



NYC METRO RABBIT NEWS FEBRUARY 2017

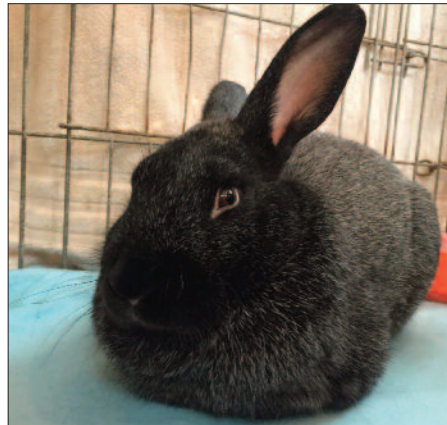
The Story of River and Dale: A Successful Rescue in Riverdale

By Emma Mullins Zucker

It all started on Friday, Feb. 3, when I read my NYCBUNS email digest. There was an email about a rabbit loose in the Bronx, dumped in a parking lot in Riverdale. I told my husband and we immediately decided to help out and try to rescue this rabbit. We live in the Bronx, so the distance wasn't far, but it was late at night and the rabbit was black. After making contact with the woman who spotted and reported the rabbit, we decided that a morning rescue mission would likely be more successful.

Our story began with this report of one missing rabbit, and ended with the rescue of two adult rabbits – and the birth of eight babies.

Photo: Emma Zucker



River.

We arrived in Riverdale at 7 a.m. the next day to search for what we had been told was a stray rabbit in a parking lot/back yard. When we arrived, the

(Continued on page 2)

Exchanging Nudges – A Bonding Tale

By Chelsea Cook

When you see them all snuggled up, you'd never know how much fur has flown between these two.

Bonding bunnies isn't easy to begin with, but we have a feeling Buddy and Betty have a special knack for nudges.

Buddy is a lazy little bugger, often only moving at top speed for treats or pellets since food is his ultimate motivator.

Photo: Chelsea Cook



Betty and Buddy.

While we try our best to keep him entertained, his one true love is flopped

(Continued on page 3)

Who Truly Enjoys Valentine's Day?

By Shane York

Who actually loves Valentine's Day? There's the forced sentiment, the pressure to pull off dinner and the perfect gift, the unnecessary financial burden, and lastly the notion that we should celebrate love with that special someone on this particular day as dictated by retail organizations like Hallmark and Hershey.

This day can also be a tricky proposition if you don't really have a significant other. It mostly hits me in the aisle of CVS among the hearts filled with chocolate and "I love you" candy, food I feel funny buying until Feb. 15 when it's all on sale.

Photo: Shane York



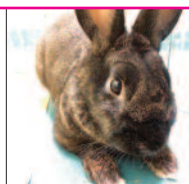
Lola.

This year it's just going to be my bunny and me. She's my significant other, the one I love, the one that's always in my corner. If you have a bunny in your life,

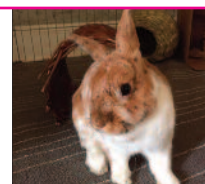
(Continued on page 3)



Dana Krempels Describes Head Tilt and Advises: Don't Give Up
Page 8



Meet Many Wonderful Rabbits Seeking Forever Homes
Page 12



Adopters Send Photos and Letters About Their Bunnies
Page 19

River and Dale

(Continued from page 1)

Photo: Emma Zucker



Dale.

described “big black beautiful rabbit” was nowhere to be found. The homeowner who spotted the rabbit showed us all the spots the rabbit had been seen hanging out during the previous week while living outdoors, in the cold. After searching with no luck for nearly an hour, we decided to go for coffee to wait it out.

Once we got back to the lot, there was the rabbit, exactly where we had been looking for her earlier. She was indeed very big, black and beautiful. Also fast, very fast. We attempted to outwit her with towels and a cornering method, but to no avail. After ping-ponging around the parking lot and adjacent properties, the black rabbit ran under an abandoned car, then back across the parking lot and into a fenced corner where we thought we might have luck cornering her. As we approached and her escape options were dwindling, she was faced with no choice but to run squarely at my husband’s chest and use it as a springboard to bounce from and then catapult into the next lawn. This girl had guts, and skills. She bounced herself down under a neighbor’s house, so naturally we followed.

Once we arrived under the house, in what looked to be a compost area, we saw something very confusing: a big beautiful black rabbit, inside of a rabbit

Photo: Ben Zucker



Eight beautiful kits! Mom, dad and babies are looking for homes.

hutch. How did this happen? How did she get INSIDE of the hutch? We were confused, but also genuinely concerned that we had just stumbled upon a breeder from whom the rabbit had escaped, and we would be met by an angry homeowner telling us to leave.

We went upstairs to the front door to solve this mystery. Thankfully, the neighbor was thrilled to see us, and she explained that her son, 30 years old, caught the big black rabbit several days ago and had put it in a hutch, feeding it hamster pellets, and not knowing how to proceed. She also told us that one week before she saw a car screech thru the parking lot, and that someone opened a door to push out two furry black critters. The car had then sped off while the rabbits ran across the parking lot and into nearby lawns. This woman’s son had been trying to catch the second rabbit all week.

It was then that we realized we were on a two-rabbit rescue. The first rabbit, in her stress and fear, had led us straight to her brother. We went back around the house hoping to see the feisty girl in the lawn but saw her nowhere. It was then that my husband crouched down to find her wedged between the side of the house and a mountain of leaf bags, right beside the hutch where her brother was

trapped. If she hadn’t led us directly to the male under the house, we would have never known that he existed at all.

We then lifted the leaf bags from above and lowered towels down over the cowering rabbit. The poor girl was very scared at that moment. I held her tight in the towels while we placed her into the carrier. We then borrowed another carrier from a neighbor and placed the second rabbit into it.

Success! What a morning! We headed back to City Island with two surprisingly relaxed and friendly rabbits in tow. They are beautiful, with a Silver Fox breed coat – a very rare breed of rabbit that has silver tips on black fur.

On Feb. 11, Dale gave birth, completely surprising us with eight beautiful kits at 6 p.m. All babies appeared to be healthy and happy and should be ready for adoption in April. Dale will be spayed eventually but needs to heal first. River was neutered on Feb. 14.

We are searching for forever homes for all 10 of these rabbits. Please let me know if their inspiring story interests you and if you would like to meet them.

Emma Mullins Zucker
emmamzucker@gmail.com
On Instagram: @emmarabbit

Nudges *(Continued from page 1)*

pettings and after-work treats when Daddy gets home.

About a year into our rabbit journey we decided he'd been "the only child" long enough, and would benefit from having another bunny around, especially to keep him more active.

Flash forward to this past Thanksgiving weekend, when we arrived for Buddy's speed-date appointment with a few lucky ladies at the shelter.

The first rabbit was a beautiful, long cinnamon-colored gal who was much more interested in dominating the litter box than Buddy.

The second, a spunky white-and-brown-spotted mix, was newly spayed and also MUCH more interested in marking her surroundings rather than li'l ol' Buddy.

Finally, the third and last lady was placed in the pen with Buddy – an agouti Rex mix that looked to be his own long-lost sibling!

She immediately mounted and humped his head... and he willingly let her.

Photo: Chelsea Cook



Betty and Buddy.

That's our winner, we declared!

Amalie was her name, but we christened her "Betty" for her new place in our family.

Betty is quite a shy girl, but very inquisitive. As she's settled into her new home, we've seen her blossom into a less skittish, more accepting bun that absolutely LOVES pettings and treats, and will flop happily anywhere in sight. She loves to be curious and active, and to run – and to have Buddy follow her everywhere. She'll look back to make

sure he's right behind her! It's been a true joy seeing their bond strengthen over time. Betty gently grooms Buddy's ears and head nightly, cementing their bond.

The first two months weren't fun. After many trials, tribulations and errors, we've managed to come to a mutual agreement of mostly-peace. While they still annoy each other in the mornings (those Bunny 500s can be intense, apparently!), the outright tussles have waned and are being replaced with more snuggles and love.

There were times we questioned whether either bunny was willing to submit to the other – and you know what? We still haven't figured out who did! (My bet is on Buddy, as he's such a pushover and love bug!)

Regardless of who's Top Rabbit now, though, Buddy and Betty love to eat their greens, pellets and hay together, and snuggle close in the evenings when the whole family is home. There's still some road left on this bonding journey, but we're positive the finish line is in sight!

Valentine's Day

(Continued from page 1)

you know that the quiet support and love are a daily blessing.

Even though it's one of the most stressful days of the year, I'm treating Lola to a special Valentine's Day dinner – a heart-shaped carrot, a tiny bouquet of parsley, and since she's not driving home, maybe a thimble shot of pineapple juice. For myself, I'll take a bottle of wine over candy hearts any day – plus Lola likes to play with the plastic cork.

Lola is also the perfect boyfriend/love barometer; she can always tell when dates are talking about her. One "first date" thought he would give me some helpful advice and suggested that I not tell other prospective men that I have a bunny because "it's so embarrassing." As

Photo: Shane York



Lola always knows best.

soon as Lola heard this, her ears picked up and she flicked him on her way out. He laughed and asked me what that action meant. "The bunny just said, 'Flick you!'" Lola always knows best.

Even though Valentine's Day is pretty much a commercial holiday, its heart is in the right place. Lola and I plan on celebrating love (and narrow escapes),



not just on Valentine's Day, but for the rest of our lives.

*Psychology Today, Susan J Elliott JD, M.Ed., "Valentine's Day After a Breakup"

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/getting-back-out-there/201702/valentines-day-after-breakup>

*<http://www.akc.org/content/news/articles/pet-owners-spend-approx-681m-on-valentines-day-gifts-for-pets/>

A Bunny-Themed Honeymoon

By Elisha Wang and Vincent Bai

Our belated honeymoon trip to Taiwan in early January led us to a little bed-and-breakfast in Hualien. This trip to the coastal city was planned by my aunt who, knowing about our love for long-eared friends and our adoption of Sebastian and Annie last April, surprised us by booking a rabbit-themed B&B called I Love Holland. When we stepped in, we couldn't stop laughing at the bunny paradise.

Photos: Elisha Wang and Vincent Bai



The enclosed porch area had a nice swing. We saw kids playing on it in the morning.



Vincent couldn't find a place to sit outside our room that didn't have at least one plush rabbit on it. Here he expresses his exasperation.



What we saw upon entering the B&B.



We had to take a picture of this because these stones looked like our Annie, depending on how many pellets she's had on that day.



There was a dining area where guests were served breakfast. The benches were shared with stuffed rabbits like these two here. The counter behind these two new friends is the kitchen area where the owner prepared the morning meal.

Our Mischievous Girls, Clover and Babs: A Playful Explorer Bonded to a Bossy Princess

By Elisabeth Vincentelli

Back in October 2015, we adopted two Dutch sisters, Babs and Clover, from Rabbit Rescue & Rehab. We'd had a bunny before but this was our first experience with a bonded pair. Our previous rabbit, Chopper, was always looking for affection from us while these two didn't turn to us quite as much. Well, at least at first, because now that they're comfortable in their home, they've become quite the cuddle monsters! For instance, they often huddle next to each other to be petted together. It's become a bit of a morning and evening ritual for us. We call it "the double pat."

The most fun about having a bonded pair has been to discover their distinct personalities. Clover is pretty chill and an adventurous explorer; she loves jumping on things (footrest, dining table, someone's back when we're down cleaning their cage), and especially adores playing in empty cardboard boxes turned sideways.

Babs is a bit more skittish and doesn't like sudden noises. She loves throwing

Photos: Elisabeth Vincentelli



We have carpeting pretty much everywhere but Babs loves lounging on that bit of hardwood floor.



Clover.

toilet-paper tubes around and chewing on wooden sticks. She's a bit of a princess who enjoys lounging, but is also quite bossy, like when she pushes her sister around to steal the best napping spot. It's really funny to watch them behave like true siblings: bickering one second, and engaging in a lovefest the next.

It's also been great watching them figure out how to take turns in the digging area we've created with a couple of old towels behind an armchair in a corner. It's their morning workout and they love it, but Babs had to learn how to share the space.

We've all grown more comfortable with each other. The bunnies now move more freely about the apartment when we're home. The rest of the time, including at night, we pen them in a large area around their cage with, of course, plenty of hay, water and chew toys.

After a year and a half with Babs and Clover, we could not be happier with our two mischievous, loving and endearing bunnies!

Reflections on My First Anniversary With Pillow

Nora Crotty

A year ago this month, I entered into what has arguably been the most significant relationship of my adult life.

I first saw her photo online, and I pursued her with all I had. In those days, she went by the name Nelly. Things between us happened quickly. After just one brief (and awkward) supervised meeting, we decided to move in together. What can I say? She was absolutely adorable. But were we ready for such a drastic commitment? Looking back, I'm not so sure – but love has a funny way of making you do some crazy stuff. She even took my name, or rather, the name I gave her: Pillow.

At first, cohabitation proved to be a real challenge. We had some serious issues defining our personal space in my small, one-bedroom apartment. While I preferred to keep my place looking orderly, she was messy and inconsiderate, leaving bits of food here and there, using the living room as her own gymnasium while I tried to watch television, and even wetting the bed on occasion. She also did nothing to hide her feelings about my taste in furniture, rendering my wicker baskets and woven rugs unusable by tearing them apart at any chance she could.

As the days went on, our differences became even more apparent. Ever the

Photo: Nora Crotty



Nora and Pillow.

neo-Luddite, she'd carefully snip my computer cords and phone chargers in half while I was at work, conveniently cutting the TV cables just in time for "Teen Mom." What's more, I found

(Continued on page 6)

Pillow *(Continued from page 5)*

myself paying for all our groceries, and – as she was a vegetarian, I'd often end up preparing us two completely separate meals.

I remember calling my mother a few weeks in, asking her tearfully, "What if I've made a mistake...how can I go on like this?"

"You can always get out of it," she told me. "It's not too late, you know."

But for once, I can honestly say that I'm glad I didn't take her advice. Over the past 12 months, the good in my relationship with Pillow has far outweighed the bad (and truly, even the "bad" hasn't been so bad). We cuddle on the couch almost every single night. She's never once complained about my lousy cooking, or my often questionable taste in music and reality television, or how often I wind up crying about the silliest little things.

And I've gotten so much better at reading her. Without saying a word, she lets me know when she's in the mood for snugs, when she needs a little time to herself, and when she's hungry for a snack (answer: always). We watch movies together, we take obnoxiously adorable selfies, we take turns taking bites of apples and baby carrots, and we make sure to never stay mad at each other for very long. Of course, it doesn't hurt that all my friends love her – or that she's so easy on the eyes. What can I say – I bagged a beauty!

Sure, we started off on a funny foot – and we certainly rushed into things. But I can say, wholeheartedly, that responding to that online ad was one of the smartest decisions I've made in a really long time. Even on my most bummed days, just seeing Pillow's lovely little face never fails to put a smile on mine.

Here's to many, many more, my sweet P.

Photo: Nora Creely



Pillow.

February is Adopt-a-Rescued-Rabbit Month!



**This month, match your bunny—or yourself!—
with a rescued rabbit.**

Nothing can match the love.

Please visit www.rabbit.org today!



HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

© 2016 Mary-Scott - Bunny-Ar-Ar.com

Bambi's Stasis Taught Me To Be Vigilant, and Prepared

By Victoria Reyes

We all love our fur babies, but what do we do when they get sick in the middle of the night? My child, Bambi (renamed Atlas Bambi) had stasis three times last year, and he spent two of those episodes at Catnip & Carrots Veterinary Hospital on Long Island.

We give our rabbits love, feed them properly, give them lots of exercise time – and yet stasis still can happen unexpectedly. Your bunny stops eating and his digestive system slows down or comes to a halt. What has been great for me is the help I've received from my fellow volunteers at Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group.

Stasis is a silent killer because rabbits hide pain well, and the causes can be diet, stress, pain, lack of exercise, or many other factors. We have to pay close attention to our bunny's habits and routine, so that we can recognize early warning signs.

For example, Bambi likes to have every meal on time, and he loves his food. He always ate very quickly. I always found it funny that he was so picky with his salad. At first, he would eat salad that we prepared, but then he changed to prewashed spring mix salad. We bought BJ's spring mix, but he grew to hate it. Then he liked Dole 50/50, but only for a while. Eventually, he chose Nature's Promise spring mix. If we bought anything other than that he would know. I don't know how he knew, but he would tip his bowl over in disgust and refuse to eat the greens. It was funny at first, but then it became a problem if we couldn't find that salad at the store. After his most recent bout with stasis, though, on Dec. 29, he has been taking his time in eating instead of vacuuming all of it in rapidly.

At the start of Bambi's first stasis episode last June, he didn't eat all of his salad

before I left for work. As usual, he was hiding underneath my parent's bed. But the telltale signal of trouble was that he refused his banana treat. Banana! When you have an idea that something is wrong, give your bunny a treat. If he refuses, there may be a problem. What rabbit refuses a treat? Another sign that he was sick was that he let me pick him up. He hates being picked up and runs the minute I even think about picking him up. That time he didn't. Thankfully his first bout of stasis was in the morning just before Catnip and Carrots opened. I was able to take him immediately to the vet.

I learned a lot from that crisis. The LIRRG volunteers also had taught me about supplies I would need when I adopted Bambi, and that helped me out during his second stasis episode in October. I stayed up all night with him, and I had already stocked up on metacam, Reglan, simethicone (baby gas drops), Critical Care, a thermometer with petroleum jelly, a heating pad, a stethoscope and feeding syringes.

Rabbit.org

(<http://rabbit.org/gastrointestinal-stasis-the-silent-killer-2/>) provides guidance about dealing with gastrointestinal stasis, and it is important to read as much as you can before you have to help your bunny get through this scary situation.

In Bambi's case, I gave him his gas drops and massaged his belly, and followed the advice of the vet.

Bambi is a love bug, and when he's in stasis he just melts in my arms. He likes to follow a schedule. This helps me during the day because if he doesn't follow his regular routine, I become more vigilant.

After his recent stasis, he has become a different rabbit. He is more comfortable with me. He lies on his cat bed, takes

Credit: Victoria Reyes



"It only takes one second to fall in love and be happy forever."

Photo: Victoria Reyes



Bambi.

his time eating and follows me around when I am upstairs. It's like bringing him home all over again. Though 2016 was a year full of stasis, we got through it and I have learned so much about him and his habits. I know many pet owners say the same thing, and I am no different. I love him and I can't picture my life without him. He's my baby boy, and I will make every effort to keep him healthy and contented.

Head Tilt (Torticollis) in Rabbits: Don't Give Up

By Dana M. Krempels, Ph.D.

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

What is head tilt? The condition medically known as torticollis (Latin for “twisted neck”) and sometimes as “wryneck” makes a rabbit’s neck twist, causing the head to tilt sideways. Sometimes, torticollis is accompanied by nystagmus, a constant, involuntary movement of the eyeballs. The direction and nature of nystagmus can help your vet determine the cause of the torticollis in order to prescribe appropriate treatment.

Signs of torticollis may develop gradually or appear quite suddenly, but the result is the same: a bunny is walking around with her head on sideways.

In severe cases, the bunny may be so disoriented that he simply cannot walk, and spends much of the time either lying on his side in apparent paralysis, or rolling in a wild attempt to regain footing. Of course, the sight of a bunny in this condition is distressing to the human caregiver. But far too many a bunny suffering a treatable case of torticollis has succumbed to his caregivers’ well-meaning desire to “not let him suffer.”

In truth, head tilt is usually not only survivable, but treatable, though recovery may be gradual. Even a rabbit with a head tilt can live a happy, comfortable life as long as there is no pain, and the bunny enjoys eating, drinking, and being loved. I would consider euthanasia only as a last resort, if all attempts to treat the condition have failed, leaving the bunny in misery, unwilling to eat, drink or act normally at all. Remember that a permanently tilted head is not a symptom necessitating euthanasia! Many rabbits with their heads tilted at a jaunty angle are living completely happy lives, running and playing with all the vigor of their straight-headed bunny pals. The most important thing is to

Photo: Mary Ann Moir



Nancy Schreiber’s beloved Hillary, RIP.

Photo: Natalie Reeves



Tank.

address the source of the head-tilt symptom. Once this is accomplished, improvement of the rabbit’s posture will usually follow gradually, with physical therapy and exercise.

It is not uncommon for torticollis to appear suddenly. As with almost any illness, the more rapidly the cause of the problem is diagnosed and treated, the greater the chance for full recovery. If you do not already have a good veterinarian who is experienced with rabbit medicine,

please use the House Rabbit Society Veterinarian Listings (<http://rabbit.org/vet-listings/>) to find one in your area.

Causes of Torticollis

Torticollis is not a disease in and of itself. Rather, it is a sign of a problem with the rabbit’s balance system, components of which include the central nervous system (CNS, comprised of brain and spinal cord), the visual system, the vestibular apparatus in the inner ear, and even the pads of the feet, which tell the bunny he’s standing on terra firma. Thus, a rabbit exhibiting torticollis may have a problem with one or more of the balance components. Causes include (but are not limited to):

- middle- or inner-ear infection
- parasitic infection by *Encephalitozoon cuniculi* in the CNS
- parasitic infestation by the nematode (roundworm), *Baylisascaris procyonis*
- stroke
- abscess or tumor in the brain (i.e., intracranial abscess)
- head trauma

Successful treatment of the condition requires correct diagnosis of the problem’s ultimate cause.

Ear Infection

One of the most common reasons for torticollis in rabbits is infection of the middle- or inner ear. The vestibular system, largely responsible for the sense of balance, is located in the auditory bulla of the skull, a large, hollow space near the base of each ear. Infection in this area can cause inflammation and swelling of the soft tissues, and this can interfere with proper function of the

(Continued on page 9)

Head Tilt (Continued from page 8)

vestibular apparatus. A very severe inner ear infection can actually cause the bulla to fill with hard, caseous (i.e., of a solid, cheeselike texture) pus.

Sometimes, pus is visible inside the ear, and the vet can take a sample for identification. This will reveal

- the type of bacteria most likely responsible for the infection
- the types of antibiotics most likely to kill the specific bacteria causing the infection

Although common pathogens associated with head tilt commonly include *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Pasteurella multocida*, there are many others that also can cause ear infections or abscesses. Each species/strain of bacteria has characteristic sensitivity to certain antibiotics and resistance to others. If possible, it is wise to identify bacteria so that the most effective antibiotic (or combination of antibiotics) can be administered.

Once the pathogen is identified, don't be surprised if your vet proposes to try a combination of antibiotics to kill the bacteria. A combination of antibiotics is often more effective at resolving an infection than a single one. It is especially important that your veterinarian be familiar with the specific needs of rabbits in terms of antibiotics, since some them (e.g., any oral penicillins such as amoxicillin, and any lincosamide antibiotics such as clindamycin) can be deadly to rabbits, even if they can be used safely in other species.

Whatever the prescription, it is important to continue to administer the full dose for the full course your vet has prescribed, even if signs of disease improve. Stopping antibiotic therapy before an infection is fully controlled can select the most resistant bacteria, since they will be the

(Continued on page 10)

Photo: Jane O'Wyatt



Dizzy fka Thumpelina, during speed date at Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine, 2015.

Photo: Laura George



Dizzy fka Thumpelina, 2017, at Coming Home Animal Sanctuary. Note that her head is more upright.

Head Tilt (Continued from page 9)

last ones to die when exposed to antibiotics. If antibiotics are removed too soon, only the most resistant ones will be left to reproduce and repopulate your poor bunny's head!

Unfortunately, ear infections and head abscesses, in general, can be difficult to treat. They tend to become "walled off" and are poorly supplied with blood vessels. This makes actually getting the antibiotic where it's needed a challenge.

One antibiotic therapy that has proven very effective in many difficult torticollis cases caused by middle- or inner-ear infection is dual-acting penicillin injections. This combination of Penicillin-G (benzylpenicillin) (often combined with procaine, a local anesthetic) and Benzathine penicillin has resolved abscesses in some of our rabbits who had previously been deemed terminal and untreatable. *Pasteurella* tends to be susceptible to penicillins, but if the abscess is caused by *Pseudomonas* (or other penicillin-resistant bacterium), then penicillins will not be effective. A different antibiotic must be chosen.

While the antibiotics are doing their work, your vet might also prescribe other drugs to help restore balance and control the discomfort associated with vertigo. Meclizine can be helpful for controlling dizziness, though it will not work for every rabbit. If meclizine does not control the vertigo and nystagmus, your vet might prescribe a course of short-acting corticosteroids to reduce the inflammation interfering with the vestibular apparatus. We have found that these drugs can sometimes help restore normal posture even before the infection is fully cured. However, corticosteroids should be used with great caution in rabbits, as they tend to be more prone to the adverse side effects of these hormones than many other species.

It can sometimes take weeks or even months to completely cure an inner/

Photos: Austin Torres



Jack eating pellets, about three years ago.

middle ear infection. This may sound like a long time, but if supportive care is offered, and the rabbit continues to eat and drink normally and is still interested in life, then he's not ready to give up. The condition is disorienting, but does not seem to be painful. The illness is temporary, if hard to watch, but it's worth a course of supportive care to see your bunny happy and running around again.

The results of patiently nursing a bunny through torticollis can be very rewarding. I have nursed several rabbits through torticollis apparently due to ear infection/abscess.

- Slooby's head tilt appeared very suddenly. After only 14 days on Baytril (enrofloxacin), he was completely upright, and the condition did not recur.
- Hamish and Jamie Blue both had severe torticollis when they came to us as rescues, so we're not sure about the onset of their signs.
- Hamish had a severe ear infection due to *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* sensitive to quinolone (e.g., enrofloxacin [Baytril], ciprofloxacin, marbofloxacin) and aminoglycoside (e.g., amikacin, gentamicin) antibiotics. He retained his tilt after the infection was resolved, but acupuncture, chiropractic treatments and massage helped immensely. Still, the single most important form of physical therapy – once he stopped rolling – was regular exercise in a spacious play area where



Jack with Jenny, snuggling together recently.

he could run in wider and wider circles, working himself up to straight lines.

- Jamie Blue's story is similar to Hamish's: She was so disoriented that she could not stand, and spent most of her early days with us rolling in a padded pen. She had severe nystagmus. It took eight months on antibiotics to completely clear her ears of the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (which happened to be resistant to all the antibiotics tested except ciprofloxacin and colistin. Though she retained a slight tilt all her life, her head would go almost straight as she ran around looking at all the interesting things to see during supervised outdoor play time.

Encephalitozoon cuniculi

Although there is little conclusive evidence that this microsporidian parasite – related to coccidia and to the protists that cause malaria and other serious diseases – is truly a causative agent of torticollis, anecdotal reports and circumstantial evidence suggest that – if only in some immunocompromised rabbits – *E. cuniculi* can generate torticollis and other nervous system disorders (hind limb paresis, general weakness, seizures).

Mature *E. cuniculi* inhabit the central nervous system and renal (kidney) tissues of their definitive hosts, and infected rabbits showing signs of head tilt can

(Continued on page 11)

Head Tilt *(Continued from page 10)*

also be suffering from renal compromise due to this parasite.

At the moment, positive diagnosis of *E. cuniculi* infection can be made only upon necropsy, though histological results do not conclusively prove that the parasite was the cause of signs of illness.

A blood sample can be collected and sent to a laboratory to obtain a titer of *E. cuniculi* antibodies, produced by the rabbit in response to the presence of the parasite. However, a high titer does not necessarily indicate active disease; it says only that the rabbit has been exposed to the parasite at some time.

- A high titer may indicate that there is an active infection being battled by the immune system, or it could mean that the rabbit has the parasite under control.
- A low (or negative) titer may indicate little or no reaction to *E. cuniculi*, but this could mean either that the parasite is not present, or that the host's immune system is not mounting a response.

Some vets will send two blood samples, taken a couple of weeks apart, for a paired titer. If the titer is rising, one interpretation is that there is an active infection and the bunny is mounting a defense. If the titer is falling, it could mean that the immune system is "standing down" after defeating an infection...or it could mean that the immune system is failing to respond to the parasite. Bottom line: Antibody titers are not necessarily the final answer for proper diagnosis. Because of this, many veterinarians will simply treat for *E. cuniculi* and hope for improvement of signs.

Benzimidazole drugs (e.g., oxibendazole, fenbendazole; [albendazole is NOT recommended, as it has been associated with acute death due to bone marrow damage in rabbits and other species]) readily cross the blood-brain barrier to

inhibit the function of *E. cuniculi*'s tubulin, a protein essential for the parasite's feeding and infection of new host cells.

Ponazuril is a drug developed for treatment of equine protozoal myeloencephalitis – a horse disease caused by a parasite, *Sarcocystis neurona*, similar to *E. cuniculi*. Many veterinarians have been using this drug "off label" to treat *E. cuniculi* in rabbits, with anecdotal reports of success. I have been witness to one such case in our rescue bunny, Tilda. Tilda came to us with severe torticollis, but had no visible evidence of ear infection. We suspected that her tilt might be due to *E. cuniculi*. She was treated with fenbendazole and ponazuril concurrently for 30 days, and all traces of head tilt resolved completely, never to return.

Baylisascaris procyonis

Baylisascaris procyonis is a roundworm (Nematoda) that ordinarily inhabits the intestine of raccoons. However, if other species (including humans) ingest eggs transmitted by raccoon waste, there is a possibility of "wrong host" infection. The larval worms migrate, not to the intestine, but to the kidneys and central nervous system, causing life-threatening neurological problems.

At present, there is no treatment and no cure.

Physical Insult to the Central Nervous System

If head tilt is caused by a stroke or head trauma, the best one might hope to do is treat appropriately and hope for recovery over time. Treatment must be administered quickly at the onset of signs for best hope of a good prognosis.

If the problem is believed to be caused by an intracranial abscess, with no pus to culture, your vet might wish to try dual-acting penicillin (as described above).

The Benefits of Physical Therapy

Once medical treatments are starting to do their work, your bunny can benefit from regular exercise and physical therapy. Allowing the bunny to run in a very large area, where he can move in straight lines (not small circles) can make a significant difference, and speed healing.

Physical Therapist Larry Gavlak shares his hints for physical therapy that helped his bunny (Boper) regain his balance. Larry has used the same technique on humans who had lost their sense of balance, and he simply translated and scaled it for his bunny!

(http://www.bio.miami.edu/hare/tilt_therapy.html)

Don't Give Up

Many, many people have written to me, asking about head tilt. I'm happy to say that almost every one of them has written back to say that patience, loving husbandry and the proper medicine and physical therapy had their bunnies up and running again, even if it took weeks or even months. Everyone said it was worth the time and care.

Treatment of head tilt is not only possible, but often successful and rewarding. It might help to realize that rabbits do not mourn over what might have been, nor what the future might hold. If your rabbit is willing to survive the moment, is eating and drinking and showing affection and interest in life (however dizzily), he or she deserves a chance to heal. It is so rewarding to see a head tilt bunny race and frolic as before, even if it takes several months of treatment and love.

We Are Looking for Loving Homes:

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

By Kirsten Ott

Chili

Chili is a large New Zealand White girl who was found outdoors wearing a harness, which should serve as a warning to anyone contemplating taking a house rabbit outside. Luckily for Chili, she survived the experience. And that's lucky for her eventual adopter, because this girl is a keeper! Chili is very curious but a bit apprehensive when you first approach her. As soon you introduce her to affection, though, everything changes instantaneously – she becomes your “bff” and doesn't want to let you go. The speed with which she gets attached is truly touching. Chili is still quite young – probably a teenager in human terms – so she will probably get somewhat bigger than she is now. She's a beautiful rabbit, with large ruby eyes and nice big back feet.



Chili.



Isabella.

Isabella

Isabella is a large, very sweet white bunny with beautiful calico markings. This girl is very mellow and easy to handle. She's unfazed by people, and adores being petted. If you turn your attention elsewhere, she asks for more attention in the most polite way imaginable – she must have had a good rabbit governess in her early years! In addition to being well-mannered, Isabella is very beautiful, with pretty calico ears, big round eyes, a delicate little dewlap, and a cute splotch of calico fur on one side of her nose. This cozy girl would make a good choice for a first-time bunny owner.

Michael

Michael is a medium-sized dark agouti and brown bunny with a very easygoing personality. He hunkers down for petting – without a moment's hesitation – the moment he sees you coming. Michael is truly a gentle soul. If he were a person, you might say he had good manners, or



Michael.

“not a mean bone in his body.” This sweetie pie would make a good choice for a first-time bunny owner.

Lucky

Lucky is a large, all-black female bunny. This girl is very bright and alert. She seems to have a heightened sensitivity to



Lucky.



Riley.

her environment – at least at present – and reacts in a somewhat twitchy way to noises or sudden movements. She's not afraid of nice people, though – she loves to be petted and will seek out your hand to indicate her desire for affection. Lucky will probably calm down quite a bit once she's “lucky” enough to be placed in a good forever home. She has a super silky, shiny coat and a nice little dewlap.

Riley

Riley is a stunning-looking little Hotot boy with the personality of a creature 100 times his size! This little guy looks like a “show bunny,” and may be the product of a breeder. He has a pristine white coat and dramatic black rings around his big, shining eyes. The only “rogue” feature on his body is a bit of sooty gray fur on his little tail! Riley may have near-perfect looks, but his manners definitely have a way to go. He is quite defensive and cage-protective, and will charge and grunt like a little pig if you invade his space. If you're patient, he'll eventually let you pet him in a spot he designates. Clearly, this little guy would be best off in a bunny-savvy home where he can develop trust. Riley also loves

(Continued on page 13)

ADOPTIONS

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 12)

to rearrange his furniture and rip up paper – sort of like a rock star in a hotel room – so he'll need lots of stimulating playthings in his new habitat.



Snowflake.



Alexia.

Snowflake

Snowflake is a medium-to-large black and white female and a real needy case. This poor girl arrived at the shelter in rather rough physical and emotional shape. She's too skinny, her scraggly coat is missing fur on the upper back, and she's very wary of people. She has a good appetite, so her body and coat should improve quickly. However, she will need a bunny-savvy fosterer or adopter to bring her back to good health and gradually socialize her.

Alexia

Alexia is a medium-sized Hotot mix with a wonderfully sweet personality. This girl is very well-socialized. She lounges in a relaxed way while you pet her, and when it's over she'll binky with happiness! It's adorable. Alexia is white with jet black markings, including black



Bunnihana.

ears, eye rings, a partial “racing stripe” down her back, and two cute dots on either side of her nose. She also has a sweet double dewlap (bunny version of a double chin) and a cute extra fold of fur under her belly. (She does not have a weight problem, however.) Alexia would make a good choice for a first-time rabbit owner.

Bunnihana

Bunnihana is a medium-large all-black male bunny with oodles of energy. This guy is still on the young side, and is very active, curious and bright. When you first introduce yourself, he seems a little confused – as though he hasn't quite figured out the role of humans in his life. He'll approach repeatedly to sniff you but will quickly hop away. However, if you're persistent and manage to sneak in some head strokes, he'll realize that humans might actually be useful and succumb to the love. He is sure to warm up quickly in his forever home.

(Continued on page 14)

Forever Homes Found!



Sancho.

Rabbits adopted since the last newsletter include: Clover, Luke, Pepe, Mike, Columbia, Jocelyn, Lily, Sugarplum and Pineapple, Chewy, Coto, Velvet, Andaz, Lulu, Mai, Mochi, Jesse, Ikea, Pippi, Kiwi,

Theodore, Jay, Rocket, Scrappy, Benson, Cotton Tail, Jaylen, Oliver, Mittens, Rex, Hank, Soki, Marco, Dominick, Eugene, Milo, Lala, Lolo, Leo, Meadow, Akuma, Ibis and Mariel, Calliope, Marlo, Sancho and Cecilia.



Luke.

ADOPTIONS

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 13)

Be My Valentine! Adopt a Bonded Pair

These Rabbits Are in Foster Care

Valentine's Day is a very special holiday for our bonded pairs. These bunnies are full of love for each other, and they would like to find a loving home, too.

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 enjoying 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 neutered. Both are small to medium-sized. For more information and/or to set up an meeting with Mandy and Cruise, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Iggy and Mona

Iggy and Mona are a bonded pair currently in foster care. Iggy is a small, gray Jersey Woolly and Mona is a large New Zealand White. Mona is easy-going 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.

Freddie and Flossie

Freddie and Flossie are a bonded pair of medium-sized bunnies that must be adopted together. Flossie is slightly larger than Freddie and has more brown fur. They have been spayed and neutered and are currently in foster care. For



Mandy and Cruise.



Iggy and Mona.



Freddie and Flossie.

more information and/or to arrange a meeting with Freddie and Flossie, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Simba and Nala

Simba and Nala are a bonded pair of medium-large rabbits, both born in 2014. Simba is a gray male and the smaller of the two, and Nala is a white Rex female with black spots. They are very attached to each other, and must be adopted together. They have been neutered and spayed and are currently in foster care. For more information and/or to arrange a meeting with Simba and Nala, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Angelina and Floppy

Angelina and Floppy are a bonded pair of medium-sized adult rabbits who need



Nala and Simba.



Angelina.



Floppy.

a new home because their owners are going overseas. Angelina is the black

(Continued on page 15)

ADOPTIONS

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 14)

female and Floppy is the white male. Angelina is the more outgoing bunny, and enjoys affection. Floppy is a little more aloof. They have been spayed and neutered. For more information and/or to arrange a meeting with Angelina and Floppy, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

More Rabbits for Adoption

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 you offer food, of course!), so we think he would be best off as a partner rabbit. He has been neutered and has very good litter-box skills. If interested in fostering or adopting this resilient, hunky bunny, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

Dahlia

Dahlia is a medium-sized black and white Dutch female who has to be rehomed because her people are moving away. Dahlia is very friendly and loves to be petted. She's also very curious and loves exploring every corner of her current owner's apartment. Dahlia shows her affection most especially when there's a carrot or fresh greens around! If interested in fostering or adopting Dahlia, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.



Ernie.



Dahlia.



Paul.

Paul

Paul is a grey/brown and white Dutch. This super sweet boy is very happy and a social butterfly. Paul loves playtime, 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.

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



Romeo.



Bugs.

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.

Bugs

Here is a sweet rabbit looking for a loving forever home. "Bugs" is a 2-year-old female Dutch rabbit who is spayed and litter trained. She is in excellent health and very affectionate. She loves to exercise and interact with her foster family. If interested in adopting Bugs, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.

(Continued on page 16)

ADOPTIONS

Looking for Loving Homes

(Continued from page 15)

Nona

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



Nona.

Emma

Emma is a large female Chinchilla lop with a big personality. Want to be a slave to a gorgeous, feisty girl? Emma is your answer! Potential suitors must provide head rubs whenever Emma desires (frequently and for long periods), and not do things Emma disapproves of, like rearrange her stuff or move your hands too fast by her face. She absolutely loves having her head rubbed and will insist on a massage. Don't try to rush her--let her do things on her own terms. It helps to speak to her softly when you are close by to let her know where you are. She'll reward your patience with love and companionship forever and ever. Emma was found with extremely long nails, suggesting she was a neglect case, and she was placed in foster care for a while to help her become less defensive. Emma also has some minor vision issues, so all in all she would do best in a patient, experienced bunny home. She's a gorgeous big girl, with a classic Chinchilla coat and a large dewlap. Emma has been spayed and is currently in residence at the Petco store on Union Square in Manhattan. For more information or to arrange a meeting with Emma, please email nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com.



Emma.



Carmela.

Carmela

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

'An Amazing Year For Rabbits'

By Vivian Barna

All About Rabbits Rescue

I am writing this on Jan. 1, and I think it is worth mentioning what a monumental year 2016 was for rabbits. One can only wonder if it can be beat.

The ban on rabbit pet shop sales kicked in.

NYC shelter rabbits are now safely spayed and neutered. There were improvements in ACC protocol and standards of care pertaining to rabbits.

The Gowanus hoarder was brought to court.

On another note, All About Rabbits Rescue did three adoptions of all black buns in less than the next 24 hours during the first week of January. We pull many rabbits from Brooklyn's Animal Care Center.

Congratulations to this great community of rabbit advocates. We truly have been a relentless force and I hope we continue in strength.

HE'S NOT AN EASTER TOY.

HE'S A REAL, LIVE, 10-YEAR COMMITMENT.

It's that time of year again. Pet store windows are filled with adorable baby bunnies. Your kids are begging you to buy one. It's so hard to resist. After all, you think, wouldn't this be the perfect, low-maintenance "starter pet" for a young child?

Think again! Every year, many thousands of rabbits are abandoned to shelters or released outdoors (a sure death sentence for a domestic rabbit), often because of misunderstandings on the part of the parents who bought them for their kids.

Rabbits are prey animals by nature. They are physically delicate and fragile, and require specialized veterinary care. Children are naturally energetic, exuberant, and loving. But "loving" to a small child usually means holding, cuddling, carrying an animal around in whatever grip their small hands can manage — precisely the kinds of things that make most rabbits feel insecure and frightened. Rabbits handled in this way will often start to scratch or bite, simply out of fear. Many rabbits are accidentally dropped by small children, resulting in broken legs and backs. Those rabbits who survive the first few months quickly reach maturity and are no longer tiny and "cute." Kids often lose interest, and the rabbit, who has no voice to remind you he's hungry or thirsty or needs his cage cleaned, is gradually neglected.

Parents, please help! If you're thinking about adding a rabbit to your family, think about this: pet rabbits have a life span of 7-10 years. Don't buy on impulse. Wait until after the holiday. Make an informed decision by learning about rabbit care first. Consider adopting a rabbit from your local shelter or rescue group. For the rabbit's health and well-being (as well as for your child's) make sure an adult will be the primary caretaker and will always supervise any children in the household who are interacting with the rabbit. Domestic rabbits are inquisitive, intelligent, and very social by nature. A rabbit is a delightful companion animal as long as you remember: he's not a child's toy. He's a real, live, 10-year commitment!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RABBIT CARE AND ADOPTIONS
IN YOUR AREA, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL HUMANE SOCIETY OR
VISIT THE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY AT WWW.RABBIT.ORG**

©Mary E. Cotter, 2002



Delilah: Our Spunky Girl, Full of Generosity and Love

By Megan Krieman

Delilah came into my life in November 2006 when I was an ACC shelter volunteer in Manhattan. After cleaning her cage one evening, I put her back in to enjoy a pile of fresh vegetables. Moments later, I saw a carrot flying around her cage. She kept picking it up and tossing it around. I couldn't understand what was going on.

I opened the cage and picked her up, and turned her face to mine. It was then I noticed the longest and wildest pair of incisors I'd ever seen. She couldn't eat the carrot but, boy, did she want to. This also explained her emaciated state.

I began breaking up the carrot into tiny pieces and hand-feeding her. I also made her a mash of pellets. She devoured everything I handed her.

The shelter managed to have her incisors trimmed. She and another bunny named Samson had tugged at my heartstrings. They came into the shelter a couple of days apart, both in terrible condition. Samson was older and being passed over, and I brought him home in January 2007. But I couldn't stop thinking about little Delilah.

Cindy Stutts and Mary Cotter decided to hold a special meeting for the rabbit volunteers to demonstrate bunny bonding. It was decided that I would bring Samson and we'd try a demonstration with him and Delilah. It was immediately apparent that this was a highly unusual demonstration. It was love at first sight, and the bunnies were snuggling and grooming one another from the moment they met. I hit the bunny bonding jackpot!

Delilah and Samson shared a long, happy life together. She dutifully became his seeing-eye bun when his eyesight failed him, herding him around the house by hopping along his side. She looked after him well in his old age.



Photo: Alison Goohee

Delilah and Samson.

When the time was right, she picked Hugo as her second husbun. Hugo was a bit of a challenge while bonding. He wasn't at all bunny-socialized and didn't understand her demands for attention. He would shove her back when she put her head under his to demand affection, and she in turn would bite him. However, since she didn't have incisors, he didn't know he was being bitten, so thankfully there wasn't any retaliation.



Photo: Megan Krieman

Delilah and Hugo.

Much to my and Delilah's delight, Hugo eventually figured it out and began to groom Delilah, and even learned to cuddle with her, too. Later, he also became a good caretaker and seeing-eye bun for Delilah in her old age.

Sadly, Hugo and I lost Delilah this year, one month shy of our 10-year anniversary together.

She was a fighter always and leaves a hole in our hearts. We will forever remember her generous love and spunk.

Delilah taught me so much over our 10 years together. She gracefully accepted life's many challenges as they arrived. Thank you, Delilah, for showing me how to live life in the face of adversity and challenge – and for showing me how to love generously and unconditionally. I live in awe and in debt to one beautiful three-pound bunny.

Rosa: She Was Our Rock of Stability

By Cindy Stutts

I don't know how old she actually was, but do we ever? She came into the Manhattan shelter as an adult in 2004, got adopted and was redumped in 2006.

I took her home to place her into a foster home, but that never happened. I came back from our annual rabbit conference to find she had scaled the gate separating her from our living-room bun, Chester, and was happily snuggling with him under our dining-room table.

Over the years, she had many partners: Chester, Tyler, Louie, Charlie and her beloved widowed husbun, Neville. All were welcomed easily into our home and hers.

Nothing fancy, troublesome or out of the ordinary she was; just a rock of stability in our home. Always there, always a welcoming, calming influence to the ones I brought home.

She will be so missed.

Goodbye, old friend.....

Photo: Cindy Stutts



Rosa. 'My heart has joined the Thousand, for my friend stopped running today.'—Richard Adams

Letters From Adopters

Oreo and S'mores

Lindsay and Sadie adopted Oreo and S'mores, formerly known as Brownie, in September. The bunnies are having a great time.

We have been so excited to have Oreo and S'mores in our home for the past four months. They are living happily in a big pen in Sadie's room next to their guinea pig friends. S'mores often hops over to their cage to say hi and peek in the top when she's out of the cage and exploring the room. But they love their pen and are always happy to hop back in.

They cuddle up together a lot of the time in their critter cottage and love

Photo: Lindsay Barron Barrett



S'mores and Oreo.

cleaning each other. We have snuggle time most nights before bed.

We love Oreo and S'mores, almost as much as they love lettuce.

Lindsay & Sadie

Chewy and Rufus

Ivy adopted Chewy as a friend for Rufus, who had lost his previous partner. Chewy is enjoying her new home.

Chewy the bunny came into my home after Rufus lost his bonded bun Lola quite unexpectedly.

I brought my very shy guy to ACC in Brooklyn for a speed-date session in

(Continued on page 20)

Letters *(Continued from page 19)*

hopes of finding a new friend that could suit him nicely.

All three bachelorettes were an option, but Chewy was the final one, and the session ended up as a (maybe a little forced) grooming session.

Photo: Ivy Goodman



Chewy and Rufus.

At home Rufus decided he was going to try to be dominant. A couple of weeks later, I had a day off where I could keep an eye on them. They became friends and settled on a co-dominance relationship.

Now they are happily bonded and Chewy has drawn out my shy little Rufus amazingly well. She is a precocious critter (read obnoxious), and I find her scaling the bookshelf trying to get to the treats. She has made herself quite at home. I'm glad she came into our lives.

Ivy Goodman

Photo: Magdalena Brzegowy



Oreo.

Oreo

Oreo was adopted by Magda in early December from the Brooklyn shelter. She

was assisted in the adoption by volunteer Cathy Zelonis. Here is an update from Magda about Oreo's new loving home.

I have the best feelings ever seeing every day his gratitude and his curiosity of discovering a new world!

Oreo is for me more than a friend. Every morning he is waiting for me to open his pen, which we call it "his apartment." He follows my steps around whole home – whatever I do, wherever I go, he goes with me. That's the cutest thing ever.

Oreo loves getting attention. I talk, play and caress him.

Adopting an animal is a decision with a huge responsibility and a lot of work, but when I see his gratitude, I know that it is worth it. We changed each other's life.

Magdalena Brzegowy

Pancakes

Pancakes was adopted in October by Sarah Gold and Chris Yost, who recently sent us this wonderful letter.

Pancakes, now known as Louise Pancakes, has been the best addition to our home!

We have really fallen in love with her.

She's still a very shy little lady, but she has definitely let her guard down a bit for snuggle sessions.

Warmly,
Sarah and Chris

Editor's Note: As of Jan. 22, Sarah and Chris began fostering-to-adopt Andaz as a partner for Louise Pancakes. Congratulations!

Photo: Sarah Gold



Louise Pancakes.

Photos: Mike Daniel



Thumper.



Thumper

Thumper, previously known as Stretch, was adopted by Mike and Cindy in October. Mike sent us this update on New Year's Day.

Our bunny has been doing great! We actually renamed him Thumper and he has been doing really well.

(Continued on page 21)

Letters *(Continued from page 20)*

Thumper has adjusted nicely to his new home. He loves to run around and binky every night, and in the mornings he excitedly waits for more hay and pellets.

He loves to eat his veggies, too. He likes it when we pet him and gently rub his

head. Day by day he gets more comfortable with more and more pets!

He is very well mannered and gentle, and we are happy to be with him for years to come.

Mike Daniel

Jack-Jack and Penny Lane

Lauren Santaniello and her fiancé Jason Bergrin adopted these two great bunnies at separate times through Rabbit Rescue & Rehab. Jack has been with them a year now, and Penny Lane has been with them for about six months. The rabbits are doing really well.

Time passes quickly, and one year has gone by since Jack-Jack joined our family on Jan. 1, 2016. Meanwhile, six months have passed since Penny Lane (formerly Brittany Bunny) became Jack's bonded mate on July 19.

These two rabbits have brought so much joy and happiness into our lives. Jack is a handsome, affectionate boy who will pancake immediately for pets, and who will stand really tall in efforts to persuade you into giving him whatever you are eating. Penny is a spunky girl whose athleticism knows no bounds. She can jump on top of almost anything, and she performs the quirkiest binkies.

Jack-Jack and Penny Lane do everything together, from sleeping, to eating, to playing. However, despite their domestic bliss, they do have separate interests. Jack's favorite pastime is lazily lying stretched out while having the insides of his ears licked by Penny. Contrariwise, Penny enjoys nothing more than getting into trouble and finding herself in impossible situations. Jack has a sweet tooth and craves apples and bananas, while Penny loves her greens and would gladly eat Jack's for him. We believe that Penny feels quite possessive over her Jack-Jack, for she will immediately hop to his "rescue," but it is every bun for himself/herself when it comes time for nail clippings!

Overall, we are thrilled to have these two. We are so thankful that they are ours, and that we were able to bring them together thanks to Rabbit Rescue & Rehab.

Lauren and Jason

Jack-Jack and Penny Lane.



Photo: Lauren Santaniello



Thor and Siv.



Siv.

Siv and Thor

Siv and Thor, previously known as Boots and Slate, were adopted by Ilona and her family following the loss of their bunny Peppa in November.

Nov. 6 was a bad day. We had to let Peppa go, our best friend and roomie for almost nine years. But we knew we would adopt again and we knew it should be a pair of bunnies.

I emailed Cindy Stutts to let her know we might be interested in a pair and she got me in contact with Nadine Heidinger and Thea Harting, who volunteer at the Brooklyn ACC. There were four pairs to choose from. We liked four of those ears immediately, so Siv and Thor (fka Boots and Slate) found a new home for the holidays. I was still sad about Peppa's death from kidney failure. But then I thought, why not give two bunnies a new home as soon as possible? They need a loving family.

Why did we choose the names Siv and Thor? They are smaller-sized bunnies, so

(Continued on page 22)

Letters *(Continued from page 21)*

they needed big names: a Nordic god and a Nordic goddess. Thor is also long-haired and looks like he wears a shawl around his chest, so he reminded us of a Viking!

After a short period of adjustment, Siv and Thor started feeling at home and are now behaving like teenage rock stars, true to their age. They make us laugh a lot with their binkies, bunny 500s, and their daily “exploration” of our home. And even though I still cry about our loss of Peppa once in a while and miss her terribly, I am very grateful to Siv and Thor for keeping me from crying too much and for being such wonderful bunnies.

I hope they will be happy here for a long time to come, although they do of course complain that they do not get enough pellets. Yes, it is a switch going from a very senior bun to two teenagers. Vacuum cleaning can be an adventure if you have to constantly check where each of them is – but anyone still thinking two bunnies are more work than one, give me a call! They really enjoy each other’s company in addition to their humans.

Welcome, Siv and Thor! And thank you, Thea and Nadine, for making our adoption so easy at the shelter.

Ilona

Photos: Nadine Heidinger



Pippi.

Pippi

Pippi was adopted in January by Nadine Heidinger, who had been fostering Pippi since she was rescued after a bad adoption. Pippi has also been through some health issues related to her head tilt and balance issues. Nadine and her partner Amelia sent us this very happy note in late January.

Pippi has come a long way since coming to our home.

Though she had a serious relapse related to her E. cuniculi not long after her arrival, she made a full recovery, thanks to swift medical intervention and lots of loving care.

You would almost never know she ever had “special needs.” In addition to being



roughly 79% litter-box trained, she runs REALLY fast during morning exercises and punctuates each day with several little low-flying binkies that would melt even the hardest heart.

Finally, Pippi is the founder and CEO of “Twigs ‘n’ Sprigs,” a cardboard box in her pen that she sits in sometimes and awaits deliveries of hay, chew toys, willow sticks and the occasional Oxbow treat.

She is also currently working on her debut novel, “A Tail Goes Up.” She lives in Brooklyn with her family, who feel so lucky to officially welcome this little sweetie into the fold.

Nadine and Amelia

Sammy

Annelou and Ben adopted Sammy, formerly known as Galadriel, in December. They sent us this update in early February.

Photos: Annelou Sermon



Sammy.



We adopted Galadriel two months ago and she is so adorable. We have changed her name to Sammy. We think it fits her better. She lives on Wall Street, in the Financial District.

She is such a sweet rabbit. She is lovely. In the beginning, she was a bit shy, but she made our apartment her own. At night she sleeps under our bed and when our alarm goes off in the morning she awaits her breakfast as a princess. In the evening she always sits with us to watch TV. She loves to be petted a lot.

Sammy does a shout out to her friends at the shelter. She hopes the rabbits who

(Continued on page 23)

Letters *(Continued from page 22)*

have been there a long time will get adopted, too.

She wants to thank the staff for taking such good care of her.
Thank you,
Annelou and Ben

Mister Monkey

Natalee adopted Mister Monkey, formerly known as Chewie, in mid-January.

I adopted Mister Monkey, previously known as Chewie, three weeks ago and I just adore my little boy!

He's a spunky little guy with a huge personality. He loves to run and dig on my bed and use me as his personal jungle

Photo: Natalee Merrill



Mister Monkey.

gym. It's not uncommon for me to wake up at 7:30 in the morning with Bunny

sitting on my chest or his whiskers tickling my nose.

He likes to get kisses on his nose and recently he's started to return the favor. He loves to nap right by his bowls and has, on multiple occasions, dosed off with his butt in his water bowl. He's a brave adventurer and loves to push the limits of where he's allowed to go in my room! I'm almost positive his little sniffer hasn't stopped moving since he got home.

Our adventure has only just begun and I can't wait to see him grow and continue to discover the world!

Natalee Merrill

BROOKLYN BUNNIES ON PARADE

Adoptable bunnies are available at the Brooklyn shelter, 2336 Linden Boulevard. Many wonderful rabbits are waiting to meet you, and speed dates can be arranged by emailing adoption@nycacc.org. *(Continued on page 24)*

Photos: Nadine Heidinger



Angel.



Buns.



Lyle.

Photos: Nadine Heidinger



The basket with Thump and all these toys is a generous donation from Ilona Kahl, a BACC adopter.



Cranberry.



Pearl.



Nose.



Mae Rose.



Samson with Laura Johnson, his adopter.



Emma.



Marco.



Watson.



Toast.

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 Hoefler, 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, bunnytorts@gmail.com
Mary Cotter, Founder, Rabbit Rescue & Rehab,
Chapter Manager, NYC House Rabbit Society,
Adviser to Thump, mec@cloud9.net, (914)
337-6146, rabbitcare.org
Gabrielle LaManna, New Fairfield, CT,
gabbysbunnies@yahoo.com, (203) 746-7548
Mary Harnett, mmharnett@optonline.net,
(914) 948-7976

Marcie Frishberg,
mfrish57bun@yahoo.com, (718) 724-4105
Cindy Stutts, bygolyoly@yahoo.com,
(646) 319-4766

Kerstin Aumann
Monica Shepherd, DVM

Long Island:

Nancy Schreiber, President, Long Island
Rabbit Rescue Group,
nnschreibmd@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 February 2017

Newsletter of RRR/NYC HRS
56 West Pondfield Road #5C
Bronxville, NY 10708
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. Mailing address for contributions: Rabbit Rescue & Rehab/NYC Metro Rabbit, 333 Mamaroneck Ave, PMB 363, White Plains NY 10605. To contribute to Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group, please go to www.longislandrabbitrescue.org.

Adoptable Rabbits 🐰

There are lots of adoptable rabbits available in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Westchester and Long Island.

To adopt a rabbit in **New York City** or **Westchester**, contact nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com. On **Long Island**, contact Nancy Schreiber at nnschreibmd@gmail.com or at 516-510-3637 (www.longislandrabbitrescue.org).

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

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

You can also visit Manhattan Animal Care Center at 326 East 110th St., between First and Second avenues, and the Brooklyn Animal Care Center at 2336 Linden Boulevard.

Rabbits for adoption in Manhattan and Brooklyn can be found by going to: <http://www.nycacc.org/> and doing an adoption search. Volunteers are there every weekday evening and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, but it is best to arrange an appointment first.

Bunny speed dates can be arranged by appointment only on weekend afternoons at Union Square. Please contact nyc.metro.rabbits@gmail.com to make arrangements.

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

For basic information about rabbits as pets, go to www.rabbitcare.org, www.longislandrabbitrescue.org and the House Rabbit Society main site, www.rabbit.org.