



### T.H.E Rabbit Resource

THE UPSTATE NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

www.therabbitresource.org

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T.H.E. RABBIT RESOURCE'S NEWSLETTER

# Rocket's Record

## RVing with Rabbits by Diana F. Weber

Most rabbit owners look for pet sitters to look after the bunnies while they on vacation. But for Diana Weber, that wasn't good enough—she wanted to vacation *with* her rabbits! There are a lot of factors to consider if you'd like to travel and/or vacation with your critters, so Diana offered us some great tips that made her travels pleasant:

**How to prepare your rabbit for travel** – Getting your rabbit used to its vacation home, should happen while your RV is still parked in your own drive way. Bring the rabbit into its new RV environment for the afternoon, allow him/her to hop around and get comfortable being there. Doing this several times helps the bunny acclimate and feel safe to the new surroundings. Also take the bunny on trips around the neighborhood in its travel carrier, lengthening the time of each outing.

**Traveling with your rabbit to your vacation location** –Keep your rabbit with you in the truck cab, this way you can be sure to keep an eye on your rabbit's status/condition. If traveling during the summer months, make sure the cab is kept at a comfortable temperature, as rabbits cannot tolerate high temperatures and cool themselves like dogs can. During travel time be sure to supply your rabbit with a fresh apple slice, a carrot, lettuce (not iceberg) and/or herbs, as these have natural juices in them keeping the rabbit hydrated. Having an availability of fresh hay is a must for rabbits anytime. It is better if the travel carry is large enough to accommodate your rabbit's favorite litter pan, allowing your rabbit to relieve him/herself as needed and not adding to any more stress felt by the rabbit. Not to mention, many rabbits have a very strong relationship with their litter pans and during

travel time having their pan there may help them to relax and enjoy a nice nap. Plus this will ease any clean up for you.

**Rest stops** – Take time for rest stops at least every 4 to 5 hours. During this time, move the rabbit to the RV pen/cage. This should be a quiet time for the rabbit, giving it a break from the road noise and movements of your truck. Supply the rabbit with plenty of water and hay at this time. Keeping the rest stop quiet helps give the rabbit a chance to calm its nerves, encouraging it to



feel safe again and comfortable enough to eat and relax. I suggest at least 20 to 30 minutes for each rest stop. Taking time to make sure your rabbit eats and drinks, at these intervals will help prevent any digestive problems from occurring. Allowing for this extra time during our road trip will not only keep your rabbit healthy but will make for a less stressful trip you and your family, helping to ensure you arrive to your destination on time.

**Arriving at your destination** - When you arrive at your destination, get your rabbit settled back to the RV first. Setting up your *continues on page 2.*

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## RVing with Rabbits cont.

camp comes second to settling your rabbit in its weekend home. It is always a good idea to bring the food, hay, pellets, snacks and water from home, lessening any chance for digestive upset. You never know your bunny maybe not like the water there or just how safe the water might be. Since RV travel cages may be smaller than your rabbit's home cage give him/her play time outside its RV cage. Be aware of where you travel with your bunny and know any external dangers such as: animals, bugs and parasites – take precautions to protect your rabbit.

**Seeing the sights and leaving your rabbit in the RV** – If you do not have a RV with an AC unit – **LEAVE YOUR RABBIT HOME**. The temperature in an RV can become intolerable quickly and could over heat the rabbit or worse cause death. Be sure to turn the AC on for the rabbit, so they will be comfortable while you are out seeing the sights of your vacation destination or if temperatures do not warrant using the AC unit, place a fan in the RV to circulate the air. Try not to leave the rabbit unattended for the entire day, as you will want to check on the rabbit and RV making sure all is well and safe.

Hoppy Travels!



*Diana by the lake with Arthur.*

## Rabbit Rescue at the University at Buffalo North Campus

by Gwen Coe

At the end of June 2010 we received word that some domestic rabbits were seen on the North Campus of the University at Buffalo. Craig Abelson and I met at the campus for our first attempt to rescue them. Craig was still in his work clothes and dress shoes. He had gotten there first and had seen a brown rabbit but it was nowhere to be seen by the time I arrived. We walked around and saw another rabbit, a dark brown mini Rex. With a net in hand, the chase commenced. Fortunately she let herself be cornered and Craig was able to catch her in the net. She was the first of several UB rabbits to eventually be caught this past summer. She was beautiful and turned out to be a very affectionate female rabbit. It was hard to believe anyone would want to let her go.

There were many more to catch, so my husband Ray, Craig, his son David, and I tried again on another evening. This time we caught a brown male rabbit. We thought—two attempts, two rabbits—this is going to be easy. Well, fleet footed Craig and David moved to Pittsburgh, so we set about assembling a new group of volunteers to go out early on a Saturday morning. This past summer was one of the hottest on record, so even though it was only 7am, it was already hot. The area where we were trying



*Martha was the first to be caught in the rescue efforts.*

to catch the rabbits was a sprawling maintenance area. There were garages for repairing and fueling a fleet of vehicles, scrap metal, landscaping material and piles of trash galore. One of the havens was the campus power substation, filled with high voltage electrical power. The rabbits must have known that us mere people couldn't go there, so they would sit on the other side of the fence and stare at us.

Well, we had several unsuccessful trips. We would have rabbits sit under cargo containers that were only a few inches off the ground. We'd try everything we could think of to get them out, but to no avail.

We managed to capture a black rabbit when she hid under a plow blade. We pushed a balled-up tarp under the blade and forced her out the other side into the waiting arms of Kristen.

By this time we had only seen one remaining rabbit, a white one with dark ears. We felt bad that we had taken his friend away



*High voltage power substation at the University of Buffalo—where the abandoned bunnies liked to hide.*

*"The area where we were trying to catch the rabbits was a sprawling maintenance area. There were garages for repairing and fueling a fleet of vehicles, scrap metal, landscaping material and piles of trash galore."*

from him and he would be left there all alone. After repeated failures, we finally got smarter. First, upon arrival, we blocked access to all his favorite hiding spots. Then we started quietly and methodically building a long fence around the area he was spotted in. We had tried a fence before, but he had evaded it. He was hiding under a huge lawnmower deck but now we had the surrounding area completely fenced in. Matt and Mark completely covered the deck with a tarp and left only two openings. One from where Mark drove the rabbit away and another where Matt waited to capture our elusive rabbit. It worked! Matt was able to grab him. He was another sweetheart.

I also experienced another exciting event. Our initial capture, Fiona, had 9 babies just less than a month after

her rescue. It was the first litter of rabbits that Ray and I had the privilege of witnessing being born.

I want to thank everyone who helped mount these numerous rescue attempts:

Craig Abelson, David Abelson, Ray Ball, Dru Hites, Colleen Hohman, Dennis Hohman, Maria Russin, Mark Lucas, Holly Katta, Chiyo Ueyama, Randy Galipo, Matt McLaughlin, Erica Stuckwisch, and James Lord.

I would also like to thank the person at the University at Buffalo for calling to letting us know of the rabbits' plight, and the thoughtful staff who repeatedly facilitated our official presence on campus for each rescue attempt. Also to Specialized Care for Avian & Exotic Pets for the de-worming and mite medications that they all required and to Dr. Laura Wade for giving them physicals so we knew that they were well.

## Message from the Chapter Manager by Davida Kobler

2010 saw a record year for rescues for T.H.E. Rabbit Resource. Summer hadn't even started when we received information about a large scale abandonment north of Albany, and attempted to locate any abandoned rabbits in that area. In July, during one of the hottest weeks, we assisted in Utica with a backyard round-up of almost 30 rabbits that had been the result of a pair being put together in an inadequate outside pen. There had been multiple litters, many deaths, conditions were deplorable, and proper food was nonexistent. The rabbits had been subsisting on stale pizza. Triage was done at Springfarm and 6 of the smallest babies came into foster care with us. In early August, Dahlia Bea came to us, albeit briefly, but touched all of us immeasurably. Also in August, Anthony was instrumental in coordinating a group to collect some 7 rabbits that had been living without proper shelter or food, running loose in a neighborhood in downtown Albany.

Late in August, CNYSPCA called for help with bunnies that had been cruelly abandoned to die in a desolate area that was filled with high grass and predators. With a fast and coordinated response by Annie-Laurie, Amy, Shannon, Bob, and others, 11 of those rabbits made it into foster care.

As one might imagine, providing veterinary care and spays/neuters for all these buns is something we have been chipping away at. Any and all donations, as well as membership renewals, are very much appreciated. Please consider purchasing some of our apple sticks, which are healthy and will help us raise needed rescue monies.

We need more volunteers to be part of rescue teams in various parts of New York, to drive rescued buns to safe space, to do outreach.

## Message from the Chapter Manager cont.

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As always, good adoptive homes are wanted for our precious little ones who have gone through so much that they did not deserve. Perhaps even more critical for the long term is recruitment of foster homes, for both long and short term placements. In 2011, this is our greatest need. Fostering requirements and an application can be found on our website, [www.therabbitresource.org](http://www.therabbitresource.org), and can be mailed to me at THE RR, PO Box 141, Washington Mills, NY 13479.

In addition to the herculean efforts of our volunteers who rescue, foster, transport, teach, and work together to negate the cruelty that exists towards rabbits, I would like to say a special thank you to Colette, who has fostered for years, and has been our Treasurer too, and has handed over the Treasurer duties to Ray Ball.

Thanks also to the Exotics Dept at Cornell CUHA, who handle our very toughest cases, and the veterinary practices in upstate who work with us and offer us a rescue consideration – Dr. Chew, Dr. Roach/Dr. Brown, Dr. Wade, and Dr. Burgesser.

## Lucille's ACL Treatment by Dr. Diana Puchalski

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Cruciate ligament repairs are not yet a common surgery in rabbits, though they've been done successfully for decades in other species such as dogs, cats and for hundreds of years in humans. In February of 2009 Lucille Twinkletoes, a 2 year old Himalayan Rex rabbit, took an unfortunate leap off of a sofa and landed herself lame in her right hind limb. I was on the Exotics rotation at the time at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals and assisted the supervising Exotics veterinarian, Dr. Ricardo De Matos, in Lucille's workup. She was quite painful and tense around her knee so anesthesia was required in order to further evaluate her lameness. X-rays revealed an abnormal positioning of the bones involving her knee and on palpation a significant amount of instability was present. These findings were consistent with a torn right cranial cruciate ligament, which is comparable to the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in humans. Several options were discussed with the owner including strict cage rest, anti-inflammatory medications, physical rehabilitation and finally, surgery. Since there are few, if any, documented cases regarding surgical intervention for a ruptured cruciate ligament in a rabbit, the prognosis for surgery was unknown. After further discussion with the orthopedic surgeons and the owner it was decided to go ahead with the surgery.

One of the most common procedures used to repair torn cruciate ligaments is called an "extra-capsular" technique, which was performed on Lucille by Dr. Rory Todhunter (Diplomate of American College of Veterinary Surgeons) and Dr. Heather Knapp-Hoch (Resident of Veterinary Surgery). The procedure first involves entering the knee capsule and removing any remaining portions of the torn ligament. Then the knee is stabilized by using a very strong suture material which is tied in a way that it mimics the function of the cranial cruciate ligament preventing further instability of the joint. Although this technique has been proven to be very successful in stabilizing the knee, it is the owners responsibility to keep the patient quiet and on strict cage rest for the next several weeks to months.

Lucille's recovery included strict cage rest for 2 months, which involved her being in a small cage so that she could not run or jump around. She had re-check appointments every 4 weeks to assess her progress and 2 months after the surgery was allowed

outside of her cage for 5-10 minutes at a time up to twice daily. This was slowly increased over the next 2 weeks until she was up to an hour of "out of cage" time, however she was never allowed to jump on or off anything. Since her surgery Lucille has does quite well at home and is almost back to her "normal" bunny self with the restrictions of not jumping up or down off of furniture as it may cause her to re-injure her knee.

Although there have been only a few cases of cruciate repair surgeries done in rabbits, it is very re-assuring to see how well Lucille has done and I hope that other "bunny" veterinarians can recommend these procedures to their clients even if it may mean taking their rabbit to a referral hospital such as Cornell University Hospital for Animals.



## Vet Spotlight: Dr. Diana Puchalski

A central New York native and 2010 graduate of Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Diana Puchalski began practice at the Beaver Meadow Veterinary Clinic in Barneveld, NY in June, 2010. Her focus is primarily on dogs and cats; however she has a strong love for small exotic mammals and will continue to focus on expanding her knowledge about these furry little creatures throughout her career.

Dr. Diana received a Bachelors of Science in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from St. Lawrence University in 2004. She then returned to her hometown to continue working as a zoo-keeper for the Utica Zoo, which she had done during her summer vacations throughout undergrad. Later in 2004, Dr. Diana decided to expand her small animal experience and went on to join a small animal practice in Colonie, NY as a veterinary assistant/kennel manager. In 2006, she was accepted into the Cornell University Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program where her focus was on small mammals/exotics as well as small animals. Dr. Diana was fortunate to have studied exotic animal medicine

under James Morrisey, DVM, DABVP- Avian and Ricardo De Matos, DVM for 4 years and has done several weeks of exotic animal rotations during her clinical years.

Dr. Diana's hobbies include fishing, cycling, hiking, camping and playing guitar hero on the Wii. She shares her home with a terrier mix (Preston), 3 cats (Tundra, Taiga and Sparky), 4 guinea pigs (Alfonzo, Samson Winston, Frankie and Wayne), 2 rats (Dumbo and Jeffrey) and a 14 year old Dalmatian Rex rabbit (Harold).



## Hay for Rabbits by Glenn Neumann

Definition –Hay is dehydrated stem, leaves and seed heads of grass or legume plants. Common legume plants are alfalfa, clover, Trefoil. Common grass plants used for hay are timothy, orchard grass, brome, canary grass, rye grass (annual and perennial), fescue, Kentucky blue grass. It is NOT the stem or leaves of grain plants which is called straw. Common grain plants are wheat, Rye, Oats, Barley, Buckwheat, Corn, Milo, Rape, and Triticale. Straw is composed of woody carbohydrates which have limited digestibility and supply limited nutrients to the rabbit. Straw is described here because some people over simplify and think any dried plant fibers sold in a bale form that look yellow or brown must be straw. (Not true!). Excellent hay, harvested at correct maturity, cut, dried without rainfall after cutting and not overly exposed (bleached) by the sun, will look bright green. However, raising hay in the real world does not always yield such perfect colorful results, yet the end product may still be digestible and tasty to the rabbit.

The major critical aspects of hay; freshness, quality, spoilage and contamination determine the type of animal that can or will eat the hay and also determine if the animal will thrive, subsist or possibly suffer major health problems, from eating the same bale of hay in question.

What makes such an incredible difference between various animals? Primarily, their digestive system, followed by exercise, pregnancy condition, stress load, eating habits and other optional and available foods.

The label "Horse hay" means hay suitable for the average horse to eat. "Cow hay" or "Dairy hay" refers to hay best suited for pregnant or lactating bovines. Selecting from the major uses of

hay, "horse hay" best matches "rabbit hay".

Lactating females of all the species need higher amounts of calcium and protein. Legumes fit the bill most readily for that case. Single or mixed varieties of grasses (including minor amounts (less than 15%) of legumes are suitable for all others. Absence of toxic microorganisms (mold), absence of toxic plants (bracken ferns, milk weed) and absence of toxic "chemicals" are imperatives!

A simple test for mold in hay is to separate several flakes within the bale and drop them on the ground. If I see a bluish mushroom cloud of dust, similar to a tiny atomic bomb, that is mold and should be disposed. Also it is sometimes possible to see a black or yellow rot where the bale was exposed to If it is not bluish nor mushroom shaped but appears to be like a clod of dirt thrown on the ground, then it is dust. Not harmful in small amounts. The hay flakes can be taken somewhere away from the animals and shaken to remove the dust.

One complicating factor is that cows multiple stomachs tolerate molds and some chemicals added to hay as preservatives that are toxic to rabbits or horses.

Typical cost of acceptable to excellent grade hay would range from \$3 to \$10 for 35 to 50 lb bale. (higher price in spring just before new harvest, and also higher price if weather has continuing pattern of rain on and off every one to two days during summer harvest, thus preventing good drying prior to baling.

# Adoptables

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## Monarch

Monarch is a social butterfly who adores humans, even more than his bunny brothers and sisters. This adorable bunny with chocolately ears races to the door to bestow kisses and then follows his human everywhere like a puppy! He's a mellow fella who wants to hop into your home...and heart.



## Owen

Owen is a small-framed tan belgian hare mix who was brought into a shelter and then into foster care. He was living as a stray when a cat attacked him, the nice folks who brought him into the shelter probably saved his life. You'd never know he had a past life as a stray; Owen makes a great house rabbit! His litterbox habits are great and he is very curious, yet respectful of his environment. He's very outgoing and will come right up to you and "bump" you with his nose to say hello! Owen is a social gentleman and would do great in a multiple-bunny household or as a single bun.



## Lady Marmalade

Lady M is a sweet-tempered fawn-colored doe with a soft coat and a hint of white Dutch accents. She is friendly and extremely docile, and while she doesn't seek attention, she welcomes being petted and groomed. She would probably do well in a home with limited space, as she has little interest in wandering outside her cage. She loves her green veggies, prefers red apples over Granny Smiths, and has figured out that licking her timothy cubes softens them up for easier chewing.



## Maple

Maple was surrendered to a shelter looking pretty underweight and is making the most of being in foster care. He is an energetic silver marten boy. Maple would enjoy other-rabbit company and would do best with a partner and in a home with no small children.



## Elena

Elena was rescued as a baby in the summer 2010 with her five sisters from a backyard neglect situation. This bun loves to have humans around; when we enter the room where she is housed, she greets us standing up with her face all lit up. Elena is very rambunctious and active all the time. She truly loves her daily out-of-cage time, hopping around, jumping, digging at the newspapers and tossing toys around. Although she does not enjoy being picked up and held, she enjoys being petted while sitting next to us. Loves hay and greens. Recommended for those who have experience with house rabbits.

# Adoptables

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## Piper

Piper is lovely young girl with airline ears. For those that may not know, this means that one of her ears is up and the other ear is down. She was born on 11/24/10, one of Gabrielle's babies. Piper enjoys a quiet household, and is often scared from loud dogs barking. Piper loves to be held, in fact all day if you want to! Otherwise she enjoys her time running around and even prances around like the princess she is when she's getting all the attention! She gets along great with other rabbits.



## Black Swan

Black Swan came into care as part of a group of rabbits taken from a horrible neglect/cruelty case in Ulster County. Black Swan received no care, no socialization, no exercise and as a result was traumatized. She is gradually learning to trust people and has responded well to her foster dad and being in an exercise pen, but she dislikes being in a cage and needs to be adopted by someone experienced and patient who will continue to work with her therapeutically. **She would do best in a home without children.**



## Morgan

Morgan is a playful bunny with brown coat with black markings. His mom was a mini rex but he doesn't have the rex fur. He was born on 7/20/2010 and neutered on 10/21/2010. Morgan shares his exercise pen with his brothers Jamie and Corey and sisters Sidney and Logan. Morgan would like to go to a forever home with one of his sisters or as a companion for another bunny.



## Susie Q

Susie Q is a classy, cultured rabbit. She loves listening to Pavarotti and has shown an artistic streak by remodeling the windows of her cardboard condo. Sweet and sassy, she can whip up a party with a paper bag and some jingly rabbit toys. Suzy Q was rescued from a rabbit hoarder when she was a tiny baby in October 2010. This shiny black satin mix is spayed, and very healthy, frisky, and lovable. She snuggles into the crook of her foster mother's arm and falls asleep. Suzy Q has a robust appetite and adores all varieties of apples.



## Mr. Rumbley

Mr. Rumbley is a friendly fella who is searching for love. This adorable spotted lop would make a great husbun for a lonely female bunny. He's looking to share his tunnel—and his heart—with a special someone.

## The Most Welcome Guest For Christmas By Chiyo Ueyama

December is a celebratory month for my husband Randy and me. Not so much because of the holidays, but because it's the anniversary month for one of the furry members of our family who was rescued in December 2008 after having been abandoned in the cold for over a month. His rescue story went like this . . .

T.H.E. Rabbit Resource received an e-mail message from a Fairport resident reporting that a domesticated rabbit had been on the loose at the apartment complex where she lived. TRR Chapter Manager asked us to help since we lived in the area. The message from Diana, the kind apartment resident, said it had been three weeks since the bunny was first sighted. She wrote, "Someone must have moved out [and didn't take the pet along] . . ." Having visited the local humane society, she knew the rabbit was an English Spot. She had been putting food out for him. She would see the bunny from her window when he came out for his "breakfast" between 6:30 am and 7 am almost every morning.

Two days later we met with Diana at the complex. She showed us all the places where the bunny's tracks had been seen (thank goodness for the snow!). Knowing that rabbits are creatures of habit, we quickly figured out his daily routes. It was clear that he lived on the edge of the property full of overgrown shrubs and bushes where there were many nooks for small animals and birds to hide in.

For the next two weeks, we made deliveries of hay, greens, and other rabbit food to Diana. She would then place the food in hidden corners and under the evergreen bushes so that this poor prey animal could eat discreetly. We offered the food in the same few locations everyday to keep the bunny in the area. We also set up a humane trap with a carpet of hay on the floor and we covered the trap with towels to keep the rabbit out of the elements in case he was trapped for more than a few hours. Diana checked the trap twice daily and replenished the food, and we covered the days when she was too busy. But this very smart bunny was so leery of this "suspicious" box. Even the most irresistible treats (bananas and apples) could not entice him to go in—his tracks came to the trap and just went around it! Every morning and night we exchanged e-mails with Diana; we were encouraged every time she reported a bunny sighting.

When Diana and I were walking around checking for his tracks one afternoon, we saw the bunny out and about. He didn't seem injured. He was hopping around eating the ends of the shrubs. We didn't have supplies to create an enclosure to trap him, but we were able to lure him towards us with parsley, and I tried to grab him when he came very close to me but my gloves made it easy for him to slip out of my hands. In seconds he was gone.

Even though we were keeping him fed, time was running out. The weather was becoming less and less accommodating, some residents in these pet-friendly apartments let their dogs out unleashed, and the property was near a major road.

On Friday before Christmas, the first major snow storm of the season hit the region. My usual 10-minute drive home from work turned into an hour crawl. I had never worried about the bunny as much as I did that night. The weather was clear the following morning and we headed out to the apartment complex to shovel the snow around the trap and put fresh food out. This time I put a pair of vinyl gloves in my pocket so that I would have better traction if I needed to grab him again. When we arrived we saw no bunny tracks, which meant that he had not come out to eat that morning. We walked around hoping to see any sign of him. And finally, in the overgrown area where we believed he had been hiding during the day, we stumbled upon a freshly dug tunnel in the knee-deep snow, just about the size of the English Spot. And on the other side of the tunnel were fresh rabbit tracks "He survived the storm!" I started putting a pile of hay where his tracks were. And there he was. He suddenly appeared and immediately started eating. He must have been hiding in one of the snow-covered bushes



*"I tried to grab him when he came very close to me but my gloves made it easy for him to slip out of my hands. In seconds he was gone."*

nearby and smelled the hay. Not wanting to scare him away again, we just stood there and watched him. After a while I slowly kneeled down and put another pile of hay and carrots in front of me, while Randy went back to the car to get a garden stake. While I waited I switched from my winter gloves to the vinyl ones. When Randy returned, I attached a piece of carrot at the end of the stake and offered it to the bunny through the tunnel. He took a bite, and I pulled it closer to me, and he followed the carrot to take another bite, inching towards me. He finally came through to my side of the tunnel and found a pile of goodies in front of my knees. While he ate ravenously, I caught him with my hands, Randy wrapped him in a blanket, and we carried him to the entrance hall of Diana's apartment building where we had a carrier waiting. Instead of being frightened, the bunny lay down in the carrier looking almost relieved to be warm and dry. He would be our special guest for Christmas, and we were exhilarated.

We named him Yuki, Japanese for "snow," and adopted him after fostering him for a month. He has gained an entire pound since the rescue, and has not had any health issues. He loves when we visit him in his very spacious pen. He enjoys being petted and talked to, and occasionally sits on my lap and watches TV with us—he is such a sweet, gentle bunny. He still enjoys the winter scene, but from our living room window now.

## Fundraiser In Rochester: A Success Story By Chiyo Ueyama

T.H.E. Rabbit Resource took part in a wonderful fundraising event in the fall of 2010. *This Old Cat*, the site of *Sunshine Home*, a retirement community for geriatric and disabled cats in the Rochester area, was planning to underwrite the Rochester public premiere of *MINE*, a documentary film about the lost pets and their human friends of Hurricane Katrina directed by Geryllyn Pezanoski. The owners of *This Old Cat* invited local animal welfare/rescue organizations to sell advance tickets to the film screening and to have table displays at the event. 100% of the revenue would benefit the participating organizations. It was too good an opportunity to miss. The film screening was held on November 11 at the Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester. The tables were set up in the Ballroom; we were in good company with ten other non-profit animal-loving groups and staff from Monroe Veterinary Associates. T.H.E. Rabbit Resource's table had holiday cards and other merchandise available for purchase. But the \$1 raffle tickets were a huge hit, thanks to the attractive prizes that were donated: several gift certificates for Macaroni Grill, signed children's books, a print, a basket of cruelty-free skin care products, and a set of hand-sewn gift wine bags. Many purchased multiple raffle tickets to increase their chance of winning. We also had a quiz about house rabbits

for people to take, along with pictures of adoptable bunnies. I am happy to report that T.H.E. Rabbit Resource raised \$330 in film ticket, raffle ticket, and merchandise sales. It was great to have met some new bunny people in the area as well. Several people went home with a little more knowledge about house rabbits. It really was a wonderful evening.



## Dahlia Bea's Story



In early August, 2010, a call came in from Saratoga area. A black bunny had been abandoned at a local school and was living on the grounds, and needed rescue. Anthony immediately responded, and with some assistance from the secretary and custodian, was able to rescue Dahlia. Meg triaged and Jeff and Katrina Cutter stepped forward to assist with short term fostering.

When people contact us to adopt, often they do not grasp what we mean by

House Rabbit Society. We mean that rabbits are social, they need care inside, they need to live inside, like any other adopted companion would. Rabbits housed or hutched outside or let to run pick up parasites, are prey for predators, can heatstroke or get frostbite or freeze to death, and of course, they are ignored at least 23 hours per day.

Dahlia had been out for weeks. Over the several days the Cutters fostered her, she developed swellings on her face, around her eyes, on her neck, on her body that required many vet visits to remove adult cuterebra larvae. These larvae are picked up when an animal brushes against them on the ground, migrate through the skin, burrow deep and create a warble pore, create irritation and infection. The larvae release a toxin if they are manipulated, so these had to be extracted by veterinarians.

As the situation developed, a decision was reached to travel the long distance to Cornell. The Cutters had some travel plans for the following week and Dahlia went to Cathy for the week for care and flushing of wounds, with a recheck appointment. Davida and Dorene took Dahlia for recheck at which time the neck wound was terribly infected, and Dr. Morrissey performed a debridement surgery. Everyone had their hopes up that this would be the answer; but this was more than Dahlia could withstand. She died the night of her surgery and left many broken hearts in her absence.

In her memory, T.H.E. Rabbit Resource has established the Dahlia Bea Memorial Fund. This is a donation based fund specifically to be used for bunnies that come to us, as Dahlia did, with emergency veterinary needs. In past years we have taken in rabbits with broken limbs, requiring amputations, rabbits blinded by traumatic injuries, rabbits with massive abscesses, overwhelming mite infestations, malnourished and in need of care and simple human kindness. Donations in Dahlia Bea's memory can be notated as such and sent to T.H.E. Rabbit Resource, PO Box 141, Washington Mills, NY 13479. Thank you for your compassion.



## T.H.E. Rabbit Resource

Rescue • Fostering • Education • Adoption

The New York State **Chapter of the House Rabbit Society**

Dear Friends,

As many of you are aware, T.H.E. Rabbit Resource, the Upstate New York Chapter of the House Rabbit Society, is deeply devoted to its rescue and adoption work. For an all-volunteer not-for-profit organization, fulfilling its mission is as rewarding as it is trying.

The past 12 months have been particularly challenging for us. We have been faced with a rash of rescues all across upstate New York; typically more than one bunny at a time. We are proud to have consistently risen to meet this never-ending challenge, and have brought dozens of abandoned bunnies into our foster homes—homes that are unfortunately now filled to capacity.

While we are committed to provide necessary medical care, and spay and neuter every rabbit prior to adoption, we struggle to cover veterinary expenses that rise exponentially as more rabbits are rescued. (Our \$75 adoption fee only covers a fraction of the cost to spay or neuter each animal.) Therefore **we depend heavily on the generosity of those who support our mission of giving these bunnies a second chance at a joyful life through successful adoptions. As a result of all the challenges outlined above, we need your help now more than ever.**

One method of demonstrating your support is by accepting our invitation to become a member of T.H.E. Rabbit Resource. After you join, you will receive notifications of future events, bulletin-style informational messages, and a holiday gift as a token of appreciation from T.H.E. Rabbit Resource. We have also set up the *Dahlia Bea Rescue Fund* to accommodate additional contributions.

**Please review the attached membership form to see our current donation options.**

We also expanded our fundraising efforts this summer with the sale of Apple Sticks (freshly trimmed branches from an unsprayed apple orchard). These are healthy treats for all pocket pets. Various quantities of Apple Sticks are ready to ship. Order today at <http://therabbitresource.org/donations.html>.

Some Bunny loves you. Please consider placing a *tax-deductable* gift for a foster bunny. “Thank You” from the bottom of our hearts!

Gwen Coe and Chiyo Ueyama  
Membership Committee - T.H.E. Rabbit Resource, Inc. – [a 501(c)(3) corporation]

**If you are interested in *adopting* or *fostering*, please visit our website:**  
**<http://www.THERabbitResource.org>**





T.H.E. Rabbit Resource

Rescue • Fostering • Education • Adoption

The New York State Chapter of the House Rabbit Society

[www.therabbitresource.org](http://www.therabbitresource.org)

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

*The House Rabbit Society is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue, adoption, and education on the proper care of domestic rabbits. Your membership and donations to T.H.E. Rabbit Resource, the New York State Chapter, help us rescue and care for our foster rabbits. Please join and buy a bunny a little time.*

Please print clearly.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- I'm interested in fostering.
- I'm interested in participating in a rescue.

T.H.E. Rabbit Resource annual membership (per household) <i>Members receive:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal (Please check one.)	\$ 25.00
• <i>Notices of upcoming events</i>		
• <i>Holiday gift</i>		
Gift to the Dahlia Bea Rescue Fund (Covers emergency & non-emergency medical expenses for our foster bunnies. Read Dahlia Bea's story on <a href="http://www.therabbitresource.org/donations">www.therabbitresource.org/donations</a> .)		\$
<b>Total</b>		\$

Please make check payable to *T.H.E. Rabbit Resource*. Send completed form and payment to:

T.H.E. Rabbit Resource, PO BOX 264, East Aurora, NY 14052-0264

Questions? E-mail [membership@therabbitresource.org](mailto:membership@therabbitresource.org).

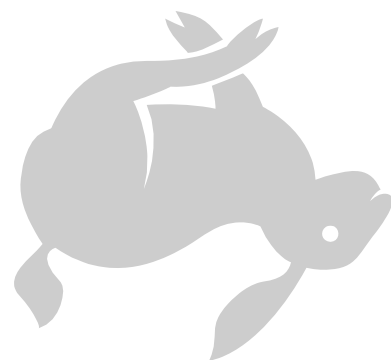
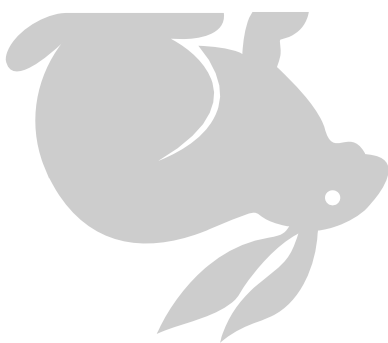


### *An opportunity to double your donation . . .*

Many employers match charitable contributions made by their current and sometimes retired employees. We encourage you to contact your Human Resources or Benefits Office to find out if your employer offers a matching gift program and how your donation to TRR can be doubled.

T.H.E. Rabbit Resource (Thrennon's Hoppy Endings Rabbit Resource, Inc.) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. Contact the TRR Treasurer ([treasurer@therabbitresource.org](mailto:treasurer@therabbitresource.org)) for details.

## THANK YOU!



T.H.E. Rabbit Resource

PO Box 141

Washington Mills, NY 13479

