



Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc.

Safe Haven Scoop

By Karen Augustynowicz, President

*Celebrating
Safe Haven's
10th Anniversary!*

Inside this issue:

10th Anniversary!	1
Spring Events	2
Remington Update	3-4
Did You Know? .	4
Ask the Vet	5-6
Educational Corner	7
Adoption Updates	8-12

Mid-winter of 2003, Barbara Bruyer, Irene Findley and I started tossing around the idea of creating a rabbit rescue organization. Irene had been rescuing rabbits on her own for many years, Barbara was rescuing pet store bunnies no one else wanted, and I had 5 yrs. experience fostering for another rabbit rescue group. There were countless numbers of rabbits we knew needed help and no one to help them. We heard over and over from shelters—"we only take in dogs and cats". The rabbit rescues that existed were small and overwhelmed. Our own rabbits already had control of our lives, and we wanted to share that joy.

And so, once the business plan and all the proper paperwork was in place, our endeavor officially became Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc.; incorporated as a non-profit in the state of NJ - May 31st, 2003. Diane Romano joined us as Treasurer on August 24, 2003. Our 501(c)3 status was granted on Feb. 4, 2004.

Safe Haven began with 20 rabbits from various rescues including the first group of strays abandoned on Garrett Mountain. To date, 150 rabbits have called Safe Haven home. Most have gone on to wonderful new homes with families who love them; those that had severe medical issues found the care and love they needed to live out their lives in comfort; a few were just never adopted—for no particular reason, but they too will remain until they do not need us anymore. Our volunteers have also helped other organizations (i.e. NJSPCA and Best Friends Animal Society of Utah) relocate rabbits to other rescues and homes and have helped owners re-home pets through our Private Adoption program; those numbers are not included in our count.

Safe Haven relies on the support of our volunteers and donors. Without their support, it would not exist. The hardest job of all is being a foster parent. Every single rabbit one cares for becomes a part of our lives. They come in frightened or injured or both; they are cared for and loved and woven into our hearts. It is never easy to let them go, but it is also very necessary to let them go; for there are numerous others who need our help. Thankfully, many of our adopters understand our commitment and have kept in touch throughout the

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years. For this anniversary edition, I thought it would be fun to share updates from just a few of our bunnies adopted in the early years. So, in this issue's "Adoption Updates" section you will find bunnies many of you will remember! Bunnies from two of our biggest early rescues. The ones that saved a number of bunnies and involved many people. I've recapped their rescue stories in just a paragraph, but have also included links to the newsletters that contain the full story.

As director of Safe Haven, I'd like to express my appreciation and thankfulness to each and every volunteer who has helped along the way; whether that be for one day, one event, one rabbit or for many days, many events and many rabbits.

I found a quote by an unknown author that says: *"If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life."*

Safe Haven volunteers have touched many lives; both human and rabbit and have brightened the future of those rabbits by educating adopters and sharing their enthusiasm about them with anyone who will listen. Our hope is that in the near future all rabbits will be cherished indoor companions and that outdoor hutches will be a thing of the past.

The work of Safe Haven is made possible entirely through donations and the dedication of our volunteers. While I can't list all those who have helped over the years, you know you have my gratitude. I do want to recognize our current core volunteers and officers:

Stacey Bavos	Michelle Manderski
Jacqueline Crown	Diane Romano
Astrid Hesse	Linda Torlay

I thank them for their dedication and you for your continued support. Many bunnies are counting on us.

Most Sincerely, Karen Augustynowicz

UpComing Spring Events!

We all know....Spring means heavily shedding bunnies! Help is close by.....

Our Spring Bunny Spa! **Saturday, May 18, 2013** **11 am - 4pm**

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 Today!](#)



Our 4th Annual "Bike For The Buns!"



Saturday, June 15, 2013

The 'Bike for the Buns' event is a noncompetitive, fundraising bicycle ride along the scenic towpaths within Bull's Island State Park, Stockton, NJ

Join us to Celebrate our Anniversary year! We plan to make the event extra special and are looking forward to seeing you!

*You'll not want to miss the picnic
& Anniversary Cake afterwards!*

Visit our [Bike For The Buns! Website](#)

and [Register today](#)

Update on Remington

By Astrid Hesse, Safe Haven Foster Mom

When Remington was rescued on Sept 8, 2012 he had a mature cataract in his right eye, a heavy flea infestation and was in very poor condition due to lack of care and nutrition.



Since his initial vet exam showed normal eye pressure, we wanted to wait until his overall health improved before scheduling an appointment with an ophthalmologist regarding the cataract. While Karen was camping away from home during Sandy (with all the bunnies), she noticed a cataract developing in Remington's left eye as well. Wanting to help, I offered to care for him and scheduled an appointment with the ophthalmologist within the week. At that point the new cataract had already progressed significantly.

Unfortunately, it turned out that the cataracts were the lesser of Remington's eye problems. He had severe glaucoma (overpressure in the eye) in the "original" right eye and early glaucoma in the left eye. Twenty is considered a normal pressure. His right eye had a pressure of 85, and his left a pressure of 26. The vet was hoping that we would be able to control the pressure with medications.

So, for the last 4 months Remington has been on quite a cocktail of eye drops several times a day. Re-checks showed that we were making progress. The left eye quickly came within normal range. We were able to lower the right eye significantly as well (lowest was 34), however even at this lower pressure the condition was likely painful. During his re-check on March 5, the pressure had gone back up to 42 and the vet determined that at this point a surgical solution might be the best option.

On March 11, I took Remington for his surgery. This consisted of an injection of antibiotic (intravitreal gentocin injection) into his eye. The antibiotic is toxic to

the cells that produce the fluid in the eye (which is responsible for the inner eye pressure) and as such would kill the fluid producing cells and hopefully permanently lower the eye pressure. Over the next couple of weeks his eye is expected to shrink in size (no one can tell for sure how much) and it is expected that he will no longer need any medications in his right eye.

As with any surgery, I was a little nervous, but Remington came through with flying colors and already seemed happy as a clam when I came home from work that night. At some point I swear, he was trying to run, and for the first time in the 4 months he's been with me, he actually ran INTO something. Usually he moves around with consideration and always seems to know where things are. That night he got a little too excited and moved a little too fast and bumped into his cardboard box :)

Remington developed a sudden limp in December, but it seemed to have disappeared the next day. A week or two later it reappeared. So, off to the vet again. Nothing was broken, but she did see some arthritis and spondylosis (fusing of the vertebrae) and thought that the limp might be related to that. The approach was to try and treat the pain and see how he would do. So in addition to the metacam he was already on, he is also getting Tramadol now. Oh boy, does he "LOVE" syringes lol (NOT!!!)

We've developed a fairly good system and he gets appropriately bribed after the ordeal. He



isn't shy about asking for his reward should you forget the agreed upon bribe ;)

Luckily, over

Update on Remington *(continued)*

the next couple of weeks, his limp slowly but steadily disappeared and he is now happily "hopping" along. He still sleeps a lot, but he also explores his cage, moves around his cardboard box, tears up newspaper, empties the litter from his litterbox (keeping me on my feet in trying to come up with a solution to the mess) and comes "running" as soon as I enter his cage in the morning and at night when I come home from work to beg for his handfed treats (he certainly knows the routine).

So all in all he seems quite a happy boy. He has come a long way since Karen first took him in, when he would just sit glued to a spot and not move at all.

Cheers! Astrid and Remington

Remington's vet bills since September are \$2,450.76 and growing...

[Will you help?](#)

Donations of any amount greatly appreciated!

Donate



Did You Know?

By Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator

"Once upon a time there were four little Rabbits, and their names were – Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail and Peter." ...

Probably one of the most beloved and recognized fictional rabbits of all time is Peter Rabbit. **DID YOU KNOW** Peter is 111+ years old! Created by Helen Beatrix Potter, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* was commercially published by the Frederick Warne Company in 1902, a London publishing company. Peter's tale is Ms. Potter's first and most recognized book and is still a favorite of both children and adults today all over the world.

Peter was created in 1893 when Ms. Potter wrote an illustrated letter to a young friend who was sick and later penned the tale that we know. When Ms. Potter was ready to publish her book she was rejected by six other publishers before Warne signed her on.

Ms. Potter was born into a privileged family July 28, 1866 in Kensington London. Receiving her education from her governess and various tutors Beatrix's art lessons began in 1878. Albeit a natural at drawing the lessons she received helped her to perfect her talent. Ms. Potter kept small animals as pets and in 1890 "Benjamin Bouncer" became her first rabbit. After Benjamin passed in 1893 she brought "Peter Rabbit" home.



Ms. Potter wrote and illustrated a total of 23 children's books but stopped writing due to failing eyesight in which at that time she took more interest in breeding sheep and land conservation. Ms. Potter married later in life and even though she did not have children of her own she was very involved with those of her extended family.

Even though *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* was the first book Ms. Potter published and the first book featuring rabbits three of her other books featured rabbit(s) as the main character(s). *The Tale of Benjamin Bunny* was published in 1904, *A Fierce Bad Rabbit* in 1906 and *The Flopsy Bunnies* in 1909.

The world lost Ms. Potter December 22, 1943 but she lives on in the tales she wrote that are still being read today, her stunning artwork and the farm land she purchased and preserved that was bequeathed to a National Trust for generations to appreciate and marvel it's beauty.

Information was resourced from both www.peterrabbit.com/us and <http://www.bpotter.com> Sites do note different dates for some different events



Ask the Vet . . .

Question: How does rabbit dental care differ from a dog or cat? What would be some signs of trouble that I may see and what do you look for during an exam? And how would you treat that problem?

Michael Doolen, DVM, who has practiced rabbit and exotic animal medicine exclusively for over 20 years and is currently the Exotics Veterinarian at NorthStar VETS in Robbinsville, NJ replied:

Since rabbits are strict herbivores, their teeth are designed differently than dog and cat teeth. They are made to grind fibrous plant material so it can be transported back to the large intestine for fermentation and digestion. They continually grow and depend on constant wear to avoid overgrowth. They have 4 or 5 grinding molars in each row – upper and lower right and left, in addition to the incisors (front teeth). The incisors serve to rip and tear food. They are also used to tear up material for nesting, and for defense.

The two main issues that can develop that require intervention include malocclusion which causes the teeth to not meet properly and thus to not wear properly, and age-related decay and deterioration. Malocclusion can be a result of genetic imperfections of the skull and jawbone. It can also be a result of a developmental defect caused by a nutritional mistake. When babies are weaning from mom's milk onto solid food, they would, in the wild state, be weaned onto high fiber, low calorie leafy green vegetables and grasses. The rate that the chewing muscles and the skull and jawbones grow and develop is normally timed such that when they are adults the upper and lower molars meet properly and wear evenly. When they are weaned onto high calorie food (pellets), the chewing muscles sometimes grow much faster than normal. This can put a pressure on the jawbone while it is still growing that can cause it to

develop too narrow to allow proper occlusion between the upper and lower molars. Over time, as the molars wear from grinding, this poor fit can cause uneven wear which results in the inside surface of the lower molars (the tongue side) and the cheek surfaces of the upper molars to develop sharp points which begin to rub on the tongue and the cheek, causing sores which can lead to infection. This most often starts to be a problem when they are 4 years old or older and often the first sign of trouble is the bunny slows down eating and sometimes develops life-threatening GI (gastrointestinal) stasis.

Being prey animals, they are very good at masking signs of problems. So sometimes the only changes noticeable are fewer or smaller droppings, or changes in behavior, like spending more time facing away from the world with their back turned. They may start to salivate and drool. Since their mouth is uncomfortable they may change the way they chew which can lead to uneven wear of the front teeth, which can be seen at the ends of the teeth. This is seen as a slant at the ends of the teeth, rather than a surface that is straight across, symmetric and even. This is one thing we check for during an oral exam. It is also something a bunny owner can watch for. Getting a good look at the molars is very difficult without the proper equipment and training so they are nearly impossible to evaluate for most bunny owners but the ends of the front teeth are fairly easy to see.

During the oral exam, the inside of the mouth is checked using an otoscope or even an endoscope to determine if there are molar abnormalities. The angle the molars are growing may change with age and the molars may develop discoloration and decay that may be noticed during the oral exam. The molars may even become loose which can sometimes be noticed by gently pushing on them with the end of the otoscope. The tongue and cheeks are also examined for signs of sores or ulcerations. In some cases, light sedation with gas is necessary to do a good detailed oral exam. The face is also examined and felt closely for any signs of lumps on the cheeks or jaw. These sometimes develop if a sore on the inside of the mouth gets infected and becomes an abscess. The



Ask the Vet (continued) . . .

tear ducts may become slightly narrowed from inflammation in the mouth so they develop an area under the eyes that is wet with tears that have not properly drained into the sinuses.

Besides the detailed oral exam, it is important to carefully examine all other aspects of the bunny, as well. When they have dental issues, many other subtle problems may surface from the stress of the oral issues, so the ideal annual evaluation, especially for bunnies over 5 years of age would include blood work to check for underlying infection or anemia and the presence of any liver or kidney problems that can be lurking. Radiographs are useful to check for heart and lung problems, arthritis, and changes in the size of GI components like stomach and cecum. Other sub-clinical things like the accumulation of calcium precipitate in the bladder and the presence of masses in the body may also be revealed with x-rays. All of these issues and more can be hiding without symptoms and can become clinical problems when dental problems are undiagnosed and untreated.

Treatment strategies may vary with the nature and degree of the dental problem. The most common treatment we do is the routine trimming of the points that develop on the molars. In more severe and advanced cases, extractions of incisors and/or molars are sometimes necessary. It is common to need to open abscesses to drain them and then treat with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories to clear dental-related infections. In these cases, a bacterial culture and sensitivity test is recommended in order to find out which bacteria is involved and to find out which antibiotic will be the most effective in clearing the infection. And of course the treatment of any other medical problem that is discovered in the process of evaluation of the dental issues then becomes an important part

of the holistic nature of the medical management of the patient.

This often includes treatment for the common GI slowdowns and stasis problems that come up secondary to the dental problems. In fact, sometimes these secondary problems turn out to be more threatening than the original dental problems that caused them.

Most patients that experience dental problems that require some kind of intervention, like teeth trims, will require on-going maintenance for these problems for the rest of their lives. This may be as simple as a routine teeth trim once or twice a year. It may be more involved and require some kind of constant medications long term or even for the rest of the bunnies' life.

We see and manage many middle-aged and older bunnies with lifetime dental and other medical problems who are able to have a happy long life with managed care that may not have been possible without the timely discovery of dental and other chronic problems at a time before they were too advanced for us to be able to intervene successfully.

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Educational Corner

by Linda Torlay

Speaking Rabbit

The key to understanding your rabbit is to understand the language she is speaking. Rabbits communicate to us and each other with a language unique to them. Your rabbit does not speak dog or cat or



English for that matter ... she speaks rabbit, she thinks rabbit, she hears rabbit ... she is rabbit.

Understanding your rabbit requires a conscious awareness. Think of it like being in a foreign country and not understanding a word anyone is speaking. You can however hear what someone is saying by watching that person and hearing through their actions and their body language.

Rabbits communicate a lot with their ears. A rabbit with larger upright ears may display clearer signals than a lop rabbit but the signals are still the same just not as obvious. Another point to make is unneutered/unspayed rabbits are hormonally driven and often "just not themselves". An unneutered/unspayed rabbit may communicate one thing but mean something else or communicate one thing and instantly change what she means. You can help your rabbit communicate to you by neutering/spaying so she is not distracted with all those raging hormones. Body posture, foot thumping and nose twitching are other cues to become in-tuned with to hear your rabbit and if you watch closely enough you will even be able to read her facial expressions. Understanding rabbit language also helps you convey positive messages back and live in a world of mutual understanding.

The Language of Lagomorphs is a wonderfully written and illustrated piece that delves into this subject in depth. I highly encourage you to read through their site and to learn or learn more about the language of rabbits.

<http://language.rabbitspeak.com/>

Enjoy!

Be sure to "like" us on



Michelle Manderski has been doing a great job of keeping folks updated with Safe Haven's latest happenings as well as being very creative with graphics to spread our messages! Be sure to check out the page often. *Thank you, Michelle!*

<https://www.facebook.com/SafeHavenRabbitRescue>

Recent Months Adoptions....

Congratulations are in order for the bunnies and their new families:

- ◆ **Rita** (now Ruby) - Adopted Nov. 11, 2012 by Shelly Totaro
- ◆ **Lola**-Adopted Dec. 2, 2012 by Susan Vallow
- ◆ **Taco**-Adopted Jan. 27, 2013 by Emily Mascolo
- ◆ **Julia**-Adopted March 3, 2013 by Genevieve Lynch

Special Addition Adoption Updates *(Stories featuring early year's rescues)*

Oct 2006—Raeline's Babies: An email from Melissa Johnson alerted us to 3 bunnies running loose near Berkley Heights; would we take if she could catch? She caught one male easily; the other two eluded her until Oct. 21st, when she captured them as well. Bucca, the first little grey, won her heart, so he is still with Melissa. (we call him Uncle Bucca). Raeline (a female with a very large belly) and Pappa Ricky came to Safe Haven. Ricky was adopted quickly. And, on Nov 19th, 2006 Raeline presented us with 7 babies! Sadly, one I named "Punch", in hopes he would be strong, passed, on just his second day. But, the six others survived and are all still feisty today. Two boys: Harley & Brodie. Four girls: Mindy, Brandi, Gracie & Biggles. We hope you will enjoy reading their 2013 updates!



First, Momma Raeline today:

Bella Raeline

Adopted August 10, 2007

by LouAnn Stewart

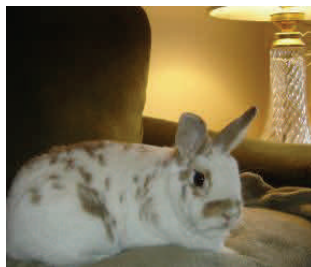
In 2007, when we visited Bella for the first time at her foster home, she nestled in my arms for the entire visit, like a good little princess. Shortly after moving in with us, she let her inner diva out! It didn't take long for our two male Shih Tzus to figure out who was in charge!



Bella is six pounds of sass, and we all know it. Just last week, when one of the dogs took Bella's place next to me on the sofa, she hopped over and nudged him first; and

when he didn't move, she nipped him! Needless to say, she got her spot and her Mommy back. Another victory for Bella!

She is beautiful and sweet, but I think what I love best about her is her "bunny attitude"! Thank you, Karen, for being there to rescue her and her babies and giving them a second chance. We love you for that!



And from her babies:

Harley

Adopted July 22, 2007

by Lisa Chiariello, Yoshi & Family

Harley (white w/black) came to live with us in 2007. He's come a long way in 5 ½ years. Originally he deferred to Yoshi for direction on just about everything, following her lead. But as they've aged they



have taken on different roles in their relationship. Yoshi is getting on in years now, and spends more time sleeping. Harley on the other hand, always greets me when I

return home. Yoshi is crashed on the floor, all sprawled out and blissfully unaware of the goings on nearby. Harley makes sure not to miss any opportunity for a handout, especially if I've gone to the grocery store. The rustle of produce bags gets his attention immediately. Besides, he knows I can't resist rewarding him for putting on a binky and head-flick show, who can?

He likes to help any contractor that comes to the house. When he first arrived, he was very shy of any stranger, but now he enjoys directing activities, especially if plastic bags or cardboard boxes are involved. He knows better than anyone where they should be placed, and fastidiously rearranges them to help out.

He still prefers to be talked to before he allows anyone the courtesy of actually touching him - a matter of dignity and honor I believe. He does not enjoy those boisterous visitors that think he is cute, rather than being impressed by his dignitas and authoritative persona. Respect is essential to establishing a relationship with Harley. It's just so hard to see past that adorable Groucho Marx mustache. Yoshi on the other hand will accept a gentle pet from anyone - as long as you are serving her in some way, you are in! My sons' teenage friends all want to be the one Harley will accept. It's funny to watch teenage boys with their loud voices and big boy swagger melt into a 3 year old at the site of a bunny!

Special Addition Adoption Updates *(Continued)*

As Yoshi's sight starts to wane, I am very grateful for Harley's white body for her to follow. It's clear she looks to him to let her know what's going on. When dinner time arrives and Yoshi is still sound asleep, I ask Harley to go wake her up and he does. He hops over and darts around her, and she awakens in a start and then follows the direction of the white blur of his behind to the dinner plate. In the meantime Harley circles back around her and jumps over or sometimes into her enjoying the excitement of a mad dash to dinner.

They spend their whole day together, moving from one favorite spot in the morning to a different one for evening repose. Working together they decide which new items brought into their life are safe and which are not to be trusted. Currently the new vacuum, though quieter than the last, is under severe scrutiny – it must not be trusted, though the last one Yoshi would take on without much fear, standing her ground and fiercely willing it to go away.

Before Harley came to live with us, I had no idea how much companionship Yoshi was missing from one of her own kind. Seeing the two of them together, spending all day, every day grooming each other and almost always in constant contact touching each other has made me realize just how important a buddy is to a bunny. They don't even argue when one snatches food from the other's mouth, they just try and snatch it back. No grudges, no fights, just the unspoken agreement that each has an equal right to jockey for position when a good morsel of food shows up. I wish I could be so adaptable! -Lisa



Gracie

Adopted June 9th, 2007
by Diane Romano

Duffy and I traveled to Safe Haven to meet Gracie in June 2007. Duffy had lost his buddy Sydney eight months before; he had been depressed and was not getting any better so I made the decision to adopt a mate for him.

At Safe Haven, Duffy was introduced to three "eligible" young ladies but it was love at first sight for Duffy when he met Gracie, one of Raeline's brood. Gracie, however, was not at all sure about Duffy at first, but she did make her forever home with Duffy and me and did a stellar job of acclimating herself to Duffy's "alpha male" personality.

It's been nearly six years that they have been together.



Duffy (on left) is almost ten to Gracie's six years and he is nearly blind. Gracie now functions as his seeing-eye bunny, but, no doubt about it, he is still the alpha male. She is a sweet bunny who makes sure that Duffy finds the food even though he pushes her aside when he does. They squabble over toys, veggies, and treats by day and cuddle side by side by night. Gracie is the love of Duffy's life and I like to think that this "male" order bride has been happy in her adopted home.



Adoption Updates *(Continued)*

Mindy & Brandi
Adopted April 29, 2007
by Bob & Judi Coniglio

Brandi & Mindy were adopted six years ago. They are a bonded pair of sisters who get along and enjoy their time out of their pen. They share a 6' x 4'



enclosure and have the run of the living room during the day. Their favorite thing to do is sit on the living room rug and soak up the sun.

They are careful to run back to the cage to use the litter box and grab a snack before venturing back out.

Brandi is light brown and Mindy is brown and white. Mindy is the larger of the two bunnies and usually gets her way. As the dominant sister, she always wants her breakfast and treats first, but Brandi is quick to pull her favorite veggie or treat right out of Mindy's mouth if she wants it. Any squabbles are short-lived.



Brandi was born with a defective left eye that is smaller than the right. She had limited vision in the eye and is now blind in that eye due to a cataract. In the fall, we noticed a lump on her left rear foot. It was diagnosed as a cancerous tumor and an x-ray showed spots on her lungs. We were advised to take her home and enjoy her while we could. This was a tough thing to hear, so we followed up with another exotic specialist.

His diagnosis confirmed the spots on the lungs and that the tumor was cancerous, but a different,

non-invasive type. He advised us to keep an eye on the tumor and suggested the possibility of trying to remove the tumor if it enlarged. A couple of months later the tumor was much larger. At that point it was decided that surgery was necessary. It was not possible to remove the tumor and close the wound, so the foot was removed just above the ankle. It is 4 weeks since the surgery and her leg is healed and the fur is growing back. She seems to be pain free. She gets a dose of Metacam for pain, just in case.

Brandi has adjusted to life without a foot and can hop around as she wishes. She is a bit unsteady when moving around slowly or getting up from her naps, but has it easier hopping in the living room. Once she is moving, you'd never know she was missing a foot. We have an appointment scheduled in June for another x-ray to see how her lungs are doing. We are hoping for the best!

Brandi & Mindy share an area in our kitchen with another bunny, but are not the best of friends with the new kid on the block. Spunky is a 2 year old female and lives up to her name. Unlike the sisters, she requires constant supervision out of the cage. She is a real jumper and climber and likes to see things from above ground level and will explore the coffee tables and couches. Spunky also has a taste for wood molding and carpet, so her play is well supervised. She is "bonded" to Bob and can easily run circles around him or jump over him when he is on the floor with her. She loves to cuddle and have her nose rubbed, which the other girls do not.



Bob & Judi Coniglio

Adoption Updates *(Continued)*

Biggles



The last of Raeline's little girls, Biggles (the red) has never been adopted. I know it is hard to believe, but not to worry. While Biggles remains here, she

seems happy to be in the only home she has ever known. And, she has company. The love of her life, Danny!

Danny, a rescue from a hoarder situation in northern NJ, was adopted, but returned after a death in the family. He was very depressed and sad until I moved him next to Ms. Biggles. You could see the attraction the two felt for each other instantly. Although Biggles seemed frightened of Danny at first (she whimpered whenever he came near) I think it was just her way of keeping him at a distance until she was sure he was worthy of her.

Danny and Biggles have been bonded for 3 years now and you will find them most often seemingly attached at the hip! They are never far from each other's side and really enjoy each other's company.



Ok, so that just leaves Brodie—Raeline's other son....

Not too worry! Brodie is still happily bonded to one of our other rescued rabbits! Do you remember our largest rescue to date?

Many of you were involved..... Jennifer, Nora and Alison Frohlich, Barbara and Rick Bruyer, Wendy Milligan and Scott Gandolfe, Kevin and Judy Sutton, Tracey Turner, Alice Shoppe and David, our tower contact who was instrumental in our success.

On May 3rd, 2007, I received a frantic phone call abandoned rabbits in trouble. It took us 11 days and as many sleepless nights, but 25 rabbits were brought to safety in that effort. Actually, all but one were caught in the first 7 days; it took four more days to finally bring "Nora" and her babies to safety.

But, for now, back to the Adoption Updates.....

Nora & Brodie

Adopted December 13, 2008

by Tom Hurley

Brodie and Nora (red) have really opened up since



our move into an apartment with wall to wall carpeting! Before that time we never saw Nora venture out past the bedroom, while Brodie on the other hand had no problem going

anywhere, hardwood or not. Once Nora was free to roam in a fully carpeted environment we got to see a side of her we never even knew existed.

She loves to run and binky from room to room and get into trouble. The both of them are very good at the getting into trouble actually. They like to work as a team and carefully execute missions of mischief and destruction all while looking too cute to get mad at.. haha.

They seem a lot more relaxed and have really settled into our new home here quite nicely. They are always a good source of a laugh after a long days work and can really tell when one of us needs cheering up.

Adoption Updates (Continued)

As I write this the two of them have just run between my feet and under the desk to "explore". Time to make them dinner and corral them back into their part of the house!



You can read all about Nora's and Raeline's rescues in the [Spring 2007 Newsletter](#). I learned so much from both of them! The birthdays of the two litters are days I'll never forget. I knew babies were coming, but Nora's preparation and mothering skills were totally different from Raeline's.

Raeline built her nest a week before the babies came; she frantically ran around collecting materials for her nest and tended to it carefully in anticipation. When the babies were born, Raeline expertly tended to them and fed them—good thing, because I did not know how to help her.

Nora was totally the opposite. No fur pulling, no nest building, no nervousness; nothing. She just backed up into the corner of her cage; plopped them out, and left themshe had no idea what they were or what to do with them!



Luckily, I was cleaning pens at the time, so I was right there. I happened to glance over at her and saw she had a funny look on her face. Peering into the cage, I was shocked to see a pile of babies in the corner. So....since I had learned so much from Raeline; it was *me* who frantically ran around gathering materials for a nest; I gathered fur, shredded paper, and hay and hurriedly constructed a cozy nest to move them to.

I covered them with fur (that's what Raeline would

have done). I placed the cage bottom with the nest in Nora's pen and waited for the mothering instinct to kick in. She was totally disinterested. I called the vet to let her know what was going on and at her direction waited until morning to see if they had been fed. Morning found hungry, unhappy babies; so off I went in search of goat's milk to feed them. But, apparently, while I was running around in a panic, the instinct did kick in. Nora had fed them. I came back to 10 round bellies and babies fast asleep. *What a relief!*



And so they survived. Five white, five agouti. Nora did turn out to be a good mom; I know she must have had lots of litters while running loose.

She just had them; they did not survive; that was what she was used to. This litter was different; she had to learn and she did. Their names were: *Becki, Dickens, Duncan, Kayla, Pearl I, Pearl II, Pricilla, Ruggles, Willow and Smudge.*

Becki (one of Nora's)
Adopted June 14, 2008
by Andrea Parkin

Every time I look at our Becki I thank God that there is an organization like Safe Haven.

Becki has brought so many years of joy to our family and I do not know what we would do without her. She is a sweet and trusting rabbit that loves her home and her bonded male, Ratt.

Now, Becki is quite a big girl and Ratt is a small New Jersey Wooley and to see them together is adorable. They eat together, nap together and play all the time. They really love one another. Karen and Safe Haven has brought much happiness to our lives with this sweet girl!

Happy 10 years Safe Haven and Many, Many more!

Thank you to all who sent in stories for this special edition; and thank you to all who have read through it all! Karen A.