

PRESS RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Nancy Schreiber and Mary Ann Maier-- House Rabbit Society Educators, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Co-founders

nschreibmd@aol.com

(516) 510-3637

altitude8@yahoo.com

(516) 639-2395

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pet rabbits abandoned in Glen Head, \$5000 reward for information leading to arrest

Glen Head, NY, March 19, 2009-- An urgent situation arose this morning, when Long Island Rabbit Rescue volunteer and House Rabbit Society Educator Mary Ann Maier received a call from the Glen Cove Animal Shelter. A Glen Head resident discovered 4 domestic rabbits had been dumped at a property where he works. He managed to contain them in a box. They were not wild rabbits, but rather domestic rabbits that needed rescue, so he called the shelter. Unable to accept them, the shelter called Mary Ann, who assessed them in her home.

The rabbits were all in bad shape: Mary Ann got them to Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital in New Hyde Park, a vet clinic that specializes in rabbits. Doctors there confirmed that they all suffered from severe cases of ear mites, they appeared malnourished, and they had many scabs and abscessing wounds. One rabbit was completely missing an ear, others were missing toes. The males were fighting with each other, and the one female in the group was pregnant.

To make matters worse, the Glen Head resident discovered two more rabbits the next day. These rabbits were also in bad shape, with severe mites, wounds, and the female was pregnant and pulling out her fur in anticipation of giving birth.

Emergency foster homes are being sought, and donations are being accepted to feed, house, medically treat, spay and neuter these rabbits. Long Island Rabbit Rescue volunteers expect that this group of six is the tip of the iceberg, and that more rabbits exist.

A benefactor to the Long Island Rescue Group has offered a \$5000.00 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator who not only released these rabbits, but who neglected and/or abused them prior to their abandonment. Abandoning domestic animals is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment of up to 1 year or by a fine of up to \$1000, or by both.

Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group is an all-volunteer organization based on Long Island, New York. Its mission is to rescue abused, neglected or abandoned pet rabbits, have them medically treated and spayed/neutered, and seek loving, indoor homes. They educate the public on the special care and health needs of domestic rabbits, and are sustained by donations.