



Safe Haven Scoop



October 3, 2010

Fall / Winter 2010



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Please help us by making a secure, tax-deductible donation today!

Sponsor A Bunny with Our



Fall time by Karen Augustynowicz, President

Welcome to fall 2010! Have your bunnies seemed a little friskier than normal? The cool wind in the air gives us all a little higher step in our hop. Just this morning Sara, my "kitchen" bunny, jumped so high I thought she was going to land on the counter!

Safe Haven volunteers were very busy this summer caring for the foster and sanctuary rabbits, bunny sitting and doing lots of fundraising activities to enable us to continue. Our first **'Bike for the Buns!'** event in June was a great success and what a fun time we all had with over 60 participants! We are already planning for next year! If you haven't seen the pictures, check them out [here](#). Our rescue of **'Boo'** - the baby with the broken leg in June required even more fundraising for vet bills - so **'Make the Future Bright For Boo'** was created. I am happy to report that 'Boo' is well recovered from his amputation surgery and although he needs his ear 'scritch' all the time, he runs and jumps with the best of them! You can read his story and see his video [here](#).

I especially want to thank again all the volunteers who helped with fundraising in this trying economic time. Adoptions have been slow due to the economy while the calls for rabbits needing our help have increased. But we are encouraged that this fall and winter will bring new homes for those rabbits who have been waiting too long and thus allow us to bring more into our foster program.

I hope you will find this newsletter both informative and fun. 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, this version will provide a clickable links for you to send them to us. We always love hearing from you!



So Hare We Go!!



News about Safe Haven

Congratulations!

are in order for Wendy Milligan, Safe Haven officer and foster parent, on her recent graduation with a degree in veterinary technology! Wendy graduated in August from Bergen Community College, on the dean's list, from one of the only two AVMA (American Veterinarian Medical Association) approved programs. *'Way to go, Wendy!'*

Wendy tell us about this journey:

As far back as I can remember I have always been drawn to and have had a very deep love for



Holiday Sponsorships!



Holiday Sponsorship Program



(click)

animals. I remember having a very strong desire to be with and around them. When I was a kid I recall being told to go outside and play; to keep busy. One time, I found a full sized ostrich in my front yard! When I came inside to announce this incredible finding to my family, no one believed me, they as usual (being the youngest) thought I was crazy. After I burst into tears and demanded they come outside, they did...and found, yes.....an ostrich in our front yard. (The local shopping mall had the zoo come to visit and their ostrich got loose and found its' way to our front yard which was about 5 miles away!). I was able to get very close to and talk to the ostrich as I had no fear of it, or it of me. It was then I think my family truly realized I had a special gift and uniqueness about me when it came to animals of all kinds. Much to my mother's dismay I was always found with a shoe box with a hurt bird, turtle or abandoned baby bunny in it I had found on one of my outside play explorations and was always trying to treat it back to health.

In my early twenties I became an avid scuba diver and underwater photographer, having many very close encounters with dolphins, octopus, sea lions, sharks and whales, I was blessed to always be able to come so close to these marine animals and interact with these incredible, rare and amazing creatures.

I have always had a family dog (terriers) and through the years have had a strange eclectic group of pets including a pet tea cup sting ray, salt water and fresh water aquariums, huge tortoises, leopard geckos, old world chameleons etc. – but it was about 6 years ago, while I was working as a middle school science teacher when I decided to adopt a house rabbit from Safe Haven that my life truly changed.

We continue Wendy's story in the [Inspirational Rabbits](#) Section

**Going on Vacation?
?**

**Board your bunny
with us !**



Upcoming Events.....



Fall Bunny Spa Day!



Make your appt. today!

Saturday, October 16, 2010

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 Spa treatment!*

[Register Now!](#)

Contact Us:

SafeHavenRR.org

or

adopt@

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

DeeDee

Adopted January 16, 2010

By Jeff, Marjorie, Christopher and Matthew Nicholls

Story by Mom (Marjorie)

Hi! We are the Nicholls and we adopted DeeDee in January. She was rescued as a baby by Safe Haven wandering in a park in Allentown, probably a castoff Easter present. DeeDee is a large, black satin rabbit who fit our family perfectly. She has become a great house bunny. Whenever possible, she is free to hop everywhere around the house. In the winter, she acts like a dog and stretches out in front of the fireplace. In the summer, she prefers to sack out under the piano or dining room table. In her pen she loves her bags, tube and toys. She is very friendly and curious about visitors.



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DeeDee is very smart has picked up on training quickly. Using timothy hay squares as treats, she has learned "DeeDee come" and "back in the pen" commands. At nearly nine pounds, she loves to eat just about anything given to her and is bigger than our cat LuLu, who is barely seven pounds. (They are both afraid of each other so they coexist peacefully.)

We are very happy to have DeeDee as part of our family and hope that others will experience the joys of rabbit ownership.



Ask The Vet..... by Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Volunteer

Question: I have heard that once a rabbit has coccidia and is treated that they have then built an immunity to it and will never get it again ... is this true? Can you explain what coccidia is and how can I tell if my rabbit has it? **Dr. David Horn, Veterinary Medical Doctor and owner of Veterinary Care Center in Mercerville, NJ replied:**



Coccidia are a large family of microscopic parasites that infect most animals (not just rabbits). The good news is that they tend to be species specific, meaning a rabbit coccidia can't infect a dog and likewise, a dog coccidia can't infect a person etc. The main coccidia that infect rabbits are intestinal parasites. Rabbits most at risk are the very young, stressed, or otherwise debilitated individuals. Signs can vary from 'unapparent' infection, to mild diarrhea, to profuse diarrhea / dehydration and even death. More severe signs are typical in young animals (whose immune systems are not yet mature). All new rabbits being brought into your home / rabbitry should be tested ASAP. Provide your veterinarian with 5-6 fresh fecal pellets (less than 24 hours old). Remember getting a new pet is very exciting for you, but for a rabbit, being taken from an environment it knows is an extremely stressful event which increases its susceptibility to infection. If diagnosed with coccidia, treatment is routine with complications being VERY rare.

It would be very unlikely for a successfully treated rabbit to become re-infected. The affected animal will develop protective antibodies, but equally important, it's immune system will continue to mature and ill effects of stress will resolve as they settle into their new home. Maintaining a healthy (high fiber, low calorie) diet, a hygienic enclosure and plenty of play / exercise are also critical in helping your rabbit stay healthy and free of disease.

Veterinary Care Center is located at 2663 Nottingham Way in Mercerville, NJ 08619 #609-890-6266. Their website www.vccvet.com is coming soon.

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

Inspirational Rabbits.....by Wendy Milligan, Safe Haven Foster Parent

Anyone who has had a rabbit enter their life understands how much of an impact being owned by a rabbit can have on one's life. This section is for telling such stories. In this issue Wendy Milligan continues her story:

When I decided to adopt a rabbit, I knew nothing about keeping or caring for a house rabbit, but when I met Karen all that changed, it was with her love, kindness, support and great patience that she taught me the ways of her "rabbit whisperer" ability. I adopted Doodles a small male brown and white dwarf bunny.



As many of you have already found out, rabbits are sort of like potato chips.....you can't have just one! The following Christmas my husband gave me a baby bunny and named her JOY, he knew how incredibly happy bunnies made me and after all now I had a new bundle of JOY to love. I began the long process of bonding Joy & Doodles. I soon became hooked with "rabbit fever" and began to help Safe Haven by fostering rabbits in my home. One of those rescues, Jingles was one I just had to adopt! Jingles is an adorable male brown and white dwarf bunny and another kisser. Worried he might be lonely, I decided to take him out on the dating scene to meet a wife and he chose a very tiny chocolate colored exotic little lion head bunny I named Belle, after all.....she was Jingle's Belle, right? (smirk!)

It was about 3 yrs ago that I had a very serious family crisis/tragedy that my world got seriously turned upside down. I got very sick and suffered post traumatic stress from this event. The intense stress affected my life greatly, but I also realized that it was my bunnies that carried me through this incredibly difficult time. They were like little blessed guiding angels that were sent me by our dear Lord. I was out of a job and able to seriously re-evaluate my life, I got career tested and decided I wanted to devote my life to caring for and serving animals, it was then that I had a notion and for the fun of it decided to apply for and actually received a full paid scholarship to go back to school full time and get my veterinary technology degree.



Already having a BS and MS degree, I wasn't so sure about going back to school full time again while this time in my forties! All the while my precious little prince "Doodles" was encouraging me and carrying me along in this crazy journey in my life. He was my first house rabbit and I had always told him every day that he was "the greatest rabbit God had ever made", he hated being picked up but would allow me to carry him around my house in my arms like a little baby; he was always there for me and had the greatest, sweetest kisses of all. Doodles encouraged me to go out and rescue and help other bunnies since he himself was found outside in a park in the winter with partial frostbite. I always thank God that Safe Haven was able to take him in and recommended him as the one for me to adopt. I had actually picked out another rabbit I was interested in coming to meet and adopt, but after meeting all the rabbits, some how Karen knew just the "right one" for me and it was my precious little prince Doodles.



Doodles had the softest fur and sweetest eyes and always knew just what I needed, he licked away all my tears and truly was my little baby boy, he always inspired me. I was devastated this past April when he died. It was sudden and unexpected. I rushed him to Red Bank Animal hospital that rainy Sunday morning and, wanting to stay by his side, told them I was a veterinary nurse student. They escorted me to the back where I worked with the doctors and performed CPR, I couldn't believe my eyes what was happening and at the time refused to let him die. I was crushed and felt horrible as I couldn't even save my own baby. The doctors wrote me a very special letter and informed me there was nothing anyone could have ever done to save him they believed he died from a sudden and severe stroke. They strongly encouraged me to get back to my school studies and continue to complete my degree in order to come into the veterinary world of serving and helping animals. At this point I seriously doubted myself and my life overall too at this very dark time. I had portraits taken of my rabbits that had ironically come to me in the mail right when this all happened, I kept Doodles picture with me all the time and as I kept looking at my precious little prince, I felt in my heart I needed to complete my degree and go on, he would want me to, but this time.....my work would be devoted to and in honor of this very special rabbit in my life, Doodles. I am so blessed to have been his mommy.

It was a very long hard struggle, but by God's grace and mercy I was able to graduate "deans list" this summer with my veterinary technology degree. It is my hope and desire to now get a full time job as a veterinary nurse, but my favorite speciality is anesthesia and surgery. It is also a hope and prayer of

mine to someday work for a rabbit doctor in order to learn and further my knowledge in order to continue to educate the public about these precious house rabbits. I believe that animals are sent to us by God so we can experience what true unconditional love is. My life has been forever changed by my experience of adopting a house rabbit from Safe Haven and now instead of carrying my precious little prince around my house, I carry him always in my heart and will devote my life to the carrying for, serving, fostering, helping, supporting and love of rabbits.

Updates: *Two new pieces of information for which to add congratulations:* #1.

Wendy joined Whippany Animal Hospital as a full time surgical nurse on Sept 30th!; and #2 she added our "Toby" to her family of house rabbits! (Go [Back](#) to News About)



**Do you have a story to share? Or know someone we can interview? Please [send the info](#) our way!

Did You Know??by Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Volunteer

Soon we will be into the holiday season ... Halloween is near, Thanksgiving will follow and then it will be Hanukah and Christmas and New Years. If you're like me you like to decorate for the occasion and bring items and food into the home that are seasonal. You'll have company coming and going, you'll be busy and you or a guest may put something down within bunnies reach.



But did you know that some things can be deadly to your companion bunny?

Bunnies being curious little critters will investigate and of course nibble. Please remember to keep candy and goodies in a place that your bunny can not reach. Keep Autumn foliage from outdoors away from your bunny such as acorns and oak leaves. When baking that scrumptious apple pie and if inclined to give bunny a tiny slice of apple remember the seeds are poisonous. Mistletoe berries are fatal as is the Poinsettia plant and remember to bunny-proof all electrical cords. Because bunnies cannot vomit they are more inclined to suffer a fatality as opposed to an animal that can vomit which helps to remove the noxious substance. Please familiarize yourself with plants and substances that are dangerous to your bunny before the holidays begin by doing an Internet search for "plants that are poisonous to rabbits" as this note barely encompasses the list. Print it out and have it handy and as a general rule rabbits should not eat plants even if they are safe other than their rabbit approved greens because digestive upset would still be a concern.

Visit this link: <http://www.alllearssac.org/poison.html> provided by the Sacramento House Rabbit Society

Please keep your bunny-friend safe this holiday season!



Photos to Share.....Photos Contributed by our Adopters, Members & Friends

Kirby...Adopted Nov. 2008 now has a girlfriend!



Kirby (on left), formerly Luca, w/Penny his sweetheart. Photo by Mom (Helen Chen)

Arequipe's in love too! Charmed by Winter!

Abby...Adopted Oct. 2006 is quite comfortable with her man.



Abby (on left), formerly Abigail, chilling with Licorice is said to still be quite mischievous too :)):



Arequipe (on left), formerly Teddy, adopted July 2004, recently celebrated his 6th birthday with his new love and Mom (Roberta Glaser) made this wonderful cake!



Looks Just LIKE Them!!!



Photos by Mom (Alison Tamborlane)

And sometimes it is a good idea to make sure their halos stay in place.

Here **Mindy & Brandi**, adopted April 2007, receive a blessing from Pastor John Welge during a Blessing of the Animals ceremony.



Mom Judy Coniglio (left) holds Brandi while sister Mindy waits with Daddy Bob Coniglio.
Photo by Lorrie Smith

Thanks for the photos!



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



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