



Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc.

Safe Haven Scoop

Welcome Spring!

Special points of interest:

- Wild Bunny Rescue Tips
- Rabbit Facts Through History
- Latest Rescues—Sponsorships Needed!



With Spring comes new energy, growth, vitality, and hope. Characteristics which also describe the bunnies pictured above. Remember the note in our last issue about our then latest rescues? Well, pictured above are two of them. Travis, the black and white mini-rex, founded inside three plastic bags alongside a railroad track is blossoming with his newly found health and making a remarkable recovery. Although, he still has trouble getting his back legs to fully support him, Travis seems to take it all in stride. He loves to zoom around the bunny room checking out all the corners. While waiting anx-

iously to be adopted, there is nothing he likes better than pets. His velvety rex fur just seems to need extra hugs!

Ginger, the brown Holland lop in the middle, was severely malnourished due to overgrown, maloccluded incisors when rescued. Now the picture of health, she has filled out and regained her strength. Although she will require on-going dental care and maintain her “sanctuary bunny” status for sometime, this little girl has come a long way from starvation.

The little grey on the left is Mori. Thrown from a moving car into the February cold, Mori was only a pound in weight and approximately 5 weeks in age when tossed. Luckily, someone witnessed the cruel act and was able to quickly scoop her up. An adorable solid grey with one white leg, Mori

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Welcome Spring | 1 |
| Wild Bunny Rescue Tips | 1 |
| Out & About | 2 |
| Adoption Updates | 3 |
| Facts Through History | 5 |
| Wanted! Reward! | 6 |
| Join Us! | 7 |

Wild Bunny General Rescue Tips

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To better appreciate the heritage shared by wild and domestic rabbits, we offer this series. As many cottontail nests are abruptly discovered by landscapers, or homeowners and their pets our spring newsletter features rescue guidelines.

(It is illegal to possess wildlife in New Jersey without proper permits from the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife. Contact a licensed rehabilitator to obtain proper care for orphaned or injured wildlife. Delaying proper care can be fatal to the animal you're trying to help.)

WHEN TO RESCUE:

- the baby is crying (a high pitched scream)
- the nest is flooded or totally destroyed, especially if other babies nearby are dead

(Continued on page 4)

Welcome Spring (continued from page 1)

needs to mature a little more before she can be spayed and released for adoption.

Springtime and the Easter holiday, though beautiful and enlivening, can be a time of sorrow for many rabbits who get caught in the hype and end up in less than desirable circumstances. Safe Haven's volunteers, while educating the public year long, stepped up their efforts during the month of March to get the word out that a rabbit is not a good Easter present for children.

For the second year in a row, Safe Haven educators and foster rabbits worked with a local photography studio during their Easter portrait promotion (Hence the cover photo). We see this as a great opportunity to get the word out to parents of very young children. Being an animal lover himself, Bob Beaver, of Village Studio of Hunterdon, welcomes our posters and informational handouts regarding rabbits and children. We spoke to many parents who, after a little bit of education, happily settled for a stuffed toy bunny!

Our educational efforts were also bolstered by a story

published in the March 24th Hunterdon County Democrat about our rescue. "Real Bunnies aren't for Easter" read the caption of our front page picture. We thank Sandra Rauschenberger for writing a great article and getting our information out to the public. (You can find the article on our website links page).

And, last but certainly not least, we want to thank the Safe Haven volunteers who helped develop and distribute our own Easter time poster. A special **Thank You** to Maureen Elliot and her two bunnies for supplying the photo; to Roberta Glaser and Luis Meza for providing the Spanish translation; and to everyone who posted both the English and Spanish versions in their neighborhoods. Great job! We appreciate everyone's efforts!



*My sincere thanks,
Karen Augustynowicz, President*

Out and About!



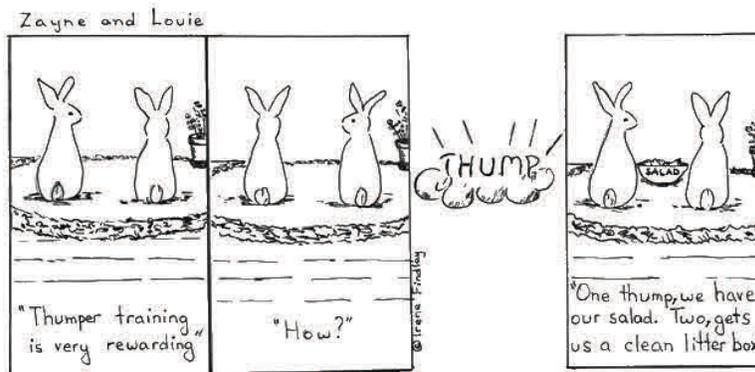
Blessing of the Animals Clifton Animal Shelter (Roberta Glaser, Father Hank & Suki)



Educational Table Mike's Feed Farm, Totowa February 2005



Irene Findley Scouting a reported stray, Glen Gardner



Adoption Updates



Zayne & Louie

*Adopted by Michelle Kane —
7/1/04*

I adopted the brother and sister pair on July 1, 2004. They were a little over a year—14 months—

when I adopted them. Their birthday is May 11—they will be 2 already!

Having lost a bunny after 10 years, I needed some bunny loving. Thanks to Karen and, of course, Zayne and Lou, my apartment is full of bunny luv again! Zayne and Lou are wonderful. They have free roam of my apartment—it is bunny proofed (except for my bedroom which is off limits). Their favorite spots: my chaise lounge, my couch, my dining room chairs, their woobie blanket, and of course, their cardboard bunny house. I can't forget Zayne's newest spot—the tile floor in my bathroom.

Their favorite time of day — salad time, of course! They jump and race around the dining room table while I get it ready. Sometimes Zayne will come in the kitchen and stand on her hind legs and reach up to the salad shelf in the fridge. Lou still thinks he is the boss at eating time, but he is learning and usually allows Zayne to start first. We were having issues with fighting while waiting for the salad.

My living room floor has turned into a bunny playground. Their favorite toys are the keys and the plastic rolling ball. Lou will flip the keys back over to me and Zayne loves the ball with the bell in it. The cardboard tunnel is an essential as well as their baskets with their toys. I bought them a cardboard bunny house and they spend time sleeping, chewing it apart, or exploring to the 2nd level.

It is so wonderful to see such a loving pair. They basically do everything together— one goes to explore, the other one follows. After they finish salad at night, they settle down on their woobie and flop out their hind legs. They lay next to one another and spend lots of time grooming each other.

They were very scared and skittish when they arrived but month after month they are becoming quite comfortable. They will come to my friends or family, but sometimes a little coaxing is needed. Lou loves to be petted and petted and petted....Zayne still isn't that comfortable with it. Both can be held, but again, Lou is more comfortable. They have learned



to tolerate my vacuum and buzz around once I have finished cleaning. I guess they need to mess it up again! I have learned to move things up off my lower shelves—they are bigger than my other bunny was—and can reach up high! They are both very nosy and will go through my grocery bags when I come home, looking for their “salad”. I am always awakened by Zayne if I fall asleep on my couch. She jumps up and will stand on my chest. They both jump on the couch when I sit there; hoping for some treats!

I just want to thank Karen and Barbara (she had fostered Zayne and Lou)! Thanks for allowing me to adopt my two newest loves. I love the CD of pictures from when they were babies. Too bad I didn't get to see them that small. Kisses from Zayne and Lou!

Michele Kane

Daisy (formerly Annie)

Adopted by Kerri McDonald — 11/10/04

When we adopted Daisy we had no idea how much joy she would bring to our lives. She has so much personality and charm. When she gets herself into trouble, she has learned that Scott is the softy so she goes over, cocks her head to the side and begs to be petted instead of put in her room. Her favorite things are laying in bed with us at night and being cuddled in my arms like a baby. She truly is queen of the house and rewards us with happy jumps constantly. She also occasionally shows us her imperial attitude by peeing under my pillows, it is the one battle she wins. It has been so much fun raising her, watching her grow and accepting her love. We could not imagine our lives without her.



Maggie

Adopted by Maureen Elliott— 1/8/05

We adopted Maggie as a companion for both us and our adorable 1 year old bunny Pete, who is Mr. Personality. Lucky for us, Maggie packs a whole lot of character into her tiny little body so our bonding experience was pretty easy. Maggie is full of energy, and is very feisty. If Pete, Pablo or I do something Maggie doesn't like, she stomps her foot very loudly as if to say “Oh no you don't!”. Maggie has also taught Pete to stomp his foot, they have really picked up each others habits.

(Continued on page 5)



Educational Corner - Wild Bunny General Rescue Tips

(continued from page 1)

- the baby is cold or looks overly thin (dehydrated)
- the mother is dead or has abandoned the nest ... (cross sticks or yarn over the nest in a pattern so you can tell if they have been disturbed. Wait 24 hours before checking the nest again)
- the baby has been attacked or is injured
- the eyes are closed and it is out of the nest

Whenever possible, ***re-nest bunnies at their original nesting site***. Mom rabbits will not go looking for a moved nest! She is incapable of picking babies up in her mouth to move them. If mom isn't injured or dead, she will return for the babies within 24 hours—it doesn't matter if they have human scent on them!

IF YOU HAVE TO RESCUE BUNNIES:

Although wild rabbits do not carry many diseases that are transmittable to humans, always wash your hands with an anti-bacterial cleanser after handling.

- Keep the cottontail in an area of your house where there is the least amount of noise possible and away from pets and children.
- 15"x10"x9" under the seat airline carrier, or similar size plastic container with air holes drilled in lid
- Shoe box or tissue box: Cardboard boxes are fine for immediate or interim housing, but they do not heat well and cannot be cleaned. Make sure the lid is on tight and has air holes in it.
- Line the box with a soft clean cloth and cover the rabbit with another soft cloth. If the nest is available, put some or all of the nesting material in the box. This will give the kits a point of reference and provide a calming effect. Make sure there are no ants clinging to the material.
- Avoid the use of newspaper as it is not an absorbent material.
- ALWAYS place incoming bunnies on heat.
- HEATING PAD: Set container half on/half off a heating pad set on LOW. Monitor heat!
- ALTERNATE HEAT SOURCES: fill a soda bottle with hot water, cover it with a sock and place in the cage with the bunnies. Replace hot water every 2-3 hours.
- Fill a sock with rice, tie the open end shut, heat in the microwave till warm (1-2 minutes, depending on size of sock and your microwave) and place that in with the bunny. Re-microwave every 4-6 hours as needed.

BATHROOM PROCEDURES

- Be sure to stimulate bunny ***as soon as rescued (if mom hasn't been there to do this, they're in dire need of urinating!)*** and before each feeding. Once eyes opened and beginning to be weaned, this isn't necessary.
- Hold bunny firmly in one hand. Use cotton balls or tissue that's soaked in very warm water to stimulate the genital area (low down between back legs, just above tail.) It may take several minutes before the bunny begins to urinate. Urine may come out in spurts (and go pretty far), stop, then start again. This is normal.
- Rotate the tissue until you're sure the bunny is not producing any more urine--1-2 minutes at times. If urine is any color other than pale yellow, bunny may be dehydrated (or have internal injuries that can cause blood in the urine.)

Safe Haven receives many frantic calls from people finding cottontails in their yard. Remember, in most cases, they do not need to be rescued and are best left alone. If needed, you will find names, phone numbers and county of wildlife rehabbers specializing in rabbits posted on our website.

Adoption Updates

(Continued from page 3)

Pete taught Maggie how to fling our books and pictures off of the bookshelves, and also to play games like hide and seek and capture the tail. Maggie also answers to Pete's name, and now when I call for him they both come running. We enjoy spending time with Maggie and she seems to really like it here. We don't keep her in the our bed with Pete. They do everything together now and seem to be the best of friends. My favorite time is at night, when our two little bunnies come scampering out and flop down on the floor next to us to watch t.v. Maggie makes us smile and laugh every single day. Thank-you for giving us another little "some bunny" to love.



Maureen Elliott and Pablo Maristany

Rabbit Facts Through History

Tracing the role of the rabbit throughout world history is much like revisiting Alice's wonderland adventure. Whether his image is poised as an Egyptian hieroglyph, immortalized on Roman coins or frolicking across a Japanese silk screen, the rabbit represents a kaleidoscope of human sentiment.

Even before becoming a star of the silver screen, he was *Arneb* (Arabic for "rabbit"), a star located in the Rabbit constellation which can be seen in the Southern Hemisphere. Witty but reckless, silly yet sage, the rabbit is celebrated with striking similarity in the myths and symbols of diverse cultures.

The rabbit and the moon

The rabbit universally claims a mystical bond with the moon. The Sanskrit word for moon translates as "one who carries the hare". In China, the black rabbit was a message from the moon goddess and a sign of good luck. The Mayan moon goddess was associated with "rabbit-in-the-moon". Oestra, the Saxon goddess of spring, communed with rabbits and in 325 AD Easter was set to fall on the first Sunday after the first full moon in spring – maintaining the tradition of rabbit and moon.

The everlasting bunny

Ancient Greeks and Romans frequently painted the rabbit eating figs and grapes symbolizing rebirth, and the Algonquin Indians believed the rabbit god *Manabozho* represented the life force. Japanese legend has the rabbit in the moon preparing an elixir for immortality and of course, there is our own modern version - the Energizer Bunny which keeps going and going...

In fables and fairy tales, poetry and cartoons the rabbit reminds us of an essential concept for survival: enjoy life – be vigilant. Holding the keys to such wisdom– no wonder Bugs Bunny has such a suave and sassy character!

Irene Findley

We Need Your Help!

WANTED

Reward!



Frankie—Alias
'Ole Blue Eyes'



Robbie—Alias
'Speck'



Sage—Alias
'Shy Guy'



LiAnne—Alias
'Lucky Lady'



Snickers—Alias
'Lookout Lou'

No... Our bunnies aren't 'Wanted'; but **Sponsorships** are! Sponsorships and donations are desperately needed to keep Safe Haven going. Without your help, we would not be able to continue to rescue and re-home these wonderful creatures.

So, if you *Love A Bun*, please **Sponsor One!** Sponsorship also make unique gifts for that special someone on your list who is a little hard to buy for. (*A unique Mother's Day gift!*)



Your 'reward' will

The bunnies pictured are among our most recent rescues and need sponsors until they are adopted. Frankie, Robbie, Sage and LiAnne are youngsters apparently not sold Easter time and dumped in a Northern NJ nature reserve. Rescue attempts for two others seen with them are continuing. Snickers was found as a stray in December and cared for by his rescuers until we had room to bring him in. (*Thank you Pat G.*) He shows the marks of painful frostbite from his time outside, so we are grateful Pat and her family brought him inside when they did.

To become a sponsor, just mail the form with a sum of \$15. Your sponsorship money will be applied toward the care of the bunny you select, or if you can't decide, allow us to choose the most needy. You can also select any bunny from our website adoption page. Gift sponsorships will include a gift card from you to the recipient. They will love it!

SPONSORSHIP

Your Name: _____

Please send as a gift to:

Address: _____

Name: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ I would like to become a sponsor for: _____ (name of bunny)

Enclosed is \$ _____ Please select a bunny for me. Enclosed is \$ _____ as a general donation.

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

THANK YOU!

Your donations are tax deductible. Receipts are available upon request.

Other ways to help.....

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.



Upcoming Activities

Community Day at the Phillipsburg Mall!

Saturday, May 22, 2005 11 am—6 pm Phillipsburg, NJ

Stop by to say Hello as we join with other area non-profits to educate the public about our organization.

On-going educational days at Mike's Feed Farm, Inc.

Totowa, NJ Saturdays, June 4th, August 6th, October 1st, December 3rd 11 am—4 pm (The first Saturday, every other month)

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!