

# THUMP

**NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS** **APRIL** 2017

## Moondog and Dutchess: They're a Happily Bonded Couple After Four Months of Patience and Gentle Encouragement

By Kerstin Aumann

We found Moondog in the parking lot near the White Plains train station on July 25, 2015. We were returning home after spending the day in the city with our infant daughter (3 months at the time). As we were walking toward our car in the dusk of this hot summer day, we spotted a big agouti rabbit sitting in front of a row of parked cars, as commuters hurried by without giving him a second glance. Some perhaps thought he was a wild rabbit, given his brown-blackish coloring, but this rabbit was clearly much larger than a cottontail, and he didn't

have the little white "flame" of fur on his forehead characteristic of wild rabbits. The fact that he seemed unfazed by people passing right by him was another clue that he was used to humans.

Late July...perhaps someone was going on vacation and finding care for the rabbit was too much of an inconvenience? Or maybe someone grew tired of an Easter gift that grew into a large rabbit? Whatever the reason, dumping a bunny in the parking lot of a busy commuter station, near major highways, perhaps

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Photo: Kerstin Aumann



Dutchess and Moondog.

## Double Rabbit Rescue on Long Island

By Diana Kronenberg

My phone chimed with a Facebook notification on March 5, stating that two rabbits had been abandoned outside in a rural Long island town. The duo were spotted in Ridge, located near Brookhaven State Park in Suffolk County. It was about an hour from where I live. Foster space had been secured and our organization, Long Island Rabbit Rescue

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Photo: April Overholser



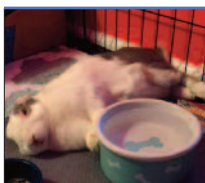
Diana Kronenberg and her mom, Nancy.

## Do We Choose Bunnies That Are Like Us?

By Shane York

It seems that many people have an uncanny ability to choose pets that are similar to them in personality, and sometimes even looks. It sounds amazing, but in 2009 Sadahiko Nakajima, a psychologist and researcher at Japan's

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Our masthead bunnies, beautiful pink-and-white ladies Chloe and Portia, have been waiting two long years for a home. They are shy, bonded sisters who were rescued by Long Island Rabbit Rescue along with three siblings who have been adopted. The five were abandoned, tossed over a sump fence in Baldwin. They need a patient adopter who will let them cuddle with each other and be themselves. Photo and masthead: Mary Ann Maier.

## Moondog and Dutchess

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Photos: Kerstin Aumann



Our son Alex with the bunnies.



Dutchess grooms Moondog.

before heading to a job in the city, was especially heartless.

So, there we were – my husband, Victor, and I with our baby girl and all her stuff. What we didn't have, of course, was any equipment that would have made catching a stray rabbit safely in a busy parking lot any easier (e.g., my daughter's play pen would have come in handy to restrict the rabbit's escape options).

We had to make do with what we had, which was primarily my husband's skill and experience. We calmly approached the rabbit, who hopped under a parked car as we came closer. With one of us on either side of the car, we shooed him out

from under the car and he hopped out without straying too far from us.

With one eye on our daughter's stroller that was safely secured nearby, we followed the rabbit slowly, talking to him, telling him that everything would be ok. We were careful not to make any sudden movements or sounds that might scare him. We also tried to get him away from the cars. Eventually, he hopped onto a strip of lawn separating two rows of cars and Victor had an opportunity to capture him with a quick leap into the grass.

There we were with the rabbit, but without a carrier. We improvised to get everyone home safely, and Moondog made the trip wrapped in a blanket, held tightly on my lap. Fortunately, he didn't seem scared or mind being handled by us much.

Moondog's arrival was timed well for our family. We had lost our beloved Snowball, a big white bunny with an even bigger personality, to thymoma just about a week earlier and our bunny room was down to only one resident – Luna, a petite Hotot dwarf and Snowball's bond mate for well over a decade.

We took Moondog to be examined and neutered by our vet. We then tried bonding him with Luna, but Luna wouldn't have it. She had been the lowest-ranking bunny her entire life, first in a trio that included her feisty sister Xena (whose name was no accident!), and then in her relationship with benevolent King Snowball. She seemed to be enjoying her single status, and she made it clear that she didn't appreciate any advances from Moondog. She didn't mind living with him side-by-side though, and so they remained roommates until Luna passed away about a year later.

In the fall, I decided it was time to find a partner for Moondog – and this time, we would follow the tried-and-true process of bunny speed-dating. Luna had reminded us how important it is to let rabbits choose their mates!

With my 6-year-old son and Victor away on a father-son surfing safari in Rockaway,

I took my daughter (17 months by then) and Moondog and drove to the city to meet some eligible bachelorette bunnies. I deliberately chose a day when my son was busy because he would have certainly wanted to have a say as to whom Moondog should pick and I wanted to minimize distractions. I did bring my daughter because I wanted to see how the bunnies would feel about being around a toddler.

Moondog was pretty easygoing during his dating sessions and seemed to enjoy meeting his potential mates. We were down to two candidates – one of whom would probably have made for an easy and relatively quick bond, but this lady had some special needs that would have been difficult to meet in a family with two small children and working parents. So, we took home Dutchess, a beautiful, spunky, chocolate Dutch bunny girl, knowing that the bonding process might take some work.

Bonding Moondog and Dutchess took time, work and lots of patience – but it was well worth it!

We have a hallway off our bunnies' living area that offers good conditions for bonding: Neutral territory with enough space, but easily controlled by a human facilitator. The first couple of sessions went very well, with both bunnies largely indifferent toward each other, but comfortable enough to groom themselves or munch on hay. As the sessions progressed, things became a bit more challenging when the bunnies began exploring the power dynamics in their relationship. Every bunny relationship needs a leader and an "underbun." Some bunnies figure this out quickly; others, like Moondog and Dutchess, needed time.

There were small scuffles and chases (quickly broken up with the help of an oven mitt or slipper) whenever one bunny got too close to the other. There were nose-to-nose grooming stand-offs with neither bun wanting to relent because s/he who grooms first "loses"

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## Moondog and Dutchess

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the power play. Several weeks went by with little progress and both buns remained stubbornly steadfast in defending their positions.

The bonding process suffered a setback when Moondog suddenly came down with neurological symptoms consistent with “head down” syndrome (see [http://www.mediterraneanrabbit.com/EN/Neurology/Differentials/Head\\_down.htm](http://www.mediterraneanrabbit.com/EN/Neurology/Differentials/Head_down.htm) for details). Fortunately, he made a full recovery in about two weeks, but we had to stop bonding sessions for a few weeks.

When we resumed the sessions, I tried different spaces, since we were making little progress in the hallway. On nice fall days, I set up a pen on the deck. Hanging out in a protected area outside with unfamiliar sights and sounds added another dimension of complexity to the situation for the bunnies that I was hoping would distract them from their power struggle and perhaps unite them. The outdoors bonding sessions worked quite well, as the bunnies were hanging out in side-by-side litter boxes without scuffling incidents.

As the weather grew colder and rainier, I moved the bonding sessions into the living room after the kids’ bedtime. This was actually a big step, since I didn’t use a pen there to create a smaller, more manageable area. I had seen enough peaceful side-by-side behavior that I was comfortable taking this step. The living room was uncharted territory for the buns, so exploring a new area for the first time together was a good bonding experience.

In the living room, they had plenty of space to get away from each other, but they always chose to hang out within about a foot of each other. They each did their own thing...grooming, eating, playing, binkies...but they never touched each other. I took this as a good sign. We continued with this routine for several weeks.

Our next step was to let the bunnies out together in the designated bunny room while that space was being cleaned. The

bunny room was familiar to both buns, since they had been living there side-by-side for a few months, each alternating between the condo and a puppy pen. They could see, smell and hear each other, but were safely separated. When I let them out both at the same time, I closed the pen and the condo because I didn’t want the two bunnies to be inside one of the enclosed spaces at the same time. A fight would be more likely – and harder to break up.

After a few morning routines with both buns playing in the bunny room, I gradually increased the time they were spending out together. Eventually, I left them alone in the bunny room, while doing things in the adjacent rooms. Then, they pretty much spent all day together. At this point, there were no signs of fighting or hostility, but there weren’t any signs of affection either. Ok, so maybe they weren’t going to be one of those super-affectionate, lovey-dovey bunny pairs, but they sure were playful together. We even noticed that they seemed to be working as a team when it came to begging for treats, attention or reminding us dinner was late.

A few days after they were living together 24/7, I caught them in the middle of the night relaxing closely next to each other! My heart leapt, as this was the first time I saw physical affection. Slowly, they grew more and more affectionate. Now, Dutchess frequently grooms Moondog (lucky dog!) and they often snuggle in all kinds of positions. They both seem happy as can be.

It took about four months in all to bond this happy couple. That seems like small potatoes now, but during these four months, there were many moments of frustration and fear that this would never work out. In the end, however, patience paid off and love won!

## Double Rabbit Rescue

*(Continued from page 1)*



Scooter (white) and Nellie (agouti).

Group, was looking for volunteers to go out and catch the rabbits. I offered to do what I could.

The next day I coordinated with two other volunteers, April Overholser and Jacey Lynn. My mom, Nancy, offered to come along as well. We had no idea how long it would take, or if we would even be able to find the rabbits. The two rabbits had been running around the neighborhood for weeks already, somehow surviving in the freezing cold and snowy weather.

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## Double Rabbit Rescue

*(Continued from page 3)*

Fortunately, the bunny gods were smiling down on us that day. As soon as we arrived at the initial finder's house, my mom spotted something darting across the backyard. "I think I saw a rabbit!" she cried, and I rushed outside.

A big brown agouti and a New Zealand White rabbit were sitting in the corner of the yard, munching on the bushes. I dropped some carrots on the ground and they started to approach me. The brown bun was gobbling down as many carrots as she could and almost took one right out of my hand. My mom came over with a metal exercise pen, and we surrounded the bunnies with the pen. The brown bun didn't seem to mind, but the white one wasn't too happy about being penned in.

April arrived and helped us get the buns into carriers. The brown bunny continued munching on carrots and greens, and eventually the white one felt comfortable enough to eat something as well. I'm sure they were both very hungry. Once our final volunteer, Jacey arrived, we loaded the buns into our cars and headed to her house to inspect the rabbits indoors.

First, we determined that the brown bun was a female and the white one was a male. We decided to name the girl Nellie, and the boy, Scooter. Both buns had some bite marks and potential ear mites, which was to be expected on rabbits that had been living outside for so long. Since this pair had been together, there was a risk of pregnancy as well. Once a vet appointment was secured, my mom and I headed back to the western end of Long Island to bring the rabbits to Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital, where they were checked out.

Fortunately, Nellie did not appear to be pregnant. We certainly didn't want this double rescue to turn into a much larger one. Both buns stayed the night at the vet, got cleaned up and were given some medication. Nellie ultimately was spayed. Then, just under three weeks after her

Photo: Diana Kronenberg



Nellie and Scooter indoors.

Photo: Mary O'Brien



Nellie.

Photo: Mary O'Brien



Scooter.

rescue, she was adopted by a wonderful first-time-bunny family.

Scooter needed a little bulking up after surviving on whatever he could find in the wild, but was eventually neutered and is now looking for a forever home. He's a little timid but incredibly sweet and would make a perfect addition to a family who is looking for a new furry member.

This rescue was an incredible experience with two rabbits that were clearly ready to be rescued and brought indoors. Just a few weeks after this rescue, I participated in another, and plan to keep on rescuing rabbits whenever I can. It won't always be as easy as this catch was, but there's no better feeling than knowing you've saved a life.



# Love Lost, at Least for Now

By Vanessa Han

“Opposites attract.” It’s a remark you hear when two people who couldn’t be more different come together. A timid bun who appreciates the quiet and calm of a room, Sandy is unlike the hurricane he was named after. Sally, on the other hand, is the glamorous lady who demands respect, attention and food on her schedule. These opposing forces came together to

create a perfect, everlasting pair. After four months, they made it official and moved in together. They snuggled, groomed and slept together; they were inseparable. Sally was always the alpha and she made sure her boyfriend knew it. But even through the chasing, growls and thumping, their love endured as the great loves always have. Fast-forward two years on a cold winter’s night, Sandy lay motionless on his side.

Of course, it was late enough that the vet was closed. It’s funny how rabbits will hide their symptoms until they know for certain that the vet’s gone for the day; rabbits sure have a flare for drama. Mike and I, the bunnies’ humans, went into a panic. Sandy’s belly was hard and his temperature had dropped to 97°. We got to work with the gas

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## Do We Choose Bunnies...

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Kwansei Gakuin University, found subjects were able to pair photos of dogs to photos of their masters with 80% accuracy – as long as they saw the eyes.

([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/18/people-look-like-their-dogs-study\\_n\\_5838278.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/18/people-look-like-their-dogs-study_n_5838278.html))

The question is, do we somehow have a profound connection to our pets in a way that’s not as random as you would think? Imagine starting the search for your new dog or bunny. What do you do as you see each prospective candidate? You try to look them straight in the eye. You’re looking for that “connection,” that feeling the two of you can relate to each other, that somehow you’re on the same page. You often know it right away.

After my little dwarf bunny Luigi passed away, I remember visiting at least five or six bunnies before I found my Lola. She was the last one of the day and I almost canceled the visit because I felt kind of neutral with all of the other bunnies. I began thinking that perhaps I wasn’t ready to move on. But as soon as I saw Lola, I knew that she was the one. It’s kind of like meeting a lover for the first time. There’s no way to really articulate why, but there’s an unmistakable chemical attraction. We locked eyes and that was it. I picked her up from her foster Mom the next week.

My grandmother used to say, “You can’t have two vacuums in one house,” and I learned exactly what that meant as soon as Lola settled in and claimed everything

in the apartment as hers. As strong as my personality was, she was right there ready to tell me “what time it was” anytime I stepped out of line. She used to jump on my couch and eat the center cushion, even if I tried to divert her. Just asking her to get down off the couch would provoke a bunny face worthy of scaring off lions. Eventually I bought an alarm that sat on the cushion and was supposed to ring whenever Lola jumped on the couch. Of course, it only rang when I sat on the couch, giving me a heart attack each time. And each time she was sitting there with that little bucktooth smile that I adore.

At least we enjoy laughing at each other. Lola was rescued off the street and by the looks of it did okay for herself, so she definitely wasn’t going to take any

pushback from me. There we were, two alpha females duking it out for control of our territory. She won.

Now after over 13 years together, Lola has mellowed in her old age and maybe I have as well. Even with her arthritis and cataracts, Lola is still spicy, giving me big bunny attitude apparently whenever I deserve it. What made us end up together? Do we even look alike? Whatever the force or connection that brought us together, I will always be grateful and forever in love with my little mini-me.

Photo: Shane York



Lola.

## Love Lost *(Continued from page 5)*

drops, Metacam, heating pad and tummy massages. Several hours passed and he was alert and mobile as he dug around in his blanket burrito. Was that a sign it was time to return to his lady? We set him down with Sally, but suddenly his eyes rolled back and Sandy was flat as a pancake. Sally, in a fit of concern, ran over to her beloved and sniffed him, licked his eye, and then placed a paw on him. It was so endearing that we didn't move them, but we should have. Something triggered a change in Sally as she let out a low angry growl and tried to maul Sandy. We removed him before any damage was done.

Sandy made it home after a three-day stint at Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital. Recovering from his severe stasis, he was happy to hang out in his old pen with his lady friend. But Sally had forgotten to inform Sandy that she had broken up with him while he was gone. Just like that, a two-year romance was over. She got aggressive and seemed to scream, "Get out!" as she chased him and ripped out his fur. Any hope of reconciliation was completely gone and we were devastated. How can a girl bun just ditch her partner? You hear that bonds are easily broken, but you never think it will happen to your pair. We always think, "No, my rabbits' bond is stronger than that." Well, that's exactly what I told myself, too.

A love so strong shouldn't have ended so abruptly. Bonding sessions started immediately to salvage their relationship. For two months we tried, but they grew farther apart. The once inseparable couple was now separated. The smallest glimpse of Sally would cause Sandy to raise his tail in anger. This everlasting pair was over.

There's an emotional drain that happens when bonding fails. You never really have a defining reason as to why it didn't work out. It just happens and you accept it. As with human relationships, bunnies move on. Sandy lives with our

other rescue rabbit, Marley, while Sally lives solo. Perhaps there's hope, though. Sally likes to cross the room in her free time to visit her would-be friends. She stares at them through their pen bars and I'd like to think she hopes for a future with them. Sandy and Marley don't quite share the sentiment of

becoming a trio. They gaze back with a you-can't-sit-with-us vibe. Still, never admitting defeat, I see this as simply a prolonged, but temporary, no. Perhaps a trio is in our future. Bonding sessions will commence later this year and you may see an epic friendship between three very different rabbits. Stay tuned.

Photos: Michael Miranda



Sandy and Sally.



Sandy and Marley.



# Bunny Affection (2000 mg): Take Whenever Given

By Sana Ahsan

This July, it will be a year since I made one of the best decisions of my life. Last July 10, I picked up a bunny named Ali (formerly Captain) from the Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group's main foster home. I had decided to get a rabbit, mostly for my mother because she was going through some difficult times.

I arrived at Nancy Schreiber's home a little after 4 p.m. I had a blue and grey carrier with Ali's name already on it. I was prepared physically, but my mind could have never fathomed that I was about to meet a rabbit who would leave such an imprint on my heart.

There is a history of anxiety in my family, so there's no doubt that some bits and pieces of it translated over to me. I've gotten therapy (in school and professionally) for nearly half my lifetime. We as humans need a support system to fall back on, and I've never really had a stable one.

I wondered what Ali would be like. I remember the first time I saw him, Nancy asked me, "Is he what you expected?" I couldn't tear my eyes away from him and I told her without thinking, "He's so much more." I don't believe I've ever spoken truer words in my life.

There are a number of things I've learned about him since adopting him nine months ago. One, he was known for always attacking a new person regardless of whether or not they smelled of another animal, but he did not attack me the first time we met. Two, he loves being petted, and his favorite spot to be kissed is right under the ears. Three, wherever I'm sitting, he likes to come and lie next to me. Four, his favorite spot to sleep is on my bed next to my pillow, and he never goes a night without sleeping by my side. And five, he's the most faithful and sensitive companion my family has ever had.

I have not gone back to therapy since adopting him. The last time I was sitting on the floor with my head buried in my arms, I felt two little nudges on my leg. I looked up and saw the brightest baby blues staring up at me. I have found my stable support system.

Photos: Sana Ahsan



Ali on Sana's bed.



Ali on his own bed.

# Why Spay or Neuter My Rabbit? Some Scary Numbers...

By Dana M. Krempels, Ph.D.

*University of Miami Biology Department  
House Rabbit Society of Miami*

If you are contemplating getting a bunny, it's imperative to spay or neuter your companion for his or her health and longevity. But aside from the individual rabbit's well-being, another factor to consider is just how quickly these prey animals can reproduce, if left to their own devices. More than one rescuer in the U.S. has been faced with the daunting task of trying to find homes for a backyard breeding operation that has gotten horribly out of control.

Most of us are familiar with the estimate that one cat and her offspring have the potential to bear more than 40,000 cats in seven years. But this impressive number pales in comparison to what a rabbit can produce! Here are those numbers, for sharing and scaring.

A single female rabbit can have 1 to 14 babies per litter, but let's be conservative and say that the average litter size is six. We'll also make the assumption (remember, this is all hypothetical) that only half of those are females, and we will calculate the potential fecundity of our bunny population only from these hypothetical three females per litter, since females are the limiting factor in a population when it comes to making babies. We're also assuming no mortality, since we're talking about potential reproduction with no set environmental carrying capacity. (Since a rabbit can easily live seven years and beyond, this isn't unreasonable.)

Rabbit gestation lasts 28-31 days, and because they are induced ovulators, mother rabbits can be impregnated again within minutes of giving birth. This means that mama could, hypothetically, have one litter per month if she is constantly with a male rabbit. (Poor mama!)

If our "starter bunny" begins reproducing at six months of age (again, not an unreasonable estimate), and has babies for seven years, then by the end of the first year:

One mother rabbit x 3 female babies x 12 months = 36 female babies (plus your original mama makes 37) Let's add the new babies to the reproductive population at the beginning of the following year. At that point, their average age would be six months – the time of their first litter. (This works if you consider this to be averaging the new females' reproductive output.) If – starting at the beginning of Year Two – each of the Year One female rabbits produces an average of 3 female offspring per month, then by the

## End of Year Two:

37 mother rabbits x 3 female babies x 12 months = 1,332 female babies (plus your original 37 will equal 1,369 total)

## End of Year Three:

1,369 mother rabbits x 3 female babies x 12 months = 49,284 female babies (49,284 + last year's 1,369 = 50,653 total)

## End of Year Four:

50,653 x 3 x 12 months = 1,823,508 female babies (1,823,508 + last year's 49,284 = 1,872,792 total)

## End of Year Five:

1,823,508 x 3 x 12 months = 67,420,512 female babies (67,420,512 + last year's 1,872,792 = 69,293,304 total)

## End of Year Six:

69,293,304 x 3 x 12 months = 2,494,558,944 female babies (2,494,558,944 + last year's 69,293,304 = 2,563,852,248 total)

## Year Seven:

2,563,852,248 x 3 x 12 = 92,298,716,930 female babies (92,298,716,930 + last year's 2,563,852,248 = 94,862,569,180!)

Photo: Ben Zucker



River and Dale (see Thump, February 2017, <http://www.rabbitcare.org/ThumpFebruary2017.pdf>) are the parents of these eight kits. The parents and kits have all found forever homes.

Photo: Emma Zucker



The pileup of baby bunnies is the litter of River and Dale at around five or six weeks.

That's nearly 95 billion female rabbits in seven years!

Remember that we haven't even included the males. On average, there should be as many males born in each litter as females. We didn't include them in the multiplication, since "it takes two to tango." But each year, as many males as females are born. So that adds up to another...

**Year Two:** 1332

**Year Three:** 49,284

**Year Five:** 67,420,512

**Year Six:** 2,494,558,944

**Year Seven:** 92,298,716,930

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## Why Spay or Neuter?

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Add that to the females, and it means that first mama and her female descendants will have produced 184,597,433,860 rabbits in seven years...

...all of whom will need a home!

You can see why people use the phrase “reproducing like rabbits.” This amazing capacity for reproduction is the main defense *Oryctolagus cuniculus* has against extinction, since they have so many predators in the wild.

Photo: Laura George



Best Friends' "Great Bunny Rescue" of 2006.

Since unspayed rabbits generally have a shorter lifespan than unspayed cats, it might be unrealistic to expect a female to live a full seven years if she's reproducing at that rate. Even so, the descendants of that initial female, reproduction left unchecked, are quite capable of bringing that number into the millions in only a few years. (Darwin was right.)

Do the bunnies of the world a favor: have your companion rabbit spayed or neutered.



Rabbits have an amazing capacity for reproduction. This is their main defense against extinction.

Photo: Nadine Heidinger



Salt&Pepper (mom) and her babies Chevron, Stitch, Chequer and Batik.

Photo: Thea Harting



Allie Horovitz and Jay Featherston celebrated on March 18 after a speed date at the Union Square Petco for their boy bunny, Bongo, in carrier at right. They brought home Nugget, at the left, a promising candidate for bonding efforts at home.

Photo: Allie Horovitz



Bongo.

Photo: Chris Allieri



These are some of the beautiful Brooklyn bunnies who were confiscated in the Gowanus hoarding case involving Dorota Trec. Most of the former Gowanus rabbits are now available for adoption in Manhattan or Brooklyn from Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC).

## Bunnies Meet the Public at ACC Mobile Adoption Event

Photo: Thea Harting



Dr. Anthony Pilny with Yuki and Thea Harting.

The Animal Care Centers of NYC brought its mobile adoption van to the Upper West Side on Saturday, March 25, for a rabbit adoption event.

The van was parked on Columbus Avenue near the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine for the afternoon, and

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## Bunnies Meet the Public

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local residents were invited to learn about rabbit care.

A number of New York rabbit volunteers participated, including Amy Odum, Thea Harting and Neil Schaier. ACC staff members also were on hand.

Photos: Thea Harting



Luis, Megan and Neil.



Fox.

Bunnies who took part in the outing were Jaylen, Snowflake, Lucky, Madeline, Willow, Fox, Yuki and Chili.

Dr. Anthony Pilny from CAEM attended the event to discuss rabbit medical issues.

If you would like to view a Facebook video from the event, go to the Animal Care Centers of NYC page (<https://www.facebook.com/NYCACCC/?fref=ts>) and scroll down to March 25. The video was originally recorded as a live feed, and it includes a lot of useful information for potential adopters.

## We Are Looking for Loving Homes:

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

By Kirsten Ott

#### Marilu

Marilu is a large, young New Zealand White who will win your heart in no time! This girl has a truly lovely disposition. She adores affection, and crunches her teeth in contentment as you stroke her head. Once she's had a taste of the love, she will approach you politely to ask for more. Marilu still has some growing to do – she has enormous pink ears that she hasn't grown into yet. She also has a lean face and a slender body, both of which will fill out as she matures. Marilu would make a good choice for a first-time bunny owner.



Marilu.

#### Snowflake

Snowflake is a medium-to-large black and white female who arrived at the shelter in rather rough physical and emotional shape. She was too skinny; her scraggly coat was missing fur on the upper back; and she was extremely wary of people. However, in a few short weeks she has truly blossomed! Thanks to staff, volunteers, a healthy diet and a safe environment, Snowflake looks and acts like a totally different bunny now. She's far more calmer and loves to be



Snowflake.

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## Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Inky, Isabella, Trumpet, Amirah, Clyde, Riley, Alexia, Babs, Michael, Lora, Bunny, Sonia, Susu, Doc, Gizmo, Lucky, Bun Bun, Emma, Buttons, Mac and Cheese, Charming, Butters, Willo, Beauty, Bugs, Violet, Lola, Velvet, Titus and Dahlia.



Titus.



Doc.



Butters.

## Looking for Loving Homes

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petted, and her appearance is much improved as well. Her coat, once scruffy, is now shiny and healthy-looking. Snowflake has a very good appetite, which has also helped her recover quickly. She would probably still do best in a bunny-savvy home, but she's no longer the needy case she was.

### Yuki

Yuki is an extremely charming and inquisitive bunny who liked to follow her foster mom around the apartment and wanted to be involved in all daily activities, including typing at the laptop and unpacking groceries. Wherever you go, Yuki will be there, giving you nose bonks, tugging at your pant leg or flopping at your feet with her legs stretched out behind her. Yuki will thrive in a home where she can be the center of attention and has space and enrichment to expend her youthful energy and stimulate her intellectual curiosity. She will need plenty of rugs for traction so that she can show off her Bunny 500s and binkies.

### Renee

Renee is a medium-sized Rex redhead who was rescued from a rabbit hoarding situation. This girl is quite wary of people at first, but when she finds a spot that feels safe – like her litter box – she'll let you pet her, and she'll really get in to it! Renee has a gorgeous, deep red Rex coat. Her lean face and body and beautiful dark eyes make her look a bit like a miniature deer.

### Citron

Citron is a medium-sized white boy with tan markings. This guy is friendly and fearless, with energy to beat the band. He's super eager for play and exploration, and will wait at his cage door, begging you for out time. Citron will let you pet him a bit, and enjoys nose rubs, but his top priority in life right now is adventure. He'll probably



Yuki.



Renee.

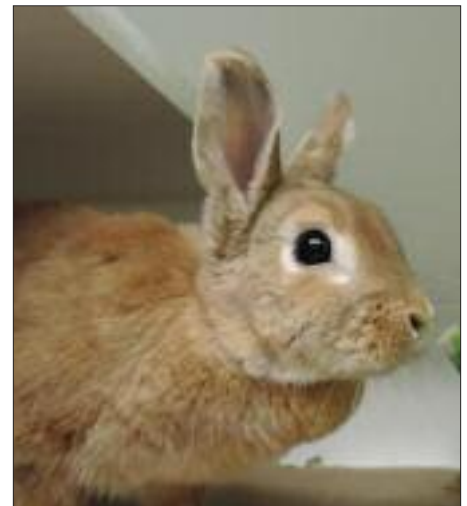


Citron.

gradually calm down post-neuter, but he's likely to be a very active (and fun!) bun for years to come.

### Amaya

Amaya is a medium-sized orangeish-tan female with a super-sweet temperament. This precious girl is probably middle-aged, and has a cataract on her left eye that may be age-related. She has a mellow, easygoing way about her, and absolutely adores affection. She loves to have her head stroked and rubbed, and



Amaya.



Nebula.

will lean into your hand to maximize the effect. She has a cute dewlap, and likes to have that rubbed too!

### Nebula

Nebula is a young, black Flemish Giant mix who is equal parts stunning and sweet. This girl is large already, but she hasn't finished growing into her impressive ears, so she's likely to be a very big bunny when fully mature. Nebula loves to have her head and nose rubbed, and will lean her head toward you in eagerness for more. She's a real looker too, with a long, aristocratic profile.

*(Continued on page 13)*



## Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 12)

### These Rabbits Are In Foster Care

#### Iggy and Mona

Iggy and Mona are a bonded pair currently in foster care. Iggy is a small, gray Jersey Wooly and Mona is a large New Zealand White. Mona is easygoing and very approachable, and an all-around sweet girl. Iggy is sweet but very shy and should be approached gently – but when he's with Mona he's a little more outgoing. They'll flourish as a couple in the right home. Iggy has been neutered and Mona has been spayed. For more information and/or to arrange a meeting with Iggy and Mona, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).



Iggy and Mona.



Danni.

#### Danni

Danni is a medium-sized, all-black female bunny. She has been spayed and is in foster care. To inquire about adopting Danni, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

#### Sergei

Sergei is a medium-large Californian bunny. He has been neutered and is currently in foster care. For more information and/or to arrange a meeting with Sergei: [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).



Sergei.

#### Ernie

Ernie is a handsome, medium-sized young bunny who was in bad shape upon being rescued, apparently because he was left outdoors. We got him the vet care and TLC he needed, and now he is looking for a forever home. Ernie has a great appetite for pellets and greens, but still will not eat any hay, so about every three months he must have his molar spurs filed down by a rabbit-savvy vet. This is a relatively quick procedure, and he has always started eating immediately afterward. Ernie is an active and curious rabbit, but still very shy and not much interested in humans (other than when



Ernie.

you offer food, of course!), so we think he would be best off as a partner rabbit. He has been neutered and has very



Rosebud.



Susan.

good litter-box skills. If interested in fostering or adopting this resilient, hunky bunny, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

#### Rosebud

Rosebud is a gorgeous female English Spot who was born in November of 2013. She loves to be petted and will delight her adopter with her sweet personality and friendliness! She is hoping to find an adopter who will treat her like the star that she is. She has been

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## ADOPTIONS

### Looking for Loving Homes

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spayed and is living in foster care. If interested in adopting Rosebud, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

#### Susan

Susan is a medium-size brown beauty. She is on the young side (probably a year or two), healthy, and has lots of energy for binkies and playtime! She loves to munch on her hay and fresh greens. She is warming up to petting, but would probably not make a great choice for someone who wants a lap bunny or for a home with young kids. She has been spayed and is blossoming in foster care. For more information on adopting Susan, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

#### Scarlett

Scarlett is a beautiful, friendly, robust Palomino girl! We rescued her from a municipal shelter where she was slated for euthanasia because of a significant eye injury. Our veterinarian believes it was caused by a deep puncture wound, but after successful treatment she is happy once again! Scarlett has been left with no vision in her right eye. Because the vision loss is so recent, it is helpful to approach her from her right side with gentle voice cues so not to startle her. This hasn't stopped Scarlett from doing everything a rabbit with sight in both eyes would do! This love bug girl has quite the personality and loves nothing more than a thorough digging session in her hay box! Scarlett is very affectionate and would love a gentle person to call her own. She would do best in an adult home with very patient caregivers. Scarlett is spayed and is living in foster care. If interested in adopting Scarlett please contact us at [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

#### Lex

Lex is a medium-sized male harlequin Rex, approximately 2 years of age. He has a medium to high energy level. He



Scarlett.



Lex.



Bob.

is a shy guy when meeting new people, but quickly warms up. This sweet, gentle boy is very inquisitive, likes to play with his toys and due to his sweet

demeanor would make a great companion rabbit. Lex is an excellent eater, loves his greens and hay and has exceptional litter-box skills. He is very well behaved and enjoys petting and hanging out with his foster mom in her kitchen during playtime. Lex has been neutered. If interested in adopting Lex, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

#### Bob

Introducing BOB (aka Big Orange Bunny). All rabbits are beautiful and special, and this sweet guy is no exception. Bob came to us after being abandoned outside in NYC with a group of other rabbits. A testament as to why it is so important to never expose domesticated rabbits to the outdoors, all of these young rabbits had terrible ear mites, parasites like coccidia and giardia, as well as other infections and abscesses. Bob has received extensive veterinary care and is now free of mites, parasites and abscesses. We continue to monitor his health to ensure that he remains on the right track after such unimaginable neglect. He is a large, friendly and active rabbit who is appreciating every moment of his new life. Bob is the kind of rabbit who reminds us why we do rescue. Seeing him living happily ever after in a home where someone will adore him as much as we do would be the icing on the cake. He has been neutered and is living in temporary foster care. If interested in long-term fostering or adopting Bob, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

#### Li'l Britches

Li'l Britches is a big personality in a small package. This brown female Lionhead is feisty, friendly and never afraid to tell you (with her teeth) if she doesn't like something. She has thick furry cheeks and loves deep cheek rubs and pets! She had a bout of head tilt when she was young and has some

*(Continued on page 15)*



## Looking for Loving Homes

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Li'l Britches.



Carmela.

residual balance issues. She may plop to one side while grooming but the main concern is when she stands just on her hind legs to reach up. If she goes too far straight up, she will freeze and fall backwards, so her adopter must be extremely careful to not ever have her stand up on her back legs for treats or to reach anything within in her habitat. Her entire habitat and exercise area must be covered with carpet and soft surfaces to help her balance. If interested in adopting this beauty, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com)

### Carmela

Carmela is a young medium-sized Rex rabbit. Her beautiful coat is mostly white with tan and black spots. She is a



Romeo.



Honey.

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](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

### Romeo

Romeo is a medium-sized black and white Dutch bunny who was found in the woods in January 2015 and brought home by a Good Samaritan. He is bursting with personality and will totally charm the person who adopts him. Romeo has been neutered and is currently in foster care. For more information and/or to arrange a meeting with Romeo, please contact [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

### Honey

Honey is a medium-sized brown lop female. She is blind, with high intraocular



Paul.

pressure in her left eye and a damaged cornea in her right. According to Animal Medical Center's Dr. Katherine Quesenberry, the probable cause of Honey's blindness is trauma, possibly from an attack by a cat or a dog. Honey is also hard of hearing. Despite the fact that she receives only three out of five kinds of sensory data, Honey functions cheerfully in her pen, where furnishings don't migrate. Her senses of smell and taste are robust. Her tactile sense enables her to enjoy being petted and to be aware of the thumping of other rabbits and the footsteps of nearby cats and humans. She has the physical energy of a young rabbit (expressed in vigorous clockwise circling) and she loves to zoom through her curved accordion-folded cardboard tunnel. She receives her daily eye medications without fussing. And she is a great eater: she devours her greens. She adores eating hay and lounging in it. The combination of Honey's sweet, cuddly disposition and her disability means she'd benefit from a sighted bunny partner. Potential adopters must be experienced rabbit people willing to adopt a special-needs bunny. Honey has been spayed and is currently in foster care. For more information and/or to arrange a meeting with Honey, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto: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,

(Continued on page 16)

Photos: Molly Prottas



Wally, an English Angora rabbit who was featured in the August Thump (pages 2-5) along with his partner Suki ([http://www.rabbitcare.org/Thump\\_August\\_2016.pdf](http://www.rabbitcare.org/Thump_August_2016.pdf)), died on March 8 of liver lobe torsion.



Wally was a beloved bunny on Facebook (Wally and Molly), Instagram, Snapchat and Tumblr, and inspired a recent book by Molly Prottas, his mom, called 'Wally: The Life of a Punny Bunny.' Wally met Suki at the Manhattan shelter.

## ADOPTIONS

### **Looking for Loving Homes**

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casually munching on hay and 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](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

#### **Mandy and Cruise**

Mandy and Cruise are a bonded mother-son pair of English Spot rabbits. Mandy is the larger bunny with lighter markings, and Cruise has the darker markings. They are curious, friendly, and enjoy being petted. Both are full of young bunny energy and need a home where they will receive lots of exercise time, enrichment and affection. Mandy and Cruise are currently living in a foster home. Mandy has been spayed and Cruise has been



Cruise and Mandy.

neutered. Both are small to medium-sized. For more information about Mandy and Cruise, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

#### **Rocket**

Rocket is an all-black male bunny. This playful guy has been neutered and is currently living in foster care. To inquire about adopting Rocket, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).



Rocket.



## Letters From Adopters

### Daisy

*Georgie and Asher adopted Daisy in October as a partner for Bear. The two bunnies are very happy together.*

Daisy's been settling in so well, and she is getting braver, more confident and cheekier every day! She's starting to really enjoy a cuddle and having her cheeks rubbed – that is, when she's able to, as Bear gets jealous and gets in the way!

The relationship between Bear and Daisy has been a joy to watch. They spend a lot of time together, cuddling and grooming each other.

Photos: Georgie Wileman



Bear and Daisy, snuggling.



Bear and Daisy at home.

Daisy has lots of room to run about and play in the kitchen and hallway all day, but she loves running around the whole apartment and often sits at the baby

gate waiting to come out and play! We've loved every minute with her and have never seen our Bear so happy!  
Georgie Wileman

### CELEBRITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Yuki.



Hugo and Tillie.



Nona.



Chili.



Madeline.



Ariel.





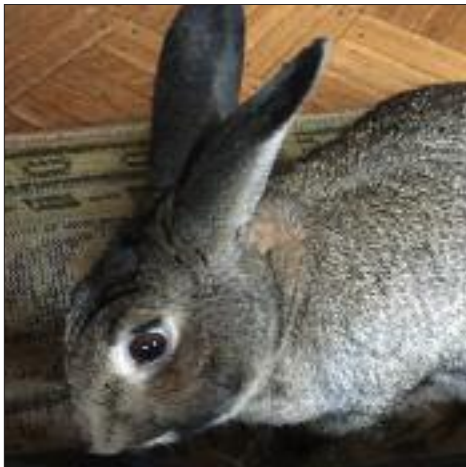
Emma with her adopter Janelle Krone.



Violet and her adopter Gillian Adler.



Transformer.



Tina.



Luke.



Hops.



## 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:

**Becky Campbell, DVM**  
**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**  
**Anthony Pilny, 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**  
**Kristen Miller, DVM**  
Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital  
2056 Jericho Turnpike, New Hyde Park,  
NY 11040 • (516) 877-7080

**Heidi Hoefer, 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

**Marcie Frishberg**, mfrish57bun@yahoo.com, (718) 724-4105  
**Gabrielle LaManna**, New Fairfield, CT, gabbysbunnies@yahoo.com, (203) 746-7548

**Mary Harnett**, mmharnett@optonline.net, (914) 948-7976

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

**Kerstin Aumann**  
**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 2017

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS  
[www.rabbitcare.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com). On **Long Island**, contact Nancy Schreiber at [nschreibmd@gmail.com](mailto:nschreibmd@gmail.com) or at 516-510-3637 ([www.longislandrabbitrescue.org](http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org)).

**If interested in volunteering or fostering for Rabbit Rescue & Rehab, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto: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. 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](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com) to make arrangements.

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

For basic information about rabbits as pets, go to [www.rabbitcare.org](http://www.rabbitcare.org), [www.longislandrabbitrescue.org](http://www.longislandrabbitrescue.org) and the House Rabbit Society main site, [www.rabbit.org](http://www.rabbit.org).