

THUMP

NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS APRIL 2018



A Special Day for Bunnies at Petco

By Sylvie Jensen

We had a great time at the Union Square Petco's adoption event on Sunday, March 25. Garbo and Wilbur spent a good four hours out in their exercise pens. They binkied, lounged and enjoyed attention from the volunteers, who included Marcie Frishberg, Larry Marion, Mayra Peñaranda, Andrea Kutsenkow and new volunteer Liat Koffler.

The store was busy and we had many admirers and some questions and adoption inquiries. Marcie wore the bun costume and was a big hit. Marcie and Larry brought lots of house rabbit merchandise and decorations so we had

Photo: Larry Marion



Wilbur at Petco. See page 4 for more photos.

a beautiful table setup, not to mention festive balloons and rabbit ears!

(In early April, another bunny joined us at Petco: Baloo. He's been adopted!)

Jonas Bounces Back After Losing a Leg

By Robert Nolan

The last month or so has been incredibly stressful for me. First, I'd like to say that every-bunny is fine (so please do not worry for the worst), but also that everything would not be fine without a bunch of incredibly wonderful people who've kept me calm and collected through this whole experience. So, thank you and without you I don't know what I would be writing now.

Photo: Robert Nolan



Jonas after amputation surgery.

I noticed something funny one day as I was cleaning up and doing my routine for the boys, Jonas and Coco, before going to work. Jonas, at some point that I still cannot figure out when or how, had an injury to his left back leg. It must have gone unnoticed for a while, but to

Comfort for Childhood Anxiety: A Dwarf Bunny Named Bruce

By Christina Berner

My son, now 13 years old, has suffered from different forms of anxiety for most of his life. Middle school brought it to the foreground big time! He is a smart, creative, fun kid with lots of great friends, all on the honor roll. Seeing him suffering and so unhappy on a daily basis is a tremendous struggle for a mom.

Therapy helped, but only so much. His point person at school is an amazing social worker who gave us lots of tools and ideas. The school affords him resources and time, but it just wasn't enough. All children ask their parents for pets: "When can we get a puppy? Can we get a pet?" My son only asked

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Rescue Groups Mobilize To Save Hundreds Of Abandoned Rabbits In Las Vegas

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Dana Krempels Discusses Causes And Detection Of GI Stasis

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About our masthead bunny from Hauppauge: One week before Easter, Long Island volunteer Samantha Vaughn noticed something moving in her yard on a pile of snow. Upon closer inspection, that moving object was a baby Dutch rabbit. This baby, abandoned and alone, was hopping through piles of snow, trying to find shelter. Thankfully, she found Samantha, who saved this rabbit's life by scooting the baby into her garage. Photo illustration: Mary Ann Maier. Photo: Robert Nolan.

Jonas Bounces Back

(Continued from page 1)

be honest he seems to hide his pain really well, because I saw him limping that day and a small part of his hock had already become worn down. I called the vet immediately to set up an appointment, and while on hold I saw a lump on his leg. I decided to take Jonas in immediately, where we'd run an entire set of blood-work tests as well as X-rays.

My local vet on Long Island, Dr. Jennifer Saver, was away. Dr. Becky Campbell in Manhattan found what clearly looked like a mass that could have either been cancer or an infection. The full body scan showed no other problems, and Jonas was otherwise in very good health at the age of approximately 7½ years. We were sent home, awaiting the full results of the blood work. We would review our options as soon as all three of us could coordinate and discuss treatment. However, Dr. Campbell said she thought he might have to lose his leg.

And so I sat there in her Upper West Side office. I'm sure time was legitimately stopped for me for a solid moment as I thought: My child is perfect. You have got this all wrong; he's too healthy and young. We can fix this; I need different news.

I had the doctor write everything down for me. There was no way I was going to remember anything she'd just told me and even if I did, it was frozen in my brain and I need a piece of paper to tell me what to do when I'm unable to think for myself.

That car ride home was interesting. I remember pulling over near the CVS in New Hyde Park, because I couldn't think and all I wanted to do was to hold Jonas. So, we sat there for an hour or so, just reclining and relaxing. We both needed a time-out after all that.

After finding out it was an infection that was causing the bone to not heal, and NOT cancer, I initially had been overjoyed. But then I heard that the leg wouldn't

Photos: Robert Naldan



This photo was taken when Robert first got Jonas several years ago.



Jonas post-op.

mend, and that I had to make arrangements for his operation.

I did everything I could to research what life was like for a rabbit with three legs, what it meant for me as an owner, what it meant for us as we experienced it together, all the possibilities and changes. I heard stories from people in Facebook groups; read threads upon threads in forums, YouTube, everything. It helps. I saw all these people and their beautiful babies who had gone through this same experience. They swore that their rabbit flourished, and it was remarkable to see how resilient rabbits can be in this situation.

I dropped Jonas off at 8:30 a.m. on Jan. 12. I was nervous, and I knew I wouldn't be able to think or eat until I got my phone call: Your baby boy is fine. Every-

thing is perfect. You have nothing to worry about.

I got that call just a few hours later, a little before 1 p.m.

I visited him the very next day. It was hard to look at him at first. What have I done? How could I have let this happen? But the stitches looked good. His surgery had gone great, and he was alert and moving. If I remember correctly, a member of the medical staff used the words, "one of the cutest bunnies I've ever seen," to describe him – naturally, of course.

So, the worst was over. Now we are learning how to handle this new challenge together, he and I. I brought Jonas home the day after his surgery, worried and scrambling like a soon-to-be-dad who didn't set everything up properly even though I had plenty of time to do so. I made things comfortable for him, as best as I could. The second night he was home, I was cleaning his area and he was on the floor watching me. He took off with the strength he had, ran over and stole my sock and then ran back to his nearby pet bed and looked up at me, as if to say, "Bet you didn't think I could do that!" I nearly had a heart attack. I am finding out what Jonas needs and making his living situation better, adjusting things for his convenience. I also understand that he must work a bit to get the things he wants, so that he can become strong. I get up extra early every day so that we can practice his balancing exercises together.

Two nights ago, Jonas was lifting himself up to get lettuce and keeping his legs perfectly straight. This morning was the first time I'd seen him able to rest his weight on the surgery site. He is figuring out how to balance so he can clean underneath himself. I'm lying on my bed right now and watching him flop and stretch, again and again, on his new comfy fleece, trying to find that perfect spot so he can extend his leg, relax, and sleep in peace tonight. He hadn't been able to do that for some time.

He's earned it.

Comfort

(Continued from page 1)

for a bunny. He slept with a four-inch stuffed bunny for most of his childhood; Hoppers was truly a comfort.

I grew up with rabbits. Oliver was my first and biggest. He lived in an eight-foot hutch in my parents' yard. Oliver enjoyed freedom in the yard and fresh hay and good pellets from Agway. We had a real bond. I worked next door to a pet store in my teen years and ended up getting three more rabbits: two dwarf rabbits and one lop. I think I always had it in the back of my mind that we'd have a bunny again one day.

After careful contemplation, we let the kids know we'd be looking for a bunny to rescue. Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group was the first place I contacted. This was THE best place to start. I quickly learned bunnies need to live indoors. So much information had changed about the care of domestic bunnies over 30 years! We thought we had found a good spot to place a cage on top of a large piece of furniture. We thought it would be right in the center of our living space so the rabbit would get lots of love and attention – until we learned that rabbits need to live on the floor. We made many adjustments to our plans for life with a rabbit, and we are so thrilled we had such great guidance. Denise Bertolotti from Long Island Rabbit Rescue sent us wonderful resources and many articles and videos to review. She wanted to be sure we knew what we were getting into. My husband and I also wanted to be sure we knew what we were getting into.

Going through our research we saw picture after picture of gorgeous bunnies. I just knew my son had to live with a bunny. We read and watched videos for about three weeks, and then read and watched more from LIRRG. We knew this was the right move for us. We were going to have an addition to the family.

Photo: Christina Berner



Bruce with his new family.

Lauren Marchant and Nicole Weiss came to our home from LIRRG. They asked where we'd keep the bunny and answered all of our questions. My son, Garrett, and 9-year-old daughter, Jennie, had tons of things to ask about! These volunteers were kind, patient and very informative. They saw how ready we were, and we were approved for an adoption. This was such a comfort for me, the mom that worries. Knowing they were sure we could care for their bunny was awesome.

About a month into the process, we had a date set for adoption. LIRRG asked us to bring a towel or blanket for the ride home. With great anticipation, I went with my husband and children to visit Nancy Schreiber's home, full of available bunnies! After visiting one-on-one with several bunnies, we knew Taylor was the one. He seemed very happy with us.

Now began the real training. While my family watched, Mary Ann Maier demonstrated temperature-taking for me, and then had me take Taylor's

temperature. We learned how delicate Taylor is and how best to handle a bunny. We looked in his ears. We combed and brushed him. We used a bowl of water to groom him, removing loose fur. Then it was time to learn how to clip his nails. I was nervous about hitting his quick, the vein inside his nail. Mary Ann was very reassuring and taught me just how to know that I had the clipper in the correct spot before I clipped. In a few short minutes, I had all 18 nails done. I was so relieved, and I really felt confident that I could do this again without fear.

Mary Ann and Nancy gathered each and every bit of equipment, hay, toys and food we'd need to care for Taylor. They gave us some options and even provided some items that had been donated, keeping our costs at bay. I cannot say enough how incredible they are: informative, kind, caring, reassuring and without any pressure, all while

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Volunteers, Lively Bunnies Make Petco Adoption Event a Success

Photo: Larry Marion



Wilbur at the end of the bunny tunnel.

Photo: Larry Marion



Andrea Kutsenkow, with Wilbur.

Photo: Teija Garnett



Garbo.

Photo: Susan Lillo



Baloo.

Photo: Larry Marion



Marcie Frishberg wore her bunny outfit.

Photo: Larry Marion



Sylvie Jensen with Mayra Peñaranda after preparing the RR&R setup at Petco for the event.

Crisis in Las Vegas: Please Help

For years, rabbit rescuers in Las Vegas have struggled to care for a large number of domesticated rabbits heartlessly abandoned onto the grounds of a local children's psychiatric facility by humans no longer committed to their rabbits' care. Several small organizations have faced an incredible challenge as continuous abandonment and the births of new litters have steadily increased the rabbits' numbers to over 800 individuals. Vulnerable and unequipped for life outdoors, abandoned rabbits depend on the intervention of volunteers and rescuers for their survival.

This already overwhelming situation became an emergency on Feb. 18, when horrified volunteers discovered many rabbits dead at the dumpsite. Witnesses report seeing an individual drive up in a car and throw antifreeze-soaked lettuce to the rabbits, ostensibly in an attempt to poison them. A necropsy report later revealed that the rabbits had further



A large number of domesticated rabbits have been abandoned outside in Las Vegas. (Photo from Facebook group Bunnies Matter in Vegas Too)

suffered significant acute trauma. Although responsibility for the attack remains unclear – the City of Las Vegas Government has made a formal statement that they had no involvement in the attacks – the deaths came merely days after the Department of Health posted a notice at the site inaccurately suggesting that rabbits could be the carriers of diseases transmissible to humans. At the request of rescuers who feared the spread of this misinformation, the rabbits were tested for disease at the



Donations and supplies are urgently needed for the rescue effort. (Photo from Facebook group Bunnies Matter in Vegas Too)

time of necropsy and the results were, predictably, negative.

At the moment the attack was discovered, local rescue groups immediately rushed to remove as many rabbits as possible

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Comfort

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making sure we were comfortable with our decisions.

On the ride home, hearing the kids talking with Taylor and asking him what he wanted his new name to be, I knew this was the start of an excellent new chapter in our lives. Taylor revealed that he secretly goes out at night and saves other bunnies. He is the dark knight. We call him Bruce now during the day. At night, he is The Bunman. He has a new Bun Cave and is an awesome addition to the family. My son gives Bruce fresh water twice a day. Garrett and Jennie take turns giving Bruce 1/8 cup of pellets twice a day and a salad for dinner. Bruce gets a special treat each



Bruce.

night of fruit. He loves berries! Garrett and Jennie both spend time cleaning Bruce's pen daily. Bruce gets plenty of love and attention and fresh hay throughout the day. And we all get the love of a gorgeous fluffy dwarf bunny to laugh with and play with every day!

My children are learning responsibility but also learning care and compassion. My son told me how comforting and calming it is to pet Bruce. Garrett and Jennie love giving him new toys to play with and seeing how he'll react to new items or new foods. Even his daily salad can become an adventure.

Thank you, LIRRG, for being there. Thank you for caring for Bruce while we were searching for him. Thank you so much for all your help and training and for being so lovely every step of the way! It's no wonder your organization is so successful and loaded with amazing volunteers! Thank you for the Facebook page full of awesome bunnies. This has been a great ongoing resource.

Domestic Rabbits Are Sold for Human Consumption

For those of us who share our homes and lives with bunnies, the thought of domesticated rabbits being raised in ill-regulated conditions and then slaughtered for human consumption is upsetting. And yet, the third most popular companion animal in the U.S. has been historically classified by the USDA as “poultry” and excluded from any legal ramifications for inhumane slaughter. These domesticated rabbits are often the same precious Californians and New Zealands in so many of our homes.

Sadly, the consumption of rabbit meat is still painfully common and even looks to be growing in prevalence. Recently, the Rabbit Advocacy Network (“RAN”) brought to light the shocking magnitude of Publix Supermarket’s sale of frozen rabbit meat; roughly 65% of their 1,152

Photo: <https://www.change.org/p/todd-jones-oeo-of-publix-publix-supermarket-please-end-the-sale-of-pet-domestic-rabbit-meat>



Publix Supermarket is selling rabbit meat. (Photo from Change.org Petition titled “Publix Supermarket – Please End The Sale Of Pet Domestic Rabbit Meat”)

stores, most of which are in Florida, are currently selling this product. Information on rabbit meat for human consumption can be found on the Publix website, where photos of wild hares make it conspicuously unclear that

the rabbits stocked in their freezer section are domesticated “pet” rabbits.

Publix is supplied by the commercial rabbitry Seely’s Ark, who once sold 1,200 fresh rabbits to Publix each week before reapplying in the frozen market, where they are selling currently. The rabbits are slaughtered at 8-12 weeks of age at a processing facility in Ocala, Fla., before which they spend the duration of their short lives in 2-by-3-foot wire-bottomed cages.

RAN has begun a petition to “respectfully ask Publix to stop selling pet domestic rabbits as food.” Over 65,000 people have signed to date. A similar situation several years ago with Whole Foods supermarket resulted in the company

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Crisis in Las Vegas

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from the site. Hundreds of rabbits were corralled into carriers and brought to temporary safety, and many needed immediate vet care for significant injuries due to the struggle of life outdoors.

Rescuers have now taken on the enormous task of having all of these rabbits spayed and neutered and placed in foster care with their own volunteers and other rescue organizations near and far. Volunteer veterinarians and vet techs

have generously stepped up to offer spays and neuters at a reduced cost, but with such a large number of rabbits, the cost is insurmountable for the small local rescue groups alone, who are also paying for all of these rabbits’ basic necessities as they await the next steps.

Donations and supplies are needed urgently and desperately to cover the tremendous cost of this effort. Copy the URLs below into your browser to visit the Facebook pages of several local Las Vegas rescue groups. They are the

primary sources of information for updates on the rabbits and will direct you to where donations should be made. Also included are several URLs that lead directly to GoFundMe and YouCaring pages in support of the rescued rabbits. The situation is dire. Please consider donating to help save these bunnies’ lives. Share their story, and ask others for help. They are counting on all of us in the rabbit community.

Fundraisers:

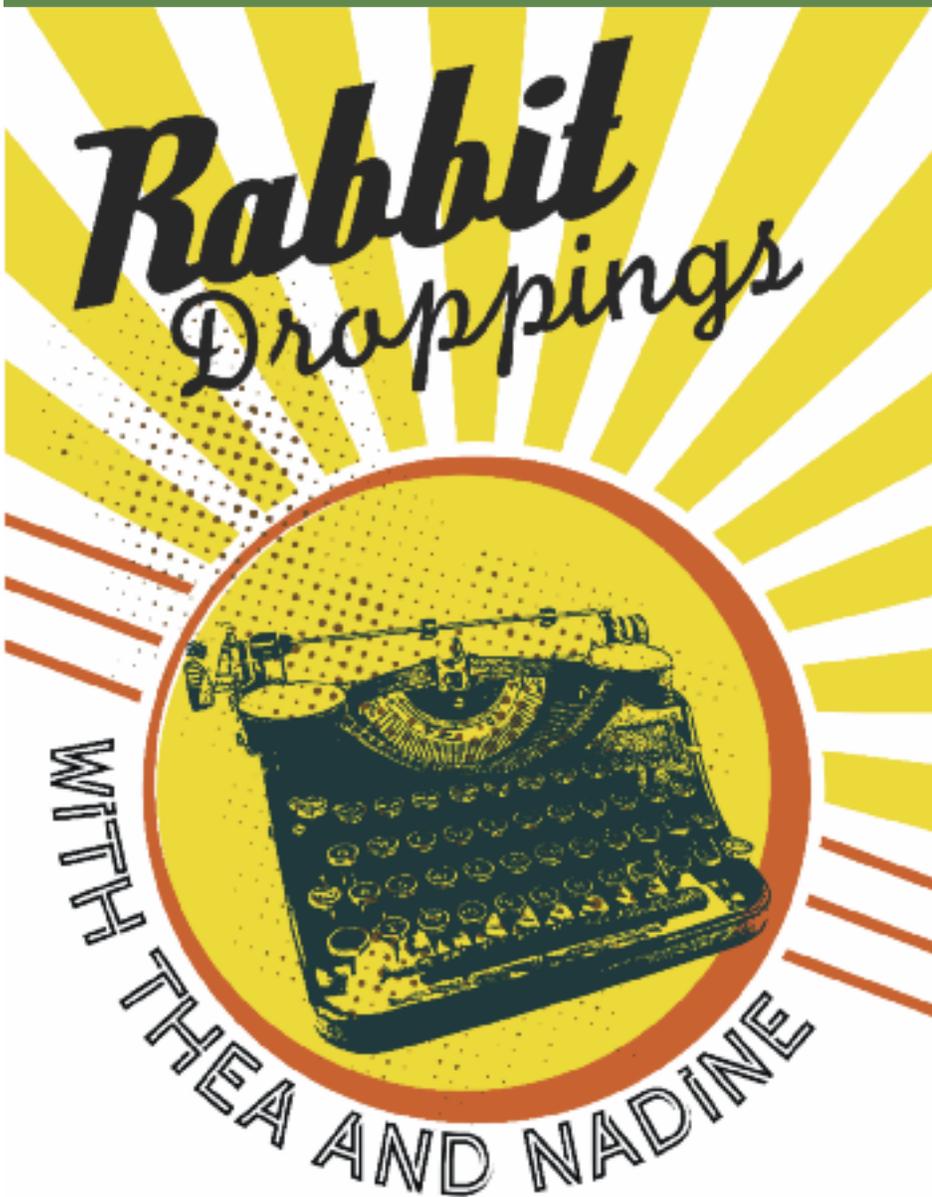
<https://www.gofundme.com/spayneuter-200-vegas-dumpsite-buns>

<https://www.youcaring.com/erinurano-1056998>

Rescue Group Facebook Pages: <https://www.facebook.com/Helpthevegasbunnies>

<https://www.facebook.com/allcreaturessant/>

<https://www.facebook.com/specialneedsrspecial/>



Dear Nadine,

How do you keep your house so clean with all your rabbits? It looks like Instagram all the time! My home, on the other hand, looks like a barn. There is hay everywhere. How often do you vacuum? What is your cleaning routine? What type of vacuum do you have? When you add more hay to litter boxes, how do you keep it from going all over the place? How do you vacuum cotton rugs that cover hardwood floors so that they don't get sucked up into the vacuum and make you scream? Where do you put the rabbits while you are vacuuming? Also, want to come over and clean my house?

– Down and Dirty in Bushwick (not Thea)

Dear Down and Dirty (Hi Thea!),

Sorry for the delayed response, but I was cleaning. So I have a confession to make. I'm perfect. Nah, just kidding, I'm an addict, not of chocolate or @badass_bunny_rescuer's Instagram account (though I should be; that lady is hilarious!) but of cleaning. I own two Dyson "pet" vacuum cleaners, one cordless (V8 Animal) and one upright (Ball Animal). Both come with additions that get the hay and fur out of all sorts of places and off of most surfaces. We all know those stray poops that happen to roll under the couch, and the hay that you find and just don't know how it got



Butter on FLOR carpet squares.

there. The Dyson Upright comes with, among other nifty vacuuming tools, a wand that will suck up all those little gifts left by your furry friends. Both are super easy to clean, even for large strands of hay. They are on the pricey side but well worth it, as many modestly priced vacuum cleaners have indeed buckled under the pressure of cleaning up after my bunny army.

As for the rugs getting sucked up, rug fasteners are amazing, I use the ones from 3M. I also have a rug tile system by FLOR that lets you "build" your own rug in any configuration and shape, and it comes with sticky dots that connect the tiles and keep them from sliding and getting sucked up. Voila!

Where do I put the rabbits while vacuuming? Umm, they don't even get up or move anymore when the vacuum comes around. I either have to vacuum around them or nudge them with it. They do not care! I guess vacuuming every day helped demystify the "monster."

I'd love to clean your house ... what's your address? Wait, what's that? I think I'm losing you. Hello? Hello? Oh well, I tried.

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Droppings

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Dear Devoted Readers of Thump,

Hi, it's Nadine and I have a question for YOU. I use Chewy.com A LOT and they are great, but my delivery services (FedEx, UPS, you name it) suck! Every driver I confront just shrugs and continues to leave 50-pound packages at the basement entrance, rain or shine, without even attempting to ring the bell. Packages have been stolen, though in one incident the hay was later recovered from under a car; #rude. Calling to complain is useless, so I'm wondering if anyone out there uses a mom-and-pop-style pet store that carries the "good" stuff AND delivers to downtown Brooklyn? And if not, perhaps somebody would like to open one, NOW. Please email me at askrabbitdroppings@gmail.com.

– Mad Droppings in Boerum Hill

Dear Rabbit Droppings,

"My rabbits have been acting rather bored lately. They have toys and lots of room to exercise, but they often spend their time just sprawled out on the carpet. Have you come across any fun new toys lately? I think my two bunnies need something new to perk up their lives."

– Happy Hoppers on the UES

Dear Happy Hoppers,

Because our house rabbits live in the lap of luxury and have all their needs met by their faithful human servants, they often need extra incentives to keep themselves busy between naps...an occupation or hobby, if you will. Unlike us, rabbits can't amuse themselves by bowling, imbibing, sporting fashionable rabbit-themed clothing, or reading John Oliver's Marlon Bundo book. This is where toys come in.

Instead of giving you flashy product recommendations (We'll save that for an upcoming issue), let's think bigger. Why do rabbits need toys anyway? Toys are a

type of enrichment, which is essential for our rabbits' physical and psychological well-being. Enrichment is not merely fun and games, but a way for rabbits to have some control over their environment and the ability to make choices about what they do. Rabbits are naturally active, intelligent, social and inquisitive, and simply giving them space is not enough. An enriched environment gives a rabbit the opportunity to have fun exploring, hopping, foraging, digging, chewing, chin marking, jumping – plus a chance to interact with friendly people (and possibly another rabbit) safely. Different rabbits prefer different activities and toys, so you should offer different items until you figure out which your rabbits likes best.

In the wild, rabbits spend much of their time above ground eating grass and other plants, searching for the tastiest tidbits. Rabbits love to forage for their favorite foods and there are innumerable ways that you can provide them opportunities to do so within the confines of your apartment. Think not just about WHAT you feed your rabbits, but also HOW you feed them. Does your rabbit go crazy when she hears you open the bag of pellets? Don't just pour those pellets into the bowl! Make it rain pellets! Scatter them so that your rabbit has to move around and search for them. Try putting the pellets in a paper bag so that the rabbit has to dig, chew and then fling the bag to get the pellets out. Put a few pellets in your rabbits' favorite hiding places for them to discover later. Fill an empty spice jar with pellets so the rabbit has to nudge the pellets out. Have extra-clean flower pots or baby toy cups? Hide pellets or small, healthy treats under them and watch you rabbits knock them over to get to their pellets. You can try foraging activities with salad, too, including hanging salad up so that rabbits stand on their back legs to grab the leaves with their mouths. Food balls and puzzle feeders have become popular, and provide

mental stimulation and encourage foraging behavior. Be creative and experiment. The best thing about setting up foraging activities is that you can adjust them to your rabbits' preferences and abilities. A rabbit without incisors, with head tilt or with mobility challenges can still forage, but you'll have to be even more creative.

Some tips: food used for foraging (pellets, treats, salad) should be part of, and not in addition to, your rabbit's daily food ration. You still need to measure the pellets, for example, and ensure that your rabbit finishes them, as uneaten pellets can be a sign of illness. Ideally, you can present food balls, puzzle toys, and foraging opportunities when your rabbit is most active and likely to graze and forage, and at the same time every day.

What are your rabbits' favorite toys? If they like food balls or puzzle feeders, which ones do you recommend? Let us know and we'll include this info in a future edition of Thump. Got any photos of your rabbits foraging or playing with toys? Email them to us and we can feature them in Thump!

ABOUT RABBIT DROPPINGS: We are not veterinarians or veterinary technicians, and claim no expertise in rhetoric, political maneuvering, comedy, or math. We are, however, curious, dedicated, long-time rabbit owners, fosterers, shelter volunteers, rescue advocates, and litter-box cleaners. As volunteers in a busy shelter like Animal Care Centers of NYC, we see, hear and chat a lot about rabbits – and we are excited to share all those little droppings. Please email us at askrabbitdroppings@gmail.com if you have any questions or comments. Sometimes we embellish and combine questions we hear frequently in order to present common themes in an entertaining way.

We look forward to hearing from you ... until then, Cheers, Buns!

Balance Issues Cloud Outlook for My Returned Foster Bun

By Diana Kronenberg

In the previous issue of Thump, I wrote about how I successfully fostered a rabbit and got him adopted for the first time. I had been fostering Cameron for the Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group (LIRRG) for two months until his adoption in January. (Thump, February 2018, page 8, <http://www.rabbitcare.org/ThumpFeb262018.pdf>)

Unfortunately, his previous ear and balance issues worsened after his adoption, and Cameron's adopter didn't think she could handle the amount of care he would require. She ultimately surrendered him to the group, and he is now back with me.

Cameron was a little wobbly when we adopted him out, but apparently during the first week of February his balance problems deteriorated. His adopter had taken him to two vets near her home in New Jersey, and they concluded that there wasn't much that could be done to improve his situation. His adopter contacted LIRRG at that point to ask if

we would take him back and see if there was any more that we could do for him.

I was shocked at this turn of events. I spoke with our group leaders and we decided that someone should go and get him as soon as possible.

Since he was in New Jersey that was easier said than done. LIRRG occasionally does out-of-state adoptions and Cameron happened to be one of those cases. Fate intervened as my dad and aunt had

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Photo: Diana Kronenberg



Cameron.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Domestic Rabbits Sold

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terminating their sale of rabbit meat in response to the volume of campaigns, boycotts, phone calls, and written correspondences from individuals within the rabbit community. Until legislators

change the status of domesticated rabbits and mandate their protection, it falls to individuals to voice their concerns directly, which has proven successful in the past.

Below you will find a URL to the petition, which you can copy into your

browser to add your name to the campaign. You can also call Publix at 1.800.242.1227, where you will speak to a representative and your call will be documented. For more information, visit the websites and Facebook pages with URLs listed below.

To learn more:

<http://www.rabbitadvocacynetwork.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/RabbitAdvocacyNetwork/>

<https://rabbit.org/activist-corner/>

Publix petition:

<https://www.change.org/p/todd-jones-ceo-of-publix-publix-supermarket-please-end-the-sale-of-pet-domestic-rabbit-meat>

Dealing With Loss

By Valerie Nagy

I have had many pets in my lifetime and I have never handled loss well. I love with all of my heart, so when one leaves, it is very difficult for me to get over it. I heard someone say recently, “The deeper your love is, the deeper your wound when you lose the one you love.” This is very true.

Early one morning in July 2015, I woke up and looked at my almost 7-year-old rabbit Lucky and knew something was wrong. His eyes were dull; his nostrils flared and his mouth was open. I called the vet and she told me it might be heart failure. I got him in the car and we began to make our way to the vet’s office. But he did a big flop in his carrier and was gone. I couldn’t believe it. Lucky

had dealt with some chronic health issues throughout his life, but he seemed stable, other than the fact he was losing some weight. It was a terrible loss.

Then a couple of years later, in April 2017, my almost 9-year-old rabbit, Hunny, was suffering from severe arthritis. He wasn’t eating much and I was giving

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Balance Issues

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plans in New Jersey that day, and they kindly offered to pick him up and bring him back to Long Island.

After a visit to Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital in New Hyde Park, we surmised that Cameron’s balance issues were possibly neurological. He did not seem to have an ear infection and there were no broken bones on his X-rays. He was put on Panacur for a potential *E.cuniculi* infection, meclizine for dizziness, and prednisone to alleviate inflammation.

The first night he was back with me, his balance was very poor. He could not hop very far without falling over on his left side. After asking for advice from our head-tilt-savvy volunteers, I made him a long and narrow pen, with rolled-up towels for bumpers along all of the sides and a cut-down litter box, clipped to the fence. I also put some old stuffed animals in the corners since he always liked to groom them.

Cameron was not eating very well with his adopter, so I gave him a couple days more of stasis meds (Metacam, Reglan and simethicone) along with some Critical Care syringe feedings. His appetite improved greatly after a few days with us, and he continues to be a fantastic eater. He took all of his meds

on the floor, even the Panacur, making med time much easier on both of us than it could have been.

A few days after Cameron got settled, I started opening up his pen and allowing him to explore a larger area. I called this his “physical therapy” and it is always supervised. Initially I had to follow him around with my hand hovering over him, just in case he fell over. Gradually he started getting better and better, and now I can sit on the couch and just watch him as he hops around.

He is off all of his medications now and fortunately we did not see any deterioration in his condition. He still wobbles when he sits on his back feet, and sometimes falls over if he makes a tight turn, but overall he is very much improved. He hops around well, and sometimes at a pretty quick pace. He is even able to hop in and out of a regular litter box by himself. Most importantly, he does not seem to be upset or in distress.

While I am certainly not happy that this has happened to Cameron, I did gain some valuable knowledge and experience about rabbits with balance issues. I connected with volunteers in LIRRG for tips and advice. I am very grateful to them for helping get us through the initial scary days.

We are not sure if Cameron is ultimately going to be adoptable, but for now he is



Cameron's pen.

staying with me. Hopefully he can improve to a point where he is adoptable again. He would be great with a rabbit-savvy owner who understands his balance issues. He would probably benefit from being bonded to another rabbit because he is very affectionate and a partner could help “prop him up” sometimes. He is such a sweet rabbit that I imagine he would bond fairly quickly. He is a quiet boy who is never aggressive and licks me as well as his stuffed toys. He just needs someone who understands how to be gentle with him and he will continue to flourish.

Long Island Bunnies on Parade



Midnight was rescued with four other rabbits in Baldwin.



Kathy Davis' Lola.



Aspen, rescued last spring, is looking for a forever home.



Eric and Ariel were adopted by Ashley and Troy Smit.



Hazel was adopted in April to be a partner bun.



Ripley, rescued in Farmingdale, is available for adoption.



Colleen, 8, lives with her rescuer-turned-mom Gina Pipia.



LIRRG volunteer Jackie Cucco is mom to Peepers.



Katie Scarr's Rosie and Mario.



Tiny Bruce lives with the Berners.

We Are Looking for Loving Homes:

These Rabbits Are in Foster Care

Woody

Sadly, Woody was found outside in the woods with two of his pals, and rescued just in the nick of time. Upon rescue, they were weak and disoriented. Thankfully, with the right care and lots of TLC, they are now healthy, beautiful guys with a zest for life! Woody is a medium-sized, handsome light brown and white young boy. He has a great spirit and lovely personality. He is an inquisitive bunny with a weakness for cilantro and a

fabulous ability to keep his white paws sparkly clean. He loves to explore and can be an excellent escape artist when his curiosity gets the best of him. Woody prefers head pets to snuggles, and he loves to lounge. While independent, Woody is mild-mannered and takes most things in stride. Just don't mess with his feeding times or he will remind you by shaking and rattling things to get your attention! Woody has been neutered and is living in foster care awaiting

his forever home. For more information about Woody please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Madison and Mibo

Madison and Mibo are an amazing bonded sister and brother pair of New Zealand White rabbits. They were part of a large litter surrendered to the city shelter. They went into separate foster homes, but were eventually reunited

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LONG ISLAND NEWS

Loss

(Continued from page 10)

him subcutaneous fluids daily with Critical Care and salad. He ended up in diapers after I shaved his bottom because he got urine scald. The hardest thing was seeing how he would still hop fast, just as he did when he was younger, but his frail body was failing him. The day he told me he was done fighting was when he went behind his litter box and made no effort to come out.

I made the dreaded appointment to end Hunny's pain. I planned it for a Saturday, and my dad drove from Cleveland to be with me. The night before, I slept with Hunny on the couch. He was wrapped up in a towel, and he licked my face while I cried. On his last day, we drove to the park, where we spent some time before heading to the vet. I brought a banana and grapes and let Hunny have all he wanted. I took a video of him and he looked so happy to be eating all his favorite treats. Then we brought him to the vet and said goodbye.

The days after such a loss are very hard. You look for your rabbit – in my case, I

Photo: Valerie Nagy



Hunny and Lucky.

dream about my lost bunny – and you no longer have the rabbit to care for and love.

I have wondered what kind of tattoo I could get to honor my departed pets. I may design a general one for all of them because I have such wonderful memories.

It was hard for me to lose Lucky suddenly, and it was equally hard to see Hunny deteriorate over time. When you lose a rabbit unexpectedly, it is a shock. When

a rabbit is gradually slipping away and you have to choose their final “day,” that also is heartbreaking. Lucky and Hunny had been with me since they were little in 2008. I was able to watch them grow and I cared for them and gave them unconditional love, as they did for me when I needed it the most, while I was sick. Our pets bring us such happiness, and that is what we always focus on as we contemplate adopting yet another pet in need of a home.

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 12)



Woody.



Madison and Mibo



Fuzzy.

and bonded together! Madison is very spunky and social. She will run right up to you to interact. Mibo is a little shy, but he loves attention and petting from gentle humans. Together they have an incredible bond, and they snuggle and groom each other constantly. They are spayed/neutered, have good litter-box skills, and will come when called with a click of the tongue. If interested in potentially adopting them, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Fuzzy

Fuzzy is an adorable caramel and white young boy who is as cute as a button. He has a sweet little round face with big dark eyes. Although on the shy side, Fuzzy settles right in for gentle petting. He is cautiously curious and enjoys toys that he can chew on. He is a great eater and is very animated at mealtime. Fuzzy has been neutered and has impeccable litter-box skills. He is living in foster care and would do best in a quiet home with a calm forever person. For more information, please contact nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Rory

Rory is a beautiful all-black rabbit with good litter-box habits. Rory is a smart boy, and while he enjoys playing with toys, he isn't destructive. This adorable boy loves to be the center of attention and is happy to snuggle up next to his human companion. His favorite pastime is having his head, cheeks and ears petted. Best is, he's a kisser. What's better than a kissing bunny? Rory is neutered and living in foster care. For more information, please contact nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Susan

Susan is a medium-sized 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



Rory.



Susan.

choice for someone who wants a lap bunny or for a home with young children. She has been spayed and is blossoming in foster care. For more information on adopting Susan, 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.

(Continued on page 14)

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 13)

Nona

Nona is a medium-sized brown bunny with a very sweet personality. She is looking for a forever home and a bunny partner to share her adventures with. Nona arrived at the shelter with a case of malocclusion, so we took her into our rescue and had her incisors removed. Therefore, she needs to have her greens chopped up into bite-sized pieces. Nona will give you lots of love in return for a little care and love from you. For more information and/or to arrange a meeting with Nona, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Paul

Paul is a grey/brown and white Dutch. This super-sweet boy is very happy and a social butterfly. Paul loves playtime. He enjoys casually munching on hay, and he makes the most of his daily salads. He has been waiting for his forever home and hopes his new family will come along soon. Paul has been neutered and is in foster care. If you are interested in adopting this great boy, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Annabel, Max Snow, Ariel, Bailey, Bowie, Hazel, Rabbit De Niro, Machu Picchu, Mochi, Chucho, Bunsen and Lady, Graydon, Atilla the Bun, Mist, Nibbles, Alberta Bunstein, Daffodil, Bun Bun, Blackberry, Munchy, Eve, Mr. Fluffy, Buster, Ireland, Leah, MacE, Pepper, Munchy, Missy, Oregano, Bunz, Peanut, Beau, Dani, Hopper, Ruby, Minerva and Baloo.



Lucia.



Nona.



Paul.

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

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

By Kirsten Ott

Reese

Reese is a tiny little black and white Dwarf mix. This adorable pocket-sized peanut is very bright and super sweet – though just a little bit skittish. He enjoys being petted (especially nose rubs!), but the experience seems still novel to him – perhaps he didn't experience much affection in his original home. Reese has unusual, appealing black and white markings. The white pattern on his face is shaped like a peace sign; perhaps it's a message, because this cutie would likely do best in a peaceful, adult-only home with excellent bunny-proofing.

Jeremy

Jeremy is a handsome, medium-sized Cinnamon mix with a winning personality. This fun guy is very curious and eager for company; you'll enter the room to find him sitting at his cage door, as though he's been waiting for you all day. Jeremy absolutely adores petting – he smushes down immediately and sits perfectly still, soaking up all the love. He truly is the ultimate cozy companion, and he'll need lots of attention in his forever home. Jeremy is still on the young side, so he may still grow a bit more. He'd make a good choice for a first-time bunny home – as long as his people can make plenty of time for him!

Reuben

Reuben is an extra-large New Zealand White with great big ears. This guy is oodles of bun to love, but he's not for the faint of heart! Reuben is a very energetic and strong boy. He gets very excited at the prospect of "out time,"

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Gastrointestinal Stasis, the Silent Killer

By Dana M. Krempels, Ph.D.
*University of Miami Biology Department
House Rabbit Society of Miami*

It's an all too familiar story. "My bunny stopped eating, and then she just died."

When we ask for details, we often learn that not only did the bunny stop eating,

but she had been producing extremely small or even no fecal droppings, or showed symptoms of "runny stool." True diarrhea (unformed, liquid fecal matter) is uncommon in rabbits. The runny stool sometimes misidentified as "diarrhea" in rabbits is more often composed of unformed, almost-liquid cecotropes.

Rabbits produce two types of pellets: fecal pellets (left in the litter box) and cecotropes (soft, pungent, normally shaped like a cluster of grapes and reingested by the rabbit to obtain essential nutrients). Liquid or mushy cecotropes can result from an imbalance of the normal bacterial and fungal flora of the cecum (the bunny's intestinal "fermentation vat"). The floral imbalance can be caused by a number of factors, such as the wrong antibiotic (oral penicillins and lincosamide antibiotics can be very dangerous to rabbits for this reason) or a diet too rich in digestible carbohydrates and too low in crude fiber. Often, however, it is caused by a slowing of the

(Continued on page 16)

Photos: Christie Taylor



Normal fecal pellets.



Normal cecotrope.

ADOPTIONS

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 14)



Reese.



Jeremy.

and will practically burst out of his cage to achieve his goal. Once he's free, he's much happier and easier to handle – and if he's in the mood, he'll even settle down for some affection. Reuben will need a lot of space in his habitat and a ton of time out for exercise. He'd probably also benefit from a calmer bunny partner.

Minerva

Minerva is a medium-to-large white and calico lop. This girl may be named for the goddess of war, but she doesn't appear to have a warlike bone in her body. She's very low-key for a lop, and super approachable – she'll smush right down for petting, and will immediately request continuation if you stop for even a second. Sweet Minerva has classic lop looks, with a flat face, broad nose, a bit of "crew cut" fur between her ears, and big hind feet. Her gorgeous coat is super soft and fluffy, befitting the couch potato she is. Minerva would make a good choice for a first-time bunny owner.



Reuben.



Minerva.

Silent Killer (Continued from page 15)

normal peristaltic muscular contractions that push food and liquids through the intestines. The slowdown or cessation of peristalsis of the intestine is known as gastrointestinal (GI) stasis or ileus.

What Causes GI Stasis?

A rabbit's intestine can become static for a variety of reasons, including (1) stress, (2) dehydration, (3) pain from another underlying disorder or illness (such as gas, dental problems, infections, or urinary tract disorders) (4) an intestinal blockage or, (5) insufficient dietary crude fiber. Left untreated, the slowdown or complete cessation of normal intestinal movement (peristalsis) can result in a painful death, in a relatively short period of time. If your rabbit stops eating or producing feces for 12 hours or more, you should consider the condition an emergency. Get your bunny to a rabbit-savvy veterinarian immediately.

An intestinal slowdown can cause ingested hair and food to lodge anywhere along the GI tract, creating a potential blockage. Also, because the cecum is not emptying quickly enough, harmful bacteria such as *Clostridium species* (related to the ones that cause botulism and tetanus) can proliferate, their numbers overwhelming those of the normal, beneficial bacteria and fungi in the cecum. Once this overgrowth occurs, gas emitted by the bacteria can cause extreme pain. Some *Clostridium species* also produce potentially deadly toxins. It is the liver's job to detoxify these poisons, at a high cost to that all-important organ. Damage to the liver can be a serious – even life-threatening – side effect of GI stasis.

How Can GI Stasis Be Detected?

Symptoms of GI stasis include very small (or no) fecal pellets, sometimes clinging to the bunny's bottom. In some

cases, very small fecal pellets will be encased in clear or yellowish mucus. This potentially serious problem (enteritis, an inflammation of the intestinal lining) should be treated as an emergency.

With GI stasis, the normal, quiet gurgling of the healthy intestine may be replaced either by very loud, violent gurgles (gas moving around painfully) or silence. The bunny may become lethargic, have no appetite and may hunch in a ball, loudly crunching his teeth in pain.

GI Stasis and the "Hairball" Myth

Sometimes, a rabbit suffering from GI stasis is diagnosed as having a "hairball." In reality, an apparent hairball usually is a result of GI stasis – not the cause. A vet who has not palpated many rabbit abdomens may be unfamiliar with the normal, sometimes "doughy" feel of the healthy rabbit stomach. A "doughy" stomach is usually cause for concern only when accompanied by an empty lower GI and symptoms of abdominal discomfort.

Like those of most herbivores, the stomach and intestines of a healthy rabbit are never empty. A rabbit may eat relatively normal amounts of food, almost up to the time the GI tract shuts down. Because of this, the stomach may contain a large bolus of food when stasis occurs. Unlike the typical cat hairball, which usually consists entirely of hair, a mass misidentified as a "hairball" in a rabbit is usually composed mostly of food held together by hair and mucus. Such a bolus, even if it is dehydrated and unable to pass out of the stomach when initially found, usually can be broken down slowly with plenty of oral fluids and even enzyme supplements, if the vet deems them necessary. However, if the mass is there as a result of chronic GI stasis, simply treating the mass without addressing the GI stasis will be unproductive in the long term.

If you suspect that your bunny is experiencing GI stasis, you must take him/her to your rabbit-experienced veterinarian without delay. Tell the vet your suspicions. S/he will probably listen for normal intestinal sounds and palpate the bunny's abdomen. The vet also may wish to take radiographs (X-rays) to see whether the various parts of the digestive tract contain normal ingested matter, feces or foreign objects – or are empty and gassy. The appearance of the digestive tract will help the vet determine whether there is an obstruction and, if so, where it is located.

If a true intestinal obstruction (almost always accompanied by severe bloating and acute pain) is present, the use of intestinal motility drugs could make the situation worse by pushing the blockage into a narrow area where it completely obstructs the intestine. However, if the mass is not causing an acute, complete blockage, medical alternatives to surgery should be considered first. A gastrotomy – surgical opening of the stomach – may be performed to remove a gastric obstruction, but rabbits who undergo this procedure have an abysmally low survival rate. Those who survive the surgery itself often succumb a few days later to peritonitis or other complications, even when under the care of the most practiced, skillful rabbit surgeon. Surgery on the rabbit GI tract should be considered only as a last resort.

Can GI Stasis Be Successfully Treated?

If your vet has determined that there is no intestinal obstruction, there are several treatments s/he may wish to use to help your bunny in distress. As always, do not perform any of these procedures or try to administer any of these medications without the supervision of

(Continued on page 17)

Letters From Adopters

Bam Bam

Hira Babar adopted Bam Bam early this year. She sent us this wonderful update.

I adopted Bam Bam in January of this year after looking for a rabbit for some months. When I first saw Bam Bam in her cage at the Brooklyn ACC, she automatically wanted to be petted by anyone who passed by. She was so cute and full of energy that I adopted her.

She was scared at first when I brought her home, and she didn't want to leave the carrier. It took me two hours to finally convince her to jump into her cage. When it was about 2 a.m., there was so much noise coming from her cage that I decided to check what was going on. She ended up kicking open

Photo: Hira Babar



Bam Bam.

the cage somehow and was ready to escape. I felt bad because it was still her first day and she was scared, so I let her jump around a little bit.

After her late night run-around, she became calmer. I realized she is very

hyper and playful. She also has a very dominating personality, and she doesn't like anyone to touch her things, especially her blanket. I find it very funny that she has a personality like a human but I cannot hold it against her because all the people in my family, including me, have a similar personality to hers.

During the short time I've had Bam Bam, I feel she's become a part of the family. Whoever named her "Bam Bam" definitely took into account her feisty personality. So, I decided not to change the name because of how fitting it is. I would like to thank the Brooklyn ACC for all they've done for us in the process!

Hira Babar

Juno

Juno, formerly known as Yasha, was adopted by Jessica Haymach as a partner for her boy bunny, Benny. Yasha had been rescued from a store in Brooklyn by rabbit volunteer Sari Krieger, who wrote about her in the February Thump (<http://rabbitcare.org/ThumpFeb262018.pdf>). Jessica reports that she is doing well.

Yasha's name has been changed to Juno!

Juno has been doing great since she came home a few weeks ago. After the stresses of bunny speed dating, it has been wonderful seeing Juno become more comfortable with my first bunny,

Photo: Jessica Haymach



Juno (on top) and Benny.

Benny, and with her new environment. After only a few weeks, Juno bonded with Benny and they have been inseparable

ever since! They are constantly grooming and cuddling with each other.

It has been amazing getting to know her personality. She is super playful and has such a feisty spirit. Her new favorite toy is a ball on a string. She spends hours throwing and chasing it every day and never gets bored! Although she doesn't like cuddles as much as Benny, she loves giving kisses when she's happy. Juno is very social and curious and is always the first one to greet me when I walk in the door.

I'm so lucky to have adopted her!

Best,
Jessica Haymach

HEALTH ISSUES

Silent Killer *(Continued from page 16)*

a veterinarian experienced with rabbit disorders and treatments.

Treatments and protocols for stasis are subject to constant revision and improvement as new information becomes available. As a result, it is

important to use the rabbit.org link on the House Rabbit Society website to access the most recent, updated version of the treatment information provided for stasis. When you scroll down, you will find treatment information under the following topics: Mechanical Treatments, Nonprescription Supportive

Measures, Prescription/Veterinary Treatments. Pain Relief, The Road to Recovery, Backtracking to the Cause, and Prevention.

Here is the link:

<https://rabbit.org/gastrointestinal-stasis-the-silent-killer-2/>

CELEBRITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Hardy and Honey.



Amy.



Ming.



Miri.



Nadine Heidinger with Ireland.



Hugo.

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

Long Island:

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

Heidi Hofer, 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

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, Rofoyo.pippin@verizon.net
Alex McIe, alexlmcie@gmail.com

Marcie Frishberg

Gabrielle LaManna, New Fairfield, CT, gabbysbunnies@yahoo.com, (203) 746-7548

Cindy Stutts, bygolyoly@yahoo.com, (646) 319-4766

Monica Shepherd, DVM

Long Island:

Nancy Schreiber, President, Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, nschreibmd@gmail.com, (516) 510-3637, LongIslandRabbitRescue.org

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

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

Jennifer Saver, DVM

Laura George, DVM

THUMP APRIL 2018

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS
www.rabbitcare.org

Editor: Susan Lillo

Creative Director: Jane O'Wyatt

Masthead Logo Designer: Mary Ann Maier

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

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 <http://rabbitcare.org/donations.htm>.

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

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 nschreibmd@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:

<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.

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 www.rabbitcare.org, www.longislandrabbitrescue.org and the House Rabbit Society main site, www.rabbit.org.