Help Blaze, the Brave Bunny
Rescued From a Magic Show

In October of this year we rescued Blaze from a terrible situation where he was being used as a magic show prop. He was living in filthy conditions, often without access to food or water. Blaze was under-weight, had old injuries on his face, and at the time we took him in he had a badly broken leg that had gone completely untreated for an extended period of time.
(Continued on page 3)

A Year-End Appeal
To Benefit Our Many Sanctuary Rabbits

Some of the most important behind-the-scenes work that we do involves caring for our wonderful special-needs sanctuary rabbits. We take in many injured, older and chronically ill rabbits in order to get them all of the veterinary care they need and to give them a future filled with unconditional love, comfort and the security that they deserve. Some of these rabbits have life-long, very special care requirements; these bunnies become sanctuary rabbits, and remain in our care forever.

Two of our newest sanctuary rabbits are bonded pair Winter and Iko. Winter is a beautiful white and grey boy with the most fabulous chunky chipmunk cheeks. He was surrendered to us at about 8 years old. Winter’s front legs are significantly splayed due to an old injury to his leg and shoulder. This makes it quite difficult for Winter to clean his face or to sit in an upright position. His front legs tend to drift apart, but when he is moving he compensates quite well and gets where
(Continued on page 2)
Please Remember Those Still Awaiting Forever Homes This Holiday Season

As you hurry to finish your holiday preparations, buy gifts for friends and family, and rush off for vacation or to visit loved ones, please don’t forget about all of our furry friends who don’t have their own family to spend the holidays with. So many rabbits and other animals will sit in overcrowded shelters and rescue organizations where it’ll be 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 spirit in the next couple of weeks and think about donating monetary gifts, toys, soft beds, etc., so that they, too, may have a little joy 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. Hoppy holidays from RRR & best wishes for a safe and healthy New Year.

Appeal (Continued from page 1)

he wants to go. Winter has special accommodations at home that include lots of soft places to sit and lie down and extra traction across all of his living space with rugs, beds and blankets that cannot move or bunch up. Winter must have a completely flat living area without anything that he could get on top of, since he could be easily hurt jumping up or down from even short heights.

Winter has been doing wonderfully in his permanent sanctuary home, and will continue to have frequent health checks because of his age and to keep a close eye on his physical health.

Along with Winter, 10-year-old Iko was surrendered to Rabbit Rescue & Rehab with several urgent health concerns. When we first met Iko, his extremely stiff movement was immediately apparent. Arthritis prevents him from bending or extending his back legs fully and he is unable to reach down for cecotropes. Instead, he turns around to pick them up off the floor and often accidentally sits or steps on them, requiring a gentle foot or butt bath to clean him up.

Iko is missing one of his top incisors, without which the opposing bottom incisor will continually grow, eventually cause problems that could prevent him from eating. This is something that will need to be addressed very soon. We also had blood work done for Iko immediately upon taking him into our organization and it unfortunately showed that he has renal failure, a concern that also complicates the treatment of Iko’s other health issues. Iko receives subcutaneous fluids daily to support his kidney function and mitigate the effects on his kidneys of the pain medication required for his arthritis. He has a special diet that includes Critical Care several times a day to further help maintain hydration and to keep his weight up.

Now that he is settled into his permanent sanctuary home and being given all of the care he requires, Iko is doing very well! He is tremendously happy and playful, and loves the companionship of humans and his partner Winter. Winter takes excellent care of Iko, helping him groom the spots he can’t reach, and allowing himself to be used as a big comfy pillow when Iko wants a nap.

The veterinary care for these two, as well as our other special-needs sanctuary rabbits, is extremely costly. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution toward their ongoing care, please use our PayPal link at https://www.paypal.me/RabbitRescueandRehab, or send a check payable to “Rabbit Rescue & Rehab.” Our address is Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, 333 Mamaroneck Avenue, Suite #363, White Plains, NY 10605.

Visit our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/RabbitRescueRehab/ to see more stories about our wonderful sanctuary rabbits!
The Poetry of Pippi

By Amelia Wilson

Our bonded special-needs pair Pippi and Dashie never leave the carpeted areas of our apartment (connected via “bun-ways”) to venture onto the hardwood floor. They both know, however, that treats and hay come from some space “beyond” – which is basically just the closet around the corner not accessible via carpet. We often find them stretching and gazing longingly from the edge of the rug in an effort to see their pellet bowl or barley treat emerge. The joy when they do is palpable.

Below is a satirical poem I wrote one day, imagining how Pippi felt when she finally did the unthinkable: She had crossed “the wooden sea” in search of such promises. Her adventure did not last long as she turned the corner to see an unfamiliar shape – a large laundry bag – and scrambled back in terror. She hasn’t left the carpeted haven since.

(Continued on page 4)

Blaze (Continued from page 1)

Blaze’s femur – the strongest bone in a rabbit’s body – had broken completely in two just above the knee joint. His leg was irreparable, and his vet recommended amputation to give him back a pain-free life and the ability to run and play once again. Blaze had no control over this leg, so if he tried to move too quickly, he would get tripped up by it swinging underneath his body and dragging behind him. It kept him from both moving freely and keeping himself clean. Left unattended to, it would have only caused more problems and more pain for Blaze in the future.

Blaze spent a week in his foster home before his surgery, where he was given all of the comforts of a loving home for the first time in his life. Blaze finally had a healthy and consistent diet, fresh water, a clean living space, and so much more. On the day of his amputation surgery, everything went very smoothly. He even started eating and hopping almost immediately after waking up! He came back home only one day after surgery, and right away he began learning how to adapt to life with three legs.

Now that it has been over a month since his surgery, Blaze is back on his feet and is unstoppable! He is being given an increasingly larger out-of-habitat exercise space as he heals, learns how to balance, and works up strength in his back leg. Blaze is running around like he was never able to before surgery, and he is so happy, playful and adventurous. He has even learned how to binky! For a bunny who dealt with the amount of trauma that Blaze faced, he is unbelievably sweet and loving toward the humans who have taken care of him. When he eventually tires out from running, playing, and exploring, Blaze will lie completely stretched out and fall fast asleep while snuggled up with his foster parents.

Our deepest thanks go out to everyone who has already contributed toward Blaze’s costly veterinary expenses, shared his story, and reached out to us to wish him well with his recovery! In addition to the cost of surgery, Blaze will be on medications, have follow-up vet visits, and be neutered in the coming weeks and months. We are a small all-volunteer rabbit rescue group with many special-needs, chronically ill, and sanctuary rabbits. We take in many injured rabbits so they can have a chance at a brighter future. In order to care for these rabbits, we rely on donations. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution toward Blaze’s veterinary expenses, please visit his GoFundMe page at https://www.gofundme.com/HelpBlazeTheBunny, use our PayPal link at https://www.paypal.me/RabbitRescueandRehab, or send a check payable to “Rabbit Rescue & Rehab.” Our address is Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, 333 Mamaroneck Avenue, Suite #363, White Plains, NY 10605.
The poem is strictly whimsical and comedic. After all, what human of sound mind would write a Wordsworth-inspired poem about a bunny braving hardwood floor? I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed crafting it, and Happy Holidays!

“I Wandered the Wooden Sea.” By Pippi Heidinger

I wandered the Wooden Sea,
That beckoned beyond the carpeted champs.
I went in search of something green,
The call of a delicious fiber-rich dream.
They danced in my mind like old dear friends:
There was witty Oat, merry Groat, and sweet First Cut Hay!

I wandered the Wooden Sea,
Expansive as the night sky.
Beyond the soft rugs of joy and wonder,
Where my beloved and I dwell in soft profounder.
I went in search of something green,
The summon of a sumptuous, fiber-rich dream.

I wandered the Wooden Sea,
Along the safe margin of a gate,
Yet ten thousand treats saw I of late,
Swaying before me in sprightly dance:
There was blithe Barley, dear Clover, and bright Meadow too!
A poet such as me could not be but gay,
Graced with such delicious company.

I set out – I searched – but little thought,
What danger the Wooden Sea brought.
Behold her! Beware her! Single in the field;
Yon solitary large laundry bag,
Unhappy dread does she yield!

I was paralyzed, stricken – eyes wide with regret.
In a flash the bag gnashed, my mirth ripped asunder.
It thrashed and it smashed, my nemesis wonder.
The folly was mine, for having heeded the call:
Of witty Oat, merry Groat, and sweet Dandelion.

I remember little beyond that first fright,
But as I scrabbled back o’er,
The bag pursued like a wight.
And for some time my heart did bore,
Its terrible song, though heard no more.

Even now, while in my willow tunnel I lie,
In drowsy mood, beloved Dashie by my side;
The laundry bag’s teeth flash upon my inner eye,
And I am seized with dread feeling, the end is nigh!

But then my mood calms, and I settle back in,
And dream a sweet dream, of jolly good friends.
“Up! Up!” they beseech, “Join us here in our games!
“We await your fair presence, the Sea’s our domain!”
My head fills with pleasure, and I settle back down;
But with one eye still open – gazing out past the round.
The Definitive Binky Identification Guide

By Colleen AF Venable

It’s always hard to explain binkies to non-rabbit friends. “It’s um...like a tail wag, but with their whole body?” Not to mention it’s a bit embarrassing to say the term out loud. “Yes. It’s really called a binky. No. I didn’t make it up. I’m not talking in a baby voice!”

But there’s an easy solution!

Stop being friends with non-rabbit people! Who needs ’em? Not me!

What? You like your friends? Fiiiiine. But perhaps we can come up with some other terms for binkies — and any rabbit lover knows there’s definitely more than one style of binky. They should all have names! Here are some name suggestions (and demonstrations from rabbits at the Brooklyn ACC) to get you started.

And at the end of the list, I’ve included some tips for photographing binkies.

The Zombie Maker
A binky-running combo that beautifully ensnares the human’s feet in circles, thereby turning the person’s normal walking style into a Romero classic shuffle.

The Farah Fawcett
A head toss midair and a glamorous favorite of long-haired and long-eared bunnies hoping to break into the modeling/acting biz.

The Popcorn Gymnast
Most often spotted on bouncy objects such as beds, sofas and generally anywhere the bunny isn’t supposed to be. Still-motion leading to a sudden POP and acrobatic 360-spin, landing in the same spot they started.

The Astronaut
It’s not about speed or style, it’s about HEIGHT. One day this bunny is gonna get to the moon.

The Jackie Joyner-Kersee
Short sprints! Long sprints! High jumps! Long jumps! Hurdle leaps! Javelin throws! Okay, not javelins, but anything else on the track-and-field course is their favorite.

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Binkie Guide (Continued from page 5)

The Pinball
To the pinball bun, objects in your house aren’t obstacles. They’re launch pads with point values.

Call an Exorcist?
Binky-machine or possessed by the devil? Sometimes it’s hard to tell the difference. What is even happening here?! Just HOW do they get their lower half and upper half to do complete opposite things?!

The Secret Dancer
Unless you have an infrared pet cam, this beautiful late-night binky style is difficult to witness – but trust us, your downstairs neighbors know it well.

The UFB
After months and months of trying you’ve FINALLY captured a binky in a photograph!!! But all your non-bunny friends can’t tell what it is. You’ve got yourself an Unidentified Flying Bun.

The Finale
A binky leading directly into a satisfied flop reminding you just how wonderfully comfortable and happy you make them and just how lucky you are to be a bunny parent.

Tips on Photographing Binkies
– Be prepared to take TWO MILLION pictures.
– Focus on the ground or an object a few feet in front of where your bunny is. Wait for the bunny to sprint through that area. Take as many photos as your speedy finger can handle.
– If you have a rabbit that loves the paparazzi, using a flash can really capture those midair moments. (Note: I don’t use a flash, because it’s my job as a shelter volunteer to help the rabbits learn to trust humans, and being a human lightning storm may not be the best way to do that.)
– If you have a camera where you can adjust speed, choose a high ISO, which makes the shutter go faster, but a large F-stop. The larger the F-stop, the more in focus parts of the image will be, so you have a better chance of getting that ridiculous mid-binky expression in all its glory.
– The accompanying photos for this article were all taken with a Sony Mirrorless a6000 on manual focus, since the autofocus is no match for a happy speedy binkying bun!
Bunny Personalities: Nature or Nurture?

By Robert Kulka

Just recently I completed a class entitled Theories of Personality. It was a very interesting look at a variety of theories developed over the past 100 years or so. The theories included those of known and lesser-known psychologists, biologists and philosophers such as Freud, Skinner, Jung and Maslow.

What I found was that personality is an evolving process with some traits formed in childhood. Yet these traits often are just an outline of personality. How we experience and react to the external world is also important. So ultimately, whether you subscribe to biological origins for personality or environmental influence (nature or nurture), the transformations that occur as we mature are adaptations, social masks and interpretations of who we are and what we want. I wondered if the theories might be applied to rabbits.

Over the past 15-plus years, I have been exposed to rabbits in a variety of situations. Based on that, and research I’ve done on the world and history of the rabbit, I think rabbits might be analyzed in the same way as humans.

It was 2002 and a friend asked that I hold on to a rabbit for him that he’d purchased for his kids that his wife did not want. I knew nothing of rabbits, and so we observed one another with distrust. He was a five-pound Dutch mix confined to a rusted cage with wire floors and a wilted piece of lettuce and not enough hay. Something happened and I decided to keep him. I thought all rabbits were about the same. I quickly learned that was not the case. This little guy seemed to be interested in what was going on around him and would approach me gingerly at first.

Within a week my rabbit, Skip, had a proper setup with safe running space, proper food and hay, and the old rusty cage saw itself on the curb ready to be picked up with the trash. It took a little bit of time but eventually we not only accepted one another but were genuinely beginning to like one another. Some of his personality was clear early on; other behaviors seemed to develop along with trust. I was surprised that a rabbit would recognize me, want to be social, and do figure eights around my feet at feeding time.

It dawned on me that Skip was not only very interesting, but was showing more and more personality. He let me know about food and hay preferences, when to approach and when to stay clear, and quite by accident I found that he enjoyed when I read to him. He would relax quietly and listen intently for hours. His personality development continued as he grew older. It was layering things on from his original boyishness.

Skip was two when I got him and I had no idea what he had been through early in his life. As he adjusted and adapted he charmed everyone who met him. I didn’t really see it at the time, but I wonder now how much of that was his real personality that he was slow to reveal and how much was just rabbit stuff. Was Skip who he was or did his surroundings contribute to who he ultimately became?

My second rabbit came to me about six years ago. I knew some history about Lara through my volunteer work with Rabbit Rescue & Rehab. Lara had been abandoned with five babies. She eventually was adopted but then returned to her place at the 86th Street Petco, only to be adopted by me when Skip passed.

By this time I had been volunteering one day a week for some time and becoming familiar with dozens of different rabbits. They were different breeds and sizes, and had a variety of different characteristics, attitudes and backgrounds. I noticed differences among the males and females. Some were returned rabbits that had been adopted or purchased. Some were found in the wild, scared and injured.  

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Nature or Nurture
(Continued from page 7)

often requiring medical attention. All of them had certain commonalities including basic nurture needs or behaviors such as running, hiding, jumping, being cage protective, and chewing on toys, cardboard, flooring and often my shirts. But beyond these similarities, each and every one was a “different person.” Some were distrusting because of what they had been through, while others, no matter how harsh the situation they were in before, were instantly loving. It was as if this group of rabbits always saw the good and were instantly trusting, resilient and ready to put the past behind them.

The question is how much is instinct or nature, versus what might be acquired through environmental situations, or nurture? Many of the most learned of the personality theorists are split on this question. Freud believed much of what we are is a part of our early childhood experience and relationships with our parents. In the case of rabbits, it would seem that whatever early experiences they have had can be altered later by the situation they find themselves in and the comfort and trust they develop. The basic instinct of survival seems to be present, but its expression may not be the same with all bunnies. Some are cage-protective while others are very mellow. Some rabbits immediately show a playful side, running, playing and doing binkies. They are very open to humans and might play and taunt us from the very start of the relationship.

Some theorists believe that birth order has something to do with personality development. This one is hard to prove, even among people, but when you have four or five brothers and sisters in the same litter, birth order seems to take a back seat. Rabbits, like people, may have introverted or extroverted personalities. This may eventually determine whether they can be free roam or need to be in their own space.

Regardless, we have all seen the rabbit that has been attacked by other animals and mauled, that came from hoarding situations or was injured from mistreatment. These rabbits all respond differently, but with love and care they all seem to come around in their own way and somehow understand they can trust again. I have seen the tiny sweetheart with splayed legs run to me for love and comfort, ignoring her condition. I saw my Lara after her leg was removed, immediately showing affection when she woke from surgery. Her trust and love have continued to grow. She has become a puppy dog that sits next to me in the evenings and asks for petting.

I guess, just like people, there is no simple answer to whether we are born with our traits or whether they are a foundation that, with the right nurturing, can be developed or even changed. What I know is that each rabbit has a distinct personality and they all express themselves in their own way. As they train and change us, their personalities develop and blossom as we continue the bond.

There may not be a definitive answer to the nature and nurture argument. If you think about it, with love, patience and trust we all become who we really are and return the favor to others. Each of us is unique in our way, just as are our bunnies. The only difference may be that rabbits are more receptive and resilient, and in the end willing to open up and be the gentle and sweet beings they all seem to start out as in life.
Three Shelter Rabbits Are My Wonderful Obsession

By Tristan Harstan

My rabbit obsession began with one of my favorite books, “Watership Down.” I am certain a lot of rabbit lovers would say the same thing. Currently, I have three rabbits, all of whom were adopted from the Manhattan Animal Care Center. I have two Rex rabbits and an American Fuzzy Lop.

Lili, or Lilibun as I sometimes call her, is my most recent rescue. She is what is called a broken chocolate Rex, as she is brown with white markings. She was originally named Mrs. Huggy Buns, and I think this is because she loves to hug, give kisses and to lick my face when I hold her. I love all of my rabbits, but Lili has become a favorite of mine. She has an amazingly affectionate personality, and even chooses to sleep with my cats in their bed. Siamese cats and a Rex rabbit: perfect company!

Laurel is my chocolate Rex. She was originally called Coca-Cola, and I am sure that was because of her rich chocolate brown coloring. I love all rabbits but have always had a special affinity for Rexes, Angoras and Lops.

I originally came to the shelter to specifically adopt, rather than purchase a rabbit, due to the large number of rabbits that end up being dumped into the shelter system. When I saw Laurel on the ACC website, I instinctively felt she had to come home with me. I thought about her for some time, periodically checking in to see if she was still on the website. I stopped by one day on my way home and was disappointed to realize that she was not there. I assumed she had been adopted. Heartbroken, I felt I just had to take someone home. It was then that I saw a rabbit named Pippin. With his floppy ears and tangled fur, I just fell in love with him and I chose to adopt him instead. He was thin and his fur was heavily matted, and I was determined to give him a better home.

Shortly thereafter, I had by chance spoken to a friend about rabbits as pets and I suggested she look online with me. Much to my amazement, I came across Laurel (Coca-Cola) and realized she had been out of the shelter to be spayed. I immediately called and adopted her and have enjoyed her quirky personality ever since. She has now been bonded with Pippin and my goal is to bond Lili with both Laurel and Pippin shortly.

My trio loves their new digs. They are ensconced in spacious puppy pens, have lots of mental stimulation, organic dandelion leaves, cilantro and Small Pet Select hay. What more could any bunny dream of?
Long Island Rabbits Are Ready For the Holidays

Moe the Lionhead loves holiday fun. He was adopted from Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group.

Winston is driving. Barney (who passed away recently) and Maisie are in the back.

Adoptable boy Mylo loves to pose.

Hazel the lap sniffs around Santa’s toy shop. She was adopted from Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group.
City Approves Plans For Bronx Shelter

The de Blasio administration, in collaboration with the City Council, said Nov. 14 that it had completed the final regulatory step toward building a Bronx animal shelter. A land-use application was approved that allows construction on the site to begin.

Projected to open in 2024, the 47,000-square-foot Bronx shelter will be located in the East Bronx and will have space for 70 dogs, 140 cats, 30 rabbits and 20 other types of animals. This city has made a commitment to have a fully operational animal shelter in each borough.

“Our continued commitment to the Animal Care Centers of NYC has helped increase the adoption rates for shelter pets to record numbers,” said Mayor Bill de Blasio. “This new Bronx facility is a win for the community, who will have access to a full-service shelter and increased opportunities for partnerships with youth and seniors.”

“I am thrilled that the Bronx will be getting an animal shelter, bringing us one step closer to the goal of shelters in all five boroughs as mandated by council legislation,” said City Council Speaker Corey Johnson. “I got my cat Mousse from the Animal Care Centers of NYC and I hope all New Yorkers will consider adopting if they are looking for a pet (and I hope if they do adopt they end up as happy as me and Mousse).”

The de Blasio administration has invested $98 million in the development and renovation of full-service animal shelters in all five boroughs. The Animal Care Center currently runs full-service shelters in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Staten Island, and admissions centers in the Bronx and Queens. New York City operates one of the largest animal shelters in the country, taking in more than 30,000 animals every year.

In addition to housing the Bronx Animal Shelter, the new location will feature

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We Are Looking for Loving Homes:
These Rabbits Are in Foster Care

Pierre
Pierre is a young, sweet and energetic male rabbit looking for his forever home. He was rescued in Mount Vernon and seems young enough that he may still have some growing to do. He loves to explore, run, binky, and shred cardboard during playtime, between taking breaks to do the most dramatic and adorable side flops. Pierre is a true joy to be around as you spoil him with the love and attention he deserves. He has good litter-box habits and is neutered. If interested in adopting this sweetheart, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Lucia
Lucia is medium-sized black-and-white Dutch. She is a very happy, interactive and relaxed bunny. Lucia has been spayed and is currently in foster care. For more information and/or to arrange a meeting with Lucia, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Susan
Susan is a medium-size brown beauty. She is on the young side (probably a year or two), healthy, and has lots of energy for binkies and playtime! She loves to munch on her hay and fresh greens. She is warming up to petting, but would probably not make a great choice for someone who wants a lap bunny or for a home with young kids. She has been

(Continued on page 12)
Bunnies in Foster Care

(Continued from page 11)

spayed and is blossoming in foster care. For more information on adopting Susan, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Elvis and Famous
Elvis and Famous are a pair of bonded, middle-aged bunnies who love to cuddle one another. They are tidy roommates, often preferring their “room”/area most of the time. They can be free roam when supervised in a rabbit safe environment. Elvis and Famous will do some light lounging and exploration of the rest of the apartment/house, especially if anything new is introduced. Famous, the smaller of the two, is a Netherland dwarf female about 5 years old. Elvis is the slightly larger male English Spot, about 4 years old. He is super-sweet and unperturbed and is mostly the sidekick in the duo. As of their last checkup, Elvis is 4.5 lbs. and Famous is 3 lbs. These two need to find forever homes soon so they can continue being the easygoing partners they are now. For more information, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Butters
Butters is a beautiful white-and-tan Dutch rabbit. She is an energetic young bun and needs plenty of room to show off her binky jumps and kicks. When she’s not on the move, she enjoys being petted between her ears, purring in delight when given a good bunny massage or on-the-ground cuddle.

Harriette
Meet Harriette! This beautiful and curious and energetic, and needs a quiet home with a very gentle human who will help manage her long luxurious hair. She is spayed and has excellent litter-box habits. If interested in adopting Harriette, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Bronx Shelter

(Continued from page 11)

2,800 square feet on the ground floor dedicated to the Wild Bird Fund, which last year rehabilitated and re-released over 3000 sick, injured, or orphaned animals back to the wilds of NYC. Other programs offered at the facility will include academic partnerships for youth, and enhanced senior services.

“It’s inspiring to see the city taking swift action, following the passage of my legislation, to make a full-service animal shelter a reality for the Bronx. Having animal shelters in every borough reflects our belief that all animals should be protected and given the opportunity to find a home,” said Council Member Paul Vallone. “Now it is time to turn our sights to Queens to ensure that we finally receive a full-service animal shelter with adoption, veterinary and educational services.”
**ADoptions**

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

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

**By Kirsten Ott**

**Belinda**

Belinda is a small brown/agouti Dwarf with an adorable personality. This little girl is always on alert, and very excited at the prospect of affection. When you pet her, she doesn't budge – she just stares at you with her saucer-like dark eyes, nose wiggling intently. She's not scared, but she doesn't totally relax either – she seems to revel in the enjoyment of being petted, twitching with happiness. Belinda is as cute as a button, too – she’s a compact little thing and those big eyes are framed with long dark lashes.

**Jinx**

Jinx is a medium-sized female Dwarf mix who was prematurely adopted, and then abruptly returned by a home that wasn't truly ready for her. She was quite a sassy thing before the failed adoption, but as a result of her recent experience she has become very nervous and cage-protective. Her next (forever) home really needs to be quiet, patient, and bunny-savvy. Jinx will always be feisty, but she has to learn to trust people, and that may take some time. She's awfully cute, though! She's mostly white with soft grayish-brown freckles on her cheeks and down her back, a fun stripe across her forehead, and giant dark eyes.

**Sam-I-Am**

Sam-I-Am is a medium-large tan-and-white lop with a super bossy attitude. This girl does not appreciate having her space invaded, and will growl in protest. She's not shy, just fussy. She’ll approach to check you out and pass judgment on you, then go back to whatever critically important thing she was doing (making green eggs and ham?) before you rudely interrupted. Sam-I-Am's name suggests a healthy sense of self, which is quite fitting – she will always be a bunny who knows exactly what she wants. She'll do best in a bunny-savvy home where she can train her people on precisely how to treat her and thereby develop trust in them.
A Rabbit Roommate
By Jillian Jacobs

A roommate can always be a little tricky, especially when it comes to sharing one bedroom. There is space that needs to be thought out, and privacy is hard to find—sometimes even impossible, depending on schedules. My husband and I typically spend leisure time in and out of the bedroom, while our bunny boys (Blackberry and Marbles) have had full custody of the living room. What happened over the course of one month was a temporary change in our living arrangements—which also involved converting our new shared space into a one-room habitat. To say the least, it conjured up some pretty interesting moments:

Andrew and I found ourselves waking to hard pounding on a nearby door at 5:30 a.m. We would jump out of bed thinking, “OK, be patient. We’ve never heard this commotion when Marbles and Blackberry were in the living room. Maybe they were far enough away that we couldn’t hear it.” It would make sense. Previously, whoever woke up first in the morning (usually it was Andrew) would go into the living room to feed the rabbits. Now we were sharing the room with them, and Andrew developed the habit of waking to feed them at the new sound of Marbles’ excessive pounding. While this also became Andrew’s cue to put on his workout gear and head to the gym, I would go back to sleep, or at least try. About an hour later, the pounding resumed. I would jump up, seeing Marbles’ front paws pounding, with his floppy ears pulled back and his eyes glaring at me.

Seriously? He can’t be hungry again! But I lean over to grab some more pellets to put in their bowl as he and Blackberry manically start racing around. Five minutes later, they are resting their bellies on a bed of hay—each assuming the position of a sphinx. I roll back over in bed, hoping to sleep a little longer.

Bang! Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!
It’s 6:45 in the morning!

I sit up to observe Marbles staring at me, and then it dawns on me: He had been used to enjoying lots of playtime whenever Andrew and I were in the living room for long periods of time.

Okay…I hadn’t even had my coffee yet, but I could see that the bunnies needed some exercise and attention. I opened the door and they hopped right on the bed. As they begin to binky, another thought crossed my mind: Ugh! Now, they are going to expect this every morning!

I can’t fault Marbles for being the new, obnoxious, roommate. I guess if Andrew and I hadn’t played with them so much, maybe this wouldn’t be an issue. But watching them binkying and running around me, at sunrise, showed that they were happy to wake up and see my face first thing in the morning. True, this temporary living situation should have been better thought out to where I could have my bouncing boys and my coffee, too, but again, this arrangement wouldn’t last forever. And now as I sip my coffee while writing this article, it occurs to me how lucky I am to have a rabbit that loves me so much that he has taken it upon himself to be my personal alarm clock. I wake up to the demand for attention and love—something I guess we all wish we could have in a roommate, after all.
Goodbye to Queen Olivia

By Pam and Andrew Jones

Since the last Thump newsletter we unexpectedly lost our Queen Olivia. We were totally heartbroken and still miss her every day. She gave us so much love in the two years that we had her. She was a little diva, full of energy and so feisty. Only on her terms she would come and play, and yet she demanded to be petted, especially in the evenings when we put the TV on. She would slide into her favorite spot with her back feet out and wait for the hand. Olivia had so much personality that sometimes we didn't even think she was a bunny – she was more like a naughty 2-year-old! We'd pet her for so long our arms would get tired, but if we dared stop she used to nudge us hard with her head to tell us to keep going. Sometimes we'd get a nudge, grunt and a nip, too, to make sure we knew to keep going!

Olivia was always working on a new project, whether it be tidying up the sofa, pushing the cushions off it or ripping up a new cardboard box. She was obsessed with paper. I remember I was signing the adoption papers at Petco in the pen and she got up on her hind feet to steal them from me, and then ran away with them! She was so confident. A lot of our books that we accidentally left out on the coffee table have her tooth marks on them. The corners are chewed off! I don't mind, though, because every time I open those books it's a sweet memory of her naughty little personality. She definitely taught us about letting go of our attachment to things.

We let her run around the entire apartment. It was really her apartment that we were living in. When we were away over the holidays the bun sitters would update us and tell us that she was so protective over her turf. Like a dog. That used to make us giggle. Typical feisty Olivia!

When she passed it was painful for us, and still is, but we're also glad we had the opportunity of giving her the best that we could. I know there are many bun lovers out there who feel sad at such a time, but it's comforting to know at least you had the precious time with your sweet bun. No one can take that away. The memories will last forever.
Rest in Peace, Hugo

By Megan Krieman

Hugo was an extraordinarily beautiful bunny who never knew it. He overcame difficult odds with two oral abscesses to live 8 more full years.

Hugo was very sweet and devoted entirely to his first love and bunny partner, Delilah. I like to think that I was a close second.

He leaves behind his second bunny partner, Tillie. We miss him terribly.
Rest in peace, dear Hugo.
**My Charlie's Legacy**

By Diana Kronenberg

In mid-October, I lost my furry little companion, Charlie. I have written many articles for Thump that involved my rabbit, Charlie, in some form or another. He was my first bun, and many of the things I have learned about rabbits have come from my experiences with him.

I first adopted Charlie from AC&C in Manhattan, the day before Mother's Day in 2009. I did not know very much about rabbit personality yet, but I loved Charlie's coloring, and felt I was not the sort of person who needed an outgoing and friendly rabbit. Thump editor, Susan Lillo, adopted Charlie out to me and taught me the first rabbit basics of what would turn out to be an ever-ongoing education process.

Charlie was definitely not an overly friendly bun, but he was independent and very smart. We got along very well and I felt that I had definitely made the right choice in bringing him home. The two of us had bonded, but after I brought home a foster rabbit, Bella Leche, two years later, he let me know that he would be moving on, and moving in with that new rabbit! Charlie and Bella Leche bonded quickly and had three wonderful years together until she passed from a tumor in her lungs. Even though I had initially seen Charlie as very independent, I knew he would be much happier if I found him another mate to bond with. A few months later he was happily bonded to Piper and had another three years with her until his passing.

He had been dealing with kidney disease for nearly a year, and I knew that at some point his kidneys would deteriorate enough that it would be too uncomfortable for him to live with. I was not sure how it would manifest, but as with other ailments for him, he stopped wanting to eat when the bodily toxins built up too much. After treating him with stasis meds and keeping his body temperature warm, I rushed him to the vet the next day where she broke the sad news. He was not suffering too much yet, but she recommended euthanasia within a few days before he got worse.

I certainly did not want him to suffer, so I brought him home and let him snuggle with his mate, Piper, and offered him all the food I could think of. We already had made an appointment for two days later, so we planned to bring him back then. He ate little bits and I gave him a little Critical Care a few times, but I mostly just tried to make him comfortable and let him know much he was loved. He was such an intuitive rabbit, so I am sure he knew that already.

Piper did not seem terribly aware of the situation, but she is one of those rabbits who live in their own little world. I did bring her with Charlie to his appointment, so that she could be with him at the end. She was fine, and seemed her usual self at home, so she either understood that he was sick, or grieved quickly afterwards. I plan on bonding her to my previous foster-failure Cameron in the coming months, although she might not mind being a solo rabbit. Charlie was always the more affectionate one in their relationship.

It has been tough without him at home. I have been focusing on my other four rabbits, making sure they get lots of love and attention. He is the second rabbit that I have lost, but after having him in my life for almost nine and a half years, his absence feels much stronger. We got even closer as I spent more one-on-one time caring for him in the last year of his life. He was a special-needs bun by then, and it is often harder to say goodbye to those buns. I will always think of him in the future whenever I give a rabbit Critical Care, sub-q fluids, or a butt bath.

My Charlie was always more of a rabbit's rabbit, and, in general, preferred them to human companionship. I think he would be happy to know that everything he has taught me will help other rabbits in the future. He was the perfect first rabbit for me and will influence all my future interactions with rabbits. He will be greatly missed, but never forgotten.
RIP Veronica: We Are Thankful That She Chose to Be Our Furbaby

By Amber L. Spradlin

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you that Miss Veronica passed away peacefully at home in our arms on Friday, Nov. 2. She broke her disabled arm earlier this fall but had recovered in record time (only four weeks with a splint, no cast needed) and was back to racing around the apartment – running from kitchen to living room with a little hop at the threshold was her favorite track. She ended up passing away from an age-related heart condition that showed itself quite suddenly. She was approximately 10+ years old and had just marked her 8th adoptaversary. She checked more boxes off of her bucket list than even many humans.

In 2018:
She went to visit her favorite maestro at Pensacola Opera;
She traveled from there to New Orleans for Mardi Gras;
She appeared via Skype for some elementary students in Belfast, N.Y., for World Read Aloud Day;
She ate carrots and cilantro at an airport sports lounge for the Super Bowl;
She went to Orlando in March, where she went to her first movie in a theater;
She attended the U.S. premiere of a French musical composition at a historic church in Forest Hills, Queens;
She flew first-class to Nebraska, where she visited the Kinder Haus children’s program and used her big rabbit ears to teach young people about listening;
She rode in an all-terrain vehicle and tasted fresh hay straight from the field;
She went to Ocean City, Md., for Independence Day;
She visited offices at Rockefeller Center to provide rabbit therapy over the summer;
She nibbled the envelope for good luck when I sent off my third audiobook (featuring her) for Grammy Award contention;
She attended rehearsals and performances of a new children’s musical at the NYSummerfest (she helped me run the light board);
She did therapeutic swimming sessions twice a month, and she tried acupuncture;
She took a road trip with my husband, Adelmo, from New York City to Florida. She got to experience eight states and tasted her first orange. (She fell in love and ate one slice of a clementine orange daily for all the rest of her days. I will never forget the delight in her eyes as the juice dripped down her chin and the flesh of the fruit squeaked with each chomp.);
And most importantly, she shared all of these experiences with her partner of eight years – her husbun, Thumperino.

My heart is forever broken but I am warmed to know that I was with her all of her last hours as she slept on my chest and purred her little toothy purr while I petted her cheeks. She snuggled her husbun several times the night she passed and both Adelmo and I told her we loved her as we held her in our arms. On our drive to the vet that morning with her tiny body wrapped in her favorite blanket, a butterfly flew over our car on the Queensboro Bridge. I hope that it was her spirit flying free with the birds.

I am thankful that over the past two years she slept in a little bunny bed between our pillows each night and she held her paw in Adelmo’s hand for several hours each day while he studied opera arias. We are both still working through these difficult first days, and so is Thumperino. I am comforted that she will live on as a character in my book series. The fifth book was published recently: she gets to ride a bicycle in this book and fly over the Statue of Liberty on the back of Thumperino Superbunny as they save all of the library books in New York City.

I am thankful that we met her and that she chose to be our furbaby.

In life I loved you dearly, In death I love you still. In my Heart, you hold a place no one can ever fill. It broke my heart to lose you, but you didn’t go alone. For part of me went with you, the day you flew back home.

Binky free my sweet Veronica! May your spirit fly with the birds and your soul run with the gazelles. I love you, girl!

RIP Veronica 2008 – 2018

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

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Binky free my sweet Veronica! May your spirit fly with the birds and your soul run with the gazelles. I love you, girl!

RIP Veronica 2008 – 2018
GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Arnie Was Like a Soul Mate

By Alistair Drummond

Arnie: 4-24-07 to 12-06-18, adopted by me 11-06-09.

Arnie was blissfully bonded to Izzy for several years.

Arnie was like a soul mate to me for nine wonderful years. Don’t get me wrong. There were several anxious episodes of stasis and emergency treatments and pulling though and bouncing back to full health and strength over the years. We’ve had our hard times, as the wonderful Jane O’Wyatt, Cindy Stutts, Marcie Frishberg and Dr. Katherine Quesenberry and her team can attest.

But the abiding memories are the delightful ones. The spontaneous morning snuggle greeting and kisses woven in and out around my feet awaiting the delivery of breakfast to his bowl, the so many different postures, the tossing of his head, spontaneous binkies, fierce running, conveying so many shifting attitudes, the holding of my gaze.

I am most grateful for the companionship of these years, the long conversations that took place in which while the human words were only on one side the conversation was nevertheless two-sided.

Arnie had a way of restoring me to myself, more truly to myself, helping me to return to my center, to my essence, and helping me to be at home when I was at home. He was the homemaker par excellence and he did so much to teach me how to feel at home.

May his soul rest in peace. Alistair

Arnie.

Izzy (left) and Arnie.

Photos: Jane O’Wyatt
Letters From Adopters

Lolo

Mikayla Morin adopted Lolo in September. Here is a great update about Lolo’s new home.

Having been a longtime rodent lover and most recently a rat parent, my only experience with rabbits was limited to classroom pets as a Pre-K youngster. But when my rattie Pepper died this summer, thankfully at a ripe old age, just months after his brother Emmy, I was left quite lonely. Being a graduate student who spends most of my time in NYC, but all of my breaks in Vermont with my parents and extended family, the decision to get a pal for myself always has to include consideration of my family and my parents’ pets, a cat and a dog.

The ratties had fit in well, but my mom was at first relieved I didn’t have to travel with all the rattie extras anymore. When I started talking to, and tucking into bed, the rat stuffed animals she had gotten me in memorial, though, she could tell how sad I was not to have a little buddy to take care of anymore. So she was encouraging when I started looking into new creatures to welcome to my home.

I thought back to those Pre-K days and decided to check out the bunny forums, and I was surprised to learn rabbits are so similar to cats, at least in their hygiene habits and general spunky manner. I knew I wanted to adopt, so I started cautiously poking around local rescues. When I finally worked up the courage to visit the Animal Care Center near my apartment in Brooklyn, I ended spending four hours there meeting bunnies and learning more about proper bunny care from the adoption counselors and volunteers. It was honestly a magical experience and I left with Lolo as my own.

I have to admit, I went into the center that day knowing I was interested in Lolo. He happens to share a name with my mother, who is named Laurel but affectionately known as Momma Lolo. Meeting Lolo for the first time, I knew it was meant to be, as if his name wasn’t a big enough sign already. He was sweet, timid and loved attention – and I have a lot of affection to give!

Since settling in to my apartment, Lolo has shown he prefers cuddles over playtime. Sharing a salad of romaine lettuce, while I massaged his head and ears, was our first bonding experience (The E. coli outbreak has been rough for him – no more spinach, momma!). Every morning he snuggles with me in bed before I go to school, and every evening he zooms through his tunnel and does circles around me – grunting and licking me, asking for attention – while I try to get my homework done.

Sometimes he gets nervous when there are loud noises from our neighbors and will hide under the bed and thump, but he can always be coaxed out with the sound of a shaken bag of dried cranberries – he’s absolutely crazy for crans!

I’ve only had Lolo for two months now, but already I feel extremely bonded to this strange little bun. He licks everything instead of chewing, likes cat toys more than bunny toys, and is slowly learning to accept healthier greens into his dinnertime regime. I am so grateful for my furry little buddy and so looking forward to many more years of hops, flops and binkies!

Thank you to the Brooklyn ACC and all those bunny bloggers out there for helping me be the best bunny guardian I can be and giving me a place now to share my enthusiastic love for my sweet, silly little friend, Lolo the Bun!

Mikayla Morin

Midnight

Midnight, formerly known as Helena, was adopted by Farrah Mitton and her family in early December. They report that she is doing well in her loving home.

My 8-year-old son brought the idea to me that we should get a rabbit.

I wasn’t sure about it at first, but then he was doing all sorts of research about rabbits. He watched videos on how to take care of them and make them happy. He watched videos on how to take care of them and make them happy. It melted my heart.

We went to the shelter to interact and meet with some rabbits. I immediately fell in love. I went out to buy supplies and two weeks later we adopted a black rabbit and named her Midnight.

Thank you to my 8-year-old son Devin and thank you to the shelter for bringing such joy to our home. We are very appreciative!

Farrah Mitton
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) 337-6146. 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 St., New York, NY 10065
(212) 838-7053, (212) 329-8622

Alexandra Wilson, DVM
The Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine
568 Columbus Ave., 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

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 Nancy Schreiber at nscreibmd@gmail.com or at 516-510-3637 (www.longislandrabbitrescue.org).

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

Adoptable Rabbit Rescue & Rehab rabbits are at Petco’s Union Square location. Rabbit volunteers are present at these stores on Saturday and Sunday afternoons to answer questions.

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:

Long Island:
Jennifer Saver, DVM
Laura George, DVM
Cattnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital
2056 Jericho Turnpike
New Hyde Park, NY 11040
(516) 877-7080

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

Jeff Rose, DVM
Jefferson Animal Hospital
606 Patchogue Rd. (Route 112)
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776
(631) 473-0415

Shachar Malka, DVM
Long Island Bird & Exotics Veterinary Clinic
333 Great Neck Road
Great Neck, NY 11021
(516) 482-1101

Adviser to THUMP, mec@cloud9.net,
Marnie Frishberg

President, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, hpocus217@yahoo.com, LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

Jennifer Saver, DVM
Laura George, DVM

Licensed HRS Educators

NYC/Westchester:
M.C. Basile, Chapter Manager, NYC House Rabbit Society, bunnytorts@gmail.com
Mary Cotter, Founder, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, Adviser to THUMP, mec@cloud9.net, (914) 337-6146

Jeanine Callace, Rosoyo.pippin@verizon.net
Alex Mcle, alexlmcle@gmail.com

Monica Shepherd, DVM

New York City:

To adopt a rabbit in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Westchester and Long Island, contact nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com

or she finds a permanent home. 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

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 on weekend afternoons at Union Square. Please contact nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com to make arrangements.

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