



NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS APRIL 2015

My Journey With the Amazing Athena

By M.C. Basile

“New puppy?” the cashier asked me as she rang up a large box of wee-wee pads. “No, rabbit on Lasix,” I replied as I handed her my money. As I expected, the cashier looked back at me in total confusion. If only I had the time to explain to her just how much was behind that statement, but I quickly grabbed the box and rushed back home. That was in August of 2014.

I rescued Athena in a very urban area of Yonkers on Sept. 21, 2011. She was eating grass in the only tiny patch of greenery that seemed to exist in a mile radius. I could easily see that she was emaciated, and had a terrible respiratory infection and urine scald, but when I rushed her to Dr. Gil Stanzone at Dakota Veterinary Center, he discovered that she also had multiple abscesses deep into the muscle tissue all over her body, clearly caused by being attacked by another animal. She had her first of many abscess surgeries that same day. When I went to pick Athena up after her surgery, I learned that I would need to acquire a new skill – subcutaneous antibiotic injections, something that I certainly never wanted to learn how to do. However, Athena would need an injection every 12 hours

Photo: M.C. Basile



Athena in all of her beautiful glory.

for the next few weeks, along with a host of other medications, and so my plunge into special-needs rabbit care began.

When I settled Athena into my home, she looked nothing like my bonded pair of rabbits, Theodore and Bonny, with their fluffy, immaculate fur and healthy builds. Being a Dwarf Hotot, she had a much smaller frame to begin with, but she also needed to gain at least a pound

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And Baby Makes 14....

By Erin McElhinney

I went to the shelter on an otherwise unremarkable weekend in January to pick up a new foster bun. However, plans changed as I walked in the door to ACC – as they often do!

Amy Odum was volunteering that Sunday and emanating giddiness! There were babies, she told me, and would I take them home to foster? Sure enough, in one of the cages was a huge pile of fur and the mom, Frieda, a sable mix, was pacing with a nervous energy. She had apparently been in the process of giving birth when a well-intentioned staff member scooped her up, put her in a cardboard carrier and rushed her to medical. The bloody box was still in front of the cage.

Frieda, the mother, has a Disney woodland creature beauty to her. Seeing her long eyelashes and her beautiful almond-shaped dark brown eyes, I knew I could not say no to this little family. The babies were very tiny, just four hours old.

It took me more than 10 minutes to pack them up because I kept counting and recounting them in the nest to

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Our Masthead Bunny, Colleen

Our masthead bunny's foster mom Gina writes:

Colleen was found on St. Patrick's Day eating dead branches under pine trees in park on Long Island. She gets so excited when she knows it's meal time, running toward me with her big pink ears flopping in the wind! She loves nose rubs, kisses and rubs on her cheeks, and she keeps me really warm when I get to lie down next to her for little cat naps. She has a

demanding personality at times but that's just because she doesn't want to miss out on anything and wants her fair share of food and love.

Colleen's size is deceiving when you see the acrobatics that she can do! She hurtles over barriers to explore new places, jumps on the couch to watch TV, and hops on her favorite chair where she can look out over her kingdom! She also binkies pretty high in the air despite her size.

It's been three years of watching adopters walk right past her without a thought, due to her size or pink eyes. But she's no longer on pain meds for her arthritis, and is down to the perfect weight as per her vet. All she needed was a steady routine and lots of attention and exercise. Her beautiful ruby eyes sparkle like never before. Please consider adopting her! (Contact Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group.)

Athena

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to get to a healthy weight. With large areas of her fur shaved off from her surgery, exposing the multiple wounds healing on her body, she looked very fragile. I could barely stand the thought of touching any part of her other than petting the top of her head, let alone holding her down to inject antibiotics every day. It had to become a daily ritual, though, even if both she and I hated it. Luckily, each injection was over in a matter of seconds and followed by a tiny piece of fruit, which she loved.

Athena had an insatiable appetite, eating all of the hay, pellets and greens she now had before her. She quickly gained weight and ran around my home shredding cardboard and destroying willow tunnels with the same energy that a healthy rabbit would have. Athena did the most adorable side flops after her intense binky sessions, contently licking her paws while lying on her side with her skinny legs stretched out on the carpet, as if to say, "I'm home. I feel safe here." She couldn't get enough petting, for which she pancaked her head to the ground, day and night.

Unfortunately, Athena's immune system never seemed to catch up to her healthy spirit. Despite the antibiotic injections, six months after her first abscess surgery

she needed another, during which she was spayed as well. I continued to give her daily injections for a year and a half while also having to treat the multitude of other issues caused by the neglect in her previous life. She had a chronic upper respiratory infection, a rectal polyp that had to be removed, and she tested positive for *E. cuniculi* and a mutant strain of *Pseudomonas*. I had to give her many different types of medications and nebulization treatments, and we were at Dr. Stanzione's office multiple times a month. Both the cost of her care and the energy needed to monitor and treat her was tremendous, but I felt compelled to do everything in my power for her that I could because her will to live was so strong.

Despite her ordeals, she never showed any signs of slowing down, until her forth abscess surgery in July of 2013. Athena's appetite was always ravenous, even immediately after surgery, so when she had much less interest in eating I knew something was wrong. Dr. Stanzione had just gone on vacation, so I rushed her to Dr. Katherine Quesenberry at the Animal Medical Center, where she determined that all four chambers of Athena's heart were in failure, which may have happened while under anesthesia. I was asked if I wanted to euthanize Athena, but something told me that she was not ready to die. She was sitting in

Photo: M. C. Basile



Athena two days after her rescue.



Athena destroying her cardboard playhouse.

her carrier on my lap at AMC eating hay and fighting so hard to be normal. Ending her life on my terms rather than hers was not acceptable to me. So I told them to do everything that they could to help her, and they did. Athena had

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Athena

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numerous ultrasounds, an echocardiogram, fluid drained from her abdominal cavity, and was prescribed Pimobendan, Enalapril, Lasix and Metacam. Her energy levels and behavior started to become normal after only the first few days of treatment, but unfortunately her abscesses also started to return.

Since Athena's mutant strain of bacteria was resistant to almost all rabbit-safe antibiotics, Dr. Stanzione prescribed injections of very small doses of Cefotaxime, and because her heart could not sustain another surgery, I had to learn how to flush out her abscesses. For three weeks, my schedule with Athena was the following:

9:00 a.m.: Four oral medications (Pimobendan, Enalapril, Lasix and Metacam) and first subcutaneous injection of Cefotaxime.

6:30 p.m.: Second subcutaneous injection of Cefotaxime.

7 p.m.: Flush out back abscesses with warm water and Hibiclens and fill them with Manuka Honey.

1a.m.: Two more oral medications (Pimobendan and Lasix) and the third injection of Cefotaxime.

Fitting this routine in while working full time and taking care of multiple other rabbits and dogs was exhausting in ways that words cannot describe. I prepared myself for the worst, constantly whispering words of love and admiration to Athena while petting her, trying to keep my tears from falling on her beautiful white fur. I tried to make her as comfortable as possible, gave her treats daily and just waited for it to happen. But then Athena did what she always does. She refused to die.

Over a year and a half passed from when Athena went into heart failure with no health issues arising at all. Her abscesses were gone and even her heart condition improved. She binkied and destroyed cardboard playhouses even more than before and sought petting nonstop. She

would come running to me for her heart medications every morning and evening, taking them as if they were candy. She knew she had a great life and she wanted to keep living it.

Unfortunately, in January of 2015, Athena developed a reoccurring rectal prolapse, the origins of which we could not determine and many attempts to correct it without surgery failed. Despite being high risk for anesthesia given her heart condition, she survived the surgery, which was performed by Dr. Stanzione in March. He removed an inch and a half of stretched-out tissue and connected the remaining healthy tissue. It was a rocky recovery for Athena but she pulled through it yet again, and is back to eating and binkying around like her usual self. I greatly credit both Dr. Stanzione and Dr. Quesenberry for their knowledge and skills, which saved Athena's life on so many occasions.

No matter what happens to Athena that is beyond both her and my control, we will battle it together. I feel like she has always been on borrowed time, like a cat whose nine lives were used up many years ago. When the time comes, I hope that death will be on Athena's terms, after she has lived every moment that she wants to live and decides that she has finally had her fill. She lived far too much of her early life according to someone else's terms – someone who

did not feed her, forced her to lay in filth and abandoned her outside to die.

Because of my experiences with Athena, I was not afraid to adopt another special-needs rabbit and have taken in many fosters with medical issues since. There are countless rabbits who owe their lives to Athena, who taught me how to push beyond my own fear of needles and medical things that once terrified me. Athena's unwavering will to live has always reminded me of the final stanza of *The Cloud*, one of my favorite poems by Percy Bysshe Shelley. I read it to her often as it might as well have been written about her. It goes as follows:

*I am the daughter of Earth and Water,
And the nursling of the Sky;
I pass through the pores of the ocean
and shores;
I change, but I cannot die.
For after the rain when with never a stain
The pavilion of Heaven is bare,
And the winds and sunbeams with their
convex gleams
Build up the blue dome of air,
I silently laugh at my own cenotaph,
And out of the caverns of rain,
Like a child from the womb, like a
ghost from the tomb,
I arise and unbuild it again.*

And Baby Makes 14....

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make sure I packed up all eight tiny, pink bodies! Panic wracked my body as I imagined someone coming in the next day to find a forgotten baby in the cage – or worse! I remember being petrified during the cab ride home that a baby would fall out of one of the air holes in the carrier or would somehow freeze to death. Basically, I was feeling the burden of being responsible for nine lives!

I know it is common in such a large litter for one or even two babies not to survive

Photo: Erin McElhinney



Some of Frieda's nestlings.

the first couple of weeks. Unpacking the babies and their Disney queen mom into

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And Baby Makes 14....

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the cage, I promised them all that they would not be a statistic – we would all make it through the first 10 days together. If I could just get them to the point where their eyes were open, I felt we would be okay.

And let me tell you, those first 10 days were among the most trying. First, there was the matter of the other occupants of my apartment. I have a very rabbit-curious pit bull and five rabbits of my own. I was in the middle of an ambitious project – abandoning a bond I was trying to make between two rabbits and going for a trio instead, and I also had Mocha Jane, curmudgeonly in her old age, and her always sweet husbun, Thaddeus, to contend with.

I put mom and babies in my Leith condo and gave them two floors, wrapping a puppy pen around the perimeter. My rabbit Ginger Madeleine frequently could be found roaming the perimeter of that pen like the three-pound, one-ounce lioness she is. I had to drape blankets and towels around the cage so that Frieda could have some privacy and not feel all eyes on her all the time. With 14 rabbits in my apartment plus a dog, though, there just wasn't much privacy.

Feeding the ravenous Frieda involved a complicated dance of hiding a treat for my dog under a couch cushion and then delicately nudging a growling bun away from my foot as I tried to run into the perimeter puppy pen. Once I was in the puppy pen, I had to try to keep Frieda from launching out at me in pursuit of food, or biting me. This was another dance altogether!

Like all nursing moms, her hunger was epic. She ate her way through the giant stacks of Timothy and alfalfa hay I put in her litter boxes each day, along with huge salads and free feeding of alfalfa pellets. She drank two water bowls and made a dent in a water bottle each day. While she was distracted with greens, I would take a quick moment to do the

Photo: Erin McElhinney



The babies were growing fast!

baby count. There were two runts, one black runt and one gray runt, and six other bulbous-bellied babies. After I disturbed Frieda's nest, she would usually come charging down the ramp and give me the stink eye, until I closed the door and backed away.

There was also a moment where a baby was almost lost. The gray runt, whom I came to call Mouse, was only a couple days old. I had decided to check on the babies only every other day instead of every morning and every night. I went the whole day without checking on the babies, but that night after a lot of research online, I decided I would check

on them each night. I pulled out the litter box and moved the fluff around (Frieda had made one of the fluffiest nests I have ever seen) and counted the babies. There were seven of them. PANIC! I looked under the litter box and all around. I gently pressed around the litter box until I felt a lump underneath one of the folds of the blankets. Little Mouse had somehow rolled or wiggled between blanket folds. His belly was flat but he was warm; he was still alive. I rearranged the pile of babies into a pyramid shape with Mouse on top, and before I could even finish sliding the litter box back in, Frieda came running down the

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And Baby Makes 14....

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ramp. I turned off the lights right in time to catch a glimpse of Frieda sitting on top of her babies like a mother hen on her eggs, and then there were the hungry little sounds of eight baby bellies, filling up. Little Mouse was going to be okay!

After that episode, Frieda began to frequently nurse right in plain view of me. I want to believe that she knew tiny Mouse had been stuck and couldn't eat, and that I had been able to pull him out so she could save him. Each morning and each night, I would arrange the babies in a pyramid with Mouse on top and the little black runt next to him.

While I can say now it was magical watching them go from blind, hairless newborns to fuzzy little popcorn kernels, it certainly had its moments of stress. In fact, if you're reading this and you've emailed me at some point in the past eight weeks, I'm sure I owe you a response! All the time cleaning and socializing with the babies and their mom, on top of normal responsibilities, took a toll.

But keeping my promise to this little family that they would all pull through and make it in this life was my No. 1 priority. I could not have cared for them all without the emotional support of Cathe Rekis and Cathy Zelonis, with whom I exchanged several emails; Mary Christine Basile and her husband, Dave, for donating a 25-pound bag of alfalfa pellets; Marcie Frishberg for taking the babies to foster once they were weaned, and of course, Amy Odum, who gave me lots of advice and guidance throughout the most memorable seven-week stretch I have had in a long time! I look forward to watching these babies continue to grow and go to the amazing homes they deserve. Thank you, little babies, for bringing such sweetness into my daily life!

Volunteer Spotlight

Amanda and Nick are two hard-working volunteers for Rabbit Rescue & Rehab.

Amanda and Nick Kramvis

Amanda Kramvis (previously Amanda Clare) and her husband Nick Kramvis have been official volunteers for NYC Metro Rabbit since September 2014, but helped out at Petco before making it "official." Amanda answered the questions below:

What types of volunteer work do you do now?

We cover the bunnies at Petland 72nd on Mondays and are both training to become adoption/bonding counselors. We have bonding experience but need to become better acquainted with bonding rabbits that aren't our own.

What first brought you to RRR?

Years ago, I was looking for a bond friend for my first bunny Laila (unfortunately now deceased). I took her on dates from Massachusetts to Manhattan looking for a perfect match, and I was referred to RRR. Since this first adoption, I'd been in contact with Cindy Stutts. She asked me to start officially volunteering at the nearby Petland location and we jumped at the opportunity to help out as I'd wanted to get more involved for a while.

Do you and Nick both love bunnies?

Nick and I met in January 2012. He became a rabbit lover like me within just a few months, at which time he invited them to move in. Notably, my bunnies were asked to move in before I was! We got married this past August and separately devoted paragraphs in our vows to our rabbits.

Tell us about these special rabbit-themed vows.

They were woven throughout the officiant's speech and were referenced in other places, too. Here's one line:

We've held hands in 7 countries and at least 7 states in the 2.5 years we've been



Amanda and Nick Kramvis.

together, and I look forward with complete joy, to holding hands as we travel through the rest of our years together, eventually with our 3 kids, very proudly named after 3 of our lovely rabbits – Laila, Peter and Charlotte Kramvis (in that order, so I sincerely hope the middle one is a boy), and of course, our dogs and rabbits.

What keeps you coming back as a regular volunteer?

I feel like we're making a difference for these incredibly well-deserving bunnies and we are happy to volunteer our time. I think about how lucky our bunnies are to have loving parents and I want the bunnies living in the pet stores to have this same feeling of love right up until they finally get adopted into great homes.

What changes have you witnessed (if any) in NYC's rabbit scene since you started volunteering?

I can't say I've noticed any macro changes. I just know that I feel great after educating anyone who will listen when they come into Petland on Mondays and look in at the bunnies.

Tell us about your own rabbits.

If I were to truly answer this question, my response would surpass at least six pages noting all rabbits I've ever had. I'd have to explain all of their delectable personalities, their funniest moments, and potentially bore everyone away so I will speak only about the three I currently have (although I will note that our first

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Volunteer

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three children will be named after three of my very special rabbits (Laila (deceased), Peter (deceased), and Charlotte (now 8 years old)).

Charlotte: white and gray lop around eight years old/5.8 lbs. I “rescued” her from a parent’s friend who unintentionally ended up with her after her friend’s daughter decided she didn’t want her anymore. I picked her up as a foster but this was a case of a failed fostering. I ended up adopting her two weeks later and bonded her to my pair at the time, Laila and Luke. Charlotte is relatively standoffish but lives for pets when she’s in the mood. She’s also an excellent hay eater and loves cardboard boxes. At the time of this writing, Charlotte has a middle ear infection affecting her balance and we are very closely monitoring it with our vet, Dr. Stanzione. She is doing very well so far.

Charlotte is bonded to Lagomorph, NZW (5 years old/5.5 lbs) I adopted him from NYC RRR about three years ago as a bond to my now deceased Morocco. Lag and Charlotte are now very good friends. He is very shy around people but a very intelligent and neat (so neat!) rabbit. He has impeccable litter-box and grooming habits and loves to cuddle next to his Charlotte. And I love to capture it on camera!

Saxon is our feisty Netherland dwarf (4 years old/2.3 lbs) that we adopted as a bond to Charlotte while Lag was bonded to Morocco. This very, very difficult bond took several months. The key to the bond was our Brandon that we also adopted from RRR. He was the gentlest soul I’d ever met and was what the two needed in order to become fast friends. Unfortunately, Brandon passed away a year later of bloat. Charlotte and Saxon broke up following this and we are working on re-bonding now. It was going well up until Charlotte got sick and we are now on hold as we deal with that.

Photos: Amanda Kramvis



Charlotte and Lagomorph.



Charlotte and Saxon.

What would your rabbit tell us his/her favorite thing is?

Charlotte – Freshly made litter boxes with TONS of hay to bury herself in. Either that or throwing hay-stuffed toilet paper rolls from side to side.

Saxon – growling and lunging at me and Nick. Only to be picked up and cuddled seconds later by his dotting parents. Once he’s being held he settles right in and enjoys the kisses, which he always demonstrates with a friendly rabbit teeth grinding.

Lag – cleaning! And hanging out in his Cottontail Cottage, on the second floor.

What is your day job/profession?

I work in the Volcker Program Management Group at JP Morgan Chase.

Nick is a bond trader at Barclays specializing in agency mortgage-backed securities.

What would you say to others who are thinking about volunteering?

If you love rabbits and want to help out/make a difference, DO IT.

What are your best tips for new bunny parents?

Get to know YOUR bunny. If there’s one thing I’ve learned from having rabbits the last eight years, knowing your particular bunny is a literal lifesaver. You’ll know what he or she wants and how to best interact with the bunny to have the best friendship possible, and more importantly, you’ll know when something is wrong so you can get the rabbit medical care. You’ll know because you know how they normally act. If something is off, likely something is wrong.

Know your vet. Know their backups, and know emergency bunny care. Know how to take a rabbit’s temperature!

What is your favorite memory from your volunteer work?

Right now I don’t have any memories that stand out. I look forward to that moment, though.

What do you like to do when you aren’t volunteering?

We just adopted a Bernese Mountain Dog puppy a couple months ago so when not taking care of our multiple pets (which take up essentially all of our time); we play golf (every weekend during the summer); travel a few times a year (for golf or just vacation); the usual TV watching. We each prioritize spending time with both of our families, and we are big foodies – not in the sense that we feel we have “special tastes” or know x and y about food. I just mean we love eating. That includes restaurants and my cooking. We also both play tennis and ping pong.

We Are Looking for Loving Homes

Written and compiled by Kirsten Ott

Sophie

Sophie is an unusual, special girl – a medium-sized white Rex with red eyes and a nice, generous dewlap. Sophie is rather nervous when first approached, but after some coaxing will arrange herself into a big white snowball and enjoy lots of ear stroking. She would probably benefit from a bunny partner.

Wilbur

Wilbur is a tiny young bunny with the curiosity of youth. This little guy is very agile, and quite fearless – his new home will need to be thoroughly bunny-proofed, because he'll be able to squeeze into the smallest spaces! Wilbur is also a very sweet boy – he will sit still for petting, and especially enjoys ear scratches. He has a mostly white coat with scattered light brown markings.

Max

Max is a medium-sized brown-and-white Dutch who loves to make friends. This guy is very smart and alert, and quite good at signaling what he wants. He'll try his best to get your attention, then smush right down for petting, as if to say, "This is the moment I've been waiting for." He'll need a lot of attention in his forever home. Max has a healthy, strong physique and is on the large side for a Dutch bunny.

Sammie

Sammie is a gorgeous medium-sized black-and-white Dutch who was surrendered as part of a litter. He's now been separated from his siblings and is ready for his forever home. Sammie has an outstanding coat of jet black and brilliant white. His stunning coat is matched by a winning personality – he's very active and curious, but also very friendly and eager for affection. Sammie would probably make a good family bunny.

Pancho

Pancho is an adorable little brownish-black bunny. He's a little tentative when



Sophie.



Wilbur.



Max.

you first introduce yourself, but before you know it he's putty in your hands. He adores neck scratches. Pancho is quite sweet and gentle for a small, recently neutered bunny. He seems more interested in cuddling than in crazy antics. Nevertheless, he'll probably indulge in lots of



Sammie.



Pancho.



Porsche and Sebastian.

activity when he grows accustomed to a good forever home.

Porsche and Sebastian

Porsche and Sebastian are a bonded pair of rabbits that are being given up by their owner due to personal difficulties. Porsche is a medium-sized gray and white Dutch female, and Sebastian is a medium-to-large cream colored boy. Porsche is a very friendly and active bunny who loves to run around and play. Sebastian is a little more laid back

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Looking for Loving Homes (Continued from page 7)

and has a slightly harder time getting accustomed to new situations. They are very well bonded.

Sherlock

Sherlock is a medium-sized Hotot mix rabbit who still has his young bunny spunk – he loves exploring and jumping around. Sherlock is very fastidious and clean – he is constantly grooming himself and is perfectly litter-box trained. He loves snacks and head pets, but most of all he loves being in a bonded pair and cuddling all day. Sherlock recently lost his partner, so he’s looking for a new one, and he can only be adopted out as a partner for another rabbit.

Jess

Jess is a small to medium-sized agouti and white Dutch mix. She would like to introduce herself: My name is Jess. I am looking for a home where there are rabbit-savvy adults who respect and appreciate me. I am smart, entertaining and full of love, if you let me come to you and want me to be part of your life, conversation and home. I am a little one with lots of spunk and personality. I need to be kept challenged and busy. I will give you many hours of joy and laughs. Give me time and love and you will have my forever appreciation and affection. Come get me soon. I’ll be waiting.

Allena

Allena is a medium-sized brown and white Dutch girl who was found by the lake in Prospect Park, Brooklyn. This girl is full of joie de vivre – her energy level and friendliness are off the charts! Allena is always very excited to see you. She loves affection, but is equally eager for “out time” to exercise her cute, somewhat oversized back feet. This girl is sure to keep her new people on their toes. Allena has typical Dutch looks, with a mix of dark gray and brown coloring on her face.

Torrie

Torrie is a lovely extra-large New Zealand White lady. When she looks at you, it’s



Sherlock.



Jess.



Allena.

as though she’s trying to figure you out – her expression seems pensive, and her nose wiggles as though she’s using it to think. Torrie loves having her sturdy head and impressive big ears stroked. She’s likely to become a real love sponge in a good, attentive home.



Torrie.



Pepito.



Lola.

Pepito

Pepito is a medium-to-large white boy with strawberry blond ears and “eyeliner.” This guy has a funny way of lunging toward you to get your attention, then retreating to a covered spot for affection. The lunging doesn’t feel defensive or aggressive, and it turns out it’s a coaxing strategy! Pepito is a very handsome boy, so you’ll be happy to follow him anywhere. He would probably make a good choice for a first-time bunny owner.

Lola

Lola is a medium-to-large girl with a rather unusual-looking coat. She is mostly white, but has gray flecks on her face, ears, and back – it looks as though

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Looking for Loving Homes (Continued from page 8)



Alba.



Bella.



Mila.

a fairy sprinkled her with charcoal dust! Lola is a little tense – she’s clearly not yet comfortable at the shelter – but she will encourage you to pet her head, lifting her constantly wiggling nose to give you a better angle. Lola is likely to get attached to her new people very quickly.

Alba

Alba is a medium-sized brown and white Dutch and the ultimate love sponge. This girl smushes right down when you

approach her, and soaks up as much love as you’re willing to give – the petting could go on forever as far as she’s concerned! She will clearly need a ton of attention in her forever home. Alba has a typical Dutch coat. Her face has some dark gray mixed in with the brown fur. She would make a very good choice for a first-time bunny owner – provided that owner was prepared to spend lots of time with her. She would probably also make a good partner for another bunny.

Bella

Bella is a large gray chinchilla lop with extra big feet and an extra dose of attitude. This lady does not suffer fools gladly – she can be a bit standoffish at first, challenging you to win her over. It’s possible she hasn’t had great experiences with humans, but it could also be her nature. It’s a bit ironic, because she has the look of a total cuddler, with a plush coat and a huge dewlap that she uses as a pillow. Eventually, once she’s decided you’re okay, she’ll let you pet her. She’ll do well with – and probably get very attached to – a person who appreciates her intelligence and respects her wishes.

Mila

Mila is a large, gorgeous black and white Dutch mix. This lady has a dramatic long Dutch triangle on her nose, beautiful aqua eyes, and a large dewlap. Mila is a shy beauty, though. When you approach her, she seems surprised, her pretty eyes widening in amazement and looking at you with equal parts interest and suspicion. Eventually, she’ll let you stroke her head a bit. Mila would do best in a home with experienced bunny people.

Guinness

Guinness is a large black lop and a big snuggler. This girl loves nothing more than to scrunch herself up into a big round ball and have you shower her with head strokes and kisses. She just stays there contentedly, perhaps going for the world record in snuggling? Guinness has a beautiful shiny coat and a



Guinness.



Martin.



Jack Frost.

nice flat face with a broad nose. She would make a good first-time or family bunny.

Martin

Martin is a medium-to-large Cinnamon mix who’s all about the love. This guy is very mellow and cozy, stretching out for unlimited head and cheek rubs. Martin’s brown coat has a reddish cast to it and is darker around the muzzle and ears. He would make an excellent family bunny, and he would be a good choice for a first-time rabbit owner. He could easily become a lap bunny in a good forever home.

Jack Frost

Jack Frost is a small- to medium-sized Dutch mix who’s as friendly as they come. He hops up to greet you like a

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Looking for Loving Homes (Continued from page 9)

one-bun welcoming committee, eager to impress you with his sparkling personality. Jack Frost's coat is a yummy chocolatey brown. He has a half Dutch bib that makes it look like he didn't finish getting dressed. Jack Frost will need lots of room for play in his new home, as well as a ton of attention.

Flash

Flash is a large, handsome English Spot boy who was found in Brooklyn. This guy is a real head-turner – he has a bright white coat with jet black markings down his back and around his face – including a big “beauty mark” on his left cheek and a rakish black mustache – and black ears. His dramatic looks are accompanied by a very friendly personality. He'll hop right up to you as though you are his long-lost friend. Flash loves to be petted, and his coat is extremely fluffy and soft. This wonderful bunny would make a good choice for a first-time rabbit owner.



Flash.



Gunther.



Nathan.

Gunther

Gunther is a gorgeous large Harlequin/Lionhead mix who was found in Far Rockaway. This guy has a wonderful demeanor. He's calm and loving, and will close his eyes contentedly while you stroke his big head and ears and rub his cheeks. Gunther's coat is a combination light brown and dark gray. He has a broad, leonine nose and does kind of resemble a male lion when he's stretched out. He would make an excellent family bunny.

Nathan

Nathan is a medium-sized Cinnamon mix and a total sweetheart. This guy will come right up to greet you. He'll stretch his long, lean body out and present his head for petting in the most unassuming way that it's actually touching. He adores forehead rubs, and if you stop petting him he'll signal very politely to get you to continue. Nathan's dark brown/agouti fur has a reddish cast in places, especially on the nape of his neck. He would make an excellent choice for a first-time bunny owner.

Susan and Debbie

Susan and Debbie are a bonded pair of medium-sized females who were rescued outside in February 2015. Susan, the gray and white bunny, is probably a rare Broken Satin and Debbie, the brown bun, is an American Sable. They are deeply bonded and can often be found sleeping literally on top of each other. Susan and Debbie are on the young side (probably a year or two), healthy, have lots of energy



Susan and Debbie.



Sibyl and Suzette.

for binkies and playtime, and love eating their hay and fresh greens. They are warming up to petting, but would probably not make not a great choice for someone who wants lap bunnies or for a home with young kids. They have been spayed and are in foster care.

Sibyl and Suzette

Sibyl and Suzette are a bonded pair of black and white Dutch bunnies who were surrendered as part of a five-bun litter in February 2014. Both are medium-sized. The black of Sibyl's coat is salt and pepper, while that of Suzette's is pure black. Both are currently in foster care.

Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Leona, Thumper, Chiko, Ruben and Gilroy, Joey, DJ, Lola, Brenda, Edward, Rena, Melissa, Tico, Oliver, Ronnie, Cranberry, Diamond, Lonnie and Nala, Daisy, Seymour, Luna, Binx, Penelope, Roseanne, Barnabas, Winter, Miguel.

Adopt a Bonded Pair and Have Double the Fun

Photos: Jane O'Wyatt



Buster and Yuki.



Ava and Frank.



Arnie and Isabella.



Usachu and Choco.



Abraham and Tippo.



Delilah with Samson, her first husbun.



Delilah being groomed by Hugo, her second husbun.

Whole Foods Protest

Photos: Maho Honda



Local rabbit volunteers and others gathered on Saturday, April 4, outside Whole Foods Market on Union Square. Nationwide protests continue against the company, which is selling rabbit meat in some stores. For more information, go to <http://rabbit.org/what-you-can-do-about-whole-foods/> and <http://rabbit.org/a-week-of-action-against-whole-foods/>

Make a Difference!

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab needs dedicated volunteers to help care for our wonderful rabbits while they are waiting to find their forever homes. If you would like to volunteer, email us at nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Thanks for the Donated Greens!

Photos: Kailin MacIntyre



Kelly.

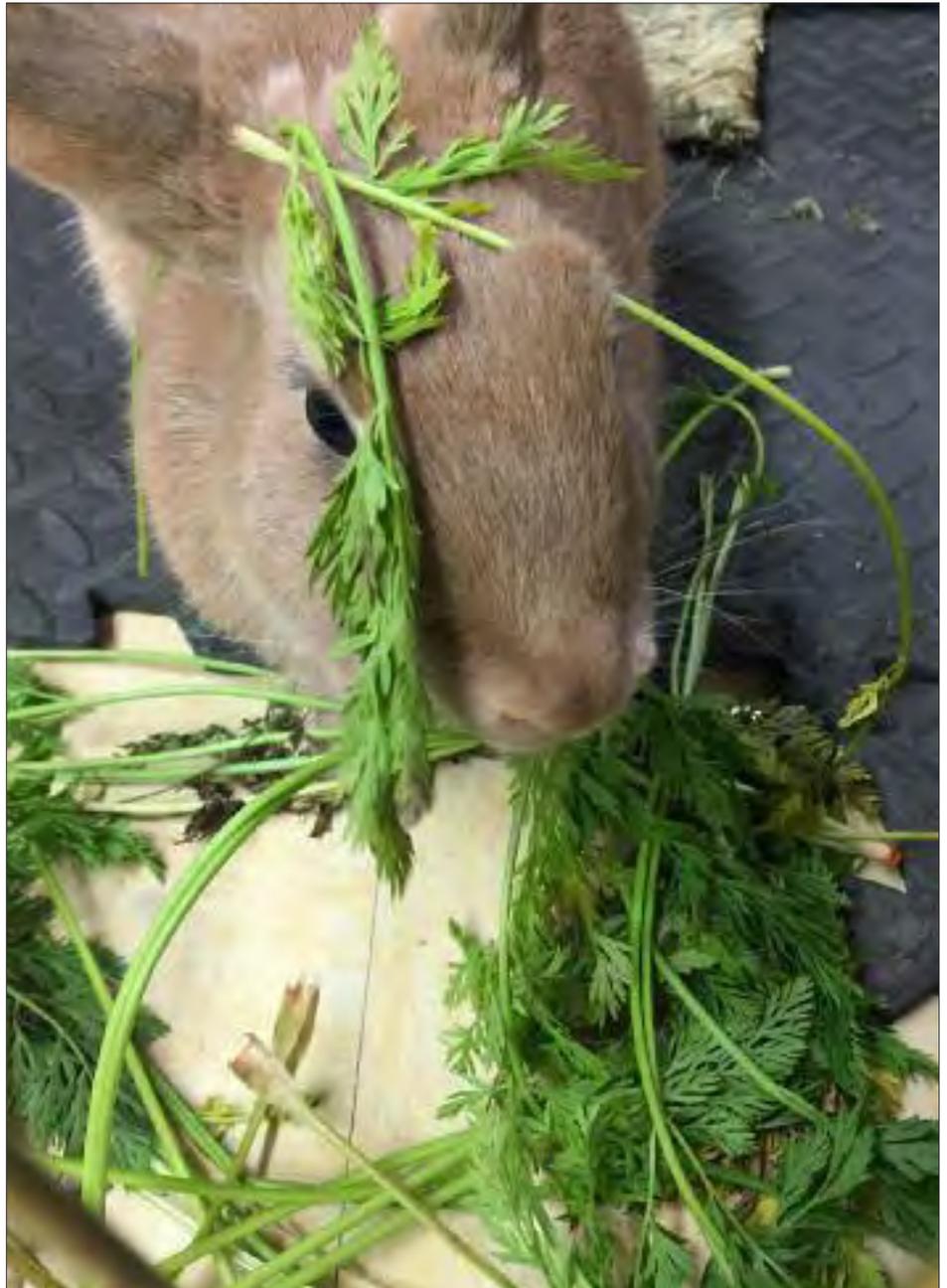
Rabbit Rescue & Rehab rabbits were treated to a donation of carrot tops from Lush Cosmetics on East 14th Street. The rabbits at the Union Square Petco had a great feast on March 30. Lush is a cruelty-free company that doesn't test on animals.



Snoopy.



Arthur.



Roseanne.

I Will Always Live With Rabbits

By Breda Keating

I love rabbits very much. In 2002, Rose (a black-and-white Dutch rabbit) was the first rabbit to take up residence in my apartment. Patrick (brown lop) moved in during the Christmas holidays in 2008. Grace (dwarf) was welcomed in after Rose's death last year.

Early in 2002, I had read an article that piqued my interest in rabbits as house pets, and I decided to do some more research. After reading "House Rabbit Handbook" by Marinell Harriman, I concluded that a rabbit would be an amazing pet for me. Shortly thereafter, I welcomed Rose into my home. Knowing what I know now, I am not proud of the fact that I bought him in a pet shop. I was told he was female and decided to call "her" Rose. The vet informed me otherwise during his first checkup.

Other than the occasional tear-duct problem and a couple of bouts of GI stasis, Rose was an exceptionally healthy rabbit. He had a healthy diet, plenty of space and was loved more than he ever knew. It was fun to watch him run at "New York speed" around my living room. He used to stretch out on the couch next to me when I watched TV.

While preparing for a trip to Costa Rica in September 2013, I noticed Rose was shaking his front leg. Upon closer observation, I could see a little cut with a lump around it. I was not overly concerned, and I figured it was a minor cut that had become infected. Even though he was almost 12 years old, he was still very active and healthy. As a result, it never really registered with me that he was a senior rabbit, but I lost interest in my trip and canceled it. The next day, I was told that Rose had cancer, and that diagnosis hit me hard. For the next five months, I gave him the best care possible. In February 2014, I had to make that awful decision to end his life. I held him in my arms as the vet terminated his suffering. It was one of the worst days of my life. I still miss him.

During this difficult time, I felt exceptionally lucky to have Patrick, and I was glad that our paths had crossed on Dec. 28, 2008. On that day, I went to a pet store for hay because my online hay order was delayed due to bad weather. Shortly before I entered the store, a woman had dumped a brown lop rabbit on the counter. After having him for two years, she said he had to go because her boyfriend was allergic to him. The rabbit was extremely scared and was lunging and biting. The store employees mentioned that dark-colored fully grown lop rabbits didn't sell well, let alone an angry, lunging one. I told them I would give him a good life and they gave him to me. Just like his owner, they were happy to get rid of him, and I doubt they cared much about the life I would give him. I was very surprised to learn that he was already fixed.

I thought once I showed him a nice home with plenty of rabbit toys and healthy food, he would be calm in a day or two, and all the biting would stop. Unfortunately, I was wrong. To my surprise, he started grunting and showed little interest in his litter pan. I had never heard a rabbit grunt before. Even though he wasn't exactly a saint, I decided to call him Patrick anyway. I noticed he had a great appetite and seemed OK as long as I didn't approach him. On that note, I decided to feed him, change the litter box and stay away from him. He liked having his own fenced-in corner of the living room. A couple of months later, there was no improvement in his behavior and I had accepted he would be that way for the rest of his life. On the positive side, he was healthy and I loved taking care of him, regardless of his attitude.

About four months later, he realized that not all humans are bad and he gave me the benefit of the doubt. He no longer had the urge to bite the hand that was feeding him. Also, he decided to use his litter pan more often. Eventually, he started to approach me and would

Photos: Breda Keating



Rose.



Patrick.



Grace.

hop on my lap as long as I didn't pet him. He felt comfortable once he felt that he was in control. I was pleasantly surprised when he finally allowed me to pet him.

At this stage, I have been living with Patrick for six years, and he is the sweetest rabbit ever. He pushes me with his nose when he wants a treat or attention. If a nose push does not prompt me to act, he will then kick it up a notch by scratching my leg. He roams freely in my kitchen. I am lucky that he has no interest in chewing my cabinets, but he will hop into a cabinet if he finds an open door.

Patrick is an exceptional rabbit in that he allows me to pick up his paws to trim his nails. If I fumble too much with his back paw nails, he will just walk away and then I wait until the next night to finish my work. He needs eye drops now and then for his tear ducts. It is very

(Continued on page 15)

Always

(Continued from page 14)

easy to administer those drops because he will stand perfectly still. He enjoyed Rose's company as long as there were bars between them, but he had no interest in moving in with him. I love Patrick very much and hope to have him for many years to come.

I contacted Mary Cotter of Rabbit Rescue & Rehab the day Rose died, letting her know I wanted to adopt a Dutch rabbit immediately. Mary suggested I wait a while since I had just lost Rose only hours earlier. Also, Mary suggested I refrain from the urge to adopt a rabbit that would look exactly like Rose. On that note, I waited three weeks before adopting a cute dwarf rabbit called Samantha. I changed her name to Grace. Mary taught me a lot about rabbit care during my adoption visit, and she suggested I put newspaper and hay in the litter pans instead of paper-based pellets. Grace was already used to having hay in her litter pan but it was a huge treat for Patrick.

Rose's death took a horrific toll on me. In an effort to avoid such pain in the future, I was hoping I would not get too attached to Grace, but she went ahead and manipulated me with her charm anyway and I love her dearly. She is a very happy rabbit but on the shy side. When she first arrived at my apartment, she spent a lot of time hiding in her wooden boxes. Mary advised me to remove the boxes so she would learn that there was no need to hide. That worked really well. Now she will hide only when people come to visit. She is very energetic and loves tossing her wooden toys and paper-towel rolls. In addition, she enjoys dismantling her grass huts. It is amazing how a tiny three-pound rabbit can bring so much happiness.

I will always live with rabbits. They are the sweetest pets ever.

Letters From Adopters

Photo: Riley Gallagher



Brock.

Brock

Brock was adopted by Riley Gallagher, who sent us this letter in February.

I adopted Brock the weekend before Christmas and I must admit he was the best present that I could have asked for. Since then we've been learning a lot about one another and strengthening our friendship. Brock loves attempting to share all of my human foods, especially when it involves almond butter. Not only can he be very sneaky when it

comes to stealing snacks, but he's very demanding. Brock knows what he wants when it comes to food. He also loves to explore, binky-ing whenever he finds himself in a new room of the house. Tile and wood floors are no deterrents for Brock, and he's even mastered how to go up and down our staircase.

Brock's favorite spots include under every roommate's bed (we've learned to shut our bedroom doors), as well as behind our bikes, which we have piled up downstairs for winter. I like to think that he enjoys lying behind the wheels because he can see everything that's going on, but it's not an easy task to get him out. Brock loves to admire himself in the mirror as well as to lounge on my canvases. He's quite a silly man.

He loves getting petted, especially when it comes to cheek rubs. He's quite the mellow fellow and the perfect house companion. I'm so happy that we've found each other.

Riley

Tate

Wouter and Jesse adopted Tate early this year. Their girl bunny, Nikita, adopted in 2011, died last October.

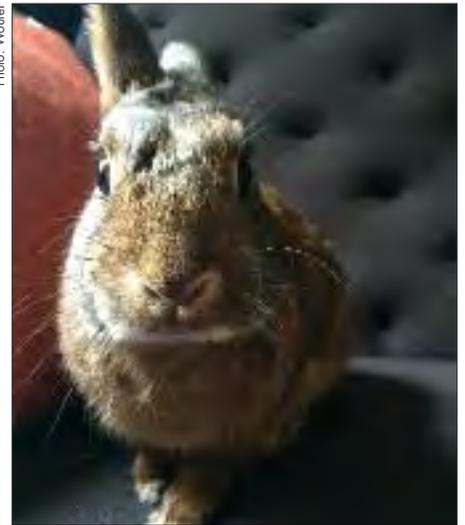
We have been quite busy. Tate has been busy, too!

Tate has adapted really well to his new home. He has become the master of the apartment, claiming some sections of the living room as his. He hops on and off the couch to be at eye level with us.

This is all the more amazing as his story is one of courage and perseverance: as a little bunny with (inexperienced?) early adopters, he was dropped and broke a leg. Against all expectations, he recovered wonderfully well at the adoption center, where we fell instantly in love with him.

He now hops around as if nothing ever happened. Yet he still doesn't like being picked up, probably remembering what

Photo: Wouter



Tate.

happened in his young life, so we give him his space and he decides if he wants to join us on the couch :-)

All the best,

Wouter & Jesse

(Continued on page 16)

Burrito and Sage

Nandi Warner adopted Burrito in early February as a partner for her girl bunny, Sage. Here is an update that Nandi sent in late February.

I just wanted to give you a brief update about Burrito. Since Burrito came home with us, I have seen more of his bunny personality show. He is a laid-back lover boy and he loves, loves, loves to binky and gallop around (especially around 6 in the morning). He hates being disturbed from his beauty sleep so I have learned to keep cage cleaning time at an hour that works for the both of us. He nudges and nips gently at both me and Bunny Sage for attention.

Sage and Burrito seem to be getting along pretty well. They both look forward to their bonding sessions and start off with grooming (Burrito grooming Sage).



Burrito and Sage.

Bonding sessions are much longer now and besides the little bit of grooming, it has been pretty boring, and I guess that's a good thing.

There was a time when Burrito would try to push his head under Sage's body, which would cause Sage to want to hop away, and Burrito would want to chase.

But it would usually end before I got in between. They do spend a bit of time lying out nose to nose.

I hope to have them spend a day or two together the next time I am off work, with hopes of moving them in together permanently.

And I would like to take Burrito for his first vet visit with me but I am waiting for it to warm up a bit outside.

I will keep you posted.

P.S. An update: Burrito and Sage are doing well. Always grooming, cuddling and binkying around. Burrito has become so active. He gallops around like a horse and then flops over. They like hanging out on the windowsill near my bed. They really love each other's company.

Nandi

Reuben and Gilroy

Jan McLaughlin adopted Reuben and Gilroy in early March, and she sent us this update on their adventures. They are now known as Mook and Perky.

The bigger-than-I-expected Reuben and Gilroy have spent the last week chinning everything in sight. Ours! Ours! This too, ours!

I mention "bigger" because I have to act like a larger alpha bunny than they are, so I must grow – since my first bunny was a teeny Holland lop girl (insert huge smile).

Our first main game was Follow The Bunnies step-for-step through their new living space. They found the strategically placed carpets on the wood floors for binkying. Check.

Seems the wood floors call out to be eaten. I'm barking "ouch" when they chew the wood, and every time it takes fewer barks and less time to get the point across. Hope this works. If they insist on chewing the floors, it's Pensville unless closely supervised. Will seek out



Perky and Mook.

community advice on this, since I prefer to give them a free-range life (but it's not safe if they continue to chew). My guess is they may be a tad hungry when they're first allowed out of the pen, as they transition from a more pellet-heavy diet to mostly hay and greens, so I try to make sure they're fed well before letting them out for supervised play – until they give up on the floors and floorboards, LOL.

It's day 11 and they finally associate my hands with treats/food/inviting stillness and come happy when I stop by the pen to touch, "Hello!" I do that regularly. They take to the pen without coaxing, since the midmorning and evening

handfuls of pellets ringing in the bowl lure them with glee.

I have groomed lop-eared now-known-as-Mook twice without ruckus; he was shedding. He lets me groom him at will with my hand, too. I work up to a daily brushing. Intrepid Perky – whose ears can't decide if they're lop or not – is less easy to groom but today came around a bit, and just minutes ago relaxed into a loaf for more than a few seconds of nose rubbing. Mmmmm.

This evening, the first bunny kisses are a reward for the banana treat.

They eat a little more hay every day.

Their fur, miraculously soft; their burgeoning trust, priceless.

We slowly but surely fall in love.

Please let their foster Mum know the twin boys are doing very well indeed.

Thank you all for all you do!

Happy,

Jan

(Continued on page 17)

Blixa and Mr. Bun-Bun

Blixa, formerly called Heaven, was adopted last summer by Maya Gutierrez and Claude Bauschinger as a partner for their mini Rex boy, Mr. Bun-Bun.

Hope all is well. I just wanted to give you another update on Blixa. Her personality has really changed since we adopted her. At first she was pretty aggressive. She would charge us and grunt if we approached her pen, thumped constantly when I was preparing her food (and didn't get it to her fast enough), and nipped people (she even bit my husband hard enough to draw blood, but he didn't take it personally).

Her transformation has been so gradual I barely noticed until recently. She was



Blixa.

obviously neglected and not used to getting what she wanted. Now that she's been pampered for half a year, she has turned into a doll. No more charging or nipping, and now instead of thumping when I'm getting her food, she does binkies and dances around. She also had a bald spot on her back, probably due to stress, which disappeared.

She's still not bonded with my original rabbit, Mr. Bun-Bun, but they're mostly indifferent when in a shared space. I keep a baby gate between them most of the time, and they look for one another, copy each other's behavior, and often lie down as close as possible to each other. There's still some minor tussling and territorial behavior. It looks like it's moving in the right direction, though.

Anyway just wanted to let you know how great Blixa is doing, and we're so happy we adopted her. The other day she came running as fast as possible to me and then flopped right at my feet. That was about the cutest thing I've ever seen.

Thanks again.

Maya

Joey and Honeybun

Mae Argos and her family adopted Joey in March as a partner for Honeybun. She sent us this update a short time afterward.

I was looking for a companion for my 4-year-old Lionhead named Honeybun, who lost her partner Chris in September. I could see that after Chris had crossed the "rainbow bridge," Honeybun was longing for another partner. She took to grooming and snuggling beside Rocco, her stuffed toy raccoon, and I just knew it was time for a new husbun.

Before our scheduled speed date, we stopped by the vet for a grooming session for Honeybun. Of course, she had to look her best when she met her new love! There, in the window of the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine, sat Joey, a handsome and sweet harlequin lop waiting to go to his forever home.

It was love at first sight for me, and I secretly wished that he would come home with us. However, I reminded myself that it was not my choice but Honeybun's, and instead I prayed that handsome Joey would find a loving family soon.

That afternoon, Honeybun was so excited to meet a new partner that she behaved exceptionally well during her speed date at Union Square Petco. She was gracious, calm, sociable and friendly – a bit different from her usual endearing diva and standoffish self. To our surprise and delight, Joey was one of the eligible bachelors at the speed date. Even better, Honeybun picked him out from the other bunnies!

Special thanks to Mary Christine Basile, Marcie Frishberg and Thea Harting, as well as the other volunteers who made the arrangements for us, patiently facilitated the speed date and helped us find Honeybun's new love.

Joey has been adjusting wonderfully. He has been doing well during bonding sessions, being his usual chill self and always on the lookout for food. During playtime, he loves to jump on the couch, explore the living room and hop all the way to the bathroom.

He keeps Honeybun entertained and occupied. He likes to stretch out and lounge, and he flops like a king! He is pure mush and quite the sweetheart,



Honeybun and Joey.

and he will stop anything he's doing for bananas, cuddles and head rubs. He even poses for selfies!

Honeybun and I are thankful that we now have Joey (aka Jon Bun Joey), the newest member of our family. He has filled our home once again with more love and laughter. His quirks and antics remind us of our beloved Chris, who is forever in our hearts. It took me a few months to be ready for another bunny, and Joey was well worth the wait.

Joey is the salve we needed to soothe and heal our broken hearts, and he is a reminder that there is always room in our hearts to love again.

Mae, Honeybun and Joey

(Continued on page 18)

Photo: Rachelle Rodionova



Brenda.

Brenda

Brenda was adopted in early March by Rachelle, who sent us this great letter.

Living alone in New York for three years, I feel blessed to have Brenda in my apartment and have been spoiling her with salad greens and cilantro.

She is my beautiful Brenda baby!

Best,

Rachelle

Edward

Edward was adopted in mid-March by his foster family, who could not bear to part with him. Here is their letter.

I've always wanted a bunny, but my husband and I weren't sure that this was the right time. It's been a dream of ours to move abroad, and I heard how difficult it is to re-locate a rabbit overseas. After reading about the Gowanus rabbit raid, and realizing how crowded the shelter would be, we decided to foster. We met Edward, and when we heard how long he'd been in the shelter, and his story of being found in a community garden with other rabbits, we just had to get him out!

When he first moved in, Edward was very nervous but he's much more comfortable with us now. He still startles easily but fortunately, we're able to offer him a quiet, peaceful environment. He has a

Rena

Carlen Li adopted Rena in March, and he is doing well in his new loving home.

I had my previous rabbit, Munchkin, for nearly five years and I got him through a school campus in Brooklyn where geese, ducks and chickens live. A lot of people think it's a pet sanctuary and leave unwanted pet rabbits there. The place was near a park, and I was jogging with my friend when I saw Munchkin.

After his death, I wasn't thinking of adopting another rabbit. But when I saw Rena at AC&C, I was immediately in love. I adopted him right away.

I have just renamed Rena. He now is Captain Ullr, an absolute sweetheart. He immediately got used to my room. He's a very curious and intelligent little guy and has explored all parts of my room. He was already binkying everywhere the first day! His favorite spot is on top of a box in the corner of the room near his hidey box and bedside table.

Cathy Zelonis has been a great help giving me a lot of pointers on taking

Photo: Carlen Li



Captain Ullr fka Rena.

care of rabbits. There is still so much to learn! Cathy also gave me a generous amount of lettuce before we left, most of which he gobbled up. I'm still trying to see what other greens he'll like and so far broccoli was a no-go. Other than that, he is very content with living here. He's still a little shy overall, but he doesn't seem to mind my company, and he likes his personal time as well.

Carlen

Photo: Norma Chen Rhee



Edward.

very healthy appetite, and his favorite veggies are green-leaf lettuce, parsley, carrot tops, and of course, carrots. I've given him a bunch of chew toys, but he seems to prefer the boxes they came in. We very quickly fell in love with Edward, and after a month of fostering decided to adopt him. While it's still our dream to move abroad one day, it's hard to imagine life without him. We plan to

smuggle him in if we have to! We're so happy to have him as part of our family.

P.S. We're probably going to keep calling him Edward. We think it suits him. King Edward, the English Spot bunny! He certainly reigns over our house.

Norma Chen Rhee

(Continued on page 19)

Photo: Jen Carlson



Cloud.

Cloud

Jen Carlson adopted Cloud in January, and she sent this email in mid-March.

Cloud the French Angora bunny and I just celebrated our two-month adoptaversary. When I brought him home on Jan. 14, he was pretty scared of me (grunting and lunging). It took him about a month, but he mellowed out significantly (his turning point was when I took a sick day from work and we spent a three-day weekend together).

He's truly a "people person," despite his tough story before Megan Krieman rescued him. He now trusts me, knows he's safe, and knows he will have a constant flow of fresh hay/veggies. Cloud free-rooms around the fenced-off half of my apartment and loves it!

Brushing him is still a bit challenging (as he doesn't particularly like it, but knows it has to be done), but is an exercise in patience (for me) and trust (for him).

Cloud reminds me of "The Bumble" character in the "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" television special. His favorite treat is banana. He perks up as soon as I peel it. One morning, I peeled it, waved it in the air, and called his name, and he emerged from the corner where he was hiding to claim his prize.

I'm honored to be his forever mom, and constantly tell him that I love him, that we're a team now, and that I'll never give up on him.

Best wishes,

Jen

Photo: Linda Ferretti



DJ.

DJ

Linda Ferretti and her family adopted DJ in March. They report that he is doing fine.

I just wanted to let you all know that DJ has settled in nicely and is part of the family! He is becoming a very spoiled bunny, and we love him so much! His personality is great. He is very friendly and social.

We have already taken him for his vet checkup. I had them do a follow-up stool analysis, as you recommended, for the coccidia he was treated for. I am happy to report it's negative.

We will keep in touch from time to time to let you know how he's doing! So spoiled!

Linda

Photo: Barbara Silverstein



Mimi fka Melissa.

Mimi

Barbara and her family adopted Mimi, formerly known as Melissa, in mid-March and sent us this letter a couple days later.

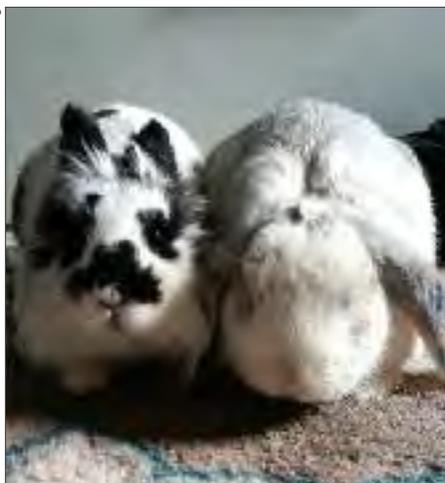
We re-named Melissa "Mimi." Quite surprisingly (since we were told that she didn't particularly enjoy greens) she ate three bowls of greens the first day in our house.

She is playing with us and we are really enjoying her. She had her first check-up with the vet today and is said to be in good health.

She is now using the litter box in our home. We have one in her cage and one in her playpen, where she spent the entire afternoon. We love her already!

Barbara Silverstein

Photo: Laura Bong



Maple fka Tico and Waffle.

Waffle and Maple

Laura adopted Maple, previously known as Tico, to be a partner for Waffle. She sent us this letter in late March.

When Waffle and Maple (previously named Tico) met, it was a match meant to be. They didn't hesitate, despite being strangers, to snuggle next to each other, breathing rapidly at first but relaxing soon after, with Waffle dozing off next to her. This was the beginning of Waffle and Maple's love story.

(Continued on page 20)



Roseanne.



Violet.

Letters *(Continued from page 19)*

Maple, who was found abused, sick, and with impaired vision, was nursed to health and happiness by lovely Cathie Rekis. After adoption, Maple was, at first, a demure little lady, gradually coming out of her shell. When getting her daily massages, she nips at my knuckles with varying pressure to tell me to “scratch here,” “don’t touch there.” She’s a communicative and assertive one – the perfect match for my trouble maker, Waffle, whose gentle, but wild nature could only be tamed by such a lady. In fact, she assumed the position of Alpha, and the queen herself is groomed by her doting king, especially when she has food on her chin.

It’s a cute sight to behold. They explore new territory together, snuggle together to bask in the sunset filtering through the windows, and run up to me together to collectively beg for veggies. There is much to learn about loyalty, love, friendship and social dynamics from our wonderful Leporidae friends. Every moment with my Waffle and Maple is a learning (and cherished) experience.

All the best,

Laura

Photos: Laura Beng



Maple fka Tico and Waffle.

CELEBRITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Kelly.



Miss Nibbles.



Mikey aka Miguel.



Dear NYC Metro Rabbit,
 Thank you for looking us the home we once called ours. Now, we
 you're the house completely free
 and no longer have the need for
 this. Thank you & thank you, Marcin,
 for making our family complete
 ♡ Chase the Bear, Bea &
 Pam the Sweetbun

▲ Note from Chase's adopters. ▼ DJ.



▲ Mimi. ▼ Herman.



▼ Snoopy.

Rabbit-Savvy Veterinarians

Here's our recommended vet list for the New York metropolitan area. **Please note that many clinics have multiple veterinarians, and our recommendations are for specific veterinarians in those clinics.** If you can't get an appointment with a recommended vet at one clinic, don't assume (no matter what you are told by the clinic) that other vets in the same clinic can help your rabbit. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the vets on this list, please contact Mary Cotter at (914) 337-6146. When you make an appointment with any of these vets, please tell them you were referred by us.

Long Island:

Jennifer Saver, DVM

Laura George, DVM

Kristen Miller, 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

Jeff Rose, DVM

Jefferson Animal Hospital
606 Patchogue Rd. (Route 112)
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776
(631) 473-0415

Manhattan:

Becky Campbell, DVM

Deborah Levison, DVM

Symphony Veterinary Center
170 West 96th Street, New York, NY 10025
(212) 866-8000

Katherine Quesenberry, DVM

The Animal Medical Center
510 East 62nd St., New York, NY 10065
(212) 838-7053, (212) 329-8622

Alexandra Wilson, DVM

Anthony Pilny, DVM

Cynthia J. Brown, DVM

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ADOPTABLE RABBITS

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

To adopt a rabbit in **New York City**, contact Cindy Stutts at bygolyoly@yahoo.com or call her at 646-319-4766. On **Long Island**, contact Nancy Schreiber at nschreibmd@aol.com or at 516-510-3637 (www.longislandrabbitrescue.org), and in **Westchester** contact Mary Cotter at mec@cloud9.net or 914-337-6146 (www.rabbitcare.org).

The rabbit volunteers' email address in New York City is nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Adoptable NYC Metro rabbits are at Petco's Lexington Avenue (86th-87th) and Union Square locations; rabbit volunteers are present at both stores on Saturday and Sunday afternoons to answer questions. There are four rabbits living at each of those stores.

In addition, NYC Metro rabbits are at Petland Discounts stores on West 117th Street, East 86th Street and West 72nd Street.

You can also visit Animal Care & Control of NYC (AC&C) at 326 East 110th St., between First and Second avenues.

Rabbits for adoption can be found by going to: <http://www.nycacc.org/> and doing an adoption search. Volunteers are there every weekday evening and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, but it is best to arrange an appointment first.

Bunny speed dates can be arranged by appointment only on weekend afternoons either at Columbus Square or Union Square. Please contact Cindy Stutts at bygolyoly@yahoo.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 Mary Cotter at mec@cloud9.net or Cindy Stutts at nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

For basic information about rabbits as pets, go to www.rabbitcare.org, www.longislandrabbitrescue.org and the House Rabbit Society main site, www.rabbit.org.

THUMP April 2015

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS
56 West Pondfield Road #5C
Bronxville, NY 10708
www.rabbitcare.org

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Rabbit Rescue & Rehab is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation in New York State. Our purpose is to rescue, rehabilitate and find permanent homes for abandoned, abused and neglected rabbits, and to educate the public on rabbit care through publications, phone consultations, home visits and presentations. This newsletter is published by RRR/NYC HRS, which is solely responsible for its content. We retain the right to edit all submissions, which become the property of the NYC Chapter and cannot be returned.

All donations go directly to caring for our foster rabbits and are tax-deductible. Please help us help them. Mailing address for contributions to Rabbit Rescue & Rehab: Gabrielle LaManna, 7 Carriage Lane, New Fairfield, CT 06812. For contributions to Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, please go to www.longislandrabbitrescue.org.