



## NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS AUGUST 2018



**A SWEET SOUL:** Esmeralda is a large, young and beautiful female New Zealand rabbit looking for her forever home. She was rescued from a lab with a #18 tag on her ear. This gorgeous and sweet soul is so much more than a number. Because of her past, Esmeralda is nervous in new situations and is especially fearful of sudden movements and loud noises. She will need a very quiet and peaceful home with patient and loving human attention. She is curious, energetic and an absolute joy to watch as she explores, runs and binkies. Esmeralda has a great appetite and excellent litter-box skills. She has been spayed. If interested in adopting Esmeralda, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com). Photos and descriptions of other available rabbits begin on page 10.

### Becoming a Sub-Q Fluid Master

By Diana Kronenberg

Every single day, I have to give my rabbit, Charlie, subcutaneous (sub-q) fluids via a needle. I never imagined that I would be sticking my rabbit with a needle every day, but I would do anything for him. Charlie is 10 years old now and at his age, his kidneys just are not functioning as well as they should be. The fluids help flush out the toxins that his kidneys have trouble filtering on their own. Neither of us is happy about doing it,

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Photo: Jason Kronenberg



Diana gives Charlie his sub-q fluids.

### Tuck and Cher's Romance Shows That Opposites Attract

By Colleen AF Venable

Is there such a thing as love at first sight? I've never been a believer, but in August 2016 I got to experience my first bunny speed-dating event, and came away learning two things: 1. When it comes to bunnies, love at first sight actually exists! 2. Love at first sight exists, but "a

bonded pair at first sight that doesn't try to murder each other and give their owner heart attacks" is much rarer.

Tuck was the first lucky bachelor for the Brooklyn shelter's bunny-speed dating events, arranged by an incredible crew of volunteers, with Thea Harting leading

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## Sub-Q Fluid Master

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but I have managed to make it a quick process that is easy for both of us.

Last November, my Charlie had a particularly bad bout of stasis. After several days, he was eating some foods, but would not eat any pellets and I could not figure out why. After a trip to the vet, I finally got a diagnosis: a kidney stone. I was somewhat relieved that she had found something, but also concerned about how it had happened in the first place. Charlie had a history of prolonged stasis and I wondered if he might have been suffering from kidney stones then as well, and I just never knew it. This time it was bad enough that he would need help passing it, and I was to assist him by giving him sub-q fluids.

I had heard of other people giving their rabbits fluids with an IV bag and a needle, but I never really knew the details. It all just sounded so difficult. I am very well acquainted with giving oral meds, but sticking a rabbit with a needle was not something I had any idea how to approach. My father is a registered nurse and I played with giant plastic

syringes in the bathtub as a child, but I have had little interaction with needles myself.

My vet explained what I had to do, and I took copious notes. I brought all of the supplies home: IV bag of lactated Ringer's solution, needles, tubing and a big syringe. I was to give him 25 milliliters of fluid every day for one week and then bring him back to the vet for a recheck. After only a few days on the fluid, Charlie's appetite improved and I was so relieved that I was able to help him. At his follow-up appointment the stone was still there, but had moved much further along. I was to continue the fluids three times a week for a month and then bring him back to the vet.

On his second recheck a month later, the stone was almost all the way out, but in his blood work, his creatinine levels were high. That meant his kidneys were not functioning as well as they should be. The levels had increased since his blood work in November, so it was likely not just due to the stone. I had hoped that I would be able to stop giving him sub-qs, but this news meant that I would have to keep doing it, possibly for the rest of his life.

I decided to have a dedicated place on the kitchen counter to make the sub-q process easier. It generally took me longer to set up and clean up than to actually give Charlie the fluids. I keep a towel folded on the counter for him and his needles and syringes in a cabinet nearby. I keep the fluid in the fridge and I warm each dose in the syringe with a hot water bath before administering it. I would never have been able to master this skill so easily if my Charlie weren't such a cooperative little guy. Once he is up on the counter, I give him a treat to distract him while I insert the needle, behind his neck, just under the skin. I like the butterfly infusion sets since they are small and easy to replace if he happens to turn around and bite through the tubing. I slowly insert the syringe full of fluid and talk to him while doing so. He gets one more treat when we are halfway done, and another at the end. It only takes about 15 minutes in all.

After a few more follow-up appointments over the next several months, Charlie's kidney function continued to deteriorate, albeit at a slow rate. I increased his sub-q sessions to four, six and finally seven days a week to help relieve his kidneys. The last bump was because I wanted to start giving him some Metacam for his arthritis pain. He had been on Metacam in the past, but I weaned him off of it when the vet thought it might be affecting his kidneys. He had been carrying himself a bit more crooked and I was concerned that he was in pain. My vet said that it was worth it to give him some pain relief now. He does not feel pain from his kidney issues, but he has to deal with his arthritis every time he moves.

I only wish I had Charlie's blood work done sooner. The first time he ever had it done was in March of last year. His creatinine levels were slightly elevated then, but the vet thought it might just have been from the Metacam so I cut back on it. Now I wonder if he might have been having kidney problems for longer, and if I could have started treating

*(Continued on page 4)*

Photo: Diana Kronenberg



This is how Charlie sleeps with his arthritis.

## Tuck and Cher

(Continued from page 1)

the way. Brooklyn Magazine even sent out a reporter and photographer to chronicle the matchmaking, and they joined in with loud cheers when Tuck and Cher fell in love before our eyes. Grooming AND pooping in the same litter box. If that's not romantic, I don't know what is!

Thea warned me it could take months to bond them and I listened, but in the back of my head kept thinking, "Yeah, that's probably true with MOST bunnies, but Tuck and Cher are going to be different!" I couldn't have been more wrong. The minute Tuck realized his new BFF was now sharing the apartment he previously had to himself, he was less about the grooming and more about the attempting to give her a new hairstyle through taking out chunks of her fur. Luckily I had followed Thea's notes, and had separate cages for the two, taking them out one at a time every day, and only allowing them a minute or so together, stopping before they started to fight. I had limited success. Tuck was mad, because not only was his apartment no longer his own, but he had never been in a pen. All his litter training went out the door as he tried to stake his claim to every inch of my place. Hey, Tuck! Maybe start paying rent before you pee all over my furniture!

It felt endless. I started to doubt my decision. I worried I'd never get my apartment back. I bought stock in carpet cleaners (or at least I should have). Until one day...I don't know what happened. It was as if someone flipped a switch. Suddenly, Tuck and Cher bonded. No more fights. No more territorial wars. It had taken three months, but Tuck and Cher became a permanently cuddling pair.

Two years later they are still the best of friends. They also couldn't be more different. Tuck is a wild man. Constantly sprinting, doing acrobatics, and attempting to jump into the fridge whenever I open



Wooden stakes are tasty treats in cartoonist Andy Runton's version of Cher and Tuck as Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Spike, her on-again, off-again vampire boyfriend.

Photos: Colleen AF Venable



Nervous first day as roomies.



Opposites, but both adore climbing. Here they are exploring the second level of their Maze Haven toy.



The bonding period setup. Weights were necessary because Cher is STRONG.



Tuck and Cher, cuddle-buns. "Put down that phone and give us head rubs!"

the door. He loves all people and will sprint around their feet on first greeting. Cher is my little genius. She's thoughtful and seems to analyze new people before she gives them her affection – though she is an absolute cuddler once she does. There isn't a bunny puzzle she can't figure out in a matter of minutes, while

Tuck could have a puzzle for years and never once get to the treat. She seems to love games, and prefers to steal food directly from Tuck's mouth and make him chase her, rather than take the piece given to her. I often call them my library lions since they like to sit on either side

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## Tuck and Cher

(Continued from page 3)



Graphic novelist Gareth Hinds sketched this opposites attract yin-yang after meeting Cher and Tuck.

Photo: Alicia Diamond



Tuck and Cher helped Alicia Diamond (of Rabbit Heart Photography) launch a new "Cuddle Bunny Cover" photography line. In between sessions with the model, Alicia snapped this photo of our happy family.

of me on the couch, my own little Patience and Fortitude, and sleep on either side of my feet when I go to bed.



Artist Cara Bean imagines Tuck and Cher as warriors fighting the bad in the world.

Tuck and Cher convert almost everyone they meet into a bunny lover. Friends are constantly telling me they didn't realize bunnies could have such different personalities or be so affectionate. I love showing off how smart they are, taking turns calling just one of their names and watching my friends' faces as the right bunny runs into the room. A few have even adopted rabbits of their own, and my artist friends have often been inspired to draw Tuck and Cher. Graphic

novelist Gareth Hinds loved their yin-yang. Kids book creator Andy Runton made a painting of them as the "opposites-attract couple" Buffy and Spike. Cartoonist Cara Bean gave me the most amazing birthday gift: a drawing of Tuck, Cher and me as warriors taking on the world. And really, it's true. I have trouble remembering what life was like before I had them. I just know it's a whole lot better now.

## Sub-Q Fluid Master

(Continued from page 2)

him sooner. My advice to others would be to take your vet's suggestions about blood work seriously, especially if you observe anomalies in your rabbit's health or behavior, or if you have an older bunny. Yes, it can be costly, but consider how

reveatory blood work can be. As prey animals, rabbits are very good at hiding illness so it is up to us to do some detective work to keep them healthy.

Giving sub-q fluids to a rabbit is not something I ever thought about doing before, but now I am glad to have had the experience. It is not very difficult,

provided you have a cooperative rabbit or maybe another pair of hands to help out. Charlie is my oldest rabbit, but I have four others in the house. If the time comes that they need sub-q fluids, I am confident I can handle that. I would do anything to help my rabbits, and now I can add sub-q fluid administration to my skill set.

# Rabbit Droppings

WITH THEA AND NADINE

Dear Rabbit Droppings,

*My family members and friends keep buying me bunny tchotchkes for every occasion (birthdays, holidays and so on). I want to be polite, but I also don't want to look like a Crazy Bunny Lady. How do I frame this in a manner that won't offend them?*

– Single in Sunset Park

Dear Single in Sunset Park,

First, there is nothing wrong with being a Crazy Bunny Lady! Pictured on this page are a few things friends and family have gifted me, including bunny paper clips from Japan, a bunny-head coat hanger, the must-have bunny pillow, and (not

pictured) the Rambo bunny underpants and the knitted multi-colored bunny beanie my landlady gave me. So, put on those bunny ears and bunny slippers, and own it, girl!

Now, to your question, this is a common problem faced by many rabbit enthusiasts and one that unfortunately perpetuates itself (the more bunny tchotchkes your friends and family see in your home, the more they think you love them, and the more they give them to you, etc.). You don't want to chill their generosity, but on the other hand you don't want to give the wrong impression to would-be suitors. One solution might be to ask

that they give to the actual buns themselves – healthy bunny treats or safe enrichment and foraging toys come to mind (see our April 2018 DROPPINGS for suggestions, page 8, <http://www.rabbitcare.org/THUMPApril2018.pdf>). Another way to channel their charitable impulses might be to suggest making donations to local animal shelters or nonprofits that provide care to abused, abandoned or neglected rabbits. Either way, everybunny wins, and you can look forward to a more romantic and clutter-free you.

(Continued on page 6)

Photos: Nadine Heidinger



Bunny tchotchkes, a sampling.

## Droppings *(Continued from page 5)*

### Dear Rabbit Droppings,

*Do you have any special ways to deal with fostering arrangements, so that your own bunnies remain comfortable and unconcerned about a visiting bunny's presence? I think a lot of rabbit owners would consider fostering if they had some tips on how to do this without creating alarm and disapproval among their own warren living at home. Do the foster bunnies always have to be in a separate room, for instance? Thanks.*

*– Mom of Two Disapproving Rabbits*

### Dear Disapproving,

What a fantastic and important question! To delve into the topic of managing a household with both foster and permanent rabbits, I've surveyed several seasoned rabbit fosterers, who all graciously agreed to take time off from climbing over X-pens, disinfecting litter boxes, and cleaning out the farmers' market of carrot tops.

Here are some practical suggestions from longtime rabbit foster parents for keeping the peace:

- 1) Keep the foster and resident rabbits separate. You should never let the rabbits have contact with one another. We know how rabbits can be, and you never want to risk a fight. This seems obvious, but it really can't be said enough.
- 2) Good fences make good neighbors. Physical barriers between the rabbits are key to keeping all the rabbits safe and reducing stress among all household members (including the humans). Rabbits should have a double barrier separating them, since they can bite each other through a single layer of bars of a cage, pen or gate. Visual barriers are also effective ways to reduce stress, so you can block the rabbits with a sheet or pieces of cardboard so that they can't see one another. For extra protection, many fosterers use baby gates in doorways in addition to the rabbits' pens or enclosures, in case a rabbit escapes. Give them their own dance space, folks!

Photo: Nadine Heidinger



Pippi with bunny tchotchkes.

- 3) Ideally the foster and resident rabbits should be in different rooms, but that isn't always possible for rabbits in the Big Apple. I know one awesome rabbit mom who shares her studio apartment with her own pair plus a foster rabbit. She houses them in enclosures on opposite ends of the room. When she lets them out alternatively for exercise, she uses an extra puppy pen to create a double barrier and then large pieces of cardboard in between so they can't see one another. It only takes an extra minute or two and seems to go a long way toward reducing everyone's stress levels.
- 4) Sometimes changes in rabbits' routine or alterations to their space are more stressful than the presence of a new foster rabbit in a home. Try to keep your own rabbit's routine the same, and build the foster's routine around that. If you are reducing your rabbit's space to make room for a foster rabbit, try doing it before the new rabbit arrives so that your rabbit has time to adjust.

Overall, longtime rabbit fosterers report that their resident rabbits are usually more active and inquisitive when a foster

bunny arrives but then settle down quickly, especially after they become accustomed to new foster rabbits coming and leaving the home.

Good luck on fostering and keep us posted!

### 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](mailto: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!

## Bunnies on the Move: Coping With Stress

By Jillian Jacobs

As of this past weekend, I have officially felt like a horrible bunny parent, having to be nomadic and moving my bunnies from one place to another in less than a month.

After enduring a housing crisis, followed by a family emergency, my husband and I have had to get our bunnies settled multiple times in new environments.

On one recent short trip, I handled all of the logistics by myself for the first time – packing the food, the litter, and safely putting our bunnies, Marbles and Blackberry, into their carrier.

Thank goodness, Blackberry is now used to being picked up occasionally. I easily scooped him up and put him right into the carrier as we prepared for our journey to New Jersey. Marbles was another story. I had placed the carrier on the sofa because both rabbits were familiar with this soft piece of furniture. The moment Marbles spotted the couch, he immediately leapt out of my hands and onto the cushions, running around like the rambunctious boy that I've known him to be. Eventually, I managed

to guide him into my arms, gently placing him inside the carrier. The rabbits were not particularly happy. I decided to pack a little carrot, something my husband and I rarely give them, as a little treat for the road.

I knew I wanted to take a cab as opposed to exposing them to the subway. Before we left the apartment, I placed a light towel over the carrier to shield them from the hot sun as I climbed into the cab. Once we were settled in the back seat, I lifted the towel to see how they were doing. Just as I suspected, they were not moving. They just stared straight up at me from their seated positions.

Fast forward to boarding onto New Jersey Transit. I knew that the train ride was going to be significantly smoother compared to the turbulent cab ride we just endured. I unwrapped the little carrot, thinking that it would alter their stiff, still demeanors. I broke the carrot into little pieces and placed those in the carrier. I started to pet Marbles and Blackberry on their little heads while talking to them, hoping it would soothe

their anger and fear. Neither of them moved a muscle. I couldn't tell if my affection made a difference, but at least I was trying. I placed the towel back over the carrier to let them be.

I was relieved getting off the train and being greeted by my husband in the parking lot in Trenton. He started to talk to the bunnies (the way we both usually do together). I lifted the towel and saw that they still weren't moving much. However, I knew that it was only going to be a few minutes before arriving at my in-laws' house, so I was hopeful that the rabbits soon would become more animated.

I had completely forgotten about the small pieces of carrot in their carrier until I noticed that no traces remained once the bunnies jumped into their new play area. They may have been uncomfortable, but they were not scared to the point where their health was at risk.

Marbles and Blackberry immediately began to nibble on their pellets and hay before assuming their relaxing sphinx positions. I was relieved when they started to run around and began binkying again, once I had finished setting up their litter box and toys in the play pen.

Relaxing in the bed next to them, I remembered reading that if rabbits start to fight, you should distract them with an unknown, even if it means putting them in a different room in your house – like perhaps a place they have never been before. The different surroundings can distract them.

I cannot say whether or not this actually worked for my own bunnies since they were never fighting in the first place, but given their reactions, I can see how it's possibly helpful. And if by chance they ever start to get physical with each other, I will know what to try next time. Sometimes a new adventure can be helpful in an unexpected way.

Blackberry.



Photo: Andrew Jacobs

## Raymond, My Soul Bunny

By Valerie Nagy

It was three years ago that we brought Raymond, an older bunny, to his forever home with us. That very special day was Aug. 23, 2015. We would like to wish Raymond a special “gotcha day.” He is such a good boy and so very loving.

I always try to imagine his thoughts when I look into his eyes. He is so full of love and happiness and it makes me happy, too. Every time I walk by him he is watching me. I start to talk to him and he perks up.

Raymond has been living with chronic dental disease since just before we got him. He just turned seven in March. He is a trooper and always cooperates in taking his medicine. We are grateful to Long Island Rabbit Rescue for their unwavering support with his medical needs.

Raymond has two stuffed bunnies that spend time with him. He grooms them, sleeps with and on them, and gives them hopping lessons. He offers them swimming lessons in his water bowl; while one dries out and gets washed, the other one takes her place. He’s a bit lost when he doesn’t have his stuffie for any period of time

(such as when they both go for swimming lessons and have to go to get washed).

I know many people, past and present, have loved Raymond. I often use the phrase “Everybody loves Raymond” when discussing him. This phrase originated with the Long Island volunteers who were taking care of him. I decided to get comments from some volunteers and friends who know Raymond. Here is what they said:

“He is a big huggable mush!” – Julie

“Whenever I went to do basement duty, Raymond would come running to me and ran around in circles like a puppy saying... ‘pet me, pet me, play with me’... love him.” – Gina

“My Ray Ray. My love bug. Would lie on my lap with his legs hanging off each side. Always asking for more love. How could anyone NOT adore this baby boy???” – Denise R.

“Ray Ray is a generous spirit. He wants to share his snuggly self with his pets and people 24/7... (and of course he wonders why they would want to do anything else...ever...EVER!)” – Lanette

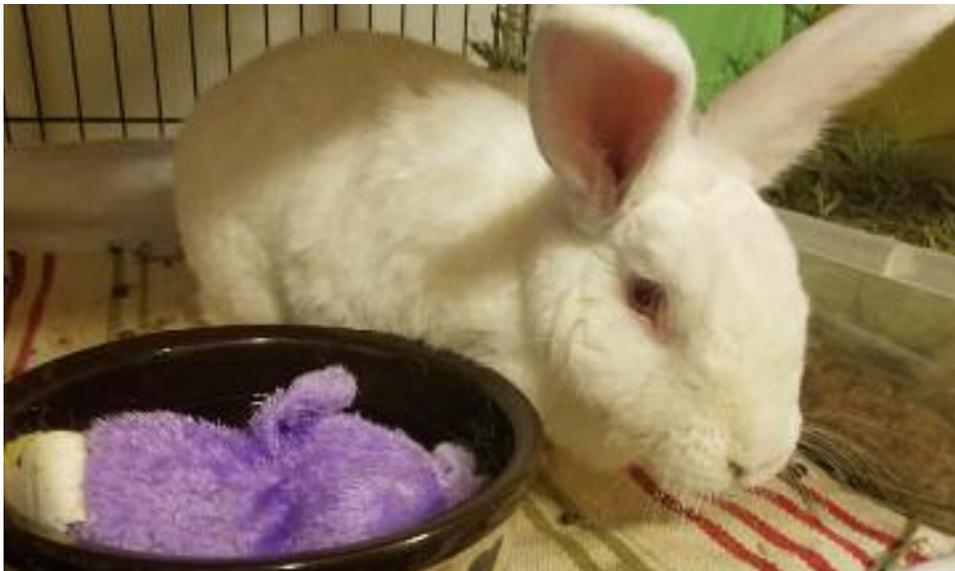
“He was very calm and he was always interested in having some interaction. He loved having his head rubbed and was consistently social. A sweet, friendly bunny is what I recall. EASY to love.” – Jodie

Raymond is a unique rabbit with such a wonderful personality. I love having snuggle sessions with him. He clicks his teeth as I talk to him and give him lots of kisses. We are so lucky to have Raymond in our family.



Raymond is a unique rabbit.

Raymond with his stuffed bunnies.



Photos: Valerie Nagy

## City to Boost Funding for Animal Shelters

Mayor Bill de Blasio and City Council Speaker Corey Johnson said that New York City is providing an additional \$3 million for Animal Care Centers of NYC in fiscal year 2019, bringing the organization's budget to a historic high of \$17.6 million.

The additional funds will enable ACC to expand its medical and community pet services and purchase an additional mobile adoption van for dogs, cats and rabbits, city officials said on June 22. The expanded services will promote

adoptions and help New Yorkers who want to keep their pets.

In 2017, more than 93% of dogs and cats at ACC were placed through direct adoptions and via New Hope adoption partners. This historic placement rate makes New York City a national leader among high-intake shelters, officials said.

“Our animal shelters care for animals in need, and help New Yorkers find pets to love. This investment will expand medical and adoption services, and help

us continue to provide humane treatment,” said Mayor de Blasio.

“I know firsthand how important the Animal Care Centers of NYC are – the ACC is where I got my cat, Mousse,” said Mr. Johnson. “I am proud this year's budget allocates \$3 million in city funding to help ACC provide medical care for our furry friends and help them find forever homes. I thank Mayor de Blasio for working with the City Council to make this happen and I look forward to ACC continuing and expanding its vital and heartwarming work.”

“Over the past several years Animal Care Centers of NYC has made tremendous progress in becoming a true resource for animal related services for all New Yorkers,” said Risa Weinstock, president and CEO of ACC. “Our mission is to end animal homelessness in New York City. This additional funding will surely bring us that much closer to reaching this goal and we are honored that the administration has placed their faith in our stewardship towards creating the most humane city in the nation.”

“The Alliance and its Participating Organizations thank Mayor de Blasio for his continuing support of animal welfare in NYC with the increased city funding for ACC, which recognized the invaluable contribution ACC makes to our community's human and animal residents,” said Jane Hoffman, president, Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals.

The de Blasio administration has invested \$98 million in the development and renovation of full-service animal shelters in all five boroughs and for a new adoption center in Manhattan. Animal Care Centers currently runs full-service shelters in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Staten Island and admissions centers in the Bronx and Queens.

Lisbeth.

Photo: Nadine Heidinger



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



Cashew and Earl.



Who.

### Cashew and Earl

Meet Cashew and Earl, a gorgeous pair of young Rex rabbits. These bonded sisters are as soft as velvet. They love each other's company and enjoy long sessions of snuggling and grooming one another. With humans, Cashew is the more curious and outgoing of the two, and Earl will follow suit at her own pace once you have gained her trust with gentle affection and patience. They are moderately active and enjoy their lounging and relaxation time as well as stretches of lively exuberance at playtime. Early in their lives, Cashew and Earl were purchased as pets for children. They were mishandled and languished for quite some time in a very small cage with little opportunity for exercise. They



Susan.

are now looking for a peaceful and quiet adult home so they will always feel safe from their traumatizing experience. Both girls are spayed and ready for their forever home. If interested in potentially adopting this pair please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

### Who

Who is a beautiful black Rex rabbit who was abandoned outdoors. His luxurious Rex coat is recovering from prior neglect, but he still feels divine to the touch. He loves to have his head and cheeks petted. Who tends to be on the shy side, probably from the trials of his past life. He would do best in a mature, peaceful home. Who has been neutered and is living in foster care. Who is waiting for you? Who. If interested in potentially adopting him, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto: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. Susan is warming up to petting,



Nona.

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).

### Nona

Nona is a medium-sized brown bunny with a very gentle 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 has been spayed. She is such a love, and will definitely give you back so much in return for a little care and affection. For more information, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

### Lucia

Lucia is medium-sized black and white Dutch rabbit. She is a very happy, interactive and relaxed bunny.

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## Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 10)



Lucia.

Lucia has been spayed and is currently in foster care. For more information, please email [nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com).

### Forever Homes Found!

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Prince, Raja, Cookie Dough, Oatmeal, Eve, Brunello, Lily, Lola, Rose, Paul, Louie and Bubble, Chester, Cookie, Hopper, Usagi, Avocado, Mulberry, Mrs. Huggy Buns, Wilbur, Lisbeth, Freddie, Flossie, Eeyore and Mango.

Wilbur.



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

(Check Petfinder and [www.nycacc.org](http://www.nycacc.org) for Updated Listings; Some Rabbits Have Found Homes!)

By Kirsten Ott

### Apricot

Apricot is a small- to medium-sized female agouti dwarf. This girl is a busy little bunny – she loves to dig and scratch and play – but she will settle down for a little while if you offer to pet her forehead. However, she can be a bit jumpy and nervous at times, so she would definitely do best in a quiet, adult-only home. Apricot's generous dewlap and big saucer-like brown eyes are a cute contrast to her diminutive head.

### Diana

Diana is a medium-sized all-black bunny and a total love sponge! This girl hunkers right down for petting as soon as you approach her. She especially loves to be petted when she's comfortably nestled in her litter box, and she loves nose rubs more than anything – she'll eagerly stick her nose into the air to ask for more. If you stop petting her, she'll pop up like a jack-in-the-box! Though 99.9% of Diana's fur is black, she does have some stray white strands on her body, plus a cute little white patch around her mouth that makes it look like she got caught eating a powdered donut! This sweet girl would make a good choice for a first-time bunny owner.

### Boysenberry

Boysenberry is a small- to medium-sized female Dwarf mix. This sweetie has a dark agouti coat and a fluffy dewlap that's quite large for a petite girl. When you pet her, she turns herself into a football, tucking her head into her dewlap. Boysenberry isn't super extroverted or assertive. She likes the safety of a corner of her cage and remains a bit wary even as she is enjoying affection. For these reasons, she would do best in a quiet home.



Apricot.



Diana.



Boysenberry.

## These Rabbits Are at Brooklyn Animal Care Center

### Jasper

Jasper is a 7-year-old neutered male who is as gentlemanly as they come. He is very active, but in a reserved way that you would expect of a wise, seasoned bun. Jasper is very curious, and will follow you to watch as you move around his play area or clean his cage (not that there is much to clean, as his litter-box skills are great). His small size and calm demeanor make him easy to handle, and

(Continued on page 12)

## Meet the Candidates: A Raucous Rabbit Debate

By Steven Aron

Welcome to the first annual Rabbit National Convention (RNC) debate. Our candidates will discuss the serious issues facing bunnies throughout the nation. Tonight's moderator-in-chief will question the distinguished rabbits gathered here tonight. Our candidates are as follows:

1. Sweetie, the white English Lop
2. Midnight, the Mini Rex
3. Sable, the gray Angora
4. Marbles, the panda-eyed English Lop
5. Angie, the English Angora from Suffolk County, N.Y.
6. Seamus, an English Angora, small in stature but not in heart, now residing with the Aron family. (The other five candidates are former Aron family members.)

Questions will be posed to the candidates and they can respond with a rebuttal if they disagree with a statement.



Sweetie.

Moderator: We will give the candidates a chance to introduce themselves.

Sweetie: I would like to thank the moderator and my worthy opponents for this opportunity. My position on rabbit rights is simple: Owners must understand that although we look like stuffed animals, we are living, breathing animals and require special care, including petting and head rubs.

Moderator: Thank you, Sweetie.

Midnight?

Midnight: Thank you, moderator-in-chief. By the way, your blond fur is the envy of the lagomorph community.

Sable: Ummm, I protest that statement. The moderator's beautiful fur has no relevance on this forum.

Midnight: I was merely suggesting that the fur is well kept and appears his owner knows how to care for rabbits.

Moderator: Let's move on. You're all fantastic and beautiful. Making American bunnies strong again!

Sable: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. I am the most unusual candidate on this stage. While small in stature, I am quite fuzzy and delicate. Our audience should be aware that rabbits are agile and graceful. However, our spines are quite delicate and can be injured easily by poor handling.

Marbles: Wait, are you implying that because we have delicate spines, owning a rabbit is a bad choice? Good rabbit

*(Continued on page 13)*

### ADOPTIONS

#### Looking for Loving Homes

*(Continued from page 11)*

he loves a good head scratch! Jasper is available at the Brooklyn shelter, and would be excited to find a calm, loving forever home suitable for an almost-senior bun!

#### Ramona

Ramona is a beautiful lop lady who loves a night out to run about in her play area, but she can also appreciate the occasional night in to rearrange her hutch or other personal space. While she is absolutely gorgeous, Ramona would do best with an experienced rabbit owner, as it is clear she hasn't been given



Jasper.

much love or TLC in her three short years of life. Though she has had a rough go so far, we are completely confident that with patience and gentle reassurance,



Ramona.

Ramona will come out of her shell and be the most beloved member of her forever home.

## Meet the Candidates

(Continued from page 12)

information is readily available on the internet at rabbit.org and from many rabbit organizations. Please articulate what you mean.

Sable: Not in the least. However, keeping owners informed is critical to avoid unintentional abuse.

Moderator: Thank you, ladies and gents. Let's now move on to our discussion on diet. You all know I like to eat huge portions of carrots and pellets and have lived a long and happy life. Can we all agree that this diet is the best?

Marbles: I'm glad you brought up diet, Mr. Moderator. We love carbs, and would happily consume oodles and oodles of yummy pellets, banana, apple slices and bunny treats. Well, you get the picture. When I eat these foods, my tummy starts to hurt and I am at risk for gastrointestinal (GI) stasis. What bunnies really need is FIBER. Owners respond to our cute reactions and frolicking when we are begging for pellets and treats, but owners need to focus more on high-fiber hay.

Angie: I don't agree. Our owners love us and large Angoras can be big eaters. I enjoy lots of treats at my house.

Seamus: Ms. Angie, a balanced diet is as important as love. Hay, limited pellets, and green fresh vegetables, with the occasional snippet of carrot, and of course fresh water, provide all the "love" you really require.

Marbles: Now Seamus, love comes in many forms. So along with a good diet, bunny head rubs are essential to a happy, well-adjusted rabbit.

Moderator: Let's keep all the thumping to a minimum. We all can't be doing that if we want to be heard. Let's hear from our little Mini Rex, Midnight.

Midnight: It's about time, Mr. Moderator! Just because I'm tiny doesn't mean I



Midnight.

Photo: Kaila Aeon



Seamus.

Photo: Kaila Aeon



Marbles.

have nothing to offer. Being ignored can cause me a lot of stress.

Moderator: Of course. You're one of the many teeny tiny creatures who form our great nation. Please continue.

Midnight: Owners need to "listen" when we speak "Rabbit." By that I

mean, pushing my owner with my nose, scampering, digging motions, loud sounds from my stomach – and my favorite, teeth grinding. It's my favorite since it can mean that I'm happy, relaxed and content. The other sounds have various meanings, and sometimes they show that I am feeling stress. When I'm hurt and in pain, I'll even make a loud sound from my tummy. Occasionally I have to gently nip my human counterparts when I want to tell them something very important, such as the fact that they are in my way or that it is time to pet my head. This is just to remind them that we, the bunnies of the world, have some basic demands.

Seamus: Now, now, Midnight, you're getting carried away. Most owners do not intentionally want to stress us out, but we need to educate them. Great organizations such as House Rabbit Society and its affiliates are terrific resources.

Angie: I, for one, think that living space is very important. We sometimes see small cages and hutches being used instead of the nice-sized pens we require. This is an important consideration when owning a bunny. Which leads me to yet another issue, adoption versus purchase!

Midnight: I can speak from personal experience. Pet-shop bunnies often don't have enough space, and there sometimes is a lot of noise in the shops. In New York City, though, it is now illegal to buy a rabbit in a store.

Sweetie: Oh yes, on that we can agree. We aren't fans of breeders and stores that sell baby rabbits.

Moderator: Folks, I will have to mute your mics if the thumping continues. Another question I would like the forum to give their opinions on is proper grooming. Seamus?

Seamus: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. My Dad loves to groom my beautiful, fluffy Angora fur. He gently taught me to sit nicely in the crook of his folded legs! I wasn't aware how relaxing it is to

(Continued on page 14)

## Sharing Can Be a Challenge

By Paula Rosenberg

Milo and Victoria are lovebugs, but during pellet time it's everybun for himself/herself. Victoria likes to block the bowl to try to get all of the "good" (Selective) pellets for herself. Milo tries

to block the bowl with his body. Neither strategy works very well since mommy plays interference to make sure they both are getting an equal share. Victoria likes to throw me a sassy look when she senses that I'm questioning her willingness

to let Milo have his breakfast, too. Fortunately, they are much better at splitting their salads. When I take photos of Milo eating, and Victoria looking at the camera, I imagine she is saying, "See, I share. I totally give him a turn!"

Photos: Paula Rosenberg



Milo blocks the pellet bowl as Victoria waits for her turn.



Milo and Victoria love their salads.



Sharing!

## Meet the Candidates

(Continued from page 13)

be brushed while Dad sings me my favorite songs. He's also teaching me to be very still when he brushes out the snags and snarls under my neck. Soon I will move on to having my nails trimmed. Dad has a lot of experience being a long-time parent of bunnies. Oh, my dad gives me a special treat for being well behaved. I would behave anyway, but I let him think I would be cranky so I can get more tiny treats.

Angie: Seamus, you're a fortunate bunny. Your family is introducing you to gentle brushing and nail trimming. It takes time to learn to trust your human family.

Seamus: I'm a very happy bunny. I have a lot of room, plenty of fresh vegetables,

Photos: Kaila Aron



Angie.

cool water, and pellets that always hit the spot. I now play on a super big porch with my family. It's so much fun to jump up and down on mom, dad and big brother.

Moderator: Seamus, you are one lucky bun. It's commendable how well you have adjusted.



Sable.

Moderator: Ladies and gents, it's time to conclude our debate. I wish to thank the audience, and our esteemed panel of candidates. Best of luck in the upcoming Rabbit Party primary election.

– Mordechai and Kaila Aron  
contributed to this article.

## RIP Snoopy Bunny: April 2006 – June 20, 2018

By Jean Mellano

Snoopy Bunny was one of the earlier bunnies rescued by Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group (LIRRG) as it was starting up so many years ago. I clearly remember the day Steve (my husband) and I first saw Snoopy. He was a baby, resting on the side of a grassy hill at Cedar Creek Park in Seaford. Steve used to conduct bike/run workouts for his triathlon team every Tuesday night. While cycling the one-mile loop, we would see Snoopy and eight to 10 other domestic rabbits wandering around in the park in the fall of 2006.

Steve and I instinctively knew these bunnies weren't meant to be outdoors as they stuck out like sore thumbs with their white fur and would make for easy prey. Surely there must be a rescue organization for rabbits that could help these bunnies. So, off to the internet I went and did a Google search. I found

LIRRG and connected with Angela and Greta. Ironically, I was told the same thing I would eventually repeat to so many finders over the years as an LIRRG volunteer: There is no shelter, but if someone can foster or adopt, LIRRG would provide supplies and education.

So, Steve put out the word to the 300-plus athletes on the triathlon team, asking if anyone could foster or adopt. Two people said yes and we gave LIRRG the go-ahead to rescue. Steve and I had fallen in love with Snoopy with his special heli-lop look, but LIRRG said there was no guarantee they could capture him specifically. I guess Steve and I were meant to have Snoopy because he was the only bunny who took the banana bait. The two people who said they would foster backed out. As a result, Steve and I became first-time bunny owners.

I will always remember the first day Steve and I brought Snoopy home. Snoopy

was very frightened. Steve picked him up and Snoopy urinated all over Steve's leg. Another memory floods back to me of when I had cancer in 2007 and was undergoing radiation treatments. Sometimes I would lie on the floor, crying in pain. Sensing my distress, Snoopy would "bunny kiss" away my tears.

Snoopy shared my home office with me for over four years until I retired in 2010. My former co-worker can attest to the conference-call meetings we would have where Snoopy was vying for my attention and distracting me from the call. When calls got heated, Snoopy would get into things he shouldn't have been doing, like chewing on a cord. Most times, Snoopy would quietly sit by my feet under my desk.

Many house rules that Steve and I established were broken by Snoopy. Steve and I agreed that Snoopy would

*(Continued on page 16)*

Photo: Steve Torpinian



Snoopy with Jean.

Photo: Karlie Rokita



Snoopy with one paw up.

Photo: Jean Mellano



Snoopy with Steve.

# Letters From Adopters

## Kumbha

*Johanna adopted Kumbha earlier this year. She sent us this great update.*

I'm writing to update you on Kumbha. I adopted her in late January from ACC in Manhattan.

These past few months with Kumbha have been amazing! It's so fun seeing her open up more and more every day. And might I add that she is quite the Beyoncé fan. When I play Beyoncé, Kumbha

Photo: Johanna Martinez



Kumbha.

somehow wakes up mid-nap and gains so much energy!

I love her so much. It's fun to see a bunny who loves eating as much as I do. Kumbha's favorite things are rabbit massages, and climbing on the backs of my boyfriend and me when we lie with her. I will update you with more soon.

Johanna Martinez

*(Continued on page 17)*

## GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

### **Snoopy** *(Continued from page 15)*

live in my home office and not be allowed in the other rooms of the house. Well, it didn't take long before Snoopy was running into the living room and breaking the first and then the second rule, which was that only humans were allowed on the furniture. Sometimes Snoopy would come into the living room and jump on my lap while I was watching TV. How could I possibly put him back on the floor? He was just looking for attention and affection.

The final barrier that Snoopy smashed was jumping on the bed. Steve and I were adamant that Snoopy would not be allowed on our bed. When I would wake up in the morning, I would let Snoopy out of his room and sometimes he would wander into the bedroom. If he didn't get his breakfast on time, Snoopy would jump up on to the bed and stare at me, until I got up to feed him.

Over the past few weeks, I thought to myself that Snoopy would not be with me for much longer. There was no one particular sign; he was eating and pooping well and still loving his treats and was as cantankerous as ever. Occasionally, I would see him staring at the floor almost as if he were in a trance. On the night before he died, it seemed as if he

Photo: Jean Mellano



Snoopy.

might be having a bout of stasis coming on and I did my usual: I gave him simethicone, massaged his belly and made him walk around. He was his usually cranky self and did not like it when I made him walk. Snoopy, my grumpy old man... I felt he needed some extra TLC and held him in my lap for an hour that night. He seemed to enjoy his bedtime treat ritual and, although he had not eaten his dinner pellets (sometimes he would like to munch on them late at night), I was not concerned.

On Wednesday morning, June 20, I woke up and his pellets were still there

and Snoopy was listless, lying under his hidey box. I immediately took him to the vet. My local vet consulted with Dr. Jennifer Saver of Catnip & Carrots and they did all they could to save him. Snoopy deteriorated rapidly. When I called for an update at 5 p.m. later that day, the vet said Snoopy might not make it through the night. His white blood-cell count was way off and he was anemic. Snoopy had a massive infection and the antibiotics were not helping. It was time to say goodbye.

When the vet brought Snoopy out, he looked so sad and defeated, and I cuddled and kissed him. It was so hard to leave him there, knowing I might not see him again. Five minutes after I got home, the vet called and said Snoopy had passed. I was so thankful I had a chance to say goodbye to him and that I did not have to make the decision to euthanize him. Snoopy, being the cantankerous old man he was, died on his own terms.

I brought Snoopy's ashes to Montauk and spread them where I had spread Steve's ashes in 2015.

RIP Snoopy Bunny, may you have crossed the rainbow bridge into Steve's arms.

## Puff

*Kimberly Wu adopted Puff in June. She sent us this happy update.*

When I first saw Puff's cute, chubby face at the Animal Care Center in Brooklyn with a yellow sticker and "go slow" marked next to her description, I knew she was the perfect bunny and deserved a family that could give her the time she needs and pockets full of love.

Puff has adjusted really well since she arrived home. She grew up with children chasing her around, playing aggressively with her and giving her multicolored pellets and fruits to eat (thus, she's a bit on the larger side).

I picked her up the day after she was spayed and she didn't want to move. I sat in her pen at the shelter and didn't bother her much. Volunteers Colleen AF Venable and Thea Harting have been very helpful, giving advice whenever I needed any help with Puff. When Puff (I call her "Puffs") first came home, she was very shy and scared of everything, from human touch to her toys.

It was tough and frustrating in the beginning, but I never gave up on her.

Puff lounges in her carrier.



Photos: Kimberly Wu



Puff in her litter box.

The first couple of weeks I couldn't even touch the side of her body. She would scratch me aggressively until I backed off. However, after hours of sitting with her each day, she's comfortable with me

touching her everywhere, from her nose to her toes. As for being picked up, we're still working on it, but she has gotten more comfortable and even climbs on me to sniff for some treats.

The day I took her home, I had Oxbow Timothy hay and pellets for her, but she ate none of the pellets, and only a bit of hay. I quickly contacted Thea and Colleen and they were super helpful. They told me to revisit the Brooklyn Animal Care Center, and the staff there gave me some of the shelter's pellets to help Puff transition. She began eating a few pellets, but not many. I thought that since she was used to eating the poor-quality multicolored pellets, she didn't like the Timothy hay pellets.

I then started offering her a tiny treat when she ate a few of her pellets, and I guess they grew on her. I figured that she didn't like them at first because they were different. Now she eats all her pellets. It also turns out she prefers orchard grass over Timothy hay so I mix orchard grass and the Timothy hay for her.

Even after being spayed, Puff had trouble using a litter box. She used her whole pen as a litter box, but as I moved her poop into the actual litter box, and used treats to reward her, she became 99% perfect at using her litter box.

I had a lot of doubt in the first month about myself. I was asking what I was doing wrong and why she didn't like me. Now she is really relaxed, gives me kisses, grooms me, lets me pet her for long periods, and jumps on any box/table in her sight. I couldn't ask for a sweeter rabbit than "Puffs."

Kimberly

CELEBRITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Lola.



▲ Louie. ▼ Hopper.



Ramona.



▲ Lily. ▼ Lisbeth.



CELEBRITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Clement.



▲ Wilbur. ▼ Sherry and her babies.



Garbo.



▲ Tina. ▼ Sherry's newborns.



## 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 AUGUST 2018

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 (for ACC inquiries about adoption/bunny dates, email [adopt@nycacc.org](mailto: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](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).