



NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS JANUARY 2025

Zooh Corner Rabbit Rescue Desperately Needs Our Help

Photo: Carl Logsdon



Rabbit rescue groups in L.A. are scrambling to move rabbits to safer neighborhoods.

It is impossible for us to imagine being even close to the devastating fires in Los Angeles. We are heartbroken for the people and animals, domestic and wild, that have lost their homes, have been injured or are terrified and confused.

There are several rabbit rescue groups in L.A. While they are scrambling to move rabbits to safer neighborhoods, none have lost the homes that their rabbits live in. That is, except for one, our long-time friends at Zooh Corner Rabbit Rescue. Zooh Corner is mainly a sanctuary for elderly and special-needs rabbits. Cat Logsdon founded Zooh

Corner almost 30 years ago. She has lost her home and all of her and the rabbits' worldly possessions. All of the Zooh Corner rabbits lived in this home.

Thankfully, Cat and her husband got all of the rabbits out safely. A friend was able to take them all in for the time being. If you are considering donating for rabbits affected in this unbelievable disaster, please consider Zooh Corner Rabbit Rescue, via IG: [@zoohcornerrabbitrescue](#), via Zelle: zoohgirl@gmail.com, via PayPal: zoohcorner@mybunny.org, and via email: zoohgirl@gmail.com (for Chewy or other gift cards). Thank you.

Law Targets Pipeline of Animals Bred in Inhumane Conditions

By Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

As animal welfare advocates, we are thrilled to see progress in the fight against domestic animal mills in New York State. On Dec. 15, the new *Puppy Mill Pipeline Law* finally went into effect. This law will make a significant difference for both the animals caught in the horrors of mills and the responsible guardians who want to ensure their companions are raised in healthy, humane environments.

The law, which was passed in 2023, targets a key part of the puppy/rabbit/

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NEW YORK BAN ON SELLING DOGS, CATS, AND RABBITS IN PET STORES IS IN EFFECT!



VOTERS FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS

Law Targets Pipeline

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kitten mill problem: the sale of these animals bred in commercial facilities with very poor conditions. By cutting off the supply chain, it addresses the root cause of the problem, and we at Rabbit, Rescue & Rehab hope it will have a far-reaching impact on all animals in the state, especially rabbits.

Understanding the law

The *Puppy Mill Pipeline Law* specifically focuses on preventing the sale of rabbits/puppies/kittens from commercial breeders who fail to meet minimum care standards, such as providing proper veterinary care, adequate living conditions, and socialization. This law targets the “pipeline” of animals that are bred in inhumane conditions and then sold to pet stores or directly to consumers.

From Dec. 15, 2024 onward, New York pet stores are prohibited from selling dogs, cats and rabbits that originate from mills or other large-scale, substandard breeders.

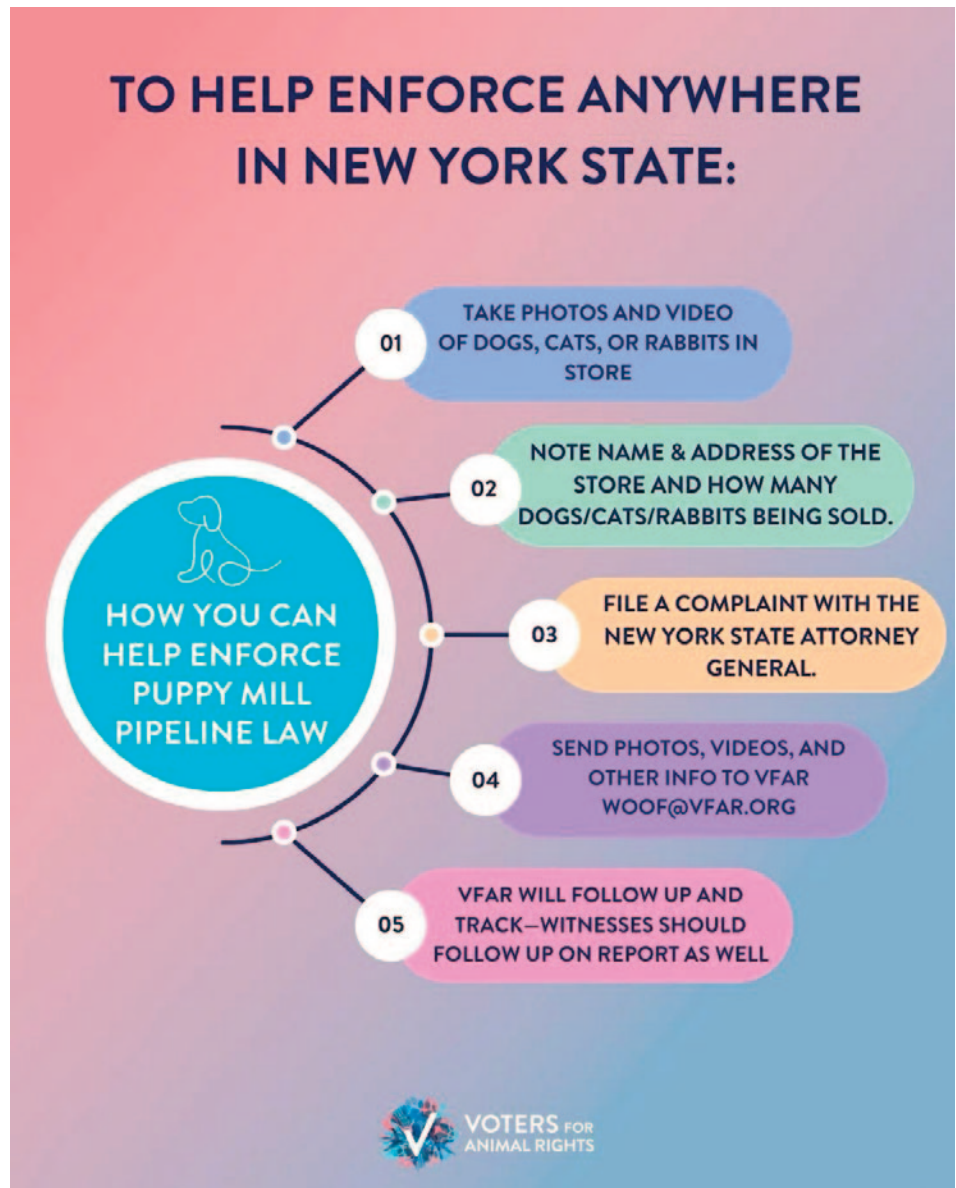
Why this law is critical

Companion animal “mills”— often described as breeding factories, have long been a source of heartache for animals. These facilities prioritize profit over the well-being of the animals, leading to poor living conditions, neglect and severe health issues. As a result, many of the animals bred in these mills are unhealthy and fearful, and often experience a lifetime of physical and emotional trauma. The new law directly challenges the commercial breeders who engage in these inhumane practices.

To our dismay, rabbits are often left out of the companion animal conversations. This law is a step forward in bringing greater awareness to animal cruelty within breeding industries, regardless of species, as it should be.

Impact on rescue groups

We are very hopeful that this law will have a positive ripple effect throughout the rescue community. As the pipeline



of mass-produced baby animals diminishes, more families may turn to rescues for adoption, knowing that they can find healthy, well-socialized companions with a history of care and attention. Rescue groups, such as ours, focus on providing the necessary care for rabbits that have been abandoned, neglected or surrendered. The law provides an opportunity for more people to consider adoption, helping alleviate the burden on shelters and rescue groups while offering homes to animals in need.

Moreover, this legislation will give shelters and rescue groups more leverage to promote responsible guardianship. With fewer bunnies flooding the market from

unethical breeders, potential guardians will be more likely to seek out educated, experienced groups that will stand by them throughout the rabbit’s life, as we do.

A step toward a better future

The *Puppy Mill Pipeline Law* is a milestone, but it’s just one piece of the larger puzzle of animal welfare reform. As a rabbit rescue group, we celebrate this law because it represents a shift in how society is beginning to view responsible guardianship and animal welfare. By ending the sale of animals bred in cruelty, this law encourages consumers to make informed decisions and support ethical

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Law Targets Pipeline

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practices, helping to reduce demand for mass-produced baby animals.

At the same time, we urge all animal lovers to consider adopting and fostering, or supporting local shelters and rescues. There are countless rabbits in need of loving homes. The new law is a step toward a brighter future, but together, we can continue to push for even greater protections for all animals in New York and beyond. It is paramount that people stop supporting ALL breeders. They are the reason so many rabbits are abandoned to the streets and shelters, or die at a young age. Breeders are not interested in proper lifetime care and they do not have the necessary knowledge to educate their “customers.” Many rabbits from “responsible, private” breeders are wrought with congenital health issues. Uninformed buyers do not have the knowledge or the funds to get the necessary veterinary care that these rabbits need.

We remain hopeful that the *Puppy Mill Pipeline Law* will pave the way for a society where cruelty has no place, and responsible, compassionate pet ownership is the norm. This is a long-deserved victory for rabbits, kittens and puppies who deserve better lives.

Unfortunately, less than one month in, there have already been violations of the new law, by pet stores that continue to sell rabbits, puppies and kittens. The only way this law will be effective is if we all stay vigilant. Violators must be found and punished. Sadly, there won't be law enforcement patrolling pet stores checking for compliance. That's where we ALL must step in.

Our assignment is clear and our collective participation is mandatory. The entire rabbit-loving community bears the responsibility to make sure that this law actually helps rabbits.

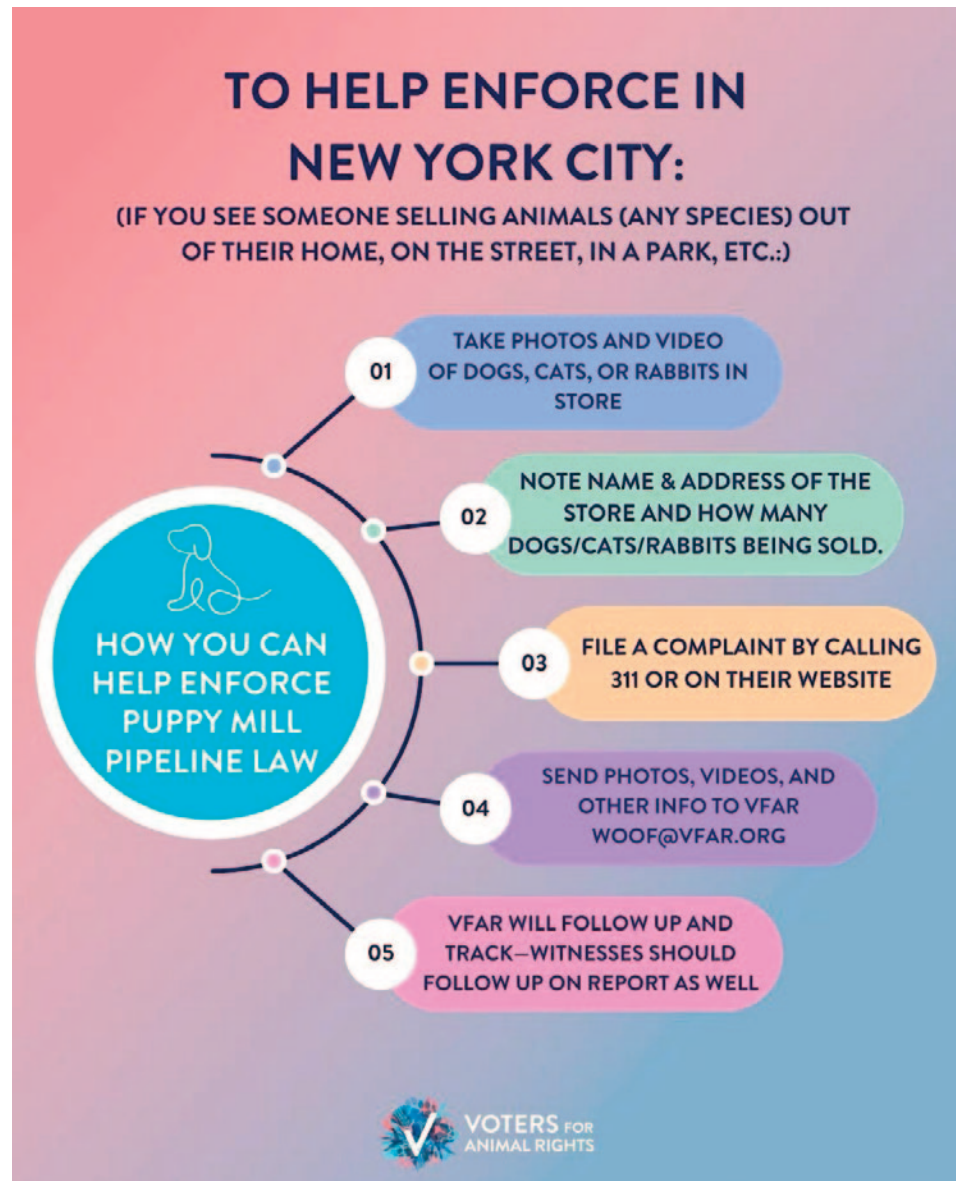
Here is how you can help enforce the *Puppy Mill Pipeline Law*:

In the entirety of New York State: Make it a point to go into pet stores and walk around. If you see a rabbit (or puppy/kitten), do the following:

1. Take photos and videos of the animals.
2. Get the exact name and address of the store.
3. Note how many rabbits (puppies/kittens) are being sold.
4. File a complaint with the [New York State Attorney General](#) and call them at: [800-771-7755](tel:800-771-7755)
5. Send photos, videos and other information to our friends at [Voters for Animal Rights](#). They will follow up and track the violations.

In New York City: (if you see someone selling animals from a store, out of their home, on the street, in a park, etc.), do the following:

1. Take photos and videos of the animals.
2. Get the exact name and address of the store or location of the non-store seller.
3. Note how many rabbits (puppies/kittens) are being sold.
4. File a complaint by calling 311 or go to the [city's website](#) to file.
5. Send photos, videos and other information to our friends at [Voters for Animal Rights](#). They will follow up and track the violations.



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

By Brigitte Dix

Director, Cottontail Cottage Wildlife Rehab

Helping Wildlife in Winter: Easy Ways to Make a Big Difference

Winter can be a rough season for wildlife. Food is scarce, water freezes, and finding a cozy spot to stay warm can sometimes be a real challenge. For opossums, it's especially hard – they don't have fur on their noses, hands or tails, making them vulnerable to frostbite. At Cottontail Cottage Wildlife Rehab, we often see opossums coming in during the winter with frostbitten tails or ears. But don't worry. You can help! Here are some easy ways to make a big difference for our wild neighbors this winter.

1. Give Them a Warm Winter Hideout

Imagine spending a cold winter night outside with nothing to keep you warm. Allowing an opossum to shelter under your deck won't cause damage and offers the animal a safe place to survive the season. In return, an opossum will help keep your yard free of mice, snakes and ticks. A warm, dry spot can be a lifesaver for animals such as opossums, squirrels, rabbits and feral cats.

Providing a simple winter shelter gives them a safe place to rest and avoid frostbite. There are options available to buy online and lots of DIY online tutorials that show how to make shelters using Styrofoam coolers, plastic totes or wood. It's essential to fill shelters with straw, as hay or blankets can absorb moisture and freeze, putting animals at risk.

Not ready to build a shelter yourself? No problem! Our friend Sue Marucci offers affordable, weatherproof shelters for wildlife and feral cats, with convenient pickup locations in Westchester and the Bronx. It's an easy way to help local animals stay warm this winter.

You can contact Sue Marucci on Instagram. For Bronx pickup contact Linda Ferreira on Instagram.

2. Don't Let Them Go Thirsty

When water freezes, wildlife can struggle to find anything to drink. You can help by leaving out a bowl of fresh water in your yard. To stop it from freezing, try using a heated water bowl (they're easy to find online) or place the bowl in a sunny spot.

Be sure to check and refill it regularly. Clean, fresh water is just as important as food!



Rossi, a juvenile opossum, was rescued by Cottontail Cottage in December after he was found suffering from frostbite on his hands, tail and ears. Thankfully, he is expected to make a full recovery.



Weatherproof winter shelters made by Sue Marucci. Sue's shelters come with straw to keep the interior warm and dry and are only \$30.

3. Share a Snack

When winter hits, animals need extra energy to stay warm, but finding food can be tricky. You can help by offering small amounts of safe food. For opossums, that might mean apple slices, grapes and cat food.

Just be careful not to overfeed, and always double-check that the food is safe for wildlife. A small snack can make a big difference!

4. Make Your Yard a Wildlife Haven

Your backyard can be a cozy winter retreat for animals if you leave it a little wild.

- **Keep your leaves:** Did you know opossums and squirrels use leaves to insulate their dens? Leaving a pile of leaves in a quiet corner of your garden can help them stay warm.

- **Skip the clean-up:** Brush piles and fallen logs are perfect hiding spots for small animals.

- **Leave up your plants:** Native plants provide seeds for birds and make your yard look beautiful, even in the snow!

5. Drive Carefully and Watch for Wildlife

Winter weather makes roads slippery, and animals are often out searching for food or shelter. Slow down, especially at night, and keep an eye out for opossums, deer and other wildlife crossing the road.

Every Little Action Helps

Helping wildlife survive the winter doesn't have to be hard. From setting out water to leaving leaves in your yard, small actions add up and make a big difference. Plus, it's a great way to connect with nature and give back to the animals that share our space. Together, we can make this winter a little easier – and a lot warmer – for our wild neighbors.

Brigitte Dix is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and the director of Cottontail Cottage Wildlife Rehab, a haven for injured and orphaned wildlife. She's passionate about protecting New York's incredible animals.

Achievement Unlocked

By Samantha Rowan

A little more than six months after we brought our rescue bunny Truman home from the city shelter, it became apparent one morning that the timid, quiet brown-and-gold ball of fluff was no longer timid or quiet and, in fact, believed he ran the apartment.

Truman's transformation came about, to paraphrase Hemingway, gradually and then suddenly. The shelter, for all of the great care he received, was hard on Truman and it felt like he'd emotionally shut down by the time we got him home. But we'd had bunnies with shelter trauma before and had learned that the best thing to do was just give them time, space and love.

This approach worked for Truman, who started showing his comfort and trust after a few days. It was all small steps – first sitting in a little bunny ball outside of his cage and then very cautiously loafing. A hidey box gave him additional comfort, both for enrichment and for a place to feel secure as he observed us.

We were in a static period of slow adaptation for a long time that ended suddenly when Truman jumped up on my husband's armchair, sniffed it and turned around to look at him with an expression that said, "This is my chair now."

"I think that's Truman's chair now," I said helpfully. "We still have the couch; you can sit there."

With a sigh, my husband picked up his book and moved to the couch and Truman sat on the chair with the pride of a cat that had captured a mouse. Eventually, he moved but the transformation was obvious. The apartment was no longer ours; it was Truman's and we were just there to serve him. We discussed it one night as we were making salad for dinner, three for humans and one for Truman.

"How does this always happen?" my husband said. "He is a good rabbit and he's feeling completely entitled, just like the rest of them were."

"He thinks he runs the place!" I said. "Why does this keep happening to us?"

"Because we spoil him," our son said. "And he's upset you're making him wait for his salad."

It was true. I sped up my cutting of vegetables and our son brought the salads over to the table (and the floor) and we all ate together, Truman rooting through his salad to eat his favorite bits first.

"He doesn't like radicchio," I observed.

"I don't like radicchio either," my husband said. "But I was also wondering how

Photo: Samantha Rowan



Truman.

long it would take for him to get here emotionally. Six months isn't too bad."

"He had a rough start," I replied.

"But now he knows this is his home," our son said.

We continued with our meal and Truman continued with his, finishing everything including the radicchio and then disappearing into his hidey box for a post-dinner romp. The box shook as Truman dug and tore at it and, once exhausted, he hopped over to my husband's chair and jumped up. As he settled himself down, I reflected on how far he'd come. Truman knew he had a home and a family and that allowed him to be his bossy sweet little self. Achievement unlocked!



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.

Am I Overreacting? Nail Trim Time

By Charlie, as dictated to Megan Hilands (“human mom”)

Last week my human mom (35 F) told me (3 M) and my two friends Simba and Nala (both 10 F) our nails were getting too long and it was time for a trim. Being the smart bun that I am, I immediately decided to hide in my box while my mom entered Simba and Nala’s X-pen with nail clippers and a towel in her hand.

Human mom moved Simba and Nala’s castle out of their X-pen so the girls could not hide as I did. Human mom then scooped up Simba and secured her in the nail trimming position, clipping her nails one by one after pinching the nail with the clippers twice to ensure she did not hit Simba’s quick. When human mom was finished, Simba ran off to a corner and thumped before grooming her face with her paws. While I admit Simba looked nice after the trim, I could simply not allow the same to happen to me!

Human mom then moved on to Nala. Nala did not just allow her nails to be trimmed without some resistance, though. Smart bunny! She thumped and ran around the pen a bit before human mom gently scooped her up, secured her paws, and started another nail trim.

After cleaning up the nail clippings, human mom left Simba and Nala’s X-pen and walked toward mine. I thumped, of course. Did human mom really think I would just let her cut my nails like Simba and Nala? Sure the girls’ paws looked nice, but I groom myself just fine, thank you very much.

Photo: Megan Hilands



Charlie sitting near his ‘human mom’ after the nail trim.

Human mom said a few words of encouragement: “Charlie, we love you and we are doing this to keep you healthy.” I didn’t quite buy it, though. Why can’t I have long nails, exactly? Human mom said more nice things to me like “You’re such a handsome boy!” and eventually coaxed me out of the box – she is pretty great, after all! I thought maybe I was getting off easy and accepted some nice head pets. But then, she tried to pull the same trick she did

with Simba and Nala! I refused to be scooped up, though. Not even what the humans call a “bunny burrito” could contain me.

Eventually, human mom called human dad over. He seemed to be on my side at first and played with me, also offering some nice head pets, which of course I accepted. I soon learned he was acting as a middleman, and human mom and dad collapsed my X-pen into a much smaller area. Human mom tried several more times to secure me for nail trimming. I made her and human dad do one nail at a time and only while one of them played with me to be what human dad called “a distraction.” Human mom and dad said it took about 45 minutes, whatever that means, but when all nails were trimmed and collected they gave me a treat. I have now calmed down, but how rude was it for the humans to just invade my personal space like that?! Now human mom is cuddling with me and giving me head pets.

So dear buns, please tell me: am I overreacting or not? Why won’t human mom accept my help grooming if she insists on grooming me? Gosh the humans are confusing sometimes. How do you deal with your humans when they insist on trimming your nails?



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

Best Wishes for 2025

Greetings from Jasper, Kiki, and all of us at Rabbit Rescue & Rehab

As you get ready for an exciting new year, please don't forget about all of our furry friends who didn't have their own family to spend the holidays with. So many rabbits and other animals sat in overcrowded shelters and foster homes where it was just another lonely day.

Throughout the year, these little ones rely on each one of us to donate so that they may have food and receive veterinary attention. Sadly, many go without. Please share your generous New Year's spirit in the next few weeks and think about donating monetary gifts, toys and soft beds so that they can experience joy and happiness while they await their forever homes. As always, please do whatever you can to adopt or foster. You will change the life of one of these deserving rabbits. Here's to a hoppy and peaceful 2025 from RRR.



Jasper.



Kiki.

LONG ISLAND NEWS

Spokesbunny Noah Reports From Long Island

By Noah the Bunny with assistance from Shari Zagorski

Hello my human friends!

My family had a busy autumn and I had the opportunity to travel to new and familiar places. Although I am not the biggest fan of bumpy car rides, my sense of adventure takes over once I arrive at the destination!

Early November started with spokesbunny assistance at my fourth annual "Scales and Tails" pet fair event at the Middle Country Public Library in Centereach. This year my bun-bro Puff volunteered as well and delighted the humans who stopped by the Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group exhibit booth.

We took turns on the petting table and had fun seeing familiar LIRRG volunteer friends. With an hour ride each way and

Photo: Shari Zagorski



The LIRRG volunteer team at 'Scales and Tails.'

four hours at the library, we earned a good nap and some doodle treats later that day.

In mid-November, my humans decided to take a long overdue vacation to

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Spokesbunny

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Maryland to visit with relatives. Well, I finally got to meet my canine cousins, and boy are they funny creatures! They have to ring a bell to ask for help going outside, and seem to like walking long distances even when it's rainy or cold out. The two dogs also had funny voices. Whenever a human came to the door, they both felt the need to loudly announce it. My three bun-sibs and I were housed upstairs in our own room with a secure latch.

On Dec. 6, I had the opportunity to visit my favorite Nassau County Auxiliary Police headquarters in Bellmore again. My first time volunteering there was for an Easter parade detail and I enjoyed distributing candy to children inside the building. This time, I helped out as Santa's fluffy elf and gave candy canes to the children who visited me inside during an evening tree-lighting festival. There was one smart young girl who had misplaced her parents and came to the police booth for help. I kept her company while she sipped hot cocoa and waited for her folks to get there.

A week later, our humans took all four of us with a full carload of bunny stuff and human items to Maryland again. They said something about us having lots of room to do zoomies and binkies once we arrived. It felt just like another vacation, but without the canine cousins. The new house was quiet and smelled sweet and was long enough to zoom full speed ahead from our room, through the kitchen, to the family room. Puff shared an area with me while Mittens and Shadow stayed together upstairs with mom and dad, just as they normally do. I discovered a window in the family room that is just right for me to look out and see the bushes! Although there was no furniture in that room, when I got really tired from exploring, I just flopped next to mom on the carpeted floor. It was peaceful and enjoyable, and I'm told we will all be going back there very soon.



Photos: Shari Zegeraki

Loving head pats and educating humans at 'Scales and Tails.'



Small human touched me so gently at 'Scales and Tails.'



Puff as LIRRG spokesbunny at 'Scales and Tails.'

Our car ride back to Long Island was in a mostly empty car because apparently the humans left lots of things behind. Even our travel pens and rugs stayed in Maryland for us to use during our next visit. I'm so excited to return for another vacation there and report on our adventures!

Until next time, this is Spokesbunny Noah signing off!



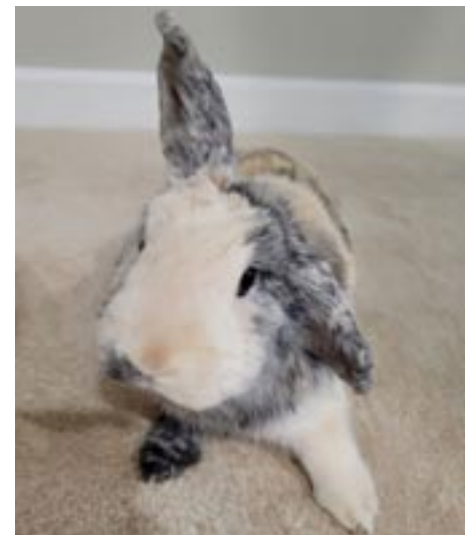
Sitting with a girl who misplaced her parents.



Santa's fluffy elf giving candy canes.



This window is a perfect height.



Ready for more adventures!

Violet's Story

By Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group

Long Island volunteers mobilized recently to help a special bunny named Violet.

Adopted from Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group in early 2020, Violet was a beloved pet.

Unfortunately, her family could no longer care for her. Instead of returning her to LIRRG as outlined in our adoption contract, she was abandoned at a NYC shelter without any information or records. The shelter reported that she was severely malnourished upon arrival.

Thankfully, the shelter recognized her need and provided excellent care. After a few days in the shelter, Violet was returned to LIRRG care. She's now on the mend, gaining weight and trust.

Katie Scarr, who rushed to pick Violet up from the shelter, said her bloodwork came back with some abnormal values, possibly due to poor nutrition. Violet spent a couple days at Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital, getting expert medical care and further evaluation after her traumatic ordeal.

Denise Bertolotti posted a message on Facebook in mid-November to give the

Photos: Katie Scarr



Violet on a scale.

group's members an update on Violet's situation. Denise praised the staff of the city shelter for helping to get Violet back into safe hands, saying that the rabbit is starting her "healing journey."

Katie said Violet now seems to be very comfortable, "exploring, eating well, kicking her feet back. She is understandably a little cautious but seems overall happy to be here."

She has a new forever home and a loving partner, Moe, who resides with Katie.

Imagine if Violet had been microchipped? We could have been contacted immediately, ensuring her swift and safe return to LIRRG.

To prevent similar heartbreaks, we're launching a microchip program for our adoptable rabbits. By microchipping our rabbits, we can guarantee their safe return if they ever become lost or abandoned.



Violet, right, now has a new home and a loving partner named Moe.

Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group's First Adoption of the Year: Douglas

Photo: Jonathan Hargis



Douglas, left, with his partner, Ahsoka.



Why Rabbit Adoption?

7 reasons to adopt, and not buy:



1. Health: Rabbits that are sold by pet stores or breeders often have infectious diseases (such as coccidia, which can cause life-threatening diarrhea) due to unsanitary breeding facilities, unnatural levels of stress, inadequate nutrition, and needless antibiotics that suppress good bacteria. Often, illnesses are not detected until weeks after onset, after the rabbit's been purchased by unsuspecting customers who are then left to pay huge medical bills and/or end up with a rabbit who dies shortly after being brought home.

Ruby, A.C.C.



2. You're Saving a Life: You're giving a wonderful, rabbit a second chance, and possibly saving her from being euthanized (put to sleep), simply for not having a home.

3. Bunny Kisses: Would you like a bunny who will kiss you on the face, or make you laugh? A bunny who is good with children, or doesn't mind other animals?

Since we foster rabbits in our homes and work closely with them in the shelter, we know their personalities. Therefore, we can find you the bunny who is right for you. Pet store staffers often have neither the time nor adequate space to interact with their rabbits. And petstore rabbits are often juveniles, so true temperament is not yet apparent.

4. Spaying/Neutering: Pet store bunnies are rarely altered, which is necessary for litter-training and the prevention of aggressive behavior, and for health reasons (unspayed female rabbits have a 50-80% chance of developing uterine cancer as they age). Our bunnies have been altered, so you not only don't have to spend the \$200 to \$400 surgery cost, you don't have to deal with the bunny's recovery from the operation, either.

Kevin, Manhattan stray



Bill and Marty, Queens strays

5. Help and Support: We at House Rabbit Society are trained to educate you on care, behavior, and safe handling of your rabbit. You will be able to call us anytime with questions or concerns that you may have. We will even help you safely bond your bunny with another, if you wish.

6. Stop the Overpopulation Problem: You may think that you are rescuing a rabbit when you purchase her from a pet store with deplorable living conditions. Make no mistake, however: the store owner will happily take your money, and replace that rabbit with another one purchased wholesale from a breeder. These breeders operate like puppy mills, and have no regard for the domestic rabbit overpopulation problem. The better way to help *all* of the rabbits who suffer as a result of this crisis is to not purchase from a pet store — period. If the public would stop buying rabbits, the mills will have to stop breeding them, plain and simple.

Holly, Long Island stray



7. Variety & Choices: We have wonderful bunnies of all types, sizes, ages. At any given time, we have access to far more choices than any pet store, and we have the training and desire to help you find the right one for you.

Maria, Westchester stray



www.LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

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Rabbit Rescue & Rehab's Beautiful Foster Rabbits

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

Dove

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

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

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

Pink

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

Skye

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



Dove.



Pink.



Skye.

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

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

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RRR Rabbits in Foster Care

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Indigo

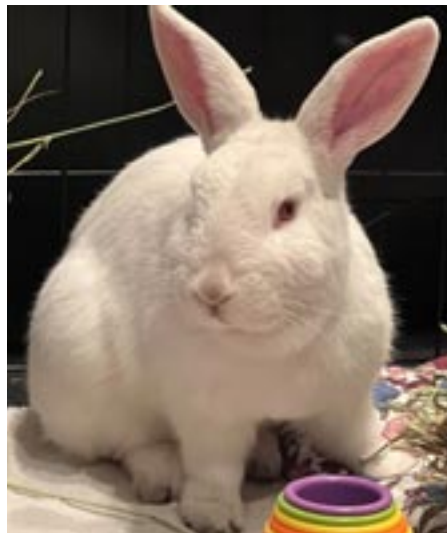
Indigo's puppy-like playfulness is as endearing as his ears are enormous! Indigo arrived at ACC showing signs of terrible neglect. When we pulled him from the shelter, the veterinary treatment he was receiving had already filled an 8-plus-page-long medical record in that short time. He was facing an 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.



Indigo.

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.



Lucy.

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



Carmela.

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

Genevieve and Gideon

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

Diamond and Reggie

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



Genevieve and Gideon.



Diamond and Reggie.

precious gem. Reggie is the kind of rabbit who makes his presence known! He is playful and energetic. Reggie is an attentive rabbit and wants to be

social with every volunteer he meets. His stunning blue eyes and skillful hops will have you hooked!

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

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



Nugget.



Benito.



Lily.



Ivory.



Willow.



Lucy Paws.



Tater Tot.



Whiskers.



Casper.



Cinnabun.



Horchata.



Chewy.

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



Snow.



Rascal Jr.



Bonnie.



Oreo.



Little Baby.



Leechie.



Koala.



Minky.

Forever Homes Found!

We are happy to report that Hunter, Munchie, Dora, Pollyanna, Runner, Lulu, Elle, Holland, Moon Pie, Flower, Shortround, Penelope, Violet, Douglas, Rascal, Paige, Koala, Bab Bony, Shadow, Jessica, Peanut Butter, Benedict, Olivia, Priya, Thackery and Bello were adopted since the last newsletter. Congratulations!

Runny Eyes, Runny Nose: What Do They Mean?

By Dana Krempels

One of the most frequent questions I am asked via the House Rabbit Society's online rabbit health link (health@rabbit.org) is, "My rabbit's nose and eyes are running. Did he catch a cold from me?" Fortunately, your bunny cannot contract a human cold, as the viruses that cause such misery in humans are not contagious to rabbits. (Note that rabbits can serve as vectors for such viruses. If you have a cold, be sure to wash your hands before you pet your bunny, lest you inadvertently share your "germs" with the next person who pets the bunny!)

As many people are all too aware, however, rabbits can suffer from sneezing, runny nose, and runny eyes. The particular cause of this in your bunny may require a bit of detective work on the part of your rabbit-experienced veterinarian, but the following information may help.

Upper Respiratory Infection ("Snuffles")

Rabbits can suffer from infections of the upper respiratory tract (the sinuses and other parts of the tract that are not actually parts of the lungs), and this is usually manifested as runny nose, runny eyes and sneezing. Unlike a human cold, which is caused by a virus, rabbit upper respiratory infections are caused by bacteria. The condition is commonly called "snuffles."

"Snuffles" is a nonspecific, "catch-all" term used to describe such symptoms without naming the specific cause. Until fairly recently, many veterinarians believed that "snuffles" was almost always caused by the bacterial pathogen *Pasteurella multocida*, commonly found in rabbits (though often without causing any problematic symptoms at all). More recent information suggests that many different species of bacteria can cause "snuffles." Some of the bacteria most commonly cultured from rabbit nasal discharge include *Pseudomonas*

aeruginosa, *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, and *Staphylococcus aureus*, though there are many others.

Because bacterial species (and their different strains) have characteristic sensitivity and resistance to various antibiotics, it is worth your investment to allow your veterinarian to positively identify the pathogen (i.e., disease-causing agent) your bunny has. The best way is via a culture and sensitivity test. This laboratory test is the only way to determine (1) the species of bacteria causing the infection and (2) which rabbit-safe antibiotics will be most effective at killing them.

If your rabbit is sneezing and/or shows signs of nasal and/or ocular discharge, especially if such discharge is whitish and thickened, she needs to be seen by a veterinarian and have a sample of nasal discharge taken and sent to a laboratory for culture and sensitivity testing. Once your vet receives the results of the C & S test, the vet will be better able to prescribe the particular antibiotic (or combination of antibiotics) that should be safest and most effective for your rabbit's infection.

Antibiotic therapy may need to be continued for several weeks, and it should always be continued for several days after symptoms have disappeared to ensure that as much of the bacterial population as possible has been killed. Follow your veterinarian's instructions carefully, and be sure to complete the full course of antibiotics, even if the symptoms go away before the medicine is gone. The reason for this? Even the most effective antibiotics might not kill some of the more resistant bacteria right away. Removing the drug too soon will leave only these particularly hardy individuals to be the progenitors of the new population of bacteria in your rabbit's sinuses, and these will be genetically better able to resist the

antibiotics you have been using (i.e., the population has evolved resistance to the antibiotics). Don't stop the antibiotics early, and don't put off treatment! A seemingly simple condition such as sneezing could develop into a potentially life-threatening problem, such as pneumonia or a systemic infection.

Lower Respiratory Infection

A rabbit with pneumonia may show symptoms such as loud, raspy breathing, and may point his nose high in the air and stretch his neck in an attempt to get more oxygen. A rabbit in this condition is critically ill, and in need of oxygen therapy at your veterinarian's clinic. Experienced rabbit veterinarians will often nebulize such a bunny with oxygen as well as products to open the airways (e.g. aminophylline) and to loosen the mucus and infective material in the lungs (e.g., acetylcysteine solution, brand name Mucomyst). In some cases, the veterinarian will add appropriate antibiotics to the nebulization mix, depending on what a culture and sensitivity test indicates.

Foreign Bodies

In some instances, a foreign object (such as a strand of hay, or a bit of food pellet) lodged in the nasal passage has been found to be the cause of runny nose and apparent chronic nasal infection. Sometimes such a foreign body is not visible without the aid of an endoscopic examination by your veterinarian. Once the item has been located, it is usually necessary to anesthetize the rabbit to allow removal of the object without danger.

In other cases, nasal polyps or other growths are found to be at the root of chronic upper respiratory symptoms. But surprisingly, one of the most common culprits causing chronic "snuffles" is undiagnosed dental problems.

(Continued on page 17)

Runny Eyes, Runny Nose

(Continued from page 16)

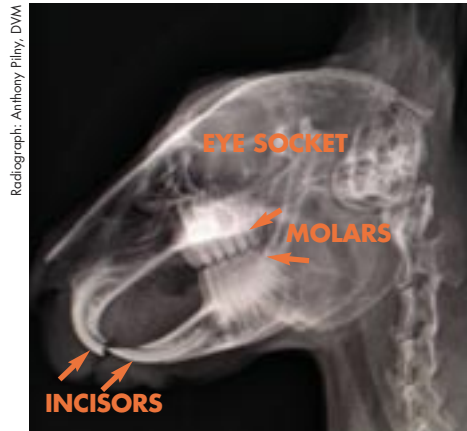
Dental Disorders and Chronic Runny Eyes/Nose

Many people are surprised at how common dental problems are in rabbits, and even more puzzled to learn that such problems can cause symptoms such as runny eyes and nose. This is more often seen in older rabbits, as these have had time to develop molar spurs, or molar root problems that can cause inflammation or even develop into infections that spread to the sinuses.

In some older rabbits, gradual onset of metabolic bone disease results in loss of bone density (osteoporosis), especially in the already light bones of the skull. When this happens, the molar and/or incisor roots can very gradually be pushed into the thinning bone as the rabbit chews.

Because rabbit teeth grow continually, the visible portion of the teeth may appear entirely normal. It is only upon radiography that the root problem becomes visible as an intrusion of the tooth roots into the skull bones. This sometimes has been called “root overgrowth,” though the term is a bit of a misnomer. The roots are not actually “growing” into the skull, but are being pushed there.

A rabbit’s molars are located almost directly under the eye socket. Hence, molar root intrusion into the skull bones can cause occlusion (blockage) of the tear ducts, which run through the skull bones, close to the roof of the mouth, just above the tooth roots. A blocked tear duct will cause tearing and runny eyes, since the tears cannot flow through the ducts and into the back of the mouth, where the duct normally empties. A narrowed duct is more susceptible to becoming plugged with mucus or bacteria. If the duct is not completely occluded, it is often possible



for your vet to flush the ducts and help restore normal flow. Whatever discharge comes out the nose from the flush can be sent to a lab for culture and sensitivity testing.

When molar problems (spurs, root intrusion, abscess) develop, symptoms such as runny eyes can be a clue that something’s amiss. Severe molar root intrusion can also be the cause of retrobulbar abscesses (i.e., abscesses located behind the eye, inside the skull). In some cases, the root has been known to puncture through the bone of the eye socket and into the eyeball itself, causing an intraocular (i.e., inside the eyeball) infection. Such severe problems may require the expertise of a licensed veterinary ophthalmologist, and your own vet may be able to refer you to one in your area, if necessary.

Even incisor (front tooth) roots can be pushed backwards into the skull and occlude the tear ducts. Again, this is usually visible only with radiography. Although your vet may suggest that incisor or molar removal may solve the teary eye problem, there are no guarantees. If the chronic trauma to the area already has caused enough scarring in the bone, even tooth removal may not open a blocked duct. You and your vet should confer to decide whether complete tooth removal, aimed at restoring tear duct function, is worth the risk.

Alleviating the Symptoms of Runny Eyes and Runny Nose

Runny eyes that cannot be permanently repaired via tear duct flush may cause skin burns and irritation where the caustic tears collect on the skin. It is usually helpful to apply warm washcloth compresses to the affected areas daily, to help soften the dried tears, and then gently rub them away. A fine-toothed, small flea comb may be useful in helping remove softened crusts from the fur.

One excellent way to help a bunny with chronic runny eyes is to allow him/her to choose a spayed/neutered mate from among those at your local rabbit rescuer’s foster home. Bonded bunnies spend a good deal of time grooming each other’s faces, and we know of some bonded bunnies who once had very irritated skin from constant tearing who then became completely symptom-free once they had mates to groom away those tears.

A very clogged nose is definitely a problem, as rabbits are obligate nasal breathers. You can help clear your bunny’s nose temporarily by gently suctioning with a pediatric ear syringe. Ask your vet about using a mild, pediatric antihistamine such as Benadryl to help shrink swollen nasal membranes. Together with a tear duct flush, which also helps flush the nasal passages, these treatments can be very effective at clearing the bunny’s breathing route.

Whatever the cause of your bunny’s problem, the sooner you allow your vet to perform the right tests and prescribe the proper treatment, the better your bunny will be able to breathe easily and be on the road to better health.

*Copyright – Dana Krempels, Ph.D.
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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.

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

You can also visit Manhattan Animal Care Center at 326 East 110th St., between First and Second avenues, and the Brooklyn Animal Care Center at 2336 Linden Boulevard.

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

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

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

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

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

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Leo.

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 JANUARY 2025

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS rabbitrescueandrehab.org

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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
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 Wiggin, 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

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

Licensed HRS Educators

NYC/Westchester:

Alex McIe
Chapter Manager,
NYC House Rabbit Society
alexlmcie@gmail.com

M.C. Basile

Mary Cotter
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mcotter64@gmail.com,
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Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group
Volunteer, altitude8@yahoo.com,
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Volunteer, hpocus217@yahoo.com,
LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

Jennifer Saver, DVM