

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.

A beautiful time of year.....

By Karen Augustynowicz, Director



Fall is always one of my favorite seasons. It just never seems to last long enough! Before we know it, winter will be here. The bunnies seem to like it too. Even though they are always in the house, of course. They love it when the windows are open and the fresh crisp air can circulate.

I also love Thanksgiving! Not so much for all the food, but more for the thoughts promoted by the holiday. And so, in this newsletter, we

wanted to be sure to convey our thoughts of how thankful we are for the generosity shown by our volunteers and donors.

We explain how we made adjustments in our fundraising efforts due to the threat of RHDV2 and introduce you to a few new bunnies!

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.



Donate



The Volunteers Behind Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue

By Gail Petersen, Safe Haven Officer & Foster Caregiver

Every nonprofit organization has the unnamed, unknown people who help to keep the charity running. In the case of Safe Haven, they are working for the lives and best interests of the rabbits. Everyone who volunteers contributes to the health, safety, sanctuary life or adoption of the rabbits that are taken in through the rescue.

Next May 2023, we will celebrate the rescue's 20th Anniversary! Many things have changed in twenty years, but the number of rabbits needing help continues to grow. Safe Haven has always been a rescue/sanctuary. But, in recent years, has shifted more toward the sanctuary focus. Rabbits are living longer, need more care as they get older and are often discarded by owners in their later years. Or they come in with congenital deformities or conditions due to inbreeding.

Creating the sanctuary for certain rabbits that can't or won't be adopted is another level of care. Many have too many medical needs to be adopted. It is a full-time job to care for all these beautiful fur friends and still keep the finances and the food coming. It is a dedication most people can't claim in their life. Karen works hard every day and keeps the wheels turning.

But she doesn't do it alone. Our small group of dedicated volunteers wear many hats.



Individual volunteers conduct some of the rescues. Going out in all-weather to find and rescue rabbits that have been reported running free in parking lots, woods, or backyards. It can take days or weeks to eventually capture the rabbits and get them safely to a foster home. They then need medical care, attention, spay or neutering, and hopefully can be readied for adoption. Those that are not adoptable have a lifelong home in one of our foster homes.

Foster homes are our most valuable asset. Foster parents take on rabbits that have been brought into the rescue. Making room in their homes, setting them up in a comfortable space and ensuring their vet care and needs are met. Some are adoptable, some are sanctuary buns.

Some volunteers drive rabbits from our rescue to another rescue that has a potential adoptee. Some act as a portion of a rescue train, driving from one location to another, where another person picks them up and takes them the next 50 miles, and so on until they reach their locations – a permanent home or another rescue.

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The Volunteers Behind Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue

By Gail Petersen, Safe Haven Officer & Foster Caregiver (continued)

There are volunteers who have dedicated their time to creating the graphics for publicity or educational programs. Making sure that the rabbits are shown in a respectful and appropriate manner. One volunteer artist has made items to sell at events or in our on-line store.

No less important are the volunteers who write this newsletter, provide recipes for rabbit treats, sit on the Board of Directors, and provide supportive, new and valuable information to the other volunteers for helping rabbits.

Other people offer their time and dedication to the rescue and the rabbits when the need arises. Pre-Covid and RHDV2 that meant helping at educational/fundraising events, now it may be helping with virtual fundraising or virtual education!

Throughout this newsletter you will see examples of just some of activities that have kept our small team of volunteers busy lately! If you would like to join our team, just let us know!

The most important volunteers to the rescue are our donors. The rabbits need vet care, medications, food, toys, blankets, housing, cardboard, litterboxes, litter, and lots and lots of lettuce! We are grateful to our donors who provide the funds for these items and make the rabbits lives healthy and happy.

Thank You All!

Have you been thinking about fostering? Do you have questions? We would love to talk to you!



Safe Haven does not have a public facility. All our rescues/sanctuaries are housed in foster homes. Foster families are who define us and make it possible to bring rabbits into our care.

◇ Foster homes are people generally experienced in caring for rabbits, who have room in their homes to house, exercise, socialize, and care for a rabbit(s) according to provided SHRR guidelines.

◇ Foster rabbits are required to be housed INDOORS ONLY in a separate pen from a fosterer's own rabbits. Each foster rabbit must get adequate run time every day, in a safe, bunny proofed environment.

◇ SHRR will provide a housing setup for the rabbit (exercise pen), along with basic supplies (litter box, food & water bowls, etc.) as well as hay and pellets. Foster homes are responsible for providing fresh greens daily. SHRR can also provide some toys and other extras for foster bunnies.

◇ Does SHRR have lots of rules? You bet! Of course we do. Is it rewarding? Absolutely.

◇ SHRR requests a minimum of a one year commitment for new foster homes unless adoption occurs sooner. Both “adoptables” and “sanctuary” rabbits can be fostered. Sanctuary fostering is long-term.

That is just a quick overview to give you an idea. Contact us via [email](#) or fill-out our [Volunteer](#) application and we can start the conversation. Looking forward to speaking with you soon!

The Bunnies will thank you with all their hearts.

Our first Virtual Fundraiser - The 2022 Goat Games

Friday, August 12th - Monday, August 15th, 2022

In 2020, **Catskill Animal Sanctuary**, Saugerties, NY created The Goat Games as a response to their urgent fundraising needs during COVID. The following year, they selected sanctuaries across the country to participate and the Games grew to a total of 10 teams, raising thousands of dollars to help save animals!







This year, Catskill Animal Sanctuary partnered with thirteen other GFAS-certified farmed animal sanctuaries from coast to coast. The "Goat Games" is a virtual event that challenges human participants to run, walk, bike, hike, or complete any activity of their choosing to raise money for a participating sanctuary. Safe Haven was thrilled to be able to participate! When I asked for



volunteers, everyone had questions and weren't sure how it worked or how we would do. But, we knew we had to fundraise to help the bunnies, so we just jumped in and figured it out as we went along. It was new, fun and a friendly competition.

Four of our volunteers, Astrid Hesse, Emiliya Shotwell, Karen Augustynowicz and Yumi Nakayama were joined by two adopters, Jennifer Rutberg and Kate Shinko to make up our team of six. And, we did great!

We set a lofty goal of \$10,000 and we reached it!! We finished in 5th place with \$8,594.47!! Plus, due to the generosity of our donors, we met the last days challenge to "raise a minimum of \$1000 between Sunday 8/14 and Monday 8/15". We did it and earned an extra match of \$2,500!

The Games		
The Athletes		
The Donors		
Sort - [icon] Search by Name [input] Go		
 <p>Astrid Hesse Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue</p> <p>My name is Finnegan and I am a tiny bunny with a BIG heart, literally! That's what my doctors said when they...</p> <p>TOTAL RAISED: \$1,271.82 GOAL AMOUNT: \$1,000</p> <p>VIEW ASTRID'S PAGE</p>	 <p>Emiliya Shotwell Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue</p> <p>I'm excited to share that this year I've decided to join Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue's fundraising event! My first th...</p> <p>TOTAL RAISED: \$1,044.34 GOAL AMOUNT: \$1,000</p> <p>VIEW EMILYA'S PAGE</p>	 <p>Jennifer Rutberg Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue</p> <p>Hello! I'm Heidi! I was saved by Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue - rescue! That I adopted Jason and Jenna, and I'm teachi...</p> <p>TOTAL RAISED: \$438.60 GOAL AMOUNT: \$500</p> <p>VIEW JENNIFER'S PAGE</p>
 <p>Karen Augustynowicz Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue</p> <p>Hi, my name is Mary Anne. I have two very important jobs here at Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue. You see, I was chosen...</p> <p>TOTAL RAISED: \$1,266.65 GOAL AMOUNT: \$2,000</p>	 <p>Kate Shinko Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue</p> <p>Hello! Thank you for coming to my page as I join the Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue in this fundraising event. I'm participat...</p> <p>TOTAL RAISED: \$273.16 GOAL AMOUNT: \$2,000</p>	 <p>Yumi Nakayama Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue</p> <p>Hi! I am Choco. I was rescued in Baltimore Maryland and moved with my mom Yumi to NY. Back then, I had a...</p> <p>TOTAL RAISED: \$361.90 GOAL AMOUNT: \$500</p>

All the Safe Haven volunteers want to thank each and every donor who contributed in this fundraiser. It was our only fundraiser this year mostly due to the threat of RHDV2. An event like our Bun-nanza of years past could not be held, so this event was a big help. With our 2021 Profit and Loss statement showing a net income of **-\$8,817.68** and with all costs up this year, we needed to bring in much needed funding. We know that 2022 expenses will be higher than the normal average of \$28,000. So, every donation, large or small, is needed and very much appreciated.

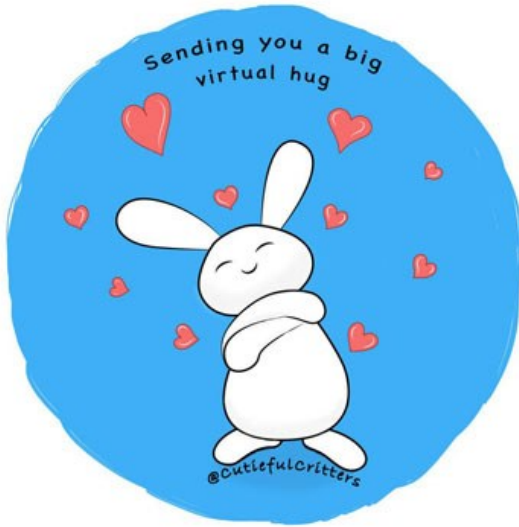
We do hope to be able to participate in this event in 2023, and hope you will consider participating on our team or donating. It really was a lot of fun and brought a lot of attention to the bunnies. People loved our videos! The attention brought a lot of people to our website and we hope to some of the education articles. It definitely spread the word about the need for rabbit rescue nationwide. Maybe even encouraged adoptions to those who never considered a rabbit as the perfect indoor companion. Thank you all for helping make it such a success for our rescue.

Did You Know?

By Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator

Educational Corner

By Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator



A note about Linda: Not to worry, Linda will be back! One of our volunteer educators, who writes these delightful and educational articles for each newsletter, just happens to live in Fort Myers, Florida.

We all held our collective breaths when we heard that Hurricane Ian was heading right for Fort Myers in late September 2022. Everyone knows that the destruction caused was catastrophic.

Thankfully, Linda was one of the lucky ones and her home was not damaged. The area where she lives with her husband and fur kids is inland enough and avoided the brunt. They did lose trees and were without water for 8 days which is always tough; especially with animals. But, thankfully, everyone got through it safely.

Linda has been in touch and things are slowly becoming more like normal. We wish her well and we'll look forward to her return whenever she is ready!

Please join us in sending her lots of bunny Hugs!!

Saying Good-bye....



***Ursula
Joined the Angels
11/14/22***

The hardest part of caring for our sanctuary bunnies is when the time comes to have to say good-bye. I know many of you knew and loved Ursula because she was always the one who received the most sponsorships. Her story touched many hearts.

Ursula battled abscesses since she was rescued in 2016 from the horrific Hampton situation. She underwent two major jaw surgeries, once in 2016 and again in 2018. More abscesses were found during her spay.

She was the most courageous, inspirational bunny I have known. Always the best eater and pooper in the house! Even though she was missing teeth and one would think she would have trouble picking up hay. Not Ursula!

The jaw abscess was kept under control with meds, until it erupted again on Nov. 8th. It would not have been fair to subject her to more surgeries. Only kindness could help her. Ursula joined the Bunny Angels on Nov 14th. I know she is pain free now. *Rest in Peace sweet girl.*

More than meets the eye Part 1 *Contributed by Karen Augustynowicz*

As you are hearing from rescues everywhere, the number of rabbits being abandoned is ever increasing at an alarming rate. Rabbit rescues are filled over capacity and very few shelters will take in rabbits. The emails, forms and calls seem non-stop. But a call on Wed. evening, June 1st was one that renewed my faith in humanity.

Pat, someone I knew as a fellow bunny person, was calling to ask for advice on how to catch two domestic rabbits she saw on their yard camera the night before. They had set out a Havahart trap but were not having any luck. With inquiries, they learned that the bunnies had taken up residence under a neighbor's deck.

I told her about how many calls and emails I have been getting about strays and lamented that "I didn't know where they could go". And, she said: "They can come to my house!" I was amazed! She would take them! Knowing that Pat and her husband Ray have had rabbits for many years, I knew those rabbits would have a wonderful home! This was a blessing for these bunnies. I was elated!

I arrived the next day with fencing and a plan to surround the deck. Ray was right; it was a very big deck. Only about 12" off the ground, open on three sides, with stones and lots of bushes. Great place for rabbits to hide. Not so easy for people to get them. We closed it off the best we could with the fencing we had and made a small area where the rabbits were supposed to come out into.

The homeowner, Mark was genuinely kind to allow us on his property and help us set the fences up. He even supplied the carrots we needed to coax the rabbits out from under the deck. One bunny seemed to be following our plan. As, once the carrots were out, she followed the trail to come out into the area we had sectioned. I stepped inside the fence with a towel and motioned to Mark to move his end of the fence to meet me. It was quite the blur, but somehow we got the fencing around her, and I was able to scoop up a frantic bunny. That was the first catch.



The second bunny wasn't following our plan. We needed to control where he was going under the deck. We would need someone to direct him with a pole. Ray volunteered to be the someone to try to get under the deck enough to direct the bun in our direction. That was working, until the bun ran out and into all the bushes on the far side of the deck.



Ok, reset the fencing again - this time surrounding the bushes where the rabbit now was; without scaring him away.

We were able to do that; and determined not to allow him to escape, I requested the fencing on top as a lid so he could not jump out. They fenced me in there as well. But it worked! After a couple of loops around, I think he realized he wasn't going anywhere. When he got close enough, I grabbed him and wrapped him in a towel. Mark

brought over the other carrier and the bunny number two was put safely inside.

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More than meets the eye Part 2 - The more*Contributed by Karen Augustynowicz**(continued from previous page)*

All in all, it was a pretty easy rescue. Only took two hours. Ray had the hardest part crawling under the deck. Once safely inside the house, I checked the rabbits over for any injuries and for gender. Of course, one male and one female. After a few gasps, I assured them I would help should there be babies. Ray was not convinced there were only two rabbits out there. He also mentioned, as he had previously, that one of the ones he saw "had a bad eye". Neither of the two we caught had injuries and their eyes looked perfectly normal. Leaving us wondering how many rabbits were dumped in that area and if the one with the bad eye had met his demise. Ray continued to check the neighborhood for days, but no rabbits were seen.

Chloe (female) and Bailey (male) who now were separated, settled in nicely. Their first vet visit went well, except Chloe's fecal test showed worms and coccidia. A lot of worms.

Fast forward to July 1st. Pat called about 3 pm that afternoon to say that Chloe was building a nest....I had hoped against hope that she would not be pregnant. I tried to convince us both that it could just be a pseudopregnancy. Bailey seemed so young when caught. He was big. I thought about 4.5 lbs., definitely a male although I did not see any testicles. But....*the other rabbits worry came up again.*



At 10 pm that night, Chloe gave birth to four babies. It was obvious this was not Chloe's first rodeo. She must have given birth to multiple litters prior. Pat was convinced that the reason she let herself be caught so easily was because she knew she had babies to protect. They would not have survived had they been born outside. There were too many predators in the area.

Chloe was a very good mother. Her parasite medicine had to be stopped to protect the babies; but soon they were able to be weaned and the medicine could be restarted. And, boy, did these babies grow quickly!



July 7th



Mid-August

(continues next page)

More than meets the eye Part 2 - The more*Contributed by Karen Augustynowicz**(continued from previous page)*

On August 28, 2022, we welcomed the four babies to Safe Haven. Just a few days shy of two months old, they already weighed 4 lbs! It was amazing how big they had gotten. And, boy could they eat!

They are happy, healthy and silly like baby bunnies should be. Three boys and one girl. Always on the move, eating constantly, and surprisingly, pretty good at using their litterboxes.

Just one week after their arrival, Sawyer was diagnosed with glaucoma in his left eye and will require continual treatment. They all continue to grow....as of today all 7.5 - 8.1 lbs. - Big and Beautiful!

Ps. Now we know that Bailey was not the father, based on the size of these babies, he was probably only about 11 weeks when rescued with Mom Chloe. The babies will complete their RHDV2 vaccines Nov. 22 and the boys will be neutered in December. Sienna will be spayed in a few months. Please consider them for Christmas sponsorships!

**Ayden****Sienna****Sawyer****Luke**

Adoptions!



Hank - Adopted! July 9, 2022

Hank has found his forever home! First adopted during the pandemic in 2021, Hank was returned when the novelty wore off shortly afterwards. He had to wait a while, but an experience rabbit owner couple saw his story and wanted to be sure that didn't happen to him again.

When Jennifer and Jason Rutberg came to meet him, they knew to go slowly and give him time to check them out. They were very patient, and soon it became apparent that Hank was as smitten with them as they were with him! When I asked what she

thought, Jenn said "I think we've been adopted." And soon after, Hank arrived at his new home which seemed to be set up just to his liking.

Hank adjusted well to his new home and his new parents made adjustments to Hank's somewhat bossy nature. They even participated as team members on our team for the August Goat Games!

Thank you, Jenn and Jason, for allowing Hank to pick you as his forever parents. Thank you for your contribution to the Goat Games; we hope you had fun! And, we'll look forward to an Adoption Update story in a future newsletter.

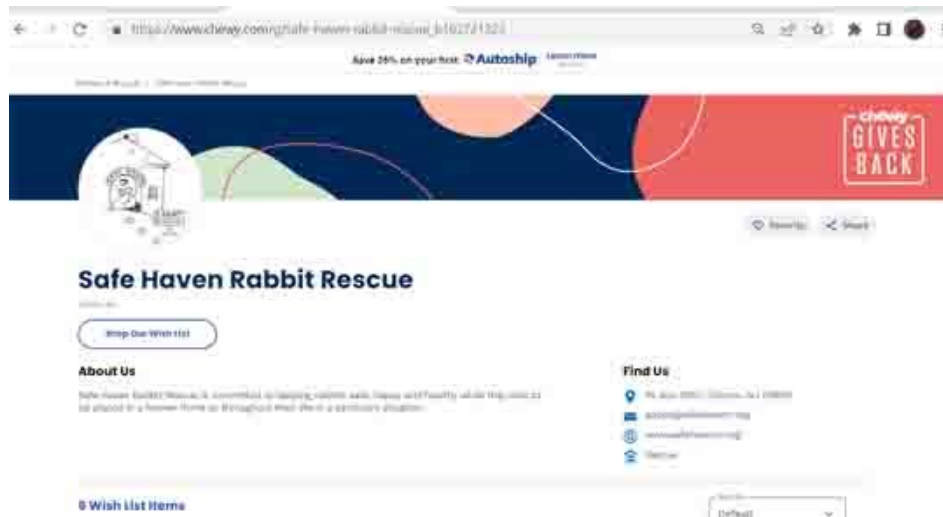
Dazzle & Daisy - Adopted! March 3, 2022

Part of the huge rescue late in April 2019, Dazzle and Daisy were transported east from Las Vegas. They were part of the rescue of what was known as the "Dumpsite bunnies". This adorable bonded pair, while still a little timid, have come a long way in both distance and way of life.

They waited a long time, but the perfect family did find them. Thank you Youfen Lu, Kevin Tang and daughter Alicia for welcoming them into your family. Adoption Congratulations to you all! Here are scenes from their new home:



The Bunnies are already working on their Christmas Wish list!



Click image to see! Thanks!

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Thanksgiving is almost
here!



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