



NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS OCTOBER 2017

Our Forest Hills Rescue Bunny, Bailey

By Jonathan Lee and Alice Jung

It was midafternoon on a Sunday in early May. We had just returned from a long weekend trip when we received a text from Jonathan's brother about a stray bunny in our Forest Hills neighborhood. He forwarded us the alert from NYC Metro Rabbit. After reading the message, we looked at each other with a mix of exhaustion and exasperation. We knew we had to give this little bunny a chance. So before we even got out of the car, we started it up again and headed over to

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Photo: Teijo Grenfell

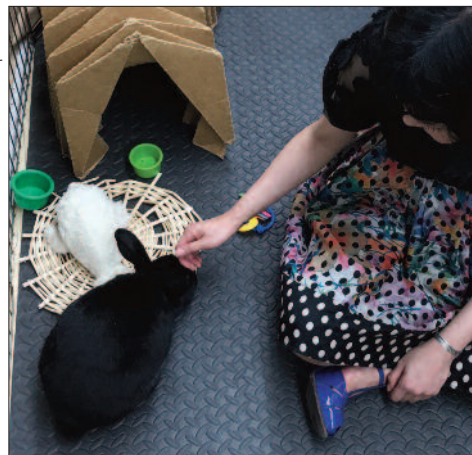


Photo: Jade Chen

Goodbye, Friend: Rocket was an unforgettable boy, beloved by Rabbit Rescue & Rehab volunteers. Please turn to page 15 for a poem in his memory.

Bunnies, Volunteers Make Adoptapalooza a Success

The city's Adoptapalooza adoption event took place on Sunday, Sept. 17, at Union Square Park. Adoptable rabbits were featured in the lower level of the Petco store on East 17th Street, just off the park. Adoptapalooza was organized the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals and the Petco Foundation. Many of the city's dog and cat rescue groups also took part.

Bunnies from Rabbit Rescue & Rehab and Manhattan's Animal Care Center spent the afternoon relaxing in exercise pens as volunteers provided information to visitors about rabbit adoption.

"We gave out several applications and talked to potential adopters," said

Photo: Anita Sabherwal



Marcie Frischberg and Paula Rosenberg at information table at Petco.

Marcie Frischberg. "We already have heard back from a few of the people

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Photo: Alice Jung



Jonathan enjoying playtime with Bailey and Anni, a green cheek conure.

Our masthead model, Athena, was abandoned in Roosevelt in October, and Long Island volunteers quickly rounded her up and brought her to safety. A big, loving, dew-lappy girl, Athena is available for adoption through Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group. Be aware, however, that her spots don't actually spell out "Thump."

Photo and photo illustration: Mary Ann Maier.

Adoptapalooza

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and hope this ends with some happy adoptions.”

Other rabbit volunteers who helped out included Sabrina Schumm, Larry Marion, Lynne Davis, Anita Sabherwal, Teija Garrett, Erica Randell, Austin Torres, Sylvie Jensen, Mayra Penaranda, Cathe Rekis, Paula Rosenberg, Lisette Pizarro and Cheryl Mazzeo.

An information table was set up outside in the park so that volunteers could distribute fliers and chat with potential adopters. Larry, Austin, Anita, Sylvie, Sabrina and Cathe took turns staffing that table.

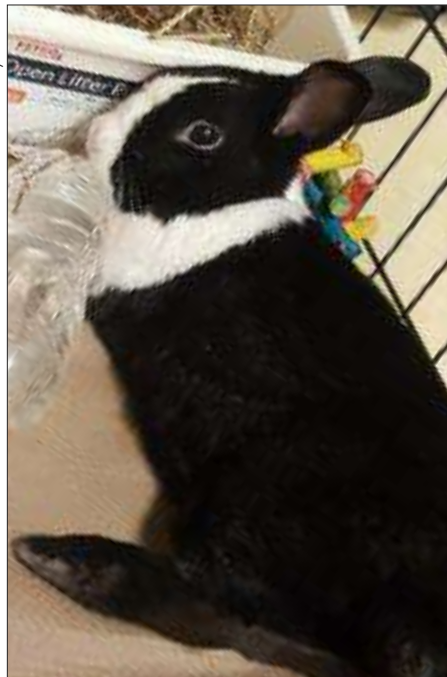
Rabbit Rescue & Rehab bunnies starring in the event included Mona and Iggy, Rosebud, Dani, Carmela (Lisette Pizarro’s foster bun), Sergei, Victoria, and Flossie and Freddie (fostered by Cheryl Mazzeo and Axel Jensen). Victoria and Sergei are being fostered by Austin Torres.

Rosebud was adopted by Anita Sabherwal. Congratulations to both Anita and Rosebud, now known as Madeleine Stowe (Maddie).

Manhattan shelter bunnies who took part were Cosmo, Moon Knight and Cinnabun. They enjoyed their outing.

Cathe Rekis said, “Adoptapalooza is an amazing event to introduce our rabbits to potential adopters! It’s great fun for the volunteers, the rabbits and the people who are able to meet and fall in love with our rabbits to adopt!”

Photo: Lynne Davis



Cosmo.

Photo: Susan Lillo



Volunteer Anita Sabherwal adopted Rosebud, who will now be known as Madeleine Stowe (one of Anita’s favorite actresses)—or Maddie, for short.

Photo: Anita Sabherwal



Teija Garrett with Carmela.

Photo: Anita Sabherwal



Sergei.

Photo: Anita Sabherwal



Freddie.

Photo: Anita Sabherwal



Volunteers helping set up outside were Sylvie Jensen (top left), Sabrina Schumm, lower left, Cathe Rekis and Anita Sabherwal.

Photo: Anita Sabherwal



Lynne Davis with Flossie.

Bailey *(Continued from page 1)*

Harrow Street, where the bunny had last been sighted.

Light spring rain fell as we scrambled around the neighborhood, ducking under cars, peeping behind bushes, sprinting across driveways – hoping to catch a glimpse of the mystery bunny. We searched for about an hour, and then a few kind residents came out and shared some useful information. They had first spotted the rabbit a couple of weeks before. It would sit on various front porches during the morning, and later find a comfy spot underneath one of the parked cars. It would run back and forth on Harrow Street, and never strayed far from the area. The residents looked forward to seeing the bunny, and some said they'd been leaving carrots out in their yards. One resident took a photo – a blurry fuzz ball tucked under a car – taken from a long distance. We exchanged numbers with some people, and they agreed to contact us if they saw the bunny again. With that, we ended the search for the day.

A few days passed without a word from anyone, and we grew more concerned each day about the bunny's survival. Then a resident texted us. His wife had been taking a stroll and noticed a flier on the telephone poles along the street that read "Found Bunny." There was a photo of a little white bunny with black and brown markings. Yes! It was the same bunny we had been looking for that very Sunday.

We contacted the family, who kindly cared for the bunny as best they could until we retrieved him. On May 14, we raced over, wrapped the bunny in a towel and hugged him to keep him warm. His rich black and white coat with brown patches reminded us of the creamy Irish liqueur, Baileys, so we called him Bailey, and the name stuck.

We set up a play area in our Forest Hills apartment. It's a cozy place, complete



Flier of found bunny, sent to us from a resident of Harrow Street.

Photo: Alice Jung



Day one with rescue bunny Bailey. Anni, our green cheek conure, meets Bailey.

Photo: Jonathan Lee



Alice Jung holding Bailey.

with plenty of places for him to hide (under the bed, beneath the kitchen table). We got him plenty of water and pellets, along with some hay and fresh greens.

The team at Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital did an awesome job making time in their busy schedule for Bailey's checkup. Bailey weighed 3 pounds, 9 ounces, and was estimated to be five to six months old. Though he was a little underweight, all other signs were good. In fact, the veterinarian was impressed at how clean he kept himself. Bailey didn't have signs of fleas or ear mites, which are pretty common among strays. Under instruction of the veterinarian, our focus over the next two months was to fatten him up with an all-you-can-eat buffet of hay, pellets and greens. Before long, he was plumper and plusher, thanks to a healthy diet and some daily exercise.

As you can tell, we love him to pieces. He has found his forever home.

For the past four months, Bailey has been a real joy in our lives. His energy and spirit are contagious. He loves cuddling and has been a great addition to the family. He gets along really well with our green cheek conure, Anni. The two have been inseparable from the moment Bailey arrived in our apartment.

Just last week, a few weeks following his neuter surgery, we made his adoption official. Having Bailey in our lives is a constant reminder of human kindness. We thank everyone for making our home full of love and joy. We would also like to give a special thanks to Douglas Lee, who first alerted us about Bailey and provided endless help to ensure Bailey's safety and happiness. We couldn't have made this rescue without the help of everyone.



Volunteer Neil Schailer had a "Hoppy Hour" at his home on Sept. 10. From left, Anita Sabherwal, Erin McElhinney and Nadine Heidinger.

Check Out the Shelters!

By Thea Harting, ACC rabbit volunteer

You can adopt rabbits from the Animal Care Center shelters in both Manhattan (326 East 110th St.) and Brooklyn (2336 Linden Blvd.). Check out all the available rabbits at <https://www.nycacc.org/AdoptionSearch.htm>.

Prospective adopters should take full advantage of rabbit-savvy volunteer adoption counselors, who not only know each individual rabbit, but will teach you all about housing, diet, proper handling technique, choosing a rabbit vet, the signs of GI stasis, how to take a rabbit's temperature, and how to trim your rabbit's nails. Be the best rabbit guardian you can be and take advantage of this resource. Volunteer adoption counselors have years (and sometimes decades) of experience with rescue rabbits and are a wealth of information and support.

Already have a rabbit and interested in adopting a friend? Both shelters do rabbit speed dating and volunteers can help you through the bonding process. Contact adoption@nycacc.org and specify that you are interested in a speed date for your rabbit, and they will connect you with a volunteer for more information.

Volunteer adoption counselors are in the shelters on weekend afternoons and many evenings during the week. If you are interested in adopting, I suggest emailing adoption@nycacc.org, visiting the shelter, and asking to be connected with a volunteer to do the "rabbit training." And when you are in the shelter, I encourage everyone to consider rabbits with red eyes, who are often overlooked.

More ways to help: Volunteer, donate, foster

— We always need more committed volunteers. You will become part of a community working inside the shelters every day to provide care, enrichment and education for NYC's neediest rabbits. For more info, go to: <https://www.nycacc.org/Volunteer.htm>.

— The rabbits always appreciate donations of toys and hay. You can send items to the locations listed above. Please label the packages: "Rabbit Room."

— Fosterers are a vital form of support and provide a home environment for the neediest shelter rabbits and help them prepare to find their forever homes. For more information on fostering rabbits for ACC, please visit <http://www.nycacc.org/Foster.htm>.

The Manhattan Transfer: Babies Find a Foster Home

A family of eight – seven 20-day-old babies with their mom – were surrendered at the Manhattan Animal Care Center on Aug. 9. The rabbit volunteers and staff tried to make the babies as comfortable as possible. Volunteer Nadine Heidinger found alfalfa for the babies in the shelter's garage, and transferred it into the rabbit room.

The mom was given the name Luna, and the babies were named after flowers. The rabbits all were eating and active. They were still nursing.

After about a week and a half at the shelter, volunteer Cathy Zelonis brought the family home to foster them. Cathy stocked up on alfalfa and alfalfa pellets, and she gave them lots of room for hopping.

Their weight ranged from 2 1/8 to 2 5/16 pounds, Cathy reported. Four of the bunnies were all black. One, Sweet Pea, was gray, and another (Tulip) had white tips on her toes and a slight blaze. Another baby, Thistle, also had white-tipped toes.

The four black babies were Lilac, Lavender, Daisy and Orchid.

"They are doing jumps and all that cute stuff. So cute!" Cathy said in early September.

Luna returned to the Manhattan shelter on Sept. 17. "She's a sweetie and loves pets," Cathy said.

The three boys and four girls went to the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine to be window bunnies on Oct. 1. We wish them the best!

Photo: Cathy Zelonis



Snow Black and the 7 Dwarfs. See the little butt at the bottom – always somebun has to be a nonconformist.

Consider Fostering to Save Homeless Rabbits Like Zelda

By Diana Kronenberg

My brother and I were walking around the Hofstra University campus one Saturday afternoon in mid-July when he spotted something furry out of the corner of his eye. He did a double take, and that caught my attention; a small black domestic rabbit was munching on the wild dandelions a few feet behind us. I immediately pulled out my phone and called my mom to bring exercise pens and a carrier. I knew I had to try to rescue the rabbit.

As a volunteer with Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, I have participated in several rabbit rescues myself, but I had never been the finder until I found Zelda. I knew how to catch her, but did not have a place for her to go after she was caught. Rescue organizations can only rescue as many rabbits as they have space to keep them, and often that space is in foster homes. Our Long Island foster homes were all full so I reached out, begging for a family to open their home to fostering so that I could catch the rabbit. (I might not have been able to rescue Zelda without a foster placement, and I am forever grateful to her foster mom, Karin Hoffman.)

As I waited for my mom and dad to arrive with pens and a carrier, I frantically posted on Facebook, trying to find a foster home through the Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group. Meanwhile, I tried to think up some way to set up a temporary emergency pen in my dad's den until we were able to find a fosterer. Fortunately, Karin replied to my post saying that she could foster Zelda and was available to help us catch her as well. I called to thank her and confirm her offer while simultaneously trying to keep Zelda away from the busy Hempstead Turnpike that bisects Hofstra's campus.

It took us about an hour, with lots of breaks as Zelda ran into the bushes, but we four Kronenbergs were eventually



Zelda outside.

Photo: Diana Kronenberg



Diana, Jason and Nancy Kronenberg with Zelda.

Photo: Michael Kronenberg



Zelda after her rescue.

Photo: Karin Hoffman

able to surround her with pens and coax her into the carrier. I called Karin with the good news, and let her know she did not need to come over to help in the rescue. This was a family effort and I am so very grateful that I come from a family of animal lovers, with fast reflexes.

I asked my dad if he would let Zelda stay in a small pen in his den for a couple of days until Karin was ready to take her. Luckily he said yes and we brought the rabbit back to our house, where we checked her over. She was in very good condition for a rabbit out in the wild, so she probably was not outside too long. She was small – just over three pounds – and mostly a ball of fluff.

We already had a vet appointment scheduled for one of our rabbits the following morning, but we gave it to Zelda since that was more urgent. She needed to be checked over and given some Revolution in case there were any ticks or fleas. My Butterscotch certainly did not mind giving up the appointment, especially for such a cute little girl. After receiving a clean bill of health from Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital, and confirmation that she was in fact a female, she was all ready to go to her foster home.

Zelda did visit the vet again for pregnancy checks, but fortunately there were no surprise babies, which is always a concern when females are rescued. She is currently still a bit too thin to be spayed, but will be soon. Her foster mom, Karin, says

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A Soul Match: Everyone Loves Raymond

By Valerie Nagy

In late June of 2015, we lost a special bun of ours named Lucky. Aside from having a loving home, lucky he wasn't; he had many health issues over the years. He was the first bun I had ever lost and I was devastated. The next month, my boyfriend, Richie, and I contacted Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group to attend a bonding session for two of our other buns, Molly and Hunny. We made some goody bags for the shelter rabbits at Nancy Schreiber's house, and went there for the bonding session.

Before our session, we went downstairs and met all of the shelter buns and gave them their goody bags. We also gave them some love and watched how much fun they were having with their bags. I was petting Mason, Piper and Rupert and watching Ivy and Levy's babies go crazy with their bags. Across the room there was a bun named Raymond. When Richie gave him his bag, he grabbed it, ran to the back of his cage and dropped it off and ran back to the front for petting. Richie told me what Raymond had done, and asked me to come over and meet him. The minute I looked

into his eyes, I felt his soul. I felt such a connection with him – just as I did with my Lucky. Richie and I petted Raymond a little and asked about him. He was over 4 years old and had lived with his adopters for 2½ years. He was returned because of some family issue, and also (it was suspected) because he would pee all over. We were called back upstairs for our bonding session for Molly and Hunny, and then we left.

Richie and I discussed Raymond over the next couple of weeks. We were not looking to adopt after losing Lucky because we still missed him so much. We seriously started asking about Raymond just as he developed an abscess in his mouth and was drooling badly. I had experience giving shots to Lucky for his medical condition – I even had leftover supplies. We were screened over the phone by a Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group volunteer. Then we were told by email that we didn't have enough space. (I had sent them photos of our neutral space for the bonding of Molly and Hunny – and we also have another bunny, Coco.) I asked that someone come for a home visit. Although our apartment is small, everybun got adequate playtime and all of their needs were met completely.

We had our home visit and were told that, although we've got a small apartment, we were making it work. We were approved to adopt Raymond. Richie and I arranged for a date to pick him up at the special-needs shelter house, where Mary Ann Maier lives.

We arrived and got Raymond, his medicine and instructions. We took him home but later noticed that he didn't seem right. He was going through stasis and we had to take him to the vet the next morning. He stayed a couple of days and came back home with us.

Over the past two years, we have learned a lot about him and his needs. Currently,

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Photo: Valerie Nagy



Raymond.

Zelda *(Continued from page 5)*

Zelda just loves her big foster sister, Iris, whom she lives next to. Karin thinks Zelda would make a wonderful buddy for a bun once she is spayed as she seems to be thriving in the company of another rabbit. Until then, she is happily running around Karin's place, learning from her foster sister.

Zelda is one of the very lucky ones who were able to be rescued. Not all domestic rabbits spotted in the wild are so

fortunate. Sadly, many rescue groups hear of rabbits running around outside, but without a place for the rabbits to be fostered, they cannot be rescued. Rescue groups are all always looking for more foster space so that they can save more lives. If you have the space – even if you can only foster short-term – please consider opening your home. To contact Long Island Rabbit Rescue and Rabbit Rescue & Rehab about fostering, visit the last page of this newsletter.

Luna's Story

By Luna (aided by Jill Catoggio)

Hello friends! My name is Luna. I'm pretty sure it means princess since mom and dad call me that all the time. I'm a 2-year-old Rex and here's my story.

I was found with my friend Orion (who was also recently adopted) in a feral cat colony way out east (Flanders in Suffolk County) in November 2016. I was so frightened that I was hiding under a shed. Thank goodness for Susan of RSVP Rescue who caught me the day after Orion. Shoutout to Lauren Marchant and Sana Ahsan of Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, who originally tried to rescue me, but I was terrified of them so I hid.

Fast forward a few months. I was in the middle of eating my lettuce one day at Nancy Schreiber's foster home (love her

and all of a sudden, I was being carried upstairs (with my salad) and I was placed in a pen with two humans I'd never seen before. So I hustled to my salad to make sure they didn't eat it! They didn't seem interested, thank goodness. I let them pet me a little and before I could finish my lunch, they told me I was being adopted! My mom is Jill Catoggio and my dad is Erik Fox-Jackson.

I was brought home on May 21, 2017. I was shaking the whole way home. I didn't know who these people were or where they were taking moi. But once they opened the carrier, I jumped out as quickly as I could. I made sure the place had no snakes, or other animals, for that matter. Once my search was complete, I kicked out my feet under the table and the rest is history!



Luna with Erik Fox-Jackson and Jill Catoggio.

Let me tell you a little about myself. I love bananas. They are my absolute favorite treat. Every time I hear the fridge open I leap onto my house and wait eagerly for a small piece of banana. (I don't always get it, though. Thump!) Pellets also make me go crazy. When I hear

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Raymond *(Continued from page 6)*

he is on daily penicillin G shots and he sees the vet every two months. Recently, he has been losing teeth, and he had a few trimmed.

He gets very nervous leaving the house and after every vet visit he stops eating, so we have to medicate him with Reglan and make sure he gets lots of food before we leave. He is such a special boy and I would do anything for him. I call him my big baby; he does such funny things. When I try to make him come out of his cage, he will stomp sometimes and let out a moan, like a "mmmmph, geez mom, I don't want to" kind of sound. It is the cutest thing ever. Sometimes he will act as if he isn't feeling well and we give him a "test" treat and he takes it immediately. He has outsmarted us many times to his advantage (food-wise). He has a stuffed bunny that he picks up in his mouth, and he gives her hopping lessons as he moves his head up and

down. Then, he cleans her and snuggles with her and he has such a lovey-dovey look in his eyes, and it is the sweetest thing ever! His daily care has made us very close and he takes his medicine like a champ. He has earned the nickname Yum Yum because he hears me say that and he comes running for his medicine. He has also earned the nickname Platypus (Platter for short) because he loves to splash in his water bowl. This boy has brought so much joy to our lives and we cannot imagine not having met him or not having him here with us.

Raymond has only peed once outside of his litter box since we have had him. He has excellent litter-box habits. He adjusted well and is very smart, learning commands and words and associating them with what we want him to do. When he comes out to play, we say "box" and he hops into his litter box to come out. The same goes with when he goes back into his cage (since he lives in the top half of a tall cage).

About two months after we got Raymond I received a text message from Mary Ann Maier, one of the founders of LIRRG. The message meant so much to me that I have it locked in my phone. It reads: "Valerie, it's such a relief to me to know Raymond is getting all this attention. It's impossible to give him everything he deserves here, as you know. Thanks for these great updates and photos! And it was divine providence that you started inquiring about him just as he developed his medical issue and needed you most." I look at that message every so often and forgive his initial adopter who left him outside for two days before eventually returning him. I thank all of the volunteers for loving him and caring for him (I am now a volunteer, too), and I am still overjoyed that we have one of the sweetest buns that ever existed as ours. As people always say about him, "Everyone loves Raymond."

Mabel to the Rescue

By Lisa Romano-King

Earlier this year, my family suffered a devastating loss when our bunny, Yoda, suddenly fell ill and passed. I was overcome with sorrow and was shocked by how devastated I was. There was no way I would ever have a pet again; it was too painful to even consider.

As the months went by, the hole in our family became more evident. Could I do this again? Could my heart take it? That's when Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group came into our lives. We met the most amazing people who introduced us to our sweet Mabel. We were a perfect match.

Photo: Lisa Romano-King



Mabel.

Beautiful little Mabel, with her playfulness and nuzzles, completed our family. She has brought so much excitement and joy to our home. From her joyful binkying throughout the living room to

her head butts and burrowing under us for snuggles and kisses, she's filled the void with her sweet little face and unconditional love. She's our baby.

Luna *(Continued from page 7)*

that bag, I start to run in circles and beg. I can't help it. They are so delicious.

My favorite pastimes are napping and munching on hay. We eat dinner as a family and then I take my 5:30 p.m. nap. Mom loves to rub my nose to help me sleep. Sometimes she just won't leave me alone and I need to growl a little. I'm not trying to be mean. I just need my beauty rest, mom.

At the moment I'm going through one of my shedding phases, so I'm trying to keep myself as fuzz-free as possible. But it's not good enough for those clean freaks. They're always petting me, vacuuming and lint-rolling everything. Even the couch I sleep on. Why wouldn't they want my soft fur on their clothes? It's a gift!

I had to go to Dr. Jennifer Saver's in August because my parents thought I was making "weird noises." I was just snoring. The doctor said I'm a good weight, my sore hocks are fine (I am prone to them as a Rex) and I have good gut sounds. I gave the nurse a nose boop and I got a papaya pill. Score!

But I don't like car rides. Dr. Saver is like, billions of leaps away. I shake and shed the whole time, even though it's cool in the car. My parents try to give me thyme and put the stress-free drops on me. But once I'm out of the carrier, I'm back to my happy self.

Fun fact: I love people. I love meeting mom and dad's friends. They say I'm so pretty and soft, and I get treats. I love pets. If I really like someone, I'll nibble on them or try to get in their laps. Sometimes they try to pick me up because mom and dad forget to tell people I hate it. (Thump!) Nothing makes me more nervous...

...Except Coco, the "bunny" that lives downstairs. Coco is this really big long-haired "bunny," with a long curly tail, and she barks. I've only seen her once or twice and I'm so scared of her, even though she is far away from me. I thump so hard when she's around. She hasn't tried any funny business, probably because I terrified her with my powerful feet.

Mom and dad hide all the good toys. I have cardboard tubes and balls with bells in them, but I love leather. Mom

left her sandals out for me one day so I started chewing them, and I haven't seen them since! The ottoman I started gnawing on has a pen around it now. I'll have to talk to the parental unit.

At night, I always get a piece of frozen banana. And because I get my favorite treat, I binky all over the place and zoom around the living room until I flop under my favorite chair from exhaustion. It makes my parents take out these weird rectangles and follow me around with them. Sometimes they get next to me with the rectangle in front of them and smile. I think they call it a "cell." I hate the bright light that goes off sometimes. It makes them laugh, though, so I don't mind too much. But every once in a while they get too close and I have to fight the rectangle. I always win.

Thank you, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, for finding my furever home with my favorite humans; for keeping my belly full with fresh hay and pellets; for a dry, safe place to sleep; and for all the love I can handle.

The Mystery of Rabbit Poop

By Dana M. Krempels, Ph.D.

University of Miami Biology Department
House Rabbit Society of Miami

Unlike most other mammals, lagomorphs (including domestic rabbits) produce two types of droppings, fecal pellets (the round, dry ones you usually see in the litter box) and cecotropes. The latter are produced in a region of the rabbit's digestive tract called the cecum, a blind-end pouch located at the junction of the small and large intestines. The cecum contains a natural community of bacteria and fungi that provide essential nutrients and may even protect the rabbit from potentially harmful pathogens.

How does the rabbit get those essential nutrients? She eats the cecotropes as they exit the anus. The rabbit's blissful expression when she's engaging in cecotrophy (the ingestion of cecotropes) will tell you that she finds this anything but disgusting. In fact, rabbits deprived of their cecotropes will eventually succumb to malnutrition. Cecotropes are not feces. They are nutrient-packed dietary items essential to your companion rabbit's good health.

A rabbit may produce cecotropes at various times during the day, and this periodicity may vary from rabbit to rabbit. Some produce cecotropes in the late morning, some in the late afternoon, and some at night. In any case, they usually do this when you're not watching (quite polite of them). This might be why some people refer to cecotropes as "night droppings," though cecotropes are not always produced at night. A human face is apparently an excellent and refreshing palate-cleanser, as a favorite activity immediately post-cecotrophy often seems to be "kiss the caregiver." Mmmmmmm.

Normal Intestinal Products

Anyone who lives with a bunny has seen a fecal pellet. These are the small, brown



Normal fecal pellets.



Normal cecotrope.



Runny stool.

"cocoa puffs" that (we hope) end up in the litter box. They should be relatively spherical, somewhat dry and friable, and composed mostly of undigested fiber. Rabbits do not ordinarily re-ingest fecal pellets, though a few bunnies seem to enjoy an occasional fecal pellet hors d'oeuvre with no harm.

A normal cecotrope resembles a dark brown mulberry, or tightly bunched grapes. It is composed of small, soft, shiny pellets, each coated with a layer of rubbery mucus, and pressed into an

elongate mass. The cecotrope has a rather pungent odor, as it contains a large mass of beneficial cecal bacteria. When the bunny ingests the cecotrope, the mucus coat helps protect the bacteria as they pass through the stomach, then re-establish in the cecum.

Runny Stool: When Things Go Wrong

True diarrhea (unformed, watery feces) is relatively rare in adult rabbits. It can be caused by intestinal parasites, such as coccidia (*Eimeria spp.*), roundworms, tapeworms, or anything that inflames the intestinal lining. Your rabbit-experienced veterinarian will be able to examine a fecal sample (you should probably provide the vet with a fresh sample of both fecal and cecal pellets, if possible) to look for signs of parasitic infection. More often, true diarrhea is seen in infant and juvenile rabbits.

Diarrhea in Baby Rabbits: A Life-Threatening Emergency

One of the most common signs associated with sudden death in baby rabbits is diarrhea, which can appear very quickly and kill in a matter of hours. Thus, it is of vital importance that any baby rabbit showing signs of lethargy, inappetence (not wanting to eat), or runny stool be taken immediately to an experienced rabbit vet for emergency, life-saving treatment. Delaying even for an hour or two can mean the difference between life and death.

If you cannot find a rabbit-experienced vet, but have an emergency clinic that is willing to accept help from unknown persons on the internet (that would be me), then please print this Emergency Treatment Protocol for Diarrhea in Infant Rabbits. (<http://www.bio.miami.edu/hare/squirts.pdf>) This is a protocol I developed while trying to save wild baby cottontails and hares, and it is the only thing I have

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Rabbit Poop

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found that does save them. I hope no one reading this ever needs it...but I am including the link, just in case.

True diarrhea is more prevalent in baby rabbits than in adults, especially if the babies have been taken from their mother before they are ready for weaning. Sadly, many baby rabbits are weaned too young to be away from their mothers. Instead of being allowed to nurse for a full, normal eight weeks, they are taken away while they are still “cute” and marketable – often as young as four weeks. This can spell death for many of them.

Without the mother’s antibodies, complex organic compounds and the proper pH environment her milk provides to help protect the baby’s intestines, these babies are highly susceptible to over-proliferation of foreign bacteria. One of the most common culprits of runny stool in baby rabbits is accidental infection by the common human intestinal bacterium, *Escherichia coli*. This is transmitted from humans to baby rabbits during handling, since these bacteria are all over us, not just in our intestines. Handling an unweaned infant rabbit without properly washing and disinfecting one’s hands is a good way to transmit these opportunistic pathogens. Even a loving kiss on a too-young baby rabbit’s lips can kill. Until a young rabbit is at least eight weeks old, she should not be taken from her mother, as mama’s milk affords protection against *E. coli* and other bacteria until the baby’s own immune system can handle them.

Another pathogen that can cause diarrhea in baby rabbits is *Eimeria spp.*, the causative agent of coccidiosis. The reproductive sporocysts of these protist parasites can usually be seen in the feces of the host, so your vet may wish to examine the fecal sample of the affected rabbit for signs of coccidial sporocysts.

Unformed Cecotropes: Mushy or Runny Stool

Perhaps the most common complaint regarding rabbit health is the problem of mushy or runny stool sticking to the bunny’s anal area and creating a nasty, stinky mess. In most cases (in adult rabbits, at least), this mass is made of poorly formed cecotropes that have the consistency of toothpaste, rather than the normal form of bunched, squishy pellets.

The cecum is a delicately balanced ecosystem. If the intestine is moving too slowly, or if the rabbit is getting a diet too rich in digestible carbohydrates and too low in crude fiber, the complex population of bacteria in the cecum can become “unbalanced.” This condition is known as cecal dysbiosis. Cecal dysbiosis means that the beneficial bacteria (e.g., *Bacteroides spp.* and a variety of others, including archaeans) are outcompeted and outnumbered by less desirable inhabitants such as yeast (a fungus, usually *Saccharomycopsis sp.*) or even very harmful bacteria such as *Clostridium spp.*, related to the ones that cause tetanus and botulism.

A rabbit suffering from cecal dysbiosis will produce cecotropes that are mushy, pasty or even liquid. They are usually quite foul-smelling, and often stick to the bunny’s back end in great, nasty clumps. These unformed cecotropes are not a primary disease, however. They are a symptom of a disorder somewhere in the bunny’s system. In order to solve the runny stool problem, the underlying cause must be addressed.

Common Causes of Runny Stool in Infant and Juvenile Rabbits

Weaning Too Young

If the bunny suffering from runny stool is a baby, how old is he? If younger than eight weeks, and no longer with his mother, his runny stool problem may be due to his being weaned too young.

Many pet stores will (illegally) sell rabbits younger than eight weeks of age (some as young as four weeks). Sadly, many of these babies are doomed to succumb to intestinal disorders.

Unlike most mammals, baby rabbits have a sterile lower intestine until they begin to eat solid food at the age of 3-4 weeks. It is during this time that their intestines are at their most vulnerable: the babies need their mother’s milk to protect them against newly introduced microorganisms. Without the mother’s milk, a baby starting to eat solid food is highly susceptible to bacterial enteritis (inflammation of the intestinal lining), which can cause fatal diarrhea. Runny stool in a baby rabbit should be considered a life-threatening emergency.

Intestinal Parasites

Coccidial infection is common in some areas, and some vets will simply treat a baby rabbit’s diarrhea as coccidia, even without a fecal test. Common antibiotics used to treat coccidia include Albon (sulfadimethoxine) and the potentiated sulfas, such as Trimethoprim Sulfa or Bactrim. However, we have found a more recently developed drug, ponazuril, to be far superior to the aforementioned sulfa antibiotics. It eliminates the parasites in a matter of days, rather than weeks.

Common Causes of Runny Stool in Adult Rabbits

Mechanical Problems

Obesity

An overweight rabbit may produce normally formed cecotropes, but because she cannot properly reach down to grab them as they emerge from the chute, these soft pellets can become squashed under the bunny as she flexes and bends around to get them. Weight reduction is the answer

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Rabbit Poop

(Continued from page 10)

here, and this is as difficult for rabbits as it is for humans. Eliminating commercial pellets, or at least switching to a high-fiber, low-calorie Timothy-based pellet, can make a great difference. Replace any starchy treats with fresh herb treats. And, painful as it may be, exercise is one of the best ways to burn more calories than bunny takes in. As we all should know, that's the bottom line when it comes to slimming down.

Arthritis or Other Skeletal Disorders

Similarly, a rabbit who is suffering from degenerative joint problems in the spine, hips, or other areas, may not be able to reach cecotropes easily. He ends up sitting on some of them, and squashing them into his fur. Arthritis can be treated by your veterinarian. Common remedies include various NSAIDs (Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs), and glucosamine supplements such as Cetyl M or Myristol.

Dietary Problems

Incorrect Diet

Rabbits, like horses and cattle, are strict herbivores. The rabbit intestine – and its normal bacterial flora – has evolved to feed almost exclusively on grass and herbs. Does your rabbit get starchy treats such as oatmeal, crackers, bread or sweets? Some rabbits with very sensitive intestines can suffer from runny cecotropes even from commercial pellets. Fruit, as healthy as it is for humans, can be too much of a good thing for rabbits. The high level of sugar and starch in table fruits makes them too rich for a bunny except as a very small, occasional treat. A diet too rich in digestible starch is one of the most common causes of runny cecotropes in companion rabbits.

Insufficient Indigestible Fiber

A rabbit should be fed unlimited grass hay, such as Timothy, brome, wheat or oat. Alfalfa hay is too rich in calories and protein for daily feeding. A rabbit who cannot nibble constantly on high-fiber grass or hay may suffer from a lack of tonus in the gut muscles. Normal peristalsis (muscular movements that push food through the gut) may become sluggish. This causes the passage of food through the cecum to slow down, and the normal rate of bacterial “flushing” from the cecum is disrupted, promoting cecal dysbiosis. The high fiber content of grass hay also helps to “dilute” the starch of other dietary items, and helps to provide a healthy intestinal environment. A complete and healthy diet is truly key to preventing intestinal problems such as cecal dysbiosis (and its associated mushy stool).

Hidden Health Problems

When a rabbit is ill, in pain, or is suffering from emotional stress, a typical physiological response is slowing of the normal peristaltic movements of the intestine. This results in cecal dysbiosis, with all the accompanying problems of runny stool, and possible inflammation of the intestinal lining (enteritis).

Some of the most common causes of intestinal slowdown (and hence, cecal dysbiosis) in rabbits include pain/stress due to: **dental problems, urinary tract disorders, upper respiratory infections and “head tilt.”**

Any of these conditions must be diagnosed and treated by a rabbit-savvy vet familiar with such problems and their appropriate treatment. Until a cryptic health disorder is diagnosed and treated, chronic runny stool will likely persist. Therefore, it's wise to have your messy-bottomed bunny undergo a thorough wellness check,

especially if his diet and weight are normal and healthy.

Once an underlying source of pain/stress is treated, the runny stool often resolves on its own. But if the condition is not treated, it can progress and eventually result in a potentially life-threatening condition, ileus, or GI stasis, in which peristalsis stops completely.

Keeping Bunny Comfortable in the Meantime

While you and your veterinarian are treating the problems that caused the runny stool, it's still important to keep the bunny clean and comfortable. Dried cecotropes stuck to the rear end are not only smelly and uncomfortable, they also attract flies, and can result in life-threatening fly strike.

To prevent this, be sure to learn how to give your bunny a butt bath – SAFELY. (<http://www.bio.miami.edu/hare/buttbath.html>)

Photo: Mary Ann Walter



This rabbit needed a wet butt bath.

Resolving runny stool in a rabbit is not always a simple matter. It may require dietary changes, good husbandry, and sometimes extensive diagnostic work and treatment by your veterinarian. But it will all be worth it for a long life filled with happy, nose-wiggling love and a nice, clean bum.

We Are Looking for Loving Homes: These Rabbits Are in Foster Care

Bowie

Bowie is a beautiful female Harlequin-colored Lop. She was rescued from a home where, in the first year of her life, she was kept in a cage in a kitchen with no ability to hide or even hop around, and she also had a seriously damaged eye. Unfortunately her eye was not reparable, so it was removed by a rabbit-savvy vet. She has adjusted wonderfully to life with one eye. She is shy at first and would do best in a quiet home with gentle adults who can give her ample affection and space to exercise. She is spayed and loves to snuggle with her stuffed animal friends, a sign that she likely would be a good partner for another rabbit. If interested in adopting Bowie, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.



Bowie.



Lex.

Lex

Lex is a medium-sized male Harlequin Rex, approximately 2 years of age. He has a medium to high energy level. He is a shy guy when meeting new people, but quickly warms up. This sweet, gentle boy is very inquisitive, likes to play with his toys and due to his sweet demeanor, would make a great companion rabbit. Lex is an excellent eater, loves his greens and hay and has exceptional litter-box skills. He is very well behaved and enjoys petting and hanging out with his foster mom in her kitchen during playtime. Lex has been neutered. If interested in adopting Lex, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.



Angelina.

Angelina

Angelina is a strikingly beautiful medium-sized Hotot who has been waiting for a forever home for over two years. She was cruelly abandoned outside in a cardboard box. Despite her prior mistreatment, she loves nothing more than to be petted by gentle humans. When you start petting her, she presses her head down, starts tooth purring and closes her eyes in



Flash.

complete contentment. Angelina needs a peaceful and rabbit-experienced home with no young children where she can feel completely safe. She is a typical



Rory.

young, healthy rabbit with lots of energy for running, binkying and shredding cardboard! She does spectacular jumps and binkies! She is spayed and litter-box trained, and she is living in foster care. If interested in adopting Angelina, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Flash

Flash is a beautiful medium-sized English Spot rabbit. He is very active and enjoys running around and chasing his toys. When he wants to relax, he likes nothing more than to snuggle up next to his human and soak in lots of petting. Flash has good litter-box skills, has been neutered, and is living at the Union Square Petco. For more information, contact nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Rory

Rory is an all-black rabbit with good litter-box habits. Rory is a smart boy, and while he enjoys playing with toys, he isn't destructive. This adorable boy loves to be the center of attention and is happy to snuggle up next to his human companion. His favorite pastime is having his head, cheeks and ears petted. Best is, he's a kisser. What's better than a kissing bunny? Rory is neutered and living in foster care. For more information, please contact nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com

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Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 12)

Mandy and Cruise

Mandy and Cruise are a bonded mother-son pair of English Spot rabbits. Mandy is the larger bunny with lighter markings, and Cruise has the darker markings. They are curious, friendly, and enjoy being petted. Both are full of young bunny energy and need a home where they will receive lots of exercise time, enrichment and affection. Mandy and Cruise are currently living in a foster home. Mandy has been spayed and Cruise has been neutered. Both are small to medium-sized. For more information and/or to set up an meeting with Mandy and Cruise, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.



Mandy and Cruise.



Shadow.

Shadow

Shadow is a female Lionhead who was born in 2012. While Shadow is good with people and other pets, she would do best in a calm, quiet home without small children. She has been spayed and is currently in foster care. To inquire about adopting Shadow, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Susan

Susan is a medium-size brown beauty. She is on the young side (probably a year or two), healthy, and has lots of



Susan.

energy for binkies and playtime! She loves to munch on her hay and fresh greens. She is warming up to petting, but would probably not make a great choice for someone who wants a lap bunny or for a home with young kids. She has been spayed and is blossoming in foster care. For more information on adopting Susan, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

These Rabbits Are Available at Manhattan Animal Care Center (NYC ACC)

By Kirsten Ott

Charlie

Charlie is a medium-to-large black bunny with a very gentle personality. This guy, although he's a sturdy boy with a big head, tends to be a little insecure or tense. He loves to be petted, though, especially enjoying having his head and ears stroked. This sweet, sensitive rabbit would probably make a good partner for another bunny. Charlie's looks suggest he may be a rare New Zealand Black, or a NZ mix.



Charlie.

fun to look at, with black markings that include a big Groucho Marx mustache, black and white whiskers, a large dewlap, and extra pouches of tissue and fur above her front feet. She's very alert and



Cha Cha.

high-energy, but she also loves to be petted, and really enjoys robust head massages. Affection seems to calm her down, and if you're in the vicinity she'll
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Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 13)

eagerly seek out your hand for petting. In addition to being a very entertaining bunny, Cha Cha will become a total love sponge in a good forever home.

Fluffy

Fluffy is a medium-sized, cream-colored female lop with a lovely personality. This friendly girl is an extreme cuddler – she'll hop right up to you and flatten herself out for petting, eyes closed in utter contentment. She especially loves head and neck rubs. Fluffy's coat is as described; her fur is mostly creamy, but she has darker brown fur on her muzzle and ears. This wonderful girl would make a good choice for a first-time bunny owner.

Alfie

Alfie is a small bunny with an amazing orange coat. This guy is no ordinary redhead – he's an eye-catching radiant orange color that truly turns heads! Alfie is still young, with a slender face and delicate arms and legs, and the combination of his coloring and his physique brings to mind a young kangaroo. Alfie also has the alertness, agility and curiosity of youth, and is presently more interested in exploration than affection. That's sure to evolve as he matures.

Bambi

Bambi is a large Cinnamon female with a nice, easygoing personality. This girl is all brown, with darker fur on her muzzle and ears – and what fun ears those are! They move around a lot, but one is usually up and the other usually sticks out to the side, as though she's perpetually spelling the letter "L" (as in Love!). Bambi loves affection and gets attached very quickly – she relaxes easily, but will snap to attention if you start to leave her side. Her thick coat is shedding mightily at the moment, but that won't be a year-round phenomenon.



Fluffy.



Alfie.



Bambi.



Jojo.



Zanya.

Jojo

Jojo is a small- to medium-sized tan bunny with a cute white cottontail. This pretty, delicate-looking girl is a bit of a nervous Nellie, but if approached gently she will soak up petting and stick her head in your direction to request more. She is sure to become more trusting in a good, quiet forever home. Jojo's on the young side, so she may grow a bit more – but she has dwarf ears, so she definitely won't be a big bunny. She sports a gorgeous, pastel reddish-tan coat.

Zanya

Zanya is a small, juvenile Harlequin mix female who's the friendliest bun you can imagine! This sweetie does whatever she can think of to get your attention and convince you to visit with her, and she adores affection – especially cheek rubs. If she could, she'd hop into your pocket or bag and come home with you – that's how much she needs human company. Zanya's coat is multiple shades of gray and brownish-gray, which makes her look kind of like a tiny opossum. She will likely grow somewhat, but won't be a large rabbit.

Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Cinnamon, Kappa, Silver, Cherry, Leonora, Coleslaw, Naruto, Gena, Mila, Dot, Rosebud, Beanie, Cosmo, Percy, Sky, Lucy and Pearl, Cody, Sunshine, Oreo, Chester, Midnight and Faith, Zan, Smores, Dr. Pepper, Jumper, Bel, Gouda, Storm and Alfalfa.

Rocket

Photo: Jade Chan



Photo: Teija Garrett



Rocket at Petco Union Square.

Photo: Larry Marion



Rocket and his brothers during their first visit to Petco in 2015. From left, Abraham, Martin and Rocket. In the back, Sir Reginald Fuzzibottom.

Rocket was one of Frieda's boys. He had been with us since he was young and grew up and eventually found his way to being a resident at Petco Union Square. He was a beautiful black rabbit who quickly became a celebrity. Everyone enjoyed visiting Rocket at the store. And Rocket was always willing to perform for his visitors. He was full of life and energy and gave his followers a show every time he was out in the pen. He would rush around, be curious about everything and then flop over for a rest to the delight of all. He loved being with his stuffed whale buddy. Rocket developed a problem in his jaw earlier this year and had surgery. While he was convalescing his fans would come and visit and ask about him. Everyone was concerned and missed him when he was not at Petco. When he came back to the store, it seemed that Rocket was on the mend and bouncing back. Unfortunately his rebound was short-lived. He began to show signs of a problem and although he was in a great deal of pain, he did not slow down. Little Rocket was a star and let everyone think he was just fine, no matter what pain he was in at the end. We had to let him go. Rocket is free of the pain now. He was a trouper and he will be missed by everyone who got to know him.

—Robert Kulka

Soar Now Sweet Rocket

By Robert Kulka

They come to us for a time
 We nurture them, care for them, love them
 Give them the things they never had.
 These little ones develop personalities,
 Come to trust us.
 Some become little celebrities
 Working themselves deeper into our hearts,
 We want them to stay forever.
 For the little we can give them
 They return so much more;
 They make us smile when we don't want to
 Look at us with eyes that finally trust.
 We do our very best
 Hoping they will have some joy.
 Sometimes they are with us for too short a time
 And when it is their time to leave
 They somehow smile and say thank you,
 Thank you for loving me
 And doing what you could for me,
 Thank you but it is time I must go now.
 For all the love you showed
 All the joy I may have finally had
 It is time to travel to another place
 Where I have friends and family waiting
 With lots of space,
 A place with no pain and no worry.
 Our sweet and handsome young boy
 Black and slick and full of life
 Who entertained and caught everyone's eye,
 Gave us the privilege of knowing him for a time.
 We wanted him to stay always but
 We had to let him go,
 Let him soar now and run and hop
 Flying across the sky
 A shooting star,
 This wonderful boy.
 Our little Rocket we have to let you go
 We must say goodbye for now.
 We will see you again someday
 Little Rocket we will be reunited,
 And your eyes of trust will be filled with love
 As you welcome us and ours,
 You will say come fly with me
 I am your Rocket...

Bye, Baby Goose

By Melissa van Wijk

I'm sure we've all thought the same thing as we say goodbye to our beloved bunnies and pick up our suitcases to walk out the door to go on vacation: "What if?!" What if the worst happens while you're on vacation? The worst did happen to my lovely Lucy (I always called her Baby Goose), while I was in Holland this past August. She had to be put to sleep and I was thousands of miles and six time zones away. It was as awful as you'd think it would be.

First, let me gush over how special and lovely and sweet Lucy was, because she was all of those things, every day, all the time. I first met her when she was still Audrey at Petco almost nine years ago and fostered and then adopted her through ACC. She looked as if she had fallen out of a Beatrix Potter story. She became the third in my bonded trio, along with Doby and Pebbles.

My trio had become a duo two years ago when Doby died. My boy Pebbles loooooooved his best friend, Lucy, and they were the happiest couple. They cuddled constantly, shared banana treats, played with their willow balls, and would take turns running back and forth under my bent knees when I sat with them on the floor. Lucy groomed him with dedication and precision, while he was a lazy boyfriend in this regard. He'd groom her for a quick second and preferred to show his love by sticking his little head right under hers. Life was good.

Recently Lucy had some health issues: less mobility in her legs, significant arthritis in both hips, a few short seizures, digestive issues, treatment with Panacur for *E. cuniculi*. Still, she was stable, mobile, eating, content, even noticeably improved after the Panacur.

Before I left for Holland to visit my family, I had fully brought my neighbor Arlene up to speed on everything, as

Photo: Melissa van Wijk



Pebbles and Lucy.

always. She has been the bunnies' caregiver in my absence for over five years and is simply a jewel of a person. Also, as always, I had bunny-savvy experts on standby should my neighbor need help or advice. Notes were written, supplies were organized, Lucy and Pebbles were hugged, and off I went.

And then came the What If.

On the night of Thursday, Aug. 24, Arlene found Lucy unable to walk. She texted me, but couldn't reach me. Holland is six hours ahead. I was asleep. So my worried neighbor spent 45 minutes on the phone with the very helpful on-call vet from Rye Harrison Veterinary Hospital, where all three of my bunnies received excellent care all their lives. I woke up on Friday morning to find Arlene's texts. Now I was the one who could not reach her, because she was still asleep. Honestly, I thought Lucy had had one of her temporary problems where she could only move her front legs and went around in a circle. These occasional events would never last long and she'd snap out of it. Still, it was a long wait from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., sitting around waiting for your neighbor to wake up to find out if that's really all it was. Then, finally, we spoke on the phone. I asked her to go to my apartment and FaceTime me so I could see Lucy.

Minutes later I saw Lucy on my screen and she was not fine. As soon as I saw her, I realized she wasn't Lucy anymore. My heart sank, my stomach turned into a knot, and tears moved into my throat. "Get her to the vet. Use the pink carrier. I'll call a car service. I'll call the vet to let them know you're coming. Just go."

Within an hour Lucy was with Dr. Blair Green and it was not good. We tried a Hail Mary of Metacam, fluids, Critical Care, and lots of love, but I sensed what was all but inevitably coming. I followed up a few hours later with Dr. Green. No improvement. No hope for improvement. On to the next dreadful thing: making arrangements for your bunny to move on from this life while you're by the side of a country road somewhere near the border with Germany, hiding from your niece and nephews so as to not ruin the celebration of their grandmother's birthday.

My sainted neighbor would not let Lucy go by herself and went in my place. I wanted Pebbles to be with Lucy, which Dr. Green fully supported. Jane O'Wyatt (my bunnies' dedicated and caring groomer their entire lives) made this possible by heading to my apartment and helping my neighbor catch the notoriously feisty Pebbles. It was almost

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Baby Goose (Continued from page 16)

Photo: Melissa van Wijk



Lucy and Pebbles.

midnight in Holland when everyone was situated and they FaceTimed me.

If you should ever find yourself in a similar situation, let me offer this suggestion: get someone to videotape the whole thing. You do not know if the Wi-Fi connection will fail, or if you will lose the video feed. If that happens, you will miss your goodbye and you will want that video. Once things are put into motion in the room, they can't pause for unruly cellphone service to kick back in. I have videos and I am so glad for that.

When they put Pebbles in front of Lucy, he seemed quite peeved at being at the vet, while she didn't realize he was there. And then she recognized him. I saw it. It made her feel better instantly. I saw that, too. Then I asked Dr. Green to put Pebbles right next to Lucy. He settled down once he realized he was next to his girl. Suddenly he wasn't scared and angry to be at the vet anymore. They were such a cute couple, one last time. As Jane texted me later: "Pebbles, for all his reluctance to get into the carrier, really came through for Lucy, as you knew he would."

They lay there together. Lucy went quickly. It was peaceful. I said goodbye through FaceTime, unsure if she could hear my voice. Right after the vet said Lucy was gone, Pebbles gave Lucy one last grooming kiss on her sweet little face, as quickly as he always did. Bye, Baby Goose.

Photo: Arabella Friedland



Terrance.

I Adopted Terrance, and Then He Rescued Me

By Arabella Friedland

Three years ago I adopted a rescued rabbit who in turn rescued me. I had walked into Petco to visit another rabbit, Luna, who showed little interest. Just above her was Terrance. He watched me while eagerly munching copious amounts of Timothy hay. One ear stood straight up, with the other cocked jauntily. They almost appeared to propel him when he was excited.

It was love at first sight. I knew that this remarkable boy would be the greatest and most worthwhile of loves. Terrance was a gentle giant. He had been found on 125th Street. I felt pain knowing that his early life had perhaps not been anything he deserved. But I was so happy that he had been rescued, and I adored his remarkably loving character. The moment you came near him, he'd flatten out for pettings. He was so affectionate, curious and stubborn. He stalked you for bananas. He destroyed countless books. His leaps and binkies were nothing short of majestic. Needless to say, he charmed everyone who crossed his path. A year and a half or so after his adoption, I was back at Petco picking up supplies, and Luna was still there. I set up a speed-

dating session and three eligible bunny bachelorettes were brought out. Terrance immediately fell head over heels for Luna. She in turn, did not try to kill him – though there was plenty of animosity.

While perhaps this is not the way most great love stories begin, this one was special. Terrance changed Luna. She blossomed. They became inseparable. A volunteer once told me that there is no greater joy than seeing two bonded bunnies. She was absolutely right.

When my father died this year, Terrance remained steadfast as my protector and my companion, and he was unwavering in his love. The days that were so hard were made so much easier by his running up to me and laying himself down at my feet to be petted. He would round corners to keep watch on me. I could hug him, I could kiss him and, most important, he let me know that he was always there.

In August, Terrance unexpectedly became ill and passed away. There isn't a day that I don't wait for him to round the corner and let me know that he's there.

I'm just so grateful that he was.

Letters From Adopters

Photo: Gail Sanders



Sierra Sanders with Kiro.

Kiro

Kiro, formerly known as Honeyboo, was adopted by the Sanders family in August 2015 from Manhattan's Animal Care Center. Gail Sanders recently wrote this "happy tail" letter.

We adopted and welcomed Honeyboo (now called Kiro) two years ago into our family. Since that time, he has brought nothing but happiness to our family.

He is such a sweet rabbit. Kiro loves to be petted and will nudge you to do so if you stop mid-pet. His presence has been emotionally gratifying. When I feel stressed, I'm able to lie down with Kiro and talk to him. And when I get up, I feel so much better. He is very spoiled.

My family and I would encourage everyone to adopt a rabbit. They are such smart, lovable pets. I never thought I could be so attached to an animal but Kiro has stolen my heart. He's a special part of our family and we wouldn't be complete without him!

Gail Sanders

Scruffy and LC

Wendy Yu adopted Scruffy as a partner for LC this past July 29. The bunnies are now enjoying life together.

I had a wonderful experience when I adopted Scruffy (ACC name: Scruffles). Amy Odum, the rabbit bonding expert at Manhattan Animal Care Center, has a lot of experience and knowledge about bunnies. Amy gave me advice on how to bond them. She supervised the bunny speed-dating sessions, and my little dwarf bunny LC picked Scruffy.

Scruffy is a very sweet boy. He loves to be cuddled, and he can sit still the whole day long enjoying head rubbing. Yet he is also very curious and energetic. Every morning at 6, he runs around in the play pen fast and furious. He wakes us up every morning without missing a day. What a little alarm clock!

I began the short daily meeting sessions between the buns three days after Scruffy got home with me, and Amy was extremely helpful. She answered all of my questions regarding bonding.

Photo: Wendy Yu



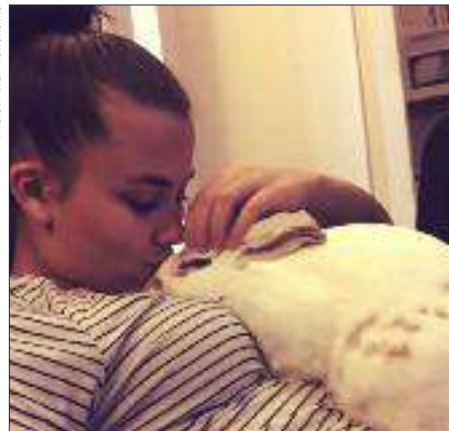
Scruffy and LC.

Scruffy and LC are very relaxed together. There is great chemistry between them. The two babies started cuddling up together on Aug. 23, less than a month after I started the short daily bonding sessions. I was so excited to see them cuddle up. That moment made me really happy!

My animals mean everything to me! I have had LC, the small dwarf bun, for over three years. Although I have just adopted Scruffy recently, I am already so attached to him, and I can't imagine my life without him now!

Wendy Yu

Photo: Andi Hortenstine



Andi and Speckles.

Speckles

Andi adopted Speckles (fka Citron) this past spring. Here is her great update.

I adopted Speckles (formerly known as Citron) in April. I recently visited the shelter because I'm interested in doing bunny speed dating with Speckles, and may be getting him a friend!

He's doing great. He's a spoiled bun, living it up in his bachelor pad. He's healthy and happy and I'm so so happy to have adopted him. I love him so much :)

I take tons of pictures of him. He also has his own Instagram, and you can follow him @specklesthebunny.

Andi Hortenstine

Mustang

Frank Miceli Jr. adopted Mustang, formerly called Adelaide, in mid-August. Here is an update on Mustang's adventures.

I renamed Adelaide and chose the name Mustang after a character in one of my favorite book series, "Red Rising" by Pierce Brown.

Mustang has quickly adapted to her new home. She enjoys running around her

(Continued on page 19)

Photo: Frank Miceli Jr.



Mustang rummaging in Frank's stuff.

room and playing "hide and seek." Mustang is also extremely affectionate as she will give kisses and sit in your lap for long periods of time.

I wanted to extend a thank you to everyone at NYC ACC. If it were not for them I would not have had a chance to adopt Mustang. A special thank you must go out to Neil Schaier, who took the time to ensure we would bond with each other. He also made sure that I knew how to care for Mustang and what warning signs to look out for in case she got sick. Neil was also kind enough to follow up later that night and the day after to check on whether all was going well.

I also do not want to leave out the rest of the staff that was working there. It was a very busy day and they were more than accommodating to everyone who walked into the shelter. One person in particular, Lisa, was very helpful with me personally. She was keeping me up to date with the status of the adoption the entire time I was there and made sure any questions I had were answered. While the entire staff was great I just wanted to especially thank Neil and Lisa for going above and beyond.

Thank you again for giving me the chance to adopt Mustang and welcome her to my family.

Kind regards,
Frank

Benni

Benni, formerly known as Pumpkin, was adopted in early August by Ynolde Roberts-Prince and her family as a partner for

their boy bunny, George. The two bunnies are doing well.

Benni is adjusting wonderfully to her new home. She's a true family member now.

They (Benni and George) are still in the getting-to-know-each-other/bonding stage.

Every day is a better day.

We let them hang out in hallway or lobby together for several minutes at a time with a very watchful eye.

Benni's ALL over the apartment, and she gets to hang out on the bed, snuggling at times. She's actually kinda spoiled...in a sweet way. What can I say...she's cute! And those eyelashes...

Photo: Ynolde Roberts-Prince



Benni and George.

We do share the attention given to both because George does get jealous at times and is aware when she's getting her cuddles. Lol.

Ynolde Roberts-Prince

A Way to Celebrate Your Next Birthday

By Robert Kulka

I recently celebrated a birthday. I say "celebrated," even though at this point in my life that is debatable. Birthdays can be a mixed blessing. I mention all this not for birthday wishes or, for that matter, condolences. I bring this up because as a Facebook member something happened to pleasantly surprise me this year.

Several days before my birthday, Facebook suggested I might like to list a charity of my choice to give people an opportunity to donate in honor of my birthday or in lieu of gifts. Many of you may already be familiar with this feature, but it was the first time I experienced it. It was really a cinch. It just asked me to pick a charity.

Once I selected Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, which is already on the list, the rest was basically done for me. A donate option was on my timeline and stayed up a full 10 days. I did not send out invites to my friends list, and despite that, I reached my goal. Speaking of goals, since this was the first time I did this, I did not realize I could adjust the goal that automatically came up as a suggestion from Facebook. I wonder if, had I set the goal higher, I might have gotten more donations. Sometimes people see that you've reached your goal and think that the donation process is ended.

I thought I would share this experience for those of you who did not know the option existed or had not thought to use it. It gave me a better feeling about being a year older. It gave friends a way to connect and also do something they could feel good about. And, most important, it raised funds for our little group. Rabbit Rescue & Rehab is a small organization that does a lot of work for bunnies in need. We provide medical care and rehab for rabbits that are in bad shape. We place them in foster homes and sometimes need to assist in setting up the home with supplies. We have costs that come up, related to everything from providing materials, maintaining supplies, postage, follow-up medical visits, medication and so many other things you might not even think about. We pay no one. We don't have a lot of funds coming in and when costs are not covered, there are individuals that reach into their own pockets to make ends meet.

So there you have it. It is almost worth getting a year older just to help out the rabbits. It would certainly go a long way toward helping meet expenses. And birthdays aren't the only times to set up the donation on your page. By the way, I hear that Twitter also provides this option.



Volunteer Hilary Hanson with Moon Knight.



Cody.



Bugs, napping sweetly.



Garfield in repose.



Charlie.

CELEBRITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Zanya.



Lola.



Cha Cha.



Naruto.



Storm.



Luna.



Flash.



Buddy.

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

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
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

Shachar Malka, DVM
Long Island Bird & Exotics
Veterinary Clinic
333 Great Neck Road
Great Neck, NY 11021
(516) 482-1101

Licensed HRS Educators

NYC/Westchester:

M.C. Basile, Chapter Manager, NYC House Rabbit Society, bunnytorts@gmail.com
Mary Cotter, Founder, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, Adviser to Thump, mec@cloud9.net, (914) 337-6146

Marcie Frishberg, mfrish57bun@yahoo.com, (718) 724-4105
Gabrielle LaManna, New Fairfield, CT, gabbysbunnies@yahoo.com, (203) 746-7548

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

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

Kerstin Aumann
Monica Shepherd, DVM

Long Island:

Nancy Schreiber, President, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, nnschreibmd@gmail.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 OCTOBER 2017

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS
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 by sending contributions to: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab/NYC Metro Rabbit, 333 Mamaroneck Ave, #363, White Plains, NY 10605 or <http://rabbitcare.org/donations.htm>. To contribute to Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, please go to www.longislandrabbitrescue.org.

Adoptable Rabbits

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

To adopt a rabbit in **New York City** or **Westchester**, contact nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com. On **Long Island**, contact Nancy Schreiber at nnschreibmd@gmail.com or at 516-510-3637 (www.longislandrabbitrescue.org).

If interested in volunteering or fostering for Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Adoptable Rabbit Rescue & Rehab rabbits are at Petco's Union Square location. Rabbit volunteers are present at these stores on Saturday and Sunday afternoons to answer questions.

You can also visit Manhattan Animal Care Center at 326 East 110th St., between First and Second avenues, and the Brooklyn Animal Care Center at 2336 Linden Boulevard.

Rabbits for adoption in Manhattan and Brooklyn 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 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

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.