looking as straight at you as is possible for a bunny. As far as we know, she does not have a primate’s level of depth perception at such close range.

What about color vision? In general, vertebrates have two different types of photoreceptor cells in their retinas: rods and cones. Cones confer high resolution, and, if more than one cone type is present, they also confer the ability to perceive various wavelengths of light as distinct colors. For example, we humans have three different categories of cone –

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Ms. Einstein.



## What Do Rabbits See?

(Continued from page 16)

their maximum sensitivities in the red, blue and green regions of the spectrum. The differing sensitivities of each cone type enable us to perceive different (visible) wavelengths of light as the colors of the rainbow.

Behavioral studies published in the early 1970's indicate that rabbits do have a limited ability to discriminate between some wavelengths of light, perceiving them as different colors. Evidently, they can discriminate between the wavelengths we call "green" and "blue." Although rabbits may not perceive green and blue the way we do, they can tell them apart. This means they have limited color vision, probably conferred by two different categories of cone cells (blue and green).

The other type of photoreceptor, the rod cell, confers high visual sensitivity in low light situations, but relatively poor resolution (i.e., a "grainy" picture). The rabbit retina has a much higher ratio of rods to cones than the human retina has. Although a rabbit can see better than a human in low light conditions, his low light image has much poorer resolution (clarity) than the daytime images formed by your cone-rich, primate retina.

Now you may wonder: "Can my rabbit see me clearly, or am I just a big blur?" As you read this page, you are focusing on the letters with a very tiny part of your retina called the fovea. This is a minuscule, cone-shaped depression in the retina, lined wall-to-wall with high resolution cone cells.

Rabbits, too, have small retinal areas with more cones than rods. However, this area centralis is not indented, and it has far lower cone density than our fovea has. The image formed by the area centralis is relatively "grainy" compared to the one formed by your fovea, but it serves the rabbit well. Using this image, your voice, body movements and scent



Photos: Jane O'Wyatt

Buggles' head-tilted view is the result of *E. cuniculi*.



Teandra aka Little T.



Squeaky.



Emily.

as cues, your rabbit can recognize you (his favorite human) – as long as you're not carrying a scary box that completely changes your familiar shape!

Knowing a little more about how another creature sees the world allows us to

come one step closer to understanding its behavior – and modifying our own to make life happier for everyone. Remember that the next time your rabbit gazes at you with those deep, ancient eyes.

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

## 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



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](mailto: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](mailto: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 19)*

### Forever Homes Found!

We are happy to report that Belinda, Blueberry, Mr. White Socks, Rene, Katniss, Peeta, Powell, Nathan, Beverly, Octavia, Thatcher, Hudson, Riyah, Shia le Puff, Matrix, Infinity and Violet, Eevee, Brinna, Otto, Garrett, Jimi Hendrix, Glimmer, Aurora, Webster, Friday, Pfeffernüsse and Inga were adopted since the last newsletter. Congratulations!

## 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](mailto:information@longislandrabbitrescue.org)

### Judson

Judson exerts an enormous amount of energy with plenty of zoomies and binkies to go around. He's very sweet, playful, and by no means holds back from giving bunny kisses. Judson was rescued in November of 2021 and was quite the warrior throughout his treatment for malocclusion – nothing can dim this handsome boy's light! If you're seeking a furbaby with a vibrant personality and vigorous spirit, Judson's your guy.

This sweet boy had his incisors extracted as a result of the malocclusion. He now has just a peg tooth in the front and perfectly functioning molars. Judson can eat just fine, but he does have hay preferences. To keep his gut and hay eating in good order, he asks that you provide only the finest of third-cut soft hays. So far his favorite is from Rabbit Hole Hay, the soft Timothy variety.

Facts about Judson:

- Rescued November 2021
- Estimated age as of January 2022: 18 months
- Has an enormous amount of playful energy
- May accept pets once he's relaxed, but he's a very busy guy with lots to do. He would much prefer to give you kisses than receive lots of head pats.



Judson.

*(Continued on page 20)*

### RRR Rabbits in Foster Care

*(Continued from page 18)*

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](mailto: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](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

### Carmela

Carmela is a young medium-sized Rex rabbit. Her beautiful coat is mostly white with tan and black spots. She is a sweet rabbit who loves to have her soft nose petted. She also likes to explore her



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](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

## Rabbits from LIRRG

(Continued from page 19)



Jessica.

### Jessica

Jessica was rescued in December 2021. This beautiful girl is waiting for a forever home where she will be loved and cherished and totally spoiled. She is like a puppy and LOVES to play. Jessica is very affectionate and she likes to lie down and snuggle contentedly with someone who will give her head rubs. She certainly loves to eat and at mealtime can get a little overexcited.

Jessica would be so excited to meet you, and she will most definitely bring joy and happiness to your home.

Facts about Jessica:

- Rescued December 2021
- Estimated age upon rescue: 1 year
- Playful, attention-seeking

### Colita

Colita...big, beautiful, and playful! She was rescued from a family whose young child accidentally hurt her when left unattended. Colita healed just fine, thankfully. Despite her rough beginnings, she absolutely loves people. Volunteers describe Colita as a kisser who demands attention. She is a very friendly bunny with a puppy personality – and a big head. She likes to stand on her hind legs, reaching for attention and love. Colita will be the perfect rabbit for someone who has lots of time to play with her – gently, of course!

Facts about Colita:

- Rescued August 2020
- Estimated age upon rescue: 4 months old
- Energetic, outgoing



Colita.



Ezra.

### Ezra

Ezra is a tiny rabbit who is very timid. While he's still learning to trust people, Ezra is a little ball of energy who will surely entertain his adopters. He finds comfort in a quiet, patient environment.

A volunteer compared him to an avocado... like an unripened avocado, Ezra needs a forever home with someone who can patiently wait for him to be ready. And... we promise it will be worth the wait!

Facts about Ezra:

- Arrived at LIRRG June 2021
- Estimated age upon arrival: 3-4 years old
- Does not tolerate salad or sugary treats in his diet
- Requires a Calm/Quiet home without young children



**We Are Looking for Loving Homes:  
These Rabbits Are Available  
At Manhattan Animal Care Center (NYC ACC)**

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



Little Oscar.



Eileen.



Blackberry.



Jade.



Barry.

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



Sweeney Todd.



Sherlock Holmes.



Roxy.



Blaze.



Brownie.



Rayfield.



Smudge.



Pudge.



Poppa.

*(Continued on page 23)*

ADOPTIONS

**Rabbits at Brooklyn NYC ACC**

*(Continued from page 22)*



Strawberry.



Amenadiel.



Oakalani.



Rocky.



Harley.



Kraft.



Oliver.



Eggo.



Pomegranate.

*(Continued on page 24)*

**Rabbits at Brooklyn NYC ACC**

*(Continued from page 23)*



Avocado.



Bello.



Popcorn.



Bella.



Jake.

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



## Adoptable Rabbits

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

To adopt a rabbit in **New York City** or **Westchester**, contact [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com). On **Long Island**, contact Nancy Schreiber at [nschreibmd@gmail.com](mailto:nschreibmd@gmail.com) or [www.longislandrabbitrescue.org](http://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](mailto:adopt@nycacc.org)). Volunteers are there every weekday evening and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, but it is best to arrange an appointment first.

Bunny speed dates can be arranged by appointment only. Please contact [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com) to make arrangements.

Many of our rabbits are living in foster homes and you can meet them as well. You also can arrange to foster a rabbit until he or she finds a permanent home. Contact [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com)

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

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

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Lefty.

## 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](http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org).

## THUMP MARCH 2022

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS  
[rabbitrescueandrehab.org](http://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**  
**Erica Campbell, DVM**  
Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital  
2056 Jericho Turnpike  
New Hyde Park, NY 11040  
(516) 877-7080

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

**Ellen Leonhardt, DVM**  
Animal General of East Norwich  
6320 Northern Blvd  
East Norwich, NY 11732  
(516) 624-7500

**Maggie Camilleri, DVM**  
Paumanok Veterinary Hospital  
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  
Veterinary Clinic  
333 Great Neck Road  
Great Neck, NY 11021  
(516) 482-1101

## Licensed HRS Educators

### NYC/Westchester:

**M.C. Basile**  
Chapter Manager,  
NYC House Rabbit Society

**Mary Cotter**  
Founder, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab,  
Adviser to Thump,  
mcotter64@gmail.com,  
(914) 643-0515

**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**