



THUMP

NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS MARCH 2024

Bunnies and the Great Outdoors: Why They Just Don't Mix

By Megan Hilands

When I meet new people and they learn I have bunnies, often one of the first questions they will ask is, "How much time do your bunnies spend outside?" Many express surprise when I reply with "none at all." I then typically offer a quick explanation of the dangers that lie outside the front door, including fly strike and predators, and they start to understand why I elect to keep my bunnies indoors.

Photo: Megan Hilands



My bunny Charlie is perfectly content to chew his vet-approved seagrass mat indoors.

In society at large there is unfortunately a persistent expectation that domesticated rabbits must want or need to spend time outside. I think many of them see wild rabbits outside and think our indoor bunnies must have similar needs, when in fact that could not be further from the truth. Here are some of the many reasons why bunnies are better off inside our homes.

Parasites, Predators and More

Rabbits are unfortunately all-too-easy targets for hawks and owls – both of which I have seen in my backyard multiple times! For me, even if my bunnies were in an X-pen outside and under my supervision, it is never worth the risk that they might be attacked by a wild animal. Cats, while easier to spot, also present a risk; I often see wild rabbits and other small animals run and hide when a feral cat is in even their general vicinity.

There are also a lot of risks to our bunnies we cannot see easily as humans. A passing fly might lay its eggs in a

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Social Media and The Easter Bunny

By Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

We all have learned that social media is a blessing and a curse.

Many people are seeking clicks, clout and ultimately, influencer status. Many use their companion animals as the focus of their online accounts.

Who doesn't want to see videos of cute animals, right? Unfortunately, many people cross the line from informally sharing to exploiting their companion animals for monetary gain. We have been contacted about situations where animals are forced to perform tricks and other activities under threat of physical harm. For those of us who have spent their lives helping animals, this is devastating.

So far, we haven't heard of people forcing their companion rabbits to perform under threat of harm. Rabbits learn new activities by positive reinforcement, not mistreatment.

What is happening, however, is the dissemination of improper care information and bad advice. There is

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rabbit's skin and infect the poor bun with fly strike. Worse still, flies and wild rabbits can carry the extremely deadly virus RHDV2. Mites, mosquitoes, and ticks also pose risk to bunnies, as does the parasite *E. cuniculi*, which can cause head tilt in bunnies. While *E. cuniculi* can be passed to bunnies several ways, including from a mother to a newborn, the risk increases when rabbits are outdoors as other animals can also carry the parasite.

Smells Galore

The same reason many dogs love being outside is likely the same reason domestic bunnies would not find it enjoyable. My three rabbits, like most, are extremely sensitive to scents. One of them (Charlie) does not even like when I come home from the pool and smell vaguely of chlorine. All of them, especially my shy bunny Simba, do not like being near other animal scents and will thump at anyone who dares to come into our home smelling (literally) like a dog.

Even a small urban outdoor space plays host to a wide variety of different animals throughout the year. In my New Jersey backyard I have seen cats, deer, possums, groundhogs, raccoons and birds of all kinds. Rabbits, being territorial, would pick up on these animals' scents easily and feel uncomfortable at the very least, if not threatened and scared. And when frightened, rabbits – like all animals – might do something erratic such as running into their pen and injuring themselves.

The Elements

Many of our domestic bunnies were bred to be fluffy and furry. But what makes our bunnies so nice to pet also comes at a bit of a personal risk to them. It is dangerous for our bunnies to get too wet, which is why you never bathe your bunny in water as you would a dog. Rain could present a real risk to your rabbit for this reason.

Rabbits also do not tolerate extreme heat or cold well. What feels like a warm, sunny summer day to you could cause your rabbit to feel overheated. Worse still, if bunnies try to walk on hot pavement (or really any pavement at all) they can develop sore hocks on their sensitive feet.

Tasty and Not-So-Tasty Plants

Would you eat the grass growing near your home or leaves on the ground? I certainly would not, and would not want my bunnies to either! It is difficult to determine exactly what all of the plants directly outside your home are, especially during autumn when falling leaves might travel quite a distance in

the wind. Knowing how sensitive our bunnies' digestive systems are, I don't want mine to eat anything that could cause a tummy ache and gas – which could lead to GI stasis. Worse yet, common ornamental plants and certain flowers can be toxic to bunnies. Examples from my own backyard include ivy, rhododendron and azalea.

I hope that I have given readers good points to refer to the next time a new friend asks why your bunny does not go outside. Our bunnies are far happier and healthier when they are safe indoors and we bring the outside to them through lots of delicious Timothy hay and vet-approved veggies.

SETTING YOUR PET RABBIT LOOSE DOESN'T MAKE HER "FREE!"



IT MAKES HER "FOOD!"

(PHOTO © Mary E. Connor, 2002)

Social Media

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an assumption that all rabbits will act exactly like those seen on a social-media page. For instance, it is unsafe for most house rabbits to be completely free to roam. Most homes contain a minefield of dangers – even those that are rabbit-proofed – yet many people expect their rabbit to behave just like the star of their favorite Instagram or TikTok account, without proper supervision. The person becomes disappointed and the rabbit is given away or gets sick or injured.

A related issue is the uptick in people wanting the exact same rabbit they view on a social-media page. Often the general public thinks that if rabbits look the same, they are the same. This has caused many people to avoid rescue groups and go straight to breeders to find a lookalike. The breeder customer does not receive accurate education on appropriate rabbit care.

We see folks offering to donate to veterinary care (or send gifts) for a social-media influencer's rabbit. Shouldn't a rabbit's caretaker be financially responsible for the expenses? Meantime, many rabbits are languishing in municipal shelters who might never receive the necessary veterinary care or even a toy. Your local rabbit-rescue organizations have 50 or 100 rabbits that all require veterinary care as well.

Many online rabbit pages are beautifully produced with cute voiceovers and are so much fun to watch, but do they represent reality? The homes of the rabbits on these influencer-driven accounts are pristine, decorated with only fancy rabbit furnishings, and there's not a poop or a single strand of hay on the floor. Of course, cleanliness is a must, but if you share your life with a rabbit, you know that this staging is unrealistic. We want our rabbits to live comfortably in their surroundings, free to dig, tear up their toys, drag hay around, etc. – not be the subject of an unrealistic narrative.

Recently, someone contacted us to immediately pick up a rabbit because he



Easter posters are available to download and share on our website, rabbitrescueandrehab.org. Help us spread the message that rabbits are not toys for Easter.

was not living up to their expectations. We explained that while we wish we could save every single rabbit, we are physically and financially constrained. He said, "I'll release him in the park where all of my social-media friends release rabbits; we agree that's the best thing to do."

The number of outdoor abandonments in 2023 was the worst we've seen in 30 years, with many rabbits abandoned well into the cold winter months. Many of those rabbits were Mini Lops and Holland Lops.

Coincidentally, lops are featured on many social-media pages and on breeders' websites. Lops are also the breeds with the most genetic health issues as the result of overbreeding and inbreeding for their adorable looks.

Rabbit-rescue groups such as Rabbit Rescue & Rehab have no physical location and only a limited number of foster homes, and we are overwhelmed caring for dozens of exuberant young rabbits and many elderly or ill animals. Our mission is to rescue abandoned domestic rabbits, and provide them with all necessary medical care and a safe indoor home – forever, or until an appropriate permanent indoor home may be found. Many of the rabbits spend their entire lives with us.

Our main focus is on educating people about how to provide a safe home, how to provide excellent care, what an appropriate diet looks like, how to identify health issues, and how to respond, what supplies are appropriate, proper interaction skills, and the truth about the expense, which surprises most people. We make ourselves available for questions and concerns to rabbit caretakers, no matter the time, day or night. We do this as volunteers because we are passionate about helping rabbits.

We are fearful of the 2024 post-Easter season. From a rabbit's perspective, Easter is a bad time of year because many parents purchase rabbits for their small children.

Storybooks, cartoons and tradition promote misconceptions about rabbits: They are low-maintenance companions. They can live in a hutch outdoors. They can go outside to play. They don't need much attention. They are inexpensive. They can be kept in a cage. They are low energy. They don't have a long life expectancy. They don't require veterinary care. They are cuddly and like to be held or carried. They will play with children.

In actuality, rabbits are prey animals who feel safest with all four feet on the

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Social Media

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ground. They are physically fragile and can be easily injured by handling. They need to live exclusively indoors with plenty of space to exercise and play. They must be spayed or neutered. They require yearly vaccinations for RHDV2. They cannot be “trained” out of their natural behaviors, like chewing & digging. Their care must come from an experienced rabbit veterinarian. Their veterinary care can be extremely expensive. They are crepuscular and sleep during the hours that many children are awake. Their diet is specific, and they need a lot of fresh grass hay every day. They have teeth and will use them if frightened (and they are easily frightened). A child’s innocent exuberance is too stressful for most rabbits. They require a lot of human attention. Their life expectancy is 8-12 years. And this list is just for STARTERS.

At Easter time, pet shops have baby bunnies for sale. These animals are the product of the rabbit-mill industry where conditions are as unsanitary and cruel as the puppy-mill industry. Most babies only live a few weeks. Those who survive can be challenged with health issues, yet will be purchased as Easter gifts. When the novelty wears off and the rabbit has grown and become hormonal; or the child (or adult) develops allergies to hay or the rabbit itself; or the people do not have the time to devote to the rabbit; or the rabbit is biting (which is a common fear response); the parent will feel the need to relinquish the rabbit to a shelter. Most shelters don’t take rabbits. So, many rabbits will be neglected in that home without proper daily care or veterinary care – or the rabbit will be released outdoors.

Domestic rabbits are not the same species as the wild eastern cottontail that we see outside. Domestic rabbits have no survival skills. Releasing a rabbit outdoors doesn’t make her free. It makes her food. Think of releasing a white Pomeranian onto a city street or into the woods. It is a death sentence.

Over the years, we have rescued many hundreds of rabbits outdoors, which is



This is Cookie. She was abandoned outside and only has one eye. She is safe with us now.

no easy feat. It is dangerous, stressful and time-consuming. The people who abandoned the rabbits are usually unknown and evade punishment. Some parents will reach out to organizations like ours to relinquish their rabbits. However, most rescue groups do not have the capacity to take in owned rabbits. There are too many rabbits waiting in shelters, otherwise homeless or in dangerous situations that we are obligated to prioritize. At all times, we have a waiting list of 100 rabbits needing help.

Over the next few months, in the tristate area alone, hundreds to thousands of rabbits will find themselves unwanted and in desperate need after the Easter novelty has worn off. Most rabbits bought at Eastertime will not live to see their first birthday.

We urge parents to give their children a stuffed rabbit toy, candy, storybooks or

other items for their Easter basket. Rabbits are appropriate companions for adults and families with grown children.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul signed a law in December 2022 to prohibit pet stores from selling puppies, cats and RABBITS in pet shops. The law becomes effective at the end of 2024. New York State is finally sending a message that our state has closed its borders to the abusive animal-mill industry. The shortcomings of the ban are that “backyard breeders” are not included in the ban and there are no existing laws in neighboring Connecticut, New Jersey or Pennsylvania. A similar ban was passed in New York City several years ago, but it has yet to lessen the number of abandoned rabbits in the boroughs.

We need the entire rabbit community to roll up their sleeves higher than ever

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Social Media

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before to advocate for our beloved companions. Be aware and active on social media by sharing appropriate care information. Encourage others to contact local rescue groups to adopt, foster, and seek education. If you see the sharing of incorrect or dangerous information, offer better information. Reach out to your local rescue organization to request its participation in responding to posts where proper advice is needed.

If we all work hard to dissuade the public from buying rabbits on impulse,

lives will be saved. This is a great benefit of social media.

Share the information that we provide you (or make your own posts and videos) with friends and family, and on the bulletin boards of your supermarket, library, yoga studio, schools or pet shop. If you can volunteer at a local shelter, do so. If the shelter doesn't take rabbits, maybe they will if you can educate them and help provide care. And, of course, if you can, find a way to foster or adopt another rabbit.

Veterinary expenses are high and rising. We receive no funding and rely on the rabbit community for donations.

Without you, we cannot continue our mission. If you are able to donate (or ask friends and family to donate or even organize a fundraiser, no matter how small), we would be grateful. Be sure to ask your employer if it has a matching-gift program, use our affiliate links, or buy a T-shirt! Follow, like and comment on social media.

Let's go and make a huge difference for rabbits this post-Easter season!

Will you still love me when I'm grown up?

Baby rabbits grow into adult rabbits. The little baby brought home for Easter will soon become a full-sized rabbit requiring proper care and attention for many years to come.

This Easter, make compassionate choices and avoid impulse decisions. Rabbits are a lifetime commitment, **not a toy for Easter.**

Paddington at seven months ----- Paddington at one month

 RABBIT RESCUE & REHAB
RabbitRescueandRehab.org

Easter posters are available to download and share on our website, rabbitrescueandrehab.org. Help us spread the message that rabbits are not toys for Easter.

So You Found a Baby Cottontail... Now What?

Callers often reach out to our wildlife hotline with questions when they find a palm-sized kit exploring in the grass all alone. The good news is most of the time these itty-bitty juvenile rabbits are completely fine and don't need any help! Sadly, rabbits are one of the most frequently kidnapped wildlife. Well-intentioned people often unnecessarily remove them from their homes not knowing doing so greatly decreases their chances of survival. It's important the situation is assessed before any action is unnecessarily taken.

Ask yourself these questions first:

- Are the rabbits' eyes open? If yes, they are old enough to leave the nest and explore on their own. A young rabbit instinctively knows how to return to the nest on his own.
- Do they appear injured? Take into consideration that just because a rabbit is staying still doesn't necessarily mean he is injured. Freezing is a method young rabbits will often use to blend in when they feel threatened; this is because they cannot yet run fast enough to evade predators.
- Are they in immediate danger? It's common to find young rabbits that have wandered into parking lots or onto sidewalks. Using a towel or jacket to gently place them back under a bush or into the nearest green space is okay if necessary. They should not be relocated further than 50 ft away from where they were found.



Tater Tot was attacked by a cat before being brought in to Cottontail Cottage Wildlife Rehab for care last spring. Tater was later released back home to the wild with a few friends he had made while he was being cared for.

- Are there crows, cats or dogs stalking them? Measures can be taken to protect a nest from dogs, such as placing a laundry basket over the nest and keeping dogs on a leash temporarily until the rabbits have left in a few weeks. Unfortunately, when cats or crows find the nest or babies, they almost always need to be taken to a

wildlife rehabber. It's best to reach out directly to a wildlife rehabber before taking action.

Do Not:

- Unnecessarily handle the rabbit. Wild rabbits can and sadly do often die from capture myopathy, which is similar to a heart attack from stress.
- Feed the rabbit. Although it might be tempting to offer an adorable little rabbit food or even milk you're more likely to cause aspiration or give them deadly diarrhea by feeding them the wrong foods.
- Try to raise them on your own. Not only is it illegal for the public to raise and keep wildlife, it's also not in the best interest of the animal. Wild rabbits are widely known as one of the hardest mammals to raise to release; they need specialized care and food that is not available to the general public.

Do:

Call a licensed wildlife rehabber if you have any questions or concerns about a rabbit you've found. We are always more than happy to provide guidance. The Animal Help Now app is a great free tool that can be used across the US for locating a licensed wildlife rehabber near you.

If you're in the Westchester County area you can always reach out to us via call or text on the Cottontail Cottage Wildlife Rehab hotline at (914) 933-7559

Brigitte Dix
Director, Cottontail Cottage
Wildlife Rehab
www.CottontailRehab.com



Animal Communicator Offers Sessions

Would you like to communicate with your current companion or one who has crossed the rainbow bridge? Warren, animal communicator, has generously offered his services, donating 100% of his fee to benefit the rabbits of Rabbit, Rescue & Rehab.

He is offering 20-minute phone sessions to help you learn more about your rabbit or any other furry family member.

For all information, email: chiguygo@icloud.com.

Rabbit Toys: Why Is It Important to Provide Toys for Your Rabbit?

By Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group

Rabbits need regular mental stimulation, physical exercise, and entertainment—just like any other animal. Provide your rabbits with plenty of toys that they can safely chew on, throw around, and run through to keep them happy and healthy.



Twigs for chewing.

Toys are important because they provide:

– Mental stimulation. Without challenging activities to occupy your rabbit when you're not home, your rabbit, especially

a solitary rabbit, will get bored. This could lead to depression and or excessive destruction. The creative use of toys can extend your rabbit's life by keeping him interested in his surroundings, by giving him the freedom to interact with those surroundings, and by allowing him to constantly learn and grow.

– Physical exercise. Your rabbit needs safe activities to keep her body in shape as well as her mind. She needs things to climb on, crawl under, hop on and around, dig into, and chew on. Without outlets for these physical needs, your rabbit may become fat or depressed, or may create jumping, chewing or crawling diversions with your furniture.

– Bunny-proofing your home. As is clear from the above descriptions, toys are not

just for your rabbit; they also help to keep your house safe. By providing your rabbit with a selection of toys you have fulfilled part of the requirements of bunny-proofing your home.

What are good bunny toys?

If you find your rabbit ingesting plastic or cardboard toys, switch to a different type of toy that the rabbit is not interested in eating. Some good toys to start with:

– Paper bags and cardboard boxes for crawling inside, scratching, and chewing. Bunnies like them much more when there are at least two entry points into the boxes.

– Cardboard concrete forms for burrowing.

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A Spay/Neuter Reminder

By House Rabbit Society

Did you know that unfixed female rabbits have a significant chance of developing uterine cancer? Or that one pair of unfixed rabbits can produce over 3.5 million more rabbits in their lifetime, significantly contributing to the overpopulation problem? For these reasons and many others, it is important to spay or neuter your rabbit.

Spaying and neutering rabbits is a safe procedure when performed by experienced rabbit veterinarians. Don't allow a veterinarian with little to no experience with rabbits to spay or neuter your rabbit. Paying money to have your rabbit see a veterinarian who doesn't have experience treating rabbits is just throwing your money away and can cost the life of your furry friend.

What are some other reasons to get your rabbit spayed or neutered? Fixed rabbits are much easier to litter train and are generally tidier than unfixed rabbits.



Caramel and her babies at Manhattan Animal Care Center (NYC ACC).

Getting your rabbit spayed/neutered will also help with aggression, as the rabbit will no longer feel the strong urge to mate with another rabbit. Once your rabbit is fixed, you can also start working on finding him a bunny friend without

the risk of unwanted litters. Keep in mind though it takes about 30 days post-procedure for a rabbit's hormones to leave the body and the rabbit can still get pregnant or impregnate another rabbit during this time.

Spokesbunny Noah Reports From Long Island

By Noah the Bunny with assistance from Shari Zagorski

Hello my human friends!

I enjoyed a nice quiet January hibernating at home and getting extra cuddles from my humans. The first weekend of February, I volunteered at two library events.

It seems as though Saturday, Feb. 3, was “Take Your Child to the Library Day” and while my humans do cherish me as their offspring, that is not why I went to Floral Park Public Library that morning. Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group participated in an educational event to help teach the children and their families all about how special bunnies are, and I was proud to be the LIRRG spokesbunny.

At this program, I was happy to see my friend Monte, a spokesbunny-in-training

for LIRRG, and to meet some new volunteers. The children who attended the event enjoyed a reading of “The Forgotten Rabbit,” a story relevant to LIRRG’s mission, and then our experienced human volunteers spoke about what LIRRG does, rabbit care, and the amazing attributes of my species. Attendees were able to pet me and feed me some little sprigs of cilantro as a treat.

One young girl was kind enough to introduce me to her favorite stuffed bunny and although I tried to have a conversation, the stuffed bun wasn’t responding to my efforts. Monte was much more tuned in to the library sounds and smells, while I was distracted by my new friend. He heard the children using their crayons at a table and thumped to let me know that some serious coloring



Photo: Shari Zagorski

Getting acquainted with a visitor at Floral Park Public Library.

was happening nearby. Monte’s humans took him to a different area of the library to meet other patrons who were quietly reading books.

The following day I represented Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group at my first

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Rabbit Toys

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- Untreated wicker baskets or boxes full of: shredded paper, junk mail, magazines, straw, or other organic materials for digging.
- Yellow pages for shredding.
- Cat toys: Batta balls, and other cat toys that roll or can be tossed.
- Parrot toys that can be tossed, or hung from the top of the cage and chewed or hit.
- Baby toys: hard plastic (not teething) toys like rattles and keys, things that can be tossed.
- Children’s or birds’ mobiles for hitting.
- “Lazy cat lodge” (cardboard box with ramps and windows) to climb in and chew on. Also, kitty condos, tubes, tunnels.
- Nudge-and-roll toys like large rubber balls, empty Quaker Oat boxes and small tins.
- Toys with ramps and lookouts for climbing and viewing the world.

Photo: Jane O Wyratt



Tina shredding yellow pages.

- A (straw) whisk broom.
- A hand towel for bunching and scooting.
- Untreated wood, twigs and logs that have been aged for at least 3 months.
- Untreated sea grass or maize mats.
- Things to jump up on as long as the rabbit cannot use the item to launch himself over the top of the pen.

Noah Reports

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“Volunteer Fair” at the Oceanside Library. Approximately 20 local nonprofit groups had display tables set up in the library for people to visit and learn about different volunteer opportunities in their community. As bunny luck would have it, I started my winter shedding that day, so a cloud of fluff surrounded me every time someone touched me.

It was great seeing my LIRRG friends at the library as well as meeting human volunteers from some of the other community groups. Several local politicians came over to see what our organization does in the community. Our LIRRG volunteers stressed the importance of fostering bunnies in people’s homes so that our group can rescue more bunnies in need. We also used the opportunity to teach humans what great family members bunnies are and I was again proud to be an ambassador for LIRRG.



Photo: Shari Zagorski

New friend at Floral Park Public Library.



Photo: Floral Park Public Library

Spokesbunny-in-training Monte getting a treat.



Photo: Shari Zagorski

A group photo at Oceanside Library.



Photo: Shari Zagorski

Special cuddles with LIRRG volunteer Celeste at Oceanside Library.

Although the next few weeks look quiet, today I have to go to the veterinarian with my bun sibs for our annual booster vaccinations to protect us from RHDV. Hopefully all of my bunny friends are getting their shots as well to stay safe from this virus.

Until next time, this is Spokesbunny Noah signing off!



Photo: Floral Park Public Library

LIRRG volunteer team.

Matty and Colleen: What Time, Patience and Love Can Do

By Gina Pipia

On a dark afternoon in November 2018, I got a phone call from my mother.

“Gina, I’m on my way home from the grocery store. Are you there? I need to come by. I’ve got something. I’ll explain soon.”

I waited anxiously until she pulled into my driveway. “Gina, I didn’t know what to do! Look in the box on the front seat.” To my surprise, there was a rabbit. My mom began to tell me how a young girl was trying to get someone to take a rabbit that she found. Her mother would not let her keep it, and she was going to have to release it again.

My mom was familiar with my volunteer work for Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, and she knew the dangers that this rabbit faced outdoors. So, to my house he came! He was thin and very gentle. He seemed relieved to be safe, and fed!

The bunny in the box became Matty. I fostered him while we discussed a plan with LIRRG. We would work on getting him neutered and then adopted into a loving, forever home.

Unfortunately, this sweet boy began to have aggression issues. We didn’t know if this was the result of possibly some hormonal changes, or if he was reacting to the smell of the other male foster rabbits in my house. Instead of bringing him to our main foster home, I decided to continue fostering him, hoping to resolve these issues. My biggest fear was that if adopted, he would become aggressive and be injured. Then perhaps he would be released outside or returned to the rescue.

If I brought him into a foster home with multiple rabbits, I thought, he wouldn’t get the one-on-one attention he seemed to need. Well, after a lot of time, patience and love, he has grown into a playful,

funny little boy. Yes, he found his forever home with me! Yes, he is spoiled rotten, as he deserves to be!

At night, Matty jumps on the couch, lies down next to me and just wants to be cuddled. He follows me in the morning like a little puppy.

We don’t know where Matty came from or what he went through before he was rescued. It could not have been a good life. We know he wasn’t cared for or loved. If he had been, he never would’ve been released to die a horrific death. Domestic rabbits cannot survive outdoors.

This brings me to the story of my bunny Colleen. Shortly after her rescue, we found she had some medical problems. Due to these concerns, and her size and ruby-red eyes, she was passed up for adoption over many years.

You see, Colleen was a New Zealand White. These are the hardest breeds

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Photos: Gina Pipia



Matty.



Matty cuddling.

Matty and Colleen

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to find homes for, which amazes and confuses me. They are such loving, playful, puppylike rabbits. Their ruby-red eyes allow us to see into their gentle souls, and they can see into ours as well.

Well, Colleen eventually found her forever home with me, where we shared many years of happiness and a whole lot of love. All those special needs that were of concern just vanished. Colleen was my rock. She lifted me up on so many dark days.

As she became older and her body started to fail her, I had to attend to her around the clock. But it was worth it because of what she gave back. She taught me so many things in life. I try to see the world the way she did, through her beautiful eyes. When it was time for her to cross the rainbow bridge, she let me know.

I vowed to keep Colleen's memory alive so that people could know how incredible the big, white, ruby-eyed bunnies are, how important it is to adopt and not shop, how we should remember the ones that have been in rescues or shelters the longest – the ones that may be older, may have some ailments, may be bigger, or have ruby-red eyes. Please don't pass them by when it comes time to bring another family member into your home.

I share her story in conjunction with Matty's story because it would've been easy for me to just give up on him. But I didn't. With time, patience and love, Matty learned that not all humans are bad and that he was cherished. His true personality now shines. That isn't to say he still doesn't have his "moments," but we have learned to accept each other's personalities. After all, I'm not perfect either, and I certainly have my moments! I love him for exactly who he is.



Colleen sound asleep.



Colleen.

Photos: Gina Pipia



Gina and Colleen.

There are a lot of rabbits in foster care at rescues and shelters all over the country who have been there for several years. So please, if you are thinking about adopting a rabbit, do your research first. Consider those who have waited the longest to find a forever home, or the ones with special needs, or the ones who require an extra bit of patience and understanding before they reveal their wonderful personalities. Some may be very timid or aggressive out of fear. Humans weren't good to them. They need to learn to trust and to feel safe. Consider the larger ones or the ones with ruby-red eyes. When you do so, please remember the story of my Matty and my Colleen and the experiences we shared. Thank you.

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab's Beautiful Foster Rabbits

For Information on Adopting Any of Our Rabbits, Contact nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com

Dove

Unfortunately, the summer of 2023 was a record year for outdoor rabbit abandonments. We were called to a neighborhood where several rabbits were seen trying to survive. During week two, little Dove appeared on the scene. She was very young and quite fearful; it took a few days to convince her that we were there to bring her to safety.

She is a beautifully elegant 7- to 8-month-old sable seal point, tipping the scales at 3.5 pounds.

Dove is a very sweet little girl. She is rather demure, with a cautious approach to the world. She is an active girl and loves to run and does fantastic binkies! Her binky game is no surprise because she has the legs of a supermodel! Dove is spayed and would thrive in a calm, adult home. If you are interested in adopting Dove, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Pink

Pink is a sweet Himalayan boy with an affectionate demeanor. He does have a big energetic streak and likes to get in his exercise by running big laps and fluffing up his blankets before settling in for a nap on his IKEA doll bed. He's particularly fond of toys that can be tossed around, and loves all of his pellets, greens and hay. Pink is neutered and ready for adoption. If you are interested in adopting Pink, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Skye

Skye is a 3.5-pound Himalayan rabbit. 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



Dove.



Pink.



Skye.

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 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.

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RRR Rabbits in Foster Care

(Continued from page 12)

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.

Lucy

Lucy was found outside in a dirt alleyway off a busy street where someone had cruelly abandoned her. Now adjusting to the safety of her foster home, Lucy's active and curious personality is shining through. She is a very young and playful



Indigo.

rabbit who loves interacting with people and toys, and especially enjoys carrying her stacking cups to different spots around her pen and exercise space. If you are interested in adopting Lucy, please email 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



Lucy.



Carmela.

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.



You Can Help!

We desperately need help driving our rabbits to and from the veterinarian, between foster homes, etc. Having to worry about how the rabbits will get to the vet or back home is adding a huge amount of stress on top of our already difficult mission.

Most of our foster rabbits are quite far from their veterinarian and we now have a huge problem on our hands, as one volunteer can't help any longer. Unfortunately, many trips can be last-minute due to an emergency.

If you are based close to Westchester County, are a safe driver with a clean driver's license, and want to help the rabbits in a huge way, we'd love to hear from you! Thank you!

NYC.metro.rabbits@gmail.com

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



Apollo.

Apollo

Apollo is a stellar little fellow who loves to play, eat and soak up attention. When he's not dashing around the house or looking for something to chew, this little guy is eager to share his peppy personality with his human admirers. He gets along with school-aged kids and will make a fantastic companion for a family that has some experience with rabbit behavior and care needs. Although he fits right in with a lively atmosphere, he will need occasional peace and quiet to recoup his energy.

Diamond & Reggie

They are the bonded pair you've been dreaming of!

Diamond and Reggie are an adorable, kid-friendly, bonded pair who enjoy doing everything together: eating meals, napping, playing, binkying, and enjoying life. Diamond was rescued in early July 2020 by a local wildlife rescue. Nine rabbits were rescued that day – each hungry, overheated and scared. Despite the horrible beginning to her life, Diamond is thriving – she is a precious gem.

Reggie is the kind of rabbit who makes his presence known! He is playful and



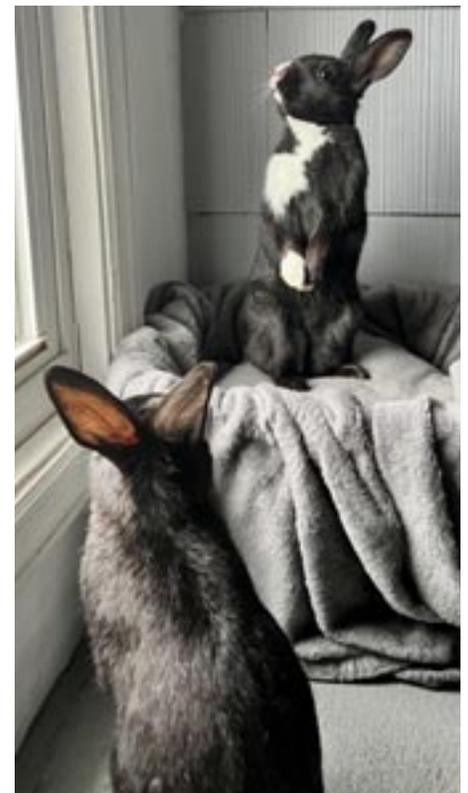
Diamond and Reggie.

energetic. Reggie is an attentive rabbit and wants to be social with every volunteer he meets. His stunning blue eyes and skillful hops will have you hooked!

Gideon & Genevieve

Gideon and Genevieve are a delightful bonded bunny pair seeking a loving home. This young couple endured the elements and unknown dangers until they were rescued from the middle of a busy street on Christmas Day. Though their harrowing ordeal has ended, the strength of their bond is as powerful as ever. The two cannot bear to be apart but they each have their individual charms. Gideon is playful and energetic, with a love for cup-stacking and unstacking, exploring, and expressing his joy with high-flying binkies. Genevieve complements Gideon's spark with her sweet and gentle warmth. She has plenty of affection to share with her human friends. Both she and Gideon love playing with their ball pits, tunnels and food puzzles. Their story of true love continues as they wait to meet their forever family. Gideon and Genevieve use their litter box reliably and

are comfortable with school-age children. This pair will be great companions to humans who are new to rabbit care.



Gideon and Genevieve.

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

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



Timmy.



Sage.



Erin.



Butternut.



Ollie.



Oreo Flemish.



Hoppy.



Patches.

(Continued on page 16)

Rabbits at Manhattan NYC ACC

(Continued from page 15)



Basil.



Mr. Fabulous.



North Star.

North Star, a feisty bunny who had been at Manhattan ACC, found her forever home in New Jersey and now has a husbun.

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



Bugs Bunny.



Fluffington.



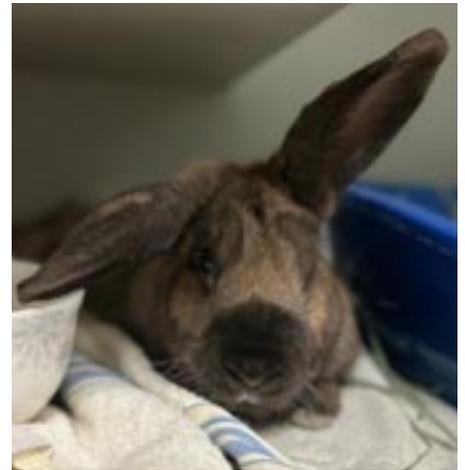
Dream.



Byly.



Poppy.



Dumpling.



Pikachu.



Midnight.

(Continued on page 18)

Rabbits at Brooklyn NYC ACC

(Continued from page 17)



Brownie.



Lola.



Bill.



Cadbury.



Easter posters are available to download and share on our website, rabbitrescueandrehab.org. Help us spread the message that rabbits are not toys for Easter.

Pre- and Post-Operative Care of Rabbits

By Dana M. Krempels, Ph.D.

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

Any surgery can be physically and emotionally hard on both you and your companion rabbit, since there's really no such thing as a surgery that is 100% risk-free. I hope the following information will help you and your rabbit get through either emergency or elective surgery with maximal safety and minimal stress.

Pre-Operative Care

1. Be sure to schedule surgery with a veterinarian who is very familiar with the rabbit's unique anatomy and physiology, and who has had a great deal of experience and success with rabbit anesthesia and surgery. You might wish to start with House Rabbit Society Veterinarian Listings. (<http://rabbit.org/rabbit-veterinarians-state-listings/>) Veterinarians specializing in "exotic" species are often rabbit-savvy. But before you commit to surgery, make sure. The House Rabbit Society has an excellent site on how to find a good rabbit vet that should make this easy.
2. If possible, schedule the surgery so that you can bring your bunny home with you the same evening. Spending the night in an unfamiliar place, surrounded by strange people and the sound and smell of potential predators, can add unnecessary stress and lengthen your rabbit's recovery. Very few veterinary hospitals have 24-hour monitoring staff, and your bunny will probably not be watched for at least part of the night if s/he stays in the hospital. Home, where he can be monitored lovingly and regularly, is almost always best.
3. If your rabbit is bonded to another rabbit, it is important to *bring them to the hospital together* so that the mate can offer moral support in the pre-operative waiting period and during recovery. It also will help prevent the dreaded un-

bonding phenomenon that sometimes occurs when one member of a bonded pair comes home smelling of Strange and Scary Hospital. The last thing you want your bunny to suffer after surgery is violent rejection by his/her own mate! Unfortunately, this goes for bonded groups, too. It is best to bring everyone in for moral support and to prevent post-operative social rejection.

If your rabbit is bonded to another rabbit, it is important to *bring them to the hospital together* so that the mate can offer moral support.

4. **DO NOT FAST YOUR RABBIT FOR ANY PROLONGED PERIOD OF TIME (SUCH AS OVERNIGHT) PRIOR TO THE SURGICAL APPOINTMENT**, even if the person scheduling your appointment tells you to do so. Receptionists giving such instructions often recite the rules for dogs and cats, not realizing that the rules are different for rabbits. **Some vets now recommend removing food and water a couple of hours before surgery simply so the stomach is not hugely full. A very full stomach can interfere with breathing when a bunny is in supine position for surgery.** Here are the reasons why some (inexperienced with rabbits) clinic staff might suggest fasting, and why these reasons do not hold true for rabbits:

- a. Some surgical anesthetics can cause nausea. One of the reasons veterinarians fast most animals pre-operatively is the risk of vomiting during surgery or recovery. This can cause accidental aspiration, the breathing of liquid into

the lungs, which can be fatal. However, rabbits lack the vomiting reflex, and are physically almost incapable of regurgitation. In rabbits, the risk of aspiration due to vomiting is negligible.

- b. Feeding your bunny before surgery helps the gastrointestinal (GI) tract remain active, which will speed recovery. Rabbits who become inappetent (i.e., not wanting to eat) after surgery are more difficult to "jump start" back to normal eating habits. Even relatively brief periods (24 hours) of anorexia can result in GI stasis and some liver damage in rabbits.

- c. Some veterinarians may be concerned that food in the intestine will interfere with their obtaining a correct body weight, necessary for calculating the proper dose of injected anesthetic. This should not be a concern with rabbits because:

- Under normal circumstances, the intestine of a healthy rabbit is never empty, and should not be. Rabbit GI passage time is relatively lengthy (approximately 12 hours), so to get the intestine completely empty would take a very long time. Also, since an anorectic rabbit can begin to suffer liver damage in relatively short time when the GI tract is empty, it is not advisable to fast the rabbit before surgery.
- If the veterinarian is using isoflurane or sevoflurane, the gas anesthetic of choice, body weight is not an issue, since the gas is administered through the respiratory tract. Even though isoflurane gas is more expensive than injectable anesthetics, it is worth the extra cost to ensure a safer surgery and faster recovery.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Although intubation allows much more precise administration and monitoring of gas anesthesia, and is safer in case of an

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Pre- and Post-Operative Care

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emergency cardiac or respiratory arrest during surgery, please be aware that intubation of rabbits is a delicate procedure requiring a great deal of practice and expertise. If your vet is NOT experienced with rabbit intubations, it is probably much safer for the isoflurane to be administered via mask. You might wish to ask your vet about this before you schedule the surgery.

- Injectable pre-anesthetic doses are not likely to be affected by the slight difference in weight of a rabbit with a full intestine.

5. Take a bit of your rabbit's normal food (pellets and hay) along as well as a small bag of favorite fresh herbs. Ask that the foods be offered to your bunny after the anesthesia has worn off. The sooner bunny starts nibbling after surgery, the quicker the recovery.

Don't hover. A bunny after surgery may feel groggy and unhappy, and not in the mood for cuddling.

Post-Surgical Care

Pain Management

— Any surgery, including a neuter or (especially) a spay, will make bunny sore for one to several days.

— Pain management in rabbits is critical to uneventful recovery.

— Most experienced vets routinely administer analgesics such as metacam/meloxicam, Banamine (flunixin meglumine), buprenorphine, tramadol, etc., before or shortly after surgery, so

the bunny will be as comfortable as possible while waking up.

— Ask the veterinarian about this before scheduling surgery. If no pain medications are going to be given to your rabbit, you should probably seek a different vet!

— Before bringing your bunny home, ask your vet about follow-up pain management at home, when the initial dose wears off.

Post-Surgical Monitoring and Care

1. Warmth

— Immediately after surgery, keep your bunny warm and quiet.

— Provide a warm water bottle or other heat source (that can't leak, burn or cause injury) wrapped in a soft towel for bunny to lean against or move away from, at his/her discretion. **DO NOT** use any type of electrical heating source that could be an electrocution risk, should bunny chew on it!

— Rabbits will tolerate a soft, light blanket better than a heavy one.

2. Post-Surgical Contact and Handling

— Don't hover. A bunny after surgery may feel groggy and unhappy, and not in the mood for cuddling.

— Unless you know that your rabbit wants cuddling, it's best to let him/her recover quietly and without more human interruption than is necessary to ensure that all is well.

3. Post-Surgical Monitoring for Trouble

— Be sure to carefully (and gently) check the sutures daily for a few days after surgery to be sure the bunny isn't chewing them.

— Many vets use subcuticular (under the skin) sutures that cannot be chewed out, and may even put a line of surgical glue over the incision for extra strength. Ask your vet about this before surgery, so you will know what to expect.

— Be alert for excessive bleeding (a bit of oozing is not unusual, but outright bleeding is a cause for concern)

— Excessive redness or signs of infection such as swelling or pus are not normal.

— If you see anything that causes concern, call the vet immediately for further instructions.

The Healing Process

If all goes well, your bunny will start to perk up noticeably by the second day after surgery. Healing begins quickly; adhesions (normal tissue repair) usually start to form within 24 hours of surgery in rabbits. In the case of spay/neuter, a male will usually recover more quickly, since a neuter is less invasive than a spay.

— A male is usually ready for normal activity within a few days of surgery.

— A female might take a bit longer to recover from a spay.

Recovery time will depend on the type of surgery, the surgeon's technique, the surgery itself, and any complications.

1. Post-Operative Preventive Care

— Under normal circumstances, rabbits do not require post-surgical antibiotics to prevent infection.

— Except in very unusual cases, an E-collar ("Elizabethan collar" – that plastic cone around the neck that prevents suture chewing and makes your companion look like a satellite dish) is not necessary for a rabbit, and will cause more stress than it's worth.

— If your bunny does try to damage her incision and ends up wearing an E-collar for a day or two, you will have to hand-feed cecotropes, since s/he will not be able to reach them for normal ingestion.

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Pre- and Post-Operative Care

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2. Monitoring the Poop: Signs of Recovery or Trouble

— It is not unusual to see a few soft or mucus-covered stools after surgery. Fecal pellets should return to normal within a day or two, once your bunny has regained normal eating habits.

— If you continue to see mucus in the fecal matter beyond a day or two, or if fecal production stops, consult your veterinarian immediately.

— If your rabbit hasn't eaten anything within 24 hours of surgery, contact your veterinarian.

— Monitor the output of fecal pellets closely. If fecal output slows or stops after surgery for more than 36 hours, your bunny may be suffering from ileus, an uncommon but serious post-surgical complication. If this happens, refer to *Gastrointestinal Stasis: The Silent Killer* for emergency information.

(<http://rabbit.org/gastrointestinal-stasis-the-silent-killer-2/>)

Post-Surgical Social Interaction

— Keep your rabbit quiet for a few days after surgery, but try to maintain normal feeding and bonding times.

— *There is no reason to separate bonded pairs or groups as long as the bunnies interact calmly.*

— A post-surgical bunny will usually manage his/her own activity quite well, and knows not to “push it” too soon.

— If your bonded pair continues to mount or play too roughly after surgery, then it might be necessary to physically separate them for a day or two to avoid injury. *This is almost never necessary.*

— However, if you must separate the bunnies, be sure they can see, smell, and touch one another even if they don't have full physical contact.

— Remember: the rabbit who has undergone surgery needs the emotional support of his/her mate for an uneventful recovery. Allowing them to be in contact reduces the chances that they will fight upon full re-introduction.

Post-Surgical Nutrition

— Offer your rabbit a heavy ceramic bowl of water, even if you usually provide a sipper bottle. A rabbit needs to drink after surgery, but often won't do so if s/he has to “work” for water. A well-hydrated bunny recovers more quickly and feels better in the process.

— If your bunny is reluctant to eat after surgery, offer a favorite treat. Fragrant herbs such as basil, parsley, dill and mint seem to appeal to a bunny recovering from surgery.

Fragrant herbs such as basil, parsley, dill and mint seem to appeal to a bunny recovering from surgery.

— Rabbits seem to prefer healthy foods such as fresh greens and hay while they are recovering, rather than starchy treats, which is all for the better.

— If your bunny does suffer complications from surgery that cause him to stop eating, you may need to hand-feed for a few days afterwards to help get the GI tract back to normal. Ask your veterinarian for advice about whether this is necessary. Products made specifically for recovery feeding include Critical Care (Oxbow Hay Co.) and Critter Be Better (American Pet Diner). Or you can make your own recovery food:

- Pour warm water or chamomile tea over a 1/4 cup of pellets in a bowl

- Allow to sit for about five minutes, letting the pellets “fluff”
- Add additional water or chamomile tea and mix well to make a pudding-like slurry

Always use any type of recovery food “slurry” with caution:

- Never force too much. Allow bunny time to chew and swallow.
- Use a wide-bore syringe or plastic dropper with the narrow tip cut off to safely administer.
- If the tip is too narrow, larger bits can get stuck. Forcing a stuck chunk through the tip can cause a huge blob of food to enter the mouth too quickly, and could cause aspiration.
- Squirt the food into the mouth sideways, behind the incisors, not straight back.
- NEVER try to force feed an animal who is not swallowing normally. Consult your veterinarian immediately if this is the case.

Special Notes for Neuter Surgeries

The de-sexing of a male animal is known as a castration, or neuter. It involves removing the testicles and some associated structures. (Some tubules and other structures are left behind, as they are located in the lower abdomen.) The purpose of neutering is to remove the main source of testosterone and to permanently stop the production of sperm. While testosterone has its subjective benefits, it also has its risks: it suppresses the immune system, increases aggression, and generally shortens the lifespan of the individual producing it. For this reason alone, your male bunny may live a longer, more peaceful life if he is neutered.

— Although most rabbit-savvy vets perform pre-scrotal neuters, in which

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Pre- and Post-Operative Care

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the scrotum is not cut, a few old-fashioned practitioners still remove the testicles directly through the scrotum. If your male bunny has undergone a scrotal neuter, he may be very sore and swollen (which is why the pre-scrotal method is preferred; ask your vet beforehand, so you will know what to expect.)

— A sitz bath in a dilute solution of Betadine (about 1 tablespoon of povidone iodine per cup of lukewarm water) can be very soothing to a bunny who has undergone a scrotal neuter. But wait until a day after surgery to do this, to allow some recovery from anesthesia and the stress of the surgery itself.

— NOTE THAT MALES MAY HAVE VIABLE SPERM FOR SEVERAL WEEKS POST-NEUTERING! Do not place your male with an intact female until a minimum of three weeks after his neuter surgery! Some males can retain viable sperm for even longer.

The key to success in any elective or necessary surgery is good preparation and attentive care afterwards. A rabbit-savvy veterinarian can make this process as anxiety-free as possible, and will give you all the advice you need for follow-up care.

*Copyright – Dana Krempels, Ph.D.
Senior Lecturer;
Director of Undergraduate Studies
Department of Biology,
University of Miami*



Squirrelley.

Forever Homes Found!

We are happy to report that Holly, Reptar, Peach, Gemelo, Twin, El Chele, Bino and Nono, Sunny, Peanut Butter, Chocolate, Roger Rabbit, Thumper, Diglett, Peanut, Leslie, Martha, Glinda, Marbles, Elsie, Laverne. Colette, Oreo Hops, Play Boy, Darla, Sugar Cookie and Apple Pie were adopted since the last newsletter. Congratulations!

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.

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 MARCH 2024

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS
rabbitrescueandrehab.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.

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
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591 East Jericho Turnpike
Huntington Station, NY 11746
(631) 424-0300

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6320 Northern Blvd
East Norwich, NY 11732
(516) 624-7500

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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
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