



## NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS NOVEMBER 2025

### Cold Weather and Holiday Celebrations: Here Are Some Safety Tips for Rabbits

By Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

As the weather cools down and the holidays approach, it's important to make sure your rabbit stays safe, healthy and comfortable. Rabbits should live indoors year-round, but even inside, changing temperatures and seasonal celebrations can bring new challenges.



Rabbits are most comfortable in cool temperatures, and comfort helps them maintain normal eating and drinking habits.

#### Room Temperatures

- Be mindful before raising the heat or closing windows; warm, stuffy air can make rabbits uncomfortable.
- Never place your rabbit's pen near a radiator, heating vent or other heat source.
- Every rabbit is different; learn your rabbit's temperature sensitivity and adjust accordingly.
- Use humidifiers! The air inside our homes becomes dangerously dry during the cold, low-humidity months. This is made much worse when the heat is on. The arid conditions can cause rabbits to suffer from uncomfortably dry, itchy skin, which can be mistaken for mites.
- Always keep in mind that rabbits have very sensitive respiratory systems. The

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Help Rabbits in Need This Giving Tuesday, Dec. 2

This has been an incredibly hard year for so many people – and for the animals who depend on them. At Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, we rely entirely on donations to care for our foster and sanctuary rabbits. Without the kindness of our community, we struggle to make ends meet.

Unfortunately, donations are down, and veterinary costs are higher than ever. To make matters worse, more people are being forced to give up their beloved companions because they can no longer afford their care.

While New York state's pet-store ban was a positive step, we haven't seen a

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Holiday Safety Tips

*(Continued from page 1)*

dry air disrupts the moist, healthy environment their respiratory tract needs to stay healthy. It becomes difficult for rabbits to expel the house dust and hay dust that they are constantly inhaling. This is uncomfortable and can lead to illness. Keeping the air humid and your humidifiers meticulously clean is a necessity.

Some rabbits, such as lops, long-haired breeds, overweight bunnies, or those on medications such as prednisolone, are more sensitive to heat. Keeping them cool won't make your other rabbits too cold.

- These "hot" bunnies may even benefit from a slightly open window, even in cold weather.
- If your rabbit enjoys a frozen water bottle to lie against, continue to offer one through fall and winter.

## Stay Vigilant for Flies

Even as the weather cools, flies can still find their way inside. Continue checking for them and eliminate them promptly.

## Prevent Dehydration

Dehydration is one of the most common and serious health issues for rabbits. If your rabbit doesn't drink enough:

- Offer soaking wet greens on a plate. Many rabbits will lap up the green "juice" left behind.
- Provide multiple water bowls in different areas.
- Try bottled water or a pet water fountain (if your rabbit isn't frightened by it).
- You can moisten pellets into a soft slurry to encourage fluid intake.

## Holiday Hazards and Hosting Tips

The holidays are full of sights, smells and sounds, and there are also hidden dangers for curious rabbits.



Decorations:

- Rabbits love to chew, and many holiday materials are toxic or dangerous.
- Keep decorations and electrical cords out of reach.
- If you have a tree, use a sturdy, high pen or barrier to block access. Be deliberate when blocking access. Poorly designed or weak blockades are an invitation for your rabbit to figure out a way to bypass your feeble attempts. Don't assume your rabbit "won't" or "doesn't" chew – it's only a matter of when, not if!

Visitors:

- Many rabbits become anxious with new people or extra noise. Provide a quiet, safe space during gatherings.
- Rabbits are stealthy and appear under our feet without warning. We are trained to keep an eye on our rabbits as we walk

around. Your visitors, on the other hand, will be less careful and clumsier, especially after a glass of holiday cheer. The safest place for your rabbit is far from the threat of being accidentally stepped on or tripped over.

- Since you will be busy hosting, it's best to set ground rules with your guests. Never allow guests to feed or handle your rabbit unless you are right there to supervise.

Food Safety:

- Rabbits are quick; they'll eat a dropped crumb before you even notice. Make sure they can't access spilled food or drinks.

## Toxic Plants and Spices

Many houseplants and holiday plants are dangerous or deadly to rabbits, including: Holly, poinsettias, yew, mistletoe, lilies and many more.

Even a single fallen leaf can be harmful. The safest choice is to avoid all houseplants in your rabbit's area.

Common holiday baking spices such as cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger are also toxic. Keep them well out of reach.

## Gift Giving

If friends or family want to give your rabbit a present, share a safe gift list with them! It's a great way to educate others and prevent well-meaning but unsafe gifts.

If you receive a toy or treat that isn't rabbit-safe, simply don't give it, as your rabbit's safety comes first.

## Costume Reminder

We didn't get to say it before Halloween, but it's worth repeating:

Please never put clothing or costume parts on your rabbit. It can cause stress, overheating or injury.

By staying mindful of these seasonal challenges, you'll help your rabbit stay healthy, comfortable, and safe all winter long.

Hoppy holidays – and thank you for keeping your rabbits' well-being a priority!

## Giving Tuesday

*(Continued from page 1)*

drop in surrender requests. The financial hardships families face, continue to rise.

There is currently legislation before the NYC Council – Intro 1172 – that would create a pet pantry pilot program to help struggling pet owners feed their dogs and cats. The bill requires Council Speaker Adrienne Adams to bring it to a vote.

If you are a New York City resident, please call her office at 212-482-6731 or 718-206-2068 to encourage her to bring the bill forward.

Sadly, this proposed pantry will not include rabbits, which is why your support is more important than ever. Please consider making a donation to Rabbit Rescue & Rehab this Giving Tuesday and throughout the holiday season.

Every contribution directly helps provide food, toys and veterinary care for abandoned and neglected rabbits.

### How to Give:

• Online:

[www.rabbitrescueandrehab.org/donate](http://www.rabbitrescueandrehab.org/donate)  
(PayPal accepted)

• By Mail:

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab,  
333 Mamaroneck Ave, PMB 363,  
White Plains, NY 10605

All contributions are tax-deductible.



RRR is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) charity registered in New York State.

Thank you for more than 25 years of encouragement and compassion. We

truly couldn't do this without you. Hopy holidays – and please stay safe!



## 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)

# Forever Homes Found!

We are happy to report that Luna, Julia, Zain, Jude, Emilio, Katie, Sloan and Hemlock were adopted since the last newsletter. Congratulations!



Luna.



Jude (on the right).



Sloan.



Julia.



Katie, on the right, with her family.



Hemlock.



Emilio.



Zain.

# Helping Wildlife Through the Winter: A Message from Cottontail Cottage Wildlife Rehab

When winter sets in, life becomes especially difficult for wildlife. Food and water sources freeze, and natural shelter grows scarce. Many animals, including rabbits, opossums and squirrels, struggle to survive in the cold. Each year, we see an increase in calls about animals injured or weakened by winter conditions.

Here are a few simple ways you can make winter safer for wildlife in your area:

- **Provide fresh, unfrozen water.** Even changing a bowl twice a day can save lives. Heated bird baths are excellent if you have one.
- **Offer safe, dry shelter.** A simple tote or wooden box filled with straw (not hay) can help animals stay warm. Add a small entrance hole and place the shelter out of the wind or beneath a porch.
- **Leave natural cover in your yard.** Brush piles, leaf litter and fallen branches provide protection and nesting spots. That “messy” corner of your yard may be what keeps a wild animal alive this winter.

- **Check before clearing snow or debris.** Wildlife often shelters under decks, porches, or woodpiles. Knock or make noise before you shovel or start machinery.
- **Drive carefully.** Many animals cross roads at dusk and dawn while spending longer hours in winter searching for food. Slow down, especially on cold or icy nights.
- **Report animals in distress.** If you find injured or frostbitten wildlife, call a licensed rehabilitator. Our hotline at (914) 933-7559 is available to advise or respond. Please don't attempt to care for wildlife yourself; improper handling often causes more harm.

You can also **download the Animal Help Now app**, which connects you with local wildlife rehabilitators anywhere in the U.S. The free app uses your location to find the nearest licensed help for injured or orphaned animals. Having it on your phone means being able to act quickly and possibly save a life.

Each winter, Cottontail Cottage Wildlife Rehab provides medical care, warmth and safe shelter for animals suffering from exposure, frostbite and trauma caused by winter conditions. Your support keeps this work going.

Cottontail Cottage Wildlife Rehab is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) charitable corporation. Our ability to help hundreds of animals each year depends on the kindness of donors. This has been a particularly difficult year for all of us. We greatly appreciate your support and compassion. To help us continue saving lives, please visit <https://www.cottontailrehab.com/donate>

Together, we can make winter a little warmer for the wild ones who share our world.

Warmly,

Brigitte Dix, *Executive Director*,  
Cottontail Cottage Wildlife Rehab

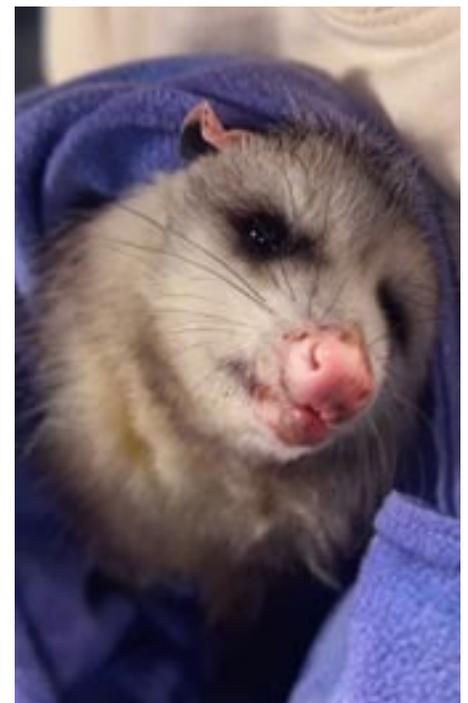
Photo: Sue Marucci, Cozy Community Cats



Winter shelters made from Styrofoam coolers stuffed with straw can help keep wildlife warm.



This free app connects you with wildlife rehabilitators.



Rossi was found outside last winter suffering from frostbite. Opossums are especially vulnerable to frostbite due to their hairless tails, ears and noses. Rossi made a full recovery due to the kind people who found him and alerted our wildlife hotline.

# My Bunnies' New Year's Resolutions

By Megan Hilands

This holiday season, my bunnies are saying, "New year, new bun," and they gave me a list of their goals for 2026. I am not sure all of their resolutions are completely realistic, but I am glad they are getting into the holiday spirit and putting their best paw forward. Here are their resolutions, ranked in the order of least likely to most likely to be successful.

## Don't boss around my sister at breakfast

Submitted by Simba

Likely to be broken by Jan. 4

Every morning I serve the bunnies their pellets almost as soon as I am awake. And almost every morning, Simba chases her sister Nala away from their shared food bowl and does not allow Nala to eat until Simba has had her fill. I predict Simba will try to follow this resolution, but hunger will get the best of her, and she will only last a few days at most.

## Stop chewing the coffee table

Submitted by Charlie

Likely to be broken by Jan. 15

Charlie loves attention and has discovered if he chews furniture we don't want him to chew he will get that attention. While he's well-intentioned, I know Charlie loves doing anything and everything to make us stop what we're doing and focus only on him, so I give this resolution two weeks.

## Lift (my toys) more

Submitted by Simba

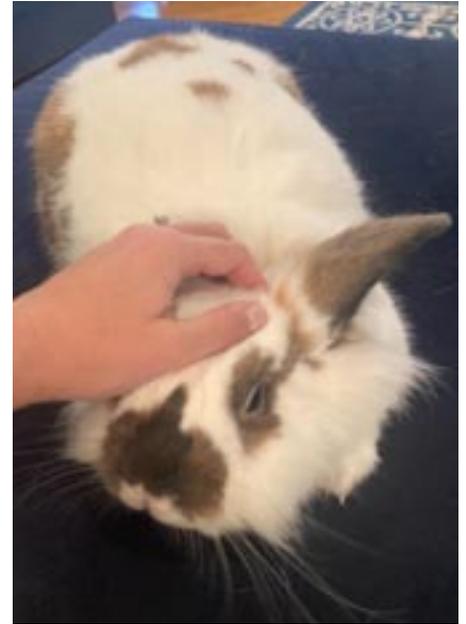
Likely to be broken by June 15

Exercising is a common New Year's resolution and Simba knows just how important it is to build and maintain muscle mass as you age, whether you're a human or a bunny! I think Simba will be pretty consistent with this resolution at first but may fall off around midyear when a chew toy or other hobby attracts more of her interest.

Photos: Megan Hilands



Simba loves to lift wooden toys, and we call this one her dumbbell.



Charlie is our cuddle bun and enjoys sitting with us for pets in the evenings.



Nala loves hay right from the box! Note that the majority of our home is carpeted and she is generally only on hardwood for a few minutes maximum – and by her own choice.

## 'Help' the humans with the hay

Submitted by Nala

Likely to be kept

Nala has a quirky habit of sometimes running over to the closet where we keep the hay when it's time to clean the litter boxes and load them with fresh hay. Inevitably I drop a few pieces of hay on the floor and Nala will help clean up after me by eating them.

In 2025 Nala was a little inconsistent with her hay cleanup but I am confident she can fulfill her goal of helping throughout the year in 2026.

## Follow a bedtime routine

Submitted by Charlie

Likely to be kept

Bunnies are naturally creatures of habit so I have no doubts Charlie will be able to follow through on his goal of following a nightly wind-down routine before the humans go to bed. Charlie aims to relax with couch cuddles before munching on hay and an Oxbow treat to settle down for the night.

*Do you or your bunnies ever follow New Year's resolutions? Which ones have you kept?*

# Ways to Protect Your Rabbit During the Autumn Season

By Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group

Cool days and falling leaves make us want to savor the last of the pleasures of summer and perhaps share it with our rabbits. However, bringing a bunny outdoors to romp in the leaves is never a good idea, and even bringing leaves inside for them to play in can be dangerous, too.

## Poisonous plants

Before allowing your rabbit to eat or come in contact with any plant, you should be aware of the plants that are toxic to rabbits. Here's the [House Rabbit Society](#) list. Anything brought

inside can also carry harmful pesticides and fertilizers. Although we see squirrels collecting acorns, both acorns and oak leaves are toxic to our bunnies. Many plants found in yards all over the New York region are also on the list, including azaleas, many ivies and evergreens, and the bark, twigs and leaves of cherry trees, to name just a few. Mold found on autumn leaves is also toxic to rabbits.

## Dangers from backyard wildlife

Leaves can harbor fleas and ticks. Perhaps the deadliest parasite is raccoon roundworm: Rabbits who ingest leaves

or grass where infected raccoons have visited are at risk.

We never advocate bringing rabbits outdoors because they can easily fall prey to cats, dogs, raccoons and predatory birds in our area. They can be literally frightened to death even if they aren't touched, or they can be severely injured trying to flee. It only takes a minute.

We can enrich our companion rabbits' lives with toys as simple as an empty toilet paper roll stuffed with hay or a pile of junk mail to dig through – safer by far than the outdoor offerings of fall.

# I AM NOT A HOLIDAY GIFT!

I MAY BE SMALL, BUT I AM A BIG COMMITMENT!

Rabbits need special care and live for 10+ years. Rabbits require spacious indoor homes and medical care from rabbit-savvy vets.



Because rabbits are fragile and do not like to be picked up, they are rarely suitable as companions for kids — and never as “starter pets.”

[www.rabbitcare.org](http://www.rabbitcare.org) • [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com)

# The Long Road to Trust

By Samantha Rowan

It's been about 18 months since we brought Truman, our judgmental harlequin lop, home from the city shelter, but it is only over the past few weeks that he has begun to flop in full sight of our family.

We didn't have a lot of details about Truman's past life – only that he was maybe a year old and had lived in a hoarding situation. We just saw that Truman – then Turmeric – was the saddest bunny in the room on the day we visited the shelter. The look of desolation on his little face convinced us that he needed his forever home and, a couple of hours later, we were able to bring him home.

How can you tell if a rabbit is happy or sad, people often ask us.

A happy rabbit, I reply, will run around and jump into the air, grind his teeth with joy, or simply look at you with a saucy, amused look that lets you know he is content. A sad rabbit, in contrast, often looks as if he is carrying a heavy weight, and it is possible to see this in his eyes and his posture.

When we introduced Truman to his new home, he immediately went into a corner of his enclosure – avoiding his box – and sat with his little front paws tucked as closely as he could under his body. He ate hay and food and drank

water and even let us scratch his head, but he just watched us and, as far as we could tell, never relaxed.

This went on for days and then weeks, with Truman mostly staying around his enclosure and watching us.

"Do you think he sleeps?" I asked my husband one morning, worried about our little bun.

Photo: Samantha Rowan



As he has become more comfortable, Truman has also started helping with sewing projects.

"Probably when he's sure we're sleeping," he replied. "We just need to give him time."

And that is one of the things we could easily do for Truman, just letting him assimilate himself into his new life.

Funnily enough, going to the vet to be neutered a couple of weeks later, and then coming back home, seemed to be the turning point for our bunny. Once

recovered from his surgery and back in his home, Truman started to blossom.

This included being brave enough to venture under the couch, where he would retreat for hours and, we assumed, sleep. It also meant that Truman would come and sit beside each of us in turn, his paws still tucked in close to his body, and let us pet his head for a little bit every night.

Every few weeks brings a new milestone, including loafing by a bookcase and, more recently, lying on one side in the middle of the day with his little legs splayed out behind him. We can't yet pet him when he's like that – who doesn't love petting a bunny who is already flat on the floor? – but I'm confident that will come at some point.

We had our most recent milestone last month when our family was playing our nightly board game. For months, Truman had been taking turns loafing next to each one of us for a few pets while we were playing. I was looking at the board when suddenly, our son whispered, "Truman just flopped!"

And we all looked onto the floor where our little bunny was sleeping in that crazy, alarming and adorable rabbit way. It had taken him months to get to a place where he trusted us that much, and I can imagine that things will keep going up from here.



## 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).

## Carson Visits Local High School

By Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group

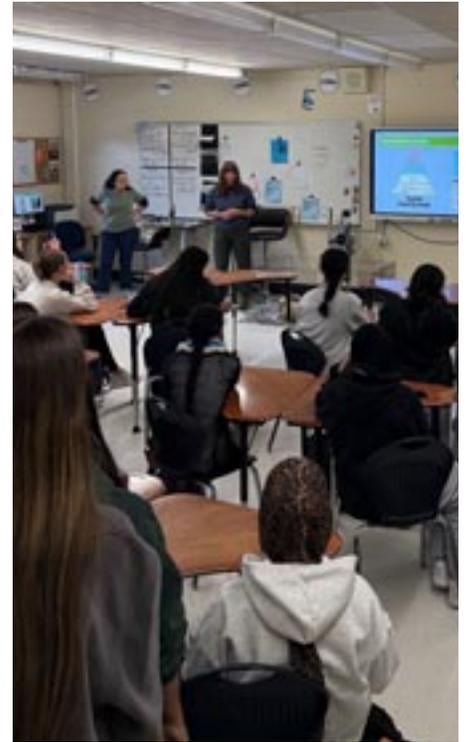
Adoptable rabbit Carson, accompanied by volunteers Katie Scarr and Sarah Shamash, recently visited Bethpage High School's Animal Welfare Project, a new student organization founded by three sophomore students. Over 40 students attended this event to learn about Long Island Rabbit Rescue's work, basic rabbit care, and to enjoy some time with Carson. He was patient, playful and comfortable throughout the visit!

LIRRG members visit local schools and public libraries throughout the year. The events provide an opportunity to answer questions about rabbits and about our volunteer work, and we have a lot of fun.

Photos: Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group



Carson attracted a crowd.



Volunteers talked about rabbit care.



The center of attention.

## Rescue Event at Sachem Library

By Michelle Zeman

We had a great time representing Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group at the Sachem Public Library in September.

There were rescue groups from all over. The event was outside but we had a special place inside the lobby near the children's area, so dozens of people came to see Lafayette. He's such a wonderful spokesbunny!

Lafayette brought so much joy to the adults and kids. Thank you so much, Michelle Montalbano, Lauren Brown Gabriella and Tommy, for bringing him!!

And thank you to Amy Moffett and Amanda for all your help creating the amazing PowerPoint of the adoptables, and for running the table outside and telling people about the rescue. You are all the best.

Photos: Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group



Our information table.



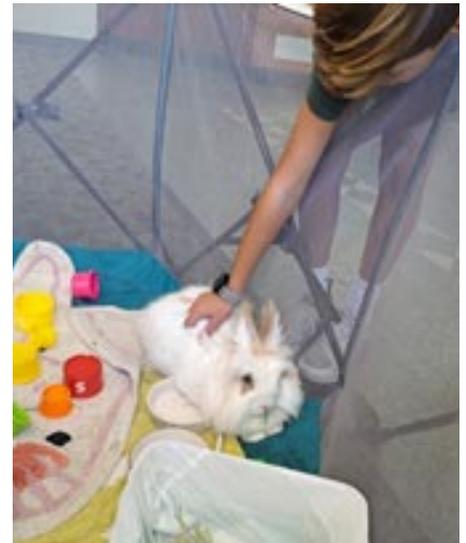
The library gave Lafayette plenty of space.



We had many curious visitors.



Lafayette in his holiday tunnel.



Lots of toys and pets.

## 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).



Dove.

### 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

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.



Pink.



Skye.

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).

*(Continued on page 12)*

## ADOPTIONS

### RRR Rabbits in Foster Care

*(Continued from page 11)*

#### 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 Four Rabbits Are Available for Adoption After Being Rescued From a Long Island Residence



Oak.



Hawthorn.



Hickory.

Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group has four boys available for adoption after their removal from a local residence in an alleged hoarding case. They are Oak, Hawthorn, Hickory and Linden. (A fifth rabbit, Hemlock, has already been adopted.)

The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office provided details of the hoarding case in October, and said a Northport, L.I., woman had been arrested and accused of misdemeanor animal cruelty and endangering the welfare of a vulnerable elderly person. The Northport woman's partner also was arrested, officials said.

Over 200 animals were involved in the alleged hoarding. All of the animals, including the rabbits, were removed from inside and outside a private residence during a one-day field operation. The rescue was coordinated by the district attorney's Biological, Environmental and Animal Safety Team (BEAST), assisted by local rescue groups that included Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group. Suffolk County officials said the animals and a 95-year-old woman were exposed to extremely hazardous conditions.

Suffolk County Police Commissioner Kevin Catalina said, "The level of neglect was unconscionable as the animals were

in poor condition and living in squalor. I commend the efforts of BEAST Unit detectives and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office for rescuing these defenseless animals."

Officials said that BEAST detectives executed a search warrant at the Northport residence on Oct. 1 after receiving a complaint about possible animal hoarding. On-site investigation allegedly revealed animals living in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, officials said.

The case involved domestic and wild animals, including roosters, squirrels, ducks, pigeons, quail, rabbits, crows, starlings, geese, chipmunks, doves, chickens, hamsters, ferrets, guinea pigs, hedgehogs, voles, flying squirrels, parakeets, parrots, cockatoos, chinchillas, cats, tortoises, dogs, turkeys, and various other species, officials said. All animals, numbering at 206 in total, were alleged to be living in cages with piles of waste and filth, with unsanitary food and water sources, in severe states of overcrowding.

The interior of the house was alleged to be infested with insects, spiders, and other pests. In addition to animal overcrowding, the house was alleged to be extremely cluttered wall-to-wall with debris, garbage and household waste,



Linden.



Hemlock has been adopted!

making certain areas impassable. On the second floor of the residence, a 95-year-old woman was found who was allegedly confined by all the debris.

For adoption information, contact LIRRG at this email address: [information@longislandrabbitrescue.org](mailto:information@longislandrabbitrescue.org)

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

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



Jazzberry Jam.



Tiny.



Lou.



Kitetsu.



Hercules.



Max.



Ichimonji.



Jupiter.



Snowball.



Emma.

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



Blizzard.



Toothpaste.



Pikachu.



Evee.



Zouwu.



Bellsprout.



Nivens.



Alice.



Carroll.

## The Mystery of Rabbit Poop

By Dana M. Krempels, Ph.D.

University of Miami Biology Department  
House Rabbit Society of Miami

Unlike most other mammals, lagomorphs (including domestic rabbits) produce two types of droppings, fecal pellets (the round, dry ones you usually see in the litter box) and cecotropes. The latter are produced in a region of the rabbit's digestive tract called the cecum, a blind-end pouch located at the junction of the small and large intestines. The cecum contains a natural community of bacteria and fungi that provide essential nutrients and may even protect the rabbit from potentially harmful pathogens.

How does the rabbit get those essential nutrients? She eats the cecotropes as they exit the anus. The rabbit's blissful expression when she's engaging in cecotrophy (the ingestion of cecotropes) will tell you that she finds this anything but disgusting. In fact, rabbits deprived of their cecotropes will eventually succumb to malnutrition. Cecotropes are not feces. They are nutrient-packed dietary items essential to your companion rabbit's good health.

A rabbit may produce cecotropes at various times during the day, and this periodicity may vary from rabbit to rabbit. Some produce cecotropes in the late morning, some in the late afternoon, and some at night. In any case, they usually do this when you're not watching (quite polite of them). This might be why some people refer to cecotropes as "night droppings," though cecotropes are not always produced at night. A human face is apparently an excellent and refreshing palate-cleanser, as a favorite activity immediately post-cecotrophy often seems to be "kiss the caregiver." Mmmmmmm.

### Normal Intestinal Products

Anyone who lives with a bunny has seen a fecal pellet. These are the small, brown

Photos: Christie Taylor



Normal fecal pellets.



Normal cecotrope.



Runny stool.

"cocoa puffs" that (we hope) end up in the litter box. They should be relatively spherical, somewhat dry and friable, and composed mostly of undigested fiber. Rabbits do not ordinarily re-ingest fecal pellets, though a few bunnies seem to enjoy an occasional fecal pellet hors d'oeuvre with no harm.

A normal cecotrope resembles a dark brown mulberry, or tightly bunched grapes. It is composed of small, soft, shiny pellets, each coated with a layer of rubbery mucus, and pressed into an

elongate mass. The cecotrope has a rather pungent odor, as it contains a large mass of beneficial cecal bacteria. When the bunny ingests the cecotrope, the mucus coat helps protect the bacteria as they pass through the stomach, then re-establish in the cecum.

### Runny Stool: When Things Go Wrong

True diarrhea (unformed, watery feces) is relatively rare in adult rabbits. It can be caused by intestinal parasites, such as coccidia (*Eimeria spp.*), roundworms, tapeworms, or anything that inflames the intestinal lining. Your rabbit-experienced veterinarian will be able to examine a fecal sample (you should probably provide the vet with a fresh sample of both fecal and cecal pellets, if possible) to look for signs of parasitic infection. More often, true diarrhea is seen in infant and juvenile rabbits.

### Diarrhea in Baby Rabbits: A Life-Threatening Emergency

One of the most common signs associated with sudden death in baby rabbits is diarrhea, which can appear very quickly and kill in a matter of hours. Thus, it is of vital importance that any baby rabbit showing signs of lethargy, inappetence (not wanting to eat), or runny stool be taken immediately to an experienced rabbit vet for emergency, life-saving treatment. Delaying even for an hour or two can mean the difference between life and death.

If you cannot find a rabbit-experienced vet, but have an emergency clinic that is willing to accept help from unknown persons on the internet (that would be me), then please print this Emergency Treatment Protocol for Diarrhea in Infant Rabbits. (<http://www.bio.miami.edu/hare/squirts.pdf>) This is a protocol I developed while trying to save wild baby cottontails and hares, and it is the only thing I have

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## Rabbit Poop

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found that does save them. I hope no one reading this ever needs it...but I am including the link, just in case.

True diarrhea is more prevalent in baby rabbits than in adults, especially if the babies have been taken from their mother before they are ready for weaning. Sadly, many baby rabbits are weaned too young to be away from their mothers. Instead of being allowed to nurse for a full, normal eight weeks, they are taken away while they are still “cute” and marketable – often as young as four weeks. This can spell death for many of them.

Without the mother’s antibodies, complex organic compounds and the proper pH environment her milk provides to help protect the baby’s intestines, these babies are highly susceptible to over-proliferation of foreign bacteria. One of the most common culprits of runny stool in baby rabbits is accidental infection by the common human intestinal bacterium, *Escherichia coli*. This is transmitted from humans to baby rabbits during handling, since these bacteria are all over us, not just in our intestines. Handling an unweaned infant rabbit without properly washing and disinfecting one’s hands is a good way to transmit these opportunistic pathogens. Even a loving kiss on a too-young baby rabbit’s lips can kill. Until a young rabbit is at least eight weeks old, she should not be taken from her mother, as mama’s milk affords protection against *E. coli* and other bacteria until the baby’s own immune system can handle them.

Another pathogen that can cause diarrhea in baby rabbits is *Eimeria spp.*, the causative agent of coccidiosis. The reproductive sporocysts of these protist parasites can usually be seen in the feces of the host, so your vet may wish to examine the fecal sample of the affected rabbit for signs of coccidial sporocysts.

## Unformed Cecotropes: Mushy or Runny Stool

Perhaps the most common complaint regarding rabbit health is the problem of mushy or runny stool sticking to the bunny’s anal area and creating a nasty, stinky mess. In most cases (in adult rabbits, at least), this mass is made of poorly formed cecotropes that have the consistency of toothpaste, rather than the normal form of bunched, squishy pellets.

The cecum is a delicately balanced ecosystem. If the intestine is moving too slowly, or if the rabbit is getting a diet too rich in digestible carbohydrates and too low in crude fiber, the complex population of bacteria in the cecum can become “unbalanced.” This condition is known as cecal dysbiosis. Cecal dysbiosis means that the beneficial bacteria (e.g., *Bacteroides spp.* and a variety of others, including archaeans) are outcompeted and outnumbered by less desirable inhabitants such as yeast (a fungus, usually *Saccharomycopsis sp.*) or even very harmful bacteria such as *Clostridium spp.*, related to the ones that cause tetanus and botulism.

A rabbit suffering from cecal dysbiosis will produce cecotropes that are mushy, pasty or even liquid. They are usually quite foul-smelling, and often stick to the bunny’s back end in great, nasty clumps. These unformed cecotropes are not a primary disease, however. They are a symptom of a disorder somewhere in the bunny’s system. In order to solve the runny stool problem, the underlying cause must be addressed.

## Common Causes of Runny Stool in Infant and Juvenile Rabbits

### Weaning Too Young

If the bunny suffering from runny stool is a baby, how old is he? If younger than eight weeks, and no longer with his mother, his runny stool problem may be due to his being weaned too young.

Many pet stores will (illegally) sell rabbits younger than eight weeks of age (some as young as four weeks). Sadly, many of these babies are doomed to succumb to intestinal disorders.

Unlike most mammals, baby rabbits have a sterile lower intestine until they begin to eat solid food at the age of 3-4 weeks. It is during this time that their intestines are at their most vulnerable: the babies need their mother’s milk to protect them against newly introduced microorganisms. Without the mother’s milk, a baby starting to eat solid food is highly susceptible to bacterial enteritis (inflammation of the intestinal lining), which can cause fatal diarrhea. Runny stool in a baby rabbit should be considered a life-threatening emergency.

### Intestinal Parasites

Coccidial infection is common in some areas, and some vets will simply treat a baby rabbit’s diarrhea as coccidia, even without a fecal test. Common antibiotics used to treat coccidia include Albon (sulfadimethoxine) and the potentiated sulfas, such as Trimethoprim Sulfa or Bactrim. However, we have found a more recently developed drug, ponazuril, to be far superior to the aforementioned sulfa antibiotics. It eliminates the parasites in a matter of days, rather than weeks.

## Common Causes of Runny Stool in Adult Rabbits

### Mechanical Problems

#### Obesity

An overweight rabbit may produce normally formed cecotropes, but because she cannot properly reach down to grab them as they emerge from the chute, these soft pellets can become squashed under the bunny as she flexes and bends around to get them. Weight reduction is the answer

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## Rabbit Poop

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here, and this is as difficult for rabbits as it is for humans. Eliminating commercial pellets, or at least switching to a high-fiber, low-calorie Timothy-based pellet, can make a great difference. Replace any starchy treats with fresh herb treats. And, painful as it may be, exercise is one of the best ways to burn more calories than bunny takes in. As we all should know, that's the bottom line when it comes to slimming down.

### Arthritis or Other Skeletal Disorders

Similarly, a rabbit who is suffering from degenerative joint problems in the spine, hips, or other areas, may not be able to reach cecotropes easily. He ends up sitting on some of them, and squashing them into his fur. Arthritis can be treated by your veterinarian. Common remedies include various NSAIDs (Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs), and glucosamine supplements such as Cetyl M or Myristol.

### Dietary Problems

#### Incorrect Diet

Rabbits, like horses and cattle, are strict herbivores. The rabbit intestine – and its normal bacterial flora – has evolved to feed almost exclusively on grass and herbs. Does your rabbit get starchy treats such as oatmeal, crackers, bread or sweets? Some rabbits with very sensitive intestines can suffer from runny cecotropes even from commercial pellets. Fruit, as healthy as it is for humans, can be too much of a good thing for rabbits. The high level of sugar and starch in table fruits makes them too rich for a bunny except as a very small, occasional treat. A diet too rich in digestible starch is one of the most common causes of runny cecotropes in companion rabbits.

### Insufficient Indigestible Fiber

A rabbit should be fed unlimited grass hay, such as Timothy, brome, wheat or oat. Alfalfa hay is too rich in calories and protein for daily feeding. A rabbit who cannot nibble constantly on high-fiber grass or hay may suffer from a lack of tonus in the gut muscles. Normal peristalsis (muscular movements that push food through the gut) may become sluggish. This causes the passage of food through the cecum to slow down, and the normal rate of bacterial “flushing” from the cecum is disrupted, promoting cecal dysbiosis. The high fiber content of grass hay also helps to “dilute” the starch of other dietary items, and helps to provide a healthy intestinal environment. A complete and healthy diet is truly key to preventing intestinal problems such as cecal dysbiosis (and its associated mushy stool).

### Hidden Health Problems

When a rabbit is ill, in pain, or is suffering from emotional stress, a typical physiological response is slowing of the normal peristaltic movements of the intestine. This results in cecal dysbiosis, with all the accompanying problems of runny stool, and possible inflammation of the intestinal lining (enteritis).

Some of the most common causes of intestinal slowdown (and hence, cecal dysbiosis) in rabbits include pain/stress due to: **dental problems, urinary tract disorders, upper respiratory infections and “head tilt.”**

Any of these conditions must be diagnosed and treated by a rabbit-savvy vet familiar with such problems and their appropriate treatment. Until a cryptic health disorder is diagnosed and treated, chronic runny stool will likely persist. Therefore, it's wise to have your messy-bottomed bunny undergo a thorough wellness check,

especially if his diet and weight are normal and healthy.

Once an underlying source of pain/stress is treated, the runny stool often resolves on its own. But if the condition is not treated, it can progress and eventually result in a potentially life-threatening condition, ileus, or GI stasis, in which peristalsis stops completely.

### Keeping Bunny Comfortable in the Meantime

While you and your veterinarian are treating the problems that caused the runny stool, it's still important to keep the bunny clean and comfortable. Dried cecotropes stuck to the rear end are not only smelly and uncomfortable, they also attract flies, and can result in life-threatening fly strike.

To prevent this, be sure to learn how to give your bunny a butt bath – SAFELY. (<http://www.bio.miami.edu/hare/buttbath.html>)

Photo: Mary Ann Meier



This rabbit needed a wet butt bath.

Resolving runny stool in a rabbit is not always a simple matter. It may require dietary changes, good husbandry, and sometimes extensive diagnostic work and treatment by your veterinarian. But it will all be worth it for a long life filled with happy, nose-wiggling love and a nice, clean bum.

## 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



Gus loves first-cut Timothy hay.

## 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 NOVEMBER 2025

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

Editor: Susan Lillo

Creative Director: Jane O'Wyatt

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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)

**Elena Buenrostro, DVM, Registrar**  
(Exotic Companion Mammal)  
VMCLI (Veterinary Medical Center of  
Long Island)  
75 Sunrise Hwy North Service Rd.  
West Islip, NY 11795  
(631) 587-0800  
[vmcli.com](http://vmcli.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**  
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**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**