



# Safe Haven Scoop



March 15, 2010

Spring/Summer 2010



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## Ways To Help

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## Hop into Spring!.....

Welcome to Spring 2010 and to all the new and exciting opportunities it holds! This is our first online version newsletter and we are excited about the great interactive possibilities it opens up to our readers. We hope that you will find it entertaining and educational.

Several new sections have been added including "Ask the Vet", "Did You Know?" and "Inspirational Rabbits" and, as needed, "News About Safe Haven" and "UpComing Events", but do not worry... we've also kept some of the old favorites such as "Adoption Updates" and "Photos to Share". 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....by Karen Augustynowicz, President



I am excited to announce that Safe Haven has been accepted as an Animal Organization member of the **Shelter Animals Reiki Association (SARA)** and that I have been invited to join as a SARA Practitioner.

Reiki (pronounced ray'-key) is a holistic Japanese energy healing modality that promotes stress reduction and relaxation. SARA was founded in May 2008 to support the growing number of Reiki practitioners who wish to establish programs in their local shelters. SARA's goals are to: Teach and foster an understanding of energy healing; provide a standardized approach to implementing professional animal Reiki programs for shelters, sanctuaries and other facilities that assist animals in need; document the effects of animal Reiki on individual animals and the possible effects on shelter and rescue statistics as a whole; serve as a worldwide information and referral resource for Reiki practitioners, shelters, sanctuaries and other facilities that assist animals in need that wish to incorporate an animal Reiki program; and educate the public, shelters, sanctuaries and other facilities that assist animals in need on the benefits animal Reiki can provide to animals in need and their human caretakers.

I was introduced to Reiki by Jacqueline Crown in March of 2006 when she expressed an interest in adopting one of our "Special Needs" rabbits named "Pickles". Pickles came to Safe Haven as an "undesirable, aggressive" rabbit who was about to be put down by a local shelter. After being with Safe Haven for a while his disposition greatly improved, but he continued to exhibit extreme stress behaviors which I knew would require a very experienced and patient adopter if he was to ever be adopted at all.

When Jacqui told me that Pickles would be her first rabbit all the red flags went up in my mind. As I began to tell her about his "issues", I could tell Jacqui would not be deterred; saying instead that she knew "he was the boy for her". Jacqui then began to explain her work in energy healing, all its benefits and how she felt that it would be just what Pickles needed. And so I listened, intrigued, and soon after Pickles' adoption, I began my journey and studies of Reiki with Jacqui ([Blue Lotus Healing Arts](#)). After completing my 1st and 2nd level certifications in 2006, and my Master Certification in 2007, the natural direction for me was more education with the focus on "Animal Reiki" through Kathleen Prasad and her [Animal Reiki Source](#) classes. And, so now, through SARA, I have been given another opportunity to continue to learn, share and help animals both in and outside of Safe Haven.



And Pickles?? Well, today he is one happy, relaxed little guy! Living the good life with Momma Jacqui and Daddy Jim!

Spring Holiday  
Sponsorship  
Program



(click)

\*\*\*\*\*

Going on Vacation?  
?

Board your bunny  
with us !



Contact Us:

[SafeHavenRR.org](http://SafeHavenRR.org)

or

[adopt@](mailto:adopt@)

[website](http://)

## Upcoming Events.....



# Spring Bunny Spa Day!



Reserve the date!

*Saturday, May 15th, 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, Spring Spa treatment!*

[Register Now!](#)

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

### Claire & Sherman

Adopted February 16, 2009  
By Tina, Owen and Luke Dykstra

We adopted our beloved Thumper, now an angel bunny, from the Sparta Pound back in the year 2000. When she passed away early last year at the age of 9, we were heartbroken and did not know if we could ever love another bunny again. After Thumper's death, our son Luke was talking about how, if he ever adopted another bunny, that he envisioned the bunny would either be a brown one, like Thumper, or a black and white one, like an Oreo cookie. We had heard about Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue while Thumper was alive when our local newspaper, The Sparta Independent, had a write up on the Rabbit Rescue. I remember thinking how wonderful that an entire rescue was devoted to the care and love of rabbits.

Last spring, while Luke was at school, I looked up Safe Haven's website and was surprised to see that two of its available adoptables were a brown bunny named Sherman and a black and white bunny named



Claire. A brown bunny *and* a black and white one! Had Luke somehow instinctively known that they were to be our next loves? Or, had divine intervention placed Sherman and Claire at Safe Haven knowing that Luke was looking for such bunnies?

We arranged to visit Karen and meet Sherman and Claire. How could you say no to the most adorable creatures that God placed on this earth? Since we agreed to take home two bunnies that would be bonded, Karen would spend the next week supervising the bonding and honeymoon, yes honeymoon, process.

Sherman and Claire quickly became devoted to each other. They love each other very much. They snuggle and groom each other often. They are funny though when it is snack time or breakfast time. They both get very excited and will circle each other and jump high in the air. They then each pick up their little treat and run to opposite sides of the room. As much as they love each other, they definitely will not share their treats with each other. Sometimes they will both be biting at a piece of lettuce and they keep biting at it until they wind up practically kissing each other.

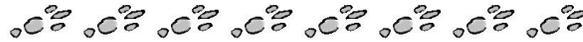


Sherman is definitely an explorer and loves nosing around. Claire likes to hide and stay close to her comfort items like her hideaway box. If Sherman is off exploring, Claire is very concerned and sometimes impatient for his return. We can almost imagine her saying, "Sherman, it is time to come home now!"



We are thankful for the work of Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue and for the love and joy that Sherman and Claire bring into our home.

Tina, Owen and Luke Dykstra



### **Parker**

Adopted August 10, 2009  
By Alison and Dean Kraus

One day last summer, my husband, Dean, and I decided we would like to a furry friend to join our family. After fostering some wild bunnies in our home (as a volunteer with South Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitation Center), we (mostly I) began to take an interest in having a rabbit of our own. After all, I opined, rabbits can be litter boxed trained, they are clean and quiet and they are crepuscular – active in the evenings and mornings – fitting perfectly in our work schedule. We would have fun with our bun when we are home from work and the bunny could rest while we are out. I also learned that, like dogs and cats, too many rabbits wind up in shelters. While reading up on the ins and outs of rabbits, the importance of keeping them in your home, the value of adopting from a rabbit rescue, I found the wonderful Safe Haven organization.

After filling out the adoption form and contacting Karen we arranged to meet a few of the available bunnies at Wendy's house. Meeting Wendy, being greeted in her living room by two of her house bunnies and seeing how they lived as part of the family was the icing on the cake. Karen and Wendy explained what we needed to provide for our adoptee in the way of a pen, shelter, toys, and healthcare. After meeting several potential candidates we made the tough choice (not to take them all) and selected Parker. Then we were off to prepare our home for him.



When Parker joined our family in August, he brought with him a spunky personality, perfect litter box habits, a love of treats, and a couple of health issues. Parker was a stray in Asbury Park before he was lucky enough to join the "adoptables" at Safe Haven. Parker is challenged with dental issues requiring periodic veterinary attention not uncommon in the dwarf bunny varieties. In fact, his teeth required the attention of a vet shortly before he came to us. But, Parker had a hidden, and much more serious issue which was discovered while Karen and Wendy were giving him a final check on the day he was due to be delivered to us. My husband and I were all prepared for the big arrival when Wendy called to let us know that she and Karen found a suspicious lump on Parker and they were taking him to an exotics vet near our home to make sure he was A-OK. As Karen and Wendy suspected, this lump and another found on his elbow were abscesses.

This vet recommended putting him on Baytril (an antibiotic) and waiting to see what happened. Only certain vets are qualified to treat rabbits (which oddly enough are considered exotics) and even the qualified rabbit vets vary in knowledge about treating their health issues. Karen, Wendy and I were not comfortable that what was done was sufficient.

Abscesses are more serious and difficult to treat in rabbits than in other pets. It is also critical to know which antibiotics will be effective against the particular pathogen (i.e., disease-causing agent) causing the problem. This means that (1) the species (and strain) of bacteria (or other pathogen) must be identified and (2) the drugs most effective at inhibiting their growth must be determined. The only reliable way this can be done is a culture and sensitivity test (C&S). So, after discussion, we decided a second opinion was necessary. As it turned out surgery was needed to correct the problem and obtain a proper sample for C&S. Fortunately, Karen and Wendy took care of everything and once he was well on his way to recovery after his surgery (the next day) Parker came home.



Dean and I became proficient at his after care. Parker was a champ with the daily antibiotic injections, but less than patient with the twice daily oral pain meds. His incisions healed well and his fur grew back quickly. Although we continue to keep a close eye on him for signs of abscesses or dental issues he has been just fine and dandy. You would never know he had any problem at all. He is a playful, happy bunny, delighting us by performing sprints and binkies on a regular basis. He has a love of heights and enjoys racing up the stairs, sitting on chairs, and even on tables. He loves his tunnel, cardboard "houses"

and exploring when he is not on my lap begging for a treat or flopped on the carpet nearby.



To keep those chisel teeth under control, Parker gets plenty of timothy hay, willow branches and other chewing material. Dean even installed Parker's own baseboard (untreated pine) in his pen. Besides his adorable side, Parker, like many rabbits, has habits that can be destructive to your home and furnishings. We have gently and persistently redirected his interest in chewing furniture, woodwork, and carpet by providing alternative and simple toys and just by playing with him. He is making progress but still requires "one eye on the bunny" at all times when he is out of his pen. I suppose the feeling is mutual, because Parker keeps on eye on us, too!



### **Devin**

Adopted February 16, 2009  
By Carrie Yanowitz & Family



We adopted Devin and enjoyed his high spirit from the start. He loves to run and jump, so we give him plenty of time to stretch those legs outside of his pen. It took a few months, but now Devin and Snowny are inseparable. They stay close by each other every day. They love to groom each other and sleep together. If you start to pet one rabbit the other pushes in for a rub too. We think Snowny is much happier now that she has a roommate. We decided to give Devin a new name and it is Mr. Mogotto. Thank you for letting us adopt him!

Snowny (Left)  
& Devin

## **Ask The Vet.....**

*Question: I have heard that acupuncture may help pet rabbits. Could you further explain some of the benefits and why acupuncture may be sought out for treatment? Dr. Sharon Marx, Medical Director and IVAS Certified Acupuncturist at VCA Animal Healing Center in Yardley, PA replied:*



"Acupuncture works by increasing the flow of energy in the body. It increases blood flow and can aid in pain control since most acupuncture points are centered around nerves and blood vessels. In rabbits it can help with digestive issues (ileus and hairballs), arthritis, neurologic issues (head tilt) and the immune system (respiratory infections and cancer).

Rabbits are usually very responsive to acupuncture and tolerate the fine needles very well. In addition, acupuncture is often used for conditions where conventional medicine is not helping; and has the benefits of treatment with no side effects and can decrease the amount of medications given."

Sharon Marx, DVM

[VCA Animal Healing Center](#) is located at 1724 Yardley-Langhorne Road in Yardley, PA. #215-493-0621

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

## **Inspirational Rabbits.....**



**MATTHEW STUDIOS**

*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. The first story to share is about a beautiful all black bunny named Matthew and his inspirational ways.*

Matthew was one of Safe Haven's earliest rescues; found as a stray just after the summer of 2003. A wonderfully, big bunny, all black with a terrific personality. Soon after, in early February of 2004, Katherine Wildt and several friends visited Safe Haven to meet Matthew and the connection between the two seemed instant. So, on Valentine's Day 2004, we made the trip into Manhattan to deliver Matthew to

his new parents and to the big city life! Every Valentine's Day since, I am always delighted to find an email from Katherine with news about her Matthew. Her email this year included news of the creation of **Matthew Studios** and her words were "*Matthew was my muse*"

*From her website:*

Katherine Wildt O'Brien is the founder of Matthew Studios and President of Matthew Studios Inc. Katherine began her career at a boutique interior design firm on Madison Avenue, and worked with a celebrity roster of clients. Here she developed a keen understanding of integrating fine art, custom furniture and lighting on large scale interior projects.

Katherine graduated with honors from New York University and studied painting at The School of Visual Arts. Katherine is a member of the IES, Designer's Lighting Forum and NEWH. She currently lives on the upper west side of Manhattan with her husband Garrett and her house rabbit Matthew.



Her experience spans work with places like Knoll, LucePlan NY, and Baldinger (where she launched collections by such notables as Michael Graves, Alvar Alto and Andre Putman) before she was instrumental in the establishment of Oxygen Lighting.

Matthew Studios was established in 2008, in an effort to blend Katherine's extensive knowledge of product design with her interest in natural materials and love of light.

(asked) *What is the most important element of a home?* "Joy. I get this from family. For me it's my husband and Matthew - our house rabbit. It's pure pleasure for me to watch both of them relax and kick back with the lights set just right! PS: That feeling is the inspiration for Matthew Studios."

Safe Haven sends *Congratulations* and continued *Good Wishes* to Katherine, Garrett (Daddy) & Matthew!

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

## Did You Know??

- Domestic rabbits are descended from the European rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*
- They belong to the order Lagomorpha
- Lagomorpha are characterized by the presence of a second pair of upper incisors or peg teeth. These peg teeth are what separates them from rodents
- Other lagomorphs include hares and pikas

### *The difference between Hares & Rabbits*

Hares:

- The ears are longer than the head.
- Hares have a solitary life, except in spring when they start looking for a partner, in order to reproduce.
- Newborn hares are furry, born with open eyes and can hear
- Gestation lasts 42 days



Rabbits:

- The ears are shorter than the head.
- Rabbits are highly social. Live in colonies in burrows or brushy regions
- Newborns are naked, deaf and blind
- Gestation lasts 31 days

## Photos to Share.....

From our October 2009 Bunny Spa

Contributed by readers



Wendy Milligan & Jacqui Crown at the massage stations (the bunnies favorite!)

Clients waiting their turn....



Buster



Elmer



Signing In



Logan Jacobus and 2 kitty friends



Kirby Chen (on left) and neighbor



"SnowBunny" created by Alison Tamborlane!



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



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