



## NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS JULY 2025

### Warm-Weather Dangers for Rabbits

By Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

The warmer months present a host of issues affecting your rabbit's health and safety. The most significant seasonal concern is heat. As the temperature and humidity begin to rise, keeping your rabbit cool is critical. Be aware that high humidity, alone, is just as dangerous as the heat, even when the air temperature isn't particularly "high." Rabbits are most comfortable between 50 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit, with low humidity. If given the option, our furry friends would definitely choose 50 degrees.

There are several reasons why rabbits are sensitive to heat. A rabbit's normal core body temperature is 101 to 103 degrees Fahrenheit, which is much higher than ours. To complicate matters, they wear fur coats, and they can't sweat or pant to cool down. The only way they can dissipate heat is through their ears, and this is quite inefficient.

Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are medical emergencies. An overheated rabbit is at risk for serious health complications and even death.



The air conditioning is on, fans are circulating cold air, the shades are drawn. The humans are freezing. Yet this munchkin seeks out and enjoys snuggling his ice bottle! Feel free to cover the bottle in a pillowcase if your rabbit has thin fur.

For your rabbit's safety, please familiarize yourself with, and institute the following tools to mitigate the dangers of warm weather:

- Keep the air conditioner on wherever your rabbit is in your home. Keep it on whether you are home or not.
- Use fans in air-conditioned rooms to circulate the cool air (and don't forget to bunny-proof cords!). A fan alone is ineffective and will merely circulate the already warm air in the room.
- Keep the shades down and curtains closed in order to block the sun. Sun coming in through a window (even with

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Photos: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

Frozen bottles can be covered, if you prefer, or placed inside the bolster compartment of a Hop n' Flop.

## Warm-Weather Dangers

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the A/C on) can substantially increase the temperature in the room.

- If your rabbit spends any time in a pen, make sure it is placed in a shadier area of the room, away from direct sunlight.
- If your rabbit spends time in a tunnel or “house,” make sure the cool air is getting inside.
- Place large frozen water bottles near your rabbit. Keep extra frozen bottles in the freezer so you can swap them out frequently, and always have a cold one ready to go. Many rabbits love to lie against a frozen bottle, but many will not. If your rabbit isn’t “using” the ice bottle, it isn’t helping him to cool down, so use other methods instead. Some of the Hop n’ Flop beds have removable “bolsters.” You can remove the bolsters and replace them with frozen bottles.
- Keep the drinking water cold and fresh. You can add ice cubes to the water. Place additional bowls around the rabbit’s area, so he doesn’t have to travel far to get a drink. Use a bowl, not a bottle. Drinking from a bowl is a much more natural and comfortable way for a rabbit to drink, and it which will cause him to consume more.
- Give your rabbit cold ceramic/marble tiles (that have been in the freezer) to lie on. Make sure they are not broken or chipped, to avoid injury.
- Feed very wet greens to help keep your rabbit well hydrated. This should be done regardless of the ambient temperature. It’s a great way to help keep a rabbit hydrated.
- Make sure your rabbit is eating as much as usual. A rabbit that is uncomfortable from the heat will be lazy and not want to do anything, including eating. This adds another level of danger, so offer food by hand if necessary.
- Moisten the furred part (NOT the inside) of your rabbit’s ears with cool water to make him more comfortable. Do not soak the ears, but keep the fur damp.

# Hot Weather is Dangerous for Rabbits



**HEAT EXHAUSTION IS AN EMERGENCY.  
TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION!**

- Make sure your rabbit is well groomed. Keeping the loose fur off your rabbit is always important to prevent him from ingesting it. When it is warm, the excess fur will exacerbate his discomfort.
- Some rabbits are more sensitive to heat than others. If you have several rabbits, consider them all individually. Be sure to keep the temperature cool enough so that your most heat-sensitive rabbit is comfortable.
- **Please note that lops are particularly sensitive to heat** because they don’t have the ability to dissipate heat through their ears. They need to be kept cooler regardless of the season.
- Fuzzy breeds, older and juvenile rabbits, overweight rabbits and those with health issues are at a higher risk of overheating.
- For fuzzy rabbits, maintain shorter “puppy” haircuts for the summer.
- Do not make unnecessary trips with your rabbit. I.e., don’t make an

appointment for a routine checkup during a heat wave. And don’t bring your rabbit out to go visiting, etc.

- If your bunny must go to the vet and it’s very warm out, put a safe ice pack in the carrier. Be mindful that the carrier is shaded inside the car.
- Do not use frozen “gel” packs. It will take one second for your rabbit to puncture the plastic and come in contact with the chemicals inside.
- It can be difficult to get the necessary cool air inside a carrier, so make sure the car’s air conditioning is penetrating through the carrier’s air vents.
- Place a small towel on top of the carrier to keep the sun out. Be careful not to obstruct the air “vents.”

It’s important to have a plan in place should there be a power outage. Make sure that you are aware of hotels that allow companion animals. Have a list of

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## Warm-Weather Dangers

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friends and family who will welcome you and your rabbit for a short stay.

Have an emergency bag ready and refreshed at all times. Get a lightweight puppy pen that you can take with you should you need to relocate for a short time.

Another danger from the warm weather is insects. Flies and mosquitos can transmit the deadly RHDV2 virus. Do everything possible to keep flies and mosquitoes out of your home. If they get inside, eradicate them immediately.

Another huge threat from flies is that they are always looking for a warm place to lay eggs. Unfortunately, rabbits are at a high risk of being victimized by many types of flies whose larvae will feed on a rabbit's flesh. These situations are medical emergencies. The fly larvae (maggots) can seriously injure and even kill a rabbit. The botfly causes a different kind of risk. Botfly larvae will burrow under a rabbit's skin and set up a home until metamorphosis. The toxins that they release can seriously harm or kill a rabbit.

Always be sure to keep your rabbit's pellets and hay very cool and dry. Moisture and heat are the key elements needed for

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



This photo shows a bunny lying on ceramic tiles, next to a frozen water bottle wrapped in an old pillowcase.

mold spores to germinate, which can lead to deadly mycotoxin poisoning.

If you suspect heat exhaustion/heat stroke, dampen your rabbit's ears with cool water. Put something frozen against the rabbit (a bag of frozen peas, etc., will do). Do NOT submerge the rabbit in water. Doing so can cause your rabbit to go in shock. Get your rabbit to a rabbit-savvy veterinarian immediately.

Remember that there is no risk of a healthy rabbit becoming cold. If YOU feel chilly inside, wear a sweater. The cooler the temperature, the more comfortable your rabbit will be.

Following all of the above tips should keep your rabbit safe from the problems caused by the heat, and he will be grateful for your efforts.



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

# Cottontail Connections: Tidings From Cottontail Cottage and Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

By Brigitte Dix

Director, Cottontail Cottage Wildlife Rehab

## When the Heat Hits Hard: Helping Wildlife (and Wild Rabbits) Survive Heat Waves

As I sit down to write this, New York is sweltering through some of the hottest temperatures we've ever seen. The kind of heat that makes you question your life choices after walking five minutes in the sun. And while we have the luxury of A/C and ice water, and are grumbling dramatically about the weather, our wild neighbors are out there just trying to survive.

At Cottontail Cottage Wildlife Rehab, our hotline has been ringing off the hook with calls about animals struggling in the heat. People are finding baby bunnies lying outside the nest, adult rabbits panting in the shade, and other wildlife just looking off. But here's the thing: Heat waves aren't just uncomfortable for wildlife. They can be deadly.

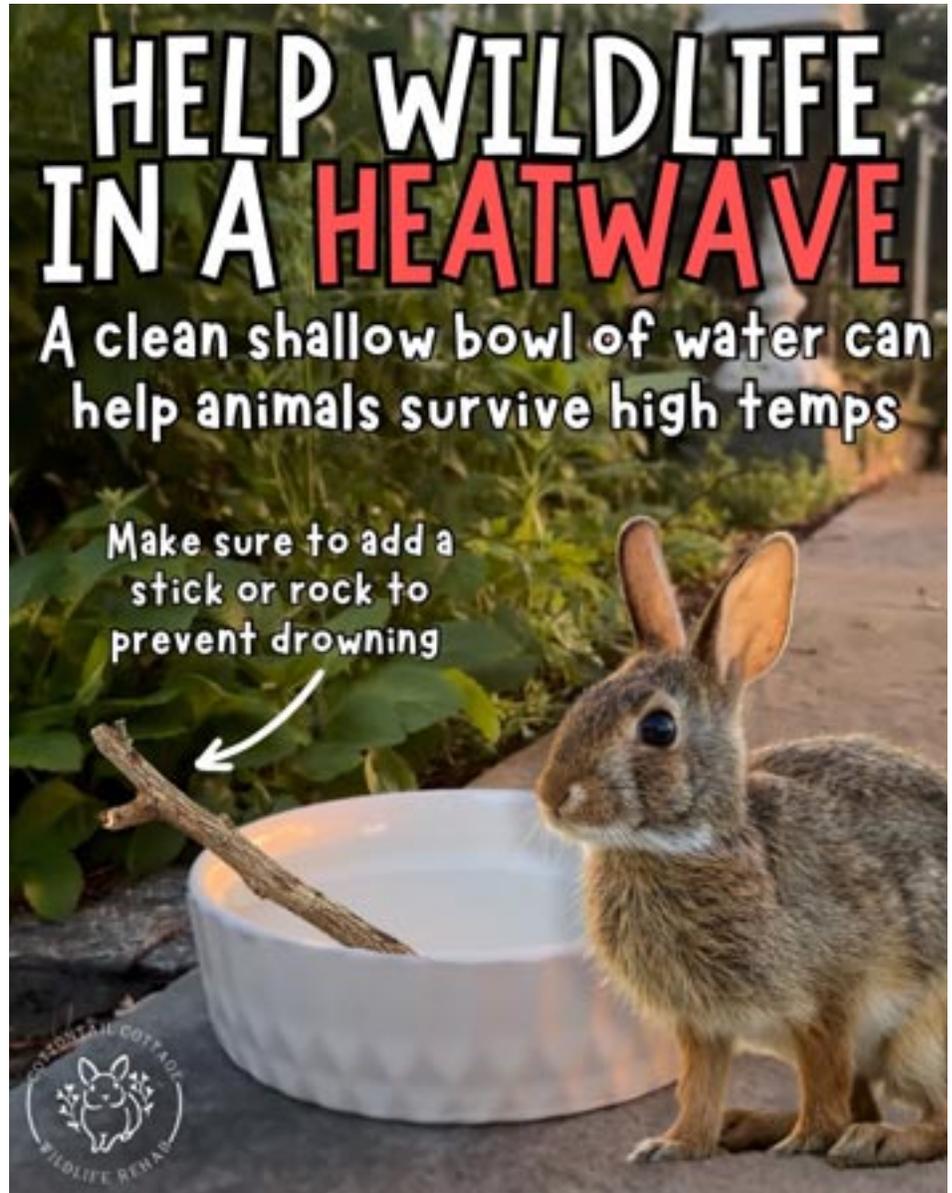
## How Wild Rabbits Handle the Heat (Or, Why They Look as if They're Giving Up but Aren't)

Rabbits are incredibly delicate animals. Unlike dogs, they don't sweat or pant to cool down. Instead, they rely on their ears, which are full of blood vessels that help them thermoregulate by releasing heat. But there's a limit. When the outside temperature climbs too high, there's only so much their little ears can do.

And baby rabbits? Even more vulnerable. They're still developing the ability to regulate their own body temperature. Combine that with a shallow nest in full sun, and you've got a dangerously hot situation.

## What You Can Do to Help

The good news is that helping wildlife survive a heat wave doesn't require a degree in veterinary medicine or a



backyard wildlife sanctuary. Here are simple, safe and impactful ways to help:

### 1. Put Out Shallow Bowls of Water

Use ceramic or plastic bowls (not metal; it gets way too hot!) and place them in shady areas. Put a few flat rocks or a stick inside the bowls so bees and small mammals don't drown. Place one bowl on the ground and one elevated if you can. Just make sure to change the water daily so it stays fresh and doesn't become a mosquito breeding ground.

### 2. If You Find a Rabbit Nest in the Sun

Do not get the babies wet. That instinct to cool them off can actually kill them. Wet fur traps moisture and leads to hypothermia or skin damage – especially dangerous when temps drop at night.

Instead:

- Use a patio umbrella or a laundry basket turned upside down with a towel over it to create shade.

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## Cottontail Connections

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- Make sure there's airflow; don't fully cover the area.
- Check on them discreetly. If they look warm but not struggling, it's okay. If they're weak, panting or covered in flies, it's time to call your local rehabber immediately. Use the [AnimalHelpNow](#) app to find a rehabber near you.

### 3. Keep Pets Leashed

Even in this heat, mother rabbits will still return to their nests, but dogs and outdoor cats make that nearly impossible. A single unsupervised dog can destroy a nest in seconds. Please keep pets away from suspected wildlife areas for at least 2-3 weeks.

### 4. Skip the Gatorade, Please

We get this one a lot: Should I give them electrolytes? Nope. Just clean, fresh water. Wildlife doesn't need sugary drinks or human electrolytes. Those can actually do more harm than good.



This baby bunny came to us at Cottontail Cottage after a dog injured her. After weeks of care, she was released back into the wild, right where she belongs.

### Why It Matters

We may not be able to control the heat waves, but we can control how we respond to them. A shallow bowl of water or a little bit of shade might not seem like much, but it could be the

difference between life and death for a wild rabbit this summer.

At Cottontail Cottage, we've seen firsthand how small acts of compassion ripple outward. We've seen tiny lives saved because someone paused to care. In a world that often feels out of control, helping wildlife is one way to take that power back.

So keep a bowl by the garden hose. Stick an umbrella in your lawn. And if you find a baby bunny during a heat wave don't panic. Call your local wildlife rehabber.

Stay cool (literally and metaphorically), and thank you for caring.

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*Brigitte Dix is a licensed wildlife rehabber and executive director of Cottontail Cottage Wildlife Rehab, a rehabilitation center committed to giving wild animals the chance to heal and return home. Her work with wild rabbits has earned international recognition for its exceptional release rates and compassionate, evidence-based care.*

## 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](mailto:chiguygo@icloud.com).



# Truman Would Like a Word

By Samantha Rowan

There is almost nothing cuter than a bunny on a rampage, and Truman, our rescue lop, typically has one every Friday.

I will preface this next part by saying that our family is reasonably sure Truman likes us. Since he came home last year, there has been a lot of snuggling and even a tiny little honking sound that we get sometimes when Truman is having head pets. Truman always seems happy to see us and glad to engage. Except for Fridays.

For more than a year now, my husband and I have been in the office from Monday to Thursday. We work from home on Fridays. At first, Truman seemed neutral to our presence on Fridays – we didn't interfere with his time under the couch and he didn't interfere with our work.

This all changed one Friday about three months ago when Truman, out of the blue, went on a lengthy rampage when he saw us set up our computers at the table. It started with a long, searching look at us and then a quick trip into his X-pen. Once there, Truman turned over his litter pan.

“Oh Truman! What did you do? What's wrong, little bunny?”

As I went to refill his litter pan, Truman thumped. But once I was sitting back in my chair and logged onto a call, the rampage continued. It is impressive, actually, how much noise a 5-pound rabbit can make when he puts his mind to it.

Tearing up newspaper and digging aggressively are one thing, as is thumping.

And I was largely able to ignore it as I tried to pretend there wasn't a very angry bunny right behind me. But then Truman did something I'd never seen a bunny do before.

Truman is very fast and strong and he started running around the perimeter of his area, using his strength and speed to tear from corner to corner. He moved so quickly, he was like a blur of brown and gold.

“What is he doing?” my husband asked. “This looks like a cage match where he's the only participant. Also, this seems fairly dangerous.”

I'd put my call on hold to see if there was anything that could be done to

improve the situation because we were, in fact, worried that Truman would lose his balance and go careening through the open door of his pen (as you may remember from previous columns, our bunny's biggest threat is himself). Thankfully, rabbits generally can't exert themselves like that for very long and once he'd exhausted himself, Truman ran under the couch and thumped.

“I don't think he wants us here,” I said. “I think we're distracting him.”

“Distracting him from what?” my husband asked. “Napping?”

“Napping takes a lot of concentration?”

It wasn't long before Truman had rested enough to resume his rampage and my husband, with a podcast to record, ended up going to the office and I took my laptop into the bedroom. It seemed that as long as we were home on a workday and not in the living room, Truman was fine with us being home. How he knows what a workday is and what the weekend is continues to be beyond me.

Later that afternoon, when our son got home from high school, he came to say hello to me and Truman.

“Where's dad?”

“Truman was being loud so he went to the office,” I said. “Is he ever like that with you when we're not here?”

Our son snickered. “No, he's always good. I think he just likes me best.”

I still work from home on Fridays, although my husband has taken to going to the office. It's better, apparently, when there is just one of us – but I still get a lot of bunny attitude.

Photo: Samantha Rowan



'Please leave.'

## A Varied Diet

By House Rabbit Society

The most critical part of a rabbit's diet is hay, but fresh, rabbit-safe vegetables are also important. Besides giving your rabbit additional nutrients, they provide your rabbit with different textures and tastes, which are enriching to them as well. Veggies supply added moisture in the diet, which is good for kidney and bladder function.

If you've been feeding your rabbit the same veggies and are looking for some new ones to try, a few veggies that are typically very popular with rabbits include: cilantro, parsley, red or green lettuce, kale, dandelion greens, mint and basil. You can also try giving edible flowers like roses, nasturtiums, pansies, and hibiscuses. Visit [houserabbit.org/diet](http://houserabbit.org/diet) for our list of rabbit-safe foods and a breakdown of recommended amounts per age.



This shelter bunny is enjoying some first-cut Timothy hay.

When introducing any new food to a rabbit's diet, it is best to go slowly to allow the gastrointestinal tract and all its important microorganisms to adjust. Start by introducing one new green every three days and watch the rabbit's stools closely. It's rare for a rabbit who has been on a hay diet first to have any problems using this method, but if you note softer stools that persist over a couple of days, then you might want to remove that food from your bunny's diet. Keep a list as you go of the greens that your rabbit has successfully eaten; you will then have a handy shopping list when you go to the store!

## My Bunnies' Favorite Food Quirks

By Megan Hilands

As we bunny parents know all too well, any time a bunny does not eat it is considered to be a medical emergency. As a result, I have become very vigilant not just of how much my bunnies eat and which foods they like and dislike, but also what they like to do around normal meal and snack times. I have found what my bunnies do before and after eating to be equal parts adorable, endearing and amusing. Here are a few of the food-related behaviors I cherish the most.

Photos: Megan Hilands



Without knowing it, Nala often serves as Simba's taste tester for dinner.

### The taste tester

My Simba is a somewhat picky eater. The only green she truly seems to love is kale, but we can't give her kale for dinner every night due to its high calcium content. Simba also has a sensitive tummy, so many of the greens recommended for rabbits are off-limits as they give her gas. That means other than kale we generally only serve her a few herbs like dill, basil or cilantro. Although these greens are staples in our home, Simba does not exactly sprint over to her dinner bowl to eat them. Rather, she prefers to watch her sister Nala take a few bites before meandering over to sample some greens herself. My husband and I think this behavior resembles the manner in which nobility used to employ taste testers to sample their meals before enjoying the food themselves. As Simba acts a bit like our resident princess, we have called Nala her "taste taster" for anything but kale, treats and pellets.

### The 'paws off my breakfast!' bunny

Funny enough, for foods Simba really loves she does not feel the need for Nala to taste test. In contrast, Simba insists on eating these tasty treats first and will actually growl and chase Nala if she tries to get in the way. For example, Simba loves her Supreme Selective breakfast pellets and demands she start eating them before Nala. Nala will usually wait a few feet away until Simba allows her to approach the bowl. While Nala waits, I do feed her a few pellets out of my hand, though, as I think Simba is overly feisty about breakfast.

### The way-too-excited bun

Our single bun Charlie is almost always incredibly excited at the prospect of food. Typically in the morning when I open the door to his X-pen to serve breakfast, Charlie will hop in and out of the pen a few times. He simply cannot contain his excitement. While I prepare his dinner salad, Charlie also loves to run around and periscope in my direction as if to say, "What's taking you so long? Is the food ready yet?"



Charlie may look cute and relaxed in this photo but he goes wild for his favorite treats!

### Impatient buns

My bunnies really love their favorite foods, so it might come as no surprise that they want to eat these foods as soon as possible. Indeed, they want breakfast to be served as soon as they have an inkling that I'm awake. If I dare to start brewing coffee before serving the bunnies their breakfast, I'll hear a chorus of thumps coming from the next room.

As you can probably tell, my bunnies consider their own meal needs to be second to none, and even above my own! I would love to hear what amusing habits other rabbits display around meal times. With a bunny in the house, life is truly a little funnier and I would not have it any other way.

## Singing the Blues



By Robert Kulka

Rabbits, aka bunnies, have always been a part of the history of mankind. We know that rabbits date back to ancient times in mythology, fables, spirituality and as guides. That presence of rabbits in our world carries through to the present day in children's stories, astrology, cautionary and political tales, and even as marketing icons and symbols. We see their images used in advertising as cartoons, illustrations and as actual representations. They show up in ads for candy, batteries, cereals and soft drinks, to name a few.

Why do we see rabbits used in advertising in so many ways? Maybe it has to do with society's view of rabbits and their perceived attributes. We see them as cute, fluffy, soft and gentle beings. They are nonthreatening and represent concepts of spring, renewal and holidays. When people see rabbits, it makes them feel warm and happy and will often remind them of their childhood.

That is very much the thinking behind using a bunny as a mascot for the ice cream brand Blue Bunny. In telling the story of this brand, it is by no means an endorsement of a product. Certainly, the Blue Bunny product is loved by many, but for others it is an example of using bunnies to merchandise products without recognizing their plight.

Unfortunately, the Blue Bunny brand offers frozen novelty items but nothing in a vegan variety. Putting that aside, it is another story of a rabbit representing a product many cherish as a treat.

About 80 years ago Blue Bunny aimed to provide a fun, playful and delicious product. In 1913 in Le Mars, Iowa, Fred H. Wells Jr. paid \$250 to a local dairy farmer in exchange for a horse with wagon, some cans and jars, and the goodwill of a business. The investment guaranteed Wells a milk-distribution route with a herd of just 15 cows. In 1935 Blue Bunny was born out of a "Name that Ice Cream" contest run by Fred and his brother. The result was a submission from a man in Sioux City, Iowa of "Blue Bunny" and his rendition of the original bunny, Blu. The prize for the winning submission was \$25.

Over the years, the logo continued to be developed and in 1994, Le Mars, Iowa, a town of 10,000 and the home to Wells Enterprises, was named Ice Cream Capital of the World. In 1996 a logo was developed and used for the next 20 years. At the 100th anniversary of Wells, Blue Bunny partnered with Make-A-Wish and grants 100 wishes to children across the U.S.

In 2016, Blue Bunny launched a new logo. Clear packaging, new flavors and more of what is loved of the ice cream

was a part of the new appearance. Blue Bunny brought the fun of the ice cream parlor to homes across America with Load'd Cones, Sundaes, Bars and more.

Over the years dozens and dozens of flavors have been retired. Sundaes, minis and swirls with flavors such as Apple Pie a la Mode, Birthday Party, Butter Pecan and Chocolate Donut. These

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## How Did You Choose or Find Your Rabbit? Or Did Your Rabbit Find You?

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 about how they found their rabbit. Here's what they had to say.

"After our Peanut passed away at 12 and a half years young, we told master matchmaker Katie what we were looking for in a rabbit and she suggested we meet Leland. Leland is now Oats and he is an absolutely perfect match for our household. Adopters: listen to Katie."

– Denise B.

"I found my bunny Dahlia after seeing her in my newsfeed immediately after my first bunny Alex passed away unexpectedly. I was completely shattered and devastated. I could not function. But Dahlia kept popping up on my feed and I fell in love with her. I knew it was a sign of some sort. I always said Alex's spirit led me to



Oats.

her and I truly believe that. Dahlia is so sassy and adorable and she brings such joy into our lives each day." – Leeanna

"During my family vacation the month before my adoption date, I showed my whole family all the adoptable rabbits and when my sister got to Ellie, she said, 'she's the one!' Then on adoption day, both of her foster families showed up,

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Dahlia.



Ellie.

### Singing the Blues

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have been replaced with Mini Swirls and Soft varieties such as Vanilla Party Pack, Churro, and Blu's Berry Cheesecake. In a competitive space like the frozen dessert aisle in the supermarket, it is a constant struggle to gain access and provide choices that are unique and appealing. Of course, you can always make a trip to the Wells Visitor Center and Ice Cream Parlor located at 115 Central Avenue NW, Le Mars, Iowa 51031. There you can find new flavors, interactive exhibits and a gift shop. And if you can't make it to Iowa, you may want to drop a line to Blue Bunny and petition for vegan products.

#### Postscript

As of 2024, the American Veterinary Medical Association estimates that 1.5

million households in the U.S. have rabbits, which is about 0.7% of all American households with pets. This would mean that there are around 2.2 million pet rabbits in the U.S., making them the third most popular pet in the country, after cats and dogs.

The reality of a blue bunny is not as cute as an ice cream mascot would suggest. The blue bunny is found in different countries in several varieties. Blues such as Imperial, American and Vienna are among those that have been bred since the early 1900s. Despite their appearance and demeanor, they have been bred and sold for several unpleasant uses. It is important that as rabbit people we continue to bring the facts about domestic rabbits' plight to those we know and speak to. They are often cruelly misused by humans. They

are every bit a happy part of a household as any dog or cat, yet they aren't always treated with the same respect. Whenever we see this mistreatment, we should speak out and work toward protecting these gentle beings.

Check out your local rabbit rescues or other organizations and find ways you can help raise awareness and knowledge of the house rabbit. Donations to a rescue you admire or work with can help enormously. Local news and television shows that feature dogs or cats should be contacted to make producers aware of the importance of rabbits in the American home and the large numbers of rabbits awaiting adoption and care. Every and any little bit each of us does will go a long way in raising rabbits to the stature they deserve in the minds and hearts of all animal lovers.

## How Did You Find Your Rabbit?

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shared her whole story and all kinds of amazing things about her, and I was sold!”  
– Emily V.

“I found my first rabbit Binx dumped in my neighborhood. Sadly after 5 weeks he passed away unexpectedly. Binx brought me to LIRRG and in turn, Eden was brought into my world by Mary Ann, Denise, Katie & Lauren. She’s my little bestie and I’m forever thankful for her and LIRRG.” – Tracy F.

“Caramel found us. During the pandemic a neighbor’s rabbit had babies and my son wanted a rabbit. After writing me a 5-page paper on rabbit care and giving me \$400 of his savings to buy supplies we “adopted” Caramel. He is pampered and very spoiled and the sweetest boy.”  
– Allison R.

“I had lost my first bunny 8 months before and had been perusing the adoptables on LIRRG and other rescue sites. While there were many buns that I liked, none felt like a perfect fit. Then Denise went live with Franklin and I knew he was meant to be mine. His personality, the way he interacted with Denise, his general demeanor. It was everything I had envisioned my bunny to be. I didn’t know his age at the time, but decided he was mine no matter what. On 9/10 they estimated his age at 8 months old which would put his birthday on 1/10. My previous bunny had passed away on 1/10 so I took that as my final sign that Frank was meant to be!”  
– Pamela P.

“Carly and I volunteered at Great Neck and I instantly fell in love with Eugene. When Covid hit and Nancy asked if people could foster I asked Carly to hurry up and claim Eugene. The second day my husband said, yeah he’s not going back. He’s brought so much joy into our lives.”  
– Amy H.

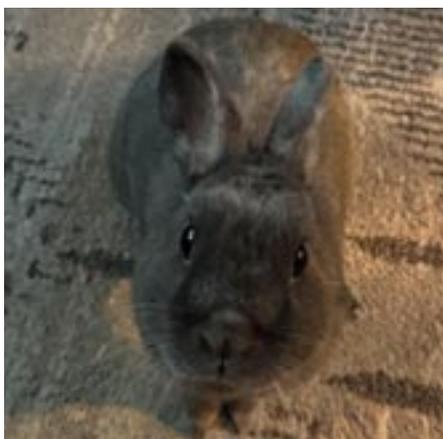
“After researching rabbit adoptions on Long Island, I found LIRRG’s website. There I found all the information I needed on how to properly care for a



Eden.



Caramel and friends.



Franklin.



Eugene and friend.



Enzo.

rabbit. I browsed their adoptables page and was immediately intrigued with this young gray bun with the greens hanging out of his mouth. Being a gourmand myself, I thought, “wow. This is my kinda bunny.” Wanting to be open-minded, I asked to see this dude and another rabbit that was recommended based on my living space. Denise Bee brought Georgia and Enzo over one day for a meet-and-greet. Enzo ran around then hid under the couch. He was not interested in leaving. After a couple of weeks of fostering, Enzo decided to mark his territory by peeing on me while lying on the couch. He had plenty of room to pee anywhere he wanted. He has impeccable litter habits and yet he peed ON ME. What choice does a girl have when a fuzzy and rascally rabbit claims her as his? None. No choice. Adoption papers signed the very next morning.” – Jess L.

“The first time I saw Archer I felt drawn to him and knew he would be a perfect match for my girl. They bonded within a week and were together for almost 3 yrs. They were such a cute couple and my Ella protected him all the time. Archer is the lighter bun in the photo (see next page).”  
– Marnia B.

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## How Did You Find Your Rabbit?

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“Moe, my first foster, came to me! He was pathetically shy and took months to warm up to me. Now he’s about 10, my little flower pony.... thriving, friendly, social, despite dental issues. The photo was one of the first I took of him. I had to leave the house for him to leave that box for the first week he was with us. I couldn’t let him leave after he started to love me.”  
 – Katie S.

“My first rabbit Bugsy was because someone was giving her away. They found her in their yard and had her for a few months then decided they couldn’t keep her. So we took her. Then enter Loki. The original bathtub bunny who was my foster fail. He gives me a run for my money despite his little 2lb self.”  
 – Erica L.

“We had a dating session set up in Great Neck to meet a bunch of larger-sized rabbits. None matched well with us. We went downstairs to check out other rabbits and saw a beautiful baby who was excited and happy to see us. We knew at that moment we were a perfect match. So, I guess, Pat found us.”  
 – Jessica P.

“Trixie wandered into our yard a few months after we moved into our house. We watched her hop around outside for almost 2 weeks before we learned that she had to be saved and was meant to be with us.”  
 – Heather F.

“At the height of the pandemic, we were exploring the waters of introducing a pet into our home. The search included consideration of budgies and gerbils, until finding LIRRG. We met Andy and Cookie (formerly Anna). Despite her initial shyness, we fell in love with her curiosity and gray speckled coat. She took over her little corner of the upstairs, which has since expanded to a penthouse over the whole floor, where she now roams rent-free. Having adopted many names and nicknames over the years – Cookie, Bean, and other jumbles of endearing noises – Cookie has brought a monumental bundle of love and fur into our home!”  
 – Sabrina M.



Archer.



Moe.



Bugsy and Loki.



Pat.



Trixie.



Cookie.



Bunbun.



Cloudy and Sunny.

“Bunbun found me while I was running through Hempstead Lake Park. A woman was taking her photo exclaiming, “Look how close this rabbit is letting me get to it!” I noted to her that it was because it was not wild. As I worried how I would catch her, Bunbun decided to lay across my feet. I would like the record to show, she has never done that since!” – Lisa N.

“When I went back to work after spending 1.5 years of quarantine with Cloud, I could tell she was so lonely... enter Sunny (formerly Garrett!). Sunny was abandoned and in poor shape when he was rescued by LIRRG. From the moment I saw him posted on Facebook, I knew he had to meet Cloudy! They are now inseparable and at any given moment are found cuddling. Coming up on 4 years together this fall.” – Carly E.

## Ruby-Ann's Recovery

By Katie Scarr

Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group

A few months ago, foster bun Ruby-Ann went through a major health crisis. Her loving foster home noticed that she had quickly lost a significant amount of weight, despite not showing any signs of discomfort. She dropped from 3.14 pounds to 2.02 pounds in just a month and felt emaciated. Despite this, she continued to eat and maintained a good attitude.

Since any significant weight loss is cause for concern, we took her to Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital as soon as possible. X-rays revealed that her entire abdomen was filled with gas, and her blood work showed low protein levels and anemia. We began treating these issues, and Ruby-Ann started to gain some weight.

However, her progress was inconsistent. One day she'd be up two ounces, and the next, she'd be back down. Her weight was a rollercoaster, and the root cause of her symptoms remained unclear. Multiple fecal tests were conducted, and once she was more stable, her molars were checked under sedation. The fecals came back negative, and her teeth were perfect, but her X-rays continued to show significant gas buildup.

Two weeks later, Ruby-Ann developed diarrhea, and I truly feared that might be the end. True diarrhea in adult rabbits is rare and very concerning. We decided to treat her for a possible intestinal infection with antibiotics, and thankfully, the diarrhea resolved within 24 hours.

While Ruby-Ann was stable at this point, we were still worried about her quality of life if things didn't improve. She was eating well but still wasn't gaining consistent weight. I felt she deserved every chance, so I brought her

Photo: Facebook



Ruby-Ann.

home from the hospital to continue her treatment and began weighing her daily.

To everyone's joy, Ruby-Ann finally began to gain weight – an ounce a day at first, and every single ounce was a celebration. She had a recheck at Catnip and her X-ray is now normal and blood work greatly improved. I'm thrilled to report that as of early June, she weighs 4 pounds. She no longer feels bony along her spine, and her youthful sass is

returning. I'm beginning to wean her off her medications, and once she reaches her target weight, I'll start transitioning her to a normal adult diet, hoping she maintains her progress.

Update: As of mid-July, Ruby-Ann is thriving and available for adoption. Thump applauds her wonderful recovery. She's our page-one masthead bunny this month.

## Rabbit Rescue & Rehab's Beautiful Foster Rabbits

For Information on Adopting Any of Our Rabbits, Contact [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

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## ADOPTIONS

### RRR Rabbits in Foster Care

*(Continued from page 13)*

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

#### Carmela

Carmela is a young medium-sized Rex rabbit. Her beautiful coat is mostly white with tan and black spots. She is a sweet rabbit who loves to have her soft nose petted. She also likes to explore her house, but her favorite thing is to relax with a nice soft blanket. Carmela is shy and would likely do best in an adult-



Indigo.



Lucy.



Carmela.

only home. She would also likely make a good partner for another rabbit. She has been spayed and is in foster care.

For more information and/or to arrange a meeting with Carmela, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

## 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](mailto:information@longislandrabbitrescue.org)



Arthur.

### Arthur

You would never guess Arthur's rough start! Found abandoned in a nightstand, this resilient bunny is incredibly social and sweet, adoring playtime and gentle pets. Arthur has a charmingly assertive side, though. He appreciates his space during meals and litter-box time, so a respectful approach is key. This delightful fellow will thrive in a home with an experienced rabbit owner who will cherish his outgoing and unique personality.

### Tate

Looking for a bunny with charm, spunk and a whole lot of personality? Meet Tate, the irresistibly adorable bun with convertible ears that sometimes stand up and sometimes flop – just like his moods!

Tate is a social butterfly who *insists* on being wherever the action is. Whether you're working, lounging, or just passing through, this curious little guy will be right there, watching, exploring and making sure he doesn't miss a moment.

He's a **champion zoomie-r** and **elite-level binkyer**, especially when salad or



Tate.

fruit is on the way. Nothing gets Tate moving like his favorite snacks – except maybe the joy of doing *booty wiggles* in anticipation. Yes, it's as cute as it sounds.

Tate is also a fan of human interaction. Sit on the floor, and you might just find him hopping onto your back for a quick perch – because being involved is his favorite thing. He thrives on connection and would love a home where he can be an active part of the family.

If you're looking for a bunny who's equal parts hilarious, affectionate and full of life, Tate is ready to hop into your heart (and onto your back).

Birthday: 12/24/24

### Brodie

Brimming with spunky confidence, Brodie is a bold little bunny ready to charm his way into your heart and maybe even run the show.

#### What makes Brodie so special?

- He's got a big personality packed into a small bun. Once he trusts you, his playful energy and cleverness shine through.



Brodie.

- This active guy adores playtime, the taste of Timothy hay, and the joy of a good snack.
- He has a soft spot for gentle cheek scratches.

#### Things to know about Brodie:

- Fast movements can make him a little uneasy.
- Brodie was rescued in March 2022 from the lawn of the Great Neck Library, along with a fellow rabbit.
- At the time of his rescue, he was estimated to be about a year old.
- **Important Note:** Brodie has experienced two episodes of self-mutilation and is currently receiving daily Gabapentin, which appears to be effectively managing this.

#### Brodie is looking for:

- A wonderful human who appreciates a rabbit with a strong and engaging personality.
  - Someone who can offer a safe and comfortable environment where he can feel secure and let his playful side flourish.
- Could you be the awesome human Brodie is waiting for?

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

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



Bruno.



Bloop Bloop.



Cali-Bunny.



Nightshade.



Azalea.



Chamomile.

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



Honey.



Soapy.



Stew.



Dutchess.



Thumper.



B.B.



Bulbasar.



Eevee.



Charmander.

*(Continued on page 18)*

ADOPTIONS

**Rabbits at Queens (NYC ACC)**

*(Continued from page 17)*



Pikachu.



Bellsprout.



Earwicket.



Tarrant.



Honey Bun.



Flopsy.



McTwisp.



Alice.

**Forever Homes Found!**

We are happy to report that Archie, Cinnamon, Lady Antonia, Brock, Robohop, Bello, Bambam, Thumper, Solay, Gouda and Sunset were adopted since the last newsletter. Congratulations!

# Why Volunteer?

"I volunteer because our directors do so much for all of the bunnies, and the least I can do is help them out. Also for the bunny cuddles." — CK

"I volunteer because they deserve a second chance at life. Rabbit rescues aren't as popular organizations like cats or dogs have, so I guess less people are likely to volunteer for buns due to lack of awareness, but they need us all the same. This rescue bettered my life, as did the buns. I don't know any other way to show my appreciation and give back. I've made the best of friends here." — LM

"I volunteer because rabbits have changed and saved my life. The best way to honor them is to give back, and help others that are in need. I continue to volunteer because this group is filled with great people, and I believe that we are making a huge difference in the lives of bunnies and bunny owners on long island and I am lucky to be a small part of that." — KG

"I volunteer because I love all the buns. It makes me feel like a better person inside." — CR

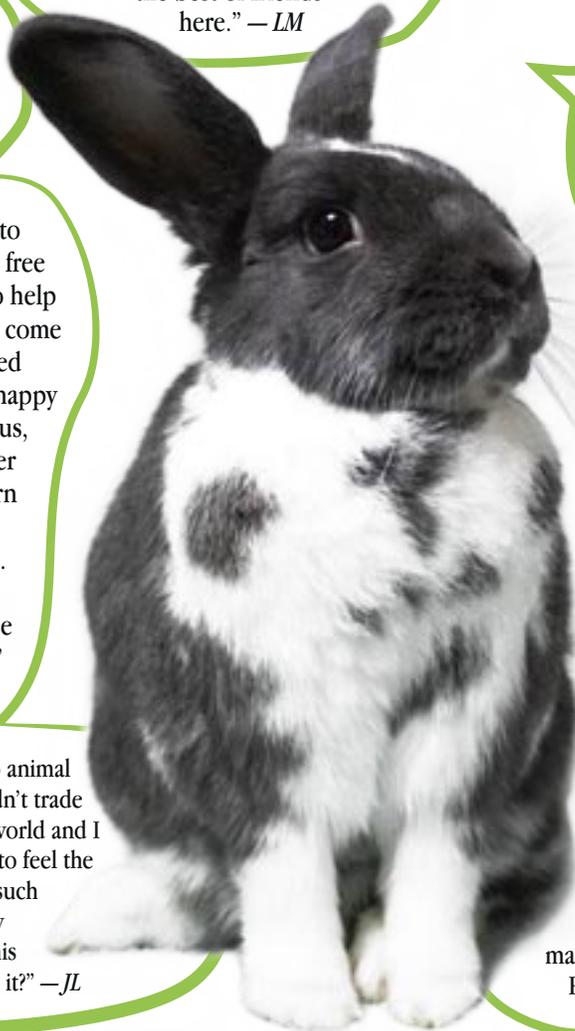
"I volunteer because in a world where everyone is taking away, I like to think by doing this I'm giving something back." — RN

"I volunteer because I want to do something positive with my free time, and have always wanted to help animals. Seeing the bunnies that come from neglected and abandoned situations, turn into trusting and happy rabbits, melts my heart. As a bonus, volunteering has made me a better bun mom. There is so much to learn when it comes to rabbits and the hands on experience is invaluable. I don't think I'll ever stop volunteering with LIRRG because of how amazing this group is." — KS

"I love any and every animal! I volunteer because saving a life makes it worthwhile. Also for the cuddles, I get my weekly dose of cuddles from them. They deserve a chance at a forever home just as any animal." — VR

"I volunteer because no animal deserves to be forgotten. I wouldn't trade my smart little buns for the entire world and I think everyone deserves the chance to feel the love and learn about why they're such awesome pets. And some of my favorite people are part of this group. Who can beat it?" — JL

"I volunteer because I see the impact that mere compassion has on these bunnies, and it means the world to me. Nothing makes me happier than watching the bunnies' personality start to emerge in the couple weeks after their rescue when they realize they are finally safe. Volunteering is such a simple way to make a difference, so I try to do my part. Plus, I just love animals." — SS



[LongIslandRabbitRescue.org/volunteer](https://LongIslandRabbitRescue.org/volunteer)

## Fur Loss and Skin Problems in Rabbits: Common Causes and Treatments

By Dana M. Krempels, Ph.D.  
University of Miami Biology Department  
House Rabbit Society of Miami

There are many reasons a rabbit can lose fur – some of them completely normal, and others a sign of health or behavior problems.

### Normal Shedding: Proper Care

A healthy rabbit will usually change her coat twice a year. If all things are normal, the shed areas will regrow fur as the old coat falls out.

Some unfortunate rabbits seem to shed all the time. This may be due to inbreeding causing a problem with the normal genetic response to day length and other seasonal cues, or to too much artificial lighting disrupting the rabbit's normal Circadian rhythms. In any case, when your rabbit sheds, even during a normal shed cycle, there are certain things that you, the caregiver, can do to make sure the shed is uneventful and comfortable for your bunny.

When a fastidious self-grooming animal such as a rabbit undergoes a shedding cycle, it's almost inevitable that some fur is going to be swallowed. Although rabbits do not typically get "hairballs" (with the exception of some of the long-haired breeds), ingested hair can be difficult to pass, and can make the bunny uncomfortable. The goal of the rabbit caregiver should be to reduce the amount of ingested hair as much as possible.

### Correct Diet Will Help Push Ingested Hair Through the Intestine.

Intestinal motility problems arise when a rabbit does not eat sufficient rough fiber and does not drink enough liquid to keep the intestinal contents well hydrated. Dehydrated intestinal contents are prone to form desiccated, difficult-to-pass masses of food and hair, and the

situation can be made worse if the bunny is shedding/molting.

During a molt, it's important that your bunny have unlimited fresh grass hay, plenty of fresh, *wet* greens, and plenty of fresh, clean water to drink. A heavy, ceramic crock is better than a sipper water bottle, as a rabbit will usually drink more from a bowl, and in a more natural position. Hay, wet greens and water will all keep the intestinal contents well hydrated and easy to pass, and the bunny far less likely to suffer from any intestinal irritation related to ingestion of hair.

Don't worry if you see your bunny leaving "strings of pearls": fecal pellets strung together with twists of fur. If the fur is coming *out*, then things are working fine, though you might want to do more grooming to reduce the amount of hair the bunny swallows. Here's how.

### Removing Loose Fur Will Help Prevent Fur Ingestion.

Daily grooming will help prevent discomfort during a shed cycle. A soft-tipped, wire brush or small, very fine-toothed flea comb will help you gently comb out loose fur. Careful plucking of loose fur tufts is also fair play, though many bunnies will object, and need to be groomed on a secure surface where s/he can't run off in protest.

A good way to remove loose fur that's not tufting is the **Wet Hand Rubdown**. Moisten your hands, and gently rub the bunny backward and forward over the entire length of the body. Loose fur will stick to your moist hands and form a thick sheet. To remove it from your hands, simply rub them together to make a roll, throw it away, and repeat the procedure until your bunny's loose fur is mostly removed.

In some cases, a bunny will undergo what we call a "coat blow," shedding great clumps of fur all at once, and

sometimes even leaving small bald patches. If the bunny is healthy, within a few days the bald patches will become pigmented, and then start to grow hair. If this doesn't happen, however, the fur loss may be due to one of several disease processes, and you should consult your trusted rabbit veterinarian for help in determining what the problem is, and how to appropriately treat it.

### Abnormal Fur Loss

Fur loss associated with

- crusty appearance of the skin
- flaky skin/dandruff
- open sores or inflammation can be caused by several things, including (but not limited to)

### Parasite Infestations (fleas, lice, mites, fungus):

- *Sarcoptes scabiei* or *Chorioptes* spp. (mange mites)
- *Cheyletiella parasitivorax* (fur mites) or *Leporacarus gibbus*
- *Psoroptes cuniculi* (ear canker mites)
- *Ornithonyssus* spp. (tropical rat mite or feather mite)
- *Trixacarus caviae* (burrowing mange mite)
- Ringworm fungus (*Microsporium* spp.)

### Dental Problems:

- Saliva Burn (fur loss under the chin, on the dewlap, and on the chest)

### Urinary Tract Disorders:

- Urine Burn (fur loss on the hindquarters only)

### Other Health Problems:

- Bacterial infection
- False pregnancy
- Overgrooming by self or bunny partner
- Fighting among rabbits
- Hormone imbalance

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## Fur Loss, Skin Problems

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### Parasite Problems

Fur loss can be caused by several different kinds of mites that can infest rabbits, including mange mites (*Sarcoptes* spp.), fur mites (*Cheyletiella* spp. and *Leporacarus* spp.), and mites causing ear canker (*Psoroptes* spp. or *Chorioptes* spp.) and other problems. A severe flea infestation also can cause such severe itching that the rabbit scratches off his own fur. Fortunately, there are excellent, modern medications available that are safe for rabbits and will kill these parasites quickly.

### Sarcoptic Mange

Mange is caused by the mite *Sarcoptes scabiei* and other *Sarcoptes* species. In rabbits, the disease appears as beige to whitish crusts, often starting around the borders of the ears, edges of the eyelids, the nose, mouth and toes. The crusts often have an unpleasant, musky smell, especially in the ears. If left untreated, the condition will progress until crusty, sometimes raw lesions cover more extensive areas of the body, causing itching, and predisposing affected areas to bacterial and/or fungal infection. Even mild cases of mange should be treated without delay, to avoid worsening of symptoms. The parasites are not difficult to treat, and results can be swift and dramatic, as Luke and Leia's "before" and "after" (one week after treatment with injectable ivermectin) pictures show:



Mange: Luke and Leia before and one week after treatment with injectable ivermectin.

### Fur Mites

Symptoms of fur mites (*Cheyletiella parasitivorax*) are more subtle than those of mange or ear canker, and these mites usually do not cause as much itching as some other types of mites. Fur mite infestations usually manifest as flakes in the skin that look like dandruff. In more advanced cases, the fur may actually start to fall out, leaving tufty or bald patches. Unfortunately, some types of fur mites are not easily found on skin by scraping or visual inspection. But treatment with the proper medication (We have had excellent results with selamectin, sold as Revolution or Stronghold, depending on where you are.) will often clear up this problem, even if mites cannot be visualized.

### Ear Canker

*Psoroptes cuniculi* is one of the most painful and nasty types of mite infestations your rabbit can suffer. When Gypsy first came to us as an abandoned stray, she had the worst case we'd ever seen:



Ear Canker: Gypsy before treatment.

Fortunately, a single injection of ivermectin (this was in the days before selamectin) killed the parasites, and Gypsy was cured completely within a week, though her ears suffered permanent thickening and scarring from her ordeal.

### Tropical Rat (and Pigeon) Mites

Found in both subtropical and temperate regions is the tropical rat mite (*Ornithonyssus bacoti*), which feasts on many mammals, including humans. These can be extremely itchy, but also can be killed with ivermectin or selamectin. Permanent eradication of these mites is more challenging than of those that live on rabbits. Because *Ornithonyssus* mites live permanently on a primary host (rats, and sometimes pigeons), the problem of mite transmission to your rabbit or other companion animals will persist until the population of primary hosts is removed from your local environment.

### Burrowing Mange Mite

Also worthy of mention is a nasty, though fairly uncommon (in rabbits) mite, the burrowing mange mite (*Trixacarus caviae*) that can cause extremely painful itching. These may be quite difficult to visualize, even with skin biopsy. Although they are more common in guinea pigs (in which they can cause fatal seizures) than rabbits, these mites have been rarely reported on rabbits. Rabbits affected with *Trixacarus caviae* may itch so badly that they become aggressive and sullen, while showing no apparent symptoms of illness other than scratching. Fortunately, treatment with selamectin will kill these nasty parasites, affording the rabbit relief within 24 hours of medication. We have heard of several cases in which a formerly sweet-natured rabbit (already neutered) became inexplicably vicious. Attending veterinarians could find nothing obviously wrong, but it was only treatment with selamectin that solved the problem and allowed the rabbit to

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## Fur Loss, Skin Problems

*(Continued from page 21)*

become his old, sweet self again. A mite infestation was never confirmed, but the circumstantial evidence leads us to wonder.

### Rabbit-Safe Remedies for Mites, Fleas, and Ticks

Almost any species of mite can be killed with topical application of **selamectin** (Revolution or Stronghold) from your veterinarian. An older, related drug, **ivermectin**, is also effective, but is injected, and does not last as long in the system as selamectin.

Even though they may be labeled for use in rabbits by the manufacturer, over-the-counter products such as permethrin or pyrethrin-containing flea powders or shampoos are NOT recommended. They are neither as safe nor as effective as the aforementioned medications.

Similarly, although mineral oil or topical ointments instilled in the ears are sometimes suggested as treatments for ear mites, they are not effective in the long term, and may make things worse if there is underlying infection. For this reason alone, it is wise to always seek the help of a rabbit-savvy veterinarian.

**DO NOT, under any circumstances, use Frontline (fipronil) on your rabbit! Although this flea control product is apparently safe for other species, it has been implicated in many rabbit deaths due to severe neurological side effects.** Check the package labeling, and you will see that the manufacturer now states that their product should not be used on rabbits.

We have found selamectin to be the most effective medication for persistent flea and mite infestations, and particularly for fur mites. Mange-afflicted little Tyler – shown at the right as “before,” “during” and “after” selamectin treatment – would agree!

### Ringworm fungus

Fur loss due to this microorganism is usually patchy, characterized by relatively round bald patches with distinct edges. The skin may be only slightly irritated, sometimes with tiny, raised red spots. Ringworm can be treated with topical application of miconazole- or ketoconazole-containing creams from your veterinarian (Do not use over-the-counter preparations for humans! These have not been formulated for use on an animal that grooms itself.). Fungal infections also can be treated with Program (lufenuron), which inhibits the formation of chitin (an important structural component of the fungus’ cell walls). Always consult your veterinarian for the most appropriate medication for your rabbit’s condition.

### Other Possible Causes of Fur Loss

Parasites are not the only reason your rabbit may be losing fur. Here are some other possibilities.

### Fur Loss Around the Mouth and Under the Chin: Dental Problems

In some rabbits, fur loss is restricted to the area just under the chin, in the folds of the dewlap (the fleshy flap of skin and tissue under the skin), or down the chest. Often, but not always, the fur and/or skin there will be wet. In many, but not all cases, the rabbit will also develop suddenly picky eating habits.

These can vary greatly among individuals, with some rabbits being willing to eat pellets, but not hay, others eating hay but not pellets, some refusing to drink, and still others refusing everything but their most favorite treats. In short, any change in eating preferences is usually a good enough reason for a dental exam by an experienced rabbit vet.

Signs like this are almost surely due to molar spurs or other dental problems such as a molar abscess. These will make the bunny drool. Since saliva is caustic, it burns the skin, making the wet area itchy and sore, and causing the fur to fall out. Some rabbits will actually chew at the irritated area so much that they develop open sores.

Although just about any rabbit can get molar spurs and other dental problems, they are more prevalent in short-faced breeds such as lops and dwarf rabbits, as well as in rabbits five years or older.

The solution to this problem is to find a very experienced rabbit vet who can do a deep oral exam to detect any molar spurs (some sensitive rabbits will show these signs even from very small spurs), and file them smooth, as necessary. If no spurs are visible, then head radiographs may be necessary to see if there are any signs of tooth root infection or some other mouth problem that’s causing the bunny to drool.

*(Continued on page 23)*



Mange: Tyler, before, during and after selamectin treatment.

## Fur Loss, Skin Problems

(Continued from page 22)

### Fur Loss Around the Rear End and Belly: Urine Burn

In some rabbits, fur loss is restricted to the area between the hind legs, around the tail, and sometimes up the belly and onto the feet. If there is no fur loss anywhere else on the body, then the possibility that a urinary tract problem (e.g., urinary tract infection, bladder sludge, bladder stone) causing urine leakage should be considered. It is important to learn a little about specific urinary tract disorders in rabbits, so that you will know what questions to ask your veterinarian.

Like saliva, urine is caustic. If it collects in the fur, it will burn the underlying skin, causing fur to fall out and the skin to become red and raw. While the veterinarian is sorting out the cause of the urine leakage, and while medications are starting to do their work, you can keep your bunny comfortable and start the skin healing and fur growing back with a safely administered rinse and/or dry bunny butt bath. A rabbit should never be bathed completely, as this can cause so much stress as to be life-threatening. But a badly urine-burned behind must be gently cleansed, dried and protected so that the pain doesn't elicit worse problems, such as GI slowdown, or ileus.

### Bacterial Infection

Rabbits living in warm, humid climates are particularly susceptible to bacterial skin infections, since they often cannot stay sufficiently dry. Moisture (from rain or just from atmospheric humidity) collects in the fur, especially around the hindquarters, just above the tail and the backs of the thighs where the rabbit cannot easily reach, and the skin becomes friable, stinky, and dangerously prone to deadly myiasis (fly strike).

The best way to prevent this is to keep your rabbit in a dry habitat, and to

Photos: Mary Ann Waier



Nest Building: Philomena moves hay from litter box to nest.

constantly check for signs of skin irritation due to too much moisture. Fly strike can occur and develop so quickly that missing fly eggs laid on bacteria-laden skin and fur can become a life-threatening situation in as little as twelve hours.

If your vet diagnoses bacterial skin infection, the bunny may need to be shaved down over the affected areas, and appropriate medications administered, preferably guided by the results of a culture and sensitivity test to see which rabbit-safe antibiotic will be most effective against the particular pathogen your bunny has.

### Nest Building Due to False (or Real) Pregnancy

If your bunny is female and unspayed, you may witness her pulling tufts of fur from her chest, belly and sides, then rushing off to line a nest she's made. If there's no way your bunny could be pregnant, then she's having a false pregnancy. This means it's time to have her spayed to avoid the risk of uterine cancer, mammary cancer, and other health problems associated with an intact female reproductive system that's not being used.

### Overgrooming by a Bonded Companion

You'll have to catch them in the act to determine whether this is the cause. Overgrooming is not a normal behavior,

and can be a sign of boredom. Try letting your bonded bunnies have more free running time, or provide them with a variety of new toys to distract them from the grooming behavior, and break the cycle. It's important that your rabbits have a large enough running space so that the groomee can get away from the attentions of the groomer if s/he wishes to do so.

### Tufting/Fighting Among Rabbits

If you have a group of rabbits living together, there's always the possibility that they're having turf wars while you're not there. Check the bunny for any scabs or cuts. These would be an indication that there's fighting going on when you're not watching.

If the bunnies are fighting, it's important to have them all spayed and neutered, for their health and longevity, and your peace of mind. Fighting should be absolutely prevented, as serious injuries can result, not to mention permanent hatred between the warring bunnies.

### Hormone Imbalance

This is not often seen in rabbits, but is one possible cause of fur loss in any mammal. If your vet suspects this is the cause of your rabbit's fur loss, he or she may want to take a blood sample and send it to a laboratory for analysis of thyroid function, and other endocrine systems.

## Adoptable Rabbits

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

To adopt a rabbit in **New York City** or **Westchester**, contact [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

On **Long Island**, contact [information@longislandrabbitrescue.org](mailto:information@longislandrabbitrescue.org).

You can also visit Manhattan Animal Care Center at 326 East 110th St., between First and Second avenues, and the Queens Animal Care Center at 1906 Flushing Ave. in Ridgewood..

Rabbits for adoption in Manhattan and Queens can be found by going to: <http://www.nycacc.org/> and doing an adoption search (for ACC inquiries about adoption/bunny dates, email [adopt@nycacc.org](mailto:adopt@nycacc.org)). Volunteers are there every weekday evening and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, but it is best to arrange an appointment first.

Bunny speed dates can be arranged by appointment only. Please contact [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com) to make arrangements.

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

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

**If interested in volunteering for Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).**

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Lulabelle.

## 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](http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org).

## THUMP JULY 2025

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

Editor: Susan Lillo

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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. 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**  
**Davia Kot, 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**  
Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital  
2056 Jericho Turnpike  
New Hyde Park  
(516) 877-7080  
[catnipandcarrots.com](http://catnipandcarrots.com)

**Meredith Davis, DVM, MS**  
Island Exotic Veterinary Care  
591 East Jericho Turnpike  
Huntington, NY  
(631) 424-0300  
[islandexoticvet.com](http://islandexoticvet.com)

### Long Island (continued):

**Perri Wiggin, DVM**  
Long Island Veterinary Specialists  
163 S Service Rd.  
Plainview, NY 11803  
(516) 501-1700  
[livs.org](http://livs.org)

**Ellen Leonhardt, DVM**  
Animal General of East Norwich  
6320 Northern Blvd.  
East Norwich, NY 11732  
(516) 624-7500  
[vcahospitals.com/animal-general-east-norwich](http://vcahospitals.com/animal-general-east-norwich)

**Marilyn Olds, DVM**  
Rocky Point Animal Hospital  
526A Route 25A  
Rocky Point, NY 11778  
(631) 849-8638  
[rockypointanimalhospital.com](http://rockypointanimalhospital.com)

**Brian Rose, DVM**  
**Jeff Rose, DVM**  
Jefferson Animal Hospital  
606 NY-112  
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776  
(631) 473-0415  
[portjeffersonanimalhospital.com](http://portjeffersonanimalhospital.com)

FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY  
If your rabbit is a client of Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital, they have explicit instruction to call the vet.  
Veterinary Emergency Group  
204 B Glen Cove Road  
Carle Place, NY 11514  
(516) 693-8859  
[veterinaryemergencygroup.com](http://veterinaryemergencygroup.com)

## Licensed HRS Educators

### NYC/Westchester:

**Alex McIe**  
Chapter Manager,  
NYC House Rabbit Society  
[alexlmcie@gmail.com](mailto:alexlmcie@gmail.com)

**M.C. Basile**

**Mary Cotter**  
Founder, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab,  
[mcotter64@gmail.com](mailto:mcotter64@gmail.com),  
(914) 643-0515

**Jeanine Callace**  
[Rofoyo.pippin@verizon.net](mailto:Rofoyo.pippin@verizon.net)

**Marcie Frishberg**

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

**Laura George, DVM**

### Long Island:

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

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

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

**Jennifer Saver, DVM**