

Trends That Endanger Rabbits, Page 2

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NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS NOVEMBER 2022

Photo: Catnip & Carrots



Dr. Erica Campbell at Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital administers the booster dose of the RHDV2 vaccine to RR&R foster rabbit Jasper.

Foster Rabbits Are Vaccinated

Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital administered the first dose of the RHDV2 vaccine to 35 Rabbit Rescue & Rehab foster rabbits on Sept. 4. Just 21 days later, on Sept. 25, the rabbits received their booster dose.

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab thanks all of the fosterers, volunteers and staff at C&C for their tremendous efforts in getting this done to protect our rabbits.

We encourage everyone to have rabbits immunized against rabbit hemorrhagic disease as soon as possible.

For an update on the disease from House Rabbit Society, please go to page 3.

Time Is Running Out for Gov. Hochul To Sign Legislation That Keeps Rabbits Out of New York Pet Stores

Rabbits out of New York's pet stores? We are almost there.

Rabbit lovers, friends and allies, we URGENTLY need your help. Gov. Kathy Hochul has only until the end of this year to sign the Puppy Mill Pipeline bill into law.

The legislation, already passed by the state's Senate and Assembly, would prohibit New York State's pet stores from selling dogs, cats and rabbits. Pet stores would still be allowed to showcase animals available for adoption from shelters, rescue groups and other entities.

It has taken years to get this close to the finish line. If she misses the Dec. 31 deadline, the bill dies and the entire process of voting in the legislature starts all over again. We cannot let this happen. The rabbits, dogs and cats have been languishing in pet shops for much too long.

Why hasn't Gov. Hochul signed the bill yet? While the governor's office is aware of every bill that passed the legislature this year, there were over 1,000 such bills. Because of this volume, the governor's office calls up batches at a time. They

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You Can Deliver Holiday Cheer To RRR Rabbits

As the holidays draw near, please take time to consider helping Rabbit Rescue & Rehab rabbits. We have spent this year dealing with abandonments, surrender requests, and pleas to pull rabbits from local shelters.

Giving Tuesday is this month, and a donor has pledged to match donations up to \$2,500, so we could turn that into \$5,000!

Donations can be made to Rabbit Rescue & Rehab through PayPal.

You also send donations to: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab/ NYC Metro Rabbit, 333 Mamaroneck Ave., #363, White Plains, NY 10605.

Our team has worked to help as many rabbits as we possibly can, and many of the rabbits are in need of costly veterinary care as a result of long-term neglect and difficult living situations.

RRR relies entirely on donations to cover all of our veterinary expenses and

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Cat and Dog 'Trends' That Endanger Bunnies

By Megan Hilands

The year 2022 is significant for me, as it marks my 10th year of living with house rabbits. During the past decade many of my friends and coworkers have come to affectionately know me as the “bunny lady.” When I worked in an office, I decorated my workspace with photos of my bunnies, including putting a picture of my 12-pound Californian rabbit Baby (may he rest in peace) as my computer’s lock screen. He was certainly a conversation starter, as many of my colleagues had no idea bunnies could be so large.

My husband and I for better or for worse became the people our network go to when they have stories or questions about bunnies. In almost all cases we enjoy being go-to bunny people. Our friends will send us photos of wild rabbits, and any decor, clothing, or knickknack our family finds will probably be a gift for us. When my husband’s college roommate started dating his current girlfriend, the first thing he mentioned was that she had a house bunny, too (and yes, this did make me like her instantly!).

However, sometimes I hear stories that are troubling. Over time more people seem to be choosing bunnies as pets – which is mostly good, as bunnies are amazing – but as part of this I have observed some traditionally cat or dog trends also entering the bunny space. Expanding pet markets to bunnies is often innocent, even helpful. For example, I like that I can find more bunny-appropriate toys and brands of pellets in pet stores than ever before.

Unfortunately, some cat and dog fads are simply inappropriate for rabbits. Here are a few that I’ve seen recently that worry me as a bunny person.

Public adventures

More than one person has let me know they have seen pet bunnies out and about with their humans, whether it be on a harness on a walk, or even at an outdoor dining location. In fact, a few

Photo: Megan Hilands



Nala is not a fan of party hats and thinks her mane is a more than good enough accessory!

weeks ago my husband and I saw a woman take her bunny to a winery! While I can understand the desire to show off your beloved pet to the outside world, I do not believe public outings are a good thing at all for the bunny.

It’s important to remember that as curious and playful as they may seem in the safety of our homes, rabbits still evolved as prey animals. While new scents and environments can be invigorating for a dog, they can easily invoke terror in bunnies. I feel that my rabbits take at least an hour to settle in when we travel to see our parents for holidays or trips, and these are places they’ve been to many times in the past!

There is a lot of risk taking a bunny outside to a public area. Even if fully vaccinated against RHDV, bunnies are still at risk of ailments like fly strike.

There’s also no way of knowing whether a hawk might fly overhead, or another patron’s dog might approach the bunny. There is just too much at stake in such a situation. My bunnies much prefer that

I keep them safe at home and share their photos on social media.

Bunny ‘meet and greets’

Prior to the current RHDV outbreak in the U.S., I came across several advertisements for what seemed to me to be the bunny equivalent of a dog park. Organizations across the country were hosting what they called “hoppy hours” where bunny parents could introduce their rabbits to other rabbits – not as a “speed date” where you might see if the bunnies are compatible for bonding, but rather just as a one-time play date. This sort of event is a quintessential example of a concept developed for the needs of one animal (dogs) being misapplied to another (rabbits).

While both make great pets, in many ways dogs and rabbits could not be more different. While canines are pack animals and can take pleasure in meeting other dogs temporarily, bunnies are extremely territorial. I will admit that my single bun, Charlie, and my bonded pair, Simba and Nala, do seem curious about each other at times. Their pens are in the same part of our home, and it’s not uncommon to see them watch the other, even sometimes periscoping to get a better view. However, Charlie has tried to nip at Simba and Nala when they get too close to his home base, which makes me suspect they are better off as neighbors than as a bonded trio. (Note that I do keep space between their pens for this reason!).

At bunny “hoppy hours” owners are essentially forcing their pets into a stressful and potentially dangerous situation. As anyone who has bonded bunnies knows, there is a big risk of fights breaking out before the pair is fully bonded, and if you are not extremely vigilant your bunny could get injured with lightning speed.

Costumes

This holiday season I have noticed that some popular pet stores have started to

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New RHDV2 Confirmations In Connecticut and South Carolina

By House Rabbit Society

RHDV2 continues its spread in North America.

It is the first of the rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus strains to affect both domestic and North American wild rabbit and hare species. The virus has an extremely high death rate and a very short incubation period.

Symptoms of the virus in domesticated rabbits can include loss of appetite, lethargy, high fever, difficulty breathing, seizures, jaundice, and bleeding from the nose, mouth or rectum. As many as 70% to 100% of rabbits exposed to the virus will die within 48 hours to 10 days after exposure. Rabbits who survive are carriers and can infect other rabbits for at least 42 days or longer as they continue to shed the virus.

As of September, RHDV2 has been confirmed in 28 states in the U.S. Additional cases have recently been detected in Canada.

In October, the California Department of Food and Agriculture confirmed RHDV2 in several Bay Area counties: in a feral domestic rabbit in Alameda County, and in wild jackrabbits in Marin, Solano and Yolo counties. Previously, the last confirmed RHDV2 case in the Bay Area was in August 2021, in Sonoma County.

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Tillie.

Other recent RHDV2 cases in California include confirmations in wild rabbits in Mono and Inyo counties in July, and in Riverside, San Diego, San Luis Obispo and Stanislaus counties in June. Previous detections were confirmed in domestic rabbits in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Luis Obispo, and Mendocino counties in June as well.

In mid-September, RHDV2 was confirmed for the first time in Connecticut and South Carolina. In Connecticut, 14

deceased rabbits were confirmed to have died from the virus at a private residence in Hartford County. In South Carolina, animal health authorities were alerted to a sudden die-off of feral rabbits at a homestead in Greenville County.

In Calgary, Alberta, Canada, cases of RHDV2 have been confirmed among dead rabbits found in the southeast communities of Manchester Industrial and Seton. It is being described as a mass die-off event in outdoor populations.

Remember, the most important thing you can do to help protect your rabbit from RHDV2 is to get the rabbit vaccinated, in states where the Medgene vaccine is available. Remember, too, that RHDV2 can be carried into your home by insects or on your shoes. Indoor rabbits who do not go outside have been infected, so the vaccine is crucial if the disease is in your area.

The Medgene RHDV2 vaccine is safe and effective. So far, Medgene safety testing studies report only rare instances of swelling at the injection site that resolve within 48 hours. Other possible side effects are a temporary slight fever and/or lethargy for a couple days. To learn more about the Medgene vaccine and to find a link to a database of vets offering the vaccine, visit our [RHDV resource center](#).

Cat and Dog 'Trends'

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sell Halloween costumes specifically designed and marketed for rabbits. Unfortunately, the rabbit costumes I've seen for sale would almost certainly cause stress to the bunny, or even result in a potentially dangerous situation.

Harnesses alone are a bad idea. Even taking away the potential dangers

associated with taking bunnies on outdoor adventures, nearly all rabbits will react very poorly to being secured into a harness and will do everything in their power to escape it. Bunnies' necks and tummies are very sensitive areas, and I've unfortunately heard of bunnies being injured by harnesses that secure under these areas. Sadly, a number of costumes marketed to bunnies operate similar to a harness, with loops that go

under the neck and tummy, and carry some of the same risks. My bunnies would barely tolerate a small birthday hat placed on their head for more than a few seconds! And while the mental image of a bunny wearing a hat may seem cute, I am confident my bunnies would prefer a chew toy or a small bunny-savvy vet-approved treat for their birthday.

A Well-Trained Companion

By Samantha Rowan

Every evening at approximately seven o'clock, our senior rabbit Lenny stands up, stretches and hops across the floor of our apartment. He positions himself next to the bookcase and looks at me with an intense, both-ears-up stare until I look away from the kitchen where I am cooking dinner. Lenny holds my gaze for a second and then turns his head toward the cabinet in which we keep his pellets and his hay.

"Lenny," I say, "You have plenty of hay. I gave you a *huge* handful two hours ago."

Lenny can't speak words, although he does grunt a lot, but I understand the expression on his face. Without another word, I turn off the burner and then fill up his hay, change his water, and give him a few pellets (he has most of it in the morning). His nightly salad is already prepared and I put that bowl down as well.

As always, Lenny races to his food as if he has never eaten. The whole rigmarole repeats itself again the next night.

We have lived with Lenny for nine years now. During that time I have been most impressed by his sheer ability to not do anything he doesn't want to do, apart from his annual visit to the vet. We estimate Lenny's age to be about 11 – I mean who is counting at this point? – and some people say, "Oh, he must

have gotten more intractable as he's gotten older."

No, Lenny has been like this since the day we brought him home from the

Photo: Samantha Rowan



'Do you believe I have to tell them EVERYTHING?'

shelter. And, if I have to admit this, it's totally hilarious to be bossed around by a 6-pound ball of assertive fluff.

Sometimes, I tell Lenny about the good qualities of his predecessors as a kind of instructive tale that he never heeds.

I tell him about Scratch, who was adopted many, many years ago from a shelter in New Jersey. She knew her

name and would come for pets if I beckoned to her in the right way.

Simon was our companion when our son was born. Adopted from a shelter in Brooklyn, Simon took directions, and took on responsibilities. Whenever our son would cry and was in reach, Simon would kiss his nose until he stopped. And before Lenny, there was Frank, a darling lop who was sadly only with us for a few months but would come if we gestured and would hop up on the couch if we patted him.

If Lenny, on the other hand, wants to hop on the couch, he stands in front of it and stares until I lift him up onto it. He does get down by himself.

We've never been the kind of people who want to have performing pets, although some people and their companions have a lot of fun doing that together. But I do think our philosophy of simply co-existing as equals has meant the short end of the stick for the three humans in the apartment. Lenny has trained us to feed him, pet him, groom him and play with him entirely on his schedule and entirely by aggressively staring until he gets what he wants.

It would be more irritating, but Lenny is awfully cute and (we think) loves us quite a lot. And I have to admit, he has done pretty good work on our training.



Available to Order Now To Help Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

These beautiful metal-stamped keychains feature your choice of "Rescued" or "Adopt" for \$18 each (shipping included), and proceeds go 100% toward supporting our rabbits and rescue efforts.

To order, email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com with the number of keychains and which text you would like, and include your name and shipping address.

Lovingly created by [@love_and_liberation_jewelry](https://www.instagram.com/love_and_liberation_jewelry)

RIP George

Photo: Caroline Figueroa



George.

Caroline Figueroa sent this note: 'If anyone remembers George, the 5-year-old senior lop at ACC Manhattan, I just wanted to let you know that he passed away last week. Our family still misses him dearly but know it was his time to pass over the rainbow and eat unlimited bananas. =)'

Holiday Cheer

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to be able to rescue abandoned rabbits, especially to help those who are injured and sick, and who require extensive veterinary care and treatment.

Enjoy the holidays and thank you for all the support and encouragement you have provided. We will continue our work, knowing that our efforts are appreciated by so many of you.

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.

Time Is Running Out

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use this procedure because once the bill is on the governor's desk, she has only 10 days to take action on each bill.

It is considered a veto if no action is taken within 10 days. That said, every bill will definitely make it to the governor's desk by the end of the year. We must make sure that she is aware of the massive support behind this bill once it reaches her.

Action is needed now. We all must contact Gov. Hochul and ask her to sign this bill into law. You can contact her by using this link: [Governor Contact Form](#). Please send an email and make a call to this number: 518-474-8390 (press 3, then press 1 to leave a message). If you are so inclined, send her an old-fashioned note in the mail. Be sure to reference the legislation, S.1130 and A.4283. Don't be afraid to get personal and plead for the governor's support. Don't forget to ask your friends and family to participate or do it for them. Countless rabbits, cats and dogs are counting on us.

When New York City passed a similar law in 2016, we hoped that there would be an immediate and massive decline in the number of rabbits that were relinquished to the city shelters.

Unfortunately, this was not the case. Since the rest of the state continued to sell rabbits in pet stores, the rabbits continued to be dumped at the shelters, in the streets, in the woods and offered for free in ads and on social media. These are dangerous situations for our beloved pets. In the midst of our hopeful anticipation that the statewide ban will indeed be signed into law by Gov. Hochul, we worry that residents of New York will continue to buy rabbits from pet stores in Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. If New Yorkers purchase rabbits in those states and no longer want to care for them, they will be abandoning them in this state.

Cities and states across the country are fighting back against puppy/kitten/rabbit mills – large-scale commercial breeding

facilities that maximize profits at the expense of the animals' well-being – by enacting retail pet-store sales bans. No such laws exist in our neighboring states. If you are a resident of Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts or Pennsylvania, please contact your state's elected officials and ask (or beg) them to take up this matter and sponsor a pet-store sales ban bill. You can also present them with a petition with signatures from citizens of your state in support of such a ban. The New York precedent can be used in your campaign. If you need assistance, ask your local rabbit rescue organizations to help.

The need for this legislation is enormous. Rabbit Rescue & Rehab constantly receives individual relinquishment requests for rabbits, a number that excludes all large-scale surrenders, hoarding cases, and over-reproduction situations that may involve 100+ rabbits in each scenario.

A significant number of these surrender requests come from people who purchased a rabbit from a pet store on impulse, received a rabbit purchased from a pet store as a gift, or were given incorrect information (or no information) about rabbits from a pet store and only later learned that they were not prepared for the commitment or the expense. Upon learning about the special diet and care needs, cost, and commitment involved in rabbit care, many chose to abandon their rabbits or relinquish them to a shelter rather than stepping up to provide the correct home and care for the rabbit that they purchased.

Should Gov. Hochul sign the bill, New York will be only the fifth state in the country with such a ban. That is a very low number. The pet-store lobby is large and they have financial resources. We need to beat them by fighting hard for rabbits and the other affected animals. Our motivation is love and compassion.

Thanks to everyone who has fought and will continue to fight. The rabbits are counting on you.

When You Love a Bun

If you're fortunate enough in life
To ever love a bun
You'll know what endless love is like
So much your heart'll go numb

A bunny's love is special
Unlike any others
They'll nudge and binky to show off
Then run and quickly take cover

Most bunnies are such scaredy-cats
The most fearfulest of ones
It's so easy to spook, jolt and panic
Those precious little buns

Their fur will decorate your wardrobe,
Furniture and chairs
But there's no better accessory
Than a sprinkle of bunny hair

And if you've earned a bunny's trust
A small lick could be your prize
For you are their human now
Stand tall and gloat with pride!

– Gabbi Campbell

Photo: Gabbi Campbell



Gabbi Campbell's bunnies: Ebony, 7 years old (a Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group adoptee) with Marshmallow, 8.



Marshmallow and Ebony.

Tell Us About the Relationship Between Your Rabbit and Your Other Pets!

By Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group

Friends of LIRRG is a Facebook community of over 1,000 rabbit owners and rescue volunteers who live on Long Island. We asked our Friends, "Tell us about the relationship between your rabbit and your other pets!" and here's what they had to say.

"Adoptable bunny Morus likes to check out his foster brother Nigel." – Denise B.

"I bird sit my mom's cockatiel occasionally. The first time Sunny visited, Ellie stamped her feet every single time she tweeted. Now, they even eat dinner together! But



Morus and Nigel.



Ellie.

El still gets super clingy whenever Sunny stays." – Emily V.

"Spencer is our 25-year-old African Gray parrot, and our first baby! We hand fed

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How to Reduce Stress for Your Rabbits During Holiday Vacations and Travel

By House Rabbit Society

When traveling is in your plans, whether it be a vacation or a move, plans will need to be made for your rabbit. Rabbits have *different personalities* and each will react in varying degrees to stress, but you should keep in mind that most rabbits are stressed by changes – unfamiliar surroundings, changes in routine, changes in type of food/water, and changes in temperature. Rabbits show stress by getting diarrhea, becoming withdrawn

or aggressive, or by refusing to eat. By planning carefully, you can minimize these stresses for your rabbit.

Leaving Your Rabbit Behind

If you are planning a weekend trip or an extended vacation, you have several options.

1. LEAVE RABBIT AT HOME

Find a reliable friend who knows your rabbit or a pet sitter who knows rabbits

to come once or twice a day. Have the person meet with you and your rabbit to go over care and expectations. Leave a list of instructions covering feeding and cleaning routines, signs of illness, and phone numbers of your veterinarian and other people who can give advice on rabbits (in case a question arises when your veterinarian is unavailable). Daily portions of vegetables and fruits can be fixed ahead and stored in storage bags in

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LONG ISLAND NEWS

Relationship

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him and raised him since he was a hatchling. In December of 2019 we adopted Arlo. Their cages are side by side. While Spencer's cage is quite large, he prefers to sit directly next to Arlo. He keeps watch over his furry sister at all times. He calls her by name, and will yell to her when she's out and about while he's caged. They are a very unlikely pair, but you can sense that they rely on each other for companionship." – Nicole C.

"Typically, Spunkies the guinea pig is chasing bunny Pat around, annoying him and trying to give him a haircut. So when they're next to each other, it is a rare moment. My guinea pig Chomps, loves to get all up in Pat's face." – Jessica P.

"Mochi when he was a baby loved to spend time with my cat Jezebel." – Jennifer M.

"Moving into my fiancé's home last year has proved very interesting for our many fur babies. The two cats, Matilda and Spooky, are both under 3 years old and ran the house before the bunny invasion. Spooky can be a bully with some of the buns, but she becomes very timid the second the Viking Buns have run time.



Arlo with parrot Spencer.



Guinea pig Spunkies with Pat.



Pat with guinea pig Chomps.



Mochi and Jezebel.



Freya and Odin.

Freya will defend her brother, Odin, without hesitation! Even though Spooky is 12 pounds, two times Freya's size, "Princess Fresha" will come from around the corner and chase Spooky like you wouldn't believe. I have caught our foster bun, Bowser, playing tag with Spooky. She will run after Bowser but realize that I'm watching, so she stops. Bowser doesn't approve of that, though! He will turn around and hop towards her as if to say, 'Hey! Why'd you stop?!' Their dynamic is so cute." – Lauren R.

Vacations and Travel

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refrigerator drawers for up to a week.

How to find a pet sitter:

- Contact your local *House Rabbit Society chapter or educator* or references.
- Veterinarian technicians at experienced *veterinary practices* may do pet sitting.
- Look on bulletin boards at veterinary offices, pet-supply stores and humane societies, and then check references.
- Visit *TrustedHousesitters* (Get a six-month home/pet owner membership; use code 'houserabbitsociety' when signing up; always check to make sure that your new house sitter knows rabbits!)

PROS

- Your rabbit will be in familiar surroundings.
- Feeding routine will be closer to usual routine.
- Quiet
- If you use a veterinary technician or someone who is familiar with rabbits, you can be more confident that symptoms of illness will be noticed.

- Although pet sitters generally charge more than boarding fees, it can be cost effective if you also have other pets.
- Your rabbit is not exposed to unfamiliar animals as in a boarding situation.

CONS

- Your rabbit may get lonely, especially if she is the only animal in the house.
- Your rabbit may not get out of her cage, if caged.
- Having a sitter or neighbor who comes only once a day leaves a lot of time for symptoms of illness to go unnoticed and also makes it harder to maintain some rabbits' routines.
- If you have other pets such as dogs or cats, provisions may be needed to be made to make sure they do not bother the rabbit.

2. BOARD YOUR RABBIT IN SOMEONE'S HOME

You may have a friend who will take your rabbit or you may contact your local House Rabbit Society chapter for names of some volunteers who board rabbits.

PROS

- If the person you choose is familiar with rabbits, symptoms of illness may be more quickly recognized.

- Your rabbit may get more attention than from a visiting sitter.
- A caged rabbit may get more exercise time than if left at home.

CONS

- Your rabbit will be in unfamiliar surroundings.
- Other rabbits and pets may stress your rabbit.
- You will need to move your rabbit's cage and supplies.

3. BOARD AT A VETERINARIAN OR KENNEL

This is probably the least desirable option when leaving your rabbit behind. But if you choose this, there are several things you should consider:

- Ask to see where your rabbit will stay. Ideally, the rabbit should be in a room away from dogs and cats. If the rabbit will be in the "cat room," her cage should not face the cats.
- Ask if you can bring your rabbit's cage from home. This may minimize the change.
- The veterinarian or kennel should be familiar with rabbits.

PROS

- An experienced rabbit veterinarian can treat your rabbit should he fall ill or have a chronic health problem.

CONS

- It can be difficult to find a vet/kennel that has desirable space separate from dogs and cats.
- Unfamiliar surroundings and noise from animals may be upsetting for your rabbit.
- Your rabbit most likely will not get out of his cage.
- Kennel staff probably won't give much personal attention other than feeding and cleaning.
- Can be expensive, especially if boarding other pets also.

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Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Oskar.

Vacations and Travel

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Taking Your Rabbit With You

If you are going on an extended vacation with lots of sightseeing, you would probably do well to leave your rabbit at home. If you are going on a longer vacation of a month or more where you will be based at friends' or relatives' homes, you may be able to take your rabbit. However, you should make sure that your hosts approve and that there are no allergies to rabbits.

If your rabbit is not used to car rides (except to the vet), start regular car rides as early as possible before any road trip. Start with short (30 minutes) weekly or twice-weekly rides in a pet carrier. Try to have some longer rides (one to three hours) before the trip.

WHAT TO TAKE

- Pedialyte Infant rehydrating solution (comes in different flavors, important because rabbits often become dehydrated while traveling)
- Paper towels, vinegar (for cleaning), garbage bags, hand broom/dustpan newspapers, water, Critical Care, hay, food, medical supplies, eye droppers or syringes for feeding, ice packs and towels to soak in cool water for heat stress, health certificate (if needed for foreign travel) and information about procedures at customs (if needed), water bottle/bowls, any medications.

PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES

1. "Tattoo" a telephone number of a reliable friend or relative in rabbit's ears with a nontoxic felt marker. The ink wears off but provides temporary ID.
2. Type short notes for your purse, suitcase, and car giving emergency instructions for your rabbit in case of any accident, such as an emergency phone number.

Photos: Jane O'Wyatt



Sherlock.



Pippi.



Tina.

3. Take the House Rabbit Handbook and other rabbit health information with you. Contact House Rabbit

Resource Network for handouts on medical concerns that may also be helpful to veterinarians on your trip.

4. If you need a vet, look for one with experience with "exotics" and ask about experience with rabbits, numbers seen, antibiotics (no amoxicillin/ampicillin), anesthetic (isoflurane is best), and fasting for surgery (no fasting for rabbits). Avoid emergency clinics if possible because they are often unfamiliar with rabbits and more expensive.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT CAR TRAVEL

1. Water bottles will often leak out all their water.

Rabbits tend to not drink while traveling. Water should be offered at all stops. Add Pedialyte to combat dehydration but be sure the rabbit will drink it. You may have to syringe/dropper feed water.

2. Rabbits may also not eat while traveling.

Offer favorite vegetables, pellets and hay at all stops. Put some hay and pellets in the carrier while traveling.

3. Try to establish some routine as to length of time in car each day, stopping times, feeding and exercise times.

4. Strap down carriers so they do not slide during sudden stops.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT AIR TRAVEL

- Rabbits who are nervous, fear the vacuum cleaner, tremble in the car, or who are older or have health problems will most likely find a plane trip too stressful.
- Rabbits who are calm and not bothered by car rides may still be overly stressed by air travel.
- Shop around for an airline that will allow you to take your rabbit in the cabin, and find out what type carrier you need.

Why Spay or Neuter My Rabbit? Some Scary Numbers...

By Dana M. Krempels, Ph.D.

*University of Miami Biology Department
House Rabbit Society of Miami*

If you are contemplating getting a bunny, it's imperative to spay or neuter your companion for his or her health and longevity. But aside from the individual rabbit's well-being, another factor to consider is just how quickly these prey animals can reproduce, if left to their own devices. More than one rescuer in the U.S. has been faced with the daunting task of trying to find homes for a backyard breeding operation that has gotten horribly out of control.

Most of us are familiar with the estimate that one cat and her offspring have the potential to bear more than 40,000 cats in seven years. But this impressive number pales in comparison to what a rabbit can produce! Here are those numbers, for sharing and scaring.

A single female rabbit can have 1 to 14 babies per litter, but let's be conservative and say that the average litter size is six. We'll also make the assumption (remember, this is all hypothetical) that only half of those are females, and we will calculate the potential fecundity of our bunny population only from these hypothetical three females per litter, since females are the limiting factor in a population when it comes to making babies. We're also assuming no mortality, since we're talking about potential reproduction with no set environmental carrying capacity. (Since a rabbit can easily live seven years and beyond, this isn't unreasonable.)

Rabbit gestation lasts 28-31 days, and because they are induced ovulators, mother rabbits can be impregnated again within minutes of giving birth. This means that mama could, hypothetically, have one litter per month if she is constantly with a male rabbit. (Poor mama!)

If our "starter bunny" begins reproducing at six months of age (again, not an unreasonable estimate), and has babies for seven years, then by the end of the first year:

One mother rabbit x 3 female babies x 12 months = 36 female babies (plus your original mama makes 37) Let's add the new babies to the reproductive population at the beginning of the following year. At that point, their average age would be six months – the time of their first litter. (This works if you consider this to be averaging the new females' reproductive output.) If – starting at the beginning of Year Two – each of the Year One female rabbits produces an average of 3 female offspring per month, then by the

End of Year Two:

37 mother rabbits x 3 female babies x 12 months = 1,332 female babies (plus your original 37 will equal 1,369 total)

End of Year Three:

1,369 mother rabbits x 3 female babies x 12 months = 49,284 female babies (49,284 + last year's 1,369 = 50,653 total)

End of Year Four:

50,653 x 3 x 12 months = 1,823,508 female babies (1,823,508 + last year's 49,284 = 1,872,792 total)

End of Year Five:

1,823,508 x 3 x 12 months = 67,420,512 female babies (67,420,512 + last year's 1,872,792 = 69,293,304 total)

End of Year Six:

69,293,304 x 3 x 12 months = 2,494,558,944 female babies (2,494,558,944 + last year's 69,293,304 = 2,563,852,248 total)

Year Seven:

2,563,852,248 x 3 x 12 = 92,298,716,930 female babies (92,298,716,930 + last year's 2,563,852,248 = 94,862,569,180!)



Photo: Ben Zucker

River and Dale (see *Thump*, February 2017) are the parents of these eight kits. The parents and kits have all found forever homes.



Photo: Emma Zucker

The pileup of baby bunnies is the litter of River and Dale at around five or six weeks.

That's nearly 95 billion female rabbits in seven years!

Remember that we haven't even included the males. On average, there should be as many males born in each litter as females. We didn't include them in the multiplication, since "it takes two to tango." But each year, as many males as females are born. So that adds up to another...

Year Two: 1332

Year Three: 49,284

Year Five: 67,420,512

Year Six: 2,494,558,944

Year Seven: 92,298,716,930

(Continued on page 11)

Why Spay or Neuter?

(Continued from page 10)

Add that to the females, and it means that first mama and her female descendants will have produced 184,597,433,860 rabbits in seven years...

...all of whom will need a home!

You can see why people use the phrase “reproducing like rabbits.” This amazing capacity for reproduction is the main defense *Oryctolagus cuniculus* has against extinction, since they have so many predators in the wild.

Photo: Laura George



Best Friends' "Great Bunny Rescue" of 2006.

Since unspayed rabbits generally have a shorter lifespan than unspayed cats, it might be unrealistic to expect a female to live a full seven years if she's reproducing at that rate. Even so, the descendants of that initial female, reproduction left unchecked, are quite capable of bringing that number into the millions in only a few years. (Darwin was right.)

Do the bunnies of the world a favor: have your companion rabbit spayed or neutered.



Rabbits have an amazing capacity for reproduction. This is their main defense against extinction.

Photo: Nadine Heidegger



Salt&Pepper (mom) and her babies Chevron, Stitch, Chequer and Batik.

These Rabbits Are Available for Adoption From Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group

Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group has many rabbits available for adoption. Here are a few of the wonderful bunnies looking for homes. For more information about adoptions, please contact LIRRG at this email address: information@longislandrabbitrescue.org

Miso

Miso was abandoned with a cat when a group of tenants moved out of an apartment complex. A kind cat rescuer saved him. He is a very sweet bun who loves to give kisses so much that he will put his little paws on your face to keep you still. He likes his head patted but he doesn't like it if you try to pet around his teeny tiny ears. He is super energetic and loves to zoom and binky. Miso gets along well with the cats in his foster home. His favorite treats are a little piece of apple and Selective Naturals berry loops. His foster mom describes him as an adorably quirky bun who likes to jump up on things. She says that Miso is nothing but a good time!



Miso.

Salem

Salem's journey to our rescue was long and arduous. Found in a garbage can with another rabbit, Salem has made a miraculous, magical recovery. In his time with his current fosterer, he's begun to show his bold and lovable personality. Salem loves companionship, and he'd need either a human who can spend a lot of time with him, or another bunny with whom he can share a home. While Salem is friendly and loves visits, he can get a bit overexcited when eating and should be able to have space during mealtimes. Are you ready to give this magical bunny a home? Fill out an adoption application today.



Salem.

Colita

Colita...big, beautiful, and playful! She was rescued from a family whose young child accidentally hurt her when left



Colita.

unattended. Colita healed just fine, thankfully. Despite her rough beginnings, she absolutely loves people. Volunteers

describe Colita as a kisser who demands attention. She is a very friendly bunny with a puppy personality – and a big head. She likes to stand on her hind legs, reaching for attention and love. Colita will be the perfect rabbit for someone who has lots of time to play with her...gently, of course.

We Are Looking for Loving Homes:

These Rabbits Are in Foster Care With Rabbit Rescue & Rehab



Skye.

Skye

Skye is a 3.5-pound Himalayan rabbit and mom to the litter of “colorful” babies (Pink, Green, Blue, Purple and Orange) who all look just like her. Skye was found alone, tragically dumped in Central Park in terrifyingly poor condition, clearly having been horribly mistreated for quite some time even before she was abandoned outside. A passerby thankfully saw Skye outside and, wanting to help this poor bunny, brought her back to his home. Once there, she surprised him with a litter of babies. When we first saw Skye shortly after she had given birth, every bone in her small, frail body was visible and all movement was taxing for her in her emaciated state. Still, Skye was a wonderful mother to her babies and slowly but surely, she gained weight and became stronger. Today, Skye is completely healthy and enjoying some well-deserved free time now that her babies are grown up and off on their own adventures. Skye is looking for a quiet, calm human companion to match her sweet but reserved energy.

She is a gentle soul who will form a close bond with her family and enjoy receiving affection, provided she is given the opportunity to approach first. Skye



Indigo.

has a particular affinity for her Oxbow woven grass toys and is content to stretch out and fall into a deep sleep for afternoon naps. If you are interested in adopting Skye, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Indigo

Indigo's puppy-like playfulness is as endearing as his ears are enormous! Indigo arrived at ACC showing signs of terrible neglect. When we pulled him from the shelter, the veterinary treatment he was receiving had already filled an 8-plus-page-long medical record in that short time. He was facing an abscess, severe sore hocks, skin conditions, parasites and more. Today, Indigo has settled in beautifully and gained a whole 3 pounds since he first arrived at the shelter (currently tipping the scales at a magnificent 9.5 pounds!). Now living on cushy, appropriate floor material, Indigo's once infected and painful hocks are growing in nice new fur to protect his wonderfully giant feet. Indigo has been neutered and is living in foster care. He hopes to soon meet his forever family who will enjoy playtime and cuddle time as much as he does! If you are interested in adopting Indigo, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.



Ruby.

Ruby

After being brought in as a stray, this young NZW was cleverly named Rabbit Deniro during her stay at ACC, but this true gem of a bunny deserved a more fitting name. So we introduce you to Ruby, an incredibly beautiful, curious, friendly and affectionate large female rabbit. She is a magnificent companion, always interested in what her foster humans are doing and taking breaks between her binky sessions to sit beside them. Ruby deserves a forever home where she will receive lots of attention, time and space to exercise. Ruby is spayed and living in foster care. To inquire about adopting Ruby, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Blue and Purple

Blue and Purple are a young brother/sister pair of 3.5-pound Himalayan rabbits. Blue is the more outgoing of the two, and enjoys being wherever his people are at all times. He loves having his cheeks rubbed and will happily melt into the floor for long petting sessions. Purple is shyer than her brother, but is never far behind Blue and enjoys occasional head pets from quiet, gentle

(Continued on page 14)

ADOPTIONS

RRR Rabbits in Foster Care

(Continued from page 13)

people whom she trusts to respect her boundaries. Blue and Purple are a wonderful pair who are very affectionate with each other and spend a lot of their down time closely snuggled up together or grooming one another. Blue and Purple are neutered/spayed and living in foster care. To inquire about adopting Blue and Purple, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.



Carmela.

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



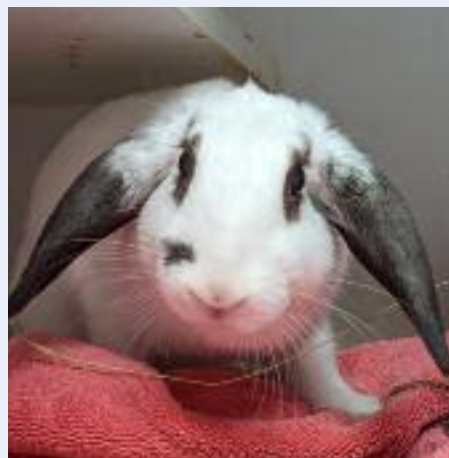
Purple and Blue.

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.

Forever Homes Found!

We are happy to report that Larry, Slippy, Oreo, Swiss, Bowser, Truffle, Leonardo, Brie, Beetlejuice, Romana, Simon, Reggie, Davis, Patricia and Freckle were adopted since the last newsletter. Congratulations!



Patricia.



Oreo.

(Check Petfinder for Updated Listings;
Some Rabbits Have Found Homes!)

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



Maria.



Rosa.



Flopsy.



Penny.



Mopsy.



Petunia Jr.

(Continued on page 16)

ADOPTIONS

Rabbits at Manhattan ACC

(Continued from page 15)



Spot.



Caramel Latte.



Timmy.



Virginia.



King Arthur.



Gwen.



Pretzel.

ADOPTIONS

**These Rabbits Are Available
At Brooklyn Animal Care Center (NYC ACC)**



14 Karrot Gold.



Buni.



Cuddles.



Lola.



Sherlock Holmes.



Sweeney Todd.

(Continued on page 18)

Resources for Rehoming a Rabbit

By House Rabbit Society

This year has been challenging for so many. We have a handout to help anyone who needs to find a new home for a

rabbit. Some people are unable to keep their rabbit due to financial reasons, or perhaps they have found a stray domestic rabbit in their neighborhood. Visit our

[rehoming resources page](#) to download it and share it with anyone who might need it. For some basic information, please read the next two pages of Thump.

ADOPTIONS

Rabbits at Brooklyn NYC ACC

(Continued from page 17)



Fester.



Toki.



Oidos.

FINDING A NEW HOME FOR A RABBIT



HOUSE RABBIT
SOCIETY

If you need to find a new home for a rabbit, there are several steps you can take to ensure they go to a safe home where they will be cared for. With a bit of work, **many people report they're able to find a new home for a rabbit within 1-3 weeks.** It's also worth reaching out to the person or rescue/shelter where the rabbit is originally from to see if they're able to take the rabbit back.

In 2020, a deadly disease called Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) started spreading across North America, putting all rabbits at risk. Due to the emergence of RHDV, it's safest for you to find a new home for your rabbit on your own, rather than surrendering them to a shelter or rescue group where they could be exposed to RHDV and potentially be euthanized if another rabbit is sick. See back for more information.

TIPS FOR FINDING A RABBIT A NEW HOME

- ✗ Never release a rabbit outside. Pet rabbits aren't able to survive outdoors and are easy targets for predators. They're also at risk of getting RHDV or other diseases, being hit by cars, and starving to death.
- ✗ Never abandon a rabbit at a shelter or veterinary office. In most states, it's a crime to abandon an animal.
- ✓ Talk with friends, coworkers, and family to see if they want a rabbit. Ask if they can help spread the word about the rabbit too by talking with other people and sharing on social media.
- ✓ Take a high-quality photo of the rabbit at eye level that captures their personality.
- ✓ Promote the rabbit in a positive but honest way. Talk about what makes them special, whether they're litter box trained, if they get along with other animals and children, etc. Talk about any existing medical conditions, including medications.
- ✓ Post about the rabbit on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Nextdoor.
- ✓ Use websites like Craigslist, rehome.adoptapet.com, and home-home.org to connect with potential adopters in your area.
- ✓ Put up fliers about the rabbit on bulletin boards in high-traffic areas like veterinary offices, pet supply stores, coffee shops, and libraries.
- ✓ Reach out to local shelters and rescue groups to see if they will post about the rabbit on their website and social media as a courtesy listing.
- ✓ Help make the rabbit more attractive to potential adopters. Have them checked by a veterinarian, and if they aren't already, get them spayed/neutered and vaccinated against RHDV, if available.
- ✓ Ask for a small adoption fee, to discourage those looking for snake food.
- ✓ Require potential adopters to house the rabbit indoors, due to RHDV.



HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY | FOUNDED IN 1988 | [RABBIT.ORG](https://rabbit.org)

IS THE RABBIT A STRAY?

A stray rabbit in your neighborhood may be a pet rabbit who escaped a backyard or their outdoor enclosure—these rabbits are usually found within a 1-block radius of where they escaped. However, stray rabbits may have been dumped by their owner and you will need to find them a new home.

1. CHECK FOR A MICROCHIP Take the rabbit to a veterinary office or animal shelter to get them checked for a microchip, for free. If they're chipped, veterinary/shelter staff can contact the rabbit's family. Due to the emergence of RHDV, call ahead to inquire about special precautions.

2. TRY TO LOCATE THE RABBIT'S GUARDIAN Post on Nextdoor in case your neighbors know who the rabbit belongs to. Post on Craigslist in the Lost & Found section and in the Pets section. Make found rabbit posters for your neighborhood and flyers to give to your neighbors. Use websites like Canva or [petbond.com](https://www.petbond.com) to create a flyer about the rabbit that has tear-off tabs and lists your contact info, along with a high-quality photo of the rabbit. Report the rabbit to your local animal control agency as a found pet—they may ask for a photo of the rabbit for their lost/found listings. Ask if there's any requirement to bring the rabbit in, or if you can find them a new home if no guardian is found.

3. IF NO GUARDIAN IS FOUND Find the rabbit a new home. (See front)

WHAT IS RHDV?

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) is a highly contagious, deadly, and rapidly spreading disease that affects both wild and domestic rabbits. It's not contagious to people or other animals. **Even if a rabbit is kept inside, they're still at risk of becoming infected with RHDV.** While RHDV only affects rabbits, the disease can be spread to them by people or animals through contact with objects, animals, insects, or predator feces contaminated by the virus. Visit rabbit.org/rhdv to learn more about RHDV and what you can do to keep rabbits safe.

NEED MORE HELP?

House Rabbit Society can't take your rabbit, but can help if you have questions about rabbit behavior, health, litter training, and more. We would love to help you keep your rabbit, if possible. You can reach out to your local rabbit rescue to learn about low-cost spay/neuter options available in your area, if needed.

HRS National Representatives
rabbit.org/contact-our-national-representatives

HRS Educators
rabbit.org/house-rabbit-society-contacts

HRS Chapters & Other Rabbit Rescues
rabbit.org/independent-rabbit-rescue

Financial Support Resources
rabbit.org/resources-to-help-pay-vet-bills

State-by-State Rabbit Veterinarian List
rabbit.org/vet-listings

HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY | FOUNDED IN 1988 | RABBIT.ORG

Adoptable Rabbits

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

To adopt a rabbit in **New York City** or **Westchester**, contact nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

On **Long Island**, contact information@longislandrabbitrescue.org.

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). 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. 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 rabbitrescueandrehab.org, www.longislandrabbitrescue.org and the House Rabbit Society main site, www.rabbit.org.

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

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Peter Rabbit.

Donations

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 <https://www.rabbitrescueandrehab.org/donate>

To contribute to Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, please go to www.longislandrabbitrescue.org.

THUMP NOVEMBER 2022

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS
rabbitrescueandrehab.org

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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.

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) 643-0515. 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 Street,
New York, NY 10065
(212) 838-7053, (212) 329-8622

Alexandra Wilson, DVM
The Center for Avian and
Exotic Medicine
568 Columbus Avenue,
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
Erica Campbell, DVM
Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital
2056 Jericho Turnpike
New Hyde Park, NY 11040
(516) 877-7080

Heidi Hoefler, DVM
Island Exotic Vet Care
591 East Jericho Turnpike
Huntington Station, NY 11746
(631) 424-0300

Ellen Leonhardt, DVM
Animal General of East Norwich
6320 Northern Blvd
East Norwich, NY 11732
(516) 624-7500

Maggie Camilleri, DVM
Paumanok Veterinary Hospital
639 Route 112
Patchogue, NY 11772
(631) 475-1312

Jeff Rose, DVM
Jefferson Animal Hospital
606 Patchogue Rd. (Route 112)
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776
(631) 473-0415

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

Licensed HRS Educators

NYC/Westchester:

M.C. Basile
Chapter Manager,
NYC House Rabbit Society

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Founder, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab,
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Marcie Frishberg

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Jennifer Saver, DVM