



Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc.

# Safe Haven Scoop

**Better late.....** By Karen Augustynowicz, President

then never!!! So I have heard. And, yes, this newsletter is very, very late! But, now that the holidays are past, at least you will have time to sit down and read it!

## Special points of interest:

- Charitable Giving
- Adoption Updates - Always A Favorite!
- Update - The Bunny Petition

As always, there never seems to be enough hours in the day or days in a week to get everything done that needs to be done to keep the rescue running. Bunnies and people coming and going, litterboxes to clean, hay and pellets to give, salads to make, heads to pet, trips to the grocery for greens (an every other day necessity!), more hay, visits to the vet, medicines to give and before I know it, once again it is "Time to Make the Salads!"...well, at least I'm never bored or looking for something to do!

When we started Safe Haven in May of 2003, my long-term plan was for 5 years with a goal of rescuing 100 bunnies. As we enter 2008, the government is reminding me that our 501(c)3 probation period is ending and paperwork must be submitted to establish that we are a "publicly supported organization". Otherwise, we will be "subject to excise taxes" Yikes, more paperwork! Don't they know I have bunnies to feed, salads to make and newsletters to write! Do you think they would mind if it was just a *little* late? And, *taxes*? When I took a quick look at book-close for 2007, my least favorite color was showing up - Red. I never cared for red. Anyone who has been to my house knows *blue* is my favorite color!

So, yes, I guess this is turning out to be another plea for your support. I am grateful to all of you who have sent donations and to those who will continue to do so. For it is your generosity that will enable Safe Haven to continue for years to come; and somehow I will find the time to make all those salads! (Salad count right now is twenty - twice a day, but who is counting!)

Speaking of counting.....



Jingles, a young dwarf stray, rescued December 19, 2007, by Wendy Milligan joins Safe Haven as rescue number 99!

And, Jingles worries....

*"Will I have to be plus tax?!?! I don't even know what tax is!! Sounds like it would hurt! Please help!"*

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Just a little belatedly, I wish everyone and all their companion animals a  
***Very Happy and Healthy New Year!***

*Best Regards,  
Karen A.*

## Charitable Giving

by Linda Guarino



We all have personal reasons when gifting to the charities we love. While your generosity certainly helps the organization to which you are gifting it can also help you financially. The most common and straightforward gift made is the donation of cash/check. Donations to 501(c)3 organizations are tax deductible and noted on your itemized tax return. As a reminder, starting in 2007, you must have a cancelled check, credit card statement or a written receipt from the charity in order to deduct any donation no matter the dollar amount.

All bunnies that come into Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue receive medical exams, they are spayed/neutered, some require medication or surgery, they are given fresh green foods to eat daily, quality hay and pellets, toys to play with and are kept in spacious pens with toys, tunnels, boxes and clean litter boxes. Adoption fees are kept minimal to encourage adoption, so they do not even cover the cost of the spay or neuter which is why receiving donations are important and vital to Safe Haven's existence.

### *Some ideas of how you can help*

- \* Be generous and donate.
- \* Pass this information along to someone who too has a generous heart.
- \* Some companies offer their employees matching gift programs and volunteer grant programs ... does yours?
- \* Sponsor a fund raiser (garage sale or candy/snack box at work) and donate the proceeds.
- \* Ask that a donation be made in your name as opposed to receiving a holiday gift or birthday gift that you may not want or need.
- \* Visit our website as Valentine's Day approaches - a *Holiday Gift Sponsorship* in your Valentine's name would be a wonderful way to show your love and a easy way to lend your support!
- \* Going away on vacation or just for the weekend? Board your bunny with us! You will have peace of mind knowing your baby is being well cared for and he will have lots of fun at Bunny Camp!

### **Update on the Bunny Petition!! - Selling bunnies at PetSmart is OUT!**

Word came on Dec. 12th, 2007 from PetSmart that they will be ceasing the test of rabbit sales in their stores, and will no longer be selling rabbits, once the current rabbits have been sold. This is great news and we want to thank all who made phone calls, sent emails or signed the Best Friends petition against this practice. Thank you for taking the time to cast your vote. We hope all pet stores will take heed and realize that selling bunnies is a very bad idea.



### *And we have heard.....*



that love has blossomed for Raeline (now called Bella) in her new home!! Bella's mom, Louann, tells me that when Tucker and Bella were introduced the happiness was evident from the very beginning. How wonderful for Bella! Everyone who met Bella while she was here in foster care with her babies fell in love with her. I am delighted to pass along this great news and look forward to sharing more of Bella's story in an upcoming newsletter.

## Adoption Updates (Stories contributed by new parents)

### *Millie*

*Adopted April 1, 2007  
by Russ and Kathe Fisher*

Looking on the internet, we saw a docile, beautifully colored bunny who seemed to have a letter "M" engraved in her fur on her nose. Her name was Millie -"M" for Millie, just like Russ, my husband's grandmother's name. We made arrangements to meet Millie at Karen's house. We talked a bit, and then were introduced to a rabbit who stole our hearts within thirty seconds.



Russ climbed into the pen and was down nose-to nose on his hands and knees with Millie, immediately; clearly, they were already friends. Karen, being quite perceptive, noticed I didn't interact much and had a bit of a problem standing. She offered me a chair which showed what a caring person she is. Having raised three bunnies, previously, while we raised our four now adult children, we pretty much knew the routines and challenges of bunny care. Like excited children ourselves, we worked hard to make a comfortable and safe area in our living room.

Within two months, Millie grew to love and respect us, especially Russ, who has a gentle way with all animals. Amazingly, Millie also seemed to perceive that I could not bend over to pet her or pick her up. She developed her own method of giving "me" attention by coming over to me and bumping my ankles with her nose and then sitting with me. Russ would put her on my lap and she'd snuggle against my arm and, she and I would "talk".

Two months later, I was in the hospital having my second back surgery. I spent a week in the hospital following an eight and one half hour replacement of nearly all my discs joined by two titanium rods. Then, it was three more weeks in rehabilitation. Russ took care of Millie mornings and in-between visiting me. We also had a friend and her mom come everyday for an hour or two twice a day to keep Millie safe and the air temperature right. I was sure that Millie would forget me since we only had her two months. Russ assured me that everyday she went to look for me in our room. Then, finally, after a month away, my daughter brought me home and up the six stairs.

Millie came into the room, took one look at me and one listen to my voice, and she did the biggest, wildest, happiest bunny dance that you have ever seen, always stopping to see if I was watching! Then, Russ picked her up and put her on my bed and I think we both cried tears of joy.

Even as important as remembering me, Millie, instinctively knew that I was very ill. As a mother would do for her child, Millie became very protective of me and never left my side. Soon, a physical therapist would come up to my room several days a week to help with my recovery. Millie would poke her with her nose to let the therapist know that Millie was there "guarding" me. After each therapy session, Millie would come out rubbing my legs with her nose, almost as if she was telling me that I did well.

Then one day came the big step. Going down the six stairs to the living room was slow and difficult, but there was always the encouragement of Millie, exactly two steps behind me. She walked when I walked and she stepped when I stepped. Escorting me right to my sitting place, she'd always sit right next to me. Finally, Russ started putting her on my lap again where she'd stare into my eyes and though I can't explain it, she helped me feel well.

Finally, after nearly three months most all of my home helpers were gone, back to work and school, Millie and I developed our own routine with her patience and my striving for limited independence. We developed our own slow-paced routine with Millie always at my side. She never got in my way; just waited patiently. Sometimes she'd sense I was in tremendous pain, and she'd come and sit on my feet, or stand up with her two front paws on the edge of my chair, so that I could pet her, and we'd both feel better.

It's been five months, and I have a very long way to go. I will walk normally without pain again with the help of medicine, a wonderful helpful family, lots of physical therapy, but most of all the love and instincts of the most wonderful "Rehabilitation Rabbit".

Do consider adopting a bunny! They don't bark, are easily litter trained and offer unconditional love to the healthy and to the sick.

Thank you Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, and Karen for Millie, the "Rehab Bunny"

Love, Russ and Kathe Fisher

## Adoption Updates *(Continued)*

### Harley

Adopted July 22, 2007

by Lisa Chiariello & Family

Harley came to Sparta in August for a date with our resident five year old female lop, Yoshi. Having read Harley's bio on the Safe Haven website, he seemed a good match for our box chewing, ball rolling, carpet terrorizing bunny. The initial meeting went well: Harley sat in his litter box wide eyed and frozen in place while Yoshi played coy looking over her shoulder and acting as if he were not there. Karen assured us this was a good sign, ignoring is good – straight out assault, not so good.



The house now became a place of many pens, with the two prospective partners living side by side, being swapped daily to get used to each other's scent. A week later, they were taken out a couple times a day to go on dates, getting to know each other. At first Yoshi lunged and grunted at Harley every time he tried to come sniff her. This being our first experience bonding, we were rather at a loss for what to expect and do. Many emails went back and forth to and from Karen. She returned again to help out, check on the couple and lend some advice. Karen told us Harley needed to stand his ground and show Yoshi he wouldn't back down in order for them to move on in their relationship. In answer to Karen's assessment, Harley did a double pawed bongo drum style repartee on Yoshi's head. She got the message.

So, when Harley began to show his valor, Yoshi turned tail and ran away squealing! It was as if the warrior princess needed him to prove his strength. Now they began to treat each other with respect and mutual interest. The whole process took about three weeks. It seemed like a lot of work at the time, but the payoff has been more than worth it.

They are both so happy and good for each other. Harley thinks he's all that with an older woman at his side; he's becoming more confident daily. Yoshi couldn't be happier now that she has a younger male following her around, and grooming her. She actually became really friendly, running up to greet people more than ever.



The happy couple lives in Yoshi's old territory now; she welcomed Harley right in. They go on team forays into the hardwood territory of the kitchen, living and dining room, but return to home base in the preferred carpeted family room. They are chewing their way through cardboard

labyrinths designed by our two boys and learning tricks using "clicker training" now (stand-up, gimme ten, circles and come). Harley is a gentleman, taking his treats so gently and Yoshi a clod, shoving her fat head in to get her fair share or more. She is fearless and pushy, he is cautious and tidy. To see them snuggle up to each other, chewing their teeth blissfully is very rewarding and contagious too.



We all lie down on the floor and chew our teeth together now, 4 humans and 2 lagomorphs!



### Ricky

Adopted Jan. 21, 2007

by Candice Milford

Ricky is doing great! We bought him a new toy that he loves to take apart so that it has 2 doors instead of one. We also got him a tunnel which he'll run through and around like crazy. He is as naughty as ever. His favorite thing to do is nip me on the foot when I'm not paying attention to him. He also likes to go into my room when I'm not in there and chew my jeans! (*Sounds like a normal rabbit!*)



*Hanging out; watching the game.*

*Most Recent Adoptions .....*



Gracie  
Adopted by  
Diane Romano  
6/9/2007



Willow & Pearl  
Adopted by  
Lorrie Cunniff  
7/21/2007



Harley  
Adopted by  
Lisa Chiariello  
7/22/2007



Raeline  
Adopted by  
Louann Stewart  
8/10/2007



Dolly  
Adopted by  
Josephine Proctor  
9/27/2007



Dickens  
Adopted by  
Cindy Grube  
12/23/2007

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

**Join Us Today!**

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

**Foster Homes Needed!**

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

**Love-A-Bun? Please Sponsor One!**

We cannot do it without you! With vet bills especially high as of late, our bunnies really need your support. You can choose a specific bunny to sponsor or let us choose the most needy. Either way, you will receive a key fob, complete with a picture of your sponsored bun!



Please Print Clearly!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 1 year membership - \$15

\_\_\_ Sponsorship - \$25 for \_\_\_\_\_ (Bunny's Name)

\_\_\_ 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!**

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