



Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc.

Safe Haven Scoop

Stories to Tell *By Karen Augustynowicz, President*

Safe Haven rescues rabbits from a wide variety of situations. Many times they are injured or sick; often times frightened after being abandoned or neglected. Thankfully, these wonderful animals seem to be very resilient, forgiving and loving. Each one has their own story to tell. . . .*wouldn't it be wonderful if they could?* Most of the rescues we take in are strays with no known background, others are rescued out of dangerous, neglectful situations and, a few are owner surrenders.

During the second half of 2008, Safe Haven assisted with two major rescues involving hoarder situations. The most recent involved 35 rabbits, most under 6 months of age, confiscated by the NJSPCA in northern NJ. The deplorable conditions these rabbits had to endure were horrendous. Bite wound injuries were numerous; mostly a result of having to fight over the little bit of food they were provided. Safe Haven helped the NJSPCA relocate all the rabbits to rescue organizations and shelters and took in three little boys; two suffering from severe bite wounds. Thankfully, with care and antibiotics, their wounds are healing and, with ravenous appetites, they are gaining weight and are just about ready for adoption. Pictured below are those 3 boys; along with our very latest rescue. . . . a little girl I named Chloe who was abandoned in a city apartment building foyer.

My part in all of their stories is that of the "middle man". It is my hope that Safe Haven is just a stopping, healing, 'start over' point in each of their stories. For it is in their adoptive forever homes that they *really* blossom. With room to run and play, lots of attention and pets, the once neglected, frighten rabbit becomes a much loved, relaxed, well cared for member of the family.

In this time of so many worries, I hope you will enjoy reading this issue of our newsletter as we share our favorite part of the bunnies stories. . . . as told by their adoptive families. Being encouraged to reach their full potential as an indoor companion animal while still being "allowed" to be a rabbit is my ultimate goal for all of them.

As the bunnies journey into this new phase of their life, not only is the experience of being a house bunny new to them; for many, living with a house bunny is also new to their humans. So it is a learning experience on both sides; one filled with many "why did you do that!"; "I never thought he. . ."; "why can't she just sit still?"; "just so darn cute!" expressions. But, thankfully, humans *can* be trained and while it is a huge job to teach their humans along the way, I know the bunnies are up to the task!

Need a Special Gift? Give the Gift of Warmth and Love

A Holiday Gift Sponsorship!!

Your \$25 Gift Sponsorship will send a personalized holiday card to the gift recipient. A real, in the mail, card - not an e-card! This keepsake holiday card will include a photo and bio of the rabbit you selected as well as a personalized holiday message.

Here are just few of the bunnies who would love your sponsorship! Visit our website or use the form on the last page of this newsletter to make your selection. The bunnies Thank You!



Devin



Danny



Sherman



Chloe

Adoption Updates (Stories contributed by new parents)

Thank you to all who sent in write-ups!

Everyone, and especially me, loves to hear how our adoptees are doing! Their stories continue.....

Tugger

Adopted August 28, 2008

by the Scurletis Family

(Story written by daughter, Eleni)

Tugger's Diary

First Day:

Hey ... I'm Tugger and this is my Diary. I have just moved from Karen's great home into a new house. I miss my bunny friends, but I guess it is okay here. There is a black furry dog that kind of scares me and four family members. I am not so sure which one is my owner, but I am trying to figure that out. I haven't gotten to do much but right now I think I will just rearrange my home.



First Week:

I have been here for a week now and I am starting to really like it. The dog isn't that bad actually, only when he wants to go out. I am starting to think that the little girl and mother are my owners. They are good to me and I love how I get a Papaya Tablet every morning! I am working on my wood blocks now. Just keep chewing, just keep chewing!!! I love running around, though my owners seem to be surprised when I jump up on the furniture ... I'm not sure if they are angry. Most of the time I can tell they love me. I mean everyone does ... *right?*

My Birthday:

Something weird happened yesterday ...

Everyone in the family made a huge deal over me. When they woke up in the morning they were ALL over me!! I got this weird chunk of food. It was an apple with a grape on top and a pointy thing holding it together. It was REALLY good though. I got a new block of wood shaped as a bear too. I sure felt *special!*

About two weeks after my arrival:

I have my daily routine now. In the morning I eat and rest. In the afternoon I get some playing time. And at night I get to run around but always, before I'm put back into my pen, I cuddle with my family. I miss my bunny friends and Karen who took care of me, and hopefully I will see them again. I also hope that my friends got a great home and are having fun. Other than missing them, it is really fun here!

About a month and a half since I arrived:

I have been here for a month and half at this moment. I will now give this diary to my bunny friends and previous owner Karen. Now you guys can see how I'm doing and all. This home is great and so was yours Karen.

I am a very grateful, lucky, and happy bunny.



Note from family:

Tugger is a VERY sweet rabbit. He has a spunky personality and a huge heart. He loves to place his front paws on your lap and have his face and ears gently massaged. When on your lap, he likes to settle into any indent he can find. We love him dearly and we would like to thank Karen for giving us this wonderful rabbit.

From: Tugger, Eleni, Jamie, Dennis, Zoe, and Lucky (the dog)



A cute snuggle between Bella (formerly Raeline) and her beau, Tucker! Sent in by momma, LouAnn Stewart

****Special Note:** Congratulations to all of Bella's babies who celebrated their 2nd Birthday, November 19th at 11:35 pm!! Happy Birthday to Biggles, Brodie, Mindy, Brandi, Gracie and Harley!!

Adoption Updates (continued)

Becki*Adopted June 14, 2008**by Andrea Parkin*

As manager of nutrition programs at two area schools, I often hear students say "Keep the Change" or I have witnessed it ending up on the cafeteria floor. So, I labeled a jar and put it beside the cash register with a sign saying "Keep the Change". It quickly began to fill. Now, I needed a charity to donate it to!

Having a rabbit myself (Ratt), I knew that I wanted that money donated to a rescue that helps rabbits and other animals. I had already picked out some other choices for the donation for the students to vote on and I needed one more. Searching the web, I found Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue's website. I knew I shouldn't look at the available rabbits, but, I did. And there she was.....Becki! A big, white New Zealand with big ears and pink eyes! She had a twin sister too named Pearl who was just as pretty. I called Karen and went out to see the twin girls.



Although I loved Pearl, Becki stole my heart and I knew I had to have her! So, on a fine day in June, Becki got a forever home. Since I had never bonded rabbits before, when Karen delivered Becki she offered guidance on the best way to handle Ratt and Becki's pending romance. I did exactly what Karen said and two weeks later they were the best of friends.

On the advice of Karen, we added a large pen area for Ratt and Becki to run in and are adding more to their area as I type this. At night it is so funny to hear them racing around and playing. Becki is a big eater and knows when breakfast and dinner are to be served. She patiently sits up and waits until I come with the food. Then the patience is over when the bowl hits the ground as she becomes an eating machine! I have even seen her tear parsley out of poor Ratt's mouth! But, he doesn't care... he adores her! She loves to snuggle and be petted. Sleeping is one of her favorite past-times, except tossing the water bowl which she is an expert at.

Ratt and Becki have become the mascots for a group that I run on BunSpace called Bunnies In Need. We try to help rabbits that are having financial difficulties getting medical help, foster parents or food. Everyone really loves them and our members have helped quite a few rabbits.

I can't thank Karen enough for the wonderful job she does with these rabbits. They are healthy and happy at Safe Haven while

they await their forever homes. She is truly an earth angel.

So, the story ends with Becki finding a forever home, Safe Haven winning the "Keep the Change" for over \$300.00 and our school sponsoring "Biggles"!



Thank you Karen and Safe Haven!

Jewels (formerly Julie)*Adopted March 22, 2008**by Loretta Ranieri*

Jewels has been quite the journey!



It was not a decision we took lightly to bring another rabbit home to Picasso, who was the King now for 3 years and seemed to be content.

I liked the picture of Jewels, she seemed cute, and was a baby girl, which I had been wanting. Well, her picture did not do her justice! She was 'way cuter' in person! She has the most precious face, and always looks guilty; it is a riot. She has so much energy and is always challenging me with her antics.

About a month ago, she gave us quite a scare. I thought I was pretty familiar with most bunny illnesses, since this was my 6th bunny, but what was about to happen was a very frightening adventure. I think it is important to share, so others know what it is and how to react.

One Friday evening we were watching a movie and we heard what appeared to be a rabbit losing their footing. I raced to the bunny room, to find Jewels flipping in circles, her whole body was stiff, and her eyes rolled back in her head. In a matter of minutes it stopped and she seemed fine. I brought her to the living room and she had 2 more seizure type episodes. We raced her to a 24 hour veterinary hospital, where she spent the night in critical care. After numerous tests, they felt she probably had e-cuniculi and treated her with Panacur (fendbendazole). On Monday, I spoke with my vet, who said that 90% of the time, it is an inner ear infection and thought she should be on Bay-tril. I had to agree, after all the research I had done all weekend about seizures in bunnies. She also had an ear

Adoption Updates *(continued)*

culture test positive for an infection, so it seemed the proper protocol. Also, he told me that there were not enough studies on how Panacur affects rabbits, so I stopped that treatment. He said that one of her blood test was high, and that she may have cancer, I was hysterical, as you can imagine.

This whole episode caused me to take pause and find a neutral party, Dr. Briggs, of Fischer Veterinary Hospital, whom I have been immensely happy with. As it turns out, Jewels does not have cancer and she has never had another seizure episode since. Even though Jewels tested positive for e-cuniculi, that just means she may have been exposed at some point in her life. I truly believe she had an inner ear infection and the panic from the first and second vets was all for naught. I guess I had to experience this to find Dr. Briggs, who seems to be a caring and knowledgeable vet.

As for Picasso and Jewels getting along, it only took about 3-4 days, and they have been inseparable ever since. We are so thankful for the treasure we have in our lives!



Sincerely, Loretta, Ed, and Picasso

*Editors note: Loretta's experience warns us all to be sure we know where we would take our rabbit in an after hours emergency situation. Also, please be aware that most veterinarians are not experienced with rabbits and the emergency clinic most likely will **not** have a rabbit savvy veterinarian on call. Do not be afraid to question the care being recommended! A good on-line site to become familiar with is MediRabbit.com. Educate yourself on common bunny ailments and proper protocols of treatment. Print out the list of safe and dangerous drugs for rabbits; and keep it handy ..it could be a lifesaver.*

Abby ("Abigail") and the former confirmed bachelor, Buddy!
Photo by parents: Alison Tamborlane and Michel Scheffers



Socks

Adopted April 4, 2008
by Caitlin Mahony

When Socks joined our family in early April, she was a little reserved and shy. Gradually, she became less hesitant



and she is now quite comfortable in our home. She has even done some remodeling of her own inside her hidey house. She has a healthy appetite and looks forward to her salads, pellets, and fresh hay. She LOVES her bedtime treat and kisses on the top of her head.

Socks enjoys running around the kitchen, and she rotates her favorite spots to lounge about. She is very tidy with her litter box-although she likes to spread her hay around-and gives herself many baths a day. She is a persistent explorer and conquered several barriers to investigate rooms adjacent to the kitchen.....until we finally put in Socks proof baby gates!

It has been gratifying to see Socks warm up to being petted and picked up. Although she always seemed to enjoy company, she was a little nervous about being approached. She now approaches us, seeking to be petted and will even climb up onto a chair to sit next to me. Socks and I also have a common interest in Yoga. She is quite talented and flexible, creatively inventing her own poses. She does her stretches on her pink rug, although I prefer bringing my mat to the Yoga studio. She alternates these routines with gymnastics and sprints, hopping and twisting in the air. I look forward to her performances as I eat my breakfast. We also enjoy snuggling together on the couch and sitting and watching TV.



Socks has made several new friends and fans, although she tends to retreat to her hidey house when there is a crowd in the kitchen. I am so happy to be Sock's owner. She is a joy to take care of. She truly is a special rabbit, with a personality I appreciate. I enjoy sharing my home with her and I think she feels the same way.

Many thanks to Karen for helping bring Socks into our home.

Caitlin and the Mahony family

Most Recent Adoptions



Becki
Adopted by
Andrea Parkin
6/14/2008



Hank
Adopted by
Beverly Kistler
6/24/2008



Tugger
Adopted by
the Scurletis Family
8/28/2008



Jazzy
Adopted by
Holly Sweeney-Hillman
11/3/2008



Luca
Adopted by
Helen Chen
11/9/2008

We look forward to sharing their stories in an upcoming newsletter!



Stella
Adopted by
Beverly Kistler
11/16/2008

Join Us Today!

\$15 Annual Membership includes membership card and newsletters.

All membership and donation monies go directly to help pay medical costs (vet bills, spays, neuters) so that we may continue to rescue more bunnies!

Foster Homes Needed!
There are many bunnies needing care! If you can foster one or two, short or long term, please let us know.

Love-A-Bun? Please Sponsor One!

Visit our website for details on our Sponsorship program! A personalized photo/story card from the bunny you select will be sent to you or your gift recipient.

A great gift or holiday idea!

Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc. is a federally recognized, tax-deductible 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.



Please Print Clearly! (For gift sponsorships-please fill in recipient's name & address)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

___ 1 year membership - \$15

___ Sponsorship - \$25 for _____ (Bunny's Name) *If gift, Your Name* _____

___ Donation - Any amount greatly appreciated!!



Please make check payable to: Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc.
and mail to PO 5057, Clinton, NJ 08809

THANK YOU!

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