

# T U J M P

NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS JUNE 2015

## A Milestone: New York City Bans Sale of Rabbits by Pet Stores

By Natalie L. Reeves

Forget about buying a rabbit at a New York City pet store. A ban on the sale of rabbits by pet stores was passed by the New York City Council last year, and it became Local Law 5 of 2015 without the mayor's signature. The ban went into effect at the beginning of June.

Rescue groups may continue to adopt out rabbits in pet stores and at the Animal Care & Control shelter, and, unfortunately, rabbits may still be sold by breeders, individuals and slaughter markets.

New York City joins San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Diego and other

cities in banning the sale of rabbits in pet stores. San Francisco was the first major city to do so, prohibiting such sales more than 30 years ago, because of the correlation between Easter and the impulse purchases of rabbits. Bans in other cities have largely been enacted during the past five years.

Just a few years ago, obtaining this pet-store sales ban seemed unlikely. Former New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn killed most substantive animal welfare legislation introduced in the City Council, and the topic became

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Photo: Susan Lillo



Scarlett and Crystal.

## How a Ballerina Named Scarlett Hopped Into My Life

By Crystal Dombrow

I first reached out to NYC Metro Rabbits in January to see if a bunny would be a good little companion for me. I've had animals since I was little and desperately missed having someone with me in my NYC apartment. I saw Scarlett (then named Cocoa) on the adoptable rabbits page and wanted to meet her. She looked so tiny and adorable!

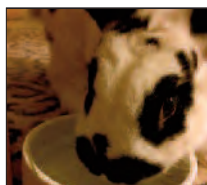
The next week, I stopped by the 86th Street Petco and saw her hopping around her pen. The volunteers let me sit in with her, and I immediately fell in love

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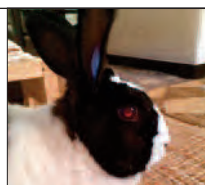
Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Herman (minus front teeth) deconstructs a willow ball at Petco Union Square.



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Masthead photo illustration by Mary Ann Maier, with photos by Ruby Gu.

Ruby and Joe's rescue bunnies, Toffee and S'mores, have graced this space before. Mary Ann loves working with them because of their "delightfully disapproving" faces!

## Milestone *(Continued from page 1)*

a political issue in the mayoral election. Ms. Quinn's loss in the mayoral race and departure from the council meant that animal-friendly legislation finally had a chance.

With new City Council members pledging to consider animal-related proposals, I believed the best step for helping rabbits was to find the right vehicle and attach an amendment. Before I'd gone to law school, I'd worked as an aide to the late Gov. Lawton Chiles of Florida, and I understood that getting legislators to spend their time on a law specifically relating to rabbits would be an uphill battle. Chances of getting a ban on rabbit sales passed would be much greater if we could lobby for an amendment to a legislative proposal that already had support.

That opportunity finally came in early 2014 when a package of bills was proposed in the City Council with the primary purpose of protecting dogs and cats sold in pet stores. New York City could not institute an outright ban on the sale of dogs and cats as other cities had done, because the state prohibits municipalities from doing so. Rabbit advocates like me are often annoyed when rabbits are forgotten in the law, but in this case the omission of rabbits in the state statute was an oversight that worked to their benefit.

The pet-store legislative package that was proposed in the City Council in early 2014 didn't include a ban on the sale of rabbits, but would have required rabbits sold in pet stores to be spayed or neutered prior to sale. Most activists were thrilled with the proposal, so I drew some ire when I opposed the bill in my testimony before the council.

The initial draft of the bill had been written by those who didn't understand the potential deadly consequences of requiring pet stores to surgically alter baby bunnies. Most rabbits sold in pet stores are too young to be safely spayed or neutered, especially by a veterinarian

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Kelly copes with heat at Union Square Petco.

lacking special expertise in the area. Rabbit-savvy vets generally recommend waiting until a female rabbit is at least 5-6 months old for this surgery.

Male rabbits may be neutered at around 4 months, but pet stores generally sell younger animals. According to the USDA's U.S. Rabbit Industry Profile, "[c]ommercially produced pet rabbits are most often sold through pet stores and are often requested at four weeks of age. Older rabbits are not as desirable..."

After I voiced opposition to the spay/neuter proposal, I met with other advocates to discuss whether revising the language to require that rabbits be a minimum age before being altered would fix the problems in the bill. I said that I still would not support it. I did not believe it would in practice be done safely, but importantly, I wasn't willing to settle. If the council passed the bill with a spay/neuter requirement for rabbits, I believed that would be it: We'd never again get the opportunity to have the full ban other municipalities had passed.

I thought advocates should play hardball. If the lawmakers in Albany had unintentionally neglected to include rabbits in the state law relating to how municipalities could regulate pet stores, then the rabbits should benefit from their mistake. There was no legal reason that the council could not ban the sale of rabbits, something I explained in the first hearing to council members. They were surprised because they had not homed in on the fact that they were only pre-empted from enacting a ban on the sales of dogs and cats, not other animals.

New York City's bunnies were also fortunate that the lobbyists who showed up at the council hearings to testify were riled up about the additional reporting requirements they would have with respect to pet-store sales of dogs and cats, and consequently they didn't focus on the rabbit ban issue. Neither, frankly, did most of the lawmakers. At the press conference announcing the passage of the pet store legislation, neither of the sponsors of the legislation mentioned

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## A Ballerina Named Scarlett

*(Continued from page 1)*

with her. She was unusually social and confident for a rabbit; she hopped right up to me and sniffed me, hopped on my lap, and ran around me for the two hours I sat with her.

More than that, it felt like she had an old soul. The volunteers told me she was abandoned by her first family as a baby and left outside to fend for herself. She came to NYC Metro Rabbits severely emaciated and sick from living outside and eating only the carrots a neighbor was giving her, but she pulled through. That little fighting spirit is alive and well in her.

Photo: Crystal Dombrow



Scarlett at home.

Scarlett also has an angular limb deformity (probably from malnutrition as a baby bun), and her two front paws turn out at a 90-degree angle like a little ballerina. That was a sign that she was meant for me, because I'm a longtime classical ballet dancer.

I visited her again the next day at Petco. We played together, and she did something I'd never seen a bunny do! She flopped around my leg, rolling on her back like a little puppy and falling asleep right next to me. Susan, the volunteer that day, said they hadn't seen her do that for anyone yet. She was so sweet and so calming to be around. I came back every day for a week to sit with her for at least an hour each time, pretty sure that she would be my little bunny.

I had upcoming surgery that month and wasn't sure I could take her home for a few weeks. After I finally decided to commit to her, the volunteers kindly put her in foster care until I could take her home.

Ever since the night Scarlett came home with me, she's been incredible. She adjusted very quickly to my apartment, using her litter box impeccably and loving her condo. She's been flopping for me at least twice a day, and usually more. We have breakfast together every morning and watch TV together at night (She loves watching "Sons of Anarchy"). She even hops onto the couch or my bed to cuddle. Sometimes she thinks she's a cat and will sit next to me on the couch armrests, or hops onto the couch back pillows. She's a riot!

Scarlett crawls in my lap and falls asleep either on me or right next to me every day. She follows me around the apartment and likes to "participate" in everything I'm doing, like sitting next to me while I'm folding laundry or doing dishes. She quickly figured out that her salads live in the fridge, and she hops to a carpet spot directly across from the fridge and stares at it every time I open it now.

She doesn't like it when I'm on my laptop and not paying attention to her. She'll jump on the couch and then sit on the keyboard until I put the laptop away. It's adorable how smart she is. She reminds me of a little dog; anytime I'm eating something, I have to keep it away from the floor, or she tries to gobble up a few bites. I learned the hard way with potato chips, a turkey sandwich and a grilled cheese she tried to snatch away from me. Meanwhile, Scarlett has been devouring her hay and greens. She's now a healthy 3.5 pounds, healed from her past mistreatment.

Wanting to let her be a free-range bun, I slowly started increasing the amount of space she could have in my apartment. I got her a puppy playpen and expanded it to the size of my living room before letting her be free-range. When I was sick at home one week last month, I slept in the living room with her and saw how well she'd adjusted to the apartment. Aside from occasionally nibbling the couch, she only chewed on her toys (she loves the cardboard toilet paper rolls).

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Milestone *(Continued from page 2)*

rabbits, nor did most of the representatives from big animal-welfare organizations who gave speeches.

Most of the time, I fight for rabbits to be given more attention, but in this case, I think that the way the animal-community-at-large ignored rabbits actually worked to our benefit. While

rescuers are certainly grateful that New York City pet stores will no longer be adding to the shelter overpopulation problem, we must be cautious about anticipating a large drop in the number of the city's homeless rabbits. Indeed, Los Angeles hasn't yet seen a substantial difference since it passed a ban, although

it hasn't been long enough to draw any significant conclusions.

Rabbit breeders still have plenty of venues to sell or give away their bunnies, so please continue to spread the word about the wonderful rabbits available for adoption at Manhattan Animal Care & Control and through NYC Metro Rabbit.

## Volunteer Spotlight

*Zhen Heinemann is a rabbit lover and volunteer with Rabbit Rescue & Rehab.*

### Zhen Heinemann

Zhen Heinemann has been an AC&C volunteer since September 2011. She answered the questions below:

#### *What first brought you to RRR?*

I happened to walk into an UWS pet store and saw a “free rabbit” and immediately fell in love. She had been dumped at the pet store (one that sold rabbits) when her human had a baby. I called my husband; he met her; we claimed COW as our housemate and after two days of rabbit proofing the house and getting supplies, we went and picked her up on Wednesday and took her home. I immediately made her a vet

Photo: Zhen Heinemann



Zhen with COW.

appointment at the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine (CAEM) for a checkup and spay on the upcoming Monday. We slowly gave her more hours and freedom in the house under our watch as we got used to each other. She was exhibiting some nesting behavior. I

was doing hours of rabbit research a day and was trying to convince myself and my husband that this was a false pregnancy due to stress and hormones. Then one morning at 7 a.m. when I let her out for her morning hanging out she went right to her hay box without her normal curious house check. She was there for about two minutes and came out right as my husband came home from a run. I started to explain to him what I thought was peculiar and as I did the hay box made noise. COW wasn't in it. I cried. My husband got a bit mad. And I told him to put gloves on and check it out. Two tiny peanut rabbit babies were in there!

We were nervous about when they would be old enough to make more rabbits as

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### A Ballerina Named Scarlett *(Continued from page 3)*

Photo: Robert Kulka



Scarlett at Petco, 86th Street.

Scarlett appreciates the extra space she gets to run around in, and enjoys sleeping on the living room carpet during the day. She's been a very happy, free-range bun. She flops and binkies her little heart out when I'm home with her, so I know she loves the extra space. It's our

apartment together now, so she deserves to enjoy her share of our home.

Scarlett likes her little wood-chip toys, and loves the twine I hang from her condo for her to chew! I noticed that she tried to eat a tan shoelace off a pair of my shoes one day, and that twine looks identical. So she chews all the twine her little heart desires now. She seems very happy with her toys, including a cardboard box full of paper shredding (which she removes from the box and meticulously rearranges in a circle) and a bunny tunnel. She loves the “landscape” of my living room, scurrying under the furniture and around the many floor pillows.

I named her “Scarlett Hunter” because she's so charming, feminine and sweet, like a little Southern Belle. “Scarlett” is also part of the title of one of my favorite Grateful Dead songs (“Scarlet Begonias”) and her middle name, “Hunter,” is an homage to the longtime renowned lyricist/song writer for the Grateful Dead, Robert Hunter. And

funny enough, true to her name, Scarlett flops, cuddles and falls immediately asleep anytime I play Grateful Dead music, and ONLY when I play Grateful Dead music. She even gets jumpy and nudges me to change the tunes when I play classical music, but not the Grateful Dead!

I leave my bedroom door open at night for her to cuddle with me when she wants to. I think she's getting used to my daily routine, because every morning when my alarm goes off, she hops onto my bed and jumps all over me to “help” wake me up, sometimes relaxing to cuddle while I hit the “snooze” button. When I get out of bed, she hops right to the fridge, waiting for her breakfast salad. It's absolutely precious!

She's been a joy and such a sweetheart to live with, and I'm so happy I get to share my life with her. It's so nice to come home to her every day, and such a pleasure that she looks so happy living with me. I'm honored to give her a happy, loving, forever home.

**Volunteer** (Continued from page 4)

the spay/neuter cost of rabbits is high (higher by about 300% compared with dogs and cats). I reached out to Mary Cotter and she and Cindy Stutts helped us sex the babies and get our little Deedle neutered at ACC (and Suji was spayed at CAEM under a \$99 new-client special). Ever since then we've been a happy household of five. (I did go back to the pet store and asked about how COW got pregnant and the manager said, "Oh, no, that was a boy rabbit." He was convinced that COW was male and told me that he had put her in a cage with another rabbit while they were at the store and thought it was funny that the other rabbit kept humping her.)

*What keeps you coming back as a regular volunteer?*

COW is the best. She's so smart, sweet, fun, beautiful, a bit lazy and trusting. Without her I wouldn't have been able to get through some days that first year she came into our lives; she's my best friend and I will groom her forever. I want to celebrate her by giving some love, time and care to other homeless bunnies and to help them get prepared for their new forever homes.

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

No more bunny sales in pet stores starting this summer! Backyard rabbit hordes saved! A LOT more education about rabbits on TV (not buying for Easter and about adoption)!

*Tell us about your own rabbits.*

COW is the own in charge and is twice as big as the babies (they aren't babies anymore – they will be six this summer). She's an English Spot mix and is so smart and sweet and will take rubs from me anytime. She comes when I call her name and has great litter-box skills (except when she digs in the box and kicks the litter out onto the floor). She's our second-place binkier and her binkies and runs are funny because she lumbers a bit (she's not overweight; she's just big and

Photos: Zhen Heilmann



Deedle and Suji.

not very graceful). She loves to bunch, be groomed, tear cardboard and eat!

COW has informed the babies that she is the one who should get all the pets, so we have to sneak pets on the babies, or else we can expect COW to come run interference if we are petting the little ones.

Suji is our baby girl and we also call her Bougie. She's a gorgeous (even has a Marilyn mark on her cheek), sassy troublemaker who will push you or dig you if you're in her way and she's my husband's girlfriend. She's the one that will pee outside the litter box and knock over your cup of water, maybe even while you're watching her. She is fancy, lovely, graceful and strong-willed.

Deedle is our resident bunny athlete. He is the best dancer and speedy obstacle course runner. He's also the most skittish of the buns; he will rarely allow for more than one or two quick pets on his head. He's very handsome (his vet once said that he is the best-looking bun he had ever seen) and he is meticulously clean. He's grey and white and the other two are black and white. He is the protector.

They are all free-range buns but mostly reside in Bunnytopia, our living room, and in their adored cardboard apartments!

*What would your rabbit tell us his/her favorite thing to do with you is?*

COW – be groomed/massaged for long sessions

SUJI – to get away with busting up something she shouldn't be



Deedle in back, COW in middle and Suji on right.

DEEDLE – telling us what needs fixing (water bottle empty! Hay low!)

*What is your day job/profession?*

I'm the director of public programming for Summer on the Hudson in District 14 along the West Side of Manhattan. Come by May-September for free fun outdoor events!

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

Join in, but don't do it just because you think the rabbits are cute. Do your rabbit research and be prepared to touch a lot of poop.

*What are your best tips for new bunny parents?*

Use resources to do lots of research and learn everything you can about rabbits (<http://www.rabbitcare.org/> and [I love language.rabbitspeak.com](http://Ilove-language.rabbitspeak.com)). Also, get down on their level and interact with them. Your will is not necessarily the will of other living beings.

*What is your favorite memory from your volunteer work?*

Watching the anxious or ill bunnies evolve to being happy as they are well-cared-for.

*What do you like to do when you aren't volunteering?*

I go to work and I create interactive performance art.

*What inspires you?*

Analogue beauty. Aged things. Magic moments. Theatre magic.

## Angels Among Us

By Robert Kulka

Since the day over 12 years ago that I had a rabbit dropped at my doorstep, I have often said that the bunnies are our guardian angels. So many times when a day was rough, I was feeling ill or just down on everything, my Skip and now, Lara, have been there, ready to make it all okay. They would comfort me, cheer me up and make me laugh, or just give me purpose, and take my mind off the daily trials.

In the past four years I have come to realize there are other angels all about me. And that is you! You, the volunteers, the fosterers, the adopters and the ones who care and support the cause. You, who speak up for and protect the bunnies.

The stories of these sweet bunnies are often hard to hear and nearly impossible to comprehend: Bunnies starved and neglected to the point of barely breathing; rabbits injured and tortured and unable to move, let alone hop and run. They are mauled and left to die. They are surrendered and left without love. They are kept in horrible conditions. Most recently we saw well over a hundred left to survive outside during a harsh and unforgiving winter. How do you see and hear these things every day and not want to close your eyes and ears to it? How many are out there that we don't hear about, simply left to die alone and frightened?

Helping a few – finding homes for them, helping to nurse some of them back to a trusting and adoptable condition – is hard work. It takes many hands and hearts to mend these innocents. We check in on them, fight for them and sit up half the night with them and nurse them. Sometimes we simply hold them so they know a brief moment of love before they give up and find peace. And each time we lose one to the ravages they have suffered, we can almost lose sight of all the work being done – because we cannot save them all.

Photos: Robert Kulka



Dutchie & Brownie.



Cupcake.

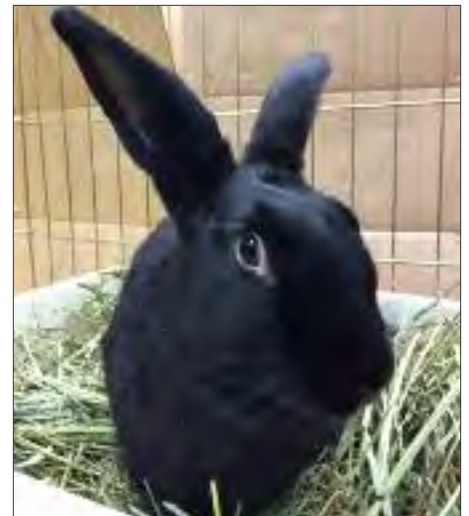
So I want to honor all of you. Tired and exhausted and giving till your hearts burst. We neglect our families and our own little ones at times. We open our homes and our wallets to try to make a difference. We shed quiet tears for them. At times we even neglect ourselves while we do what needs to be done.

Let me just cite a few things that may help put it all in perspective so we can understand the difference we make each day.

As NYC Metro/Rabbit Rescue & Rehab we have saved, nurtured and loved countless bunnies. Those we have lost knew love and care in their final moments. We have educated the public, and seen the growth of more rabbit-savvy medical understanding and treatment in the New York City area. We have extended our efforts to include causes and rescues beyond our immediate responsibility. In twenty years we have grown to be a



Frieda.



Cadberry.

team of nearly 100 volunteers working with over 300 rabbits each year. We have a solid social network. And the best thing of all is that we are not just there for the bunnies; we support each other.

That's a lot to feel great about. Do we and can we save each and every rabbit that needs our help? Unfortunately, no. As wonderful as that would be, that may never be the case.

Have we made a huge difference? Oh yes, we have. That is something we each must hold on to and remember each time we think we aren't doing enough or when we need to let go of a sweet soul that crosses the rainbow bridge.

I think you all deserve a round of applause for all you do and all the love you show. So take a moment now and give yourself a round of applause.

**ADOPTIONS**

**Adoptapalooza!**

Our rabbits were among the stars at the Adoptapalooza on Sunday, May 31, at the Union Square Petco. The event was sponsored by the Mayor’s Alliance for NYC’s Animals, and featured many adoption activities and information booths. Rescue groups from throughout the city participated. Rabbit Rescue & Rehab/NYC Metro Rabbits had a booth in Union Square Park and adoptable rabbits inside the Petco store. It was a fun, productive day for the volunteers and rabbits.

Photos: Meho Honda



Sign outside of Union Square Petco store.



Kelly.



Two of Marcie Frishberg’s baby foster bunnies.



Herman.

Photo: Jane O’Wyatt



Greta



Mona.



Miss Nibbles.

**Forever Homes Found!**

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Snoopy, Gunther, Lola, Ashlynn, Flash, Alba, Pepito, Jess, Celeste, Pancho, Bugzi, Simba, Coffee, Guiseppe, Allena, Aslan, Holly, Theodore, Bamboo, Thumper, Snowball, Bugz, Isobel, Booboo, Greta, Peter, Dickenson.



Arthur.

## We Are Looking for Loving Homes

Written and compiled by Kirsten Ott

### Nylah Nicole

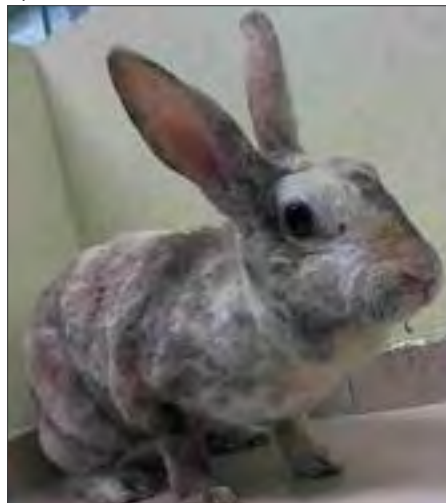
Nylah Nicole is a small to medium-sized black helicopter lop who was found in Queens Village. This darling girl is clearly on the young side, and may be an abandoned Easter bunny. She seems traumatized by her recent experience, and is still rather skittish. Adorable little Nylah Nicole deserves much better than what she's been dealt in her short life so far. She'll need a good home where she can gradually learn to trust people.



Nylah Nicole.

### Roxanne

Roxanne is a large Harlequin/Rex mix found in someone's yard in Queens. This girl has an unusual, very striking coat – it's a combination of pale cream and two shades of brown – a lean face, and a sweet little dewlap. She has a funny way of rushing up to you rather suddenly when she wants attention, and she absolutely adores being petted.



Roxanne.

### Evelyn

Evelyn is a medium-sized orange and white Dutch girl. This delicate bunny is probably on the young side. Her big round eyes seem to take up the entirety of her diminutive face, and she has pretty, slender legs. The Dutch triangle on her face is cutely off center! Evelyn is a little unsure around new people, but will approach you gingerly and curiously.



Evelyn.

### Leon

Leon is a medium-sized brown Lionhead-lop mix. He's not quite a special-needs rabbit, but is kind of borderline. When he arrived at the shelter, he had a rather persistent upper respiratory infection. It has cleared up, but he will have to be monitored in case it recurs. Also, his litter-box skills aren't very good, so he'll need a large habitat area with multiple litter boxes, and his habitat will have to be cleaned regularly. Finally, his incisors are not aligned perfectly – but he doesn't

have malocclusion, and he has no trouble eating. Leon will need to be adopted by a financially stable household, as he is likely to need more than the usual amount of vet care. And since he doesn't have the best litter-box habits, he also



Leon.



Imani.

will need a very patient caretaker. Otherwise, he's adorable in all of his lop-Lionhead glory, is very active, and has a healthy appetite.

### Imani

Imani is a large gray female lop in her senior years. She still eats regularly and is becoming more and more active in foster care. She does have some sight loss, and her eyes have a tendency to run a bit. Imani needs a quiet, loving home where she can get lots of attention and care in her remaining years.

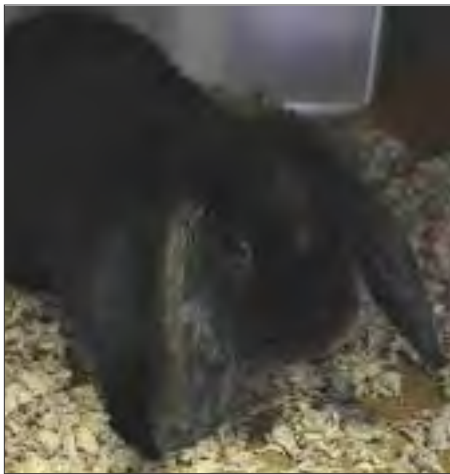
### Olivette

Olivette is a young black lop found in the Briarwood section of Queens. She may be a post-Easter abandonment case. This adorable little girl is very friendly and eager for attention. Despite her youthful energy, she will sit still for a long time as you stroke her head and ears. If you turn your attention elsewhere,

*(Continued on page 9)*



## Looking for Loving Homes *(Continued from page 8)*



Olivette.



Luisa.



Flora.

she'll stick her nose through her cage bars, imploring you to return.

### Luisa

Luisa is a medium-sized brown and white Dutch/Lionhead mix. This girl is very striking. Her coat is a gorgeous soft brown color, she has eyes the color of garnets, and she has the unusual combination of Lionhead whiskers and half a Dutch bib. Luisa is very curious and active, and right now she seems most interested in the rabbits around

her, so she might make a good partner for another rabbit.

### Flora

Flora is a medium-to-large bunny with a lovely coat in multiple shades of cream and light brown. This girl isn't particularly shy, but she does seem rather tense. Flora loves to be petted. She has a very nice disposition, and if you stop giving her the affection she wants, she'll politely make it known that she'd like more.

### Page

Page is a large brownish-black male with a sensitive spirit. This guy may be big, but he's a fraidy-bun – he'll stare at you warily, nodding his head up and down as he tries to "sniff you out." He does seem to understand that affection from people can be a good thing, but he's not confident enough to seek it out. Page would do best in a quiet home, preferably with experienced bunny people. He would probably also benefit from a bunny partner.

### Smurf

Smurf is a medium-sized Lionhead-mix male who was found in a building on First Avenue. This little guy has a fluffy black and white coat, but the most impressive thing about his looks is his ears: they're very large for a Lionhead, rising proudly from his little head like two perfect isosceles triangles. Smurf is quite skittish. Therefore, he should probably be adopted into a home with no small children or dogs.

### Pippi

Pippi is a small, young female with a great personality and a mild case of head tilt. This little girl is very pretty – her coat is white with calico-like markings – and is also a real snuggler. Her slight head tilt – which doesn't seem to bother her at all – just makes her that much more endearing! Although Pippi appears to be in very good health, she would



Page.



Smurf.



Pippi.

probably be best off in a home with experienced bunny people so her condition can be carefully monitored.

### Baby

Baby is a young Californian female with a fantastic personality. This girl was on the small side when she arrived at the shelter, but has grown noticeably in the past couple of weeks – she's medium-sized now, and could well get bigger. Baby has a gorgeous, perfectly creamy white coat with lovely gray ears and a nice, dark gray nose. She has a cute way of sticking her nose into the air while

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**Looking for Loving Homes** *(Continued from page 9)*



Baby.



Sleepy.



Rupert.

you pet her little head. Baby is very sociable and affectionate.

**Sleepy**

Sleepy is a small, young female Rex who was found on the street in Queens. This poor girl arrived at the shelter in a clear state of fear – you could feel the tension in her little body. She has calmed down now; she loves to be petted, so the attention she’s received from volunteers has helped. Sleepy has a very unusual orange Rex coat that’s soft as velvet. She would do best in a calm home with no small children or dogs.

**Rupert**

Rupert is a large English Spot mix with

a big, bold personality. This guy has athleticism, energy and confidence in spades, and he’s 100% extrovert – he’ll bound right up to you for nose kisses. Rupert is very eager for exercise – he’ll actually crawl all over you in an attempt to get out of his cage – so he’ll need a lot of space for play and exploration. He has a mostly white coat with appropriately dramatic black markings.

**Peter**

Peter is a small, strawberry blond loverboy of a bunny. This adorable creature is just desperate for love, and when you pet him he arranges himself into a nice, comfy ball as if to maximize his enjoyment. He loves affection so much that he has trouble letting go – if you leave, he’ll stick his little nose through the cage bars, begging you to come back. It’ll be hard for you to let go, too – you’ll want to immediately return to those cute round cheeks!

**Sangria**

Sangria is a medium-sized brown and white Dutch male who was abandoned in the lobby of the shelter. This guy is super outgoing and seemingly starved for companionship – he’ll do whatever it takes to get your attention. Sangria loves having his head and ears stroked. And he has a rather large head for a Dutch bun, with a nice broad face – plenty of real estate for your hand to enjoy! Sangria was probably neglected prior to his abandonment, because he arrived rather underweight – but that hasn’t affected his energy level or his enthusiasm for life.

**Paulette**

Paulette is a cute little bunny with a lovely disposition. This girl’s coat is a beautiful color – sort of a pastel/muted grayish-brown. She is friendly in a sweet, unassuming way, and loves any affection you’re willing to provide. Though she’s probably on the young side, Paulette is fairly mellow and easy



Peter.

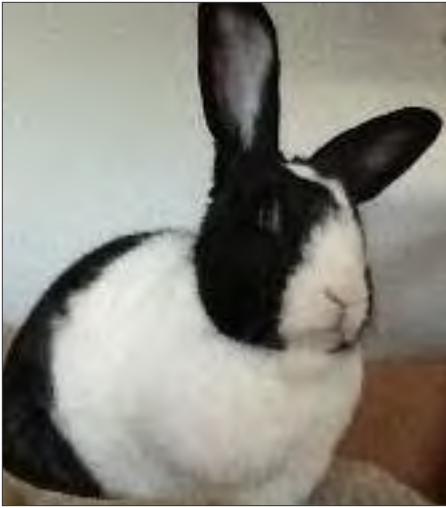


Sangria.

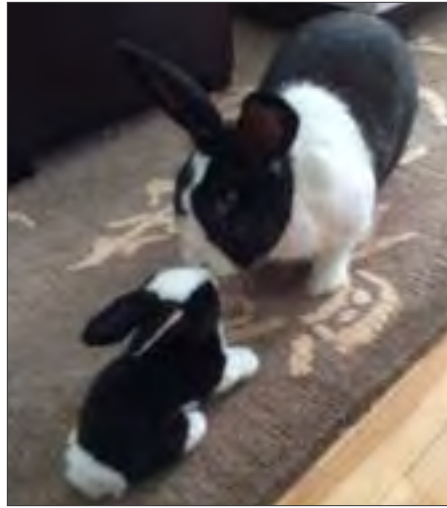


Paulette.

to handle – though she’s sure to show off her acrobatics once she’s in her forever home!



Lara.



## Unfazed

By Robert Kulka

It was about a week before super storm Sandy hit the East Coast that Lara came home with me. I remember the storm that night and the power going out and the tree falling into our building with a horrible snap. I crawled into the pen with Lara and made us a tent from a blanket. She was unfazed. I was terrified.

That was the way it was when seven months later I had to make the determination to have her right front leg amputated. We tried everything we could to avoid it, but she slowly became less active and less affectionate. So almost exactly two years ago it became necessary to remove the leg. She was unfazed. I was terrified.

She made a remarkable and speedy recovery. To update, Lara is more herself than ever. Active, smart and loving. She is running and climbing and enjoying the run of my place. At about five years old now, she has turned into a bit of a puppy dog.

Recently I had pneumonia. I was terrified. Lara was once again unfazed. She actually took to visiting me up on the bed, I think sometimes just to make sure I was still alive.

Funny how a bunny can return the favor of being rescued and loved. Seems they are forever rescuing us thereafter. I wish I could be as resilient and unfazed as she is.

# My Blossoming Bunny Duo

By Elda Pomales

It seems like just the other day when I brought home Trixie's "husbun" Malo, who is now known as Scribble. He was such a tiny little thing, with the most beautiful dark brown fur coat. At first, Scribble was very timid and didn't show any interest in anything. But eventually after many dates with his new wife Trixie, he started loosening up and Trixie was happy again. Trixie originally had been adopted to be the wife of my previous rabbit, Cappuccino. After a few months into their marriage, Cappuccino passed away and left Trixie a widow. Trixie went from having a companion to just having me; and she became a lap bunny. But I knew that Trixie wasn't meant to be alone, and that's where Scribble came in. Five months later, I brought Trixie in for a speed date. Two male, baby lionheads were brought in by mistake. At the end of meeting all of her candidates, it was suggested that we try one of the lionheads, even though they weren't really up for adoption yet. One of those lionheads was Scribble, and she loved him. She was more than double his size and I had my concerns about bringing him home.

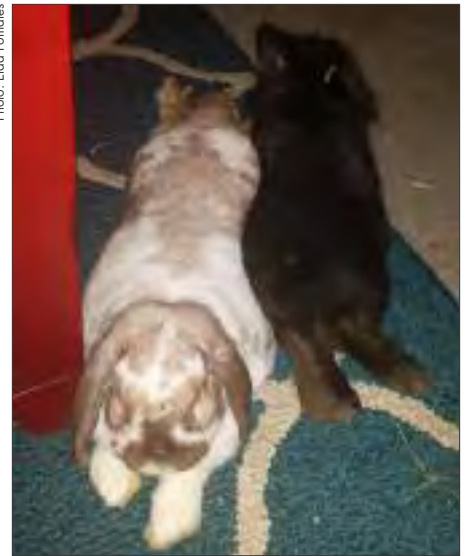
In the first two weeks of having Scribble, our relationship was touch and go. Scribble didn't want to interact with me and he was mildly interested in Trixie. Trixie, on the other hand, was extremely curious. I set their cages next to one another so that they could begin the bonding process and get used to seeing one another. Every day I would have them eat together. Things started off very sweetly between the two. They would constantly give each other kisses, but once Scribble showed interest in wanting to run around the house, (which was deemed Queen Trixie's territory) Trixie's attitude changed. Trixie would chase Scribble around the house and nip him. I would constantly have to separate them, but once they were separated, they would sit at the corners of their cages so that they were closest to each other. I was baffled at how much they wanted to be next to each other when they were separated—yet they couldn't

be allowed to get near each other when they were put together. We repeated this process for a month until finally Trixie accepted Scribble in her space. The play-time sessions became easier but the power struggle for dominance was still unresolved. Trixie would steal Scribble's food, block him from the water bowl, and literally push him out of the way with her head. At times, I couldn't believe how much personality these two had. As much as Trixie would bully Scribble around, he would not let up. Scribble became very vocal with his stomps and to my surprise, Trixie would back off.

Fast forward three months, and the two of them are bonding and enjoy sharing the same space. Could they possibly be ready to share a cage? This was the question that ran through my mind. I started the process on a Friday night so that I could continue it over the weekend. I left Trixie in the cage and stroked her head while I let Scribble enter the cage on his own. At that moment, I think everyone's heart stopped for a minute. We all just stood there frozen. I could tell Trixie was happy and mad at the same time. She didn't attack him as I thought she would, but if Scribble touched anything in that cage, it was wrestlemania. I spent the entire weekend settling the power struggle and by Sunday night, the two of them could be left in the same cage for an hour without fighting. I kept them separated for a few weeks and only let them share Trixie's cage at night when I was there to supervise, until I finally felt comfortable with leaving them together all day. The first day I left them together while I was at work; I raced home. I found them laying down together. I was the happiest mom in the world because I had successfully bonded them.

As Scribble started to get more comfortable in his new home with his new wife, I couldn't help but notice how much they were both growing into their personalities. It was very exciting to see Scribble come out of his shell, but it was fulfilling to see Trixie transition into the spunky girl that she is today. Unlike Trixie, Scribble

Photo: Elda Pomales



Trixie and Scribble.

was adopted before he was a year old. I don't think he remembers life before my home. I adopted Trixie when she was 2 years old, already having gone through multiple pregnancies, living in a shelter for months, being adopted into a new home with a husbun, AND then becoming a widow. She's been through a lot in such a short time. I don't think she ever had the chance to rest and enjoy herself. Today these two are inseparable. Scribble does the best binky dances and loves running on the couch and running through his toy tunnels; Trixie tries to copy Scribble and does the goofiest binkies because of her size. She's not as fond of going through the tunnel as Scribble is, but she does enjoy sleeping in it with him. Their personalities have meshed and they have rubbed off on each other. Scribble has taught Trixie some wonderful tricks, such as: going under the sofa and going under the TV stand. Trixie has taught Scribble some other wonderful tricks, such as: ripping open the treat bags and running to the kitchen when they hear the refrigerator open.

These two babies are such a riot. Just like people, they will only truly reveal themselves to the people they know and trust. If you're lucky enough, you can catch Scribble doing binky laps across the living room and if she likes you, Trixie will jump on the couch with you. If they do these things in your presence, you should be flattered because they usually save their craziness for when I get home.

## To Our Departed Friends

By Amanda Kramvis

An excited call from my sister nine years ago, alerting me to an “incredibly cute rabbit” in a store window, started this journey.

That “incredibly cute rabbit,” along with a timid black mini lop, very soon became my first children – Laila-Louise and Morocco Chicken Salad, respectively.

My sister and I left the Upper East Side Petland that weekend with all of the requisite pet-store “rabbit gear” – most of which I would never use again, but live and learn. Laila and Morocco were together one year until they decided they hated each other. I’d gotten Laila when she was 8 months old and Morocco at 4 months and assumed they’d live together as siblings. Ignorant Amanda of nine years ago knew nothing of the difficulties of rabbit bonding and assumed all rabbits naturally got along.

Around this same time, Morocco decided she disliked me as well, so she went to live with my parents and sister. Lucky for me, Laila remained Mommy’s pet and we stayed the best of friends. Morocco, of course, remained dear to my heart as well, but I had to care for her from a distance until she’d come to live with me again about six years later.

Speed dating for Laila carried me from Massachusetts to Pennsylvania, and then back to Massachusetts. A 13-pound rabbit named Piper lived in Pennsylvania and I just had to meet him. Laila didn’t share this sentiment, and following a two-hour car ride and her quick slap to Piper’s face, we were headed back home. Next was a failure in Connecticut, and then finally, 19 rabbits later, Laila met Peter. It was bonding at first sight. Laila and Peter met, they groomed each other, and that was it. The two were bonded by the time we reached the car. Unfortunately, Peter passed away within two months from *E. cuniculi*. His weight had gone from a jolly nine pounds to a bony four

pounds in what seemed like a matter of days. Peter was a funny rabbit. Friendly and a great dinner companion; he’d perch on a low stool next to my father and beg for table scraps (none given) at meal time. Peter was the kind of rabbit you’d find in cabinets, your laundry hamper, pretty much anywhere. He had a great time but unfortunately lived a very short life. Laila would follow him around rather than partake in his mischief, but she was always by his side.

Partner No. 2 was Luke (Little Man) from Connecticut. Those two were another match made in hay-ven (get it?). Luke remains the sweetest and most cuddly rabbit I’ve ever met, and he and Laila were inseparable.

I’d often find them lying across each other. I had no idea that was even a thing. About a year into their relationship, I ended up fostering Charlotte (fka Ethel) for a family friend – or more appropriately, “foster-failing.” Laila and Luke soon became Laila, Luke and Charlotte. A year later, Luke got ill – *E. cuniculi* again. He lived one good year, and one bad year. Losing Luke activated something in Laila, and a week following the loss, she became symptomatic with the same issue. After two and a half years on Panacur, she succumbed as well. Losing Laila was the hardest – not to say the others didn’t and don’t hurt, but Laila was my first and had always been my constant.

I had Laila and Charlotte when I met my now-husband Nick in January 2012. I always joke that the rabbits were invited to move in before I was. I joke, but it’s true. Charlotte stole Nick’s heart the first time he came over and found “the white rabbit who runs all over the apartment” so interesting. Laila stuck to her eight feet of carpet and was thought the less interesting of the two – a short-lived opinion.

The highlight of Nick’s day became Laila’s enthusiastic sunflower-seed feeding

Photos: Amanda Kramvis



Peter and Laila.



Luke and Laila.



Amanda and Charlotte.

every night (for weight maintenance), and for us both, laundry folding time. Laila would always partake and make folding laundry really difficult. But really fun. Thank you, Laila and Charlotte, for nabbing me a fiancé, and you a father, in just a little over a year. After Laila passed away in October 2013, we paired Charlotte with Saxon. Despite their friendly introduction at the 87th Street Petco, bonding was still going sour seven months later – enter sweet local celebrity Brandon. He put them together and said

*(Continued on page 14)*

## Departed Friends

(Continued from page 13)

“let’s all be friends.” And they acquiesced because who could say no to Brandon? He tied Laila as the most amusing and greedy(!) rabbit I’d ever met. The only difference was he didn’t stick to the carpet, so he would follow you EVERYWHERE. A real dog rabbit. Unfortunately, he developed bloat the following year and during his promising recovery, passed away. This had the further effect of severing the bond between Charlotte and Saxon.

Since separation, Morocco had been partnered with our big New Zealand, Ming Tian, and later Lagomorph. Ming Tian lived a happy six years and died suddenly as many of them do. He was friendly and curious, and a very good friend to Morocco.

When Morocco passed away last August a couple weeks before our wedding, we bonded Lag to Charlotte. However, they had to separate in March when Charlotte developed head tilt and needed her own protected space. It progressed from there. Nick and I and a collection of vets fought as hard as we could, but we couldn’t save her.

She passed away a few weeks ago. Charlotte was relatively low key, but loved head pets and hay more than anything else. She also loved throwing things and nudging with her nose. We spent a countless amount of time enjoying her performances over the years.

Lag and Saxon are now going through a promising bonding. We also welcome

Photo: Amanda Kramvis



Saxon, Charlotte and Brandon.

our two new fosters, Philip (fka Ling), and Leon.

Nick and I are happy to take this opportunity to honor our rabbits lost over the years. I would also like to acknowledge their loving aunts, and their grandmother who never hesitated to step up when a bunny needed monitoring and medical treatment while I was in college and often

unavailable for the frequency of treatments.

I hope everyone is together (as friends) in bunny heaven, reading this article and taking comfort in the fact that they are not forgotten.

Peter, Luke, Ming Tian, Brandon, Laila, Morocco and Charlotte – sleep tight. Mommy and Daddy love you.

## Make a Difference!

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

## Letters From Adopters

Photo: Glen Hinckley



Grace and Scarlett.

### Grace

*Grace was adopted in early May by the Hinckley family, who sent us this nice update.*

We took photos as part of an Easter/Grace's birthday celebration (or the anniversary of her adoption). As for the kissing picture, we used some trickery to get Grace to do it: Scarlett put a treat between her lips and Grace came up to snatch it out (it's one of her favorite things to do). We got a picture just at the right moment.

Grace is doing wonderfully since her adoption. She comes around for petting and chasing and she will lounge out in the middle of the room when things are quieter. She is also comfortable enough to beg for food if we sit on the couch with a snack.

Thanks!

Glen & Michelle  
Hinckley

### Flash

*Flash was adopted in late April by Isaac Gordon and his wife, Vanicia. He sent us this update in early May.*

Flash has been a great addition to our family and has quickly adapted to being at home.

He loves to explore the apartment and hops around all the time we are home with him.

As soon as we open his cage he runs right for us to say hello! We are so happy with this new member of our family.

Isaac Gordon

Photo: Isaac Gordon



Flash.

Photo: Amanda Solomon



Maddy.

### Maddy

*Maddy was adopted in October by Amanda Solomon and her family. Amanda sent us this update in early April.*

Maddy is doing great! She just came back from her first road trip with the family. We went to visit my grandparents in Pennsylvania, a three-hour drive, but she was great!

The only thing she didn't like was her carrying case. It was zipped on the top, but of course, Maddy didn't like that because she likes to see EVERYTHING. As soon as we opened the top of the case she poked her little head out and was fine for the rest of the ride.

Maddy has been more active than ever recently. She has been running around the house and then gets herself so tired she passes out for what seems like hours!

Amanda Solomon

### Horatio

*Horatio, formerly known as Winter, found a great home with Miriam, who sent us this update in early May.*

I adopted "Winter" (now Horatio) a month ago and he is settling in extremely well!

When I saw him on Petfinder and read about him being found in a gymnasium,

*(Continued on page 16)*

Photo: Miriam Champer



Horatio.

I had to go to Petco and to meet him. Although he takes a while to warm up to people, I was already smitten and returned to visit him again and finally to take him home.

Though he is still shy, he is also very affectionate and loves exploring around the living room (with the occasional binky) and hopping around on my bed. He keeps me company while I study.

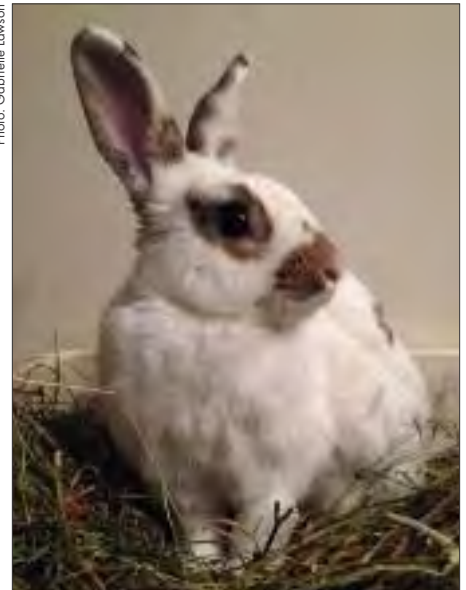
He is particularly fond of racing around and jumping on me in the very early morning, which is the absolute best alarm clock ever.

I'm so lucky to have this smart, inquisitive, expressive, sweet, funny bunny in my life and look forward to our adventures together.

Best,

Miriam Champer

Photo: Gabrielle Lawson



Benny.

## Benny

*Gabrielle Lawson and Steve Wierski adopted Benny, and Gabrielle sent this update to volunteer Jane O'Wyatt in late May.*

Just wanted to drop you a line to see how you're doing. I hope the bunny business is going well!

*(Continued on page 17)*

## Celeste

*Christopher Cameron adopted Celeste in May, and he sent this great update later that month.*

Celeste has become much more active around the apartment when she's out. Throughout the first week, when she was out of her cage for free time, she would hop back and forth between her home base and travel carrier, which I had placed open on the floor across the room. Occasionally, and as stealthily as possible, she would cautiously venture out of this area, but she never seemed very comfortable when she did. Also, she was not very eager to play with her toys, nor did I ever see her run or jump. The most animated she got was when she was going after my hand to bite at it!

Photo: Christopher Cameron



Celeste.

Yesterday however, she was exploring a lot more. She had been looking curiously up at the couch for some time,

as if she was wondering what was up there. Finally she jumped up, and has been running around with energy I didn't even know she had. I'm very happy to see her playing and enjoying herself. She does the rabbit dance or binky, whatever you want to call it, and generally seems to be growing very comfortable with her new surroundings.

I have set up her cage with an indoor/outdoor rug over the plastic crate floor, and a small, slightly rough finished tile. On hot days I will put a frozen water bottle on the tile as recommended, in order for her to stay cool.

Chris



Benny is doing great. We just love our Benny-bean. He is very well behaved (except when he refuses to go into his house in the a.m. and makes me late for work...LOL).

He's such an entertainer! Every evening around the same time (I swear!) he puts on a show with lots of binkies and dancing. His favorite toys are his blankie, willow sticks and of course, his cardboard tunnel that we purchased for him a few months back. He even allows mani/pedis (Steve holds him and I do the nail trimming).

Photo: Gabrielle Lawson



Benny with his blankie.

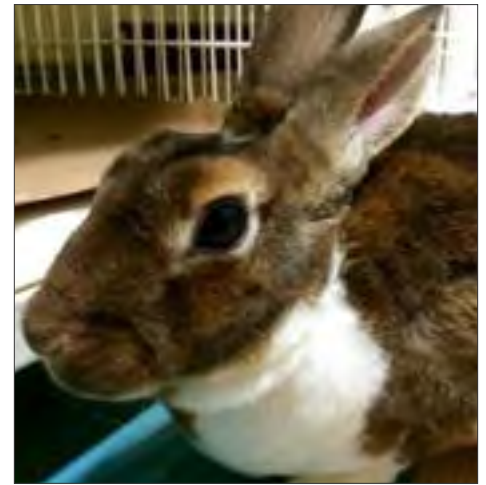
We had a rough start in January after we brought him to Dr. Quesenberry and discovered he had a terrible ear infection, but we got that cleared up with lots of meds in about three weeks. Let's just say Benny wasn't a fan of ours for the first few weeks, due to the fact we had to give him meds 2x a day! I think he has forgiven us for all that by now, though.

Take care and drop me a line when you have time, and I'll make sure to send you updates and photos of our boy from time to time.

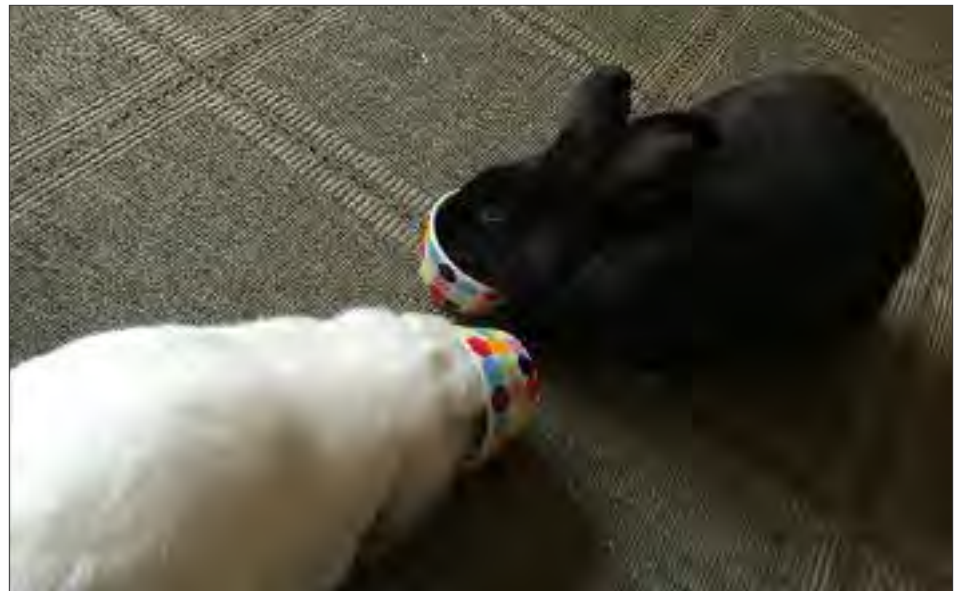
Gabby



Cupcake and friend.



Hummingbird.



Otto and Cher fka Samantha.



Cotton and Ethel.

(Continued on page 18)



Mila.



Thumpelina.



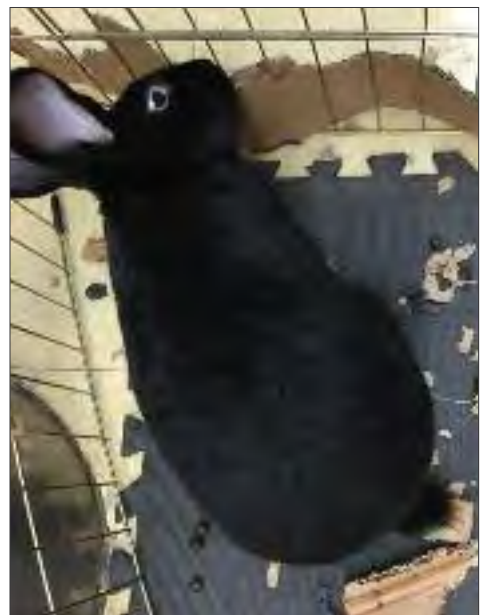
Frieda's baby boys.



Wilbur.



Miss Nibbles.



Arthur.



Samson (fka Tupac/King Tut).



Rana.



Dutchie in her hay crown.



Marshmallow.



Lola.

## 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.

### 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

### 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

## Licensed HRS Educators

### NYC/Westchester:

**M.C. Basile, Esq.**, President, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, BunnyTorts@gmail.com

**Mary Cotter**, Founder, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, Chapter Manager, NYC House Rabbit Society, mec@cloud9.net, (914) 337-6146, rabbitcare.org

**Gabrielle LaManna**, New Fairfield, CT, gabbysbunnies@yahoo.com, (203) 746-7548

**Mary Harnett**, mmharnett@optonline.net, (914) 948-7976

**Marcie Frishberg**, mfrish57bun@yahoo.com, (718) 724-4105

**Cindy Stutts**, bygolyoly@yahoo.com, (646) 319-4766

**Kerstin Aumann**

**Monica Shepherd, DVM**

### Long Island:

**Nancy Schreiber**, President, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group,

nnschreibmd@aol.com, (516) 510-3637,  
LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

**Mary Ann Maier**, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group Volunteer,

altitude8@yahoo.com,  
LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

**Donna Sheridan**, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group Volunteer, hpocus217@yahoo.com,  
LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

**Jennifer Saver, DVM**

**Laura George, DVM**

## THUMP June 2015

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS  
56 West Pondfield Road #5C  
Bronxville, NY 10708  
[www.rabbitcare.org](http://www.rabbitcare.org)

Editor: Susan Lillo

Creative Director: Jane O'Wyatt

Masthead Logo Designer: Mary Ann Maier

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

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](http://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 [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com). On **Long Island**, contact Nancy Schreiber at [nnschreibmd@aol.com](mailto:nnschreibmd@aol.com) or at 516-510-3637 ([www.longislandrabbitrescue.org](http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org)), and in **Westchester** contact Mary Cotter at [mec@cloud9.net](mailto:mec@cloud9.net) or 914-337-6146 ([www.rabbitcare.org](http://www.rabbitcare.org)).

The rabbit volunteers' email address in New York City is [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

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

In addition, NYC Metro rabbits are at the Petland Discounts store on West 72nd Street.

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

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

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

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

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