

THUMP

NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

Photos: Alex Mcle



Leaf.



Lilac.



Talulah.



Angie and Puffin.



Noelle.

Don't Forget That Giving Tuesday is Dec. 1.

(For more information, please turn to page 2.)

Our masthead bunny, Kayler, was abandoned in a wooded backyard in Lake Grove. Long Island volunteers spent a long night in the rain bringing her to safety. Upon rescue, she was covered in ticks and understandably frightened. She is on the shy side when you first meet her but will explode with binkies when she warms up. Kayler is available for adoption through <http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org>. Masthead illustration: Mary Ann Maier. Photo: Katie Scarr.



RRR foster rabbit Ernie, with his face healing and fur growing back nicely after jaw abscess surgery in October.

Help Our Rabbits On Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is Dec. 1 this year, and we hope you will participate by donating to Rabbit Rescue & Rehab.

This special day is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world.

Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. It has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate and celebrate generosity. It takes place on the first Tuesday after Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

This year, a generous donor has offered to match up to \$2,000 in donations made to Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, so your donation could be doubled with an opportunity for us to raise \$4,000! After a year full of emergencies and surgeries for foster rabbits, this would be a great help while continuing to provide the best care possible for our rabbits in need.

To donate to Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, you can use PayPal or you can send checks and cash by mail to:

Rabbit Rescue & Rehab/NYC Metro Rabbit, Attn: Treasurer, 333 Mamaroneck Avenue, Suite #363, White Plains, NY 10605. Your contribution is tax-deductible. Rabbit Rescue & Rehab (d/b/a NYC Metro Rabbit) is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) charity registered in New York State.

Juno Will Hop Into Your Heart

By Letizia Cinelli

Juno, the bunny on Thump's August masthead, is still looking for a home. Juno and his siblings were found hopping the streets of Bay Shore in June 2020. Once rescued and brought into my foster home, Juno adapted to indoor life pretty quickly. Within a few days, he warmed up to me, and continues to seek out my attention and affection. For a rabbit, Juno is on the confident side. He loves to explore and has become very comfortable being around cats. Juno is shy when meeting new people at first, but will relax quickly once he realizes they are not a threat.

Here are the Top Reasons To Adopt Juno:

- First and foremost, Juno is incredibly sweet and loving. It took him practically no time to become comfortable in his foster home. Each day, Juno showers me with KISSES! That's right. Juno loves giving kisses to me and to the stuffed bunny he shares his pen with! He loves being petted and massaged – particularly his cheeks – and shows his appreciation by purring. He will even nudge your hand to pet him if he's looking for more!
- Juno enjoys binkies and zoomies in the mornings (and oftentimes, in the evenings) and they are, oh, so cute to watch! He also enjoys bunny flops, especially when he's getting ready for his afternoon naps.
- Juno has impeccable litter-box habits and I really do mean impeccable.
- Juno is a great eater. He enjoys hay, rabbit pellets and the array of veggies offered to him.
- Juno is a dwarf-sized rabbit and will likely remain on the smaller side even as an adult. He would make a wonderful addition to the right home. He's fun, funny, very sweet and loving – a total cutie!

Photos: Letizia Cinelli



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



Carmela.

Carmela

Carmela is a young medium-sized Rex rabbit. Her beautiful coat is mostly

white with tan and black spots. She is a sweet rabbit who loves to have her soft nose petted. She also likes to explore her house, but her favorite thing is to relax with a nice soft blanket. Carmela is shy and would likely do best in an adult-only home. She would also likely make a good partner for another rabbit. She has been spayed and is in foster care. For more information and/or to arrange a meeting with Carmela, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Ashton

He is a medium-sized dark chocolate Rex who is as soft as he is fabulous! Ashton is a super-friendly, young boy

(Continued on page 4)



Ashton.

A Study in White: The Case of the Whitening Ears

By Amanda Puitiza

It has been a tumultuous past six months for us all. Because I work mostly from home, I have been able to get to know my new rabbit, Martin, much better. He is an interesting fellow. At first, his initial reaction to someone approaching was to pounce with his front paws. With

his bonded partner, Athena, he is a big mush ball, particular when she's grooming him. He will literally dig his face into her side whenever she is self-grooming so that she will eventually start grooming him.

I have had some time to get to know Martin – his likes and dislikes. He will

never shy away from showing you his displeasure. You can often find him scaling the highest boxes. I grew to learn his behaviors fairly well – like the way he sleeps well past 10 a.m. So it was funny that when we took him to the vet for his annual exam, the vet did not recognize him. Apparently, in the four months since the vet had last seen him, his ears had completely lost their color!

Looking back through our countless photos of the rabbits, I could easily see that Martin lost the full black color of his ears within about a month. The vet could not explain it; she had never seen this before. Even now, he has shockingly little color left on his ears.

Perhaps the color loss is due to aging, or perhaps it is related to something else. Regardless, it is interesting to see we can miss the subtle physical changes when we see individuals all the time. Will Martin ever get his black again? Only time and close observation will tell!

Photos: Amanda Puitiza



Martin with dark ears.



Martin with pale ears.

Rabbits in Foster Care

(Continued from page 3)

who loves attention. He is an easygoing, inquisitive extrovert. Ashton has been enjoying living in a bunny-friendly home. He has been moderately active, but we have much more to learn about him. If interested in potentially adopting please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

JoJo

JoJo is a beautiful 8-pound blue-eyed white and tan rabbit who was found as a baby alone on the streets of Queens. A kind passerby first thought she must have seen a cat, but upon closer inspection saw a little bunny she knew couldn't survive on her own. She took JoJo home to keep her safe and took wonderful care of her until JoJo moved into her Rabbit Rescue & Rehab foster home. Today, JoJo has grown into a big rabbit with an even bigger personality, full of puppy-like affection and enthusiasm. As a very young bunny, JoJo is looking for a forever home where she will have lots of room to run and channel her youthful energy into games and exercise. Very much a "people person," JoJo craves lots of one-on-one attention both during her exuberant waking hours and her quieter nap times. If you are interested in adopting JoJo, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Skye

Skye is a 3.5-pound Himalayan rabbit and mom to the litter of "colorful" babies (Pink, Green, Blue, Purple and Orange) who all look just like her. Skye was found alone, tragically dumped in Central Park in terrifyingly poor condition, clearly having been horribly mistreated for quite some time even before she was abandoned outside. A passerby thankfully saw Skye outside and, wanting to help this poor bunny, brought her back to his home. Once there, she surprised him with a litter of babies. When we first saw Skye shortly after she had given birth, every bone in her small, frail body was visible and all



JoJo.

movement was taxing for her in her emaciated state. Still, Skye was a wonderful mother to her babies and slowly but surely, she gained weight and became stronger. Today, Skye is completely healthy and enjoying some well-deserved free time now that her babies are grown up and off on their own adventures. Skye is looking for a quiet, calm human companion to match her sweet but reserved energy. She is a gentle soul who will form a close bond with her family and enjoy receiving affection, provided she is given the opportunity to approach first. Skye has a particular affinity for her Oxbow woven grass toys and is content to stretch out and fall into a deep sleep for afternoon naps. If you are interested in adopting Skye, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Pineapple and Sugarplum

Pineapple and Sugarplum are a beautiful pair of large Lionhead sisters who were born in the shelter as part of a litter of five babies, before we took the whole young family into our rescue. Their mother, two sisters and brother have all been adopted and now it's their turn. Pineapple is black and white, while Sugarplum is all black – and both have amazing manes of hair! These girls are shy at first but have tons of energy and



Skye.

are a joy to watch as they exercise – running and binkying with reckless abandon! They have been spayed and are living in foster care. If you are interested in adopting Pineapple and Sugarplum, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.



Pineapple and Sugarplum.

Forever Home Found!

We are happy to report that Pierre was adopted since the last newsletter. Congratulations, Pierre!

Making a Tough Decision About My Buns Lily and Pez

By Katie Buckley

I was the one who always said that if I brought any animal home, he or she would be mine till the end. I dislike people who get pets just to return them or ask someone to take them off their hands.

But here I am in that situation, and my heart is broken. Lily, a 7-year-old lop-eared bun, was my first love. Her owner bought her from a pet shop and paid a hefty price for her, but was preparing to dump the baby bun outside after having her for only a few months. I offered to take the bunny and snuck her into my apartment with my fiancé at the time.

We then decided to adopt a second rabbit, Marilyn, a baby bun with cataracts, from Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group. The volunteers paid for her to have cataract surgery, and she was a very lucky bun. Seeing her regain her sight was a feeling I can't even describe.

My relationship with my then-husband fell apart a couple of years later and I moved (with Lily and Marilyn) to another "no pets" apartment. But shortly after moving, Marilyn developed a lump that I was told was noncancerous. It turned out that Marilyn had a rare cancer that spread throughout her body and she died within a month of that diagnosis. I was devastated. She had been a great comfort to me while my marriage was ending.

Six months later, LIRRG was caring for a bunny identical to Marilyn. I was ready to open my heart again. This baby boy had some neurological issues that caused behavior like star-gazing and spinning in circles. We decided to call him Pez (like a Pez dispenser). I tried medication and nothing worked, but Pez was able to enjoy life and thrive.

Two years later, I found a great man who happened to be in the military and lived out of state. We got married and he accepted my bunnies like his own.



Photo: Katie Buckley

Pez and Lily.

We bought a home in Virginia and moved the buns with us. They got their own room of a four-bedroom house and we worked on bonding Lily and Pez. This was the easiest bond I have ever done.

We also decided to fill our home with two dogs, Ember and Ash, who both get along great with the buns. That was another process in itself!

So here we are a year and half later and my worst nightmare has occurred. We got orders to move to California, which will be my husband's base station for the next two to four years. We are driving there in January and decided all animals would come with us (obviously)! However, the base housing application strictly says "No rabbits." I read it and didn't care.

The rabbits lived with me in two other apartments that said no pets and I never got caught. My husband explained that on base housing, however, the military can do inspections without our knowledge and he could lose his career if we got caught.

My husband, Clayton, will be deployed in Okinawa, Japan, for about seven months. During that time I will drive back to New York and live with my parents. They have two dogs themselves, so four dogs and two bunnies in their house with my siblings is too much.

Once deployment is over, I will drive back to California with the pups. So that's a total of three cross-country trips with two dogs. I contemplated bringing the rabbits, too, before we learned that base housing doesn't allow them.

After doing research on how to move with two rabbits and two dogs, I reached out to LIRRG to ask if they would take both buns. For about a month I was so lost on what to do. Should I have someone foster the animals till we get back to the East Coast, or would they be better off getting adopted? I discussed the situation with Denise Bertolotti of LIRRG. I had now become that person who could no longer keep her pets.

If adoption was the only alternative, I didn't want to lose contact with the bunnies. I wanted to be able to stay in touch with the new owners and possibly see the buns when I visited New York.

I want what's best for my buns. Moving them from Virginia to California to New York and back to California after deployment would be way too much for them and I understand that. We will be on the West Coast for approximately two to four years and Lily is getting up there in age. I trust the Long Island Rabbit Rescue volunteers and trust that my babies will always be taken care of and loved.

Things come up that are out of your control. I need to learn to not beat myself up about giving up my buns. They were there for me when I was going through a very rough time and I was there for them when they needed me. They have had a wonderful life with me, my husband and the dogs. Who knows? They may have an even better life being adopted by another loving family who has been searching for the perfect bonded pair.

Letters From Adopters

Woofle Cooney

(Woofle the bunny sent this letter to Ciaran when she was at summer camp.)

Pellets are good. I like them. I miss you giving them to me. Because that other lady doesn't give them as much, or as often, as you do, and she just kind of dumps them on the floor instead of letting me crawl on you to get them, which, as we all know, is considerably more fun.

Where are you? What is this mysterious camp you spoke of? Do they have pellets there? Why would you leave a perfectly good, regular supply of pellets here to go off into the wilds of wherever in The Smells Land [i.e., outside], unless there were bigger and better pellets? If that is the case, I must command you to bring some home.

I had an adventure, too. The Other Lady put me in my carrier, though she KNOWS I hate that. I outsmarted her by grabbing the pellets and darting away, but eventually she tricked me into it. Then they took me to this hallway in a new building. There was another Loud One who took, I think, 5,000 pictures of me in an unfamiliar apartment. I had to go into my hutch with Lamby to get a break from her love.

But she was good people, and I stayed there for a couple of days. She knew about pellets, and her dinners are epic! Like, romaine AND parsley! I have to say, I licked her. A few times. But you are still my favorite Loud One.

When the Other Lady finally picked me up, there were so many SMELLS on the way home! We sniffed flowers, dog pee, dogs (scary, but I was safe in the carrier), dandelions, smoky smells, etc. Then the Lady took me to something called a BODEGA and I nearly lost my fur, it was so exciting and overwhelming. I smelled CILANTRO! PARSLEY! ROMAINE! SWISS CHARD! CARROTS! CELERY! ALL JUST SITTING THERE!

Photos: Crickler Cooley



Woofle eating parsley.

The Lady would not let me out of the carrier, but she brought some of that good stuff home. I need to go back again.

I miss you at night. At first I was excited to have unlimited chewing time, but I miss your gentle snores and the falling cascades of stuffed bunnies, and trying to jump on your feet when you wake up in the morning. The Lady got me some new sticks, so I am chewing. She lets me up on the bed sometimes and we stare at the loud thing together that makes noise but has no smell. She got very mad at me last night when I chewed something called a "mortgage statement." Lady, I thought, why leave it around if you want it unchewed?



Woofle and Ciaran, reunited after camp.

Anyway, bring back pellets.

Love,

Woofle Fernando Jack White
Mr. Dude Wilberforce Cooley

Greg the Rabbit: Communicator, Brief College Student And Mayoral Write-In Candidate, Passes Away at Age of 9

By Aaron D. Maslow

He had gone through stasis many times before, but this time God called him back. This past July 28, Greg, our Harlequin bunny, died at the age of nine. The night before, Greg wouldn't eat. Unusually, he didn't fight too much when I gave him Reglan, Metacam and pediatric simethicone, and he let me pick him up. Clearly he was weak. Marcie Frishberg – who had brought Greg to us back in 2012 and with whom we became friends – came over and managed to coax Greg into eating and drinking a little. When I brought him to Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital on the morning of the 28th, however, the prognosis was not good. Greg had a lowered temperature and his stomach was very bloated. I held him for what turned out to be the last time. My daughter Rachel, who actually adopted Greg in 2012, spoke to him via FaceTime. Dr. Erica Campbell offered to try a procedure whereby they would pass a tube down the esophagus and suction out the stomach contents. Greg survived the sedation – some bunnies don't – but not everything could be suctioned out. Another attempt would be made the next day. A few hours later, Dr. Campbell called me to say that Greg was failing. He passed away while I was on the phone with her. The next day, a necropsy revealed that the entrance to his intestine had been blocked by a piece of food transitioning out of the stomach.

It all began in January 2012. My daughter Rachel was home during intersession before starting the second half of her junior year at SUNY Albany. Her boyfriend Jeff (whom she married in 2016) was doing an internship in Washington, D.C., so she looked into adopting a rabbit as a companion pet. After scoping out city shelters and Petco, she settled upon Greg, a very cute Harlequin who was presumed to be close

Photos: Aaron D. Maslow



Greg for mayor.



Greg and Naomi in their last photo together.

to a year old. Greg was being sponsored by Rabbit Rescue & Rehab. One evening, Marcie Frishberg, a well-known rabbit educator, brought Greg to our home. With all of us sitting around the dining-room table at home in the Marine Park neighborhood of Brooklyn, Marcie spent several hours instructing our family – my wife Lori, Rachel, my sons Sam and Bernard, and me – on how to take care of him.

Well, as school began again Rachel did not want to leave Greg, so she decided to take him with her. Off went Greg to college. And that is what spurred my creative juices as I began writing rabbit

fiction and immersing myself in rabbit photography to entertain family and friends. I promptly sent out a fictitious letter under SUNY Albany's letterhead in which they acknowledged Greg's having enrolled in their special B.A. (Bunny Arts) Degree program and listing his course schedule, which included:

BIO 190 General Rabbit Biology
4 credits

Introduction to the major concepts in rabbit biology, and the function of rabbits at the molecular, cellular and population levels. Emphasis placed on the gastrointestinal, excretory, and reproductive systems of rabbits.

PSY 195 Human-Rabbit Interactive Psychology 3 credits

The relation between humans and rabbits, studied from both perspectives. Includes results of psychological studies of the bond between rabbits and their human owners. Topics include biological bases of interspecies behavior, personality organization, intelligence, motivation, emotions and social relations.

ENG 193 Introduction to the Rabbit in Literature 3 credits

Introduction to representative works of literature featuring rabbits, through a variety of genres, themes, historical periods, and national literatures. Includes critical studies of Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit, Joel Chandler Harris's Uncle Remus stories, Thornton Burgess's Peter Cottontail stories, and Shel Silverstein's Runny Babbit, as well as in-depth analysis of the White Rabbit and the March Hare in Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.

ART 194 Introduction to the Rabbit in Art 3 credits

General survey of the rabbit in art from prehistoric times through the present

(Continued on page 8)

Greg the Rabbit

(Continued from page 7)

time, including painting, sculpture and pottery. Includes depictions of the hare as associated with moon deities in mythology, as well as use of the rabbit to depict fertility and sensuality. Will include study of Titian's "Madonna of the Rabbit," Jim Denomie's Magic Rabbit paintings, and the Douglas, Wyo., jackalope sculpture.

PED 290 Advanced Binkying Techniques 1 credit

Instruction and practice in advanced binkying techniques, such as gyrating 360 degrees while in the air, double spins, and extremely rapid head movements. Prerequisites: PED 190 (Introduction to Binkying) or the equivalent.

My friends mostly thought I was nuts – with too vivid an imagination – but at least one actually believed that a rabbit could attend a college degree program. After telling me, "Aaron, it is amazing what they can do with animals nowadays with scientific advances," I had to deflate his naiveté and tell him that this was a spoof.

Alas, Greg did not last too long at college. Rachel left Greg with a suitemate for a weekend to see Jeff. The suitemate locked the door on Greg without having the key. Panicking and thinking that Greg would starve to death (despite having an adequate supply of hay and water), the suitemate called Residential Life. They opened up the door and found one four-legged resident who was not matriculated. Their edict: Either the rabbit went, or both Rachel and the rabbit went. I knew what was coming next. Rachel didn't want to return Greg; could we take care of him at home? Well, he was cute, so Lori and I decided that Greg would live with us. Another piece of fiction was sent to friends and family (to cover up what really occurred): Greg was not the college type; he was

cutting classes so the college expelled him. That began Greg's over eight years of residency at my home. I would take care of him and so, too, would Rachel when she was home from college and then podiatric medical school.

During the 12 months following his arrival, Greg kept me company as I worked in my home office. The various nooks and crannies there appealed to Greg. There was an empty bottom shelf of a bookcase that early on he enjoyed being ensconced in. One of the first things I noticed was that he had this habit of winking at me. Was he trying to convey something? He developed the ability to comply with simple commands. I would ask, "Where's the hay?" and he would sniff around. He also learned that if I asked, "Where's Greg?" he would come running. He entertained me frequently with his Bunny 500 runs. He had this unusual game whereby he would dart forward, then back up, and dart forward in another direction. I figured he wanted me to guess which way he was going to run. I think he also wanted to impress me with his binkying – he could actually change direction while in midair. His antics distracted me frequently from my work.

By spring 2013, Greg had been living with us for more than a year. My vivid imagination led me to send emails to Rachel – away at college – from Greg saying he wanted a "Bunny Honey." I admit that part of the impetus was that as a human, I could not give Greg all the affection that he needed. He really needed one of his own kind as a companion. By this time, I was taking Greg to Dr. Jennifer Saver at Catnip & Carrots in Nassau County. I asked her how he would do with another rabbit. Dr. Saver knows her rabbits really well. She prognosticated that Greg would be subservient to a female. It was in June of that year that Naomi, a Lionhead, entered our lives. At Petco in Union Square, Amy Odum presided over speed dates with three lady rabbits. Since this

Photos: Aaron D. Maslow



Greg licking Naomi. He became her love slave.



Greg in the rabbit castle, with Naomi on a chair.

is a family publication, I will not describe in print what Greg did to one of the other ladies. Suffice it to say that we adopted Naomi.

It became evident that Dr. Saver was correct – Greg would indeed be a subservient rabbit – but he did not understand at first that this was his lot in life. During our attempts to bond the two at our home, Naomi would stick her head under Greg's chin, assuming that he would groom her. Greg, however, didn't understand that she was asking to be groomed. This infuriated Naomi, who would nip him. Frustrated with a lack of success in bonding the two, Marcie Frishberg gracefully volunteered to take them to her home. Six weeks later, just before Thanksgiving 2013, we retrieved them from Marcie, more or less

(Continued on page 9)

Greg the Rabbit

(Continued from page 8)

bonded. We had something additional to be thankful for at Thanksgiving.

Naomi's personality, we realized, however, was a Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde one. She would flop down next to Greg constantly and he learned to groom her. But the Mr. Hyde side of her came out when food was being served. It manifested itself even when Naomi thought that food was being served – even if there was none. Naomi would chase Greg, sniffing his mouth, the assumption being that Greg was eating her food.

Photos: Aaron D. Maslow



Bunnies in bed together.



Greg actually did smile occasionally for photos, as if he somehow knew that one is supposed to do this.

She would then nip at him, taking a bit of fur off. Greg soon learned adaptively to hide under the bunny bed in their pen. And so it went on for years. If I entered their room – yes, they had their own Rabbit Room – Greg would run, Naomi would chase him, and Greg would hide under their bunny bed. This developed into a routine that lasted until his next to last day in the house. If, in fact, I was actually serving breakfast or dinner, I would place it down and Naomi would start eating. Once she began chomping on the pellets (breakfast) or leafy greens (dinner), I would tell him, “OK, Greg, you can come out now,” and he came out from under the bunny bed. Slowly he would slink out and approach the food, one eye on the food and the other eye watching Naomi.

I think Greg realized that he was predestined to be Naomi's love slave. If she wanted grooming, he complied. If she wanted to just flop down next to him, he let her do it. But somehow – despite Naomi's chasing him when she perceived food to be coming – he enjoyed her company. Many times I found them snuggled together. I would tell friends that I came into their room and found them in bed together, which elicited laughs. It literally was true because the two would nestle together on the bunny bed. If I woke up during the night and passed their room, I saw them grooming each other – usually Greg grooming Naomi.

Having been bonded, Greg and Naomi stayed with us even when Rachel and Jeff married in 2016. Although Greg and Naomi were Brooklynites, they did summer in Manhattan with Rachel and Jeff. (More rabbit fiction for friends: Upper East Siders and then Upper West Siders would stare at this rabbit couple who would hop up and down Manhattan avenues as they window-shopped. Museum goers were amazed to see this pair of rabbits staring at the exhibits.)

At a certain point, I purchased a rabbit castle from someone in Alabama who sold them on Etsy.com. It had two

floors. Access to the second floor was via a ramp. The castle was placed in my office. I would put pellets in there for breakfast. I put pellets in rabbit toys on the floor. When I opened the door to Greg and Naomi's pen, they would rush out and run to the office, Greg going up the ramp to the second floor of the castle and Naomi to the toys on the floor. Eventually, Greg developed an understanding that at any time if I said, “The Second Floor,” he would go up the ramp. I would praise him for doing so. If the breakfast pellets were gone by then, I would give him a papaya pill or a treat. He realized that I was thrilled when he followed my command to go to the Second Floor, so he started this habit of rubbing up against my pants leg and then running up the ramp to the Second Floor on his own. He would turn around and stare at me – in other words, communicating that since he went up there I should give him something. This went on for years.

Another way Greg communicated to me was when he rubbed up against my leg and turned around, still being next to me. This was his way of asking to be petted. I would give him some pettings but if he wasn't satisfied, he would rub up against me again. This would be repeated until he was satisfied with the number of pettings I gave him. I was amazed to find myself communicating with him. Another aspect of our communicating was when I would massage his cheeks. He responded by grinding his teeth. This, too, went back and forth until he was satisfied with the number of times I massaged his cheek.

There is no doubt that animals have personality traits. I learned this with Greg, who did have a bit of jealousy in him. Over the years, there were times that he observed me pet Naomi. He would saunter over and slap my hand with one of his front paws.

I mentioned that Greg triggered my creativity – I would write rabbit fiction. I enjoyed taking photos of him and

(Continued on page 10)

Greg the Rabbit

(Continued from page 9)

Naomi, and writing cartoon balloons for what they would be saying or captions to the photos.

Greg was a happy bunny. I told friends he would even smile for some photos. They thought this was another joke of mine and accused me of humanizing him too much. When they viewed the photos of him smiling, however, they were amazed. He really did smile for a few photos.

In 2013, I created a poster for Greg's campaign as a write-in candidate for New York City mayor. Among the planks in his platform was "Forget about universal all-day pre-K. I say tax the rich to build more homeless shelters – for homeless animals." Not one to shy away from controversial issues, he also advocated, "Bloomberg wanted to regulate circumcision. I want to stop compulsory neutering and spaying of pets. Just give us free contraceptives, like they give the high school kids." Several friends of mine swear they wrote in Greg the Rabbit on their ballots.

Greg and Naomi were featured in law books I wrote for my colleagues, their photos accompanying their discussions. Greg was quoted as saying, among other things, that attorneys needed to check the latest case law and he preferred one legal research tool over the other, and reminding attorneys how to cite cases. Greg also delved into religious topics. A photo of him shows Naomi asking the famous question asked at the Passover seder, "Greg, why is Passover seder night different from all other nights?" and he responds, "Naomi, because, at the seder, unlike all other nights, we rabbits can

Photo: Aaron D. Maslow



Discussion of Passover.

eat as much romaine lettuce and parsley as we want."

As an accredited provider of NYS Continuing Legal Education, in June 2018, I presented a course on New York Rabbit Law together with Natalie L. Reeves, an attorney well-known for her advocacy on behalf of rabbits. Greg and Naomi were featured on the cover of the course materials. In Greg's memory, a recording of the course is being re-released. If you are an attorney and would like to listen to this CLE course for credit, please contact me.

As I said earlier, Greg underwent bouts of gastrointestinal stasis throughout his life. It would happen about once a year. I would give him the meds but at times we would end up at Dr. Saver's. He would always recover, and that was why I was hopeful when he had his last illness. This time, however, he did not

make it. In the weeks after his passing, Naomi sniffed all around for him. Being more sedentary than usual, she evinces a sense of loss.

I miss Greg deeply – his antics, his company, and also his willingness to be photographed so many times. I am so appreciative that we had eight and a half years together. A creature of God, Greg pierced the wall that usually stands between human and animal in terms of communication. As my son Bernard said aptly, "Greg is now on a higher floor than the Second Floor."

Aaron D. Maslow is an attorney. Several of his articles have appeared previously in Thump. He can be reached at aarondmaslow@aol.com.

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

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

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

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

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