



Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc.

Safe Haven Scoop

Our Lop-Sided Summer

Special points of interest:

- Our Lop-Sided Summer
- Adoption Updates
- How Many Teeth?
- Sydney's Story

The initial call for help sounded like just another of the many "Can you take my bunny?" calls Safe Haven receives in any given week. A very familiar story ... "we got two bunnies for our children from a pet store ... they told us they were of the same gender and now we have babies" .

As any rescuer can tell you, this scenario plays out over and over again with frightening regularity. But this one had an additional factor which could not be ignored. "The second litter is four weeks old and they haven't opened their eyes yet."

Additional information from the owner included the fact that the two litters were born 30 days apart and that there were five in

the first litter and seven in the second.

After alerting Community Animal Hospital veterinarians and pre-arranging for time, if needed, Irene and I headed off to see what was going on.

What we saw was *heart-breaking*. Thirteen bunnies crammed in two small outside hutches, only pellets to eat and a empty water bottle.

While the first litter appeared healthy, the eyes of the second litter were crusted shut with pus and infection. The father, who had been banished to a little pen by himself, was severely maloccluded. One of his top incisors curled up and

out of his mouth, poking him in the cheek. A bottom incisor was imbedded in his bottom lip. - "He seems to have trouble eating" we were told.

Biting our tongues, our concern of the moment was to get these bunnies the medical attention they needed. The owner agreed to allow us to take them to a vet, only if we promised to bring them back "because the children love them so" And, of course, he "could not pay". So, we packed them up and headed to Community Animal Hospital.

One by one, the babies were examined. Too many times we heard Dr. Lorig say that the infection was severe and that she could "not even see the globe of

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Year One

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Safe Haven's first year and a half certainly has been a busy one! Since our incorporation on May 31, 2003, our volunteers' accomplishments have been many!

Along with our rescue work and caring for all our foster/sanctuary bunnies, Safe Haven volunteers also spend countless hours answering questions both on the phone and by email.

A few interesting statistics, just since April 2004: Incoming

phone calls have averaged 28 per month with the high in July of 50. Unfortunately, 60% of those calls were from people wanting us to take in their rabbits while only 40% were adoption inquires.

SHRR processed through 76 email adoption inquires, reviewed 36 adoption applications and successfully placed 20 rabbits since April 2004. In addition, nine more rabbits were placed through our Private Adoption Program along

with several guinea pigs and a hedgehog! This very successful program fulfills the needs of rabbits we are unable to bring into our foster program.

It has indeed been a busy year, and, with your help and financial support, we hope 2005 will allow us to find more of these wonderful creatures the good homes they deserve.

My sincere thanks,
Karen Augustynowicz,
President

Our Lop-Sided Summer (continued from page 1)

the eye". If they would ever be able to see was questionable. ...And then there was the littlest one. Less than half the size of her siblings, and dehydrated, Sara, as she came to be named, brought worried head shakes and cautioning that she might not make it. She weighed 15 ounces.

Taking them back to their owners was difficult, but, after showing the owners how they would need to administer the oral medications and eye drops, and assurances from them that they would do so, Irene and I reluctantly left them.

By day two, the owner seemed to be changing his mind. "It is a lot of work." By Thursday he decided he had enough. In a chilling message left on my answering machine, he stated that the babies "would be gone by tomorrow."

After notifying authorities and obtaining written permission to remove the 12 babies, Irene and I brought them home on Friday, May 14th. Permission to also take the parent rabbits was denied.

The weeks and months that followed all seem a blur now, but the babies grew and their

eyes healed. As their personalities developed, their names came along. Russell was the first named; the others in the first litter became Kathryn, Arwen, Rosalyn, and Byron. The second litter became Cindy, Eleanor, Kyle, Cody, Teddy, Ryan and Sara.

And what wonderful babies they were. They tolerated the constant eye cleanings and medications with only babyish wiggling in attempts to get away and back to play. Teddy and Eleanor required surgery to prevent their eyelids from rolling inward.

But, soon, they too, had beautifully clear eyes!

Many, many lives were touched by these 12 bunnies. New friendships were formed, laughs were shared and tears were shed. We are thankful to each of their adopters who were scrutinized even more than normal. With many applications, we were able to be selective and send them to the very best homes possible.

Since their start in life was rough, we hope their futures will be full of smooth sailing adventures. God bless them all.

A few baby pictures.....



Fun Stuff

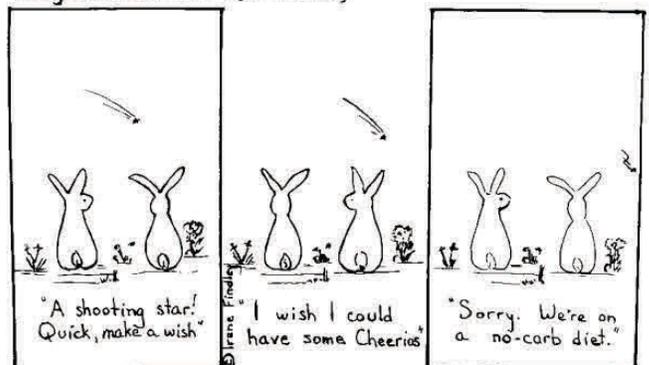
Word Warren

Find 15 words describing rabbit anatomy

N A I R A N I R E T E V
 S O W A L C W E D H L I
 E S I S A T S I G E A M
 L O N S C U T H I E T O
 R A I B U T S O N T I L
 O E G A C L K O C G M A
 L S T O D I C S I E D R
 A P T U M F O C S P E S
 O A S R E O H T O A W Y
 R Y S M A N R I R L L S
 T R A E P O L P S B A I
 I C E C U M Y S H E P M

Answers: Lagomorph, Lop ear, Spay, Neuter, Veterinarian, GI Stasis, Cecum, Hocks, Scut, Incisors, Molars, Peg teeth, Malocclusion, Dewlap, Dewclaw

Zayne and Louie by Irene Findley



Adoption Updates . . .

We hope you enjoy reading updates of just a few of our 20 bunnies adopted since our last newsletter.

Eli—Adopted by Carly Renaldi and daughter Sonja — 4/4/04

Hello Karen,
We are all just fine. Eli is a wonderful rabbit. Everyone loves him. He eats his meals at the same time everyday. We keep him on the same routine as you had him so that he doesn't get confused. He is still lovable and gentle to all of us. He has adjusted well to all of us here. Sonja makes sure that no harm comes to him when her friends come to see him. We love him more and more everyday. He gets exercise every night. Thank you so much for giving us this wonderful rabbit. He is the greatest little boy ever. Thanks for everything. Sincerely, Carly and Sonja



McHoney—Adopted by the Moore Family — 7/17/04

We all are really enjoying him, and he is a good bunny. He loves to come upstairs and runs around the family room while we are there. With Ryan he climbs up on his chest and sits there for a little. Karen loves to have him in her room while she plays with her dolls. The kids also put him in an American Girl doll car and he sat there like he was driving! (They were very cautious while he was in there and did not push the car around.) Sometimes it seems like you can read his little mind by the look on his face, in that car he looked like he was thinking "the things I have to put up with". Take Care! Dave



Radish (formerly Kathryn) —Adopted by Paul Johnson and Elizabeth Brown — 6/13/04

Kathryn is great, but we've been calling her Radish. She is super-clean and precisely litter trained. In this regard she has really wowed us. We kept her in the middle of our loft until very recently. We thought she would want to be closer to us since she was a baby. Now we have moved her play pen near the kitchen. She seems to prefer this to being in the middle of the loft now that she is a bit older. Elizabeth is here all day, so Radish gets constant attention. Sometimes she will stay out, lay on the floor, and watch Elizabeth for long periods of time. She likes to be around both of us and will follow us around. We have a routine where we let her out during the morning and evening.

All in all she seems fully adjusted and very happy. Her personality

is very focused, determined, and bold. If we block off part of the room she will be determined to get through, but if we remove the obstacle she will lose interest. She loves to run a sort of race around our apartment, with many binkies, and stop only inches from us. She is affectionate, but also proud. We sometimes refer to her as the "queen rabbit". -Paul

Alfalfa (formerly Ryan) Adopted by the Franceschino family — 7/2/04

Dear Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue,
Alfalfa is doing great! He is a very large lop, and loves his fresh veggies and hay each day.

Alfalfa is very playful and active. Jumping, flipping, and pouncing are some of his favorite playing activities. In addition to entertainment, Alfalfa is a great companion. His cage is still in my room, so I spend time with him often. Alfalfa thrives on love (and eating!), but just holding him helps reduce the stress in my life. Thank you so much for allowing me to rescue Alfalfa! From, Rachel Franceschino



Chiku Chiku (formerly Byron) adopted by Myi Miyazaki and Twing Twing — 5/30/04

Hi, Karen!
My 2 boys are now really brother. Chiku Chiku never listen me but he listen Twing brother. Chiku Chiku always always follow Twing brother. When I see 2 boys, I really, really feel peaceful.

Karen, I am positively can tell you Chiku Chiku is happy boy and Twing Twing too. I can tell Twing Twing looks much, much happier than before. Bunny must need friend for sure!



Chiku Chiku is soooo cute now. He LOVES Twing

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Adoption Updates . . . (continued from pg. 3)

Twing. Now we sleep together in my bedroom. I sleep on the bed and 2 boys sleep under the bed. Chiku Chiku is doing pe-pe in his litter box. He now knows me. I am the one give him foods. When he wants to have vegetable, he is following me. I am very very happy to live 2 boys. Thank you for advice me when I had a many trouble. Myi

(Editor's Note: Congratulations to Myi for working through a difficult bonding! Because of her love and devotion to her Twing Twing, Myi took the needed time and patience necessary for a successful bond. We congratulate her on her success!)

Cadbury—Adopted by Michelle Ledford — 9/26/04

Cadbury is doing great! He seems to be enjoying his new home.



He enjoys his exercise time in our den area, and also enjoys sitting underneath his favorite chair in the den. He's eating well, enjoying his greens, and is extremely consistent with his litter box use! We are so happy to have added him to our family! Michelle

Ella and Gee (formerly Eleanor and Cindy) adopted by Lisa Buono and daughter Jillian — 10/2/04

The sisters have adjusted to their new home with no problems. They enjoy their feeding times and come out of nowhere when we mention "Salad" or "Pellets".

They love to run as fast as possible when entering or leaving a room! Both girls have shown off their high flying abilities and enjoy jumping up on the couch with us at night. Take Care. The girls say hello. Lisa



Kyle—Adopted by Anel Martinez — 10/2/04



Kyle is so amazing in his own way. Do you know that he now climbs on my bed at 6:45am to wake me up (a whole 45 minutes before I have to actually be awake!!) he sticks his face right in front of mine and inhales my exhalations then I do it back to him. Isn't that odd, then he licks

my head. I start waking up and he goes to his food dish. When I or Michelle pick up his dish to go into the kitchen he follows us around and jumps in front of us towards the fridge. Before he was able to get up into my bed he would sit next to the bed and stare up at me.

Today my mom called me at work to tell me "your son devoured some carrot tops he is soooooo cute". I was so excited because my mom doesn't usually get the lovebug quite so fast. I laughed and said HA!! you love my bunny!! She said yes and I love his feet especially. She calls him her little lamb. I thought you would get a kick out of that story.

Michelle says hi back and she also has the Kyle lovebug worse than my mom. Sometimes we race each other to the door like kids to see who will get to Kyle first. Its very funny.

Sara

Adopted by Karen Augustynowicz — 10/01/04

Thank you to everyone who followed Sara's story on our website and sent their prayers and best wishes her way. I am happy to report that Sara is doing wonderfully! Caught up in size and weight, she is a healthy, active young lady, full of mischief - just as she is supposed to be!



Other Notes: - Stay tuned!

Our most recent rescues include:

- * **Maggie** - female, Silver Marten stray, rescued Nov. 11th
- * **Jamie and Joshua** - male, baby Lops, rescued Nov. 5th
- * **Jake** - male, abandoned in a parking lot, rescued Nov. 2nd
- * **Travis** - male, found on railroad tracks, tied inside 3 plastic bags, rescued Sept. 22nd

Update: A Magical Rescue - Spring 2004

Remarkably recovered since his February 2004 rescue, Magic loves to show off his long fluffy coat and his dancing skills. Magic's bright personality has surfaced and he is confident that all's right with the world. - He is available for adoption!



Angel Bunnies

Safe Haven's family shared many joys over the past few months, but we also shared sorrow and many tears. The loss of a bunny is always difficult and many times hard to accept, but we release them to the angels where we know they will safely wait for us.



Russell

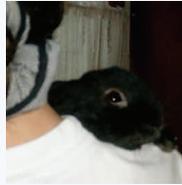
We will always remember Russell running with large pieces of newspaper in his mouth. Circling and jumping, as if anxious to share the news!



Our condolences to the Curasco family—Richard, Kerri, Lindsay, and Matthew. Their love for him was apparent and we are grateful Russell was able to share their love and home. We only wish the time was much, much longer. We thank them for doing everything possible until Russell joined his angel on Sept. 24, 2004. I just bet he now is delivering newspapers to all the angels! They will keep him safe until we can see him again.

Charcoal

Faced with many challenges following a stroke, brave little Charcoal was an example to follow when life brings challenges our way. A sanctuary bunny lovingly cared for by Irene Findley, Charcoal will be missed by both Irene and his companion Sebastian.



Raine

Throughout his time at Safe Haven Raine showed his strength and his forgiveness to humans. The lack of care he received in his early years resulted in an undeserved battle with testicular cancer.



Thank you for giving your love and trust during the short time we knew each other. That memory rests in our hearts forever

Bunny Bun-Buns

Our condolences to our new friends Anel and Michelle on the loss of their beloved Bunny.

Never was a little bunny as cherished as was she. How lucky Bunny was to have two such devoted Mom-mies to love her!



When life takes an unexpected and painful turn for reasons we cannot understand, we can only take comfort in our trust of the angels that watch over us all.

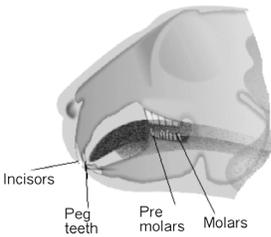




Educational Corner

How Many Teeth.....? By Irene Findley

How many teeth does Bugs Bunny have? If you answered 28 then you are absolutely correct. We are all familiar with the rabbit's trademark front teeth (incisors), but where are the rest? Actually the back teeth (molars), also known as "cheek" teeth are positioned out of sight toward the back of the mouth. They are separated from the incisors by a wide gap which can lead to the misconception that rabbits have only front teeth. While the incisors expertly slice and tear, the hard-working back molars chew and grind the food. Additionally, behind each upper incisor is a "peg" tooth. In normal rest posi-



tion, the tips of the lower incisors rest between the upper incisors and the peg teeth.

Rabbit teeth are open rooted which means they grow continuously. Studies indicate that the incisors can grow 4-5 inches per year. The molars are slower paced at just over an inch per year. With such rapid growth comes the need to keep everything in good working order. Proper nutrition builds strong teeth and a constant supply of hay promotes chewing and grinding. Access to appropriate wood products provides healthy recreation.

A diet comprised mostly of quality grass hay and vegetables contains coarse fibers and minerals which suit the rabbit's digestive needs and wards off future dental problems. Designed as a convenience food, the pelleted diet does not fulfill all the

requirements to maintain a healthy rabbit. Hay takes more lateral grinding and chewing than a quick crunch through a bowl of pellets. Reduced lateral chewing motion may result in painful spurs or "points" on the teeth.

Unpainted pine or aspen wood will challenge your pet rabbit to some serious biting and tugging. Wooden throw toys, small untreated wood stools or small boards securely fastened to a surface are great ways of providing good clean chewing fun. It will save your baseboards as well!

"Ginger", on rescue day, was near starvation from severe malocclusion



Sydney's Story By Diane Romano

It was a day like any other day except that instead of bounding to the door of his cage for his impending morning escape, Sydney sat hunched in the corner of his cage. Not a good sign. Sydney is a lively four-year-old English mix who adores his freedom, so when he remained immobile I knew he was in trouble. I called my vet and brought my ailing bunny right in. I had noticed a quite a bit of white residue in his litter box for several days, but because this is the normal way a rabbit eliminates extra calcium, I did not pay enough notice. While a small amount is normal, an excess of creamy white substance in the litter is NOT normal.

My vet, Dr. Ernst, agreed Sydney was not well, and suggested diagnostic testing. The problem could be sludge or stones, but she could not tell without an x-ray and/or sonogram. Sydney's tests confirmed bladder sludge, a condition resulting from a buildup of calcium. Dr. Ernst immediately administered subcutaneous fluids to ease passage of the sludge, which worked wonders: Syd was

back to his bunny self by that afternoon.

When Dr. Ernst and I analyzed Sydney's current diet for sources of calcium, we found that even his daily papaya tablet contained calcium! For this reason I suggest that good bunny parents read carefully all papaya tablet labels to ensure they do not contain calcium. Dr. Ernst suggested timothy hay pellets rather than the alfalfa-based, high calcium pellets usually fed to rabbits. Most importantly, I monitor his water intake.

Calcium is necessary for strong teeth and bones but you should moderate calcium rich vegetables if your bunny is prone to calcium accumulation in the urine. For example, dandelion and collard greens contain high amounts of calcium as compared to romaine or red leaf lettuce. The experts are split on whether veggies can be a source of too much calcium. Alfalfa-based pellets are definitely a no-no as are papaya tablets with calcium added.

Sydney has had no recurrences since his switch to timothy pellets and calcium free papaya tablets. His favorite greens remain dandelions, but mixed with romaine, escarole, and other salad greens, they have not caused him distress and still provide the natural calcium he needs.

You can help us help more bunnies!

Need A Bunny Sitter?? - Going out of town for the holidays? Or anytime you need a bunny sitter. Relax knowing he will be cared for by experts! Email or call to make arrangements - space is limited!

Recycle your printer cartridges!

Our participation with the 'Cash For Critters' program brings Safe Haven \$2 for most recyclable cartridges. Just call or email and we will send postage paid envelopes so there is no cost to you! See www.cashforcritters.com for a listing of acceptable cartridges.



Personalized Holiday Ornaments!

Be sure your bunny is the first on your block to have his very own holiday ornament! Wooden, handcrafted, bunny shaped ornaments with YOUR bunny's picture!

Simply email your favorite picture to us and we will custom create one for you! Ornament is 4" x 3" and can include your bunny's name and greeting of your choice. Your \$6 donation will go toward our spay / neuter fund. Order form is on our website: www.SafeHavenRR.org



Ms. La-



Bunny Pette

Do you have questions about caring for your bunny? Or does your bunny need help getting you to understand him? If so, drop Ms. Bunny LaPette an email or a note to the PO Box. Email her at: BunnyLP@SafeHavenRR.org

Foster Homes Needed!
There are many bunnies needing care! If you can take in one or two, please let us know.

Join Us Today!

\$15 Annual Membership includes official membership card, newsletters, and early notification of special events!

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!

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

This newsletter is being sent complementarily to non-members. Join today to continue to receive!

Please Print Clearly!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

___ 1 year membership - \$15

___ 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!