

THUMP

NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS AUGUST 2014

Photo: Merylee Mathuro



Dr. Gil Stanzione.

Hare Ye! Hare Ye!

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab's annual conference is set for Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Radisson Hotel in New Rochelle. Our featured speaker will be Gil Stanzione, DVM, who will discuss "Rabbit Emergencies: How to Identify Them. How to Deal With Them. How to Work With Your Vet." Bring your questions!

HRS Midwest Event

House Rabbit Society is hosting its first-ever educators' conference on Sept. 27-28 in St. Louis, at the Humane Society of Missouri.

"This conference will bring together over 100 HRS educators who will learn about the latest veterinary, dietary and behavioral information regarding rabbits so that they can better educate the public," said Margo DeMello, HRS president. The speakers will be drawn from some of the top veterinarians in the U.S. as well as many of the top rabbit behaviorists, and all of the food will be vegetarian and vegan.

There are still a few open spots left that are available for the rabbit-loving public to attend, and the cost is \$25 for both days of the conference plus \$12 per day for lunches. To find out more about the conference, and to register, visit <http://rabbit.org/conference/>. See details at the end of this issue of Thump.

Adoptapalooza

"Adoptapalooza" will take place 12-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7, at Union Square Park. (<http://www.animalalliancencyc.org/events/featured/adoptapalooza/index.htm>)

Unexpected Blessings

By Robert Kulka

We see and hear stories every day about animal companions being abandoned, abused, hurt and alone. It breaks our hearts, especially since these stories never end, and seemingly never let volunteers and shelter workers feel as though they can ever catch up.

These little ones only ask to be shown a little love. In exchange for that little bit of love, they will bestow many gifts on their caring adopters.

Occasionally, one of these little angels has "special needs." Such is the case with one of our most beloved of temporary charges, Bebe. On first seeing her, your initial reaction is to feel sorry for her. You ask what happened to her. Is she in pain? How does she survive? What will life be like for her? In no time, however,

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Photo: Robert Kulka



Bebe.

Group Therapy Works Wonders

By Tracy Nuzzo

A little more than a year ago, something unremarkable happened: a mini lop was adopted from our group. Adoptions happen most weekends so it is a routine occurrence, but it's always received as good news to volunteers and foster parents.

Personally, I am thrilled when bunnies get adopted. I envision a bunny who has been down on his or her luck being chosen as someone's newest family member. A bunny who had previously been confined at the shelter will now have room to play. Adopters are advised about bunny basics, with an emphasis on a healthy mix of hay, pellets and fresh greens. An adoption is a fresh start, and what rescue bunny doesn't need one of those?

In late May of this year, the previously adopted mini lop, known as Cream,

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Photo: Tracy Nuzzo



Bella.

Our masthead model is Alvin, and he is real. He looks like a blue-eyed cotton ball wearing black trousers. Someone actually abandoned this precious little guy in a park on Long Island in June. He has only one crooked front tooth that his vets expect will fall out soon, and because house bunnies don't really need their front teeth, this makes Alvin EXTRA adoptable (if you know what we mean). To meet him, please send an email to information@LongIslandRabbitRescue.org. Photo © Mike Miranda. Photo illustration by Mary Ann Maier. (For another photo of Alvin, see page 2.)



Our masthead bunny, Alvin.

Unexpected (Continued from page 1)

it becomes clear that this “special needs” bunny is merely special.

Little Bebe is the most loving, happy-go-lucky, curious, social and easygoing little bunny girl. She is an adorable black-and-white, three-and-a-half-pound ball of fur. You see her move about as if everything is as it should be, despite not being able to use her right front leg normally. A congenital condition causes it to fly out from the side of her body, looking like a flipper or maybe a little angel’s wing.

Bebe runs around (more like bounces around), binkies, carries on cheerfully and greets everyone and everything that passes by when she is out for her exercise time.

She wastes no time simply lying about. Instead, she periscopes, jumps in and out of her hay box, eats like a race horse and is the delight of all who visit her.

Our Bebe shows us how wonderful life can be, no matter the daily hurdles we may need to overcome. She shows us all how she adapts and even enjoys things more than any other bunny alive. It is what makes her special.

Photo: Robert Kullka



Dancing around. Happy as can bebe.

The lucky human who shares his or her life with Bebe will reap rewards daily. For just a little bit of extra care to provide Bebe with a safe and controlled environment, she will share her lust for life and love with you. She will show her gratitude for your love, and your bond will grow stronger every day.

I know this to be true. You see, I have a special-needs girl in my life and she makes me feel very special every day.

Bebe was adopted as a partner bunny on Aug. 2.

Group Therapy

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returned. This reunion was anything but joyous.

Cream was surrendered at Animal Care & Control of NYC (AC&C) in what most volunteers noted was “rough shape.” Severely underweight and suffering from urine scald, Cream just trembled in a corner of her cage. Cream’s paws were stained dark yellow from urine. She appeared to be infested with mites, and she was detached and unresponsive. Perhaps the most heartbreaking sign of the terrible past Cream suffered was that she flinched and braced for impact any time anyone attempted to pet or console her.

On June 1, the last of my fosters had been adopted at the Maddie’s Fund weekend event at Petco. My “empty nest” didn’t stay that way for long. Just before 7 p.m. that same day, I raced to AC&C to bring Cream to my home. Cindy Stutts had briefed me on Cream’s background, but nothing prepared me for just how terrible Cream looked.

It’s hard to reconcile shelter volunteers’ previous memories of Cream, before her adoption. She was a vibrant bunny who was a little wild. She loved to run bunny 500s and was nearly impossible to handle and pick up. Gazing into her exercise pen the first night at my home, I didn’t see anything that resembled those former traits – and worse, I saw a victim of severe neglect.

Somehow, life for Cream after her adoption took a turn for the worse. Her adopter, who initially kept in touch, had long since dropped off the radar and apparently began keeping Cream in a cage that would be the appropriate size for a hamster. That tiny cage was her bed and her toilet. Based on her emaciated frame, food had not been plentiful for Cream. She had urine scald on her hind end and the skin on both legs was exposed down to the feet – fur long burned off. What untold horrors had this bunny endured?

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Group Therapy

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Cream was in my home less than 24 hours and it became clear she needed to be checked out by a veterinarian, so I made an appointment with Dr. Anthony Pilny at Center for Avian and Exotics Medicine. Less than 10 minutes into the physical exam, the decision was made to keep her at the medical center for observation. In all, Cream spent three days at CAEM. She was given blood tests, and full X-rays were taken of her tiny frame.

Her diagnosis was a mixed bag of good and bad. I am thankful we didn't discover cancer or any other major illness, but what we did find out is heartbreaking. Cream had minor arthritis in her knees, osteoporosis and bone loss in her spine. Being confined and not fed regularly took their toll, so now she seemed to have the health report of a bunny two or three times her age. Also, as strange as it may sound, everyone who treated Cream at CAEM remarked about her apparent depression, which had struck me from the first minute I saw her. Her spirits were low and despite having a walk-in litter box, she just continued to pee on herself. In many ways, this bunny was broken.

Once I had a clear diagnosis, naturally I wanted to know how I could help. There would be no quick fix. Just as this bunny had deteriorated over time, she would need time to rebuild. This bunny would need consistency in routine so she could relearn to trust, and a healthy diet to try to counteract her long months of being fed improperly or perhaps, very little at all. I also thought it important to rename this gorgeous bunny so we could break from her past life and identity...and so, Cream is now known as Bella. It's a name that suits her perfectly!

Because I am an impatient New Yorker, the concept of time being the most important key to healing Bella is frustrating. I want to go 100 miles an hour to help restore Bella to her former self, prior to the

Photo: Tracy Nuzzo



Kelsey grooms Bella.

terrible neglect. Luckily, I have a secret weapon and I didn't even know it.

I have three full-time bunnies: Kelsey, Max and Charlotte, and I placed Bella in an ex-pen in close proximity to them. I can always count on Kelsey to provide comfort to any foster bunny who stays with us. He is very nurturing, and for such a tiny bunny, he has the biggest heart. From day one, I placed Kelsey in with Bella and he cleaned her ears and groomed her. Like other distressed bunnies before her, Bella seemed to eat more when he joined her for an evening salad.

After Kelsey's evening visits, I returned him to his partners, Max and Charlotte, and I placed a blanket on the side of the ex-pen that separated Bella from the gang. By the second or third day of

Bella's stay, I noticed a strange pattern. When I would awake in the morning, without fail, the privacy blanket would be on the floor and Bella would have a clear view of my trio and vice versa. Bunnies tend to be nosy, especially about their neighbors, and the blanket ensured no bunny would become aggressive and potentially hurt a bunny in an adjacent pen. In fact, what I was witnessing was quite the opposite.

Bella has a tendency to lie flat with her chin directly on the floor. Max, who has been with me for more than two years, suddenly began lying as close to Bella as he could, on his side of the fence. I laughed when I realized he, too, would lie with his chin on the floor, mirroring

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Managing Your Allergies

By Helen Chen

Allergies can be difficult and devastating to new bunny owners. Some adopters don't realize they may be allergic to their pet or their hay until after they've fallen in love with their fluffy companion. My husband and I both struggled with the effects of chronic allergic reactions. Nevertheless, we've learned that there are ways to manage it.

Hay

It is hard to distinguish whether you are allergic to your bunny or the hay that is

essential to their diet. Hay is just dried grass, so if you have an allergy to various grasses, there's a good chance you are allergic to hay. I have personally found that orchard grass and meadow grass trigger our allergies less than Timothy. I buy Oxbow Western Timothy hay often and sometimes it's clean and tolerable but sometimes it's dusty and crumbly. I also often vary the selection for my bunnies with hay from online sources. My husband has terrible reactions to Sweet Meadow Farm's Timothy hay (<http://www.sweetmeadowfarm.com>),

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Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



This bunny's people give her additional hay for foraging.

Group Therapy

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Bella's posture. I had never seen him rest in that position in the past. Was he trying to send her a message of validation and empathy? Maybe.

Charlotte is the newest member of our family and since her adoption in February, she has been the least friendly to foster bunnies. She seems to want to secure her own full-time status. For her first five years, she was a singleton and was surrendered with a very old leg injury that required an amputation. Now she has two handsome silver marten dwarf bunnies who help accommodate her handicap – and there is no way she would give up her place in the family without a fight. Despite her track record of going on the offensive when new bunnies appear, Charlotte has shown no aggression toward Bella at all. Instead, when Charlotte takes a nap, she positions herself as close to Bella as she can get from her side of the pen.

Greyson, Jane O'Wyatt's foster, came to stay with us for a few weeks and even he got in on the act! Greyson and Bella were at Petco for a speed date and Bella was very stressed. I placed Greyson in

Photo: Tracy Nuzzo



Greyson comforts Bella at Petco.

her pen. He groomed her and guarded her, like a protector.

So many bunnies extending kindness to a little lost soul, as if they can sense she has been through a tough ordeal! I still wish there were ways for me to expedite Bella's recovery, but I no longer discount the support she is getting from her own species – under my roof. During the day, I am able to provide love and care

for Bella, and as I sleep, the house bunnies take the night shift.

With all of us loving Bella and supporting her around the clock, I hope we can overcome the damage Bella suffered in her previous home. Somewhere, deep inside Bella, that fun-loving rabbit who was a little bit wild and who loved to run bunny 500 races still exists. The bunnies and I anxiously await her triumphant return!

Allergies

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but we both like their meadow hay. KMSHayloft.com's bluegrass and Timothy hay are usually quite clean and not as powdery. I've also tried Organic Hay Co.'s Timothy hay (available both at a local store, Whiskers, and online) and I found their hay to be very clean and dust-free, but the hay has a lot more "other stuff" in it, like bits of flowers, dried plant leaves and tiny bits of alfalfa. The smell is very "sweet" like a garden and that might bother some people with various pollen allergies. But with any type of hay, even from the same company, the quality varies by season and crop, and sometimes it varies from box to box. Unfortunately, you may have to just order small portions of different hays from various sources to see which suits you best. Usually you'll find that one type of hay is more tolerable than others.

Handling Hay

Storing hay in large plastic boxes that seal shut rather than their original bags or cardboard boxes is useful in keeping a lid on the hay particles that otherwise can float around in your home. (If you buy in very large volume, just make sure you do open the plastic box or boxes sometimes to air out any moisture that is trapped in there. Constant moisture can cause mold.) When touching the hay, wearing gloves may help. The smaller hay pieces still find their way into the gloves in my experience, but the extra layer of protection does help to prevent hard, sharp pieces from stabbing through the skin and causing hives. You can find cheap disposable vinyl gloves in many supermarkets (for handling food) or disposable rubber gloves at drugstores. If you have nasal allergy symptoms, try wearing a protective mask (also found in drugstores) when handling hay. I have fussy bunnies, so I also like to wear a mask over my nose and mouth when I have to brush them or trim their nails.

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Photo: Kitty Prizzo



Luigi and Grace.

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Bullet fka Twinkle at AC&C.

Photo: Jozefa Cheman



Stan.

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Rex rabbits are said to be less allergenic than other breeds.

Shedding!

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Allergies

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Environmental Factors

The human body can reasonably handle a certain amount of allergens, but if the allergens in your environment cross a certain threshold, your body will start to react. Sometimes, like me, you cross that threshold when you add additional bunnies into your life. If you can reduce the allergens in your home (including dust, hay, fur, dander), your body may have an easier time overall. And since I wouldn't (couldn't!) reduce the number of bunnies, I had to figure out how to minimize the other allergens.

Everybody is allergic to dust in varying degrees. Cleaning or removing old carpets or rugs may help because those areas harbor dust mites. Investing in a quality HEPA air filter can do wonders to keep the air clear. Common mistakes people make when purchasing an air purifier are buying a unit that does not use a HEPA filter (this filters out 99.97%

of particles passing through), or buying a unit that is insufficient for servicing the size of the room. It's important to consider the square footage of the space you want to purify; otherwise your filter won't be as effective.

And, of course, keeping the bunny area clean by removing stray pieces of hay and fur will help, too. I highly recommend getting a vacuum cleaner that features a HEPA filter in it as well; otherwise your vacuum cleaner may blow around the hay dust in your house and make matters worse.

If at all possible, allergy sufferers should try to keep their bunny housed in a space that is far from the bedroom, in order to keep the allergens away from where you rest. Changing out of clothing you wore when playing with the bun will also help you get a better night's sleep. Always wash your hands after touching the hay or the buns so that you don't transfer allergens to eyes, nose and hair.

Medication

If you want to go the medical route, there are effective over-the-counter

medications. Claritin, Zyrtec and Allegra are all good. I've had success with all of them, while some friends of mine feel better with one but not the others. If the nonprescription options don't help, then seeing an allergist would be recommended. An allergist can test you for many of the typical environmental allergens and treat them specifically. He/she may also provide you with prescription medications such as stronger antihistamines or nasal sprays that can help you deal with the symptoms. Individuals with a history of asthma and other breathing problems may need additional medication or inhalers.

One of the things that I have learned is when you suffer from allergies, the common cold can make things seem much worse. If you can normally fight off a nasty cold in about a week, it may take you several weeks or a month to get over it when you add severe allergies on top of it. If you have a lingering cold or cough, seeing a doctor or allergist can help you figure out how to get over it.

At my worst, I thought I had a cold for nearly three months before I figured out that my cold had long been gone; it was my allergy symptoms that had worsened. My simple cold became bronchitis and I even developed a bit of asthma before I decided I really had to do something more permanent.

Finally, with the aid of an allergist, I got on a treatment course of immunotherapy (allergy shots). It's a long-term commitment: you have to get shots for all the things you're allergic to over the course of months and years, but it truly works if you stick to the regimen.

Four years ago when I first went to see my allergist, Dr. Hale Yarmohammadi, I told her I lived in an apartment with two rabbits, volunteered at NYC Metro Rabbit and had trouble sleeping and breathing. She told me what any doctor would: get rid of the rabbits. But I explained to her that it wasn't an option

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Three out of 18 rabbits, progeny of a single pregnant doe rescued by a woman in Manhattan's Riverside Park. Belatedly, she reached out to NYC Metro Rabbit's Cindy Stutts for help in limiting her bunny population and finding homes for these Dutch-lionhead mixes. Fortunately, despite living in a cloud of potential allergens, the rescuer was not allergic to rabbits or hay, and she turned a room in her apartment into a bunny habitat.



Photo: Jane O'Wyatt

Hot, Muggy Days Spell Trouble

By Susan Lillo

Some rabbits appear to feel the heat more than others. Their body language tells you they are in distress, or at least uncomfortable.

My lop, Melvin, has thick, dense fur, and he is a lot less active on warm, humid days. I use a HairBuster comb daily to remove excess fur. Meanwhile, Melvin copes by positioning his body between his ceramic water and food bowls to that he can benefit from their coolness. Sometimes he manages to also press his hind legs and backside against his big frozen water bottle at the same time, so that he is surrounded by cooling surfaces. I marvel at his brilliance.

My smaller white bunny, Rose, doesn't seem to be affected to the same extent, but I know that she must be feeling the heat, even if she continues to race around the living room.

Both rabbits eat less in the summer, although the air conditioner is usually

on. The air in our apartment often feels humid and stale.

Natalie Reeves also relies on the air conditioner to keep temperatures safe. "I protect my bunnies from the heat by keeping my air conditioners on all summer," she says. "I'm careful not to let a cool morning fool me into thinking it's safe to leave the A/C off when I go to work. It's not worth it. Sometimes the A/C works so well that people in my apartment are cold, but even with those frigid temperatures (to humans, at least), I often find Queenie sitting in front of the A/C soaking up the cool air."

She adds, "I also try to schedule well-bunny visits during the cooler months to avoid traveling with my bunnies in the heat. If a bunny needs to go to the

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Photos: Jane O'Wyatt



Arnie and Izzie cool off on ceramic tiles.



Magnolia next to her frozen water bottle (in pillowcase).

Ronan with frozen water bottle at Petco.



Allergies

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for me, so she patiently worked with me through it all.

Along with keeping the dust levels down in my home, I've been getting routine allergy shots, and now all my breathing problems have gone away. I can snuggle with my bunnies and handle their hay without trouble and I don't even suffer from regular seasonal allergies anymore. My husband started his allergy shots two years after me and now he is feeling a lot better, too. We added two more buns to our household (four in total now) and we all live and breathe happily together. Allergies don't necessarily mean the bond between you and your bunny has to end!

Hot, Muggy Days

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vet during the summer, I may put towel-wrapped frozen water bottles in the carrier. But whether I take special measures to keep a bunny cool on the way to the vet depends on the reason we are going there. If a bunny is in stasis, she might have a low body temperature and the cold water bottles would be detrimental.”

Another volunteer, Yumi Nakayama, uses a Marukan metal cooling plate from Japan that keeps the floor cool without using electricity: “I put it under the rug in the summer and my two rabbits can choose where to sit – either the cool spot or a regular spot. I used to have a small fan, too, but that uses lots of electricity and all the hair was stuck around it!”

House Rabbit Society’s website is a good place to start when you want to review the basics on keeping your rabbit cool. Here’s the link: <http://rabbit.org/faq-warm-weather-concerns/>

Among House Rabbit Society tips are these: Give your rabbit a shady place to relax, so that he can escape from the sun. Use a circulating fan to create a breeze, but make sure the fan is not blowing directly at him. Put ice cubes in his water bowl. Mist your bunny’s ears. Remember that rabbits keep hydrated by eating lots of fresh vegetables. Rabbits over 5 years old, or those who are overweight or incapacitated, need to be monitored carefully because they may not get up to drink an adequate amount of water if they are hot.

For the NYC Metro rabbits at Petco stores, volunteers put ceramic tiles in the cages and set up battery-operated fans. We use frozen water bottles to help them cope on the hottest days. Each evening, the volunteers email others with their report for the day, often mentioning temperature conditions in the stores. And for Petland and PetValu stores, volunteers also are careful to observe how the adoptable rabbits are coping.

Photos: Jane O'Wyatt



Romeo with frozen water bottle at Petco.



Lola on ceramic tiles with frozen water bottle.

The summer heat reminds all of us of the hazards of an outdoor environment for our rabbits, and also for any unfortunate rabbits that are abandoned outside by their owners this time of year. The long list of hazards includes the searing heat of the sun, oppressive humidity, bugs, fly strike and birds of prey. It is a dangerous mix for house rabbits. See this Howcast video with Mary Cotter and Amy Sedaris to learn more about outdoor dangers:

<http://www.howcast.com/videos/514676-Why-Its-Dangerous-to-Keep-Rabbit-Outside-Pet-Rabbits>

In the event of heat stroke, the HRS website advises that immediate action must be taken. Get emergency medical help. You can use cool water to dampen the rabbit’s ears and body. However, don’t submerge the rabbit in cold water because this might put him in shock.

Editor’s Note: My thanks to the HRS website, rabbit.org, for its resources about hot weather and outdoor hazards.

Photo: Erin McElhinney



Jan. 4, 2014: Greyson at AC&C.

Other photos: Jane O'Wyatt



Jan. 8: Greyson at Jane's before grooming.



Jan. 8: Greyson introduces himself to Charlie Girl (aka Charlene), Jane's other foster.



Jan. 9: A large mass of matted fur around Greyson's neck and chest felt like an enormous collar of thick, multilayered boiled wool glued to Greyson's skin. Getting at these mats was tricky.



Jan. 9: Starting with an overall trim.



Feb. 5: Is this the same bunny?

FOSTERING

Grooming Greyson

By Jane O'Wyatt

Jan. 6, 2014. Cindy to AC&C
Rabbits listserv:

"Greyson 988671 male grey/black/white fluff ball. Jersey Wooly mix. Very matted but will be pulled out tomorrow by Jane. She and Cathe will work on de-matting him."

Greyson was probably a New Year's resolution dump. He had been surrendered at AC&C on Jan. 2 by someone who said that she did not have time for him. According to his paperwork, Greyson was nine months old.

Greyson may have looked like a fluff ball, but beneath his variegated long guard hairs, the dense, bulky matting of his undercoat was more like upholstery than a simple insulating layer. I had groomed long-haired rabbits before, but had never come across an undercoat in which the strands wove themselves together rather than being shed. And the thick mats were so close to Greyson's skin that they might have been glued on. Cathe Rekis said she would help with grooming, but as I explored Greyson's body with my hands after the Bunny Limo delivered him, I felt overwhelmed. Should we, as others suggested, have a vet sedate him and shave him down? Not yet. Not before we tried to get this friendly, bouncy bunny's coat in order by clipping and combing.

Greyson was not at all hand shy, which was a mighty blessing. He hated being restrained and was very wiggly during his first mani pedi, but he allowed Cathe and me to painstakingly cut and comb out his mats for 30-45 minutes at a time, during the afternoon – bunny siesta – hours. Much of the blunt-tipped scissoring and untangling was done by Cathe, who had human haircutting experience. I was the distractor, cuddling

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Greyson

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and petting a bunny who loved being cuddled and petted. We worked together in an exercise pen in my living room, but Greyson could, and did, hop away when he had been fussed over enough. He became more comfortable as a result of our ministrations, the intent of which he seemed to intuit, and he grew more accommodating. A gregarious, affectionate bunny, Greyson sometimes appeared to view grooming sessions as social occasions. Over several weeks, our super-cautious, consensual, four-handed grooming slowly cleared the matted masses of fur.

Greyson taught Cathe and me a lot, while developing in himself a positive attitude toward being groomed in a leisurely, uncoercive manner. Because it mats in the twinkling of an eye and magnetically attracts hay and other stuff, Greyson's coat will always be a work in progress. In addition to frequent trims to keep his coat short, he will need to be groomed gently by his adopter(s) at least every other day for the rest of his life.

For further information about grooming rabbits with coats like Greyson's:
<http://rabbit.org/angora-grooming/>

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Feb. 22: Greyson is ready for his closeup.

How Greyson's Coat Stays in Pretty Good Shape



Grooming tools, left to right: staggered tooth butter comb; coarse/fine butter comb aka greyhound comb; fine/finer comb; blunt tip scissors.

- ▶ Keeping Greyson's coat short helps.
Tool of choice: blunt-tipped scissors.
- ▶ Scrupulously careful trimming (not too close to his delicate skin) to remove mats

that form even with frequent combing. Just behind his ears, his chest area and his lower back above his tail are particularly prone to matting.

- ▶ Frequent gentle, patient combing – short, light strokes with minimal pulling of the fur – to separate the hairs of the undercoat and keep mats from forming. Greyson cooperates well if approached slowly, during his inactive times of day – with lots of petting. Best results have come from having two people working with him – one person to stroke his head and cheeks and the other to groom.

- ▶ Start a grooming session with a staggered tooth comb or a comb with widely-spaced teeth. (Highly recommended: Chris Christensen #011 NTS Staggered Tooth Buttercomb: <http://www.chrissystems.com/grooming-tools/pet-grooming-show-dog-and-cat-combs.aspx>)

When the coat can be combed easily with the staggered tooth comb or an equivalent, comb the coat with progressively finer-tooth combs.

Enter, Mr. Baxter

By Jane Diamond

Mr. Baxter, bunny #3, (aka Bax, or Mr. B) joined the family in February 2014. He is around 7 years old or so, and is the sweetest boy! Baxter is a Dutch bunny who is coal black, except for the traditional breed markings, and a thin white “v” shape on his head. He has a shiny coat of the softest hair I have ever felt. This boy, despite some of the tough times he has been through in his life, is the most loving guy.

My bunny #2, Sylvie (aka Snugs or Sweet Pea) is a beautiful and sweet girl. She is dark grey, with a nice “v” shape on her forehead, and is also a Dutch. I adopted Sylvie four years ago from a family that no longer wanted her, but had the good sense to look for someone to give her a loving home. She always seemed timid and shy, but she’s a loving little sweetheart! I think she is about 6 years old.

Bof, my 7-year-old bunny #1, is a female of a Polish/Dutch breed who started out as my little terror. She is very intelligent, adorable and sometimes naughty! From the moment I brought Bof home at 10 weeks of age, she made it very clear to me that she is the boss, and I should address her as “your majesty” or “your highness.” Try as I may to show her that I am in charge, it is a battle of the wills. I honestly believe she is winning.

When I got Sylvie, she needed a home, and I had plenty of love to give to a second bunny. I read things on bonding and thought that maybe Bof would like to have a friend. From the minute Sylvie arrived, Bof made it very clear that she was not interested in having a friend, and that she only allowed me to remain because I paid the mortgage. Needless to say, the bonding didn’t go well, and their living areas ended up being as far apart as possible. Eventually, a sort of peaceful coexistence emerged, albeit the bunnies were separated, as Bof allowed another bunny to live within her realm. So we all lived together, although separately, for the next four years.

Photo: Jane Diamond



Sylvie and Baxter.

Sylvie is such a sweet girl, and I could just tell she would be a good mate or friend to another bunny. I mentioned to my friend Birgit von Roemeling that I might want to adopt another bunny as a friend for Sylvie. Birgit had told me about Cindy Stutts and suggested I get in touch with Cindy to discuss rabbit adoption and what to do next.

After a couple of conversations, Cindy suggested setting up a “speed date” for my little girl. Speed dating for bunnies? Cindy asked me a lot of questions about Sylvie: her personality, behavior and things like that. Cindy said that she could pick a few males to try out as potential partners, and we could see what happens. So, we set a date in early February – Super Bowl weekend to be exact.

On that day, Sylvie and I headed into Manhattan from Jersey City. I gave Sylvie a pep talk and told her she was going to meet some nice boy bunnies, and maybe she would find a friend. I told her not to be nervous or frightened because I would be right there with her. I was lucky because my friends, and bunny-parents, Birgit and Reinhard von Roemeling, were at the speed date to show moral support. I was really glad because I was a nervous wreck.

Sylvie and I entered the Petco store and Cindy and her team were already there, and ready for business. There were about five or six males there, of all shapes and sizes. There was a pen set up and each bunny got to spend a few minutes in it alone to check it out. Next, the introductions took place, but what happened next really shocked me! My sweet and timid little girl ran right up to each male and started sniffing and strutting her stuff! She was wagging her tail at them, and Cindy said she was flirting! My little Sylvie was a Datzilla? Well, most of the males were kind of scared of my sassy little girl. However, Mr. Baxter seemed to take this all in stride, and just plopped down and let her sniff and sniff. He seemed to be “the one.” Cindy thought this would probably be a good match, and she was right. The nose knows!

Baxter didn’t have an easy life to start with. He was found as a stray in a park, and taken to Animal Care & Control, where he lived before being adopted by a very sweet couple in Manhattan. They are diplomats, assigned at the United Nations, and Baxter had found his happy and forever home. However, five

(Continued on page 12)

Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Snuggle, Betsy, Spot, Sassy, Baxter and Quincy, Merly, Roderick, Harry and Jerry, Laurel, Annabelle, Aurora, Porsche, Rocky, Oreo, Linus, Carl, Manchitas, Bruno, Jessie, Cora and Spunk, Gemma, Coco, Bebe, Sweet Pea, Heaven, Aria, Trent, Eggy, Joy, Leo Bentley, Harriet, Margaret.



Aria.

We Are Looking for Loving Homes

Written and compiled by Kirsten Ott

Cadberry

Cadberry is a large, all-black female bunny who was found in Queens. This lady is a little shy; she likes to play hide and seek, believing that she won't be detected if she's behind her hidey box. But her beautiful big ears give her away! Cadberry has pretty light brownish-gray eyes. She would do best in a quiet home, and would benefit from a bunny partner.

Lenny

Lenny is a gorgeous, big male bunny who was found near the Hutchinson Parkway. This guy is probably part harlequin. He has a cream coat with splotches and highlights of brown and gray that look like a modern painting. His ears feature an especially beautiful mottled pattern. He also has lovely deep red eyes. Lenny likes to have his blocky head and soft cheeks rubbed. He's a living doll and would make a good family or first-time bunny.

Babette

Babette is a medium-to-large bunny who was found on East 146th Street. This girl is mostly white with some brown markings, including a cute "mustache" and a stripe down her back. She has vestiges of lionhead blood, too – little tufts around her ears and the nape of her neck. Babette was originally shy at the shelter, but in her foster home she would run around and then scamper off, wanting to be playfully chased. She now is an outgoing little spitfire.

Moose

Moose is a large black bunny who was initially named for his size and enormous ears, but his name soon took on additional meaning. Moose would make an ideal rabbit "muse" for a writer or artist who works from home or in a private studio; in fact, he is currently in foster care with a writer who claims that

(Continued on page 13)

Mr. Baxter *(Continued from page 11)*

years later they were told they were to return to China within a few months. They also found out that they were not allowed to bring a bunny into the country, and were heartbroken. As soon as they learned this sad news they got in touch with Cindy, and that is how Baxter ended up at the speed date.

So, as one door closed, another opened, and Baxter also opened up two hearts – Sylvie's and mine.

After the speed date we loaded up the car and headed home. Cindy gave me instructions on how to conduct bonding sessions, and I followed them to the letter. Sylvie is totally in love with Baxter! There was no aggressive behavior at all between them, and the bonding

Photo: Jane Diamond



Bof.

sessions went smoothly. Baxter likes to let Sylvie do all of the grooming. Sylvie keeps trying to get some "sweet time" from him, but so far she is the one who is doing the work. Nonetheless, they are a bonded couple and enjoy snuggling

up or just being in the company of each other. Rabbit volunteer Mary Christine Basile told me that she has a bonded couple and one of them does all the work, but they are still a couple, so not to worry.

At first Bof was not amused at the addition of the new family member, but after some consultations with Mary Christine, things are going very well. Once again we have peaceful coexistence.

It is now early July, and the "crew" and I are all settled in. Baxter has adjusted to his forever family and surroundings and seems like a very happy guy. I tell him that I don't know what happened before, but I can promise him one thing. I cannot imagine life without Mr. B. He will be spoiled and loved for the rest of his life. That's what bunnies are for.

ADOPTIONS

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 12)

Moose's capricious energy helps her put great words on paper! Moose doesn't only assist his foster parents creatively, but he also has lots of love to give. He likes to curl up under your feet and nudges you until you rub his big ears. When you stop, he thanks you with some bunny kisses before demanding more love. In the presence of those who surrender to his charms, he stretches out, forgetting everything around him. Moose needs space because he loves to binky, which is pretty hilarious considering his size. Moose is very self-confident, chasing his humans around grunting when he's hungry or doesn't want his litter box changed.

Ronan

Ronan is a large hotot/lionhead mix who was found in a park in Brooklyn. This stunning guy is white with dramatic black markings on his ears, thick black eye makeup, and a stripe down his back. Ronan is rather shy – he approaches to sniff you, and then backs away. He will need some socialization, and would probably benefit from a bunny partner.

Tomato

Tomato is an adorable little palomino dwarf boy. He came in with his twin brother, but they were bickering quite a bit, so the decision was made to separate them. Tomato has blond fur, round cheeks, and wide brown eyes. He demonstrates the high energy of youth, eager for exploration and playtime, but he also enjoys affection. Because he's so active and so small, Tomato will need lots of exercise and extra bunny-proofing in his new home.

Margaret and Melba

Margaret and Melba are a bonded pair of sisters and must be adopted together. Margaret is a black-and-white lionhead, and Melba is a silver marten. Margaret is a little snuggle bunny who enjoys lap

(Continued on page 14)



Cadberry.



Lenny.



Babette.



Moose.



Ronan.



Tomato.



Margaret and Melba.

ADOPTIONS

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 13)

time. Melba is a very curious rabbit; she tends to be skittish, but once she trusts you she will come up to you for head rubs. Margaret will need to be brushed once or twice a week so her fur doesn't get matted. Both girls are currently in foster care.

Odette

Odette is a small-to-medium-sized black-and-white sweetheart. This girl can't decide if she's an introvert or an extrovert: she'll hide in her "house" at first, but stick her tiny head out the "window" for head rubs. Before long, she'll emerge from her house to get more substantial petting. Odette is sure to become a love sponge in her forever home. She is white with dramatic black markings on her face and ears and a few black splotches on her body.

Foo

Foo is a small brown male bunny who was neglected by his previous owner – left alone in a dirty cage in a dark basement. In his foster home, Foo likes to roam around in his penned area. He loves to be petted, too, and will even sit on your lap. His foster mom often finds him stretched out on a favorite chair, hoping for some nice neck rubs. Foo enjoys his daily greens and loves to eat fresh veggies right from your hand.



Odette.



Foo.

Moxie

Moxie is a small- to medium-sized female who was very underweight when she first arrived at the shelter. She has a great appetite, though, and is gradually getting back to a healthy weight. Moxie is a beautiful white angora/lionhead mix with pink eyes. She loves head rubs and adores parsley. She quickly learned to use her litter box, and has a very trusting personality. She is in foster care.



Moxie .



Raj.

Raj

Raj is a small-to-medium-sized male bunny who was found on Staten Island. This guy is very handsome: he's jet black with a bit of white on his front feet and his nose, and some flecks of white on his chest area. Raj almost seems to be aware of what a looker he is; he seems to pose at times, and he welcomes petting – but on his terms. His name means "prince," and it suits him. Whoever adopts this guy will be happy to treat him like royalty.

Beatrice, Squeaky and Snowy.



Photo: Jane O'Wyatt

Hats Off to Bunnies!

By Abigail Aldridge

I recently had contacted customer service at Oxbow inquiring what new products they might have for senior/compromised bunnies. I heard back from several helpful people in that department (they are working on some new products; meanwhile, they recommend Critical Care, occasional use of alfalfa products and snacks like Harvest Stacks). Dr. Micah Kohles, the vet in their outreach department, happened to notice on my email that I am a hat designer/milliner so he suggested that I make a rabbit-edible hat to auction for the benefit of rabbit rescue at the upcoming HRS Educators Conference in Missouri in September. Of course, I thought that was a great idea! That project is currently in the works and Oxbow has donated some edible materials.

When this subject came up, I checked online to see what was going on with the conference in terms of an auction. I discovered that in addition to the auction to be held at the HRS Educators Conference, there was a Facebook auction going on in May to raise funds for conference expenses. So I decided to offer one of my regular hats to get into the act ahead of time! As a rabbit adopter since 2001, I am very interested in helping out, and this approach fits into my busy millinery schedule.

Anyone reading this who is interested in donating can contact Bill Velasquez at bill@newmexicohrs.org.

It was fun to watch people bidding on my green lace-up travel hat. The winner was Marla Deann Cook, who has a hat shop in Oklahoma City called Ladies & Gentlemen. I understand she has sold the hat to a customer already. The Facebook auction was a success, making about \$2,750, I believe. I am hoping the edible hat will be well received and later eaten!

Photo: Abigail Aldridge



This hat was auctioned on Facebook.



Volunteers Cindy Stutts, Larry Marion, honoree Marcie Frishberg and Natalie Reeves at the June 27 presentation of a \$1,000 check for use by Rabbit Rescue & Rehab. Boyds Bears awarded the prize to Marcie for her volunteer work.

Polly: Our Agouti with a Booty

By Pete Mulroy

I still remember walking down the stairs of the Union Square Petco and catching my first glimpse of the rabbit who would become one of my dearest friends. Her name was Polly, and she was a big, soft, lopy-eared 5-year-old agouti bunny with a bright white nose. It was love at first sight, and I took her home that same afternoon.

Polly and I were friends and roommates for the next six years, and we shared many adventures together. We moved all over Brooklyn, I got married, and Polly was introduced to my wife's bunnies. Throughout our time together, Polly was the sweetest bun a person could ask for, and she only seemed to get sweeter with age. Polly loved nothing better than to sit with us on the floor for a nice snuggle and petting session.

Late in her life Polly met Bronco, a bold and brash lionhead who swept her off her feet. We had tried to bond Bronco with our little foster bun Sabine, but Sabine was just a little too feisty for him (and not yet spayed). Bronco's favorite activity became lying next to Polly through her pen, and the two hit it off almost immediately when they were introduced. They became inseparable, and it was so nice to see our bunnies happily snuggled up in their hidey house.

Unfortunately, their bond was bittersweet. This past spring Polly developed an upper respiratory infection, likely caused by fluid in her lungs from cancer. While we were able to treat her infection, the fluid in her lungs made her very uncomfortable, and soon we knew it was time to say goodbye to our old friend. Bronco was devastated, and we all spent a few days moping together on

Photos: Pete Mulroy



Polly asleep in her cherished hidey house.

the couch. However, he's now happily bonded to Sabine (who had been spayed at the Humane Society), and I know that the happiness he had with Polly is partly responsible for this new friendship.

I will always miss our little Polly, but I am so grateful that I had the chance to love her and give her a good home, and that she had a chance to love Bronco. Thank you so much to all of the NYC Metro Rabbit and Rabbit Rescue & Rehab volunteers for the adoption work that you do, and for pairing me up with my lovely old bun.



Polly and Bronco.

Charlie: He Was Always a Trooper

By Cindy Stutts

I first laid eyes on Charlie when he came into AC&C in September 2011. A frail little calico Dutchie man, one ear up and the other droopy, his most prominent feature was the missing fur over half of his face. This, no doubt, was due to blocked tear ducts that were never flushed. In fact, his entire appearance was one of neglect.

Knowing he could not stay at the shelter, I had him put into a foster home. I soon found out the extent of his problems and it confirmed my worst fears. His teeth were a mess and there were signs of deeper dental disease. The miracle was that he was eating at all, despite what must have been a lot of pain.

We trimmed his teeth, flushed his ducts and started him on daily pen G shots. He thrived in foster care and was eventually adopted by Loraine Kopf as a friend for her Abbie, who had just lost her partner, Ariel.

Last May, I got a phone call from Loraine asking me to take over Charlie's care because she was going into the hospital. Abbie had since died and Charlie had no one to keep his eyes clean, and he was back on Pen G shots for a jaw abscess. So I brought that little man home and was able to bond him quickly to my Rosa and Neville.

Over the past year, as more issues came up, Charlie was always the trooper. Never did he fight treatments. I think he knew I was trying to help him. On his last day, I gave him his treatments and packed him in his carrier to have a jaw abscess drained. The abscess didn't seem to be resolving itself as had been the case in the past. Something told me I would not see him again. When I saw

Photos: Jane O'Wyatt



Charlie at AC&C, Sept. 2011.

that Dr. George was calling me that afternoon, I knew he was gone.

Gone, but never to be forgotten.

Charlie's Last X-Ray

By Laura George, DVM

This skull radiograph was taken the day of Charlie's jaw abscess surgery. Charlie's severe dental condition is referred to as "End Stage Acquired Dental Disease." Charlie suffered from multiple molar, premolar, and incisor root deformities resulting in malocclusion of his cheek teeth. Note the retained fractured roots of his upper incisors and of several of his maxillary (upper) and mandibular (lower) cheek teeth. Also present are several areas consistent with "periapical abscessation" (tooth root abscesses).



In addition, there are several darker or "radiolucent" areas which are commonly associated with osteomyelitis, where the bone has been eroded due to bacterial infection. Many of the brighter white areas are referred to as "irregular bone calcification," which was Charlie's body's way of counteracting the abnormal bone resorption consistent with his long-term dental disease. Also, note that most of the bottom edge of Charlie's mandible had eroded away, causing him to live with a very unstable jaw. Everyone who saw this X-ray agreed that it was a true miracle Charlie ate as well as he did for as long as he did.

Letters From Adopters

Tandy

Michele adopted Tandy in early June and sent this update a short time afterward.

My daughter and I welcomed Tandy to the family on June 8. We first learned about Tandy after a visit to the Union Square Petco during Maddie's Adoption Days. Tandy lived at Petco for at least six months or longer. After meeting her, I could not understand why she had gone so long without a home.

Marcie and Thea were wonderful with finalizing the adoption. They answered my questions and connected me to a volunteer in Staten Island, Cathy Zelonis, to assist us in learning more about Tandy and to answer questions about her care. It took Tandy some time to get used to her new home, but she is adjusting. We spent the first couple of weeks building her trust and allowing her to get used to us.

Tandy definitely has a quirky little personality. In the last couple of weeks

Photo: Michelle Davis



Tandy.

we learned a lot about Tandy. She absolutely does not want her things moved (hide box, toys, etc...)! If you move her things, she will move her things back, with attitude. It's actually interesting to see her slide things back to where she thinks her things should be. She also likes to give us a friendly nose bump indicating she wants attention.

While Tandy is still adjusting to us and her new home, she is having a good time keeping her things in their proper place.

Michele

Photo: Alicia Petrozzino



Leona.

Leona

Alicia adopted Leona in mid-April. Leona now has her own Instagram link.

Hey! I just wanted to fill you in on how Leona's been doing. When I first adopted her, she was very afraid and aggressive, but with patience and love she's been nothing but an angel.

Now she's a free-rein bunny in my room, and she uses her litter box. I hand-feed her and sometimes she lets me cuddle with her (without running away). lol. Thank you so much for everything. I honestly couldn't be happier, and Leona is staying with me for the rest of her life. :) Also, if you'd like to take a look, I made an Instagram for her, so there are lots of pictures and videos I post of her weekly.

<http://instagram.com/leonalovely>

Thanks again!

Alicia

Maxine

Annette Riad has been fostering Maxine and now plans to adopt her.

I had recently lost my dear rabbit, Ramses, after nine years. He and I bonded almost instantly. He was truly my little loving companion. I am happy that I was with him when he took his last breath.

My daughter, Sherry Riad, who volunteers with NYC Metro Rabbits, suggested that I foster a bunny because I was looking for a furry companion and there were so many buns in need of foster homes. When she first told me about Maxine, a baby Dutch rabbit who had one of her legs amputated, I was hesitant. I didn't know if I could handle her.

As soon as I held Maxine, I knew she was mine. She is so sweet and cuddly. She runs and plays like any other four-legged rabbit. She loves to be held and

Photo: Sherry Riad



Maxine.

have her little nose rubbed. I am adopting Maxine, my sweet, adorable tripod! Can't wait to make it official!

Annette Riad

Toki

Kate, who adopted Toki as a partner for Shelby, sent us this letter in July.

Toki (who was previously called Moca), has become a real joy in our lives over the past six months as he continues to

(Continued on page 19)

Photo: Kate Baluyeva



Toki and Shelby.

come out of his shell. He started out extremely skittish when he was surprised or approached. As we patiently got to know him, he slowly began to understand that we love him and would never hurt him (and that we are also the bringers of food). We understood that it would take time and patience to earn his trust, especially since he had moved so much in his short life, so we let him dictate how fast our relationship would grow. After all, he not only had to leave his previous owner, but also went to AC&C, to Pets Alive, and finally to us – where he will stay until the end.

With patience, he not only stopped his vocal and slightly aggressive behavior, but began to seek out our attention and affection. Now, Toki spends most of his time either cuddling with his girlfriend, Shelby, or soliciting pets from us. He is perfectly content staying up on the bed with me for hours at a time, lying next to my leg and getting forehead kisses and cheek scratches. He has a few silly quirks that make him super adorable. He tries to get pets from our feet, likes to chew shoes, and licks our clothes. He also seems to think that he's a squirrel, and climbs anything he can.

It took him over two months to fully bond with Shelby, who was with me for two years before I got Toki, but now that they have bonded, they are almost always glued to each other. Wherever she goes, he goes. Watching them groom each

other and lie flopped next to each other all day is the sweetest sight in the world.

Toki's amazing personality continues to show more and more every day. He is active, playful, boisterous and sweet, and is a real joy to have in our home. He is incredibly intelligent, and uses his smarts to manipulate everything and get into things. He has become an excellent eater, and absolutely loves his Timothy hay, parsley and dandelion greens particularly. I continue to get to know him, and will hopefully spend the next 10 years or more in his company!

Kate Baluyeva

Photo: Michelle Williams



Benny fka Motin.

Motin

Motin was adopted by Michelle and Abe at the Maddie's pet adoption event at the end of May. They sent this update in mid-June.

We decided to change Motin's name. He is now Bunnydict Cumberbun (aka Benny). Benny was very shy when we first brought him home. But after a few hours in his huge four-story cage, he was running up and down all the levels and claiming all of his stuff with vigor.

We spend a little time brushing him every day and now he has gotten to the point where he greets us as we approach. I have found he likes to be scratched behind the ears and he gives me a little teeth chatter when I do. He is crazy about cilantro!

As he's gotten more comfortable in our house, we now realize Benny is not so much shy; he's just got attitude. He definitely has put our cats in their place. He's not afraid of them at all and has even bumped noses with several of them. When he's not in the mood for company, he gives them a big stomp and the cats run away.

Benny is also very determined to win the prize for world messiest cage. He dumps everything over, moves his house, litter box, toys, etc. It's actually pretty funny to watch him try to dump the food bowl attached to his cage door.

After a particularly long day, he was sitting on the couch next to me and I fell asleep, only to find when I awoke that he was lying in my hair and on my head. I'm guessing that means he's accepted me.

In closing, we just adore Benny so much. We love his personality and like that he has a little bit of an attitude. Thanks so much for the opportunity to give this wonderful little guy a home. It was great meeting everyone at the adoption event and everyone has been so extremely informative and helpful!

Kind Regards,
Michelle and Abe
(Proud Bunny Parents)

(Continued on page 20)



Don't miss the first-ever national HRS Rabbit Conference in St Louis, Mo. See details at end of this issue!

Lady Bug and Doc

Adrienne adopted Lady Bug in March 2012, and Doc (formerly known as Sheldon) was adopted in May of this year.

Adrienne adopted Lady Bug (Silver Marten Dwarf mix) in March of 2012, and it was love at first sight. Fast forward two years, and Lady Bug and Adrienne moved into a bigger place and got another roommate (a human one). It was a trio: Adrienne, Lady Bug and Diego.

In early 2014 we decided that Lady Bug needed a boyfriend, too. We were connected to Mary Christine Basile, our rabbit guardian angel, who started the process of getting LB a friend.

An Ewok-looking Lionhead bun who had previously been a show rabbit (he has “B1” tattooed on the inside of his ear), Sheldon was rescued from a horrific outdoor hutch filled with cat litter, no hay, and some unidentified dead animal pelt. After Sheldon’s vet visit, we realized his pupils hadn’t fully developed, so he is a bit blind. But that didn’t stop us from wanting to give him a forever home.

Sheldon spent another month with his foster parents (the fantastic Bethany Angell and her husband) after he was neutered. Finally, three months after we began the process of finding a match, Sheldon was ours.

The initial meeting between the two rabbits involved a lot of ignoring, and as anyone who has bonded bunnies knows, this is a good sign! We brought Sheldon, now nicknamed Doc for his Dr. Seuss moustache, home on May 2, and the bonding began. At the start, the bunnies were living side by side in neighboring cages, separated by a heavy textbook. This was to allow both bunnies to see and smell each other, without being able to push their cages closer and risk unsupervised physical contact. We “swapped cages” every night, allowing them to get used to living in a space that smelled, or “belonged” to the other rabbit.



Doc and Lady Bug.

We began daily supervised mini-dates for the first few weeks, starting with 30 seconds, and eventually building up to 5 minutes. Every mini-date was accompanied by lots of praise and pets, and we had an oven mitt handy in order to intervene if there were signs of aggression. Eventually, after a few weeks, we let the buns loose in the living room for short periods of shared playtime. Under watchful human eyes, the bunnies investigated their area, and each other. Three weeks after we brought Doc home, the bunnies were inseparable.

LB loves to groom Doc’s hairy head and Doc follows her around everywhere. Every day, Doc gets a little more trusting of his humans. Initially he would cower and pee when we came near him. He has now learned that humans usually have a tasty treat hidden somewhere, and that human pets are almost as nice as ones from his bunfriend.

We are incredibly grateful to Mary Christine for all of her patience, guidance and humor as we navigated the bonding progress, and to Bethany for taking such amazing care of Doc as a foster bun. We are thrilled about our two happy, healthy, house bunnies!

Adrienne and Diego



Simba and Nala.

Nala and Simba

Nala, formerly known as Thelma, is a blind girl bunny who was adopted as a partner for Simba.

My fiancé and I fell in love with Thelma as soon as we saw her picture. We knew she had a tough life and wanted to give her a loving home, with Simba as a guide bunny.

It was love at first sight for Simba on their first date, and we decided to name her Nala after bringing her home. For two weeks, Simba kept desperately trying to get Nala’s attention through the gate, not realizing that she was blind. Nala was nervous on their dates as Simba was overly affectionate, and we were worried it wouldn’t work out.

One morning, I woke up to see Simba on Nala’s side of the living room. He had jumped up onto the couch and down again on Nala’s side, just to see her. It appeared that they worked everything out that night, and have been inseparable ever since.

They are actually quite romantic. No matter what kind of crazy sleeping position they are in, they always make sure they are touching. She even tilts her head to give him a kiss on the mouth. Although Nala is blind, she is extremely brave, jumping to and from the couch on her own. Our favorite moments are when she flops over or binkies because it lets us know she’s happy in her new home. She has been the perfect addition to our family.

Thanks,
Meleena

CELEBRITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Rudy, Puddles and Rusty in front of the fridge.



Juliet and Romeo.



Thea and Temple.



Bun Bun.



Bella and Tracy.



Cottontail.



Pebbles.



Romeo.



Bruno.



Anabelle.



Cotton and Amelia.

Protesting the Decision of Whole Foods Market to Sell Rabbit Meat



Rabbit rescue volunteers and adopters joined others in an Aug. 17 nationwide protest against Whole Foods Market, which has begun selling rabbit meat in some stores. The Union Square demonstration was an effort to educate the public and generate support. For more information, go to <http://rabbit.org>. Contact Marcie Frishberg, mfrish57bun@yahoo.com, to learn about a call-in campaign, <http://rabbit.org/join-the-whole-foods-call-in/>. Photos: Larry Marion and Natalie Reeves.

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

The Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine
568 Columbus Ave., New York, NY 10024
(212) 501-8750

Shachar Malka, DVM

Humane Society of New York
306 East 59th St., New York, NY 10022
(212) 752-4842

Westchester County:

Gil Stanzione, DVM

Dakota Veterinary Center
381 Dobbs Ferry Road, White Plains, NY 10607
(914) 421-0020

Laurie Hess, DVM

Veterinary Center for Birds and Exotics
709 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507
(914) 864-1414

Licensed HRS Representatives

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Nancy Schreiber, HRS Licensed Educator, President, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, nschreibmd@aol.com, (516) 510-3637, LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

Cindy Stutts, HRS Licensed Educator, Manager NYC Metro Rabbit Program, bygolyoly@yahoo.com, (646) 319-4766, nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com

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THUMP August 2014

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS
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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.

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.

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.

HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY



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HRS Educational Conference: Taking Rabbit Knowledge to a Higher Level

Mar 8, 2014 by [HRS](#)



House Rabbit Society's first ever Educator Conference, *Taking Rabbit Knowledge to a Higher Level*, will be held  [Print](#) **September 27-28, 2014** (to coincide with [International Rabbit Day!](#)) at the [Humane Society of Missouri](#). The conference is hosted by [St. Louis House Rabbit Society](#), and is being organized by the [HRS Conference Committee](#).

All House Rabbit Society Educators are invited and the cost is free for them. For others, please check the [registration form](#) for information on costs. There will be a charge for meals for all attendees.

Speakers include Carolynn Harvey, DVM, Susan Brown, DVM, Micah Kohles, DVM, Peter Fisher, DVM, Avery Bennett, DVM, Anthony Pilny, DVM, Marinell Harriman, Margo

DeMello, PhD, Joy Gioia, Marlene Larkin, MS, Diane McClure, DVM, Debby Widolf, Dana Krempels, PhD, Mary Cotter, EdD, LVT, Nancy LaRoche, Dawn Sailer, MS, Susan Smith, PhD, George Flentke, PhD, and Anne Martin, PhD. (Bios for the speakers can be found [here](#))

The first national education conference, *Taking Rabbit Knowledge to a Higher Level*, sponsored by the House Rabbit Society and held in St. Louis, MO on Sept. 27-28, 2014 has currently requested RACE approval. This program has been submitted (but not yet approved) for 14 hours of continuing education credit in jurisdictions which recognize AAVSB RACE approval; however participants should be aware that some boards have limitations on the number of hours accepted in certain categories and/or restrictions on certain methods of delivery of continuing education. Call Joy Gioia, [314-995-1457](tel:314-995-1457) and leave a message for further information. Due to overlapping classes, the maximum credit any individual may earn over the two day conference is 12 CE. RACE Provider Name: House Rabbit Society; RACE Provider Number: 894.

To see the schedule of events, visit the [schedule page](#).

To find out about getting to St. Louis, where to stay and what to eat, visit the [lodgings page](#).



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To find out details on each class, visit the [classes page](#).

To find out about sightseeing in the St. Louis area, visit the [St. Louis information page](#).

To find out about the vendors who will be attending, visit the [vendors page](#).

Would you like to [buy a rabbit veterinary medicine textbook](#), for pickup at the conference?

To find out about the lunches on Saturday and Sunday, visit the [Lunches page](#), and to find out about the Saturday evening dinner and program (HRS reps, speakers, and families only), visit the [Dinner page](#).

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY – SPACE IS LIMITED TO 200! (As of July 14, we are at 156 registrants.)

Use [this form to register](#) and use [this page to pay for meals and any non-educator attendees](#).

This will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet other HRS educators and the leadership of House Rabbit Society, including House Rabbit Society founder Marinell Harriman, and as a bonus, we will be visiting the new shelter owned by St. Louis HRS!

If you are interested in making a donation to help support the cost of this conference, [please click here](#). If you'd like to find out about sponsorships, being a vendor at the conference, or advertising in the conference program, including placing a small memorial ad in memory of your rabbit, please email [Margo DeMello](#).

House Rabbit Society is grateful to have the sponsorship of the following generous and amazing companies and organizations:



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