
NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS

Newsletter of Rabbit Rescue & Rehab/New York City Chapter of the House Rabbit Society

Winter 2004-05

Yoodie's amputation: Losing a leg, getting a life

By Jeanine Callace

In early October, 2001, I received one of those nighttime phone calls that makes your stomach turn. It was the manager of a local shelter, calling me for the name of a vet who could treat an injured bunny. The bunny had been brought into the police department earlier that day, in a cardboard box, with an apparent fractured leg.



The shelter manager's description of a tiny, white bunny with an obvious injury put a lump in my throat. I knew the shelter would not be able to afford surgery if it were needed. I already had two bunnies who lived separately, and no room for a third, but I needed to help this bunny.

I gave her my vet's name and contact information, asked her to get the bunny there right away, and told her I'd pay all his medical expenses.

The next day, the vet called to tell me that the bunny had suffered a "comminuted fracture of the distal tibia and fibula," as well as a fractured ankle. He felt there was a chance of saving the bunny's leg with the insertion of a rod, along with immobilization to help his ankle bones to fuse. I gave him the go-ahead.

Immediately after the surgery, I went to the vet's office to meet the bunny. My heart just broke to see this three-pound little doll sporting a huge blue cast which dwarfed him even more. I named him Yoodie.

I wanted Yoodie to be able to recover at home, instead of in a shelter, so I decided to put some of my furniture in storage to make room for him. And home we went.

Over the next few months, xrays brought bittersweet news. Yoodie's tibia and fibula had healed nicely, but his ankle bones had not fused as we had hoped. Amputation was the only option at that point, so in February, Yoodie's left hind leg was amputated at the proximal femur (the top of the thigh bone).

The morning of that surgery, I'm sure I grew a few grey hairs as I waited for the post-op phone call. But when it came, it

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How to Catch a Stray Bunny

By Mary Ann Maier

Every year, rabbit rescuers beg people not to release unwanted domestic rabbits out-of-doors but we still get calls almost daily from people who have sighted domestic (pet) rabbits in their yards, on local streets, near highways, in parks, golf courses, and on commercial property. If you see a domestic rabbit running loose outdoors, here are some tips on catching him.

1) Plan your Schedule: Allow plenty of time and assume you will not necessarily be successful on your first try. It may take several attempts before the bunny is comfortable enough to let you anywhere near him.

2) Assess the Geography: If the bunny is near a busy street or highway, preventing him from running into it is your number-one challenge. Look around for a safe direction in which to herd him. Get a few friends to form a line, preventing him from entering the road.

Wooded areas present a problem, too, because it is easier for the rabbit to navigate through brush than it is for you. Find an open area and try to get him to approach you there.

Look for fences, porches, sheds—anything he can hide under or wiggle through. It may be wise to cover up these escape routes before attempting to catch him.

3) Assess the Bunny: If the bunny seems relatively relaxed, settle in for a nice long chat to get him acclimated to you. Talk to him: at close range, a rabbit's hearing and sense of smell are better than his vision (rabbits are far-sighted) so a steady chatter from you (and anyone helping you) will enable him to tell precisely where you are, and may help him relax enough to

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An open letter to our members from NYC HRS

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab is experiencing a higher-than-usual level of calls regarding unwanted rabbits. The calls are coming from A) people who find abandoned rabbits in their yards, in parks, at roadsides, etc., B) people reporting neglected or sick rabbits in neighbors' outdoor hutches or at schools or other institutions, and C) people who no longer want their own pets. We are getting calls to take in 60-100 rabbits per month, which we cannot do.

Unfortunately, the ASPCA does not take in strays in many areas. Some municipal animal control agencies do, but are forced to euthanize because of the enormous numbers of unwanted pets in their shelters. Bide-a-Wee, North Shore Animal League, and many other shelters simply do not take rabbits. To make things worse, recently the Nassau

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YOODIE *(continued from page 1)*

was one of the best I'd ever received. Yoodie had sailed through the surgery, was awake, standing, and even hopping. I raced to the clinic to retrieve my brave boy, who was waiting and ready to begin his new life.

Yoodie's recovery went beautifully. After a brief period of adjustment, he had no trouble hopping with three legs, and showed no signs of discomfort.

What a spirit he had! And, oh! could he binky! To this day, he regularly binkies up a storm, and can run faster than my four-legged boys. To help him maintain traction and balance, there is carpeting and fabric on the floor in his area so he won't slip, and I give him a water bowl instead of a bottle to make it easier for him to drink.

Thanks to Yoodie, I learned about caring for a three-legged bunny. For example, on the side where his leg is missing, he has no way to scratch himself or to clean his ear. But Yoodie is a master at posturing to show me exactly where he has an itch, and I have become good enough at anticipating, that I can often scratch him even before he has to ask.

I give him large, stuffed animals to lean on, so he can wash his own face, as well as those hard-to-reach body parts. Periodically, we make a quick visit to his vet to have the wax cleaned from his ear on that side, which always makes him feel good.

A major concern for a tripod bunny is the health of the remaining hind foot. This foot is prone to friction and pressure sores, since it has to bear most of the body weight. Excess weight creates problems for all rabbits, but is particularly dangerous for a tripod bunny, since one hind foot has to do the job of two. To prevent problems, I cover the carpeting in his pen with cotton flannel sheets so he is always on a soft surface, and I am very careful with Yoodie's diet, to make sure he stays toned and sleek. Its been three years now, and I'm happy to say that his weight is still the same as it was at the time of his amputation.

At one point, we discovered Yoodie was getting his foot wet in his litterbox. We noticed that the urine was pooling on the soft timothy hay in his litterbox, so we added a second kind of hay, with a more "wispy," curly texture, on the other end of the box, which allows the urine to pass through more easily. His foot fur has been immaculate ever since.

Finally, to give his hard-working hind leg a good rest, I bought some pet beds for him, made of egg-crate foam, covered with fake sheepskin. He seems to love them, and spends much of his resting time on them.

Knowing Yoodie, and seeing the huge spirit in his little body, it is incomprehensible to me that anyone could have abandoned him, severely injured, in a cardboard box. We are determined to make up for Yoodie's early

suffering, by giving him the happiest, healthiest life possible.

I am glad to say that he ranks as the most well-adjusted one in our household. What a privilege it is to shower him with love! I will always be grateful to the shelter manager who chose to call me that night in October, three wonderful years ago.

Note from Dr. Gil Stanzione, Yoodie's veterinarian: *We see many rabbits with broken legs. As long as the fracture can be reduced, and the leg can be immobilized and/or set, these injuries will usually heal quite well, and most (or all) of the rabbit's mobility will be restored. Occasionally a rabbit will present with a fracture so severe that reduction and immobilization are not enough. With these cases, veterinary clinics that are not experienced with rabbits will, unfortunately, often recommend euthanasia, because they do not realize that amputation can be an excellent option for rabbits. In my experience, rabbits can do just as well with only three legs as dogs and cats can, and, once they have established their new center of gravity, you would never know they are missing a leg.*

EDITOR'S NOTE: *If anyone would like further information about caring for a tripod bunny, please contact the author at 914-946-5636.*

HOW TO CATCH A STRAY BUNNY

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concentrate on your pats and treats. The bunny may perceive your looking at him as a "predatory gaze," so it may help to avert your eyes while talking to him.

If the bunny is very relaxed he will accept steady, consistent pats on the head. If you are lucky, you'll be able to gently but firmly scoop him up into a cat carrier. Line the carrier beforehand with a thick bath towel so that he won't be sliding around in it. Putting a section of newspaper under the towel will help to keep the towel itself from sliding.

Shyer rabbits may tolerate your handing them treats as they inspect you and warm up to you. Sit or lie down and have carrots and alfalfa hay and banana on hand. Do not overfeed the bunny and do not leave these treat items behind for him—you want him to crave these special foods and you want him to associate them with

only you. You also do not want him to gorge on them and thus not be interested when you return to try to catch him again.

In new situations, bunnies tend to come forward to explore, then retreat to a known safe spot. Then they'll advance a bit more, then retreat. Advance, retreat. Watch for this pattern. Be patient—don't try to lay your hands on him on the first or second advance. With each time he is getting more relaxed, and it is easier to catch a relaxed rabbit than a tense one. Use foods like carrots, banana, and—my favorite—alfalfa hay, to lure him. Often it helps to eat a carrot yourself, crunching loudly. Every bunny knows that sound, and it can tempt him to come nearer. Chat calmly and steadily—remember that rabbits can hear you better than they can see you. And don't despair if you do not catch him on the first attempt. With each visit, he will become more acclimated to your voice and to your offerings of

treats. There is no such thing as a failed attempt or a wasted trip. With every visit the bunny will relax a bit more.

If the bunny is very timid and you cannot get within five to ten feet of him, some equipment may be necessary. A length of deer fencing or an open puppy pen can be held by someone on each end and used to encircle a bunny eating a treat off the ground. This should be done very slowly, while the two people talk in calm voices, letting the rabbit know neither is getting too close. When the rabbit is encircled, one person climbs in the pen with a readied pet carrier to collect him. Be alert and be swift: many bunnies will panic and run and jump frantically when trapped.

A last-ditch tool is a net. Do not, however, use just any kind of net, or use a net in just any situation. A net can seriously injure the bunny if he gets a limb caught in the mesh. If the bunny panics, he can

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HUMAN COMPANIONS WANTED!

These are just a few of the many bunnies in our foster care who are looking for permanent homes.



FRANKLIN: A bossy little guy in a rabbit suit. Very funny—he knows what he wants, and he wants it *now*. He is willing to train any humans interested in sharing their home with him. Cute, neutered, and ready to overturn your boring routines and transform your life.



MARIA: What a doll! Maria has recently joined our group of foster rabbits. She is litterbox trained and extremely affectionate, begging for pats whenever you pass by her pen. Inquisitive and active, Maria loves to shred cardboard and dig in her hay box. A big, sweet bunny, spayed and ready for adoption..



ELLEN: A big, spotted, love of a girl, who is affable, outgoing, and enjoys social situations. Rub her nose, and you have a friend for life. Ellen has been “recycled” through several homes, and would very much appreciate some stability in her life. She is “middle-aged,” so would make a perfect companion for someone who does not want to deal with bunny adolescence. Spayed, and ready to meet a human she can finally call her own.



DAVEY: A sweet, glossy black male who is very affectionate. He loves to follow his human! Go to the sink, Davey’s there. Walk to the TV, Davey’s there. And of course he’ll beat you to the fridge! Always underfoot, he really seems to need lots of love and pats. If you think you’ve got the goods and can handle a very friendly bunny, come meet Davey.



ROBBIE: A tiny, shy, beautiful, little dwarf bunny, who needs a quiet and peaceful adult home to help him gain self-confidence. Neutered and ready to go.



KRIS: Kris, aka “Kip,” is a darling, friendly, neutered lop. He is outgoing and interested in his surroundings, and is a very entertaining little guy. Loves to shred his corrugated cardboard, and loves to receive any head scratching anyone is willing to bestow on him.



HARVEY: Loves nothing more than to sit on the couch with you after your hard day at work. He is all ears and wants to hear all about your day. All he asks in return is lots of petting. Wanna talk? Harvey’s ready to listen. Just give him lots of willow toys to chew and he’ll listen all night.



BUZZY: A darling young “adolescent” Dutch boy who is outgoing and interested in everything. Lots of energy and needs room to use it. Neutered and ready to go.

ADOPTER LOVE LETTERS

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“Duncan is fantastic. Very healthy and active, so handsome, and has become more and more cuddly as the days go on.... He has TONS of carpeted halls and floors to race around, which he loves!

“He continues to ‘rearrange’ shoes...”

He continues to “rearrange” shoes that are not in places he wants them, but

does not do much damage, just drags them to the edge of the carpet. We are taking advantage of the wide range of

organic greens available at Fairway and he enjoys gourmet salads of dandelion greens, herbs, lettuces, etc. (his faves are carrot tops and sage).” —Elissa Lash

“Rowan is so happy here and he is really turning out to be charming (he likes all the ladies that come over...) At first he was shy but now he seems to have forgotten what ‘shy’ means.... I couldn’t be happier with him; he doesn’t chew on anything except his hay which pleases me a lot. His only weakness is for the remote control to the television. For some reason he really enjoys chewing

the buttons off, but luckily he has only succeeded in chewing off one. Now we keep it way out of reach for him!

Anyway, I am just a ‘proud mother’ who wants to brag about my wonderful baby and I thought that you would appreciate hearing how wonderfully Rowan is doing here. Thanks for bringing us together!! I love him!!”
—Andrea Greenberg

“His only weakness is for the remote control.... I love him!!”



Another Year, Another Giant Leap for Bunnies

AUTUMN 2003: Dr. Jennifer Saver (Lic. Ed.) was interviewed by *Newsday* for an article on litterbox training. The accompanying photo, below, by Mary Ann Maier (Lic. Ed.), depicted an "ideal" puppy-pen habitat for bunnies.



Did you know?

- Rabbits make great housepets.
- Rabbits are better pets for adults than for children.
- Most rabbits don't like to be picked up and carried around.
- Rabbits should be spayed or neutered.
- Rabbits need to eat specially formulated rabbit chow.
- Rabbits need to eat hay.
- Rabbits can live 10 years or more.
- Rabbits should be adopted from a rescue or a pet store.
- Rabbits can live with cats and dogs and with children.
- Rabbits need more than just rabbit pellets for their diet.
- Rabbits need a stimulating environment and their lives should be enriched.

Ask us about adopting a rescued rabbit!

JANUARY 2004: Mary Ann Maier, and Mary Cotter (C.M.) worked with a team of volunteers in other areas to create the HRS "Did You Know?" educational poster (<http://www.rabbit.org/adopt-a-rabbit-month/poster.html>). The response to this poster has been overwhelming; it has been sent to hundreds of shelters and rescue groups across the country.

FEBRUARY: Adopt-a-Rescued-Rabbit Month! Five of our foster bunnies, photographed by Mary Cotter, were featured on ASPCA's poster announcing this special month.

HSUS published a photograph by Mary Ann Maier, of foster bunny Osbourne, in an online article on rabbit adoption: "Be a Bunny Hugger: Adopt a Rabbit from Your Local Shelter." Check it out at www.hsus.org. Type "bunny hugger" in the search box.

MARCH: Mary Cotter did a one-hour, pre-Easter radio interview on *Pet Talk*, with hostess Jean Meyer, for radio station AM 1310 KOKX in Iowa, as well as several shorter pre-Easter radio interviews for different geographical areas.

APRIL: Mary Ann Maier was interviewed by pet columnist Alicyn Leigh from *Long Island Press* for a pre-Easter article on

responsible rabbit ownership.

Mary Cotter was a featured speaker at the annual meeting of the **National Association of Professional Petsitters** in Philadelphia, offering a talk entitled "Petsitting for Rabbits: What Rabbit Owners Want You to Know."

Cindy Stutts' bunnies, Winston, Ginger, and Max, were guests of correspondent Debbye Turner for a pre-Easter educational segment on the *CBS Early Show*.

MAY: Mary Ann Maier and Mary Cotter staffed an HRS booth at the **International Conference on Exotics** (Naples, Florida). This conference attracts practitioners from all over the world who have a special interest in the veterinary care and husbandry of companion rabbits (photos, right).

JUNE/JULY: Cindy Stutts (Lic. Ed.), Donna Sheridan (Lic. Ed.), Jamie Baldanza, Mary Ann Maier, Cecelia Bishop, Nicole Martimucci, and Nancy Newhouse staffed the RRR/ HRS booth at two **Mayor's Alliance Adoptathon** events—one in Central Park and one in Prospect Park.

Mary Ann Maier and Mary Cotter gave a workshop on rabbit care at the **Humane Education Seminar**, held at the **Center for Veterinary Specialists** in Westbury, Long Island.

AUGUST: Nicole Martimucci, Donna Sheridan, Kathie Rokita, Cecelia Bishop and Mary Ann Maier participated in the summer adoptathon at the **Little Shelter** in Huntington, Long Island. As an added bonus, we were interviewed by Annemarie Lucas, from Animal Planet's popular TV show, *Animal Precinct*.

SEPTEMBER: Cindy Stutts, Donna Sheridan, Yoshi Bird, Mary Ann Maier ran our booth at the **92nd Street Y Street Fair**, an extremely popular New York "institution," attracting visitors from all over the NYC-metro area.



Our big booth at the Little Shelter Adoptathon



Nico Schoemaker, DVM, who uses the NYCHRS video on rabbit handling and nail cutting to teach veterinary students in Europe, visits the RRR/HRS booth at the International Conference on Exotics



Frances Harcourt-Brown, BVSc MRCVS, (left) author of *Textbook of Rabbit Medicine*, chats with Jennifer Saver, DVM, (standing) and Mary Cotter at the ICE booth

Donna Sheridan was interviewed by *Newsday* columnist, Denise Flaim, for an article on rabbit husbandry.

OCTOBER: NYC/HRS Annual Rabbit Care Conference! (See photo spread in this issue)

Mary Cotter presented a hands-on workshop on "Handling a Difficult Bunny" in New Jersey, at the annual **NJ HRS Bunnyfest**.

NOVEMBER: Donna Sheridan, Kathie Rokita, Nancy Schreiber, Cecelia Bishop, Julie Miller, Nicole Martimucci, Tracey Beach, Joyce Chee and Mary Ann Maier took shifts manning the RRR/HRS booth at the **Nassau Coliseum Pet Expo**. This is a three-day event whose purpose is to promote responsible pet ownership. Industry professionals, veterinarians, manufacturers, rescuers, and animal law enforcement officials were on hand to educate and entertain current and potential pet owners. The RRR team worked tirelessly, engaging visitors in talk about rabbit care and adoption, with the help of our two



Cecelia Bishop (center) discusses rabbit care ideas with visitors to the Long Island Pet Expo at Nassau Coliseum as Nicole Martimucci (right) looks on



Volunteers helping to staff the Expo Booth included (from left) Julie Miller, Cecelia Bishop, and Nancy Schreiber



Mary Ann Maier with Beastie Boy "MCA" at the Pet Expo

wonderbuns, Kevin Kaboom and Jessie. One of our booth visitors was rocker "MCA" from the Beastie Boys, who was taking a break from a sound check in the Coliseum.

Mary Cotter presented a hands-on workshop on "Handling a Difficult Bunny" in Orlando, sponsored by ORCA (Orlando Rabbit Care and Adoptions)

Jennifer Saver, DVM, was interviewed for a column on rabbit housing (response to a breeder) by *Newsday* columnist Denise Flaim.

DECEMBER: Donna Sheridan and Mary Cotter gave a presentation entitled "9 Things You Need to Know Before Adopting a Rabbit" in Central Park's Dana Discovery Center.

Amy Sedaris (honorary NYC HRS educator) and Mary Cotter, with the help of RRR/HRS foster bunny, Juliette, taped a segment for *Pet Peeves*, a local Cablevision show, focused on raising awareness of what rabbit fur "fashion" really entails. Amy Sedaris also posed for PETA's new anti-fur poster.

Jennifer Saver, DVM, Mary Ann Maier, and Mary Cotter taped two half-hour episodes on rabbit care for Cablevision's program *Party Pets*.

Supporting Our Shelters

• Cindy Stutts (Lic. Ed.), along with volunteers Sarah Goodwin, Yoshi Bird, Jamie Baldanza, Sandra Miyamoto and Morrissey Perfetti, is setting up a rabbit-adoption program for NYC Animal Care and Control (NYCACC) in Manhattan. The team cleans cages, brings hay and toys, lets bunnies out for exercise, and helps the facility with adoptions. Donna Sheridan (Lic. Ed.) is working on setting up a similar program at the Brooklyn branch. Dr. Jennifer Saver (Lic. Ed.) and Dr. Laura George (Lic. Ed.) are donating spay surgeries for the NYCACC female bunnies, and are sharing their rabbit surgery techniques with staff veterinarians at the facility.

• Mary Ann Maier (Lic. Ed.) is working to promote bunny adoptions for the Animal Lovers League in Glen Cove.

• Mary Ann Maier and Mary Cotter (C.M.) gave a presentation on rabbit care for the staff at North Shore Animal League in March, arranged with the help of Tamar Romer.

• Mary Cotter is working with New Rochelle Humane Society to help get their bunnies adopted.

Local Outreach

Chapter friends, associates, and fellow bunny lovers are taking initiative and making a difference in their own areas:

• Jeanine Callace and Lorraine Benson are distributing RRR/HRS educational literature at local pet stores regularly.

• Joyce Chee is bringing good quality hay and food to bunnies at the New Rochelle Humane Society.

• Cecelia Bishop and Julie Miller are travelling to a former dairy farm every weekend, bringing hay, toys, and fresh greens to a group of rabbits who were abandoned there. They are distributing educational literature to visitors and are transporting the female bunnies, one by one, to Dr. Jennifer Saver, who is donating spay surgeries.

• Debbie Goldstein created nycbuns (groups.yahoo.com/group/nycbuns) as a way for local bunny lovers to keep in touch and share resources. Various members of this group have been enormously helpful to our chapter.

• Amy Sedaris, while shooting a brief segment for MTV at a pre-school in Manhattan, discovered the school's two resident rabbits. The following week, she donated 50 lbs. of timothy hay and 50 lbs. of timothy pellets to the school, and held an educational session with the children and teachers, offering RRR/HRS rabbit-care literature and husbandry advice.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM NYC HRS (continued from page 1)

County SPCA shut down due to internal problems.

If anyone knows someone thinking about getting a pet rabbit (or someone thinking of abandoning one), please refer them to our website. We have many wonderful bunnies who are waiting for permanent homes. Several bunny finders have kindly offered to foster the rabbits they have found, and these bunnies also need homes.

We help anyone feeling overwhelmed by rabbit care by offering information on litterbox training, socialization, "bunny proofing," handling, and nail cutting so that caring for a bunny will be easier and a lot more enjoyable. Our little group does public education booths at street fairs, shelter events, the Nassau Coliseum Pet Expo, and our own annual rabbit care conference. We do in-home visits by appointment and are always available to help by phone and email. We hope to stem the flow of abandoned and unwanted rabbits, but it is taking time.

If anyone would like to offer donations or volunteer help with any of these efforts, please contact Cindy Stutts at bygolyoly@att.net

We are getting calls to take in 60-100 rabbits per month, which we cannot do.

HOW TO CATCH A STRAY BUNNY

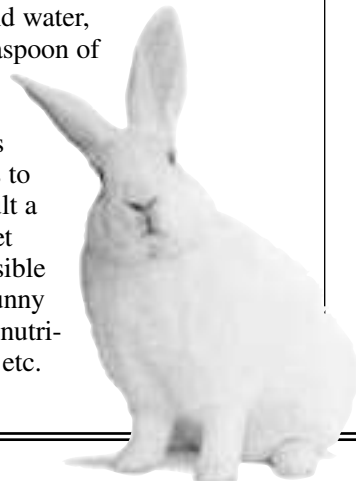
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thrash enough to break his own bones. In addition, if you miss with the net, you could damage the trust you've built and set yourself back.

I use a bat net that has a very fine mesh (a bunny limb cannot fit through) and a wide (eighteen-inch) mouth. I only use the net "head," and never use it on its long pole, so that I can control it. Never chase a bunny with a net; instead, sit down on a level, debris-free area. Make sure that if you place the net mouth on the ground it will lie perfectly flat. Place some alfalfa within arm's reach. Hold the net by its "neck," poised over the food. Talk to the rabbit to assure him you are not approaching him. Many bunnies will smell the alfalfa and draw near and retreat in the pattern described above.

Do not rush. Wait until the bunny has approached and retreated about five to ten times. When he feels comfortable enough with you to eat the alfalfa in a relaxed posture and not run at the slightest sound or movement, swiftly place the net mouth over him. Be careful not to let the mesh brush him in the process and spook him. Hold the net mouth down on the ground and immediately place your chest over him to gently but firmly still him; he most certainly will be thrashing about. Pick up the bunny and hold him to your chest while he is still in the net. Do not attempt to transfer him to a carrier until you are indoors or inside your car with the doors shut. Make sure the bunny is properly confined once inside your car; it is extremely dangerous to drive with a rabbit loose in the car.

Once the bunny is rescued, be careful not to overload him with too much food or overly rich foods. A badly malnourished bunny can be made sick by a sudden diet of rich foods. Feed free-choice timothy hay and water, and about a teaspoon of pellets the first day. Gradually increase pellets and add greens to the diet. Consult a rabbit-savvy vet as soon as possible to check the bunny for illness, malnutrition, parasites, etc.



Adopter Love Letters

"...Everything's fabulous. Greta and Osbourne are living in my lovely bedroom with no cages. They are getting along great. They like to sit together and nap together. He's taken over as my alarm clock on weekends. If I don't get up at the normal time to feed them, he jumps onto the bed and pokes me with his nose to remind me that it's time for breakfast. I gave them a wicker hamper that they have chewed through to make an entrance, an exit, and a peep hole at nose level, so I think they feel safe in there. I also made them a ramp up to the bed that they can run up and down or nap underneath, and it's been well received."

"He's taken over as my alarm clock on weekends."

Thank you again for helping me bring them together. I think they are both enjoying having a companion for snacking and playing. Plus he's so cute and entertaining for me. Whoo hoo!" —Lauren Spooner

"So, Kenny and Barbie (aka Mista Kenny... Kennykind and Barbina... they now have a few nick names) are doing very well. We're all really connected. Barbie isn't really outgoing and I attribute that to her naturally shy personality... but she seems happy. Kenny is Kenny, a lover, and a really funny guy! Their home environment has gone through some changes... they really love boxes and they have the "bunny fort." They still live in a puppy pen. Their diet is great, they get daily papaya tabs, Oxbow Bunny Basics T, and lettuce, fruit and an herb every day. They really like carrots, apples, and banana. I've attached a photo of them opening their Christmas presents... my mom made them little quilts..." —Laura Simpson

"My mom made them little quilts."



"Just wanted to give you an update. Lucy and Nelson's bonding sessions are going good. She seems to understand how she needs to act with him a little bit more. Nelson has become very confident in my room. He

"I'm so glad I stuck to it for those months..."

binkies when I talk to him in a certain tone —it is soooooo cute..." (TWO MONTHS LATER): *"They are totally in love, they never stop grooming each other. They do everything as a team. I'm so glad I stuck to it for those months!"* —Kristen Miller

"I can't possibly thank you enough for the glorious gift of this little girl. It just makes me feel so chest-burstingly happy to just watch her play and eat and sleep, and have her come up sniffing to me, and let me pet her. Tonight, she even took one of her new toys (a little reed ball with a jingly pom-pom in it—I went a little nuts at Whiskers today), and would pick it up in her mouth and bring it to me. She'll nibble lettuce and kale right out of my hand, and it appears that she loves basil, rabe, and cilantro as well. I keep getting goosebumps from the happiness....I just couldn't be more smitten." —Kat Kinsman

"I keep getting goosebumps from the happiness."

"Dickens is living in my office in my new apartment. He has the run of the room full time, but "his space" is under one of my desks. (I built a gate on the front out of NIC panels if I have to close him in for any reason.) He seems really comfortable, flopping over, frequently laying about all stretched out.... I leave the door to my office open when I'm home, and sometimes he'll come out and investigate the hallway and the kitchen and the bathroom. He's really funny. He hasn't been bold enough to go far into the living room yet, but I figure he will eventually."

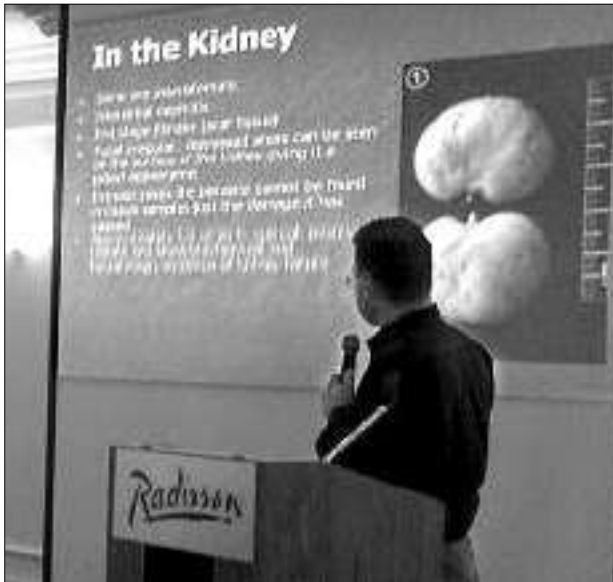
"He's really funny."

—Rich Boniface

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RABBIT CONFERENCE 2004

October 17th, 2004
New Rochelle, NY



Gil Stanzione, DVM, explains how *E. cuniculi* affects various body systems



Above: Mary Ann Maier (Lic. Ed., NYC HRS), Mary Cotter (C.M., NYC HRS), and Cindy Stutts (Lic. Ed., HRS) with Anne McBride, Ph.D. (second from right)



Our ever-popular, 90-minute Q&A panel: Mary Cotter, Ed.D. (NYC HRS), Cyndi Brown, DVM (Animal Medical Center), Rebecca Campbell, DVM (Symphony Veterinary Center), Anne McBride, Ph.D. (University of Southampton, UK), Jennifer Saver, DVM (Catnip & Carrots), Gil Stanzione, DVM (Dakota Veterinary Center)



Anne McBride, Ph.D., author of "Why Does My Rabbit," (inset) unravelling some of the mysteries of bunny behavior



Conference attendees



Special guests Greta and Osbourne, *E. cuniculi* survivors

Special guest, Kris (aka "Kip"), doing a standup routine for his admirers



RECOMMENDED VETERINARIANS IN THE NYC-METRO AREA

PLEASE NOTE: Many clinics have multiple veterinarians, and our recommendations are for specific vets in those clinics. If you cannot get an appointment with a recommended vet at one clinic, **do not assume (no matter what you are told by the receptionist!) that other vets in the same clinic are equally knowledgeable or experienced with rabbits.** Please also note that changes, additions, and deletions to this list between newsletters will be posted on our website: www.rabbitcare.org. If you have any questions about any of the vets or clinics 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 NYC HRS.

MANHATTAN

Becky Campbell, DVM
Carol Martin, MB, MRCVS
Symphony Veterinary Center
698 Amsterdam Avenue
(between 93rd & 94th Streets),
(212) 866-8000

BROOKLYN

Lori Bierbrier, DVM
Hope Veterinary Clinic
390 Atlantic Avenue, Boerum Hill
(718) 852-4219

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Gil Stanzione, DVM
Lauren Stein, VMD
381 Dobbs Ferry Road
White Plains (914) 421-0020

John Pisciotta, DVM
Rye Harrison Veterinary Clinic
170 North St.
Rye (914) 921-2000

LONG ISLAND

Jennifer Saver, DVM
Laura George, DVM
Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital
2221 Hillside Avenue
New Hyde Park
(516) 877-7080

Heidi Hoefler, DVM
West Hills Animal Hospital
800 West Jericho Turnpike,
Huntington
(631) 351-6116

Brian Rose, DVM
Jeff Rose, DVM
Jefferson Animal Hospital
606 Patchogue Road (Rte 112)
Port Jefferson Station
(631) 473-0415

LICENSED HRS REPRESENTATIVES

Mary Cotter (Chapter Manager)
mec@cloud9.net
(914) 337-6146

Mary Ann Maier (Lic. Ed.)
altitude8@yahoo.com
(516) 671-6654

Cindy Stutts (Lic. Ed.)
bygolyoly@att.net
(212) 831-7107

Donna Sheridan (Lic. Ed.)
hpcocus217@yahoo.com
(917) 502-6753

Jennifer Saver, DVM (Lic. Ed.)
Laura George, DVM (Lic. Ed.)

NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS FALL 2004

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

Editor: Mary E. Cotter
Art Director: Mary Ann Maier
Production: Kathie Rokita

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 members of the general public on rabbit care through publications, telephone consultations, home visits, and public presentations. This newsletter is published by RRR/NYC HRS, which is solely responsible for its content. Letters, photographs, and other submissions to the newsletter become the property of the NYC Chapter and cannot be returned. We retain the right to edit submissions for publication.

NYC HRS Nail Trimming/ Handling Video

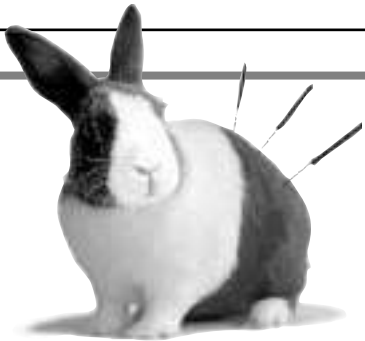
If you have trouble cutting your rabbit's nails, now you can get some help. This 38-minute video will show you a technique that's gentle and non-traumatic for both you and your bunny. This technique is simple and straightforward, and does not involve trancing or any special restraining equipment (such as bags, bunny burritos, etc.).

To order, make out your check to "Rabbit Rescue & Rehab," and mail it to:
Rabbit Rescue & Rehab
c/o Mary Cotter, #5C
56 West Pondfield Road, Bronxville, NY 10708

The video is \$20, and postage is \$3.85 (total \$23.85). Please write "nail video" somewhere on your check.

What if my rabbit has an emergency and my vet's office is closed?

We continue to receive disturbing phone calls from members who have taken their rabbits to after-hours emergency clinics where the veterinarians in attendance were not knowledgeable or skilled in rabbit medicine. If your vet does not handle his/her own after-hours emergencies, and you cannot find another rabbit-savvy vet, please call Mary Cotter (mec@cloud9.net) at 914-337-6146, or contact your nearest RRR/HRS representative (see list at right) for help in finding a vet who can treat your rabbit.



Acupuncture coming soon!

Laura George, DVM, (Lic. Ed.), is presently "commuting" back and forth from Gainesville, Florida, to study acupuncture at the Chi Institute, under Huisheng Xie, DVM, Ph.D. She expects to receive her certification in 2005. If you have a bunny who might benefit from acupuncture, please contact her at Catnip & Carrots: (516) 877-7080.

Special thanks....

...to the **Litterbox Brigade**—the behind-the-scenes volunteers who so generously roll up their sleeves to help with our chapter's "dirty work": Jeanine Callace, Lorraine Benson, and Anne Flynn (Westchester), and Donna Sheridan, Cecelia Bishop, Nicole Martimucci, Yoshi Bird, and Tracey Beach (Long Island).

...to **members of nycbuns**: Debbie Goldstein, Fern Cohen, and Maddy DeLeon for help with bunny and equipment transport, and to Fern for photocopying educational materials for our annual conference.

...to **Kathie Rokita**. If you haven't visited our website (www.rabbitcare.org) recently, please do! It has been completely overhauled and redesigned by Kathie Rokita (www.blueskydesignmy.com), and we have received many compliments on our new look. Kathie is also making major contributions to our newsletter production.

...to **jewelry designers Alice Layne and Kim Renk**, for their beautiful donations to our conference.

...to **Joyce Chee** for her conference fundraising help.