

# THE LUMP

NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS MAY 2024

## Looking for Lumps

By Katie Scarr

I jokingly refer to myself as a lump detector because I often seem to find an abnormal lump or mass on rabbits I come in contact with. Most times I'm not looking – my fingers must have lump radar!

All jokes aside, regularly “feeling up” your rabbit may help you detect a life-threatening issue early on. Something I often do is feel along their jawline while petting and smushing their faces. If we rewind back to last year while I was doing this exact thing to my rabbit Mylo, one cheek felt a little different from the other. I kept feeling the same area for a week or so and I was right: That very minor difference had developed into a brewing tooth-related abscess.

Not long after that, Dr. Jennifer Saver at Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital on Long Island took Mylo into surgery in hopes of removing the fractured tooth causing the abscess. She drained the abscess, but she was left frustrated, unable to extract his very stubborn molar. Without extracting the tooth, it was highly probable that an abscess would return, and she recommended a CT scan to get to the root of the problem.

A week later, off we went to Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine,

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## Do Your Friends Share Problematic Content? Here's How to Cope

By Megan Hilands

If you are anything like me, almost everyone you know understands your love for bunnies. For almost every birthday or gift-giving holiday, I can safely anticipate one of my presents will involve a bunny in some way, shape or form. This past Christmas, for example, I received several items in Vera Bradley's winter forest print – which, as you might have guessed, prominently features bunnies!

As bunnies are often misunderstood animals, though, I also receive my fair share of simply problematic content. Often, this takes the form of someone tagging me in a post or texting me a link to a YouTube video where a bunny simply is not being treated appropriately. Well-meaning friends will say they thought of me and exclaim “How cute!” in clips where children pick up bunnies recreationally, or show bunnies playing with animals like dogs. These posts make me cringe at best! When there are 4-H Club fairs or petting zoos, I have received photos via text of the bunnies there, unfortunately knowing full well that the bunnies in these situations are likely severely mistreated and do not live happy lives.

We bunny lovers and activists can face a dilemma when sent content like this. How do we appropriately convey that these are not appropriate ways to treat a bunny while maintaining a good relationship with the person who posted the content? It's a tricky situation, but here are some of my thoughts and tips.

### Do not respond immediately

As humans, we are often hard-wired to give knee-jerk reactions to messages we

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Photo: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab



Caring for Rabbit Rescue & Rehab's many sanctuary and foster rabbits requires a lot of daily cleaning. Luckily, Pink is always ready to help out by washing his own toys!

## Bad Bunny Content

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find upsetting. I am as guilty of this as anyone. At first, I am usually tempted to go off on a diatribe about how the person who posted the video must have not cared about rabbits at all to think this is behavior worthy of a re-share. Given a little time and space, I am usually able to think a little more logically and consider the other person's point of view. Even if the content is misguided, I try to remember that the person who shared it with me did so because they care about me.

### Start to craft a response

I am by nature a person who avoids conflict, and especially with loved ones, I find it difficult to express dissatisfaction with their behavior or choices. For the bunnies, though, I feel I really need to share my knowledge. If I ignore a problematic bunny post – especially when it's sent to me directly – someone could interpret it as tacit agreement with the content – which is certainly not the case. In some sense, I feel it is my duty as part of House Rabbit Society and the rabbit-rescue community to spread awareness about how bunnies have historically been mistreated and still are. While I am not an official educator, I do feel I have enough experience and knowledge with rescued bunnies to be able to give some advice.

When I have gained some space from my initial sadness at the post, I start writing. I will usually do this in the “Notes” application on my iPhone or a document on my computer so I don't accidentally send my reply before I'm ready.

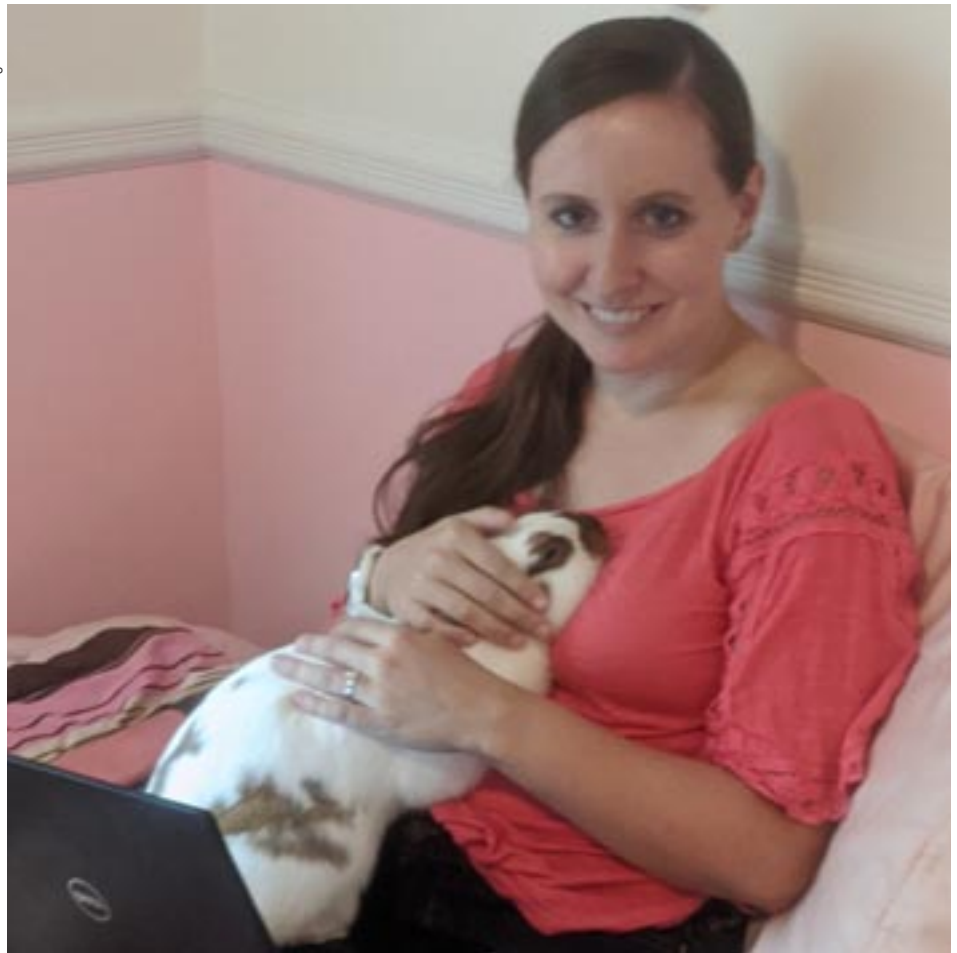
### Start with an acknowledgement

I advise starting by acknowledging that the person who shared the content with you did it from a good place. For example, say something like “I understand you shared this because I like bunnies,” or “I appreciate that you thought of me.”

### Politely state the problem

Next, mention why what they have shared is upsetting. Say, for instance,

Photo: Megan Hillands



My bunny Charlie always comforts me, no matter what I see on my computer.

“Unfortunately the post shows bunnies outdoors and in close contact with dogs, which I cannot endorse as this is a dangerous situation for rabbits.” You might want to elaborate further by saying, “Bunnies have delicate skeletons and even a small dog trying to play can severely injure a rabbit – or worse,” or “Although they are entertaining and playful in safe spaces, rabbits evolved as prey animals and are often extremely afraid when they are picked up by a human, even one they trust.”

### Point to good sources and alternatives

The House Rabbit Society website has many excellent articles explaining why bunnies should not spend time outdoors or engage in many behaviors that are considered safe for cats or dogs. When crafting your reply, you might find it appropriate to link to some of the articles to give a more detailed explanation from the experts on how to treat bunnies.

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab and Long Island Rabbit Rescue also have great Instagram accounts that you can showcase for examples of happy bunnies in safe situations.

### Set boundaries if needed

Hopefully, once you are clear about why the content is upsetting, the sender will understand your point of view and will not share similar posts again in the future. However, occasionally some people just don't seem to get the message. If you have respectfully given reasons for your point of view but the inappropriate posts keep coming, understand that for your own good you might sometimes need to take more drastic measures such as blocking or hiding their account. In my experience, though, this situation is fortunately very rare and most people are quite reasonable if you are polite but firm.



## Lumps

*(Continued from page 1)*

where Mylo was able to get an appointment with Dr. Lauren Thielen and their exceptional exotics department. The same day of the appointment, Mylo received a head CT that was able to show the doctors that the abscess did not go behind his eye. It looked as if we had caught the abscess early, and extraction of two affected molars seemed to be the best course of action.

Confident that she would be able to extract the molars, Dr. Thielen took Mylo into surgery. While the procedure was still difficult – the molars were fused to his jawbone – she was able to extract them, pack the area with an antibiotic, and open up the external wound to clean out the infection. That area was then left open for me to flush for a few weeks post-op.

I'm happy to report that Mylo healed beautifully and he returned to his happy pain-free self. Ongoing monitoring may be lifelong because abscesses have a high rate of recurrence, but we will remain hopeful. We are grateful to all of the doctors and teams at both Catnip and Cornell who took such great care of our big squish.

So, bunny lovers, feel your rabbits. You don't have to pick them up frequently

Photos: Karlie Scott



This photo shows the location of the external wound.



Mylo healed beautifully.



Here's our big squish relaxing.

and stress them out, but try to copy what they like, whether that's a gentle pet or a full on body massage. If you can do this often, your fingers will have a memory of how they should feel, which in turn will help you detect when something is abnormal.

Mylo recently celebrated his fifth Gotcha Day. To mark the occasion, I took some photos of the happy boy relaxing, and looked back on his recovery!



## You Can Help!

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

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

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

Thank you!

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

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



# IT MAKES HER "FOOD!"

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photo ©Mary E. Cotter, 2002

Domestic rabbits lack the survival instincts wild rabbits use to fend for themselves, so they become food for everything from raccoons and dogs to crows and hawks. And the "lucky" ones who don't get eaten get run over by cars or die from heat or disease. Please, before getting a bunny - or abandoning one - visit [www.rabbitcare.org](http://www.rabbitcare.org)

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

See additional information on the following page.

# Outdoor Rabbit Abandonments

The poster on the preceding page is over two decades old. Back then, we were hopeful that in 20 years, the need for this message would be obsolete. We thought our outreach could dispel all of the misinformation about rabbits. Just around that time, the internet and social media flourished. Improper information about rabbits flooded the ether.

Sadly, we find ourselves in 2024 facing the heartbreaking reality that the number of outdoor rabbit abandonments is worse than ever.

Domestic rabbits are NOT the same species as eastern cottontails or any of

Photo: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab



A white rabbit outdoors is a beacon for predators. This beautiful but terrified youngster was rescued in the nick of time this month.

the other “wild” rabbits that have the necessary survival skills demanded by nature. Domestic rabbits that are abandoned outdoors fall victim to: predatory animals, heat, poisons, cruel humans, cars, disease and extreme weather, among other dangers. In other words, they don't have a chance.

Please spread the word. We need all of you to educate and advocate to everyone and everywhere.

Thank you to those of you who have rescued a domestic rabbit abandoned outside. You saved the rabbit's life.

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

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

Here are six ways to help wildlife this spring and summer.

As a licensed wildlife rehabber, I'm often asked how best to help wildlife. Even the smallest actions can make a big difference for our furry and feathered friends. Try implementing these changes around your house to create a huge impact.

- **Avoid Pesticides.** Glyphosate poisoning has had a tremendous effect on wild rabbits and other grazing wildlife who depend heavily on grasses for food. Toxic pesticides build up in their system, causing irreparable neurological damage and eventual death. Consider exploring organic alternatives that are just as effective but much kinder to the animals and the environment.

- **Plant Natives.** Native plants are just as beautiful and play a vital role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Without these plants providing food sources, many species struggle to survive. Even a



We treated Teddy, an eastern cottontail, for pesticide poisoning.



Butterfly on anise hyssop in a native garden.

small native garden can make a big impact. Some of the favorite flowers in our wildlife garden are anise hyssop and

bee balm. Both have bright fragrant flowers that are a favorite for butterflies and bumblebees.

- **Recycle and Dispose Responsibly.** Unfortunately, many animals become entangled in our recycling and trash each year. Jars, cans and soda can holders can easily get stuck on an unsuspecting animal's head as it searches for food. Properly disposing of trash in secured containers, placing lids on jars, crushing cans, and cutting up items are all helpful ways to prevent entanglement.

- **Say no to glue traps, rodenticides and other lethal pest-control methods.** Studies have shown that lethal methods of pest control have a detrimental effect on our environment, and aren't an effective long-term solution. The key to keeping a pest-free home is removing or properly storing attractants, like food, and sealing up all entry points. Finding a company that specializes in exclusion can be a worthwhile investment. Your local wildlife rehabber would be happy

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## It's Time to Be Cool

### By Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

The warmer months present a host of necessary considerations for your rabbit's health and safety. The most significant seasonal concern is heat. As the temperature and humidity begin to rise, you must make sure your rabbit stays cool. Be aware that high humidity is dangerous, even if the air temperature isn't particularly high. Rabbits are most comfortable between 50 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit (with low humidity); they would choose 50 degrees if given the option.

Remember that 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. Rabbits can only dissipate heat through their ears, which 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 ways 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 any cords). A fan alone is ineffective and will merely circulate the already warm air in the room.
- Keep shades down and curtains closed to block the sun. Sun coming in through a window (even with the air conditioner on) can add a lot of heat to a room.

- If your rabbit is in a pen, make sure it is placed in a darker part of the room. Keep it away from direct sunlight.
- 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. Some rabbits will lie against a frozen bottle, but many will not. If your rabbit is not "using" the ice bottle, it is not helping him cool down. 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 his area, so he doesn't have to travel far to get a drink. Use a bowl, not a bottle. Drinking

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## Cottontail Connections

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to give a list of companies that provide humane pest-exclusion services to seal up any entry points in your home. Please take important action to get torturous glue traps banned in New York state.

- Keep Cats Indoors. Cats cause a tremendous amount of damage to our local wildlife. Unfortunately, many of the animals that come into our care are attacked by free-roaming pet cats. During the spring and summer when wild babies are on the ground, keeping cats indoors is important to the survival of our wildlife. Rabbit nests are particularly vulnerable and are unfortunately often a target for free-roaming cats. Safe outdoor enrichment can be provided to cats with a catio or a harness, protecting our furry and feathered friends. Your cat will also live a much longer life, free from the danger of being hit by a car or killed by a predator.



A terrified house sparrow imprisoned on a glue trap. A homeowner placed the trap in a garden to control bugs. This little bird is one of the lucky ones. We successfully removed him from the trap, and he recovered after many months in rehabilitation. Sadly, most animals stuck on glue traps don't recover from their injuries.

- Provide fresh water. Offer a shallow basin of water with a stone big enough for birds and small mammals to escape, and change the water daily. This can provide a vital source of hydration on

hot summer days when animals often feel the effects of high temps and are in need of a fresh water source to quench their thirst.

## Cool

(Continued from page 6)

from a bowl is a much more natural and comfortable way for a rabbit to drink, and this will get 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 hydrated. This should always be done. It's a great way to help keep a rabbit hydrated even when the weather isn't warm.

- 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 eat. 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 of 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. Lops, 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.

There is no risk of a healthy house rabbit becoming cold. If you feel chilly, wear a sweater. The cooler the temperature, the more comfortable your rabbit is!

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

Photos: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab



Adorable Hastings supervising the insertion of frozen bottles into his Hop n' Flop.

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

Another huge threat from flies is that they are always looking for a warm place to lay their eggs. Unfortunately, rabbits are at a high risk of being victimized by many types of flies, and the larvae will feed on a rabbit's flesh. The fly larvae (maggots) can seriously injure and even kill a rabbit. The botfly causes a different kind of risk: The 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. Both situations are veterinary emergencies.

Always be sure to keep your rabbit's pellets and hay 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. Do NOT submerge him in water; doing so can cause your rabbit to go into shock. Get your rabbit to a rabbit-savvy veterinarian immediately.

Following all of the above tips should keep your rabbits safe from the problems caused by the heat and they will be grateful for your efforts!

# It Takes a Village and a Special Kind of Person

By Robert Kulka

We all know that it takes a lot of people, or to be more accurate, volunteers to run a rescue such as Rabbit Rescue & Rehab. We know because many of us at one time or another have given selflessly as a volunteer. We have worked at shelters or other places where the only people caring for the rabbits are volunteers. We foster bunnies until forever homes can be found. We might transport them from one place to another. Maybe we have taken them for necessary veterinary care.

There are volunteer jobs that involve a lot of behind-the-scenes work. Those unseen but all-important functions include talking to potential fosterers or adopters. There is often the need for in-depth education as it pertains to the care of rabbits. There is a lot of time spent making sure those who will have a rabbit to care for understand the proper habitats, food, hay, pellets and exercise, and what to watch for with these gentle but quirky beings. All that takes a great deal of time and that doesn't even include things like travel, home visits and follow-ups. Along with juggling all the ins and outs there are many other important contributions, such as the very newsletter you are now reading.

Some contribute through supplies or donations. While on the topic of donations, there are veterinary bills and other care-related costs that include ordering and paying for necessary supplies. There is the cost for travel expenses transporting the bunnies around and checking up on them once they are placed. Included in the work that a volunteer might do is finding and coordinating fund-raising events and the humbling job of needing to ask for donations without which none of the work to keep everything going would happen. Volunteers involved at each of these and other steps are a very special breed of human.

Then there are the individuals who go above and beyond each day. These are a special kind of individual that possess the passion, the strength of will, the resourcefulness and a deep sense of caring that many, no matter what we do, can appreciate. This is the person who does what it takes to do the rescue part of the rescue and rehab. That work can preclude tending to their own needs and home. This is the person who receives the distress call, the calls for assistance and the panic call that will sometimes come with a particular situation.

Photo: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab



Devi, on the run, in a high predator area. She was terrified of humans.

A call for help can come at any time. It may be through a volunteer, a friend, a concerned citizen relaying information to someone else or just a random call to the rescue group. This call for assistance may range from someone thinking they saw a rabbit that looks like a pet roaming the neighborhood to someone who is

feeding a bunny that shows up on their porch but does not know what to do for them. Very often these situations may be where rabbits are in immediate danger. They may be chased by natural predators and sometimes uncaring people. They may be dangerously close to roads and traffic. The rabbits may be in the suburbs or on city streets. They are usually frightened and unwilling to come to anyone. Where they are living or what they are eating is unclear. Often, they don't stay in the same place, making it difficult to pinpoint where they are or were last seen. Very often these rabbits can be ill, hurt, undernourished or dehydrated. These are domesticated rabbits that may have been lost or worse, "set free" by owners that have no use for them. These are the rabbits who have no idea of how to survive outside.

The volunteer who responds to the call for help knows the urgency of the situation. This extraordinary person does everything possible to find and rescue the rabbit. That includes searching the neighborhood of the rabbit's last sighting. That effort can come in the dead of winter, requiring the volunteer to face extreme cold and severe storms. It may be in the summer where the volunteer might sit patiently for hours in the heat of the day. There is a lot of walking around a neighborhood, knocking on doors and trying to get people to be on the lookout and informing them of what to do or not to do if they spot the rabbit in question.

The volunteers will return to the place where the rabbit was seen. Rescuers visit a spot at different times during a day, hoping to locate the bunny. They are out at daybreak or sunset when rabbits may be most active. Volunteers try midday search efforts in the event hunger or fear will bring the endangered rabbit out.

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## Special Person

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They will travel long distances from their home to where they are looking for the rabbit. Searching through the woods in the neighborhood or looking under bushes subjects them to fatigue, frustration and attacks by mosquitoes and other insects. They will traverse hills, look under cars and up on rooftops. Worst of all, they may face dangerous situations of their own. They can come across those in the neighborhood who chase them away, won't allow them on their property and can pose a dangerous threat to the safety and well-being of the volunteer. This work can take days, a week or sometimes several weeks under such adverse conditions, and then the volunteers finally succeed or face the heartbreak of not being able to do anything.

Those times when the devotion to rescuing a rabbit ends up in success, this special type of person must then arrange vet visits, temporary placements and eventually a foster home or forever home. The satisfaction and relief that comes with success can often simply be followed by another call for help for another rabbit and then the process begins again. This selfless person is the backbone of the rescue group. He or she is the unsung hero whose job often goes without recognition or appreciation. This special person does not put all this effort in for a personal reward but rather to provide for the lost and frightened rabbits that have no other advocate.

The next time you think about all the different aspects of volunteer work for a rescue group, remember that it all starts with the brave and unyielding efforts of a special type of person. Say a little prayer for the volunteers and the work they do to make a difference for those soft, quiet, gentle souls that would not survive without their work.

Photo: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab



Beautiful Devi, rescued, feeling safe and loved.

# Pet Loss Support Group

By House Rabbit Society

House Rabbit Society is offering a new monthly pet loss support group. Hosted on Zoom, these gatherings take place twice a month and are open to anyone who has lost a rabbit companion (need not be an HRS rabbit).

The group is led by Krystal Koop, an associate clinical social worker who has been working in the field of social work for 20 years. She specializes in grief and end-of-life considerations, including pet loss and bereavement. She lives in San Francisco and is an HRS adopter and volunteer.

Whether you are seeking solace in sharing your rabbit's story or simply wish to listen and honor the memory of your cherished rabbit, the support group provides a safe and understanding space to navigate the complexities of grief. There is no right or wrong way to grieve, but finding support within a compassionate community can be an invaluable resource during a time of mourning. We invite you to join us and discover the healing

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Oskar.

power of connection as we come together to celebrate the lives of our beloved rabbit companions.

This service is provided free of charge for our community. Registration is required; register now at [center.houserabbit.org](http://center.houserabbit.org).



## 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).



## Spokesbunny Noah Reports From Long Island

By Noah the Bunny with assistance from Shari Zagorski

Hello my human friends!

In addition to being a spokesbunny for education events this spring, I also found I truly enjoy comforting humans.

March started out with a visit to the Animal Club meeting at Merrick Avenue Middle School, where I did a presentation on domestic rabbits and the differences between them and wild rabbits. The students were incredibly gentle and friendly and asked many excellent questions. Three students met me at the entrance and escorted me through the school building, which made me feel like a true VIB (very important bunny)!

On March 30, I had a different kind of event to work and due to local circumstances, my day took some interesting twists. Kindly allow me to explain. The plan was for me to be the Easter Bunny at a local Bellmore Easter Parade. That entailed volunteering with the Nassau County Auxiliary Police, an organization of human volunteers who help their communities. My job was to entertain and provide candy for the visiting children inside the

headquarters of the Bellmore Auxiliary Police unit immediately following the short parade.

As it turned out, the funeral for a very special police officer was scheduled earlier that morning a few towns away, and all of the Auxiliary Police officers (including my two humans) working the Easter Parade were needed at the funeral first before going directly to the parade. I was surprised when my mom first played with me before the sun rose, but when she loaded me into my travel carrier at 6 a.m., I think I was too sleepy to realize what was going on. Once we arrived across the street from the funeral church, mom opened my carrier and I had a whole playground in the rear seat of the patrol car. Mom had put out a big blanket and my litter box full of fresh hay. While the vehicle was stationary, I was able to munch hay, drink water, relax on the blanket, and even hop around the seat. When I looked out the window, I saw tons of humans wearing blue uniforms and I felt like a really safe bunny.

After several hours, I was again secured in my carrier and we drove to the Easter event. The Auxiliary officers at the

parade seemed very sad from the earlier funeral so my human gave the volunteers a chance to pet me and I mushed under their hands to help comfort them. After the children attending the parade came to pet me and get candy, everyone seemed to cheer up. That afternoon I slept very well, exhausted from my busy schedule.

Just a few days later, my own home felt suddenly very different. My whiskers twitched and the smells were odd. It turns out that my human grandpa, who

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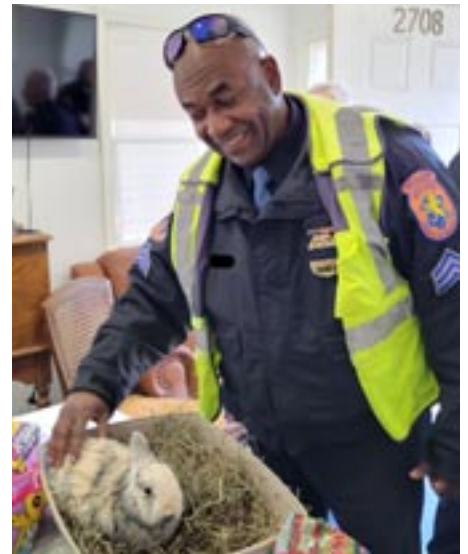
Photos: Shari Zagorski



So much gentle petting at Merrick Avenue Middle School.



Easter Bunny event at Bellmore Auxiliary Police unit headquarters.



Comforting officer after funeral.



## Noah Report

(Continued from page 11)

Photos: Shari Zagorski



Munching hay and relaxing in car.



Catching a solid nap after my day's adventures in car.



Snuggles with my grandpa.



Snacking during book reading at Glen Cove Public Library.



Snuggles with LIRRG volunteer Amanda.

shared our house, had crossed over the rainbow bridge. Many people came to our house for shiva during the following days to talk with grandma, mom and dad, and since my pen is right near the living room, I got loads of extra attention and petting. Mom made sure to keep me on my usual feeding and play schedule, but I must admit that I felt I could offer some comfort to the humans there. At 6 p.m. each night, I thumped to get mom's attention so she would take me out to snuggle on her lap for the evening visitors.

Mom told many people about how grandpa was a gentle and kind man who

was a friend to all creatures great and small. My grandma and grandpa adopted a little bunny named Snowball 50 years ago when my mom was just a young girl. As they say, the rest is history.

Later in April when life quieted down a bit, I was able to resume being a spokesbunny for an education event at the Glen Cove Public Library. The children who attended the event enjoyed a reading of "The Forgotten Rabbit," a story relevant to Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group's mission, and then our experienced human volunteers spoke about what LIRRG does, rabbit care,

and the joys of fostering and adopting bunnies. Attendees assembled hay treat toys to donate to our adoptable rabbits, and one young boy even brought his creation for me to admire! After the event I got special snuggle time with the LIRRG volunteers and it made my day.

Until next time, this is Spokesbunny Noah signing off!



# Eliza and Lafayette Draw a Crowd

By Jessica R. Leggio

Student members of the Sachem Public Library in Holbrook were greeted by Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group's very own Eliza and Lafayette during an educational event held on April 17.

Volunteers from the rescue group shared stories about their own rescues, provided important information about rabbits, and answered questions from the students.

Our spokesbunnies gave quite a show while hopping around and letting the crowd give gentle pets. It was a successful event, complete with many generous donations for LIRRG.

A special thanks to our spokesbunnies, the LIRRG volunteers and the Sachem Public Library for being part of this event.

Photo: Jess L.



Volunteers Denise H., Jess L, Jessica P., and Emily V.

Photo: Michelle M.



Eliza (known as Elsie before adoption).

Photo: Michelle M.



Lafayette studies the educational material.

Photo: Jess L.



Volunteer Michelle M. and her bun Lafayette.

Photo: Jess L.



Lafayette and Emily.



## What Are Your Rabbit's Favorite Toys?

By Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group

Friends of LIRRG is a Facebook community of over 1,000 rabbit owners and rescue volunteers who live on Long Island. We asked our Friends to tell us which toys their rabbits love the best of all. Here's what they had to say.

Share your rabbit's favorite toys!



Peanut.

"Peanut is obsessed with his cupcake-shaped chew toy, gifted to him by his Auntie Katie." – Denise B.



Olaf.

"Olaf's favorite toy is his stacking cups...but only when treats can be found inside them." – Aviva R.

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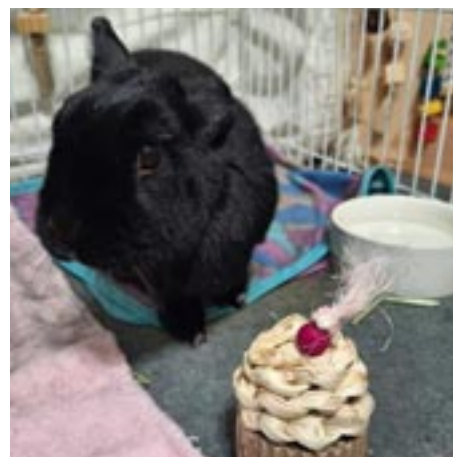
Wendy.

"As a properly spoiled bunny, Wendy has had many favorite toys. I think her favorite-favorite is still "Baby," an American Kennel Club dog toy that resembles her. I got it after her "official" adoption so she would have someone else to groom since her sisters were off to other fosters. An honorable mention goes to that ring-of-rings baby toy, which still gets a toss from Wendy – even in her old age. And just to drive home the spoiled point, a skilled and creative woodworker, Wendy's dad Matthew, makes her chew-friendly, untreated wood playground equipment and furniture, like a play ramp, complete with a nonskid walkway and pass-through arch." – Rosa M.



Ru.

"Ru's favorite toy is food – especially food that can be pulled out of something. Exhibit A: her tasty Easter hay basket, which was empty within hours." – JoAnna S.



Ellie.

"Ellie loves her Oxbow cupcakes!" – Emily V.



Bunbun.

"Bunbun loves her stacking cups for tossing, chewing and holding her food stuffs!" – Lisa N.



Tara.

"Foster Tara loves her Oxbow cupcake, even if it's not her actual birthday!" – Lisa N.



## Rabbits... Really?

By Jean Mellano

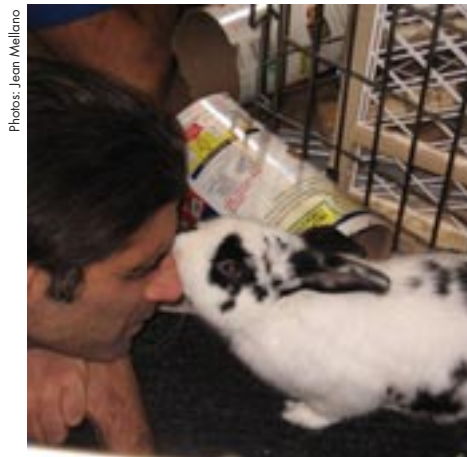
When rabbits came into my life, my perspective changed as to what kind of pets they could be. Some people say there is no way a rabbit could be as much or more fun than a dog. My three rescue rabbits certainly dispelled that myth for me. To witness how much fun rabbits can be, you have to exhibit patience. Since rabbits are prey animals, they do not give their trust lightly and may need time to let their true personalities shine through. To gain the trust of a rabbit is a great gift, especially if the rabbit came from an abusive environment.

### House rules

Of course, if you have a pet, you may be familiar with the futile exercise of trying to establish “house rules.” I tried setting some boundaries for my rabbits so they knew who was boss. I decreed “no bunnies in the living room.” The bunnies ignored that rule and decided that bunnies should be allowed in the living room AND on the furniture. Then, to re-establish who was really in charge of the house, I updated house rules to say, “no bunnies in the bedroom,” which my rabbits disregarded. Finally, I had to put my foot down and redefined the house rules to state “no bunnies on the bed.” Guess who won that battle? I caved big time on enforcing that rule. Snoopy and Budgie would show their disapproval by jumping on the bed. So much for laying down the law. I have to say, setting house rules for my rabbits was a hilarious endeavor and I had quite a few laughs during that time as the rabbits would constantly defy my feeble attempts to establish order in the house.

### Budgie and Snoopy

I was never able to bond Snoopy and Budgie. I think Budgie was the alpha male and Snoopy thought that he



Snoopy being affectionate.



Guilty Budgie on the furniture.



Bennington surveying his domain.

should be the alpha because he arrived first. Watching their interactions with each other was always interesting. On more than one occasion, I would come home to find clumps of Snoopy’s white fur flying around in their room. Budgie and Snoopy had a love/hate relationship and would sleep side by side with just a wall of the pen between them. Their personalities were as different as the color of their fur. Snoopy was grumpy and neat as a pin and Budgie was a slob and always wanted to play. They reminded me so much of “The Odd Couple” that I would call them Oscar and Felix.

### Finally, there was Bennington

I only had Bennington with me for a few years and I suspect he came from an environment where he did not feel love or was abused. He cringed at human touch, and I spent many days sitting on the floor with him, so he could get used to being around a human. I was slowly chipping away at his walls and my patience was rewarded! He eventually did come to me on the floor, and he would put his paws on my legs or jump on my back if I was lying down. You could not possibly imagine my delight at these small signs of trust.

When Bennington was working on a “bun-struction” project (usually involving cardboard), his work on the project would become noisier and much more frantic whenever I was taking a Zoom yoga class. I would get up and try to quiet him down, which worked for a few minutes and, just like a child craving attention, he would go back to his project, making more noise than before.

### Insights into rabbit behavior that are quite funny

You haven’t seen a ticked-off rabbit until you have been given the stink eye.

*(Continued on page 17)*

## Rabbit Rescue & Rehab's Beautiful Foster Rabbits

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

### Dove

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

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

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

### Pink

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

### Skye

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



Dove.



Pink.



Skye.

babies. When we first saw Skye shortly after she had given birth, every bone in her small, frail body was visible and all movement was taxing for her in her emaciated state. Still, Skye was a wonderful mother to her babies and slowly but surely, she gained weight and became stronger. Today, Skye is completely healthy and enjoying some well-deserved free time now that her babies are grown up and off on their own adventures. Skye is looking for a quiet, calm human companion to match her sweet but reserved energy.

She is a gentle soul who will form a close bond with her family and enjoy receiving affection, provided she is given the opportunity to approach first. Skye has a particular affinity for her Oxbow woven grass toys and is content to stretch out and fall into a deep sleep for afternoon naps. If you are interested in adopting Skye, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

*(Continued on page 17)*



## ADOPTIONS

### RRR Rabbits in Foster Care

*(Continued from page 16)*

#### 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



Indigo.

rabbit who loves interacting with people and toys, and especially enjoys carrying her stacking cups to different spots around her pen and exercise space. If you are interested in adopting Lucy, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](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-only home. She would also likely make a good partner for another rabbit. She



Lucy.



Carmela.

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

## LONG ISLAND NEWS

### Really?

*(Continued from page 15)*

This usually occurs when the rabbit sees the carrier coming out for a ride to the vet. Snoopy would give a stink eye if breakfast was late.

When a bunny flicks his hind legs it is almost as if the rabbit is giving you the finger. All my bunnies, at one time or

another, have expressed their displeasure with me by flicking their hind legs. This typically would happen when I let them out of their carrier after a trip to the vet.

Bunny 500s or zoomies are done typically when a rabbit is let out for run time and there is a lot of space to perform bursts of speed, sometimes accompanied by binkies; a binky is how a rabbit expresses pure joy and excitement. It is

almost like a dance when rabbits leap in the air and contort their body while kicking their feet out. Next time you are on the internet, google "rabbit binky" and you will find some wonderfully entertaining videos. Anyone who has watched a rabbit binkying knows that rabbits are anything but dull!



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

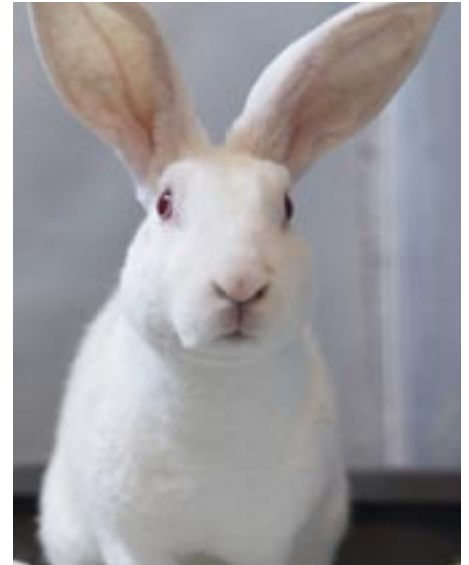
Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group has many rabbits available for adoption. Here are a few of the wonderful bunnies looking for homes. For more information about adoptions, please contact LIRRG at this email address: [information@longislandrabbitrescue.org](mailto:information@longislandrabbitrescue.org)

### Barry White

Like the iconic musician that shares his name, Barry White has come a long way. His harrowing rescue began after he was found in a carrier inside a locked car with the windows up. Law enforcement thankfully intervened and this gorgeous red-eyed white rabbit is safe and ready for a forever home. Barry is eager to catch your eye and loves to give a warm welcome by leaping to the top of his pen. With a sweet soul and a big appetite, he can't get enough of your love, baby, or your hay.



Barry White.



Ginkgo.

### Ginkgo

Meet botanical babe Ginkgo, an Aries bun with super-soft fur who'll make you want to pet him for days. Ginkgo is a people-person, and he loves attention. Give him a home full of love and playtime, and he'll thrive.

### Chamomile

Chamomile was rescued from the streets during winter and is a very active, independent and sometimes cautious bun. She has great litter-box habits, but does get overexcited for meal time – she will grunt and lunge when food is around and she is in her cage, but will settle down once you pet her head! Once she settles for pets she will stay for a long time. With such a diverse personality, Chamomile surely is lovable and would be the perfect addition to any home!



Chamomile.

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

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



Timmy.



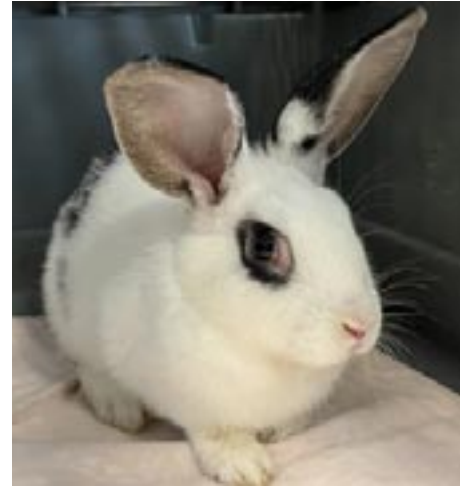
Mr. Fabulous.



Basil.



Sage.



Tofu.



Oreo Flemish.



Parsley.

(Continued on page 20)



ADOPTIONS

**Rabbits at Manhattan NYC ACC**

*(Continued from page 19)*



Raccoon.



Chunk.



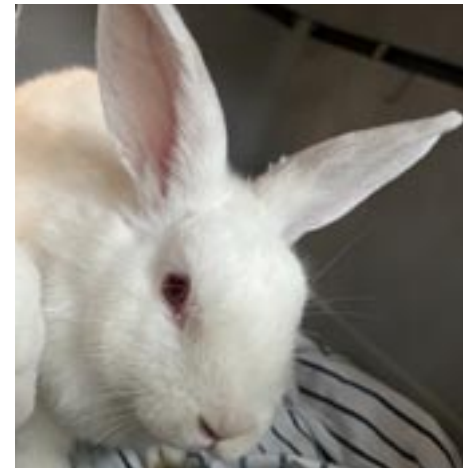
Trunks.



Lucy.



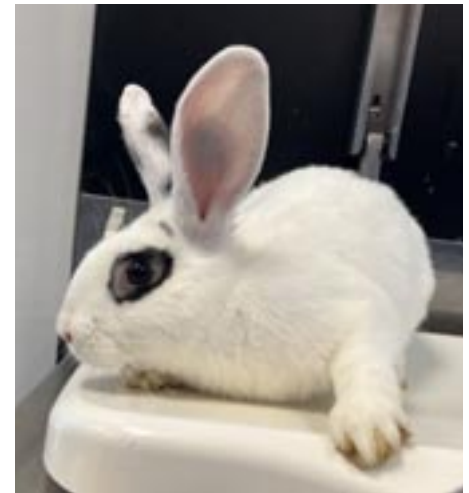
Wonder Bread.



Marshmallow.



Butternut.



Parsnip.

*(Continued on page 21)*



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



Bill.



Cadbury.



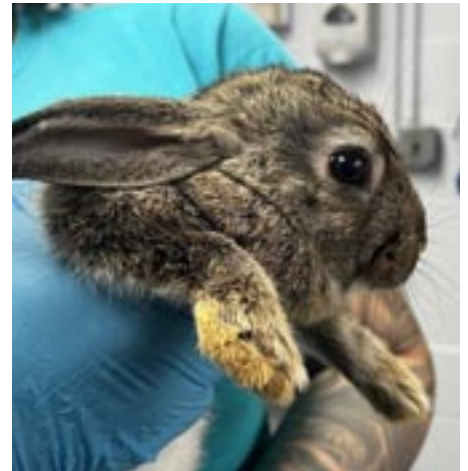
Bugs Bunny.



Poppy.



Oreo Hops.



Eucalyptus.

*(Continued on page 22)*

## Rabbits at Manhattan NYC ACC *(Continued from page 20)*



Pebbles.



Calvin.

ADOPTIONS

**Rabbits at Brooklyn NYC ACC**

*(Continued from page 21)*



Mahogany.



Hopper.



Cinnabun.



Lola.



Benito.

**Forever Homes Found!**

We are happy to report that Tex, Marshmallow, Onyx, Florence, Shea, Apollo, AJ, Dixie, Pelusa, Estrellita, Tara and Pongo were adopted since the last newsletter. Congratulations!



# 4 Things We Can Learn From Duncan

Duncan's owner reached out to us for help in re-homing him because she was worried about his safety. Their family had welcomed a new dog into their home and she had witnessed the dog biting Duncan's ears through the bars of his outdoor hutch.

Duncan lived outdoors for three years because of mis-information his family received from the breeder they bought him from. The family has asked the breeder about bringing him indoors for the winter and were told that since he had been living outside, that bringing him indoors would kill him. That is untrue and, in fact, domestic rabbits in New York should only live indoors, for their own health, safety and comfort.

Duncan's story may be sad, his pictures tough to look at, but we hope sharing his experience can help others, human and rabbit alike. Here are four lessons we would like to share from Duncan's experience.

- 1 You should always supervise your rabbit's interaction with dogs and other animals. Rabbits are prey animals and even the gentlest dogs may exhibit predator behavior in proximity to a rabbit. Keep all animals safe by introducing them slowly and intervening quickly at any sign of aggression. Situations can quickly become scary... or fatal.
- 2 Domestic rabbits should live and play indoors only. Housing rabbits outdoors is no longer considered safe in our environment and climate. From weather concerns to wild animals and parasites, rabbits housed outdoors are subject to many dangers, some scary and some deadly. Outdoor play time poses the same risk as outdoor living and is never recommended for domestic rabbits.
- 3 Do your own research. You can't always trust that you'll receive the best information for proper companion rabbit care from pet stores and breeders. The best resources for rabbit care are rescue groups like [LongIslandRabbitRescue.org](http://LongIslandRabbitRescue.org), and [rabbit.org](http://rabbit.org).
- 4 Seek immediate veterinary care from a rabbit-savvy veterinarian. When Duncan's family contacted us, they reported that their new dog was seen biting Duncan's ears. When we took him into our care two days later, his ears were evidently chewed, more than just a little bit, and had since healed, although permanently damaged. Duncan was likely scared and in pain when the incident or incidences occurred. Contact a rabbit-savvy veterinarian at the first sign of any injury, accident or illness.

We are grateful to Duncan's original family that they reached out to Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group for help. Since coming into our care, Duncan is thriving in the safety of his foster home and surely loves the air conditioning!

Not every pet is right for every family or every environment. We hope that Duncan's story prevents another family from facing the distress and prevents other rabbits from injury and the perils of outdoor living.

**[LongIslandRabbitRescue.org](http://LongIslandRabbitRescue.org)**

# Detecting Illness Before It's an Emergency

By Dana Krempels

Probably because of their evolutionary history as prey animals, rabbits often show few outward signs of distress when they are ill or in pain. In nature, predators cue in on animals that act sick, instinctively knowing that these particular individuals will be easier to capture. Presumably, over evolutionary time, sick rabbits who had an inborn tendency to hide obvious outward signs of illness were less likely to be selected by predators while they were sick. These “genetically stoic” individuals thus have been more likely to survive an illness and leave more offspring to future generations than others who showed more obvious signs of weakness. The unfortunate side effect of this evolutionary marvel is that it takes a very attentive “bunny parent” to notice when Bunny is feeling poorly. A symptom as seemingly insignificant as hiding in an unusual place, sitting in a hunched position or refusing a favorite treat can signal that something is seriously wrong. Once you notice these subtle signs, there are several simple diagnostic measures you can take to determine whether an emergency trip to your rabbit-experienced veterinarian is warranted:

## 1. Offer a Favorite Treat

If Bunny refuses it, try another. If he absolutely won't eat, it's time to move to step two.

## 2. Take the Rabbit's Temperature

If you do not know how to take your rabbit's rectal temperature, it's a good idea to have your veterinarian show you how to do so before you have an emergency. Always use a plastic thermometer, to eliminate the danger of the thermometer breaking off inside if the bunny gives a strong kick or wriggle. Here is a link to an instructive temperature-taking video by an HRS licensed educator:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZd10Hk0maA>

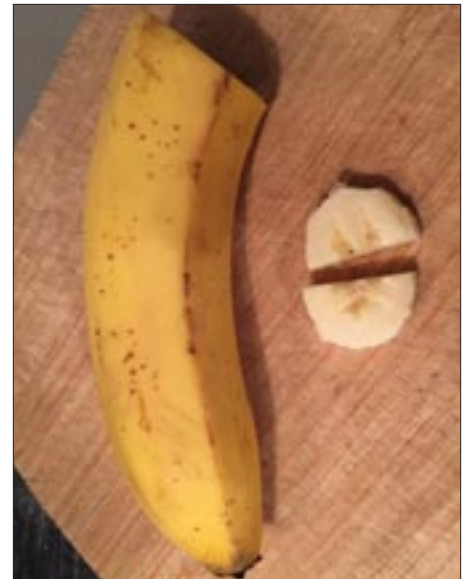
### Instructions: How to Take Your Bunny's Temperature

Normal rabbit body temperature ranges between 101°F - 103°F (38.3°C - 39.4°C).

We've found that a good way to take the temperature is to gently cradle the bunny on his back – either in your lap or on a secure countertop with soft padding. The bunny's head and shoulders should be held gently against your abdomen, and the back allowed to curl into a “C” position, with the footpads facing the ceiling. Be sure the hindquarters and back legs are securely supported so that the bunny doesn't kick suddenly and injure himself. Once bunny is in position and calm, very gently and carefully insert a well-lubricated plastic thermometer no deeper than about 1 inch. If you aren't sure which of the two openings to use, note that the anus is the one that “winks back at you” when you touch it lightly with the thermometer tip, and that it is behind the urogenital opening (i.e., closer to the base of the tail).

The path of the rectum is almost parallel with the lower spine, and when bunny is cradled in a “C” position as described, the thermometer will naturally travel almost straight down, perpendicular to your lap.

Be sure to securely support the bunny's back end, and do not allow him to kick or struggle. If he does, carefully release him to a sternal (on his belly) position, supporting his back and hindquarters at all times. Talk reassuringly to him, and stroke him gently, and don't try again until he has calmed down. Depending on the rabbit's personality, you might have to try several times before you're successful, and if you are having trouble doing this alone, get a second person to “spot” for you. Never force anything. If you feel resistance, pull back, change position slightly, and try again. Be very gentle, as the rabbit colon and rectum are very delicate and easily damaged.



A small piece of banana is a good treat.



Use a well-lubricated plastic thermometer.

### – What to do in case of fever:

A slightly elevated temperature (around 104°F/39.9°C) can be caused by emotional stress (such as a trip to the vet's office or the discomfort of a health problem), heat stress or the early stages of an infection. A very high temperature (105°F/40.5°C or higher) should be considered an emergency. Lifesaving cooling measures should be begun even before you leave for the veterinarian's office. If the body temperature remains too high for too long, irreversible brain

*(Continued on page 25)*



## Detecting Illness

(Continued from page 24)

damage can occur, even if the bunny survives the ordeal. A good way to cool the bunny is to use cold packs or even bags of frozen vegetables, placing them under his belly and around his sides. You can rub his ears with an ice cube, but be sure not to cause frostbite by holding the cube there too long, or over-cooling. Rubbing alcohol swabbed on the ears will also help cool the bunny. It will usually take five to ten minutes of ice packs to bring a severe fever to lower levels, and you should continue to monitor bunny's temperature throughout the procedure, as long as it does not seem to be stressing him unduly.

### – What to do in case of hypothermia:

A temperature lower than normal may be even more dangerous than a slight fever. Abnormally low body temperature (below 100°F/38.1°C) can signify shock or the very late stages of systemic infection, and should be considered an emergency.

It is of utmost importance to get the bunny's temperature up to normal levels, as most other medical treatments will not be as effective if the rabbit is hypothermic. To raise the body temperature, fill plastic bottles or Ziploc bags with hot water, and wrap them in towels to protect the bunny from being burned. Place the hot water bottles under and around the bunny, and monitor temperature until it is at least 100°F/38.1°C. At that point, loosely wrap the bunny in towels warm from the dryer, and get him to the vet right away.

If the hypothermia is due to the late stages of a systemic infection, it means that bacteria in the bloodstream have used up so much of the rabbit's glucose (blood sugar) that he cannot maintain a normal body temperature on his own. This must be treated immediately and aggressively, sometimes with intravenous antibiotics



An inexpensive stethoscope is a good investment.

and dextrose solution, which must be administered by your veterinarian.

If the bunny is refusing treats, but body temperature is normal, it's time to move to step three.

### **3. Listen for Normal Intestinal Sounds**

It's worthwhile for every bunny parent to invest in an inexpensive stethoscope. Place the tympanum low on the abdomen, well below the ribs, and listen for soft, intermittent gurgling sounds. If the tummy is silent, you may be facing Gastrointestinal Stasis (ileus).

If the tummy is making very loud gurgles, your bunny might have a bad case of gas, sometimes associated with ileus. Gas pain alone can cause enough stress to send a rabbit into ileus, and it is important to get the gas and its associated pain under control immediately. The simplest home emergency procedures to

control gas pain (while waiting for your vet to call you back) are the following:

- Administer 1-3 cc of pediatric simethicone drops (available at most pharmacies).
- Begin very gentle abdominal massage. Place the bunny on a secure countertop and start very gradually, rubbing the sides of the belly, and gradually working your way deeper by actually holding the belly in one hand and gently kneading it in both forward and backward directions. If bunny shows any sign of pain, back off and massage more gently. It also helps to periodically raise the bunny up on his hindquarters as you massage, so gas bubbles can move about more freely. You can also do the reverse, carefully lifting his hindquarters into the air while gently massaging, being careful to not let him kick, jump, or hurt himself.

If your bunny is truly suffering from ileus, then your vet will probably want to prescribe additional medication, including:

- Analgesia: Banamine (flunixin meglumine) or meloxicam are excellent and safe for rabbits
- Intestinal motility drugs: Reglan (metoclopramide) and/or cisapride

Remember: If you are in doubt about your bunny's condition, don't hesitate to call your veterinarian immediately. Don't wait for an emergency to find a good rabbit-experienced vet who will be available at odd hours. For a referral to rabbit-savvy veterinarians in your area please visit the House Rabbit Society's site for veterinary recommendations.

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

## Adoptable Rabbits

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

To adopt a rabbit in **New York City** or **Westchester**, contact [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](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 Brooklyn Animal Care Center at 2336 Linden Boulevard.

Rabbits for adoption in Manhattan and Brooklyn can be found by going to: <http://www.nycacc.org/> and doing an adoption search (for ACC inquiries about adoption/bunny dates, email [adopt@nycacc.org](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).**



**Hoppy 7th Gotcha Day, Teddy!**

## 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 MAY 2024

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

Editor: Susan Lillo

Creative Director: Jane O'Wyatt

Masthead Logo Designer:  
Mary Ann Maier

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation in New York State. Our purpose is to rescue, rehabilitate and find permanent homes for abandoned, abused and neglected rabbits, and to educate the public on rabbit care through publications, phone consultations, home visits and presentations. This newsletter is published by RRR/NYC HRS, which is solely responsible for its content. We retain the right to edit all submissions, which become the property of the NYC Chapter and cannot be returned.



## Rabbit-Savvy Veterinarians

Here's our recommended vet list for the New York metropolitan area. **Please note that many clinics have multiple veterinarians, and our recommendations are for specific veterinarians in those clinics.** If you can't get an appointment with a recommended vet at one clinic, don't assume (no matter what you are told by the clinic) that other vets in the same clinic can help your rabbit. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the vets on this list, please contact Mary Cotter at (914) 643-0515. When you make an appointment with any of these vets, please tell them you were referred by us.

### Manhattan:

**Deborah Levison, DVM**  
Symphony Veterinary Center  
170 West 96th Street,  
New York, NY 10025  
(212) 866-8000

**Katherine Quesenberry, DVM**  
The Animal Medical Center  
510 East 62nd Street,  
New York, NY 10065  
(212) 838-7053, (212) 329-8622

**Alexandra Wilson, DVM**  
The Center for Avian and  
Exotic Medicine  
568 Columbus Avenue,  
New York, NY 10024  
(212) 501-8750

### Westchester County:

**Gil Stanzione, DVM**  
Dakota Veterinary Center  
381 Dobbs Ferry Road,  
White Plains, NY 10607  
(914) 421-0020

**Laurie Hess, DVM**  
Veterinary Center for Birds and Exotics  
709 Bedford Road,  
Bedford Hills, NY 10507  
(914) 864-1414

### Long Island:

**Jennifer Saver, DVM**  
**Erica Campbell, DVM**  
Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital  
2056 Jericho Turnpike  
New Hyde Park, NY 11040  
(516) 877-7080

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

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

**Maggie Camilleri, DVM**  
Paumanok Veterinary Hospital  
639 Route 112  
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