

Photo: M.C. Bastille



Kody.

NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS APRIL 2019

The Eye of the Bunny: Kody's Journey with Cataracts, Glaucoma and Inflammation

By Marisa Wilson

"Big Kody" came into our lives in late December 2015 as a foster rabbit through Rabbit Rescue & Rehab. He was a 14-pound, three-year-old Flemish Giant, with a mature cataract in his left eye and glaucoma in his right eye, but his limited vision didn't slow him down at all. He was a binky machine during exercise time. We were well prepared in taking him into our home, knowing that his

care would require a substantial amount of time with eye drops, medications and ophthalmologist visits. Having been "parents" of giant-breed rabbits before, we had no doubt that Kody would be well worth the effort.

At the time, this gentle guy was on three medications, twice daily, and he was under the care of Dr. Jane Cho for his glaucoma, cataracts and inflammation in

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Easter Is Always A Challenging Time for Rabbits

By Alex Mcle

Easter is a frightening time for rabbits, and a challenging time for bunny advocates. Although our collective knowledge of proper rabbit care has grown tremendously over the past couple decades, pervasive cultural misconceptions about the nature and humane treatment of rabbits are still deeply entrenched in our society overall. Such attitudes contribute to the predictable annual spike in the purchase of real rabbits as children's gifts, as well as the use of rabbits as props for every-

thing from magic shows, to portrait businesses, to children's Easter events and parties.

In the weeks leading up to Easter, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab sees a rise in requests for spur-of-the-moment and ill-considered adoptions for bunnies to fill children's Easter baskets. We receive a steady stream of inquiries from parents who wish to "rent" rabbits for Easter parties (sometimes asking whether any are dyed like those they have seen on Instagram), businesses that want to lease rabbits for portrait photo shoots in shopping malls, and more. We take these inquiries seriously because they are opportunities to educate people about the dangers posed by each

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I AM NOT AN EASTER TOY

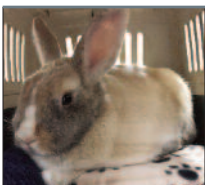
My name is Brooks, and I was left alone in a park because someone didn't want me anymore. I was very lucky to have been found and rescued in time. After Easter every year, thousands of rabbits just like me are abandoned to overcrowded shelters or are left to die outside.

I am not a novelty. I live for 10+ years and deserve a lifetime commitment!

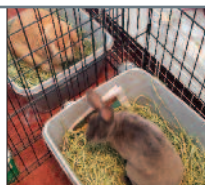
Rabbits are fragile animals and do not like to be picked up. They require a spacious indoor home, a special diet, and vet care from a rabbit-savvy vet, so are seldom suitable for children and absolutely never as a "starter pet." Rabbits are NOT low-maintenance companions.

rabbitcare.org
Rabbit Rescue & Rehab nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab bun Brooks poses for a poster.



How Much Is Your Bunny Worth? Costs Can Add Up
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Learning About The Bonding Process With Mr. Gray
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Our Columnists Offer Pointers About Rabbit Relationships
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Our masthead bunny, Long Island Rabbit Rescue alumna Celine Nisar (photo at top left) is a new woman after her beauty treatment (top right). Woolly/angora/floofy breeds like Celine can't clean themselves adequately, so regular attention keeps ears and butts clear and removes matting that can irritate and bind delicate skin. Celine's personality definitely changes after her trim and she spends hours afterwards checking out how her new body feels. Photos and grooming: Katie Scarr and Mary Ann Maier.

Eye of the Bunny

(Continued from page 1)

both eyes. We visited Dr. Cho every two to three months for roughly two years and were lucky that his eyes remained relatively stable with timolol, flurbiprofen and sodium chloride ointment. His pressures fluctuated but stayed below 20 in each eye, which was an acceptable level, though a bit high.

In 2018, it became evident that the drug combination we were using was losing its effectiveness. The pressures, inflammation and scarring began to increase, and we had to create a new plan. Kody's eye pressures were now around 30 and the appearance of the scar tissue was of concern to us, RR&R and Dr. Cho.

We then sought out the opinions of the vets at Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital and Dr. John Sapienza at Long Island Veterinary Specialists to learn all of our options and determine the best course of action for Kody. We decided to try two different medications, dorzolamide and brinzolamide, to see if they could help him. Unfortunately, both drugs proved to be too irritating and harsh for his eyes.

Photo: M.C. Basile



Kody having the pressure in his eyes checked with a tonometer by Dr. Gil Stanzione at Dakota Veterinary Center in March 2015.

After much discussion and research, we decided to move forward with intraocular glaucoma injections with Dr. Sapienza. It was a half-day procedure and Kody handled it well. (Most people have never seen a Flemish Giant, so he created quite the stir at the animal hospital. His gentle and innocent nature quickly added to his celebrity status that day.)

The procedure worked beautifully in his left eye. The pressure is now 7 and he is

considered cured in that eye; no more drops! In his right eye, the treatment was partially effective, and the pressures remain around 17, so it is something we will continue to monitor. For now, we are thrilled that the pressure is at least out of the danger zone and the eye seems to be stable again.

We asked each vet we saw for an opinion regarding the extent of his blindness. They all agreed that he is completely blind.

The funny thing is that you would never know this upon meeting him. Despite all of the vet visits, car rides, eye drops and procedures, he continues to be a happy and sweet guy.

He runs right up to every person he meets, and he binkies and races around the room just like every other bunny. His absolute favorite pastime is to destroy and shred cardboard – aka “bunstruction” – in between his naps and meals. We feel very blessed to have found Kody and we formally adopted him in August 2018.

Kody sends a very big thank you to all his friends and advocates at Rabbit Rescue & Rehab. A special thank you also goes out to the all of the vets who helped him along the way!

Easter *(Continued from page 1)*

situation and to communicate our position to always act in the best interest of the rabbit. It is a huge success when these individuals come away with a new appreciation for rabbits' needs and the care with which they deserve to be treated! Yet, the frequency with which these inquiries occur is a salient reminder of how far we have to go before current attitudes of animal commodification will become a thing of the past. And unfortunately, those who walk into a pet store instead of contacting a rescue organization may miss out on that opportunity to learn and make a different, better, choice.

In the weeks following Easter, there is an inevitable flood of calls to surrender what can amount to hundreds of rabbits, and there is not nearly enough room to place all of them into a foster home. The most troubling of these surrender requests come from people threatening the safety of the rabbit, sometimes explicitly warning that they will soon dump the rabbit outdoors, which is a sure death sentence. Other rabbits will be abandoned with no effort on the owner's part to even contact a shelter or rescue group. Many rabbits end up in overcrowded shelters awaiting a chance at a new life with a caring forever family, and many, many more do not live to see their first birthday.

Easter time thus presents a sobering reminder that as rabbit lovers and advocates, we must task ourselves with the responsibility to work on changing public perceptions so that rabbits may gain the respect and protection they so desperately need and deserve. Far too many rabbits become victims of ignorance, and the more voices there are speaking in support of rabbits, the more successful we will be.

Please share information about rabbits' general aversion to being held and the great care with which these fragile animals must be handled. Speak openly and frequently about the significant

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Easter *(Continued from page 2)*

responsibility of caring for a bunny, their special dietary requirements, need to be spayed/neutered, and potentially costly vet care. Use social media to reach people who may not otherwise have stopped to consider that what seems like a cute Easter (or birthday, Christmas, etc.) surprise is in fact a living, breathing, 10-plus-year commitment deserving of care, attention, and love from the only humans they have to depend on for their quality of life.

There are many ways to help! Fosterers are saving a life by providing a desperately needed spot for a homeless rabbit. Donations allow us to give homeless rabbits vet care, including spay and

neuter surgeries, and provide food and supplies for their daily care. Consider volunteering with a rescue organization or shelter to care for rabbits awaiting their forever homes, or inquire about ways to contribute other skills. Especially as Easter approaches each year, ask a rescue group for written materials and make them available at your school, church, shops, anywhere you can! Everyone who speaks up to educate and share knowledge helps to end the cycle and bring us as a society one step closer to a more informed and safe world for rabbits. Thank you to everyone in this caring community who has helped bring us to where we are today, and to where we strive to go in the future.



Baloo, a Rabbit Rescue & Rehab bun, in an informational poster.



Romeo.



Pineapple and Sugarplum.



Carmela.

How Much Is Your Bunny Worth?

By Amelia Wilson

(All names have been changed to protect the privacy of bunny and humans.)

It started with an ominous text. “Puffling isn’t her usual naughty self.” It was our friend and neighbor, Gail, whom we had conscripted to check in nightly on our three bunnies. Our stomachs dropped as we hurriedly snatched up our phones to fire off the usual questions we had asked so many times: “Did she eat her pellets? Can you try a sprig of cilantro? Are her ears cold? Is there poop in her litter box?” The answers staggered in through the spotty Caribbean phone connection: “She didn’t really eat her pellets. She turned her nose up at the cilantro. Her ears seem cold.”

We were at that moment dining at a hilltop restaurant in Basseterre, Saint Kitts, in the West Indies, overlooking the twinkling lights of the city’s main historic port. But we were no longer enjoying anything. Helplessness seized us as Natalie was already trying to reach Delta Air Lines to change our return tickets home for the next day. We

contacted Puffling’s amazing, indefatigable primary bunny-sitter Eleanor, and asked that she return to our home, administer the usual array of stasis meds (simethicone, Metacam and Reglan), and take her temperature. Eleanor was on the case, roused from her bed at almost 10 p.m.

Forty minutes later and with Puffling’s temperature down to 95.6° F, we knew there was only one option left: Puffling had to go to our New York vet for an emergency admission. And it was going to cost us at least \$1,000 – to start.

We had been in this situation before. Three times, in fact. Each time we were on vacation or away for the holidays when the texts started coming in regarding Puffling’s lackluster demeanor. And each time it happened faster than the time before. She would be perfectly healthy up until the day we left, and seemed active and bright initially after our departure, and then would start to slide – no, plummet – into stasis.

Our bunny Puffling has an affliction, and it’s one that is costing us thousands of dollars. So many thousands of dollars –

and so reliably so – that we now have to incorporate this cost into the calculus of whether we can afford to go on vacation. Puffling suffers from severe separation anxiety (diagnosed by us). She is so bonded to us, she practically perishes with grief every time we leave town for more than one day. She stops eating hay, stops racing around, stops drinking water, and stops eating veggies. It is as though she is confronted with the end of the world, and her heart fractures at the sight.

So off Puffling went to the vet. Eleanor already had administered medications and given Puffling warmed subcutaneous fluids, and she nuked Puffling’s SnuggleSafe heating pad in the microwave before placing it in her carrier for the trip to the vet. By 2 a.m., the emergency vet on duty had brought Puffling’s temperature up to 99°, and our dear Eleanor (bless her into infinity) was finally dispatched and allowed to return to her bed. We are forever in her debt.

An initial emergency intake at our vet is \$1,130. This includes hospitalization, Special Care Unit (SCU) care and monitoring, fluids, meds and X-rays. Puffling was placed in a heated cage, hooked up to a catheter, and shamed with an Elizabethan collar. But she was stable. The final bill lifted us over \$2,000 for two nights, three days. That was more than our entire five-day stay in the Kittitian luxury eco resort.

This price does not include the other costs associated with Puffling’s depression-driven stasis. There are the car-service fees to transport Puffling and her chaperone to the vet. There are airfare change fees (last Christmas the fee was graciously waived by Delta when they learned that Natalie was returning to save an animal companion). And there is the loss of a relaxing and hard-earned vacation, as we find ourselves consumed



Before: Puffling (her real name is withheld) at the emergency vet at 2 a.m.

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'The Silence of Love': Your Rabbit Can Get You to Understand With Fewer Than Five Sounds

By Amanda Puitiza

If you've ever had a conversation with a bunny, it would probably sound a little one-sided to an outside observer. But if you are the happy parent of a rabbit, you would probably tell that observer that all you have to do is pay close attention to the rabbit's body language – the ears, tail and body posture can say it all. Volunteering at a shelter was definitely an eye-opener into the world of rabbit

communication for me. But when you live with a rabbit, the one-to-one communication can give you a lot of insight into your individual rabbit's likes and dislikes.

Athena, a rabbit that I got to know both in the shelter and later as part of my family, has a pair of beautifully expressive, chocolate eyes. Although some may call her a bit chunky, she has an ability to move gracefully and definitively; it isn't

difficult for the average person to understand her meaning. Whether she is annoyed at your lateness or nose-nudging you to get your attention NOW, she dominates cross-species communication. My other rabbit, Jack, is more subtle when communicating with humans. He constantly has a "poker face" and is partial to thumping to show his displeasure. To the outside observer, he might seem

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How Much *(Continued from page 4)*

with worry from the moment she starts showing signs of depression.

Some might think us insane for spending this kind of money to save our bunny. I will not deny that I felt many moments of despair and even anger at the idea that she "kept doing this to us." But the truth is, she doesn't do this to us. She can't help that she feels the way she does, or that she becomes so ill. She isn't acting deliberately or out of malice. She is a sweet, loving animal who is so attached to us that she cannot bear for us to leave.

Which leads me to my next point: Puffling is worth it. Her gifts are inestimable in value. Unlike her itemized-bill line items, the joy, companionship and family she gives to us cannot be quantified or monetized. She is actually suffering tremendously when we leave – and has at times nearly died. What would we spend to save her from that? We have yet to reach the limit and do not believe there is one.

That said, there ARE adjustments we would like to make to both keep Puffling healthy and happy, AND not bankrupt ourselves (or, in the alternative, never leave home again). We have already



After: Puffling (real name withheld) convalescing at home next to her SnuggleSafe.

tried a few ideas that have failed: having someone stay at the house; keeping her routine to exactly the same schedule; talking to her through the bunny cam. We have considered medical boarding but are afraid that it would stress her out even more to be apart from her familiar space and smells. We are next looking to have her go to "Greta Camp" to stay with our friend who works from home, has a lot of space, knows rabbits well, and is extremely doting/mindful. And finally, there is the idea of bonding her to another bunny, but let's save that

discussion for another time. (Suffice to say, we have tried, and she has fiercely scorned all suitors).

Since Puffling came home to us following our trip to the West Indies, she has been resting comfortably and slowly returning to her happy, normal self. We love her and realize we can't dwell on what her emergency trip to the vet cost us. Because losing her would cost much more.

The Adoption of Mr. Gray (aka Peter): How We Learned About the Bonding Process

By Jessica Peled

As I write this, it's been exactly 30 days since Peter has been with us and about 50 since Max, the bunny he replaced, died suddenly and tragically.

Prologue:

My husband has a no-dog rule and I am allergic to cats. How and why we found the Brooklyn ACC is a saga for another day. Turns out they had rabbits. After doing our research, it became clear that pet rabbits suited our small apartment, work and family-oriented life ideally. Our daughter fell in love with a bonded pair of rabbits, and so they were adopted. Sadly, as mentioned, one of them died, and we were in need of a new husband for our widowed rabbit Ruby.

Mr. Gray:

Freshly aggrieved, with a stressed lady rabbit in tow and an upcoming family

vacation, we were feeling an urgent need to begin to learn the rabbit-bonding ropes. We contacted Thea Harting and Amy Odum, both of whom volunteer at the Animal Care Centers of NYC. A couple of male bunnies were available at the Manhattan ACC, but they were adopted before we could try to arrange a date. There was, however, a very young, recently neutered male, and there also was a female that Amy was willing to try out with Ruby. It turned out to be an informative session in how the interactions would go, and should go, and what could go wrong. While unsuccessful, it was a critical lesson that would serve us going forward. We came back from vacation and went for a second session in Brooklyn with Thea. We also reached out to various rescue groups, among them Long Island Rabbit Rescue. It was through their adoption process that we met a volunteer named Jacklyn as well,

Photo: Jessica Peled



Ruby, at rear, with her old husband Max.

and we learned and continue to learn from her about the bonding process.

After Max passed away, Thea had helped us with advice as to how to best care for Ruby while she was still grieving over the loss of her partner. Thea wanted to

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BEHAVIOR

Silence *(Continued from page 5)*

like the pensive type because of the way he often “zones out” while sitting; who knows what the little guy is thinking of?

But as anyone constantly around rabbits knows, they do make some very intriguing sounds! These can include purring, honking, grunting and thumping. Although I do hear a lot of purring when I pet and play with my rabbits, the level of grunting noticeably increased after my rabbits were bonded. Unlike cats with their meowing, perhaps rabbits are more inclined to vocalize around other rabbits. I also wanted to note that from my observations, it appears that maybe there is some vocal learning occurring between my two rabbits.

Photo: Amanda Puniza



Silent communication: Athena, at rear, is keeping one eye on Jack as she finishes her treat because she knows he eats more quickly and will come after her treat as soon as he is done.

Athena was more prone to purring and grunting long before Jack started making the same sounds. But once again, this is just a possible explanation for why Jack started to vocalize a little after living with Athena for a year.

Conclusion: I believe rabbits are one of the most expressive creatures, maybe because their “silence” forces you to pay more attention to their whole being.

Future questions to be studied: Do rabbit vocalizations mean something different when directed toward another rabbit, compared to when a human is present? Does vocal learning occur in rabbits? I will be watching Athena and Jack closely to learn more!

Glamorous Rabbit-Rescue Party

By Jacklyn Lahav and Thea Harting

Volunteers from Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group and other local groups teamed up on March 7 to throw a rabbit-rescue educational event at the Moxy Hotel in Chelsea. The scene: a modern suite with a huge living room, featuring floor-to-ceiling windows with sweeping views of the Manhattan skyline.

It all started when event production company Pimenta Productions reached out to Long Island Rabbit Rescue about an installation for the Moxy Hotel Chelsea grand opening.

With the support of Pimenta Productions and the Moxy Hotel, volunteers designed a set-up for the event to simulate a home environment and allow the rabbits to interact with human guests safely, on their own terms. The volunteer Bunny

Photos: Jacklyn Lahav



A sign with some bunny tips.

Agents shared the rabbits' stories, captivated guests with bunny facts, and



Mary Ann Maier and Emilia admire the Manhattan skyline.

illustrated the art of the loaf-producing head pat.

BONDING

Mr. Gray (Continued from page 6)

help us finally find a suitable new husbun (no small task). There were two candidates. Mr. Gray, the eventual winner, was calm and receptive to the overanxious bunny widow.

As with any rescue bunny, we didn't know Mr. Gray's back story, but we could pick up clues as we got to know him. It appeared that Mr. Gray (now called Peter) may have been neglected by his prior family. He was underweight, and seemed uncomfortable and unfamiliar with rabbit-human interaction. He was reticent to explore. On the other hand, he loved our toys and the soft green Timothy hay that we gave him. It took time for us to get him to eat greens and treats. Today we know he loves carrots and raisins but not bananas (Ruby's favorite treat). He also prefers: carrot tops, cilantro, red lettuce and basil. Of course, he now eats all his greens. He will only eat Selective natural pellets, a different brand than the one given to

Photos: Jessica Peled



Ruby.



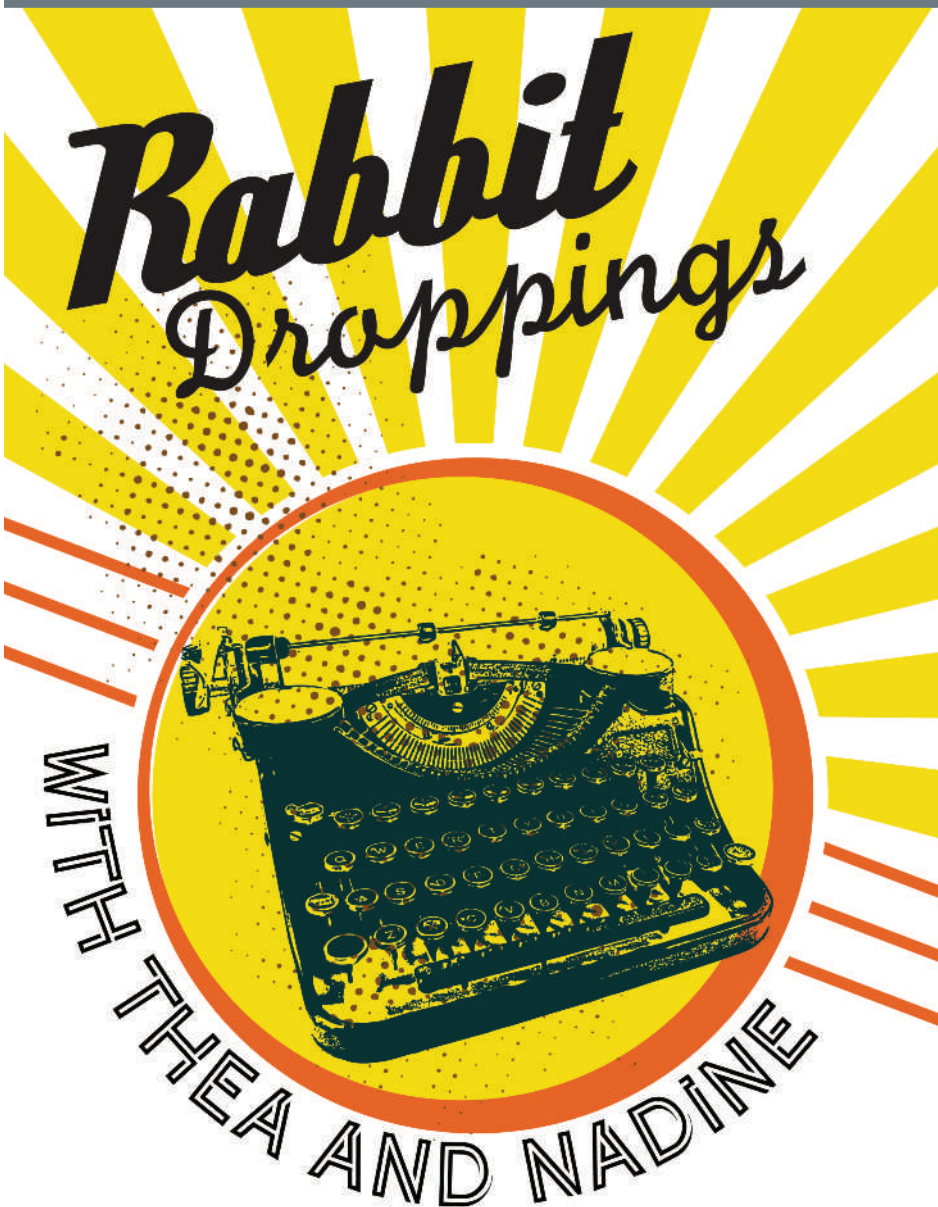
Peter (Mr. Gray).

Ruby, and at a greater amount, as per our vet. He has since been filling out nicely. While sometimes still awkward with people, he seldom shows signs of fear or aggression. He has become more curious and more receptive to human interaction.

Rise of PeteRex (our nickname for Peter since he is a Mini Rex):

For the past 30 days we have switched Ruby and Peter back and forth in each other's pens; and while they still produce cocoa puffs in each other's enclosure, the energy level has subsided somewhat.

Tonight was our first date. It was at a very high-intensity level, but both bunnies kept it classy. No aggression or humping, jumping or punching. The saga of Peter's adoption is still unfolding but, thank goodness, the news so far is good, in rabbit-size increments, the best kind!..... To be continued.



Dear Rabbit Droppings,

I have a bonded pair of Dutchies who have been together for a few years already. The girl is middle-aged and the boy is a senior. The girl clearly established years ago that she's the boss. Yet, every once in a while she still humps her partner's face to remind him that she's in charge. This occurs especially if they are outside of their pen, on relatively new territory, in our home. The boy seems to just accept his fate and let her do her thing. My question is this: should I let her re-establish dominance when she feels she needs to, since he doesn't seem to be fighting back and no one seems

at risk of a bite wound, or should I continue to take her off of him?

*Sincerely,
– Dutchie Diva in Brooklyn*

Goedemiddag, Diva,

First, I suspect that you may have intended to send this lovely question to the “Savage Lovecast,” not Rabbit Droppings. I understand the confusion. After all, Dan Savage often covers similar topics on his podcast, such as the challenge of keeping the flame alive in long-term relationships, the importance of consent, dominance and submission, and of

course, humping. My advice would be rather similar, whether we are talking about rabbits or humans.

I hear the word “dominance” come up over and over as we talk about social relationships between rabbits, whether the subject is rabbit speed dating, bonding, or long-term bonded pairs and trios. But can all rabbit social behavior be reduced to the big D? Are rabbits simply little power-hungry beasts obsessed with social status and rank? (That sounds like humans, not rabbits!) Discussions and anxieties about dominance seem to center around humping. In fact, I think humans are more obsessed with rabbit humping than the rabbits themselves are.

What is the problem with this? Reducing any behavior to dominance can interfere with our ability to see what our rabbits are actually doing and limits our ability to appreciate rabbit behavior in all of its complexity. More importantly, it doesn't help us assess if there is a problem brewing and how we should intervene. (For the purpose of brevity, I'm limiting this discussion of mounting to long-term, established partners and not pairs involved in the initial bonding process.)

Dominance is by no means a dirty word, but I suggest we focus on the behavior, and not the label.

“Thea, why are they humping?!” I am asked. Mounting, including clapping and pelvic thrusts in all their glory, is a normal part of rabbits' behavioral repertoire. The behavior is more complex than it may initially appear and there is no simple explanation for it. It occurs in a variety of contexts and can be accompanied by many different behaviors. If you really want to get behind this mounting behavior (pun intended), you need to become an amateur ethologist in your home. Watch and record the context of the behavior, including what happens before and after, and this

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Droppings *(Continued from page 8)*

will help determine if it needs to be managed or if can be left alone. When and where does the mounting behavior take place? In the kitchen as salad is being prepared? When you return home from volunteering with the shelter rabbits? At the vet's office? Whenever Barry White is playing in the background?

Photo: Amelia Wilson



Pippi humping Dashie's head.

Observe each rabbit's body language. Does either rabbit seem panicked or stressed at any point? What does each rabbit do after a humping session? Do things return to normal right away? Do they stretch out next to each other and groom afterward? Do the rabbits start fighting? Does one rabbit seek out hiding places from the other? Lastly, has the humping behavior increased in frequency or intensity over time?

Only with this information can you determine if there is a problem brewing and if you need to intervene. A word of caution: A change in behavior in our rabbits can be cause for concern and may warrant contacting your vet. Given rabbits' tendency to hide pain and illness, it is possible that either or both rabbits might be ill when one member of the pair starts humping away at the other in a new way.

Let's say that after observing the mounting behavior you determine that there may be a problem developing. The best approach to reducing the behavior would be to modify the environment or routine to decrease the opportunities for the rabbits to engage in the behavior. Have the rabbits wait in the living room while you prepare salad, change your clothes after your shift at the shelter, and try switching on NPR instead of Barry White, for example.

But back to your question, Dutchie Diva. Just as in human social relationships, humping always needs to be consensual among all parties involved. If your boy doesn't seem stressed out by your girl's face humping, and the behavior between them has been relatively consistent over time, I wouldn't worry. They sound like they're very much still in love.

Hump to it!

Dear Loyal Readers of Rabbit Droppings,

I know that for the past five fabulous columns you have come to trust and rely on both Thea and me for poignant advice, humorous anecdotes, and helpful tips about all things "rabbit." Today, I have a question for you. How do you deal with a rabbit with separation anxiety? As a single, perfectly healthy, 5-year-old female rabbit who has rejected the most gentle of suitors, our rabbit is tightly bonded to us, her humans. We cuddle, we groom, and we chase each other around the living room. We love her and she loves us...a bit too dramatically. For the past year, whenever we leave for more than 36 hours, she will go on a hunger strike and rather rapidly work herself into such a severe state of GI stasis that she will eventually end up as an emergency intake at the vet. After much ado (see article on pages 4-5) she pulls through and returns to her

normal state of naughtiness and kisses. My question again is, how do you deal with what is clearly her heartbreak and anxiety over our not being there for her? Do we try to bond her again, even though the first time failed miserably? Do we preemptively medical board her? Do we never leave town again? If you have an answer or have dealt with a similar situation, please email me at askrabbitdroppings@gmail.com. We will publish the best answer in our next column. And thank you!

– Nadine

ABOUT RABBIT DROPPINGS: We are not veterinarians or veterinary technicians, and claim no expertise in rhetoric, political maneuvering, comedy, or math. We are, however, curious, dedicated, long-time rabbit owners, fosterers, shelter volunteers, rescue advocates, and litter-box cleaners. As volunteers in a busy shelter like Animal Care Centers of NYC, we see, hear and chat a lot about rabbits – and we are excited to share all those little droppings. Please email us at askrabbitdroppings@gmail.com if you have any questions or comments. Sometimes we embellish and combine questions we hear frequently in order to present common themes in an entertaining way. Check out Thea and Nadine's latest appearance on an episode of the podcast "Savage Lovecast" with Dan Savage, titled "Just Like Bunnies!" We look forward to hearing from you ... until then, Cheers, Buns!

Vegan Restaurant Hosts April Fundraiser

For the month of April, our friends at Marty's V Burger are holding a fundraiser for Rabbit Rescue & Rehab.

Marty's General Manager Sara Flowers, a bunny mom to a 15-pound Flemish Giant named Rorschach, is making special Rice Krispies Treats inspired by Rorschach's own favorite special treat: banana!

For each one sold, a portion of the proceeds will be donated toward the care of our bunnies.

Rorschach celebrated his seventh birthday on April 1, so Sara decided that April would be the perfect month for a bunny fundraiser.

Thank you so much to Sara and Marty's V Burger for their incredible kindness.

Visit Marty's at 134 East 27th St. in Manhattan and try one of the bunny-themed treats while they're still available.

Photo: Alex Mele



A bunny-themed treat.

Photo: Jeantine Collice



Rabbit Rescue & Rehab information table set up in a supermarket.

Photo: Colleen AF Venable



Watchful Fergie.



The poster shows Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group sanctuary bun Wednesday (since deceased). Made by Vanessa Han.



The poster features Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group alum Celine. Made by Katie Scarr.

We Are Looking for Loving Homes:

These Rabbits Are in Foster Care

Angelina

Angelina is a strikingly beautiful medium-sized Hotot who has been waiting for a forever home for over two years now. She was cruelly abandoned outside in a cardboard box but 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 complete contentment. Angelina needs a peaceful and rabbit-experienced home with no young children where she can feel completely safe. She is a typical young, healthy rabbit with lots of energy for running, binkying and shredding cardboard! She does spectacular jumps and binkies! She is spayed, litter-box trained and is living in foster care. If interested in adopting Angelina, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.



Angelina.

Carmela

Carmela is a young medium-sized Rex rabbit. Her beautiful coat is mostly white with tan and black spots. She is a sweet rabbit who loves to have her soft nose petted. She also likes to explore her house, but her favorite thing is to relax with a nice soft blanket. Carmela is shy and would likely do best in an adult-only home. She would also likely make a good partner for another rabbit. She has been spayed and is in foster care. For more information and/or to arrange a meeting with Carmela, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.



Carmela.

Esmeralda

Esmeralda is a large, young and beautiful female New Zealand rabbit looking for her forever home. She was rescued from a lab with a #18 tag on her ear. This gorgeous and sweet soul is much more than a number who never deserved to be a part of such a terrible situation. Due to her past, Esmeralda is nervous in new situations and is especially fearful of

sudden movements and loud noises. She will need a very quiet and peaceful home with patient and loving human



Esmeralda.



Romeo.

attention. She is curious, energetic and an absolute joy to watch as she explores, runs and binkies. She is spayed, and has a great appetite and excellent litter-box skills. If interested in adopting Esmeralda, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Romeo

Romeo is a medium-sized black and white Dutch bunny who was found in the woods in January 2015 and brought home by a Good Samaritan. He is bursting with personality and will totally charm the person who adopts him. Romeo has been neutered and is currently in foster care. For more information and/or to arrange a meeting with Romeo, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Pineapple and Sugarplum

Pineapple and Sugarplum are a beautiful pair of large Lionhead sisters who were born in the shelter as part of a litter of five babies, before we took the whole young family into our rescue. Their mother, two sisters and brother have all been adopted and now it's their turn. Pineapple is black and white, while

(Continued on page 13)

Rabbits in Foster Care

(Continued from page 12)



Pineapple and Sugarplum.

Sugarplum is all black--and both have amazing manes of hair! These girls are shy at first but have tons of energy and are a joy to watch as they exercise – running and binkying with reckless abandon! They have been spayed and are living in foster care. If you are interested in adopting Pineapple and Sugarplum, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Woody

Sadly, Woody was found outside in the woods with two of his pals, and rescued just in the nick of time. Upon rescue, they were weak and disoriented. Thankfully, with the right care and lots of TLC, they are now healthy beautiful guys with a zest for life! Woody is a medium-sized, handsome light brown and white young boy. He has a wonderful spirit and personality. He is an inquisitive bunny with a weakness for cilantro and the fabulous ability to keep his white paws sparkly clean. He loves to explore and can be an excellent escape artist when his curiosity gets the best of him. Woody prefers head pets to snuggles, and he loves to lounge nearby. While independent, Woody is mild-mannered

and takes most things in stride. Just don't mess with his feeding times or he will remind you by shaking and rattling things to get your attention! Woody has been neutered and is living in foster care awaiting his forever home. For more information about Woody please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.



Woody.

Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Peter, Robin, Brooke, Roger, Tristan, Baby, Kuzco, Brownie, Allie, Bailey, Buggy, Harry, Jumper, Brown Foot, Rayita, Foster, Ella, Lullaby, Harriette, Kemal, Zenon, Nebula, Mr. Lee, Snoopy, Jellybean, Cookie, Bugs Bunny, Louis, Peep, Besty, Spotty, Miller, Mami, Nova, Lexa, Sunday and Watercolor, Pebbles and Brownie.



Bugs Bunny.



Besty.



Peep.

Letters From Adopters

Apollo

Apollo, formerly named Happy, was adopted in February by Kevin Anderson, who sent us this wonderful update.

I named him Apollo, because his coat reminded me of outer space! The name became more fitting as I quickly found out that Apollo is an inquisitive little guy – initially exploring his new environment with cautious curiosity (much like the NASA Apollo missions). As he grew more comfortable with his new home and our family, his personality and curious nature really started to shine. He is a clever, fun-loving, picky-eating, and playful little bunny. He loves when we lie down around him on the carpet, hopping over our torsos, crawling through our arms and legs, and placing his paws up on us when he decides he needs to see from a higher vantage point. Most importantly, this guy loves to show off his binkies!

After his explorations, he hops over and flops next to one of us, often nudging

Photos: Kevin Anderson



Apollo.



our arm for some hard-earned pets. My favorite thing about him is how much he enjoys our affection. He could lie down and receive pets forever! I feel so lucky to have found Apollo and I'm excited to give him the loving home he deserves. A

big thank you to Animal Care Centers of NYC for helping me find him!

Kevin Anderson

Photos: Erin Herne



Stew.



Stew.

Stew

Erin Herne and her family adopted Stew, formerly known as Brownie, in March. Here is Erin's great letter.

We adopted Brownie and his name is now Stew! We found out recently that he is in fact a boy! Fine by us, and he is SO Cute!!! Louis.

He spends the day begging for banana chips and blueberries, and binkies all day unless he's napping, stretched out on the floor.

He is very affectionate when he wants to be, which we both love! Rabbit nudges are so sweet!! We recently napped on our couch and he jumped onto my bf to give him kisses!! He's so tiny, and we were shocked that he could jump that high!

The only problem we currently have is with the begging! It's hard to ignore those cute little poses!! But we don't want him to have a bellyache, so we don't overfeed him with fruits or greens. He is our fun little obsession and we are happy to come home to him every day. Lots of toys and tunnels are scattered around our living room and he is perfectly trained in using his litter box! Only took one day to learn!

Erin Herne



Snoopy.



Harry.



Fergie.



Skittles.

CELEBRITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Skipper.



Bugsy.



Cookie.



Watercolor and Sunday.



Kemel.



Popcorn.

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:

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

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 nschreibmd@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:

Long Island:

Jennifer Saver, DVM
Laura George, DVM
Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital
2056 Jericho Turnpike
New Hyde Park, NY 11040
(516) 877-7080

Heidi Hofer, 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

<http://www.nycacc.org/> and doing an adoption search (for ACC inquiries about adoption/bunny dates, email adopt@nycacc.org). 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.

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

Jeanine Callace, Rofoyo.pippin@verizon.net
Alex Mcle, alexlmcie@gmail.com

Marcie Frishberg

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

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

Monica Shepherd, DVM

Long Island:

Nancy Schreiber, President, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, nschreibmd@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 APRIL 2019

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS
www.rabbitcare.org

Editor: Susan Lillo

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

All donations go directly to caring for our foster rabbits and are tax-deductible. Please help us help them 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.