



Safe Haven Scoop



April 6th, 2011

Spring/Summer Issue



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**Sponsorship
Program**

Boy! Are we ever ready for Spring

After this long, rough winter, I'm sure everyone is as anxious as I am for the warmer weather! So, lets say **Welcome to Spring 2011** and to all the new and exciting opportunities it holds! Safe Haven volunteers have been extra busy the past few weeks planning all our spring fundraising activities, answering email questions, taking phone calls and, of course, caring for all the bunnies! (*Time to make the salads....again?*) But, we also wanted to take the time to put together this newsletter. We hope that you will find it entertaining and educational.

As always, we welcome update stories and/or pictures from you! If you have photos to share or questions you would like to see answered in an up-coming newsletter, just [email](#) them to us!



News about Safe Haven....by Karen Augustynowicz, President

We certainly had a busy end of 2010 with eight rescues in last months. All of them had sad stories and most needed extra care, but now we are happy to report all 8 are happy and healthy; two have already been adopted and the rest are ready and awaiting their turn.



The first group were three dwarfs we named [Christina, Chase and Zoey](#). These three had been turned loose with a group of twenty or so others in a not so friendly wooded area. Of the group, only 8 survived the first few days when they were rescued by Les Lapins Rescue in Hoptacong and the local shelter prior to coming to Safe Haven. Christina has been adopted, but Chase & Zoey, a bonded pair of young dwarfs in love, are still waiting for their forever home. Please visit their [webpage](#) to read more about these two!

On a very cold November day, someone left a little white bunny with very maloccluded incisors locked in a cage, filled with birdseed, in a northern NJ park. Luckily, a concerned passerby brought her to the local shelter and we were contacted. Astrid, a shelter and Safe Haven volunteer, fed her until she could be brought to the vet the next day to have her incisors trimmed to allow her to be able to eat on her own. After several every other week trims, Buttons was taken to Dr. Doolen at NorthStar Vets for surgical removal of her incisors; she also one broken molar removed as well. I am happy to report that Buttons is doing great now; eating her chopped up greens and enjoying life! She too is available for adoption. A tiny little lady at just 2.5 lbs., Buttons would love her very own home! [Click here for more](#)



Our last rescue of 2010, was also a group This time four...who we initially called [Honey and the 3 B's!](#) Each year we seem to be blessed with Christmas bunnies and this year they came as a momma mini-rex named Honey and three one month old babies. What was shocking was the condition of the babies. I received a call from a woman who said she had lost her home and had bunnies she could not keep. After hearing her story, I agreed to take them in. On Dec. 22nd, as I drove to meet her, I was picturing healthy, fluffy, plump little babies. But, when I opened the cardboard box she had brought them in, I was shocked to see just the opposite! All were missing many spots of fur and one was almost completely bald! After regaining my composure, I transferred them to my carrier and with tears in my eyes started to drive home. I was not sure if they should go to the vet immediately, or if I should just get them home and get them fed. I decided to take them home and see what I had. And, were they thirsty! Momma was so thirsty she drank



(click)

Going on Vacation?
?

Board your bunny
with us!



Contact Us:

SafeHavenRR.org

or

adopt@

[website](#)



almost half of a water bottle. The babies scrambled under it trying to get the drips. *It was heartbreaking.*

We all went to the vet the next day, and after skin scrapes, woods lamp exams, cultures and fecal tests, nothing was found. All tests came up negative; their condition was attributed to malnutrition. Poor Momma Honey was not being fed enough to support herself, let alone her babies. But, now with full tummies and a warm, comfy place, they all settled in for their first Christmas. And as the days passed, they quickly rallied and grew strong. Today, the babies are 5 months old and healthy, with that plush rex fur! Banner, the only male, and the one I was calling 'Baldy', has already been adopted. [Momma Honey](#) has been spayed and is ready for adoption. The two girls, Brianna and Bliss, will be spayed next month and then be available. They all are beautiful, sweet bunnies and can't wait to see what adventures await them with their new families. Here, their [baby video](#) shows a rough start, but in it, you will also see the spunk, determination and zest for life that they all have. *What a pleasure it is to be able to share some of it with them!* It is what makes all the endless hours and very late nights worthwhile. It is why we are. And, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of our volunteers and contributors, for without you; they would not be. *Karen A.*



★ **Book Sales to Benefit Safe Haven** ★

Loren Spiotta-DiMare, a local author specializing in animal subjects: pet-care books for adults and picture books for children has a new children's picture book - "[Hannah's House Rabbit](#)". Although a work of fiction, the story is based on the antics of the house rabbit she had when she was first married.

For each purchase, of the book originating from Safe Haven's effort, we will earn 10% of the sales for our foster bunnies. For more info. see her [flyer \(and order form\)](#) or visit Loren's [website!](#)

Loren will be available at the Bunny Spa for book signings from 1pm - 3pm on May 14th!



[Visit our store](#) for exciting new **Spring Designs!**
New - bags *too!*



Special 'Thanks' to Jacqui Crown for once again creating these adorable graphics to help our foster bunnies!

Upcoming Events....

Family Fun Day!

*Lord Stirling Stables
256 South Maple Avenue
Basking Ridge, NJ*

May 1st

One of the largest, longest-running, and free community events offered on the grounds of Lord Stirling Stable, the 28th Annual Family Fun Day is



scheduled for May 1, 2011. Children (ages 12 and under) may enjoy rides on a pony or small, gentle horse. The whole family can jump into a tractor-pulled hay wagon and take a ride along some of the 18 miles of equestrian trails. The free pony rides and hayrides are offered from 10am -12pm, and again from 1pm-3pm. The festival atmosphere of the day is enhanced by child-friendly arcade games, face painting, and other activities. Local vendors and organizations will be on hand distributing information, performing demonstrations, and offering goods for purchase. The Friends of Lord Stirling Stable co-sponsors this event. For more information, please call the Stable office: 908-766-5955.

Stop by our educational table and say 'Hello'!!



Spring *Bunny Spa Day!*



Reserve the date!

Saturday, May 14th, 2011

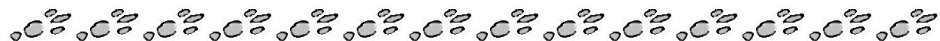
11 am - 4 pm

*Being held at: Country Pet Specialties,
1271 Rt. 22 East, Lebanon Plaza
Lebanon, NJ 08833*

[Read More.....](#)

*Treat your bunny to a well-deserved,
relaxing, Spring Spa treatment!*

[Register Now!](#)



Bike for the Buns!



Saturday, June 18th, 2011

Bull's Island State Park
2185 Daniel Bray Highway
Stockton, NJ 08559

The 'Bike for the Buns!' event is a noncompetitive, fundraising bicycle ride along the scenic towpaths within Bull's Island State Park to benefit the foster rabbits at Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc., Clinton, NJ. Bull's Island Recreation Area is comprised of a portion of a small forested island surrounded by the Delaware River and the Delaware & Raritan Canal near Stockton, NJ. Ride along the river towpath and enjoy the views!

Visit our special website:

www.Bikeforthebuns.info

for event details and to register

Register by June 6th!



Adoption Updates.... Stories contributed by new parents:

Dillon

Adopted August 1, 2009

By Laura Colon



Dillon was adopted into our bunny loving family home in August of 2010, and now resides in Oak Ridge, NJ. He shares a spare bedroom with his female dwarf pal, Keira, whom he has been roommates with for about eight months now. We have made one of the spare bedrooms the "bunny room" with their pens, plenty of cardboard and sticks for them to gnaw on, and plenty of toys to keep them occupied while we are at work. It seems whenever we go to BJ's or Home Depot, I am looking at boxes to bring home!

Dillon has adjusted quite well to his new home and friend. He is a very affectionate boy, who loves to give kisses while being brushed or petted. He also loves his kisses from Keira. He loves playtime out of his pen, and enjoys a new chasing game he started. He gets the attention of his human companions, and has us run down the hallway after him, where he hops from one runner to the next back to his pen and then he turns around and chases us back to the kitchen! I personally think he just likes to show off his running and jumping skills, as he is quite a ham!



Their favorite time is when we get home from work. Both Dillon and Keira beg for papaya treats or a banana sliver and enjoy having the run of the house. Dillon loves to explore, while Keira is kind of a "stay close to home" kind of girl. Dillon loves tearing up and down the carpets in the hallway and dining room and practicing his binky moves. He also loves hiding in the bathroom and redecorating with toilet paper.



We could not have asked for a sweeter, more affectionate by than Dillon!



A couple of pics of our latest adoptees in their new homes!



Banner
Adopted Feb 12th By
Alex Garbeck &
"Merry"

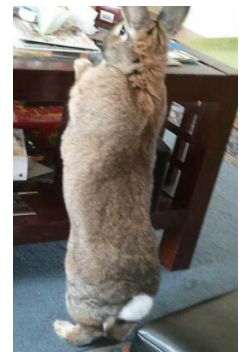


Adopted Oct. 9th



Christina

Adopted Feb 20th by
Ben Barrios & Kelly
Walsh



Dickens

Adopted March 24th by
Belinda Winters-Rosen
& Matthew Mitchel

Congratulations and to the new bunny parents!

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

Ask The Vet.....



Question: My bunny seems to be in perfect health ... how important are annual exams if my rabbit seems to be in good health? What is normally done during an exam and what signs would raise a concern?

Dr. Michael Doolen, the Exotics Veterinarian at NorthStar VETS who is a 20+ year veteran of the exclusive practice and teaching of exotic animal medicine and surgery replied:

"One of the more frustrating aspects of exotics practice, especially with rabbits, is that they are programmed to act as normal as they can regardless of any subclinical problems they may be experiencing. If they appear vulnerable, they would be more likely to become prey. As a result, many emergency cases I see turn out to be the result of the sudden worsening (or decompensation) of chronic, unapparent problems that have been silently brewing and then suddenly become major problems with little or no warning. Since the exotic veterinary community has learned a lot in the last several years about how to help our pet buns live longer, we are now also challenged with more age-related problems that appear slowly and end up requiring some degree of management. Arthritis, heart disease, kidney disease, and chronic infections are all examples of the kinds of problems that we are now much better at managing chronically. These are the kind of things that regular checkups often reveal. Obviously if these conditions are detected early, there is a much better chance of preventing symptoms with timely treatment. Besides the physical exam, optional testing such as bacterial cultures, routine blood work, and radiographs all are available to ensure that we detect any problems before the pet begins to experience uncomfortable or even life-threatening symptoms. My most successful long term patients are those who have regular annual check ups."

NorthStar Vets is located at 34 Trenton-Lakewood Rd. in Clarksburg, NJ 08510 and is scheduled to move to their new location of 315 Robbinsville-Allentown Rd. in Robbinsville, NJ 08691 May 11th. #609-259-8300. www.NorthStarVETS.com. Dr. Doolen also has a website www.doolen.com

If you have questions, you would like to see answered by one of our veterinarians, please [let us know!](#)



educator

Educational Corner.... by Linda Torlay, Safe Haven volunteer and

April showers bring May flowers ... and then comes the heat and humidity of summer. This is a time of year to pay special attention to keep your rabbit cool. Rabbits don't sweat like we do and therefore are subjected to heat exhaustion and heat stroke more than any other animal. Rabbits sweat glands are located in their lips and they displace heat only through their ears. Considering how small both these areas are compared to the rest of their fur wrapped bodies it's no wonder why rabbits and heat are a dangerous combination.

Even indoor rabbits need to be kept cool in the summer. Rooms with sunny windows can build heat quickly no different than a car. Rabbits should not be kept where temperatures climb over 85 degrees F. Common signs of an overheated rabbit are wetness around nose and lips (as this is where they sweat), increased respiratory rate, labored breathing, weakness, disorientation and a body temperature above 105 degree F. as are unconsciousness, blue tinted gums and lips and seizures. Rabbits that are dehydrated do not pant and consume less water on their own than normal.

Immediate action must be taken by cooling your rabbit gradually as not to cause shock. Place a cool wet towel on your bunny, wet his ears with cool water and get him hydrated either by giving fluids and/or a subcutaneous injection. Most important to get your bunny to a veterinarian immediately. Rabbits that do pull through heat exhaustion or stroke need to be monitored closely for several days after for any indication of kidney failure.

Common sense dictates rabbits should always have fresh cool water and not be put in direct sunlight or a

heat source that they cannot move away from. On average rabbits need and will drink approximately 1/4 - 1/2 cup of water per 2.2 pounds of body weight daily. An inexpensive indoor digital thermometer can be kept near your rabbits enclosure to provide a known temperature if you are unsure, just make sure bunny cannot reach it under any circumstances. In the summer choose a location in your home that is cool. Large ceramic tiles tend to stay cooler and can also be strategically placed in an area of your rabbits "home" for him to lie on. Some like to lay next to water frozen in large soda bottles (monitor for any signs of chewing) and if you choose to cool the area via a fan or an air conditioner use caution not to have air blow directly on your rabbit as you do not want to subject him to a possible upper respiratory infection.



Did You Know?? by Linda Torlay, Safe Haven volunteer and educator

If you are reading this newsletter I would think it's safe to say you are a rabbit owner or is it that a rabbit owns you! But **did you know** that rabbits produce the best organic fertilizer for both outdoor gardens and indoor plants. Yes its true ... rabbit pooh has the highest nitrogen content of all the manures and is very rich in phosphoric acid, two vital nutrients for healthy plant growth. Unlike other animal manures it can be used right away and will not burn plant roots because rabbit manure is considered a "cold manure" not needing to be composted to use safely unlike "hot manures" which are from cows, horses, sheep, goats and chickens and do need composting. Rabbit manure acts like little time released capsules because of their slow breakdown. Simply toss into your garden or plants, turn it into the soil or add it to your compost. If the thought of seeing rabbit pooh in your garden or house plants is a problem you can also make a tea by soaking approximately 4 cups of pooh in 1 gallon of water. Let steep in a warm sunny environment for a few days, strain and use to water plants. It is safe to assume too you would not be inviting parasites or pathogens to your soil as you would be using droppings from a healthy and parasite free pet. And **did you know** red worms love rabbit manure. Adding some red worms to your rabbit enriched garden or compost pile is like employing a tiny army that works to help aerate the soil which is another plus for plants. Rabbit manure is sold commercially and can be purchased from several internet sites but why bother when you have your own manufacturer willing and able to supply your needs. Hoppy gardening!!

Photos to Share.....

A few Birthday Celebrations . . .



March 6th, 2011- Chiku Chiku (left) celebrates his 7th Birthday! Congratulations!
(photo sent in by his mom, Myi Miyazaki)



Jan. 11, 2011 - Leah (left) celebrates her 2nd Birthday with beau, Simcha (photo sent in by mom, Astrid Hesse)



A close up of that birthday Salad!



The bunnies *Thank You* for your attention and support! We can't do it without *you*!

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