

Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc.

Safe Haven Scoop

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Questions about care?

Do you have questions about caring for your rabbit? Zoom call help available for nail trims, grooming, litter-box training, bonding, etc.

Please contact us via our [Contact form](#) if you have care question (*no medical questions, we are not vets*).

No charge.



Donate



By Karen Augustynowicz, Director

A Colorful Change.....



Fall is always my favorite season. The changing leaves, the beautiful mums, and pumpkins all around! Of course, mums are toxic for rabbits, so we need to keep them away from the rabbits. Pumpkins are safe and it is even ok to add a bit of plain pumpkin to entice a bun should you need to syringe feed.

Unfortunately, the intake requests are greatly increasing as more and more people find themselves unable to care for their rabbits. Shelter research has found inability to care, lack of interest, and housing issues among the most common reported reasons; other studies have identified owner life changes and housing. We are getting more and more request from owners who are overwhelmed due to health or aging issues.

With an expansion of our existing outreach programs, and your help. we are hoping to bring about a good change for the rabbits most in need. I am excited to introduce you to a new program called "Sanctuary Guardians" You will find that story on page 6. We hope you will be inclined to participate!

And, of course, we wanted to wish you a

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

Enjoy the Newsletter!

Wishing you, your family and bunnies a Blessed Holiday Season.

With sincere thanks,

Karen Augustynowicz, Director

Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc.



Our Fall Fundraisers Burnt Mills Pottery October 3

Thank you So Much to our Volunteers, Donors, Purchasers!

Our participation at the Burnt Mills Craft fair this year was a big success! We fancied up our display with a tent and luckily the weather was just about perfect! The variety (95 unique animals) and number of Amigurumis (241) we are now offering has grown immensely (thanks to Astrid Hesse). Sales were brisk all day and we had a lot of fun!



We thank all of those who came out to support our efforts!
100% of funds raised goes directly to the rabbits in our care.

Two more craft fairs are scheduled before the end of the year:

Annual Santaville Craft Fair

Saturday, November 21, 2026

10am—2pm

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church,

17 Greenwich Church Rd,
Stewartsville, NJ 08886

&

Handmade Showcase at Cedar Hill Prep!

Sunday, December 6th, 2026

10 AM—4 PM

Cedar Hill Prep School, 152 Cedar Grove Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873

P.S. If you see anything you would like to purchase, we are selling at events or *local pick-up only*. Send us an [email](#) for details and we will put items aside at an event you plan to attend, or arrange to meet you within 20 minutes of Clinton or Belvidere, NJ. Visit our [Amigurumi page](#) to view items.

Educational Corner

by Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator



We all see the treats, colorful pelleted food, cute toys, and novelty items all made for 'rabbits' when we shop for them. We take for granted that the manufacturers of these items have our rabbit's best interest, good health, and safety in mind, which isn't always true, which is why it's vital to read labels and know the ingredients used to make treats and foods as well as how a toy and novelty item is made and what materials are used, and what is the source for all.



Many treats and foods sold in pet stores are not good for rabbits. Yogurt drops, dried fruits, treats and foods with seeds, nuts, and corn, corn-based snacks made to look like carrots, sweetened chew sticks, salt and mineral licks, and the list goes on.

Added ingredients such as corn flour, corn syrup, potato starch, glycerin, salt, clay or other binding agents used to make compressed hay and forage cubes, need to be avoided. Store

bought, healthy treats, should be nothing more than a hay-based disc, no bigger than a quarter, with very few ingredients. Rabbits are even more than happy with a sprig of parsley or cilantro, a blueberry, or a small chunk of carrot.

If a pelleted food is 'colorful' and looks like a Muesli mix it needs to be avoided. Pellets are fed to balance nutritional needs. A pelleted food should be hay based with very few ingredients along with vitamins and minerals. Dried fruits and vegetables, seeds, nuts, corn, and colorful bits of highly processed kibble are not good for a rabbit's digestive system and health. Even something as healthy as a compressed cube of timothy hay or forage blend could be made with a binder such as clay that has no business being consumed by a rabbit.

It's important to know the source of toys and novelties. Not all countries have the same standards and often materials are fumigated, bleached, or treated to prevent mold and insect infestation during shipping. Transparency is lacking, and due to the differences in agriculture and manufacturing regulations, labels do not need to disclose this information.

Toys and novelties can use unsafe glues, artificial dyes, and can be chemically treated. Toys and novelties are chewed and often ingested and awareness to how they are manufactured and what they are made of need to be known. Toys and novelties can even be physically dangerous. Loops can catch legs, material can snag nails, and sharp objects such as wire can pierce skin or soft tissue in the mouth.

Play it safer and make purchases from a reputable 'rabbit savvy' company, use your better judgement, and don't be afraid to make inquiries if ingredients and sourcing are not known.

Adoption Updates....

By Emerald Sheay, Adopter

Lessons from Maddie and Bugs

I was convinced that Bugs, my Flemish Giant rabbit, was destined to be a “bachelor bunny” for life. Imagine my surprise when, at age 9, he decided his next-door neighbor – 5-year-old Harlequinn mix, Maddie – was his perfect match. The following are lessons I learned from these two bunnies as they navigated their relationship and found happiness in each other’s company.

Let the bunnies set the pace.

When we adopted Maddie in 2023 from Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Bugs had been living as a single bunny his entire life – despite having a neighbor rabbit, Rosalie, who he unfortunately never bonded with.

I was hopeful that in his older age, Bugs would be open to companionship. I tried all the tricks in the book for two years to convince him to accept Maddie: time together in a neutral space, swapping toys and litter boxes, and alternating their pens. Although he was not aggressive to Maddie, he continued to try to exert dominance (such as humping behavior). Maddie was tolerant but displeased. I did not push them to spend more time together and instead gave them a break while hoping things might change.

Don’t be afraid to try something new.

Over time, I found Maddie and Bugs grooming and lying nearby each other while in their pens. However, when I took them into my living room for bonding time, the dominance behavior continued. Then, I decided to do something I had never done before: temporarily move them into our finished basement.

There, the territory was completely neutral. Neither bunny had been in this area before, and they continued to get along great alongside one another. When I brought them out for bonding in the basement, there was no more dominance behavior. Instead, the bunnies seemed comforted by the other’s presence. The uncertainty of this “new” area was a positive change for their dynamic.

Neutral territory is key.

Seeing how happy the bunnies were in this new territory, I tried to recreate a completely neutral space in their existing living space (affectionately called the “Bunny Room.”) I did a deep clean of their pens, replaced the flooring, and got new litter boxes. I also rearranged their boxes and items, so the space looked different for them.

My original plan was to give the bunnies bonding time in this new space, before placing them back in their pens in the temporary basement setting. However, once I placed them in their pen in the Bunny Room, they acted as if they were old friends. Just as soon as I put them both together, they were cuddling, grooming each other, and joining one another in the same box. I pulled a mattress onto the floor of the room, expecting to spend the night keeping an eye on them. Within a few hours, though, I knew there was no reason to worry. The bunnies were officially bonded!

(continues next page)

Adoption Updates....

By Emerald Sheay, Adopter

(Continued from previous page)

The effort to bond is worth it!

When initially working to bond the bunnies, I often worried about whether the stress I feared I was causing was truly worth it. Now, I am certain it was. It is so apparent that bunnies are social creatures who thrive in one another's company.

While I give them as much attention as I can, there is a level of companionship between rabbits that a human cannot replicate. Bugs and Maddie spend much of their days sleeping while touching one another, cuddling (in sometimes hilarious positions), eating hay together, and grooming each other. They have each brought out positive traits in the other: Bugs is more active and loves grooming, while Maddie has become more confident and outgoing. Their peaceful and affectionate demeanor is something all the best "marriages" should strive for.

I am so grateful that I was a small part of this bonding journey between Bugs and Maddie. They have taught me many things about rabbit care and companionship. Ultimately, bonding rabbits cannot be rushed or forced. Instead, we must give them time, patience, and the freedom to find their own way.



Our Outreach Programs....

By Karen Augustynowicz, Safe Haven Director

*****New** Sanctuary Guardian Program***

As our rescue has grown and changed over the years, we've been fortunate to become part of a wonderful community of rabbit-loving people. People who will do anything and everything for their rabbits. When I get intake requests from elderly people who can no longer care for their rabbits, I can totally identify with them. Mother Nature has a way of slowing all of us down. I certainly can't do what I used to do with ease anymore. So, this program may be my ask for help.

In an effort to help the large re-homing need, we are excited to develop our "***Sanctuary Guardian Program***" for rabbits who need extra support, especially those who are ill or elderly.

We're looking for dedicated caregivers ready to welcome a rabbit into their home and treat them as one of their own. **Sanctuary Guardians** would be willing to make the commitment—to provide a safe, loving home and comfort for the rabbit throughout the remainder of their life. Caregivers would also need to make veterinary visits when needed. By staying in close communication with the rescue, we can work together if needs arise.

*****The rescue will provide financial and equipment support*****, including payment of all veterinary bills, standard supplies such as pens and carriers, and specialized equipment if needed.

Together, we can give unwanted rabbits who need extra care the chance to finally enjoy a loving home, a comfortable life, and the dignity and companionship they so deserve.

If this program touches your heart and you'd like to be part of it, please [email](#) so we can discuss.

Our **Private Adoption Program** was put into place years ago to provide owners who needed to rehome their rabbits a safe platform to do so. Any rabbits found, adopted through, or listed as a 'private adoption' are the sole responsibility of the current owner and/or the adopting party. They are not Safe Haven foster rabbits. We only offer this program as there are more rabbits needing re-homing than area rescues can accommodate. That need continues to grow.

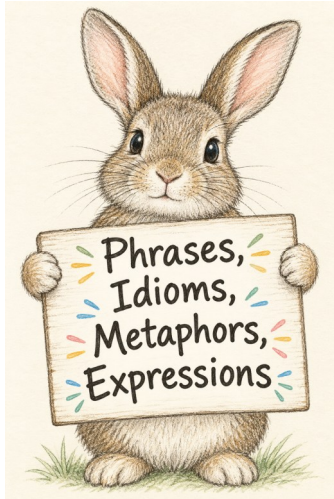
Please remind everyone that turning a rabbit loose is *Never* a good option. It often is a death sentence. There is other help, even if not right away. And, if you are looking to adopt, please remember to check out our listings under the [Privately Owned](#) Adoptables tab as well!

Bunnies Helping Bunnies is our third outreach program in place to help owners who are looking for support with various care issues. This program is only available on a limited basis, but has given owners the temporary help they need to be able to provide care for the rabbits they love.

We are most grateful to our donors who make these programs possible.  All programs are small in scope, of course, but it is our attempt to help as much as we  can.
We could not do it without you!

Did You Know....

By Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator



Did You Know there are phrases, idioms, metaphors, and expressions with the word bunny or rabbit in them. But **Do You Know** what those phrases, idioms, metaphors, and expressions mean and when or where they are thought to have originated? Here are some often spoken.

Dust Bunny. Describes a fluffy clump of dusty debris that accumulates under furniture or in corners. The earliest evidence of the metaphor was printed in a newspaper in Ohio in an article dated April 1952.

Cuddle Bunny. An endearing term meaning a loving and sweet person or animal that enjoys being held and cuddled.

Snuggle Bunny. Another endearing term meaning a loving and sweet person or animal that enjoy being held and snuggled.

Honey Bunny. A term of endearment towards another who is loved. Honey Bunny was too a comic book character that appeared in 1953 and was Bugs Bunny's cousin and then recreated in 1966 as a romantic partner.

Bunny Hugger. A person who is a passionate animal and/or nature advocate and/or activist. The phrase is believed to have first been used in 1983.

Bunny Boiler. Describes a woman, but can describe a man, who is seen to be dangerously obsessive and emotionally unstable after being rejected from a love interest. The slang term originated in 1987 from the movie Fatal Attraction.

Bunny Hop. A short jump that mimics the hop of a rabbit by slightly bending your knees while keeping them and your feet together and propelling yourself forward. Originating in the Spring of 1952, by the Balboa High School in San Francisco, California, as a novelty line dance. Later that year bandleader Ray Anthony wrote a tune to 'hop' to.

Dumb Bunny. Words used to describe or tease someone who doesn't have good sense and/or intelligence. It's meant to be taken lightheartedly and not maliciously. The phrase began in the early 1920s.

Snow Bunny. Started in the early 1950s and means an attractive female at a ski resort who is there more for the social scene than the sport itself. Later in years it also refers to a beginner skier.

Did You Know.... (Continued)

By Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator

Rabbit Food. Refers to a healthy lettuce salad and other nutritious raw vegetarian options a person chooses to eat.

Quick Like a Rabbit/Bunny. The ability to move quickly and with agility.

Go Down The Rabbit Hole. Its figurative meaning refers to diving into something complex and unknown. The phrase originated from the novel 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' by Lewis Carroll published July 1865.

Rabbit Ears. Refers to an old fashioned tv antenna, invented in 1953 by Marvin Middlemark, that sat atop a television set. The unit consisted of a domed base with two rods that stuck out on each side and were movable to tune for reception.

Breed Like Rabbits. Is said when people have many children in a short period of time.

Little Rabbits Have Big Ears. Is an old saying dating back to the early 1900s that implies one to be careful about what they say in the presence of children thus they overhear. It is a modification of an even older phrase from the 1500s, 'little pitchers have big ears', when pitchers had large curved side handles that were called ears. 'Ears Cocked Like Little Rabbits' is said also meaning the same.



Reggie
Rescued July 19, 2026

Reggie was brought into our rescue on July 19, 2026 as a special needs sanctuary so he could receive the veterinary care that he so obviously needed. Special thanks to Cheryl Bitner who saw him in a pet store and knew he was in trouble. When she called me, we discussed options and she offered to foster this medical needy bun.



We were hoping that most of his issues were related to his previous environment and crowded confinement. He adjusted quickly in Cheryl's care and seemed in disbelief about the cozy, soft and clean floor for his feet. No more wire cages. His personality blossomed, and it became clear that he definitely could see as well as hear.

Unfortunately, his blood test results are showing signs of liver dysfunction as well as a continuing infection. Treatment so far, has not improved his values. And while he has not lost weight, he has not gained weight as we would expect on a much improved diet. His excessive water consumption also continues.

Under our vet's guidance, we will continue with further testing to help determine the underlying causes of both concerns. Reggie underwent an ultrasound on Sept 29th which found no abnormalities. However, his blood tests still do show elevated values. So, we are holding off on his neuter and will re-check blood values in a few months.

Meanwhile, Reggie continues to win everyone's heart and is the sweetest boy ever. Even the vets say he is a "fantastic patient".

We know he has a forever home with Cheryl and has been the inspiration for our "Sanctuary Guardians" program!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Our bunnies would love for you to play Santa
and send some items their way for the holidays.

Holiday Wish List for rabbits who are naughty and nice

Small Pet Select 2nd cut Timothy Hay
Oxbow Large Timothy Mat
Science Selective Country Loops Rabbit Treats
Oxbow Digestive Support
Oxbow Simple Rewards Rabbit Treats
Oxbow Joint Support
Oxbow Timothy Hay Barrel
Oxbow Timothy Bungalow Hideout
Chewy eGift Card

All wish list items can be purchased thru
[CHEWY WISH LIST](#)

*The Bunnies will love
You for it!*

*Thank you in
Advance!*