

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.

By Karen Augustynowicz, Director

Welcome, Spring..... At least that is what the calendar says! Here in New Jersey I, for one, am still waiting for its arrival!

The months since our last newsletter have been very busy! Even though we are not doing our large events like the Bun-nanza anymore, we continue our outreach and education via email, zoom calls, and old fashioned phone calls. Easter brought multiple calls from photographers and those holding Easter Egg Hunts who wanted our rabbits to participate in their events. I spoke with several to explain how unnecessary and wrong it was to subject rabbits to both situations. We did attend one Easter Egg Hunt with posters and information, but all the rabbits stayed safely at home.

The increase in owner surrender requests and the number of rabbits being released continues its upward spiral. All rabbit rescues continue to try and bring in as many as they possibly can, but the numbers needing care continue to overwhelm us all. Our Private Adoption listing program has been helpful to several of those that could not find placement in a rescue and we hope owners will continue understand it can take time to re-home animals they wish to re-home. We have been successful in helping owners find new homes for their rabbits through their involvement in the process without our or another rescue's involvement.

I hope you will find this newsletter entertaining and educational. Special thanks to Linda Torlay for her always informative and fun contributions to each edition.

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 upcoming newsletter, just email them to us!

Have a Happy Spring (whenever it gets here!)
Stay Safe & Keep your bunnies safe,

*With sincere thanks,
Karen Augustynowicz, Director*



Donate



★ *Educational Corner* ★
by Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator



Scent Glands



Ever wonder why your rabbit smells so good when you nuzzle him behind his ears, or why he rubs his chin on various items? Or maybe you have noticed at some time a peculiar odor at his back end.

Rabbits, like other species, have many various glands for various purposes, and in this article I will talk about the scent glands. Particularly, those which are located under the chin (submandibular gland) and those on each side of the genital area (perineal/inguinal glands).

The primary purpose of scent glands is that of communication by smell by releasing pheromones and/or secretions that serve as sexual attractants, the establishment of objects or territory, individual and group identification, and to help a rabbit know what has already been explored and is familiar territory.

‘Chinning’ is the term used when a rabbit rubs the underneath part of his chin on something or someone and is a prime example of scent marking. In doing so, the gland, which you can not see, releases a pheromonal secretion, which you can not see, and is the individual’s ‘personal calling card’. Females mark their kits in this manner too.

The perineal glands are found within the inguinal skin folds on each side of a rabbit’s genitals. These glands produce a waxy, dark brown to black in color, sticky to hard in texture substance, that is ‘skunky’ in smell, and will build up within the skin folds if a rabbit is not grooming well enough. Unlike the scent gland in the chin that is rubbed on surfaces the perineal glands secrete upon defecation and/or urination which is used to mark territory. This is not only important for house rabbits but wild rabbits too and the gland size within will vary with age, social status, and sexual activity.

House rabbits, especially those who are older, tend to need help keeping their perineal glands clean so they do not become blocked with hardened build up.

A rabbit savvy veterinarian or someone who is experienced in rabbit grooming can check and clean the inguinal skin folds. This needs to be done carefully and gently so delicate skin is not torn. A q-tip dampened with warm water usually can lift the excess build up away but if it is hardened or stuck a q-tip dampened with a little K-Y jelly lubricant (or similar lubricant) or vegetable oil will assist in loosening the hardened and lodged build up away from the skin so it can be gently removed.

Adoptables

A few of the bunnies looking for their forever home.



Luke and his siblings were stow-a-ways when their Momma was rescued. Born July 1, 2023, Luke would love a forever home.

Luke is excellent with his litter box skills, and loves to eat! He has been fine with his rugs so far. He does like to zoom around and appreciates the traction they give him. He is a very sweet guy and loves attention and pets. Last weigh-in he was 9.7 lbs.



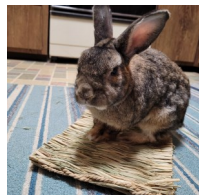
Ayden, is the biggest of Luke's siblings, born July 1, 2023. If you love the bigger, teddy bear bunnies, Ayden is your boy! Ayden is excellent with his litter box skills, and loves his hay.

He and brother Luke are almost identical, but Ayden is just a little bigger at 11.3 lbs. (yes, you read that right)

Ayden is a mush who will flatten out for pets. He loves people and attention. Ayden is not kind to rugs, so he needs lots of cardboard and bags to amuse him.

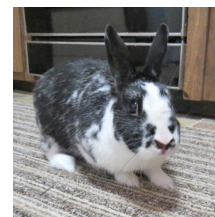
All adoptable rabbits are spayed/neutered, litterbox trained and vaccinated against RHDV2. To apply, read through our adoption [policy](#) and fill out our [application](#).

Sponsorships Needed



Wyatt joined Safe Haven on Jan 31, 2023. Coming from a hoarder situation, he was very underweight and dehydrated. He could hardly move from being confined in a tiny cage all his life. About 8 years old, he seems years older. Surprisingly, he is not afraid or timid at all. He loves food and is almost perfect with his litter-box skills already. Wyatt is getting stronger everyday and we know your sponsorship will give him a big smile!

[Sponsor](#) Wyatt Today!



Ashley has experienced issues with bladder sludge since young. Since her condition has only improved slightly, we felt it best that she remain in our care.

Ashley needs sub-q fluids ever other day as well as four medications twice a day. She also needs a vet visit every few months to have her bladder expressed as she just cannot clear it on her own. Your sponsorship will help us pay for her on-going care.

[Sponsor](#) Ashley Today!

Did You Know...

By Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator

Did You Know the association of Spring with rabbits started long ago and is a shared association throughout time and cultures.

Spring itself is seen as a time of renewal and rebirth. Plants wake and come back to life after being dormant from winter's sleep and it is a time when many animal species give birth. The rabbit itself symbolizes rebirth/fertility and in cooler climates the warming up of Spring brings on mating season for many animals with short gestation periods, including rabbits, and because rabbits are on the move in search of mates, they are often seen more than they would be other times of the year.

The Germanic Goddess of Spring, Eostre/Ostara, was envisioned to be friendly with rabbits and/or hares and would celebrate the arrival of Spring with them. Because Spring is also associated with the renewal of nature and its rebirth/fertility following winter, it is logical that the rabbit be linked with her in that the rabbit is seen most during Spring.

The tale of Eostre differs depending on the source because of the lack of written records. Reconstructing most Germanic and Anglo-Saxon pagan practices, which is where the tale is believed to have started, is challenging because when the Christian church gained power it set out to abolish all traces of those beliefs and practices. Very little information survived either thru scholarly sources or second-hand sources and if a source did survive it is rare and without much information.



A document of a 7th Century Monk known as Venerable Bede survived but that document only made reference to Eostre dedicating the month of April (known as Eosturmonath) to her. One of the brothers Grimm (Jacob Grimm) in 1835 wrote a study of Germanic and Norse mythology but only noted the connection between Eostre and the broader Germanic religion. Anglo-Saxons were a branch and younger generation of the Germanic people but retained much of the culture, language, and religious connections that were passed down.

Other sources say being Eostre was associated with Spring, and because rabbits are associated with Spring, it was assumed that Eostre was associated with rabbits due to lack of hard evidence otherwise.

Today we fill in the gaps from the bits of information we do have and hypothesize what might have been and celebrate Spring, rabbits, and the Goddess of Spring all the same.

Rabbit Jokes

Submitted by Linda Torlay



What did the rabbit use to propose to his girlfriend?

A: A 24-carrot ring!

Where did the rabbit go for a trim?

A: The Hare dressers!

Why are rabbits like a coin?

A: Because it has a head on one end and a tail on the other!

What is a rabbit's favorite game?

A: Hopscotch!

How do you know a rabbit is in a good mood?

A: He's Hoppy!



What do rabbits say before they eat?

A: Lettuce pray!

Where do bunny bride and grooms go after their wedding?

A: On their Bunnymoon!

What do you say to a rabbit on its birthday?

A: Hoppy Birthday!

What is a rabbit's favorite music?

A: Hip-Hop!

What kind of books do rabbits like to read?

A: Stories with Hoppy endings!

What do you call a joke-telling rabbit?

A: A funny Bunny!

Getting out the word....



Safe Haven volunteers saw a table at a local Easter Egg Hunt as an opportunity to talk to parents who might be thinking about getting their child a real bunny for Easter. Our posters, of course, encouraged to Give Baskets, Not Bunnies and similar messages.

Astrid Hesse joined me that day and we do feel that at least a few of the parents we spoke with gained a new perspective and had a change of mind. It was a fun, although cold and windy day, and well worth the effort.

Need a bunny themed gift? Check out our [On-line Store!](#)



Many of the items are handmade or created just to help the bunnies of Safe Haven. Just in time to help you find that unique present or buy a special gift for yourself.

All proceeds go directly toward caring for our foster & sanctuary bunnies!

[Go to Store!](#)

*Take care - We'll be in touch soon!!
Enjoy the warmer weather!*