



Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc.

# Safe Haven Scoop

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## Foster Homes Needed!

Do you have room for just one more bunny? Foster home care is always needed as our "Adoptables" wait for their forever home.

Please contact us via our [Volunteer form](#) if you are interested in fostering. All needed supplies are provided.



And [Twitter](#)



*By Karen Augustynowicz, Director*

## 2016 Rescues.....

As we move into this holiday season, I would like to take a moment to express my *Thanks* to everyone for their continued support of Safe Haven's rescue efforts. Whether that be through volunteering, fostering, adopting, participating in our events, sponsoring, boarding or through your donations. For it is only with your support that Safe Haven can help as many bunnies as we do.

Many of the this year's rescues had complicated medical issues or suffered from neglect and abandonment. The strength they all show as they heal from their traumas, both physical and mental, continue to amaze me. Each one is unique, each one has their own way of recovering. It is so very interesting to watch them adapt to what we all expect from them. The commonality is that they all do—eventually; in their own varying timeframes.

Loving a rabbit is often a challenging task. Their needs are many (at least *they* think so). They are demanding of our time and attention—why shouldn't they be? Time rules their world. "*It is 6 pm—where is my Salad!*" But, those of us who love them would not have it any other way. They keep us on our toes!

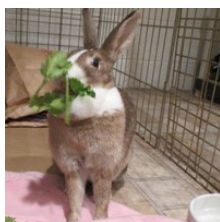
When times get tough, nothing can make one relax and feel better than watching your bunny happily munching through her hay or begging for a little treat. We should all take their lead to enjoy the simple things, relax, take a nap and binky whenever you feel like it.

**Wishing you a  
Blessed Holiday Season!**

*With sincere thanks,*

*Karen Augustynowicz, Director*

*Our Latest Rescues*



Trudy



Cubby



Rosalie

## Recent Event Photos. . .

*Our 4th Annual Bun-nanza! Held October 9, 2016*



This year's Bun-nanza offered many fun ways to learn more about our bunnies and it seems both our human and lagomorph visitors really enjoyed the opportunities! It was standing room only for our guest speaker, Darrin Fournier of "The Bunny Whisper" and his wife, Karen who came all the way from San Diego, CA! Visitors enjoyed shopping for special toys and healthy treats for their bunnies and found lots of educational hand-outs, posters and volunteers to answer their questions. And the bunnies.....well, they sure had fun playing in the specially designed maze! We were not quite sure how they all would react, but they all seemed to love checking it out and were especially delighted by the fresh willow from California they found along the way! You will find **many more photos on our [website](#)**.

**Thank you to all  
our Volunteers! —>**

For it is their dedication,  
time and talents that al-  
lows Safe Haven to help  
the bunnies in need.

*"Alone we can do so  
little; together we can do  
so much." Hellen Keller*

Bernadette Danner (Educational Tables)  
Nina Danner (Tee Shirts sales table)  
Stacey Bavos (Hosting Darrin & Karen F. & Massage)  
Jacqui Crown (Designer/Creator of Maze)  
Kathleen Carini (Foster bunny area)  
Astrid Hesse (Grooming)  
Sherry Totaro (Trivia Game / Busy Bunny Sales)  
Jim Ruzicka (Maze attendant/Refreshments)  
Diane Romano (Guess How Many Game / Refreshments)  
Gail Peterson (Planning)  
Bill Mack (Maze attendant)  
Catherine Eubanks (Check in – Registration)  
Madeleine Eichorn (Foster bunny area)  
Michelle Manderski (Grooming)  
Yumi Nakayama (Craft Table)  
Karen Moglia (Busy Bunny Sales),  
Keira Vitale (Busy Bunny Sales)

**And to our  
Vendors!**

Alice Shope, Country  
Pet Specialties,  
Lebanon, NJ

Susan Bromirski,  
Graphic Artist,  
Flemington, NJ

**Save the Date:  
Next Bun-nanza—  
Sunday, Sept. 24th,  
2017**



## Recent Event Photos. . .

### 7th Annual Bike for the Buns! Held June 18th, 2016

Each year, on the Saturday before Father's Day, we have been holding our *Bike for the Buns!* Event at Bull's Island Recreation Area near Stockton, NJ. It was a tough decision, but after 7 wonderful years, we've decided to retire this event. We had 7 really fantastic rides and picnics and I want to extend a big "Thank You!" to all our Participants, Sponsors, Donors and Volunteers! And.. Special THANKS to the [Delaware Valley Ski Patrol](#) - Bike Patrol for their help through all the years! Once again, this year we were blessed with a great weather! All done as a fundraiser for the Bunnies— they, too, are grateful for your support!



Here are just a few photos from the day. [Click here](#) to visit the Bike for the Buns website for more!





## Ask the Vet . . .

**Question:** *What is a respiratory infection and how can I tell if my rabbit has one? What are possible causes and treatments and how can I help to prevent one?*

**Deborah Adelsohn, DVM at Community Animal Hospital in Morris Plains, NJ replied:**

Respiratory infections are quite common in rabbits. Upper respiratory infections affecting the nose and sinuses are most common and often referred to by the slang term “snuffles.”

### How do I know if my rabbit has one?

Rabbits with upper respiratory infections will most commonly show signs of sneezing or purulent nasal discharge (white or green). Other signs may include discharge from the eyes, as the nasolacrimal duct becomes involved. There may be matting around the eyes and nose, and even matting of the hair on the front legs as the rabbit wipes the nose on its “sleeves.” Rabbits with respiratory infections may also sound congested with increased snoring and snorting. Rabbits may act lethargic and have decreased appetite depending on how severe the signs are. More severe signs such as trouble breathing and cyanosis (turning “blue”) can rarely occur with upper respiratory infection but are more common with cardiac or lung disease.

### What are possible causes?

Upper respiratory infections are most frequently bacterial in origin. Infections are often blamed on *Pasteurellamultocida*, a common bacteria found in the environment. However, one study showed that other bacteria such as *Bordetellabronchiseptica*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Staphylococcus species* are also frequently encountered. Many rabbits are exposed to *Pasteurellamultocida* but not all will develop signs or problems.

Other problems besides bacterial infections can create upper respiratory symptoms. Dental disease can result in elongated roots or root infections impinging on the nasal passages. Fungal infections can cause problems in some parts of the country. Neoplastic (cancerous) growths can occur and present with similar symptoms. Finally, trauma, falls or fighting, or foreign material can lead to respiratory symptoms.

### How are respiratory infections diagnosed?

Diagnosis of respiratory infection is usually made through reviewing patient’s history and physical exam including exam of the nose, eyes and oral cavity. Radiographs may be helpful in identifying underlying dental disease, involvement of the inner ear, and assessing lungs for pneumonia. Often, radiographs do not provide enough detail for evaluation of the sinuses. For more detailed exam, CT scan can be useful, but does require sedation. In larger bunnies, rhinoscopy or endoscopic exam of the nasal passages may provide a more complete diagnosis.

Culture of the nasal passages may help with both diagnosis and treatment plans. However, to avoid contamination from the environment, a swab must be inserted deeply into the nasal passages which often requires sedation, making this step less commonly pursued, especially in bunnies with mild symptoms.

### How are infections treated?

Rabbits with respiratory infections are usually treated with antibiotics. When culture is performed, it can guide antibiotic choice. The most common antibiotics include oral dosing of fluoroquinolones (e.g. Marbofloxacin, enrofloxacin), sulphonamides (Sulfatrim), or chloramphenicol. Injectable penicillin also can be helpful, but penicillin should never be used orally in rabbits due to their sensitive GI track. Rabbit respiratory infections can be slow to respond and quick to return, therefore antibiotics may be necessary for longer periods than in other species. Do not stop antibiotics without direction from your veterinarian.



## Ask the Vet . . . continued

Rabbit nasal discharge can be very thick and difficult to clear. Saline nose drops, room humidifiers and sometimes even nebulizers can be helpful in reducing the congestion. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories and antihistamines are sometimes used to help with severe congestion.

### How do I prevent respiratory infections?

Rabbits who have been treated for respiratory infections are prone to recurrences. Stress and poor nutrition can increase this risk. Reduce stress by avoiding crowding, keeping the environment clean, and providing exercise and an excellent diet. Respiratory infections are contagious so care should be used when selecting new rabbits and quarantine periods should be initiated before introducing a new rabbit to existing pets. Avoid purchasing/adopting rabbits if they exhibit nasal discharge.

Rabbit respiratory infections can be a chronic, long term problem. Have your rabbit examined by a rabbit friendly veterinarian as soon as signs are apparent to try to control the infection before it becomes severe.

### References:

Ritzman, T. K., DVM, DABVP. (2015). Is this a case of the wrong antibiotic? When rabbit respiratory disease won't respond. *ABVP Conference Proceedings 2015*.

Quesenberry, K. E., & Carpenter, J. W. (2012). *Ferrets, rabbits and rodents: Clinical medicine and surgery* (3rd ed.). Missouri: Saunders.

Community Animal Hospital is located at 921 Tabor Rd., Morris Plains, NJ 07950. #973-267-4220. [www.communityanimalhosp.com](http://www.communityanimalhosp.com)

## Sponsorship Program

Whether you need a Holiday Gift, Birthday Gift or Remembrance, or just want to bring some cheer up someone or somebun;

*A personalized [Sponsorship Card](#) from one of our Bunnies is the perfect solution!*

*Select any bunny you wish from our website for your [Sponsorship](#).*

*Someone who would love to hear from you, you may remember is our*

*Ursula*

Ursula was one of the many bunnies rescued from a



hoarding situation in August of this year. You can read her story on the [special page](#) we set up just for her. You may Donate to her medical fund on that page or request a [Sponsorship](#).

Thankfully, Ursula is doing very well now, but will remain under close watch and veterinary care. She is an active, inquisitive bunny who just loves to eat and toss her toys around.





## *Educational Corner*

*by Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator*

### *Emergency Planning ... Are You Ready?*

No matter the time of year, it's always smart to have an emergency plan in place for both your family and your pets.

Anything can happen at any time. Bad weather in the winter can make getting out for supplies or getting deliveries impossible. In summer an event like a wild fire can have a town fleeing in a panic. Power outages can happen when it's freezing cold or sweltering hot. Even in-home catastrophes can occur forcing you into temporary housing. Whatever the reason HAVE A PLAN and include your pets in that plan.

If you are reading this newsletter I will assume you have a pet rabbit and will talk in terms of rabbits. But if you are a multi species household please use this as a guide for your other pets too.

#### **If you have to leave your home:**

1. Always have a carrier(s) ready in a location that is easy to retrieve. I also keep a luggage tag on my carrier that contains my name, address, and phone number(s).
2. Take your "Grab Bin" with a week's worth of what you need and ideally kept in a controlled environment. Rotate out the perishable items always ensuring freshness.
  - ◆ Food Pellets
  - ◆ Favorite Treats
  - ◆ Hay
  - ◆ Bottled Water
  - ◆ Water and Food Bowls (collapsible dishes are ideal)
  - ◆ Litter box and Litter (doggie wee-wee pads can also be used to line the bottom of a litter box which take up less room to pack)
  - ◆ X-pen
  - ◆ Towels (incase floor is cold)
  - ◆ Cash to buy fresh greens
  - ◆ Your Veterinarian's Information
  - ◆ Medicines and/or a First Aid Kit
3. Have a plan where to go. Whether it is to someone's house or a motel you know is pet friendly, know where you are going and know you all will be safe until the crisis has passed. Most *emergency shelters do not take pets* and require you to leave them behind which usually is a death sentence for rabbits so it is vital you know where you and your rabbit(s) will be welcomed and safe.
4. Don't wait till the last minute to leave or you may not be able to leave.
5. If leaving requires you to travel any distance, and you know where you are going, prepare a list of rabbit friendly veterinarians and supply stores.

(continues next page)



## *Educational Corner*

*by Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator*  
*(Continued)*

Also have a plan in place if something happens and you are not home. What if roads are blocked preventing you from getting home for any length of time because of a fire in the immediate area, flooding, a police standoff, etc? We all watch the news but think “it’ll never happen near me”. Is there a neighbor you can count on, do they know what to do? What if rescue workers are called out to your home? I have a Rescue Alert Sticker placed in my front window alerting personnel to the number and types of pets I have and I keep carrier(s) near that pet(s) enclosure.

Here are two documents that you can fill in, have laminated, and place on the inside of a window or door so it faces outside alerting Emergency Rescue personnel that you have a pet(s) inside. Please remember though if you leave for an emergency and have your pet(s) with you to remove the sign so rescue workers know.

[For Rabbits](#) - [For Multiple type Pets](#)

In the event you and your rabbit do become separated in an emergency, keep a picture on your phone so you have a reference for shelters and emergency workers that will identify your pet.

Leaving home may not always be practical or warranted and planning an “indoor” stay is wise. Make sure you have enough supplies especially when you know weather will be bad. If it’s winter and you lose power how will you keep your house and occupants warm? Power can be out for days. The same holds true in summer except you will need to keep your rabbit cool and greens cold so they stay fresh. Think about what weather event or other situation you might have to ride out then plan accordingly.

Rabbits stress easily and having a plan which supports their needs prior to an emergency is ideal. The best place for your rabbit is with you ... *will you be ready?*

## ADOPT A SENIOR PET MONTH!

When a person or family considers adopting a pet the animals that have reached their senior years are often overlooked, this too is true for bunnies.

Seniors may not be as spunky, may have a health concern or require special care, and may not be your companion for as long but their need to be loved and cared for is no different than that of a youngster. Their souls are wise, they long for companionship, they love, and they too want to belong and be part of a family. So please, please, please open your heart and give a senior bunny that chance when adopting.

*Let's make every month*  
*ADOPT A SENIOR BUNNY*  
*month!*

## *Updates from Adopters.....*

### **“Champ” Adopted 9/3/14 by the Cook Family**

In August Mr. Cook wrote: “Wanted to let you know what Champ has been up to..... Overall, he has been the perfect little guy and still loves his routines as much as we love him. With a bunny-proof house and litter box trusted rabbit, he has been free-range on the first floor. We did put new carpet and skylights in his back room where he spends his days napping.



One of his fun habits since early last year, is to head to our bedroom in the evenings where he sleeps at the foot of our bed on top of a box or occasionally on the foot of our bed. He used to enjoy exploring higher up the bed and playing with the comforter but after a couple of excitement or territorial inspired pee incidents, he is banished from spending time there and knows that's our space. Sometimes in the evening, he scoots out of the room to explore the quiet house or make a pit stop in his spare litter box in the bed room, but for the most part he is our night watch bunny and seems to really likes to

being near us on his bed box.

When I get up for work at 5, I say hi to him and he starts making his way to his pen in the back room where he does some exciting fast laps when breakfast is being served. Some mornings he seems to want me to carry him back to his breakfast! On weekends when we sleep in a later than normal, he get anxious and hops up on the bed to give us little licks to wake us make and sure we know we forgot to get up early and feed him breakfast - before running away off the bed. When he comes in the room late at night he sometimes hops up to wake/greet us too as if to let us know he is now in the room.

In his back room with the pen, we like to set up the kids old hardwood blocks like Stonehenge for him to knock down. This bunny bowling is a favorite activity especially if we hide treats in the vicinity.

All of his vet check ups have gone perfectly well with no problems but we do need to make sure to watch he does not get too many treats beyond his hay and salads since he gained a few ounces of weight since we first adopted him.

Cheers,  
The Cooks



## *Updates from Adopters..... (continued)*

### **“Fonzie” Adopted 9/3/14 by Lauren Hishmeh**

In May 2014, I would soon be graduating from college and all I wanted for the past year was a bunny for a graduation gift! After researching various rescues and adoptable bunnies, I found Karen at Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue. I immediately told her I was interested in one of her bunnies named Jarrett. On one of my college breaks I visited and it was love at first sight.



He was a big teddy bear who just wanted head rubs! Karen had told me his back story and how he ended up in her care. He was brought to her as a small baby when he was found by some nice people, he was then adopted out and then sadly returned after some time. That all changed for him when I adopted him May 13, 2014, a week after I graduated. That's when the fun began.....

I renamed him Fonzie which seems to suit him, especially when he's getting into trouble. He has been such an amazing addition into my life and my family's life. He has a

whole room to himself where he can run around and binky, except during the day while I am at work and he stays in his x-pen. He has tubes, castles, fling toys, boxes, and anything else he can get his paws on. My favorite moments with him are when he hears me coming and he throws his body

around, spins, and binkies in excitement, which puts a smile on my face knowing how happy he is to see me!



There have been ups and downs with my little man, Fronzie has had toes dislocated, toe nails ripped out, and seizures. I love him so much and he bounces right back as if nothing happened, which shows me how strong he is. He is four years old and still bounces around like a kangaroo. He is always making me laugh, especially when he zooms around the room and binkies like there's no tomorrow and then flops when he's all tired out. I am so lucky to have found such an amazing bunny who I love so much! "



*If you've adopted from Safe Haven, we'd love to share your on-going stories and pictures! Send updates anytime and we will be sure to get them into one of our newsletters. Use the email address of: [adopt@safehavenrr.org](mailto:adopt@safehavenrr.org)*

## Did You Know?

By Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator

Apple Cider Vinegar (ACV) is the most recognized vinegar among natural health enthusiasts and has been used by humans for centuries for much more than just dressing on a salad. But **DID YOU KNOW** that Apple Cider Vinegar (ACV) is beneficial for bunnies too?

Not all ACV is created equal though and it's important to note for the purpose of this article that the ACV referenced is Raw, Organic, Unfiltered, Unheated, and Unpasteurized and contains the "Mother".

The "Mother" results from fermentation and consists of pectin, apple residue, enzymes, friendly bacteria, and protein chains resulting in the cloudy, stringy, cob-web like presence in the bottle you see. Most Health Food stores will carry a brand of ACV that fits this criteria.

ACV has a high concentration of acetic acid and **DID YOU KNOW** acetic acid can help to increase the absorption of minerals found in leafy greens. Most bunnies are not averse to the taste when diluted with enough water and a little ACV goes a long way.



When introducing your bunny to ACV offer an additional bowl of water with a few drops of ACV mixed in well. Because this will be new to her still keep a water bowl accessible that does not contain ACV and let her choose which she wants to drink from. You never ever want to deny your bunny water because dehydration can lead to serious medical problems. Monitor the water she drinks and if you see that she is favoring the water containing ACV try adding a few more drops and again monitor her water intake noting the concentration she likes. All it takes is about 1 to 2 Tablespoons of ACV to a gallon of water. Some rabbits like their greens misted with ACV and water. If you do opt for misting again monitor your bunny to make sure she is eating those greens. Digestive upset is rare but it is always sound advice when introducing your bunny to anything new to watch for signs that something is not right.

There is nothing harmful in ACV however because it is vinegar acidic, if misting your bunny's greens, do so away from her so you do not accidentally spray the solution into her eyes.

Some of the claimed benefits when internally taking in ACV because of its enzymes and minerals are improved urinary tract and bladder health, improved coat and skin condition, improved digestion and G.I. tract health, increased nutrient absorption, reduction in the transmission rate of bacteria, and the prevention of mastitis infections.

ACV also makes a great non-toxic cleaner making it ideal to clean and descale dried urine in litter boxes, accidental soiled areas, mopping enclosures, and cleaning just about any other item your bunny comes in contact with. Simply mix equal parts of ACV with water and use as you wish. However, the less expensive, white distilled vinegar can be used for cleaning and undiluted to clean and descale litter boxes.

Now that you know the wonderful uses of ACV for bunnies I hope you will consider using it for yours!

*Special 'Thanks and Appreciation' to my dear friend Sharon who always takes the time to proof read my writings, whose input is greatly valued, and too, has given many bunnies a loving and protective forever home.*

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!*

