



Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc.

Safe Haven Scoop

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New Officer!

Michelle Manderski has accepted the position of Secretary as of January 20th, 2014. Michelle will continue being our facebook voice as well.

Congratulations to and
Thank you, Michelle!



By Karen Augustynowicz, President

Finally! Spring has arrived!

After this long, rough winter, I'm sure everyone is as anxious as I am for the warmer weather! So, let's say *Welcome to Spring 2014* and to all the new and exciting opportunities it holds!

Safe Haven volunteers have gotten a jump on our spring fundraising activities. An earlier **Spring Bunny Spa** is set for April 12th—with appointments filling fast! And, of course, our **Bike for the Buns** event is on Saturday, June 14th! We do hope to see you there! The [website](#) is ready for your registrations. *More event details next page.*



she called Safe Haven.

Our newest rescue, Kelly, joined the Safe Haven fosters on March 12th. A tiny little lionhead female, Kelly was just 2.62 lbs on rescue. Seen running loose for at least 10 days, she was finally caught in a have-a-heart trap. The kind woman who caught her kept her safe in her horse barn. When all her “possible home” options were exhausted,

Kelly needs to gain a little weight prior to being spayed then (after Easter) will be available for adoption. She is a real sweetie pie :)

I hope you will find this newsletter entertaining and educational. I want to thank everyone who contributed their stories and write-ups. For it is our adopters, volunteers and friends who write with love about their bunnies, share their experiences and what they have learned who make this newsletter a fun, entertaining read.

As always, we welcome update stories and/or pictures from you! If you have photos to share or questions you would like to see answered in an up-coming newsletter, just [email](#) them to us! Have a Happy Spring! *Karen A.*

Spring Events!

Our Spring Bunny Spa!

Saturday, April 12, 2014

12 noon - 4pm

Cherrybrook Pet Supplies
704 North Ave., Garwood, NJ 07027

****Note: Different Location**

[....Read more](#)

Treat your bunny to a well-deserved, relaxing,
Spring Spa treatment!

[Register Today!](#)



Our 5th Annual "Bike For The Buns!"



Saturday, June 14, 2014

The 'Bike for the Buns' event is a noncompetitive, fundraising bicycle ride along the scenic towpaths within Bull's Island State Park, Stockton, NJ

We are looking forward to seeing you again and hope you will bring more friends and family to join in!

You'll not want to miss the picnic either!

Even those who do not ride bikes can register as non-riders to come and enjoy the day.

Visit our [Bike For The Buns! Website](#)

and [Register today](#)

Will you help us promote our events? These pdf flyers are perfect to post up at work, gyms, grocery stores, and wherever postings are allowed. Thanks for helping us spread the word! (Social Media too - or link them to our events page)

[Spa Event](#)

[Bike Event](#)

Did You Know?

By Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator

Most "Bunny" loving people find rabbit paraphernalia to be enchanting, whimsical and just downright fun. Just about any person who owns a rabbit will have a house filled with bunny-this and bunny-that. They have t-shirts with bunnies, bunny figurines, welcome plaques with bunnies, etc. and if like me find Easter (celebrated April 20th this year) and Spring (first day is March 20th this year) an excuse to indulge in anything and everything bunny.

DID YOU KNOW you can make some really cute and fun things for yourself, family and friends? Here are a few links to my favorite "Bunny" themed ideas that anyone can do.



How to fold a "Bunny" Napkin

(sorry but you may have to watch an ad first)

"Bunny" Bait Recipe

Fun-fetti Popcorn
(for people only, of course!)

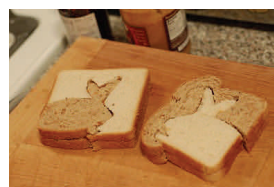


Orange "Bunny" Sweet Rolls Recipe

"Bunny" Money



Chocolate "Bunny" decor



Bunny Sandwiches

Enjoy, be creative and have fun sharing not only this time of year but all year.

Celebrate the bunny!

Who's in Charge Here Anyway?

By Gail Peterson, Safe Haven Volunteer

Ever rush home to feed the buns? Stop what you are doing because it is time for their salad? Tell a friend you have to get home early from the party because the buns will be mad?

I have; and in hindsight I should have been embarrassed – that sounds a little crazy. These little fuzzy creatures are too darn cute...and they know it. I've talked to some new bun owners, some with a few years of experience like myself, and some long-time rabbit people, and at some point in our lives with our lagomorph friends – the rabbits have taken over. They have subtly turned us into their slaves.

At first, there was this desire to get everyone on a schedule, including ourselves. That isn't such a bad thing because it means we set expectations for the buns about feeding, grooming and cleaning. It also helps us to fit their needs into our busy lives by having certain times for certain activities. But slowly, somehow, they figure out a way to "insist" on the schedule. They really do get mad if you are late. I first got the message from my Lionhead Bear when we were late home one night and although we had fed them before we left, they didn't get their normal nighttime top-up of hay until very late. Hay is his ultimate favorite food. When I went into their room, he turned and faced the wall. No one ran toward me, no one jumped for joy when the hay box was filled. Just a cold shoulder and tail in my direction. I vowed I wouldn't be late again. I told myself that the poor little guy must have been starving and that is why he was upset.

Then there was the purple pillow incident. Bear loves lying on his purple pillow. I fluff it, keep it clean, put it up high so he can perch on it and see his kingdom. That is where he likes to be so, of course, I'm going to accommodate his desires. Until, he wouldn't come OFF the purple pillow. Not for a brush, not for food, not for nothing. So, what did I do, I started feeding him on his pillow. He managed to trick me into that for several days; then I said, "what am I doing???" I finally realized what was going on and stopped putting his food and water near the pillow. No 5-pound cutie is going to get the best of me. *Who is in charge here I asked myself.*



In the past year, I've learned to take back control. They can wait until we get home to be fed. They can be inconvenienced when I'm cleaning their house. They can handle noises and people, even though they don't like them. This has been my house for more 20 years – I get to say what they can chew and what they can't. Of course I want them to be happy, but at whose expense? I'm not going to be their slave anymore. I'm in charge here!

Oh wait. Gotta run. Bear and Honey are calling me...



Hey Mom, could you bring another bowl of COLD water. This one has gotten warm.



Ask the Vet . . .

Question: My senior rabbit's eyes are beginning to look different to me. Can you explain age related eye changes and what tests there are that may help my rabbit's eyes remain as healthy as possible as she ages?

Kristina Vygantas, DVM, DACVO of NorthStar VETS in Robbinsville, NJ replied:

The most consistent change in the appearance of the eye in the aging rabbit is a slightly cloudy or milky appearance to the lens (visible within the pupil). This is a normal aging change that is not associated with any change in vision. It is not a cataract. You should not be concerned about this mild variation in appearance of the eye, as long as it is not associated with any other changes such as squinting, tearing, discharge, or increased redness to the white part of the eye (sclera and conjunctiva).

Your general veterinarian or a veterinary ophthalmologist can perform a thorough eye exam to more assess the health of your pet's eye. The first part of an eye exam consists of examination of general symmetry of the face and eyes. Are there any dis-similarities between the size of the eyes? Any change in position of the eye (deviated upwards, down, or out of the socket)? Any swelling or discoloration of the eyelids? Any discharge from the eye? Is the eye open or is the pet squinting one or both of its eyes? All of these findings can suggest underlying ocular disease, or abnormalities of the tissues around the eye.

Examination of the tissues of the eye with a directed light source and magnification is important to identify any abnormalities of the globe, such as cataract formation, corneal ulcers, or intraocular inflammation. Fluorescein stain can be applied to the surface of the eye to highlight any ulcers

(abrasions or scratches) on the surface of the eye (cornea). Intraocular pressure measurement with a tonometer (TonoPen or TonoVet) is essential to diagnose glaucoma (elevated intraocular pressure), a potentially blinding disease. The instrument is touched gently to the surface of the eye (with or without application of a topical numbing solution such as proparacaine) to obtain the measurement of intraocular pressure. The retina is the delicate nervous tissue in the back of the eye. Retinal health can be assessed with a special lens or a separate instrument (direct ophthalmoscope).

NorthStarVets is located at 315 Robbinsville-Allentown Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691
Phone: #609-259-8300.

www.northstarvets.com



If you've been lucky and have not had a vet trip recently, spring is also a good time to schedule a "well-bunny" check-up!

Safe Haven recommends all bunnies see their veterinarians regularly as the vet often can find little problems before they escalate into larger problems. Remember, rabbits love to hide illnesses from us!



A thorough examination, blood work and fecal test will help keep your bunny healthy and happy.

A first-aid kit is a must to keep on hand, but we don't want to have to use it often.



Educational Corner

by Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator

Sore Hocks

Pododermatitis (păd-ō-, dər-mə-'tīt-əs) *noun*. Inflammation of the skin of the foot with or without ulceration. Known as Bumble Foot and more commonly as **Sore Hocks** (in rabbits).

Sore Hocks is both a skin malady and musculoskeletal problem which affects, more commonly, the hind foot/feet of a rabbit. There are many reasons why a rabbit can become afflicted with Sore Hocks.

Sore Hocks often develops when the rabbit puts more weight on his **hocks** (the back part of his foot) than his toes. Unlike a dog or cat, rabbits do not have pads on the soles of their feet. Their feet are simply covered with the same fur as the rest of their body however on their feet it is denser.

Common reasons why Sore Hocks develop are wire caged flooring which does not support the foot correctly causing the rabbit to bear his weight incorrectly for prolonged periods of time (sometimes this time is forever). Flooring that is abrasive or rough and/or flooring that is hard and does not 'give' like natural ground that allows the foot to bend naturally can also be a factor. Unsanitary conditions in which the foot/feet are in constant contact with waste. Rabbits that have developed arthritis or other health conditions that cause them to bare their weight differently. Rabbits that are overweight. Toe nails that are too long. Excessive thumping. Carpet friction burns. Extended periods of confinement and immobility. Larger rabbit breeds seem more apt to develop Sore Hocks than smaller rabbit breeds and breeds such as the Rex that have short soft fur are more genetically inclined to develop this problem.

Whatever the cause, Sore Hocks has 3 clinical stages. The more advanced the condition the more painful it is for the rabbit.

Stage 1 is noted when the sole of the foot looses it's fur or the fur becomes compressed into the skin and visible skin is thickened. This usually begins as a small pink to red spot.

Stage 2 is noted to have thick callused skin with a small amount of bleeding. Area may or may not be infected. This stage is painful and visibly irritated.

Stage 3 is noted to have thick callused skin with open crusty sores. Bleeding and infection that can reach as deep as the bone are common and damaged skin is considered dead tissue. This stage is very painful and serious.

Always check your rabbit's feet and if you see Sore Hocks developing it is then very important, along with your veterinarian, to determine the cause and appropriate treatment as early as possible. You should also never trim away or cut back the fur on a rabbit's foot (even if the rabbit is a long haired breed) unless advised by your veterinarian for medical reasons. Prevention is ideal but even under the best care a rabbit can still develop Sore Hocks but with proper care and intervention this ailment is manageable.

Primary resources

<http://www.bio.miami.edu/hare/sorehocks.html>

http://www.medirabbit.com/EN/Skin_diseases/Mechanical/Pod/Podo.htm

<http://www.rabbitnetwork.org/articles/sorehocks.shtml>

This article is written to provide basic information and taken from sources considered reliable. Always consult with a Veterinarian who has knowledge and experience with rabbits regarding your rabbits health and needs.

Adoption Updates—Stories contributed by adopters

Huckleberry

Adopted July 16, 2013

by Diane Carley



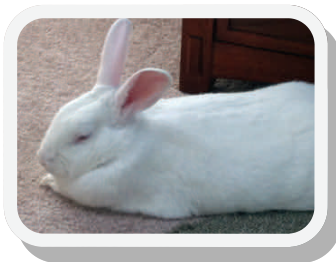
Huckleberry is doing great! He's a very happy and relaxed bunny. He has an enclosure, which he visits often, but since he has proven himself to be a minimal chewer, he not been confined since September.

I have rabbit-proofed all wires and provide him with an ever-changing array of boxes, untreated baskets, hay houses and such to keep him occupied and this seems to keep him away from carpet chewing. He does not do stairs so I carry him up and down, but he most prefers the upstairs in my large sunny bedroom.

After we were together for about 1 month, I started brushing him with a soft, natural bristle brush twice a day and this was our best bond-builder. Now he is always on my bed and seeking pet and brush sessions.



Huckleberry is gentle and curious with my young nieces and nephews when they visit. My mom came to live with me in August and she loves Huck too! She insists he also have a mid-day salad in addition to am and pm. His greens are primarily dandelion greens (his favorite) with lesser amounts of chicory, green leaf or romaine. His favorite non-greens are broccoli and banana, but he also will (less hardily) eat apple, pear, grapes or carrot. He currently weighs 11.5 lbs and loves his hay from Country Pet. I clip his toenails and he appears very healthy but I will take him to the vet for a check-up in March.



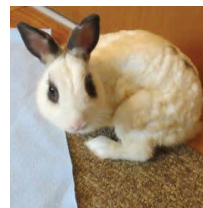
Thank you again for hooking me up with Huck! I love him dearly; he is also the boss of me!

Colt

Adopted September 13, 2013

by Zoe Kharpertian

Last February I lost my bunny companion of 7 years, a dwarf/rex mix named Aurora. While I wasn't yet ready for another bunny in my life, I knew I would eventually be so. I had heard of Safe Haven through a mutual friend, so I contacted Karen and let her know I would be interested in a rescue bunny down the road.



Over the next few months I periodically checked the Safe Haven website for new arrivals; the buns were all adorable, but none really "spoke to me." Then one day I clicked on this photo.

It was as if that little bunny jumped right out of the screen into my life. I emailed Karen immediately. Was he available?

Not yet. He'd been rescued from a llama farm, where he and his little brother had lived in a feral state for the past year. Sadly, his brother had not survived, but Colt was now in good hands. I put in my request and filled out the necessary paperwork.

A few weeks later I got the happy news--Colt was available for adoption! We set a date to go and meet the little critter in person. He was tiny, and timid, and cuddled into my shoulder like he belonged there, hardly stirring.

There was never any doubt in my mind this was the bunny for me. A few days later Karen brought him to our house in Montclair. He was a great traveler, and he settled in fine, quietly resting in his spacious pen. In the beginning, he didn't seem very interested in the plethora of toys I had scattered around for him. My desk is just outside his pen, and he spent a lot of time just sitting and staring at me while I worked.

Needless to say, it was hard to concentrate! I

Adoption Updates (Continued)



was surprised at how quiet he was, and once he was accustomed to his new home, I let him out of his pen and gave him free run of my office. He timidly explored the far corners and was happy to come and sit on my lap for treats. A very, quiet, docile bunny.....

And then he turned into a teenager.

Suddenly, my formerly tranquil bunny had *no* interest in being held or cuddled, or even sitting still. He became intent on careening around my office at top speed, climbing to impossible heights, rearranging everything inside-and outside--his pen, and getting himself repeatedly wedged into two-inch spaces behind furniture and bookcases.

Kicking up his heels at me as he raced away seemed to be his favorite form of interaction--though when he calmed down enough for his curiosity to surface, Mom's lap was suddenly an interesting place to explore, especially if the jackpot of treats was available!

At first I worried about this change in his personality, but after doing a bit of research, I came to realize it was absolutely normal for his age, and probably reflected his growing comfort with his new surroundings. Now I take great pleasure in just watching his antics and enjoying his company. His personality is charming, energetic, and boyish. He has his definite likes and dislikes and his little rituals--a new litterbox must be moved around to the perfect spot, and the fresh



litter tested to see how far he can kick it out of its box--but only on the first two days. He prefers his hay served separately, and he likes to have "bunny playtime"--release time from his pen--as early in the day as possible, NOT in the afternoon, thank you, which is invariably reserved for naptime after an exhausting morning.

My little Colt is a true treasure, and has brought such brightness and joy into my life.

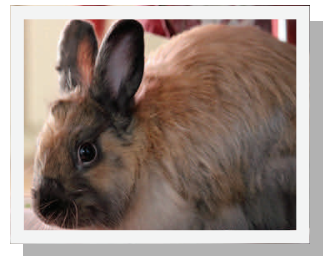


Thank you so much, Safe Haven, for bringing us together!!!

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Ruby (formerly Rita)
Adopted November 11, 2012
by Sherry Totaro

For many years I had wanted to adopt a pet. My cousin had obtained a house rabbit for her daughter in early 2012 and I was able to witness firsthand what a good option a rabbit could be as a pet. After quite a bit of research, I determined a rabbit would be a good fit for me and my lifestyle.

In the fall of 2012, I was doing a little "window shopping" on Petfinder when the look in the eyes of a certain bunny captured my attention. My intent had been to wait until the spring to adopt, but once I saw those eyes; I knew I had to check them out. On October 27th, two days before hurricane Sandy hit New Jersey, I rode out to Safe Haven to look into those eyes in person.



I met Ruby and it felt like we bonded instantly, I

Adoption Updates *(Continued)*

knew this was the bunny for me. When I picked her up, it was like she had been waiting for me to show up. She sat quietly in my arms for the entire time I was there. Karen agreed that we seemed to be a good fit.

The first couple of weeks, Ruby was on her best behavior. She spent the time out of her pen checking things out and marking her territory. Right around week six, I noticed a change take place. If I stopped petting her, she would “dig” at my hands to signal she wanted me to continue. If she wanted something to eat she would also get a little aggressive and let me know. I told Karen it seemed like Ruby thought she was the boss of me. Karen commented that she was surprised Ruby had let me think I was the boss for so long! The first time I saw Ruby laying stretched out on the floor to her full length, I knew she felt she was at home.

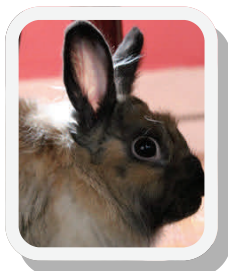


Almost a year and a half later, we have settled into a relationship of mutual love and respect. Our inter-personal communication skills have improved greatly. I give Ruby LOTS of attention most every day and she lets me.

We've had a couple of bumps in the road when Ruby may not feel like eating, for whatever reason. In these instances Karen has been an invaluable resource.

Rabbits are not low maintenance pets, sometimes I feel like taking care of Ruby is my second job. There are salads to be made and pens to be cleaned. It amazes me how such a small bunny can make such a big mess!

Yes; Ruby is a messy, bossy little diva of a bunny, but I wouldn't want her any other way.



Most Recent Adoptions



Darla

*Adopted February 2, 2014
by Tina, Owen &
Luke Dykstra*



Sam

*Adopted February 2, 2014
by Justin & Carol Gold*



Taco

*Adopted December 28, 2013
by Brielle Adamson*

Congratulations All!

Happy Spring!!

