



## NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS AUGUST 2019

Photo: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab



Billi enjoying his frozen bottle.

### Keeping Cool In the Summer

By Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

The summer months present a host of considerations for your bunny's health and safety, and one of the biggest summer concerns is heat. As temperatures have been spiking to over 100 degrees, you must make sure your rabbits are cool. Remember that a rabbit's core body temperature runs from 101 to 103 degrees Fahrenheit (much higher than ours). They are wearing fur coats, and they can't sweat or pant to cool down. An overheated rabbit is at risk for serious

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### Help Liberate Rabbits Like Iberia From Inhumane Live Markets

By Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

Iberia, a beautiful young girl, was recently liberated from a slaughterhouse.

Every rabbit lover wants a bunny that is super affectionate and gregarious. Iberia is that girl. She loves to follow you around. Her favorite activity, besides eating, is to give and receive love while cuddled up next to her new family members. It is hard to fathom how "Beri" could be so sweet, given her traumatic start in life.

Iberia's freedom was negotiated by a brave activist who was successful in

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Photo: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab



Iberia today.

### Toby's Story: A Sweet Little Boy With a Big Medical Challenge

By Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

Toby is a very special little bunny who has been in the care of Rabbit Rescue & Rehab since early 2018. We first met Toby after he was abandoned at the city shelter with a large wound on his head and no information about him or the cause of his injuries, other than a bottle of medicine that was dumped along

with him. At the time, we suspected that he may have been dropped or suffered a similar blunt-force trauma because of additional damage we found to his teeth and jaw, including broken incisors. Toby was treated for his initial injuries and later, for an abscess that developed on his face. Toby was a brave

*(Continued on page 3)*



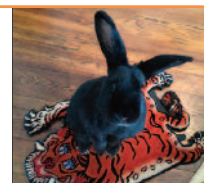
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## Iberia *(Continued from page 1)*

liberating her from a live market in one of New York City's boroughs.

Most New Yorkers are unaware that there are live markets in many of our neighborhoods. A live market, or storefront slaughterhouse, is a business that holds animals in small, dirty cages. The animals, who are usually sick, injured or both, are sold by the pound. They are slaughtered in front of the other terrified animals.

The majority of these animals are mere babies, no older than a couple of months. To the breeders, transporters, purveyors and customers, they are nothing more than a commodity. These animals are born into and live under horrendous circumstances before they are packed into cramped crates that are piled high on "open air" trucks. Because the trucks that transport the animals to the live markets are open for air circulation, they expose the animals to intense heat, freezing cold, rainstorms and snow. Many of these juveniles die before they reach their destinations.

To make things worse, the animals may travel for up to 72 hours without food or water. Once they reach the live markets/slaughterhouses, many of the animals are left outside for hours, sometimes overnight, waiting for the "markets" to open.

Workers remove the crates from the trucks as if they contained inanimate objects, a process as rough and violent as it is at the loading point. Further injuries, which are sometimes fatal, are endured by these already compromised animals. If they survive, they are packed into overcrowded steel cages inside the market where customers "shop" by pointing to the animal they want to purchase. Employees aggressively pull the scared animals from their cages, causing yet more injuries. Slaughter occurs right in the store at the moment of purchase. Evidencing the carnage, rivers of blood can be seen on the sidewalk and in the street.

Did you know that among the cows, goats, chickens and ducks in these markets, there are young domestic

rabbits? They are crammed into tiny, filthy metal cages where they await their fate. These are the exact same rabbits that we love, share our lives with, and call family.

In May 2019, activists from Brooklyn Queens Animal Save visited a live market in Corona, Queens, with a mission: to negotiate the liberation of any rabbit that the purveyors were willing to spare. Although the owner finally agreed to give them a rabbit, it took three more visits by the determined activists before the owner would keep his promise to allow the one rabbit to be liberated.

Photo: Brooklyn Queens Animal Save



These photos were taken inside the slaughterhouse.

On a regular basis, Katerina Trabazo of Brooklyn Queens Animal Save and other activists spend many hours protesting, holding vigils and bearing witness outside of the urban slaughterhouses. Each time, they arrive with the hope of convincing the workers to spare the lives of the innocent victims.

Finally, the owner of the Corona live market kept his promise and agreed to give a relieved Katerina and her group a small rabbit who sat hunched up, in a filthy cage, shaking, too weak to hold her eyes open. Inside the market, the temperature was hot, and the stench of excrement, blood and death was unbearable. The worker chose one of the babies that were huddled together in a cage, using one hand to pull her out by the skin on her back, and handed her over to Katerina's group.

Having just saved the life of this precious white and gray baby, the activists were elated and left quickly before the man could change his mind. With each step they took, though, despair filled their hearts for every innocent being that they

had to leave behind. The lucky baby rabbit was named Iberia.

Most animals that are forced to live in filth and overcrowded conditions are suffering from coccidia. Coccidia is a parasite that, unless properly treated, is deadly, especially in baby animals. As expected, Iberia had coccidia. She received the necessary treatment and is now a healthy, thriving four-month-old. She is a friendly, affectionate, playful and curious baby rabbit in spite of her horrendous start in life. She loves human attention and will spend hours lying on the floor to receive snuggling and kisses from her devoted caretakers.

Iberia has a bright future ahead, thanks to Katerina and Brooklyn Queens Animal Save. This rescue was possible because someone immediately offered to foster Iberia. Without the availability of a home for rabbits at the time of rescue, our power to save them is stymied. Fostering saves lives.

Sadly, countless other rabbits will never enjoy the peaceful safety and love that Iberia does. Katerina told us that she is haunted by memories of the other babies that she could see cowering and trembling in their metal cages. The owner of the store refused to spare any of the others.

It is 2019 and these barbaric neighborhood slaughterhouses must be shut down. There will never be change unless and until we force change. If we speak out in large numbers, elected officials will listen. Would you please take two actions to help make a difference?

We are calling on New York City residents to contact your council members, ([find them using this link](#)) and demand that these houses of horror be shut down! Please also sign and [SHARE this petition](#). It is important that you urge your friends and families to take a few minutes to complete these simple actions, too. Iberia's friends and family are relying on us.

By the way, if you are outside of New York City and know of a live market, contact your local politicians to demand change.



## Keeping Cool *(Continued from page 1)*

health complications and even death, and heat exhaustion is an emergency.\*

Rabbits are most comfortable between 50 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Familiarize yourself with the following tips to mitigate the dangers of high temperatures:

- Keep the air conditioner on wherever your rabbit is located in your home (whether you are home or not).
  - Keep shades down or curtains closed to block the sun. Sun coming in through a closed window can add a lot of heat to a room.
  - Use fans in air-conditioned rooms to circulate the cool air (and don't forget to bunny-proof the cords!). A fan alone is ineffective and will merely circulate the already warm air in the room.
  - Place large frozen water bottles near your bunny. Keep extra frozen bottles in the freezer so you can swap them out frequently, and always have a cold one ready to go. Some rabbits will lie against
- a frozen bottle, but many won't. If your rabbit is not "using" the ice bottle, it is not helping him cool down.
  - Keep the drinking water cold and fresh.
  - Give your rabbit cold ceramic/marble tiles (that have been in the freezer) to lie on.
  - Feed very wet greens to help keep your rabbit hydrated (this is a great way to keep a rabbit hydrated even when it's not warm/hot, so this should be done always).
  - Make sure your rabbit is eating as much as usual. A rabbit that is uncomfortable from the heat will be lazy and not want to do anything, including eat. This adds another level of danger, so offer food by hand if necessary.
  - Moisten the furred part (not the inside) of your rabbit's ears with cool water to cool her down. Do not soak the ears, but keep the fur damp.
  - Make sure your rabbit is well groomed. Keeping the loose shedding fur off of your rabbit is always important to

prevent him from ingesting it. When it is warm, the excess fur will exacerbate the discomfort. For fuzzy rabbits, maintain shorter "puppy" haircuts for the summer.

Some rabbits are more sensitive to heat than others. If you have multiple rabbits, consider them all individually. Keep the temperature cool enough so that the most heat-sensitive rabbit is comfortable. Fuzzy rabbits, lops, old and young rabbits, overweight rabbits, and those with other special health concerns are at particular risk. There is no risk of a healthy rabbit becoming cold. The cooler the temperature, the more comfortable your rabbit is! Following all of the above tips should keep your rabbits safe from the problems caused by heat and they will be grateful for your efforts.

- \* If you suspect heat stroke, dampen your rabbit's ears with cool water, and do NOT submerge him or her in water, which can place the rabbit in shock. **Get your rabbit to a rabbit-savvy veterinarian immediately.**

## Toby's Story *(Continued from page 1)*

little guy who never lost his sweet and positive attitude, and he recovered wonderfully.

However, in the year and a half that we have now known Toby, his greatest challenge has proven to be the ongoing complications with his teeth. The severity of his condition has become clear with X-rays and the constant monitoring of his eating habits and behavior. All along, he has regularly developed molar spurs that must be filed down under anesthesia every few months. He has spontaneously lost several of his molars, needed to have several others removed, and has been on and off antibiotics after infections erupted under his gum line. To add insult to injury, Toby also had incisor malocclusion. After several attempts to medically manage his crooked and misaligned incisors failed, the decision was made to remove them early this year. Toby

Photos: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab



Toby when we first met him in 2018.

recovered beautifully from that surgery and is definitely much more comfortable without them!

Toby's current challenge will be his biggest yet. Several weeks ago, it was found that he had developed an abscess in his jaw. Surgery is required to enter his jaw bone to remove both diseased



Toby today.

tooth fragments and the abscess, and to implant antibiotic beads. He will need weeks of antibiotics therapy and recovery time.

Toby is a truly remarkable little guy with a lot of love to give. He is the most adorable, affectionate, three-pound ball

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## Toby's Story (Continued from page 3)

of love. He spends his days snuggling and soaking up affection in between bursts of exuberant energy filled with sprints and binkies. Everyone who meets him falls in love with this gentle boy. It breaks our hearts that he has endured so many uncomfortable issues in his young life, but no matter what, Toby has taken it all in stride and has maintained his sweet demeanor in the face of every obstacle.

Toby's veterinary bills have already been costly, with his expenses to date having well exceeded \$4,000, which we have been able to cover. At this time, we are



Toby being treated for an abscess in 2018.

asking for help toward the significant cost of his upcoming surgery. We are a small all-volunteer rabbit-rescue organization with many special-needs, chronically ill, and sanctuary rabbits. We take in many injured rabbits so they can have a chance at a brighter future, and in order to care for these rabbits, we rely on donations. If you would like to contribute toward the cost of Toby's urgently needed upcoming surgery, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab is able to take donations through [PayPal](#).

We thank everyone for your generous and kind support, and Toby sends a huge thank you as well!

Your contribution is tax-deductible. Rabbit Rescue & Rehab (d/b/a NYC Metro Rabbit) is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) charity registered in New York State.

## Say No to Harness Walking And Other Outdoor Activities

By Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

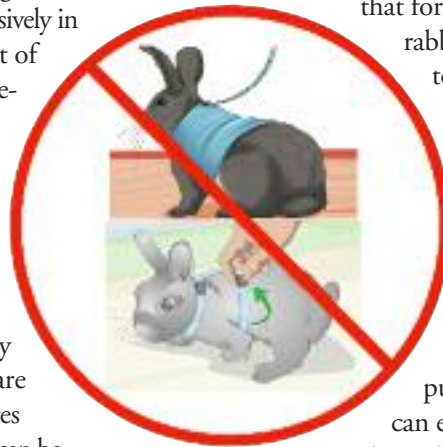
Harness walking is an extremely dangerous practice that has ended in tragedy for many rabbits, due to the dangers posed by the harness itself and also the significant hazards associated with being outdoors for even a short time. Decades of experience with thousands of rabbits have shown us all too frequently what tragedies, accidents and illnesses affect rabbits who spend time outdoors, as well as those walked on harnesses with leashes. For all of the following reasons, rabbits should live exclusively in the safety and comfort of a spacious, temperature-controlled indoor home with ample toys and enrichment options.

Outside, rabbits are exposed to parasites and diseases carried by other animals. They are prone to insect/tick bites and fly strike, and they can be poisoned by pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. Raccoons, for example, carry *Baylisascaris procyonis*, which rabbits can pick up from the ground and ingest by grooming their feet. The resulting infection is fatal. Rabbits can suffer heart attacks out of fear from merely seeing a predator (dogs, cats, raccoons, hawks) or hearing a sudden unfamiliar noise (cars, lawnmowers, other animals) from which they cannot escape. It is also vitally important to keep rabbits in temperature-controlled areas; hot weather is particularly dangerous for rabbits, and heat exhaustion is a serious emergency. Should rabbits get out of a harness or off a leash, they are often not easily approached and can run and hide in fear. It is often difficult to safely catch a rabbit that is loose outside, and domestic rabbits have no outdoor survival skills.

A rabbit that becomes frightened and panics while wearing a harness can easily

become tangled, at which point he could cut off his own airway or break his back or other bones. When rabbits hear, smell or see something that concerns or alarms them, they will often "dart" or quickly run for even just a few feet. Because of the incredible fragility of a rabbit's skeleton, this movement while attached to a harness/leash can easily result in a broken back or neck. Even the stress that rabbits experience from being put into a harness can easily lead to serious gastrointestinal upset. Remember

that for a prey animal like a rabbit, anything designed to go around the belly, under the chin, or around the neck can mimic the sensation of being grabbed by a predatory animal, and because rabbits' bones are so fragile, just the process of putting on a harness can easily result in unintentional injury.



It is with significant concern that we also warn about the growing danger of Myxomatosis in the U.S. Cases of this fatal virus have been reported in Oregon, California and Mexico. There is no vaccine available in the U.S., and there is no cure. The mortality rate is 99% within two weeks of infection. Myxomatosis is spread by mosquitoes, fleas, black flies and fur mites, and through direct contact with infected rabbits. Several cases of RHD2 (rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus 2) have been reported in Canada and Washington in 2019, as well. Spread through direct contact with infected rabbits and even objects that have been contaminated by the virus, there is no vaccine available in the U.S. and no cure. Rabbits can best avoid infection by remaining in enclosed indoor environments (with screens on open windows)

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## Ban the Sale of Fur in New York City: Support Intro 1476

Following the news that California's fur ban, AB-44, has passed the assembly and will soon be heading to the state senate, a bill has been introduced in the New York City Council to prohibit the sale of fur in New York City. The city is the largest fur market in the U.S. and one of the largest in the world. A ban on selling fur in New York City would not only have a massive impact on fur sales and trade globally, but also would set a strong precedent for other cities, fashion designers, retailers and countries around the world. The fur industry is a dreadfully violent and cruel business with no place in a humane 21st-century world.

Each year, more than 100 million animals suffer horribly and are killed solely for their fur world-wide. A large portion of these animals are rabbits – the exact same domestic rabbits that we have the privilege of caring for in our own homes.

To our readers in New York City, please call City Council members and urge them to sign on to the bill if they have not already, and call to thank them for their support if they have. Find your Council member's name and contact information at [this website](#).

Seven Council members are on the committee that will vote on whether the bill will move forward. At least four of them must vote "yes." The committee will gauge support for the bill based in part on how many Council members have signed on to it, so be sure to urge

### **Harness** *(Continued from page 4)*

and especially by avoiding events outside the home like "hoppy hours" that involve interacting with other rabbits.

Fatal accidents and illness due to outdoor play time and harness walking are

Poster: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab



your family and friends to voice their support to their Council members as well.

The Council members on the committee are: Rafael L. Espinal Jr. (chair), Justin Brannan (sponsor), Margaret S. Chin, Keith Powers, Peter Koo, Karen Koslowitz and Brad Lander (sponsor).

Please especially take the time to contact these Council members.

Despite growing consumer awareness of the cruelty of fur industry and the steps

recently taken by major fashion designers to ban fur products (in the past 18 months, Chanel, Phillip Lim, Jean Paul Gaultier, Coach, Burberry, Gucci, Michael Kors and more have all banned fur. See [Fur Free NYC](#)), there is concern as the fur industry will be pushing hard against this bill. Everyone's voice is needed to speak out in support of Intro 1476 and advocate for the millions of animals unnecessarily tortured and killed each year.

tragically common. Each of these warnings are given based on experiences of events that have occurred, and we share this information to avoid horrible injuries and diseases and to prevent accidents from affecting more rabbits. With lots of great options for toys, tunnels, games

and more, please provide safe, indoor enrichment alternatives and do not risk your bunny's health and safety.



# Rude Awakening

By Robert Kulka

We forget sometimes that the world does not always have the same view as we do when it comes to rabbits. Unless you have been intimately involved with rabbits, either by living with one, caring for one or volunteering to work with them, it may be hard for some to understand our insights. What most of us have found is that each rabbit has a personality all its own and that there are many possibilities in how the relationship develops between the rabbit and the human. It is a wonderful world full of surprises, entertainment and as we know, giving ourselves over to the gentle demands of our little friends.

So it was a rude awakening to be reminded that the majority of the world does not hold the same opinion. We forget that the history and beliefs about rabbits are not always based on a real understanding of their nature. This was brought home for me recently in a disturbing incident. It was a situation where there was no one willing to understand the concerns for a rabbit, let alone offering to help. What was first an incredulous observation of the lack of interest in a call for assistance quickly became a frustrating, disheartening and disturbing realization. It was painfully clear that concern for a rabbit was not the same as it might be for a mistreated dog or cat, and that anyone seriously involved with the rescue or care for a rabbit was possibly just some kind of kook: A “rabbit person” was not to be taken seriously and should be dismissed as quickly as possible.

It began when Rabbit Rescue & Rehab was contacted to help locate a bunny that had been reported as being on the loose. It was an all-black, young dwarf that had been spotted in a red harness with a wound on its back. A tiny rabbit left out alone, especially one wearing a red target on his torso, was less likely to have a positive outcome each passing day. As a result, the team searched mornings, days and evenings for over a

week, combing the woods, overgrown brush, grassy areas and every one of a million potential hiding places. We fought through rain and heat, scratches and bug bites, all because we were concerned for the well-being of this helpless young rabbit. We followed up on clues of rare sightings and tried to keep well-meaning but uninformed people from doing something that would be harmful in the attempt to capture the rabbit. We also knew that a wounded rabbit, especially one so young and small, was in a precarious physical state, and we were clear about our intention of immediately taking the rabbit to a veterinarian who was well versed in the care of rabbits.

## **We fought through rain and heat, scratches and bug bites, all because we were concerned for the well-being of this rabbit.**

On the sixth day of searching, we were alerted to a sighting far from the original location we had focused on. It was a hot and humid day when we visited the area of the latest sighting. Miraculously, the rabbit showed himself as if he knew we were there to help him and quickly found his way into a carrier left nearby with treats inside. Success and relief filled us. We had the little guy in our possession and put him in the back of my car with the intention of rushing him to the vet. It was at that point that a seemingly unbalanced individual who had also been searching, claiming that it was his daughter’s rabbit, grabbed the carrier out of the car. In so doing, he became aggressive, pushing and injuring the volunteer who had placed the carrier in my car. The man ran across a busy road to his car several houses down the road and was attempting to make a getaway with this frightened bunny. My partner and I jumped in my car to follow, and pulled into the driveway where his car was, only to have him scream and threaten us before driving across two backyard lawns to make an escape. We

were stunned but immediately called the police.

It was clear to me that the police were not interested in the rabbit’s welfare or the behavior of the man who made off with the rabbit. They were not interested in any injury sustained by the volunteer. Over the next few days, we were summarily dismissed, misled by falsehoods and not able to get any information or updates. We found that animal-welfare agencies from the area were not serious about taking action. There was an injured rabbit unaccounted for, a volunteer who had to make a trip to the emergency room for X-rays as a result of the skirmish, and there was no way to retrieve the stolen carrier and supplies that were the

property of our organization. In other words, this was only a rabbit and we were overzealous individuals with a misplaced sense of responsibility.

Unfortunately, this is how most people see rabbits. Rabbits are traditionally for food, fur and experiments. But they also are the subject of folk tales, children’s books and countless myths. It is a strange dichotomy that gives no recognition to the fact that the domestic rabbit is just as much a cherished family member as any dog or cat might be. It has only been in the last 25 years that rabbits have become better understood and cared for, and appreciated for their true nature. But even with rabbits becoming more sought after as pets, many individuals do not take the time to understand them or to properly care for them. As a result, the shelters, foster homes and parks have become overrun with abandoned and mistreated bunnies. That is why it is critical that those of us who know and understand rabbits must help others to be more informed and

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## Mario Wasn't Cut Out for Trio Bonding

By Katie Scarr

I decided that my first foster rabbit, Midnight (now Moe), would be a “foster failure” after he went on a speed date with my bonded pair, Mario and Rosie. The date went so well that Rosie even groomed Moe 10 minutes into the date. Mario acted indifferent, which was a big improvement from when I had introduced him to Rosie. I was so excited and actually thought to myself, “Wow; this is going to be easy!” If only!

Our dates at home started out okay, but not great. I think Rosie would literally fall in love with any rabbit. She kept grooming Moe during our dates at home, but Mario was a different story. We had a lot of ups and downs. One minute he and Moe would be snuggling as I patted them, and the next minute Mario would lash out and I had to quickly prevent a soon-to-be fight. Both boys refused to groom one another and Rosie was starting to get frustrated being the only bun doing all of the grooming. I mean, who could blame her?

It seemed as if there was no neutral room in the house, so I tried everything. We went on car rides and stroller rides. I even brought them to the homes of friends and family members for dates just to be in neutral territory – which all helped, but we seemed to be making no major progress after nine months. Things were tense, to say the least. I felt as if my life had become focused on bonding during all those months, and I hadn't been able to actually enjoy spending time with my fur babies.

I started to feel as if it all wasn't worth it. I was stressed, and I felt as if I was stressing out the rabbits, so I decided to give up on trio bonding efforts. Mario didn't seem to want to share his girlfriend, or me for that matter! I thought I might try again eventually, perhaps the next time we move! Mario is just SO territorial and apparently possessive of me, as my boyfriend says.

At one point during the year, I had taken in another foster rabbit, and when Mario noticed that I smelled like the visiting bunny, he jumped up at me and started attacking my sweater. He's a silly one. During bonding efforts, Mario would mark his territory by flinging pee on the walls, on his toys, Rosie, and me! There was a hilarious moment before I called it quits, when he and Rosie were out playing in the living room and he hopped to the top of his favorite thing – the Cottontail Cottage (which looks like a Jackson Pollock pee painting all inside) and proceeded to then hop down to the middle level. I looked over to see pee spraying out of the cardboard French window panels! As I'm writing this I'm still laughing about it. I wish I had caught it on video.

The three buns are now happily living separately as long-distant friends (they can see each other from afar.) Moe is now about to get his own friend, and Mario and Rosie still adore each other. Mario actually grooms her back sometimes, but he gets most of the kisses. He remains spoiled, selfish and amusing!

As I sit here writing this, we have as yet not located the little guy. We have not given up trying to find him and make sure he is well cared for and safe. Since we cannot rely on the help of animal-welfare or law-enforcement agencies, we continue to explore all possible approaches on our own. To have had him in our

Photos: Katie Scarr



Bonding supervisor Nigel the cat on duty.



Snuggling during a car ride, from left, Moe, Mario and Rosie.



Happily living side by side with 3 inches of space in between and cat Patti joining them in a nap.

## Rude Awakening

(Continued from page 6)

mindful of what living with rabbits is about before taking one home. If we don't help spread the word, we will all find ourselves in for more rude awakenings down the road.

hands safe and then have him taken is heartbreaking, and it guarantees we will not give up.

For interesting facts and background read: DeMello, M. (2010). [Becoming rabbit: Living with and knowing rabbits](#). Spring: a journal of archetype and culture, 83, 237-252.



## Rabbit Care, Then and Now

By Melissa Lee

Since becoming a rabbit volunteer at Animal Care Centers of New York (ACC), my knowledge of rabbit care has changed drastically from when I owned a rabbit as a child. Back then, I read all of the rabbit-care information that I could find. I considered myself to be an expert.

Nearly 20 years later, beginning with my very first day volunteering at ACC, I was horrified to discover that everything I had learned about rabbits was wrong.

After years of studying rabbit care and begging my parents for a rabbit, I finally got a rabbit when I was 11. Although I had researched rabbits, my family had not bought any supplies or made any preparations at all before we showed up at the animal shelter expecting to bring a rabbit home that day. This situation would be a major red flag for ACC rabbit volunteers today, but back then, the shelter staff just made us prove we actually lived in a house, and we promised to buy a cage as soon as possible.

Of the two rabbits in the shelter, the staff had told us that one of them was into chewing, so we chose the other one. We did take my beloved Chip home that day and then brought him back to get neutered a few weeks later.

Nowadays, the rabbit volunteers would typically give us a serious lecture and training, and then make us buy and set up all supplies and select a rabbit-savvy veterinarian in advance. We would probably be told to then come back after we had done some more research and soul-searching. I did not learn about gastrointestinal stasis, the most urgent medical issue for rabbits. I used to think that rabbits were “easy” pets because they don’t need vaccinations, but it turns out that you still must have a rabbit veterinarian for emergencies.

As a child, I had the third edition of the “House Rabbit Handbook,” which was published in 1995. The fact that I had even kept my rabbit inside the house rather than in an outdoor hutch was already notable. At the time, indoor rabbits were a suggested alternative to outdoor rabbits, not a mandated necessity.

I kept my rabbit in a cage. It had a wire bottom, which I now realize can cause sore hocks. Later editions of the handbook went on to include updated information such as the idea of housing rabbits in X-pens (exercise pens designed for dogs). I have learned more about flooring since then, and realize that cotton rugs or interlocking foam tiles are a good option. ([See fall 2009 Thump, pages 10-11.](#))

My rabbit had a hanging water bottle. I have discovered that heavy water bowls are better because they are easier to access and clean. I also used aspen bedding in the litter box and had a small container for hay. I didn’t know that you could just line the litter box with newspapers and fill it with hay.

I had never realized how important hay and leafy greens are to a rabbit’s diet. Bugs Bunny has long reinforced the misconception that carrots are a staple for rabbits.

Rabbits have long been misunderstood as pets, even by those of us with the best of intentions. Many people still think that rabbits are “easy” pets because they are small and often not as free-roaming as cats and dogs. Fortunately, thanks to the Internet, rabbit-rescue groups, and dedicated shelter volunteers, rabbits are getting taken more seriously as pets, and resources about the complexity of rabbit care are growing ever more available.



Chip.



Kato at the Manhattan shelter.

Photos: Melissa Lee



## Our Home's Former Scrapbooking Room Becomes 'Rehab Room' for Foster Bunnies

By Lauren Schulz

In 2013, my husband, two cats, two rabbits and I ditched apartment life and purchased our first home. At the open house and subsequent visits, I admired the fully finished basement that would soon be the paradise of my five-year-old rabbits, Pip and Winston. Off of the main basement, there was another room. The homeowner called it her scrapbooking room. Not much of a scrapbooker myself, I knew this space would have a different use during our tenure in this home. I just didn't know then the good it would bring!

After our move, the scrapbooking room was home to lingering boxes waiting to be unpacked. In January 2014, six months after we moved in, the room finally gained a new purpose! My full-time job is as a wildlife rehabilitator and the hospital supervisor at Long Island's largest wildlife rehabilitation center. On a particularly cold and snowy January day, I took a call on our wildlife hotline about a rabbit needing rescue in Hempstead. I asked the caller to describe the rabbit so I could confirm it was wild. She replied "Small. Black." My heart sank. It wasn't wild and I couldn't help her, or so I thought. Having recently adopted a third rabbit from Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, I reached out to their directors and asked if there was any way they could help. I was informed they would be happy to help by providing veterinary care and trying to find a wonderful adopter, but all of the foster homes were filled. If the finder would foster the rabbit temporarily, they would do the rest! I called the caller back quickly and excitedly told her this news. Then, I hit another road block. The finder was only visiting and the homeowner wouldn't foster. If this rabbit's safety hinged on someone offering a space for

Photos: Lauren Schulz



Maisie was rescued from under the blue car.

it to stay, we would make that happen. Enter the scrapbooking room!

A few hours later, I found myself on my first domestic rabbit rescue, crawling on my frozen hands and knees in a less than welcoming Hempstead neighborhood. After over an hour, Maisie, as I soon named her, was located huddled under a parked car trying to conserve what little heat she could. With my team of two new Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group acquaintances, we received permission from the homeowner to carefully surround the car with exercise pens. I climbed in,



After her rescue, Maisie was placed in a carrier.

lay down, netted her, held on and didn't let go until she was safely in my carrier.

Maisie was terrified when we brought her home. Every time we would enter the room she would cower and hide. After her spay, I decided to place her cage next to my recently adopted rabbit's pen in the hopes he would help her calm down. Maisie was very interested in him, and still very disinterested in me. When a potential adopter expressed interest in giving her a home, I couldn't part with her. Maisie didn't want people; she wanted a rabbit friend and she had found one in my home! A few weeks later, Maisie became our first "foster fail" and our first adoption success! She was fully bonded to our adopted LIRRG rabbit Barney several weeks later.

With Maisie vacating her space, the former scrapbooking room was purposeless once again. Over the next year, two other desperate calls to our hotline at work regarding domestic rabbits prompted my family to spring into action and provide a foster home. Each of these situations connected me further to the wonderful people at Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group who helped me to find forever homes for Kringle and Nigella.

*(Continued on page 10)*

## There's Great Joy in Being a Foster Bun-Mom

By Elizabeth Wittman

About a month into my journey as a foster bun-mom, I was just starting to get attached to my first rabbit when I was told she would be adopted. She was a beautiful light-brown color with dark eyes, and everyone who saw her told me she was a cutie. Her breed was unknown, but she was likely a mix between a Lionhead and something else. I shouldn't have been surprised by her adoption, as that's generally the goal of fostering, but I couldn't help but feel disappointed. We were just starting to get to know each other. She had just started letting me pet the top of her head without running away. We were actually bonding!

Nonetheless, I didn't have too much time to dwell on this, because a new bun was coming in only a few hours. While exchanging messages back and forth with another Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group volunteer, I was sent a picture of the new baby. She was a Californian rabbit, a breed that I knew for their size



Photo: Elizabeth Wittman  
Marlena patiently waiting in the car after a trip to the vet.

and coloring. She looked huge, with most of her back visible and with bright red eyes, illuminated by the flash of the camera. To be honest, I was creeped out.

Oh no, I thought. The red eyes. I was worried. What if I didn't love her as much? What if we didn't bond the way I was bonding with my first foster bun? I made

the mistake of showing a picture to a coworker, who grimaced.

I think about how I felt when I first saw Marlena on my phone screen, and I feel silly for ever being worried. Marlena is a gem. All she wants is to be loved all day. Every time I approach her, she sits down for petting. She comes when I make kissy noises at her. She is as easygoing as it gets, and I find her to be the most adorable thing in the world because of how loving she is. My friends coo over how large she is and how she loves attention like any dog or cat. I can't help but be charmed by the way that she runs over to me when I walk into the room, or when I leave for a short time and she's at the door waiting for me. It is very cute.

And here's the thing about the red eyes. They are so beautiful that sometimes I just stare at them because they are so special. And I think I am really lucky to

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Scrapbooking Room

*(Continued from page 9)*

By 2015, this rescue group had fully sucked me in. I was using my rescue skills regularly to bring abandoned rabbits to safety. I loved the challenge, the ability to lead, strategize and, of course, the outcome of bringing a beautiful animal to safety. Knowing how much foster space was needed, I also loved that we could offer that to our new rescues and see their personalities evolve and their trust grow while waiting for their forever homes.

Over the past four years, the Rehab Room (fka the scrapbooking room) has hosted nearly 30 foster rabbits, many of them recovering from months or years



Photo: Lauren Schulz  
Maisie, at right, and the late Barney, her original bunny friend.

of horrifying neglect. Whether it be through financial support, space or time, we all have a way we can contribute to bettering the lives of these abandoned rabbits. This is our way. I'm thankful for the most supportive husband, for the love these rabbits have added to our



Maisie, at right, and her new man Rory. He was rescued in March 2018 in Huntington Station, N.Y.

lives, for the new friends that Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group has brought me and for the team that fights with me every day for the welfare of abused and abandoned rabbits here on this island.

We won't stop.



## Long Island Volunteers Interviewed on Radio Show

Photo: Mary Ann Maier



Denise Bertolotti being interviewed.

### By Denise Bertolotti

One of the most important elements for the volunteers involved in rescue work on Long Island is education. A majority of the rabbits who are unwanted and abandoned started off with families who simply didn't research what proper rabbit care entails.

As a result, we hopped on the chance to be interviewed on "Plugged In," a weekly public-affairs show that airs on radio stations WBLI and WBAB. Long Island radio personality Al Levine interviewed Mary Ann Maier, one of Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group's founders, and yours truly, Denise Bertolotti, LIRRG's volunteer coordinator.

Photo: WBAB



From left, Denise Bertolotti, radio personality Al Levine and Mary Ann Maier.

We talked about what the rescue group does, how the group operates and the current needs of the foster and sanctuary rabbits. We also discussed the areas on Long Island where the highest numbers of rabbits are abandoned and ways for community members to get involved

and make a positive difference for the domestic rabbits of Long Island. The show aired on Sunday, Aug. 11, but can be streamed any time at [Plugged In To Long Island](#) (wbli) or [Plugged In To Long Island](#) (wbab).

### Foster Bun-Mom

*(Continued from page 10)*

have a rabbit with those gorgeous ruby-colored pupils. When you start to really get to know your rabbit, you realize the smaller details that make each one so pretty – like the patches of black on Marlena's paws, and how the deep brown

on her nose compares to that of other Californians.

The truth is, rabbits are lovable because they all are such great companions. I have grown to adore this bun. If Marlena must go, I will miss her terribly like I sometimes miss my first bun. But there is joy in being a foster bun-mom: I get to know all sorts of rabbits. When, or if,

the next one comes, I am not going to have any expectations about the rabbit's color or breed or temperament, because I know I will grow to love the bun just as much. To all of our rabbit adopters and fosterers: Don't worry too much about how cute a rabbit is. They're all adorable and lovable.

## An Open Letter to the People of New York City From Animal Care Centers of NYC

We need your help. We are overrun with dogs, cats, kittens and rabbits. We are taking in 75 to 100 animals per day and we have over 630 animals in our care as of July 12.

Our placement rate remains high but pets are staying in our care longer and we are running out of room. For the first time in years, we have begun using pop-up crates in hallways and offices to house dogs.

We have done some exciting things to get animals out of the shelter. Our BoroughBreak and StrayCation programs have been met with overwhelming success and support, and our New Hope adoption partners have repeatedly stepped up to the plate, pulling as many pets as they can, but we need more New Yorkers to help.

The goal is to get as many animals out of the shelter as possible, for as long as possible until the wave of intakes subsides.

What can you do?

- **Come to the shelters.** Come to adopt. Come to foster. Come to foster-to-adopt.
- **Share profiles of our available pets** on your social media. Browse our pets via website listings or on our mobile app.
- **Share this letter** as a call to action.

To learn more, please visit [nycacc.org](http://nycacc.org) or, better yet, head over to the shelter so we can assist you in person. Email responses may be delayed as we have all hands on deck to assist adopters and fosters at the care centers first. Please note: Our animals are adopted out on a first-come, first-serve basis so hurry over if you see a boroughbred you like!

There is no better time to join the movement to end animal homelessness in New York City.

Our locations are:

Manhattan: 326 East 110th Street (between 1st and 2nd Aves.)

Brooklyn: 2336 Linden Boulevard

Staten Island: 3139 Veterans Road West

### Forever Homes Found!

Rocco, Elianna, Evalin, Panda, Logan, Pistachio, River, Nibbles, Brownie, Bit O Honey and Chick O Stick, Flopsy and Mopsy, Leah, Taylor, King, Apricot, Peter Cotton Tail, Centaur, Juniper, Alex, Bun Bun, Cali, Fluffy, Jax and Shadow, Peter Cottontail, Drew, Black Dahlia, Susy, Amos, Trixy, Yuki, Diamond and Margo, Marlow, Pebbles, Mochi, Bunbun, Holloway, Oreo, Hazel, Trixx and Kaylee.



## We Are Looking for Loving Homes:

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

### Cotton Tail

Cotton Tail is a medium-to-large brownish black female with some vestigial Dutch markings. This lovely lady is extremely bright and an excellent communicator. When you go to unlatch her cage door, she'll watch your hands closely as if she's trying to help you figure it out. When you approach her, she'll let you know exactly what she wants – and more often than not, it's affection. Cotton Tail is the biggest smooshball ever. She has a big poofy dewlap, and when she smooshes into a puddle for petting it makes her look like a bullfrog. This smart, fun girl would make a good choice for a first-time rabbit home. The clues to her Dutch background are cute: white front feet, a thin white stripe around half of her upper body, and an itty bitty white dot on the tip of her nose.

### Finn

Finn is a medium-sized Dutch who's the sweetest little soul you can imagine. This little gentleman is rather reserved, but he adores affection in a spot he deems safe. Once he feels secure he'll hunker down and soak up the love. Because of his gentle nature, Finn would probably make a good partner for another rabbit. He's sort of an "irregular" Dutch – there's no triangle on his face, but he sports a cute smudge of white fur on one side of his nose/mouth.

### Fudge

Look out, New York. Fudge is in town! This large, handsome boy truly deserves celebrity status. First, he's a force of nature – he's very strong, with tons of energy and even more will. He's incredibly alert and intelligent, and will watch your every move acutely – you'll never put one over on this guy. Finally, he's absolutely beautiful: statuesque with

*(Continued on page 14)*



Cotton Tail.



Finn.

## ADOPTIONS

### Rabbits at ACC

*(Continued from page 13)*

big ears, a handsome face and a lovely brownish-gray coat. This bunny is a handful, so he'll need a lot of space for exercise, and patient people. If you're ready for the challenge, though, it'll be worth it because he's so interactive and entertaining. He's one of the biggest personalities we've had in the rabbit room for a while.

#### Lucky Charm

Lucky Charm is a medium-to-large male Lionhead mix. This boy is a real charmer. He gets a bit hormonal and excited when you first introduce yourself, but under all that surface excitability is a super sweet, mushy boy. In no time, he quickly calms down and lets you pet



Fudge.

him all over. Lucky Charm is also lucky when it comes to his looks. His fur is a very fluffy mix of cream and pastel



Lucky Charm.

brown; he has cute Lionhead features; and he has very soulful deep brown eyes.

### These Rabbits Are in Foster Care

#### Li'l Britches

Li'l Britches is a big personality in a small package. This brown female Lionhead is feisty, friendly and never afraid to tell you if she doesn't like something. She has thick furry cheeks and loves deep cheek rubs and pets. She had a bout of head tilt when she was young and has some residual balance issues. She may plop to one side while grooming but the main concern is when she stands just on her hind legs to reach up. If she goes too far straight up, she will freeze and fall backwards, so her adopter must be extremely careful not to have her stand up on her back legs for treats or to reach things in her habitat. Her entire habitat and exercise area must be covered with carpet and soft surfaces to help her balance. If interested in adopting this beauty, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).



Li'l Britches.

#### 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 and friendly,



Mandy and Cruise.

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

*(Continued on page 15)*



## Rabbits in Foster Care

*(Continued from page 14)*

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 a meeting with Mandy and Cruise, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

### Wally and Daisy

Wally and Daisy are a beautiful, medium-sized bonded pair of golden lops. Sadly, their previous family has given them up because they no longer consider them a priority. They are very well behaved bunnies who love each other's company and have spent most of their lives together. They love to chill and relax – lounging around like big fuzzballs. Wally is a social bunny who will approach you for cheek rubs, while Daisy appreciates gentle affection once she feels comfortable. For fun, they will shred cardboard and paper-towel rolls. This sweet couple is patiently seeking their forever home. They are sure to bring warmth, smiles and bundles of joy to their new owner's family. Wally and Daisy have been spayed and neutered and are living in foster care. For more information about Daisy and Wally please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

### 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](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

### Ernie

Ernie is a handsome, medium-sized young bunny who was in bad shape upon being rescued, apparently because he was left outdoors. We got him the vet care and TLC he needed, and now he is looking for a forever home. Ernie has a great appetite for pellets and greens, but still will not eat any hay, so about every three months he must have his molar spurs filed down by a rabbit-savvy vet. This is a relatively quick procedure, and he has always started eating immediately afterward. Ernie is an active and curious rabbit, but still very shy and not much interested in humans (other than when you offer food, of course!), so we think he would be best off as a partner rabbit. He has been neutered and has very good litter-box skills. If interested in fostering or adopting this resilient, hunky bunny, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto: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 sparkingly 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 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](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).



Wally and Daisy.



Carmela.



Ernie.



Woody.

# In the Heat of the Moment: Our Journey of Rabbit Parenting During a Summer Move

By Jillian Jacobs

Arizona was not a desirable place for us, but deep down, we knew moving there was the best decision, given by the opportunities my husband would have to advance his career. Still, it was a challenge to relocate our four rabbits, especially since one of our baby bunnies (Cottytail) was still in the final stages of recovery from a leg injury.

How would we transport the rabbits in the safest, most efficient way? And how would the weather affect their health during our journey?

With Marbles, Blackberrie and Flopsy clearly being European breeds, I felt that we should take major safety precautions. I was discouraged to find out (from my vet) that there has been very little research about what temperatures are “safe” for different breeds of rabbits.

Sure, there was that one day, in New York City, where I became alarmed after the temperature soared to 91 degrees and I had neglected to turn on the air conditioner – which prompted me to get home, before my lunch break, to turn it on. By the grace of the universe, when I got there, the thermometer in the rabbits’ room showed only 78 degrees. “Whew! That was a close one!” I thought.

For our Arizona trip, Andrew and I rented a car. We would have to drive through 10 states in three days, taking frequent breaks. The bunnies would each get a new traveling cage. Since Marbles occasionally was territorial toward Cottytail and Blackberrie, we had no idea how these days of traveling

Photos: Jillian Jacobs



Blackberrie.



Marbles.



Cottytail and Flopsy.

were going to pan out. We brought along their favorite bed sheet, which we planned to use to obstruct the view between two cages, if needed.

As it turned out they were all troopers. They were calm and they never got aggressive. They were better travelers than I am.

Four days after our arrival in Arizona, Andrew and I spent a hot afternoon at the pool. When we came back to our home, I checked the thermometer and couldn’t believe what I was reading: 87 degrees!

I panicked as I went into the bunnies’ room and thank goodness, all the rabbits were still okay. But our lop-eared bunnies (Flopsy and Marbles) sat very still, almost frozen like statues. We rushed to cool them all off, but it was 10 p.m. before maintenance was able to get our air conditioner running properly.

I wish I could say that was the last time we ever experienced this, but the exact same thing happened the next day. Only this time, maintenance was not responding and we couldn’t get anyone to look at our air conditioner until the following day. Andrew and I started strategically thinking of ways to get the rabbits to safety should there be a power outage. We concluded that we could rely on our car for the air conditioning and if we had to drive to the nearest city and stay overnight in a hotel, we could make do.

Thankfully, we have not had a power outage. Watching our rabbits lounge around like furry, little sphinxes, I am relieved to say that they are relaxed and at peace in their new home.



## Goodbye to Our Dear Moose

By Sabine Heinlein

It was with a heavy heart that we had to say goodbye to our dear rabbit Moose on July 8. Moose came to us in 2014 as a gravely ill, emaciated foster rabbit “in need of assessment.” (Apparently I’m good with that kind of stuff, ahem.) We didn’t think he’d have long to live and it became clear early on that he wasn’t adoptable: he growled at us whenever we came close to him and bit us in the ankles when he spontaneously decided that it was feeding time (which was all day long, in his opinion). Over time, as I trained him to jump through a hoop and jingle his baby keys, he mellowed out a lot. (Although my husband, Giovanni Garcia-Fenech, just showed me two unhealed bite wounds on his ankles.)

Moose really enjoyed “the carwash,” a type of massage I’d give him with my feet while writing about depressing stuff. Oddly, Moose – named for his large size and his even larger ears – was really good with toddlers. Whenever he’d encounter a 3-year-old, he’d turn into a perfectly normal rabbit. Which was SO WEIRD.

Moose had two dedicated girlfriends who both loved him immensely: Spooky (who died a couple of years ago) and Tiny Tina. (Tiny Tina is a bit sad at the moment but we will soon get her a new bunny boyfriend.) At heart, Moose was a big mush. He was pugnacious and horny until just before his death, when he had stopped eating, came down with a high fever and had trouble moving his hind legs. We donated his body to science/student-training purposes, hoping for some better rabbit vets in the future.

We will miss you a lot, Moose. Giovanni and I will spend some extra time doing what we love doing most: quilting and painting side by side.

(Sabine’s tribute to Moose was posted on [Instagram @animalquilter](#).)

Photos: Sabine Heinlein



▲ Moose in his woven raft. ▼ Moose going to work in his cab.





## Letters From Adopters

Photo: Cynthia Verderber



Buddy.

### **We Love Our Little Guy, Buddy**

Thank you for always sending us the newsletter.

Our little guy, Buddy, was adopted in August 2009 (his name was Babbit) from the shelter in Harlem. He is 12 to 13 years old now but is doing great.

He is cared for by the wonderful doctors at Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital on Long Island.

My family and I truly love him dearly.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Verderber

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## CELEBRITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Bun Bun's mutton chops.



Margo and Diamond.



CELEBRITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Coco #1.



Oreo.



Marshmallow.



Stanley (fka Bunari).



Black Dahlia.



Bunny Coco holds a thank-you note for a rabbit-rescue donor.



Petra



Rabbit portrait artist Szonja Füzesi (commission her at Instagram @Szonja8) depicts Petra in Flight, based on a photo by Colleen AF Venable.



Milo and Victoria.



## 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

### 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

## 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](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com). On **Long Island**, contact Nancy Schreiber at [nschreibmd@gmail.com](mailto:nschreibmd@gmail.com) or at 516-510-3637 ([www.longislandrabbitrescue.org](http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org)).

**If interested in volunteering or fostering for Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto: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 (for ACC inquiries about adoption/bunny dates, email [adopt@nycacc.org](mailto: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](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com) to make arrangements.

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

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

## Licensed HRS Educators

### NYC/Westchester:

**M.C. Basile**, Chapter Manager, NYC House Rabbit Society, [bunnytorts@gmail.com](mailto:bunnytorts@gmail.com)

**Mary Cotter**, Founder, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, Adviser to Thump, [mec@cloud9.net](mailto:mec@cloud9.net), (914) 337-6146

**Jeanine Callace**, [Rofoyo.pippin@verizon.net](mailto:Rofoyo.pippin@verizon.net)  
**Alex Mcle**, [alexlmcie@gmail.com](mailto:alexlmcie@gmail.com)

**Marcie Frishberg**

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

**Cindy Stutts**, [bygolyoly@yahoo.com](mailto:bygolyoly@yahoo.com), (646) 319-4766

**Monica Shepherd, DVM**

### Long Island:

**Nancy Schreiber**, President, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, [nschreibmd@gmail.com](mailto:nschreibmd@gmail.com), (516) 510-3637, [LongIslandRabbitRescue.org](http://LongIslandRabbitRescue.org)

**Mary Ann Maier**, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group Volunteer, [altitude8@yahoo.com](mailto:altitude8@yahoo.com), [LongIslandRabbitRescue.org](http://LongIslandRabbitRescue.org)

**Donna Sheridan**, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group Volunteer, [hpocus217@yahoo.com](mailto:hpocus217@yahoo.com), [LongIslandRabbitRescue.org](http://LongIslandRabbitRescue.org)

**Jennifer Saver, DVM**

**Laura George, DVM**

## THUMP AUGUST 2019

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS  
[www.rabbitcare.org](http://www.rabbitcare.org)

Editor: Susan Lillo

Creative Director: Jane O'Wyatt

Masthead Logo Designer: Mary Ann Maier

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

All donations go directly to caring for our foster rabbits and are tax-deductible. Please help us help them 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](http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org).