



NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS JULY 2026

Summer Rabbit Safety: Vacation Planning for Your Bunny

By Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

As the weather warms up, many people begin making summer vacation plans. Unfortunately, one important detail is not given its necessary priority: **Who will care for your rabbit?**

Every year we see social-media posts showing rabbits traveling on airplanes, taking road trips, or accompanying their guardians on vacation. While these videos may appear harmless, they rarely show the reality. Please don't let a short social-media clip convince you that traveling is safe or enjoyable for your rabbit.

Please don't fly with your rabbit

We strongly advise against air travel for rabbits.

Many airlines require rabbits to travel in cargo, which is the underbelly of the aircraft. For a fragile prey animal, this can be catastrophic and should never be considered.

Traveling in the cabin is not a good alternative. Even when permitted, airlines generally require the carrier to remain under the seat throughout the flight. Before your rabbit even boards the plane, he must endure hours of airport security, unfamiliar surroundings, loud noises, crowds, prolonged confinement, and frequent handling. We've heard of

situations where the rabbits were refused boarding at the airline check-in point.



Airplanes are noisy and vibrate constantly, and changes in cabin pressure can be extremely uncomfortable even for people. Imagine the effect on a rabbit's extremely delicate vestibular (balance) system. Depending on the length of the trip, your rabbit may go many hours without eating or drinking because of fear and stress. As every rabbit guardian knows, this alone can quickly become a medical emergency.

If your rabbit becomes ill after arriving at your destination, it may be difficult or impossible to find an experienced rabbit-savvy veterinarian who is close by or available.

We could write pages about the risks of air travel for rabbits. Suffice it to say, one social-media video of a rabbit appearing

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Why Bunnies and Soccer Players Have More in Common Than You Might Think

By Megan Hilands

This summer my family and I have closely followed the World Cup. My husband is a longtime soccer fan, and it's been exciting to have the best players in the world almost right in our backyard! While watching all of the World Cup games I have observed that a number of soccer-player habits are quite similar to bunny behaviors. Here are the reasons I think bunnies and soccer players are surprisingly similar.

They love to lie down dramatically.

It's hard to watch a single soccer game in its entirety without seeing at least one

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Photos: Megan Hilands



Nala and Charlie both love to flop dramatically.

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calm on an airplane should never be taken as evidence that flying is safe.

What about road trips?

Many people drive to their vacation destinations and assume bringing their rabbit along is a good idea.

With very few exceptions, we disagree.

While some rabbits tolerate car rides well, most struggle significantly. Guardians feel helpless as they try to comfort their vulnerable bunnies.

After many years of transporting rabbits to veterinary appointments, we've become convinced that many rabbits experience not only anxiety and stress, but motion sickness also. Just because rabbits cannot vomit doesn't mean they don't suffer from nausea, dizziness and headache during travel.

Many rabbits require hours or even a full day or more after returning home to fully recover from the stress of a car trip.

Because this pattern became so obvious over the years, we began administering veterinarian-approved motion-sickness medication for rabbits that consistently struggle with car travel. These medications have been used safely for many years with rarely seen side effects. Even so, medication should never be viewed as a reason to take a rabbit on an unnecessary trip. Let this maxim guide you: If your rabbits don't need to travel, they shouldn't.

If you have no choice but to bring your rabbit on a road trip and he or she is an excellent traveler, here are some important considerations:

- Use the highest-quality hard-sided carrier you can find. Hard carriers are significantly safer than soft-sided carriers. Place a secure bed inside that fits snugly so it won't slide around. A carrier with both a front and top opening is ideal.
- Bring small towels to block direct sunlight from entering the carrier.
- Soft classical music may help reduce anxiety.
- Most rabbits will not eat while the vehicle is moving. Make frequent,



Hard-sided carriers are safer than soft-sided ones.

lengthy stops to allow your rabbit time to relax and hopefully eat and drink.

• **Do not leave hay inside the carrier while driving.** The movement of the vehicle or the rabbit can cause hay stems to poke or scratch the eyes. We stopped transporting rabbits with hay in their carriers many years ago after seeing numerous painful corneal scratches and lacerations.

- Make sure your vehicle's air conditioning is reliable and that cool air reaches the carrier.
- Pack a rabbit first-aid kit, including prescribed pain medication, a thermometer, heating pad and other emergency essentials.
- Before leaving, research experienced rabbit-savvy veterinarians near your destination.
- Bring familiar items that smell like home, such as beds, blankets, rugs and favorite toys.
- Pack exercise pens to safely block off hazards and provide additional space once your rabbit is settled. After the rabbit is eating and behaving normally, the more room he has to exercise and explore, the better.
- Upon arrival, give your rabbit plenty of time to acclimate and monitor the rabbit carefully. Changes in environment and routine are stressful and may reduce appetite or trigger illness.

- Research the current status of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV2) in the area you'll be visiting.

The safest choice: leave your rabbit at home

For most rabbits, staying home is the safest and least stressful option.

Your options for care include:

- Boarding with a truly rabbit-savvy veterinarian.
- Boarding with a reputable rabbit rescue group.
- Boarding with a trusted, experienced rabbit guardian.
- Hiring an experienced rabbit sitter to care for your rabbit in your home.

Our most important advice is simple:

Plan well in advance.

Research your options well before you even book your vacation. Interview caregivers, visit facilities whenever possible, and ask questions until you're completely comfortable. The earlier you begin planning, the more likely you'll secure experienced care.

Boarding with your veterinarian

Many people assume that a veterinary clinic is automatically the safest place to board a rabbit.

Unfortunately, that isn't always true.

Not many veterinary hospitals provide appropriate rabbit boarding. Housing may be inadequate, and daily care may be provided by staff with very little rabbit experience. Never assume your rabbits will receive specialized care simply because they are staying at a veterinary practice.

We always recommend **Catnip & Carrots** for both boarding and medical boarding. Keep in mind that they book quickly, especially during holidays and throughout the summer, so reserve your space as early as possible.

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Leaving your rabbit at home

Many rabbits are happiest remaining in their own familiar environment.

If you choose this option, your rabbit should be visited at least twice each day by someone capable of recognizing subtle changes in appetite, behavior, activity level, and litter-box habits.

Some people hire professional pet sitters. Be cautious. Most pet sitters have little or no rabbit experience. Caring for a rabbit is very different from caring for a dog or cat.

Boarding with another rabbit guardian

An experienced rabbit guardian may either care for your rabbit in your home or board your rabbit in theirs.

The important question isn't simply whether they live with a rabbits. Having a rabbit alone does not make someone qualified to care for yours.

Instead, ask whether they have considerable hands-on experience, can recognize illness, know how to respond to emergencies, and have excellent references from people you trust.

Use extreme caution when searching for a qualified caretaker.

Every day we see rabbit guardians asking for vacation sitters on social-media groups. Just as quickly, complete strangers volunteer. Being a participant on social media accounts does not qualify someone as educated on proper rabbit care. Unfortunately, we must always remember that animal abusers lurk on the internet, disguised as compassionate animal lovers. Therefore, this route can be extremely risky.

Caring for someone else's rabbit is a tremendous responsibility. Unfortunately, most people who volunteer have very little experience, have never cared for a sick rabbit, or simply believe rabbit sitting will be fun or a way to earn extra money. RRR will never recommend a sitter unless we personally know their level of experience and trust them completely.

Boarding with a bona fide rabbit rescue group

Not all rabbit rescue groups are created equally, so, as with everything else, be careful. Many do not even offer boarding services, but we do.

At Rabbit, Rescue & Rehab, boarding is provided only by our most experienced rabbit caregivers. You'll know exactly who is caring for your rabbit and you will be told all about their experience and skill level. We would never transfer your rabbit's care to less experienced individuals.

Questions every rabbit guardian should ask

Whether you're hiring a sitter, boarding with an individual, or with a rescue group, you should ask:

- How many years have you cared for rabbits?
- How many rabbits have you personally lived with?
- Are you comfortable handling rabbits that dislike being handled?
- Can you recognize signs of pain or illness? What signs do you look for?
- Are you comfortable administering medications?
- Can you safely take a rabbit's rectal temperature?
- Have you cared for a rabbit experiencing gastrointestinal stasis or refusing food? What did you do immediately?
- When would you seek emergency veterinary care?
- Do you have reliable transportation available at any hour to reach an emergency rabbit veterinarian?
- Can you take my rabbit to my veterinarian whenever necessary?

Bonus qualification: Are you experienced administering subcutaneous fluids?

If someone will visit your home:

Ask all of the questions above, PLUS:

- Can you visit at least twice each day?
- Approximately how long will each visit last?
- Can we schedule a visit before my trip so I can show you my rabbit's routine?
- Can you send me a video upon each visit?

If your rabbit will stay in someone else's home:

Ask all of the previous questions, PLUS:

- Who lives in the home, including the ages of any children?
- Is the home air-conditioned?
- Do you work outside the home? If so, how many hours each day are you away?
- Where will my rabbit stay? May I see photos/may I visit ahead of time?
- Do you have cats, dogs or other pets? How will my rabbit be kept completely separate from them?
- How will you prevent any contact with your own rabbits or other rabbits?
- Be clear that your rabbit can never be taken outdoors.
- How often do you board rabbits?
- Be clear that your rabbit's diet or daily routine should not be modified without your permission.
- Can you send a minimum of two videos daily?

Photos: Jane O'Wyatt



Peter Rabbit is a frequent boarder.

Our recommendations come from decades of experience caring for rabbits and hearing many tragic stories from rabbit guardians. Our goal is simply to help you make informed decisions that keep your rabbit safe.

Over the years, we've received countless reports of rabbits being injured, becoming seriously ill, or even dying while in the care of inexperienced sitters who failed

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Bunnies and Soccer Players

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dramatic injury episode. When soccer players lie on the field for an extended period of time, I can't help but think of bunnies and their sometimes overly dramatic flops. Every bunny parent knows that the first time seeing a flop can be a bit scary! But many bunnies like mine love to flop and are very comfortable relaxing or sleeping that way.

They like to jump.

Soccer players, like bunnies, can get some decent height on jumps! If you've

observed any contest of a ball in the air from soccer players on opposing teams, you likely know just how high players can jump to head a ball. My bunnies also love binkying and jumping high, though fortunately for us they do not try to head soccer balls at the same time.

They like soccer balls.

In addition to watching soccer, my husband also plays in a local recreation league. As a result, we have a few soccer balls here at home, and I can report our bunnies enjoy moving them around from time to time. Once our bunny

Charlie even scored his own "goal" by moving the soccer ball into a tunnel.

I'm beginning to think after sharing my home with my bunnies for long enough, I can see my bunnies in just about everything. Nevertheless, I can only imagine the crazy sprints and antics bunnies could achieve if there were actually such a thing as a bunny soccer league!

Photos: Megan Hildands



Simba and Charlie both enjoy pushing around the soccer ball.



Charlie even scored his own 'goal'!

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to recognize subtle warning signs or seek veterinary care immediately.

As we all know, rabbits are delicate animals. They can become critically ill within hours, and even small disruptions to their routine can affect their health.

If you're interviewing a potential sitter and would like another opinion, we're happy to help evaluate whether the person has the knowledge and experience needed to care for your rabbit.

We wish you a peaceful summer and wonderful vacations – OR, enjoy fabulous staycations; they're a lot easier.

Above all, we hope your rabbits are healthy and happy.

Photos: Jane O'Wyatt



Hardy on staycation.

P.S. If you haven't already done so, we strongly encourage you to purchase pet insurance for your rabbit. You'll be

grateful to have it should an unexpected emergency arise.

Cottontail Connections:

Tidings From Cottontail Cottage and Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

Simple ways to help wild rabbits and other native wildlife this summer

By Brigitte Dix

Executive Director,

Cottontail Cottage Wildlife Rehab

Every spring and summer our wildlife hotline starts ringing with many of the same calls.

"I accidentally mowed over a rabbit nest."

"I found a baby bunny all by itself."

"There's a rabbit inside my fire pit."

Almost every conversation ends the same way.

"I had no idea."

Most people aren't trying to hurt wildlife. They simply haven't been taught that our neighborhoods, parks and backyards are full of wild animals quietly raising their families alongside ours.

People often ask, what is the biggest thing they can do to help wildlife? They're usually expecting some complicated answer, but honestly, it's the little things that make the biggest difference. Most of the animals we admit each year weren't injured because someone was cruel. They were injured because someone simply didn't know they were there.

Before you mow, take a walk

If you've never seen a rabbit nest before, don't feel bad. They're incredibly easy to miss.

Eastern cottontails build shallow nests directly in the ground, covering them with grass and the mother's fur until they almost disappear into the lawn. Before mowing, take a few minutes to walk through your yard. Look for patches of fur or a small depression in the grass. That simple habit can save an entire litter of baby rabbits.

If you do find a nest, leave it exactly where it is. Mother rabbits only visit for a few minutes around dawn and dusk to nurse their babies. The rest of the time

they stay away intentionally so predators won't notice the nest. To us it may look abandoned, but that's exactly how rabbits have evolved to keep their young safe.



This baby cottontail suffered severe burns after his nest was unknowingly lit inside a fire pit. Thankfully, he was brought to Cottontail Cottage Wildlife Rehab, where we were able to save his life. Always take a quick look before lighting a fire. It only takes a few seconds, but it can save a life.

Not every baby animal needs to be rescued

One of the biggest misconceptions we see is that a baby animal alone must be orphaned. Rabbit mothers spend very little time at the nest. White-tailed deer leave their fawns hidden while they feed. Young songbirds leave the nest before they're strong fliers and continue being cared for on the ground.

Of course, some babies truly do need help. The challenge is knowing the difference.

If you're unsure, take a photo before intervening. I recommend the Animal Help Now website or app almost every

day. It connects you with licensed wildlife rehabilitators in your area and offers guidance for many common wildlife situations. A quick call can prevent a healthy baby from being separated from its family or make sure an animal that really does need help gets it as quickly as possible.

Our companion animals play a role too

I love companion animals just as much as I love wildlife and I don't see these as competing interests. Keeping cats indoors is one of the biggest ways we can protect birds, rabbits, reptiles and other native wildlife while also protecting cats from cars, predators, disease and injury.

During nesting season, keeping dogs leashed around areas with tall grass or brush can also prevent accidental injuries to hidden rabbit nests, fledgling birds, turtles and other wildlife that may be impossible to see until it's too late.

The wildlife you never knew was there

One of the things this work has taught me is just how often wildlife is living right alongside us without us realizing it. An unused fire pit may look empty but it could be sheltering a rabbit, an opossum or a snake. A woodpile can become a hiding place for chipmunks or toads. Turtles spend the summer crossing roads in search of nesting sites.

Before lighting a fire, take a quick look inside your fire pit. Check around woodpiles before moving them. Slow down on roads, especially around dawn and dusk when wildlife is most active. If you see a turtle crossing the road and it's safe to stop, move it in the direction it was already traveling.

These are simple habits, but they save lives.

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Warm-Weather Dangers

By Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

The hot summer days are making life difficult for many humans – as well as our rabbits. This summer the high humidity is adding to the misery. It is important to take steps to mitigate the effects of this brutal weather, which can be deadly in some cases.

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 or 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.

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.

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Cottontail

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Creating a wildlife-friendly backyard

Helping wildlife isn't always about rescuing animals. Often, it's about creating a yard where they can thrive on their own.

Planting native flowers, shrubs and grasses provides food and shelter for rabbits, birds, butterflies, bees and countless other native species. Avoid pesticides and rodenticides whenever possible, as they don't just affect the intended target; they can also poison hawks, owls, foxes and other wildlife farther up the food chain.

During hot summer months, something as simple as putting out a shallow dish of fresh water can make a real difference. Adding a few stones or sticks gives bees, butterflies and other small animals a safe place to land and climb out, preventing them from drowning while they drink.

Even leaving one small corner of your yard a little less manicured can create



valuable habitat. A patch of native plants, taller grass, or leaf litter provides shelter for rabbits, pollinators, amphibians and many other species that quietly share our neighborhoods.

Sharing our neighborhoods

Wildlife rehabilitation has completely changed the way I see the world. I don't

walk past a patch of tall grass without wondering if there's a rabbit nest hidden beneath it. I automatically check inside fire pits before anyone lights them. I notice bats flying overhead at sunset, rabbits gathering nesting material in the spring and foxes quietly making their way home before most people are awake.

The wildlife has always been there. I just wasn't paying attention before. I think that's really what coexistence comes down to: not rescuing every animal we find, but learning enough about them to know when they need our help and when they simply need their space.

Every time someone checks a yard before mowing, keeps the cat indoors, plants native flowers, or takes a minute to call a wildlife rehabilitator before picking up a baby animal, that individual is making a difference. Wildlife doesn't ask for much from us. Most of the time, they just need us to notice they're there.

Warm Weather

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coming in through a window (even with 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 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.

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

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Photos: Jane O’Wyatt



Kelly with frozen water bottle.



Lulabelle’s home is air-conditioned in warm weather.



Bunny salad (red and green lettuce, endive, kale and fennel).

Teaching Your Bunny to Chew Sticks

By Samantha Rowan

Truman, our rescue bunny, got a mostly clean bill of health at his annual wellness appointment. But his vet highlighted a potential concern we hadn't thought about: Truman's teeth were wearing unevenly on one side of his mouth.

While the problem is not very pronounced at this point, Truman's vet raised the idea that we may have to have his little teeth ground down so they're even. For some rabbits, this is a regular thing; for others, it's a once or twice in a lifetime thing. A possible intervention, she suggested, was getting some apple sticks for Truman to chew on as a way to help naturally grind down his teeth.

While we were waiting for the apple sticks to arrive, I took matters into my own hands. Truman, I realized, just needed someone to explain to him that he had to chew on the right side of his mouth as well as the left. So I knelt down in front of him and said, very clearly, "Truman, you've been chewing on the left side of your mouth. Can you please chew more evenly so you don't have to have your teeth ground down?"

Truman wiggled his nose. My son, who was watching this madness unfold with his usual calm, sighed. "He doesn't speak English."

"He understands everything I say!" I said. "And anyway, the sticks are coming soon."

A day or so later, the sticks arrived and I eagerly dropped one into Truman's cage during one of his pit stops to get some hay. He looked at it and then up at me with a puzzled expression and went back

Photo: Samantha Rowan



Truman.



Chew sticks!

to eating hay. Truman, I realized, just didn't know what to do with an apple stick. I picked it up, again knelt down in front of him and began miming eating the apple sticks.

"What are you doing?" My son asked.

"I'm showing him how to eat an apple stick."

"Why are you like this?"

My son had a good point. I should probably have known by now that when a pet shows no interest in an item, it is because he isn't interested. I lived this once before with the large, red rescue dog my grandparents and I brought home when I was still in high school. My grandfather and I spent hours trying to teach Joyce to fetch a ball, which mainly consisted of my grandfather throwing the ball and me retrieving it, and our sweet dog just watching. Finally, we accepted he wasn't a fetching dog.

"Fine," I said.

Still, I left the stick in the cage. A day or two later, I realized the stick was gone and there was no sign of it. I began suspecting that Truman was secretly eating the sticks I was putting into his cage...but never when we were around. Or, he'd figure out how to take them down to the compost bin in our building.

Truman is due for a trip back to the vet's soon and we'll see if the sticks helped. His situation highlights the importance of health care – including dental care – for rabbits. Thankfully, we have access to rabbit specialists in the city who can help keep Truman on track.

Now if we can only find out where those sticks are going...

Warm Weather

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- 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 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 mosquitos out of your home. If they get inside, eradicate them immediately.

A 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 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



A bag of frozen peas can help a bunny stay cool.

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

Whimsical Rabbit and Hare Illustrations Add Humor to Medieval Manuscripts

By Jane O'Wyatt

A friend has been emailing me picture files of rabbits and hares from the margins of 12th- to 14th-century medieval English and European manuscripts.

These *marginalia* – colorful, whimsical and unrelated to their originally-adjacent liturgical Latin texts – provided comic relief to the scribes who created them and amusement to the nuns, priests and monks who encountered them in their devotions. Even now they make us smile.

Why do so many *Leporidae* pop up in illuminated breviaries, psalters and books of hours? The reason lies, I believe, in the ambivalent affection with which they were regarded in monasteries and convents during the Middle Ages. Rabbits were docile enough to be bred in large numbers for food and fur, and those few who avoided being eaten were beloved, although forbidden, pets. (A nun was reportedly excommunicated for cuddling her pet bunny.) Hares, rabbits' leggier, longer-eared distant cousins, were too wild for domestication, but they were also much admired – they appear in *marginalia* as often as rabbits do.

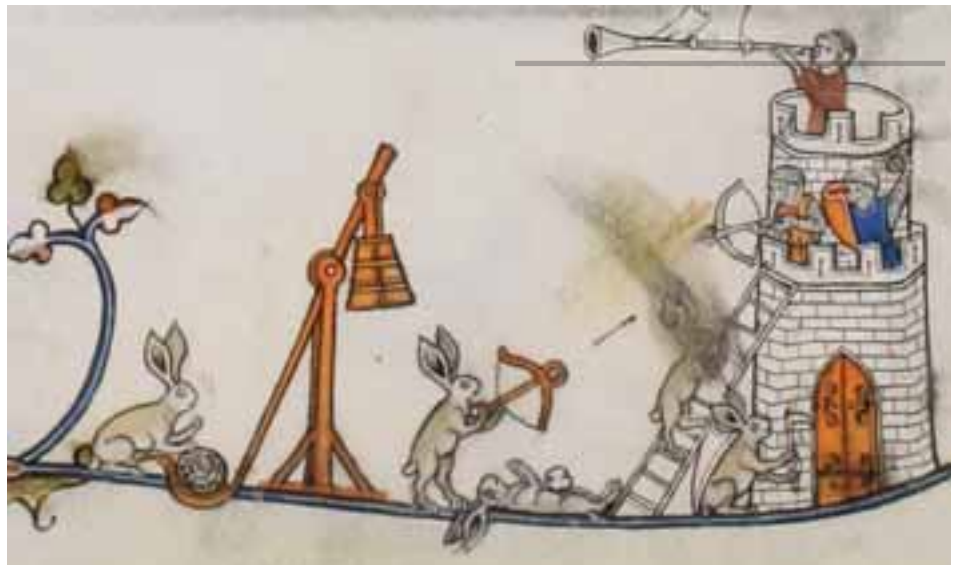
Although some illustrations show them in their natural state, many rabbits, hares and other animals such as horses, birds, cats, dogs, mice and lions are more often treated anthropomorphically in manuscript borders. Sometimes attired for battle, rabbits and hares are equipped with shields, bows and arrows, swords, lances, knives and axes. They are shown besieging, beheading, impaling, hanging, drowning or threatening canine and human tormentors. Twenty-first century *Leporidae* fans will respond to this role-reversal humor with grim amusement, as rabbits and hares still suffer from predation of many kinds. In these *marginalia*, we are pleased to see these creatures in charge, giving their foes a taste of defeat.

Another aspect of anthropomorphic role-reversal humor is the portrayal of

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"Pillow mounds" are warrens constructed by human breeders of rabbits. (Note: a dog is trying to catch a rabbit in the mound.) This example is depicted in the Luttrell Psalter, c. 1320-40, Lincolnshire, England, British Library, Add MS 42130, f. 176v.



Rabbits lay siege to a human fortress. The Breviary of Renaud de Bar Killer Rabbits Collage, 1303-1316, The Fitzwilliam Museum.



Hares capture a hunter. The Smithfield Decretals, decorated in London, England, in the 1340s: Royal MS 10 E IV, f. 59v-61v

Medieval Manuscripts

(Continued from page 10)



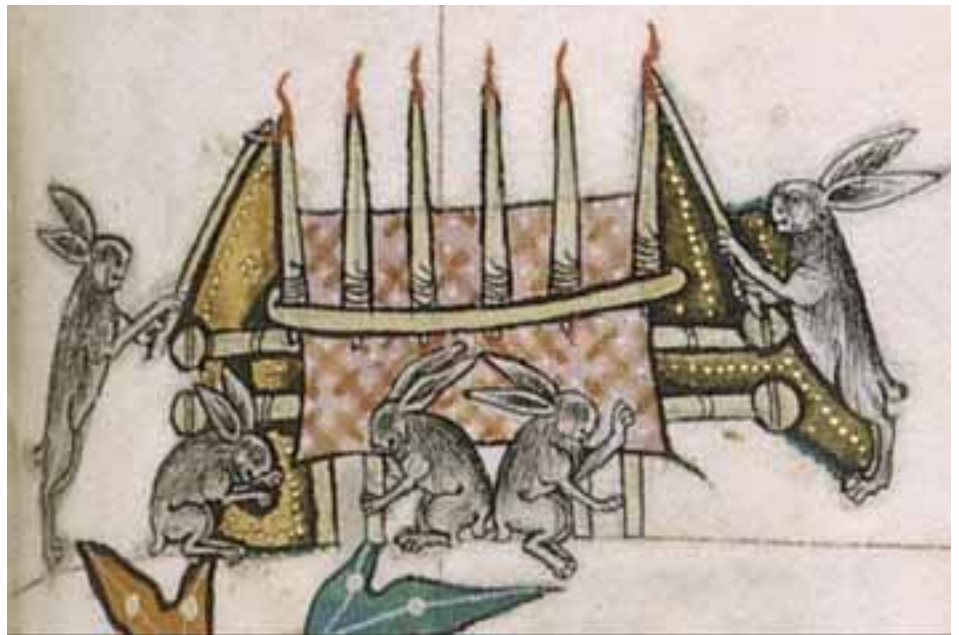
Hares try a hunter. The Smithfield Decretals, decorated in London, England, in the 1340s: Royal MS 10 E IV, f. 59v-61v

rabbits and hares engaged in peaceful activities such as funeral processions and music making. There are interspecies collaborations too, as when a dog pumps the bellows for an organ-playing rabbit. In another image, a hare is shown helping a human musician tune his gut-stringed medieval fiddle. Does the hare have a better ear than the fiddler? The expression on the latter's face suggests that this may be so.



A hare carries a captive man in a procession. Source not found.

Artists who created the charming figures in the margins of esoteric religious texts would be amazed at their work's afterlife on the Internet, where blocks of church Latin have been deleted from the digital files of illuminated manuscript pages. It's important, though, to remember that the images of rabbits, hares and other animals found in medieval *marginalia* were not intended to illustrate or comment on the sacred texts they accompanied. Their function was to balance solemnity with humor – and they succeeded. The *marginalia* cited here also have their own place in the historical record, for



Hares conduct a funeral procession. Gorleston Psalter, 14th century, f. 164r: detail.



A rabbit helps a man tune a vielle. Source not found.

they depict in detail medieval warfare and music making. Such scenarios not only entertain us, but they also show



A dog pumps the bellows for a rabbit organist. (The Macclesfield Psalter, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.)

Leporidae as autonomous beings with agency and special abilities – qualities that we aspire to ourselves.

How Rabbits Changed My Life

By Kristin Goldstein

I was 10. It was Easter. You can guess what happened next. My mother and father brought a box in from the den up to the living room and opened it to reveal the cutest black and white Dwarf/Dutch mix ever. He was little – maybe 12 weeks old. I remember that on the first day we had him, he somehow jumped into the undercarriage of the oven and it took us hours to get him out. I cried, terrified that my brand-new bunny would become bun toast. Eventually, we nudged him out, back onto the linoleum kitchen floor where he undoubtedly slipped as he used his new baby bunny paws and feet. I grabbed for him desperately and didn't let go.

That was 35 years ago. Since then, I have always loved bunnies. Like, truly loved bunnies. I couldn't help but think, am I the only one? Is there anyone else out there who has visceral cute aggression when it comes to adorable, disproportionately large-eared, big-butt, small-headed bunnies? (I now know that I am not the only one. Looking at you, LIRRG friends!)

When I was 18, I walked into a pet shop (I know, I know) and saw this scrawny little brown-and-white bun, with a huge bald spot in the middle of his head. I thought he was the cutest and sweetest thing I had ever seen. I left. After hours of non-buyer's remorse, I went back and "purchased" him. I was still living at home and I took a chance that my parents would allow Peanut to join our family. My father immediately adored him. My mother gave me the "are you kidding me?" face, but acquiesced and quickly fell in love. The bald spot faded. He gained weight. We still had no idea how to properly be a "bun" parent (you don't know what you don't know). But that little Dutchie became my best friend for the next 10 years.

Rabbits are unique. Sure, they are intelligent, funny, sweet, sassy and completely destructive. But there is something... otherworldly about them. There's a certain magic to rabbits that can't quite be explained. That magic changes you. It infiltrates every part of your being. That magic settles your soul. Brings you peace. Brings you comfort.

Leaves you feeling light, relaxed, peaceful and free. It makes you feel that there's so much good in the world amongst SO much bad.

Life in our home isn't complete without our bunnies to fill it. They are the center of our family. The quiet in the chaos. The stillness in the busy. The softness in the hard day-to-day. The sweetness in the bitterness of the world. They are everything. They are... magic.

My hope for my children is that they follow our buns' life rules.

First, life is not that serious. It's ok to nap during the day. Break the rules a little. Question authority. Jump up and down when you're happy. Live to eat delicious things. Snuggle your loved ones. Argue, but make up. Forgive. And finally, love unconditionally.

We don't deserve them. And, if you're lucky enough to have a bunny love you, you're lucky enough.

Editor's Note: Kristin Goldstein is bunny mom to Matt (blue mini Rex) and Piper (Hotot and Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group alum/Class of 2023).

Photos: Kristin Goldstein



Matt.



Piper.



Matt and Piper.

Spokesbunny Ken Visits the Library

By Sandra Blum

Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group hosted a children's event at the Merrick Library on May 27. Jackson Goldstein led the program as part of his bar mitzvah project, teaching attendees about proper rabbit care, including important dos and don'ts. The children were engaged throughout the presentation and enjoyed learning about domestic rabbits.

The librarian read a book titled "The Forgotten Rabbit," and Ken, serving as the group's spokesbunny, was the star of the show. Both children and adults had the opportunity to meet and pet him. The event was very well received, and we hope it inspired some people to consider fostering or adopting a rabbit in the future.

Photo: Sandra Blum



Spokesbunny Ken.

Photo: Sandra Blum

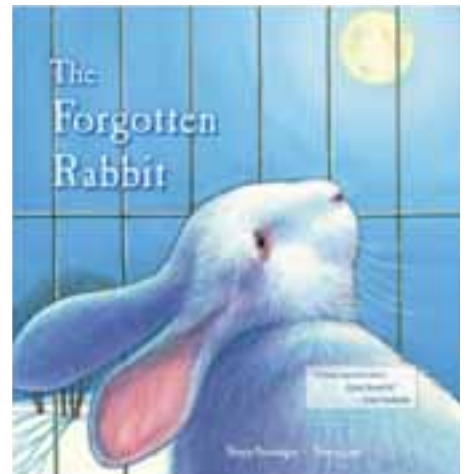


Ken with Millie Blum.

Photo: Amy Moffett



Jackson Goldstein making the presentation.



The librarian read this book.

A Milestone for Facebook Friends

By Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group

On June 30, our beloved Friends of LIRRG Facebook community reached a milestone: 12 years! What started as adopter Sue G. saying, "LIRRG should have a Facebook group so adopters can stay in touch" has grown into a collective of over 1,700 local rabbit owners and volunteers offering kind support to each other and to the LIRRG mission.

To help us celebrate 12 years (and 20 years of LIRRG), we asked our members to share something you love about this community!

"All the great bunny advice."

— Christine G.

"This community has taught me so much about rabbit ownership! I've learned so much in the past 7 years I've been a part of it." — Carly H.

"How helpful and kind everyone is!"

— Kayla E.

"Positivity, supportive, community. Clearly evident that everyone in this group has tremendous love for rabbits."

— Letizia C.

Best cute bunny pics! But seriously a warm, supportive caring community that always steps up with advice, supplies or help whenever needed!" — Allison R.

"I'm so proud to be a part of such an amazing organization. I love our bunnies so much." — Amy H.

"It radiates LOVE for all bunnies! From hairless babies to the elderly and those in between." — Susanne L.

"The adorable bunny pics and constant support!" — Christina O.

"The endless supply of bunny photos!!" — Sabrina B.

"I'm beyond grateful that we are a part of the LIRRG community. The artist formerly known as Panda, Miss Piper, aka Pipalicious, Lishie, Lisher, Bunny Baby Girl, Girly Girlson (is very happy using her husbun, Matt, as a pillow every day). We are so happy to have adopted our best girl and support LIRRG."



Photo: Kristin Goldstein

Matty and Piper.



Photo: Christine Gawron

Otis and Blu.



Photo: Kayla Ellsworth-Cogswell

Clover.



Photo: Laura Schmansky

Brisket.



Photo: Katie Starr

Denise Bertolotti's boy Oats.

Thank you for all you do for the bunnies. It's a small, but very mighty org and we are all so grateful! (The hutch is always open in their room. They enjoy a good nap in there! And a water bottle is a just-in-case emergency in addition to their bowls....)." — Kristin G.

"The advice and the help has been wonderful! But most of all, you brought us Mabel and Alec." — Lisa R.

"All the wonderful advice and support! And so grateful for introducing me to and allowing me to love my new best friend." — Laura S.

"The helpful kind people in the group when I was a newbie. The advice turned me into the biggest love of our guys with such confidence and desire to take care of them, kiss them and love them as giving me such joy. Thank you LIRRG." — Karen R.

"So wonderful and so grateful to all who dedicate so much of their life to saving these beautiful souls. Thank you all everyday for doing what you do. It takes a village to rescue a bunny! So many lives saved, so many lives changed (human and rabbit). Wow. I've been blessed to be around for 15 of these years!" — Gina P.

Forever Homes Found!



Monty.



Ethan.



Rebecca.



Eleanor.



Hawthorn, on the right.



Ken.

We are happy to report that Hawthorn, Rebecca, Ethan, Eleanor, Fifi, Daffodil, Maddox, Ken, Prince Rusty and Ines were adopted since the last newsletter. Congratulations!



Maddox.

(Continued on page 16)

Forever Homes

(Continued from page 15)



Prince Rusty, left, with his soon-to-be bun wife, Mildred.



Fifi.



Ines, at left.



Daffodil.

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab's Beautiful Foster Rabbits

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

Dove

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

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

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

Pink

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

Skye

Skye is a 3.5-pound Himalayan rabbit. Skye was found alone, tragically dumped in Central Park in terrifyingly poor condition, clearly having been horribly mistreated for quite some time even before she was abandoned outside. A passerby thankfully saw Skye outside and, wanting to help this poor bunny, brought her back to his home. Once there, she surprised him with a litter of



Dove.

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.

(Continued on page 18)

RRR Rabbits in Foster Care

(Continued from page 17)

Indigo

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

Lucy

Lucy was found outside in a dirt alleyway off a busy street where someone had cruelly abandoned her. Now adjusting to the safety of her foster home, Lucy's active and curious personality is shining through. She is a very young and playful rabbit who loves interacting with people and toys, and especially enjoys carrying her stacking cups to different spots around her pen and exercise space. If you are interested in adopting Lucy, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Carmela

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



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.

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

Arthur

You'd 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.



Arthur.

Linden

Linden was rescued from a hoarding case, and while he's safe and loved now, he still appreciates a calm, predictable environment where he can feel secure. He's a very sweet bunny who enjoys a quieter space and tends to keep to himself at first. Because of his past, he startles easily, but with patience and respect for his boundaries, his gentle nature really shines. Linden is wonderfully curious and loves to explore every corner of the house at his own pace. One of his favorite things is finding dark, cozy hiding spots. He also has a bit of attitude and isn't shy about expressing himself. Linden will happily thump to remind you that breakfast should not be late, and he makes his feelings very clear when it's time for grooming (combing is not his favorite activity). His honest little opinions are part of what makes him so endearing. Linden would do best in a quiet, bunny-savvy home that understands sensitive rabbits and appreciates a companion with both sweetness and



Linden.

spunk. With time and trust, he'll be a rewarding and fascinating friend.

Aria

Queen of wherever she resides, Aria will be certain to claim not only your space, but your heart as well. With perfect litter-box habits, you certainly won't spend as much time cleaning up her area. In fact, she'd probably prefer you didn't, as she can be a little shy around humans. Moving items near her too quickly may upset her, and she



Aria.

expects you to earn her trust. Two ways of doing this that we've found most effective: lying down near her and letting her approach, and hiding food in her stacking cups – of course, she will expect you to re-stack the cups after she's disassembled them. If you're looking for a boss bun with a big personality, this little queen is sure to fit the bill. If Aria were a human: a boss babe who spills the tea and likes her space.

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



French Onion Dip.



Barcode.



Chocolate.



Almond Crunch.



Cold Foam.

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



Chubs.



Bon-Bon.



Koji.



Carrot Cake.



Coco.



Lucy.



Ethel.



Mars.

Winning Over a Shy Bunny

By Dana Krempels, Ph.D.

One of the most common misconceptions people have about rabbits is that they like to be held and cuddled. This is probably because they look like plush toys. Unfortunately, many people buy rabbits without realizing the true nature of rabbits, and that's one of the main reasons these lovely, intelligent creatures are "dumped" shortly after they reach sexual maturity and begin to assert their strong personalities.

You are distressed that the bunny does not like to be held. Consider for a moment, however, the natural history of the rabbit. This is a ground-dwelling animal that is a prey item for many predators. It is completely against the nature of the rabbit to be held far above the ground where it cannot control its own motions and activities. When you force her to be held against her will, you reinforce her instinctive notion that you are a predator who is trying to restrain her. Holding her while she struggles and kicks is not only dangerous for you and the children (You may have noticed her sharp claws by now!), but also for the rabbit. I wish I didn't know how many young rabbits come into our vet's office with broken legs, necks and spines because people insisted on carrying them around and handling them against their will. If you love your bunny, you won't do this.

Think about it: If your dog or cat didn't like to be carried around, you probably would not force the issue. Why treat your bunny any differently, simply because of her superficially "toylike" appearance? To understand rabbit behavior, you have to begin to think like a rabbit.

First, buy yourself a copy of "The House Rabbit Handbook" by Marinell Harriman. It's the most accurate book about rabbits available today.

Second, remember that a rabbit, unlike a dog or cat, evolved as a prey species.

Dogs and cats are predators, and most do not have a natural fear of being held. Reinforcing this natural tendency, breeders have selected generation upon generation of domestic dogs and cats so that their descendants have a short "flight distance." This means that domestic dogs and cats are generally not afraid of humans.

Domestic rabbits are very different in this respect. For centuries, rabbits have been bred primarily for meat, fur and physical characteristics. That means that when you adopt a rabbit, you adopt a beautiful animal with domesticated physical features – and the heart and spirit of a wild animal. It is much more challenging to win the trust of this kind of sensitive, intelligent creature than it is to win the heart of a puppy or kitten that has been bred to trust you from birth.

Most rabbits are naturally shy. It is up to you, the flexible human, to compromise and alter your behavior so that the bunny understands that you are a friend.

The following are a few steps you can take to win your shy rabbit's trust.

1. You and bunny should be together in a private, quiet room. No other pets. No distractions.

2. Have a little treat, such as a carrot or a tiny piece of apple, banana or a little pinch of oats in your hand. (These foods are only for small treats. Rabbits fed a diet with too much digestible carbohydrate are excellent candidates for serious gastrointestinal disorders.)

3. Lie on your tummy on the floor and let the bunny out of his "safe haven" (hutch). It's quite crucial that this hutch have a door that is accessible to the rabbit so that you don't have to lift him when you take him out or put him back in. The bunny should have absolute freedom to choose when he comes out. Don't force the issue. The bunny's natural curiosity will bring him to you.

4. Don't expect your bunny to approach you right away. Remain quiet and patient, even if it takes an hour or

(Continued on page 23)

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Peanut.

Shy Bunny *(Continued from page 22)*

more. Rabbits are naturally curious, and eventually he will come over to sniff you.

5. Resist the temptation to reach out and pat the bunny. Instead, let him sniff you, hop on you and just get to know your smell. This will teach him that you are not a threat.

6. If the bunny finds the treat you have, hold it while he nibbles.

7. Do this every day. Gradually, you can start to touch the bunny by giving him a gentle “scritch” on the forehead (bunnies love this). Never force anything, and never chase the bunny. This will only undo all the patient sitting you have done to gain his trust. A rabbit does not generally like to play “chase” with an animal that is 30 times his size. It is simply not natural behavior for him, and it is not a sign of low intelligence.

8. As the bunny gradually becomes less shy, you can become more familiar with him, stroking his back, letting him lie with his side pressed against your arm... whatever feels comfortable and natural to both of you. Many rabbits seem to find a face less threatening than a hand. Your bunny may gladly allow you to give him a warm “nose nuzzle” (especially if you hum very low and softly; this is the way rabbits sometimes communicate among themselves), even if he won’t let your hand come close.

9. Once the bunny learns that you are a friend, he will bond very strongly to you. It’s important to have him neutered (or her spayed, if it’s a girl) once she/he reaches sexual maturity, because otherwise the bunny will want to make love to everything, including you – whatever appendages happen to be within reach. Spay/neuter will stop this behavior, and it will eliminate the very real risk of reproductive tract cancers in females. Spay/neuter will also make litter-box training easier and more reliable. Be sure

Photos: Jane O'Wyatt



Peri.

you have this done by a veterinarian who is very experienced with rabbits.

In implementing the steps above, remember to imagine what the world looks like to this little, furry stranger. She’s surrounded by a new environment, and there’s a big, odd-smelling animal that’s always looming over her. She has no idea you’re trying to be friendly. Her “hard wiring” says: “AAAAAAA!!! It’s going to EAT MEEEE!!!!” So it’s up to you, the new bunny parent, to provide her with quiet, safe space where she can learn to feel secure. (Be sure all electrical wires and phone cords are out of the bunny’s reach.)

Try to see the world through your bunny’s eyes. Put yourself in her place. No one speaks her “language,” she has been taken from her family and perhaps the only home she has ever known, and she has no idea whether you plan to love her, cage her forever, or eat her. You need to gradually and patiently earn her trust. It can take days, weeks or months, and depends on the personality of the individual rabbit.

One complaint we often hear from people who bought a bunny for their children who turns out to be shy is that the rabbit is “not turning out to be the sort of pet we wanted for our kids.” Try to banish this kind of thinking.

Rather than being disappointed that the rabbit is not what you expected (it is



Cleo.

quite possible that she will never learn to like to be held), take this opportunity to teach your children respect for an animal who is different from them, who has different needs, perceptions and behaviors than a dog or cat, and who is NOT a casual plaything. If the children really want something to carry around, they need a stuffed toy – not a live rabbit.

Finally, remember that the ultimate responsibility for the rabbit’s welfare belongs to the adults in the household – not the children. Most human children are pretty well into their late teens before they truly understand the necessity of constant, devoted care to another sentient life form. This can be your opportunity to get an early start in teaching them that all-important life lesson.

Your rabbit is a highly intelligent, potentially loving, loyal creature who can become a member of the family, if you allow her to be what she is – a rabbit. If you and all your family can do that, you are in for the most delightful companionship imaginable.

*Copyright – Dana Krempels, Ph.D.
Senior Lecturer;
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University of Miami*

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.

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

You can also visit Manhattan Animal Care Center at 326 East 110th St., between First and Second avenues, and the 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). Volunteers are there every weekday evening and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, but it is best to arrange an appointment first.

Bunny speed dates can be arranged by appointment only. Please contact nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com to make arrangements.

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

For basic information about rabbits as pets, go to rabbitrescueandrehab.org, www.longislandrabbitrescue.org and the House Rabbit Society main site, www.rabbit.org.

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

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Milly.

Donations

All donations go directly to caring for our foster rabbits and are tax-deductible. Please help us help them by sending contributions to: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab/NYC Metro Rabbit, 333 Mamaroneck Ave., #363, White Plains, NY 10605 or <https://www.rabbitrescueandrehab.org/donate>

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

THUMP JULY 2026

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS
rabbitrescueandrehab.org

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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

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

Long Island (continued):

Perri Wiggins, DVM
Long Island Veterinary Specialists
163 S Service Rd.
Plainview, NY 11803
(516) 501-1700
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

Marilyn Olds, DVM
Rocky Point Animal Hospital
526A Route 25A
Rocky Point, NY 11778
(631) 849-8638
rockypointanimalhospital.com

Brian Rose, DVM
Jeff Rose, DVM
Jefferson Animal Hospital
606 NY-112
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776
(631) 473-0415
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

Joi Pacchiano, DVM
Michelle Frascati, DVM
Massapequa Hospital for Animals
4186 Sunrise Highway
Massapequa, NY 11758
(516) 271-1581
thrivepetcare.com/.../Massapequa-hospital-for-animals

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Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group
Volunteer, altitude8@yahoo.com,
LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

Donna Sheridan
Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group
Volunteer, hpocus217@yahoo.com,
LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

Jennifer Saver, DVM

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