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## Friends of Rabbits Helps Rescue Over Three Hundred Rabbits from a Hoarder's House in NJ

*By Maxine K.*

On August 26, 2016, the New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NJSPCA) was alerted to a potential animal hoarding situation in Hampton, NJ. They discovered approximately 300 rabbits living in deplorable conditions in the basement of the home. The rabbits were kept in tiny wire cages in sheds with no air conditioning with feces everywhere. The temperature in the sheds was well over 100 degrees. The sheds reeked of ammonia and urine. The rabbits' water was dirty. There were flies and maggots. This was a "bunny mill", and it was so horrific that NJSPCA immediately put out a call for assistance to the local rabbit rescues. More than 15 rescues from 8 states stepped up to help the rabbits. By the time they were finished, a total of 291 rabbits, 27 Guinea pigs, 2 chickens, and a calf had been removed from the Hunterdon County NJ property.

Friends of Rabbits (FoR) was one of the rabbit rescues that assisted with the NJ hoarding case. FoR was alerted of the situation through a Facebook post by Willy's Wabbits rabbit rescue asking for

assistance. On August 28, 2016, FoR received 30 of the 300 rabbits at Susan W's house in Columbia, MD. Upon arrival, Dr. Tino L. who also helped to transport these precious rabbits performed a thorough exam on all the rabbits until the wee hours of the morning. The count included 20 adults, a nursing mom with 3 babies, and another nursing mom with 5 babies that were about 8 days old when they arrived.



Photo: Friends of Rabbits

Agnes (left) survived terrible conditions to give birth to her three babies in a safe home. They

*This newsletter is dedicated to Katharine Thompson, one of the early Board members for Friends of Rabbits. She was a wonderful person, accepting all of us with love and respect. Katharine not only had a big heart for people, she was also a true rabbit whisperer. Namaste Katharine. We will remember and love you forever.*

The rabbits were quarantined for 3 weeks after arrival to prevent them from infecting the other sanctuary rabbits. The rabbits came to the sanctuary with a variety of health problems. They were matted and had overgrown nails. Many suffered from ear mites, fleas, upper respiratory infections (URIs), urine scald, and parasites. One of the rabbits was pregnant and gave birth two days after arriving. Many of the rabbits require ongoing treatment with antimicrobial medications due to the poor living conditions they had endured.

Approximately two dozen FoR volunteers assisted in caring for the rabbits. Volunteers took in the rabbits as fosters. They administered morning and evening medications for internal parasites and URIs. They performed nebulizing treatments as well as lots of cleaning, grooming, and socializing. As the rabbits' health improved, there came the tasks of photographing them for the website and transporting them to and from the vet for spay/neuter appointments.

The rabbits are thriving despite their unfortunate beginnings. Although some are still being treated for URIs and a few need a little more socialization, FoR will begin finding new adoptive homes for many of the rabbits soon. In fact, two of them have already been adopted and a few more have adoptions pending. The 3 litters of baby bunnies from the rescue are weaned from their moms and awaiting foster homes. The babies will be ready for adoption in January.

The ASPCA defines animal hoarding as "housing more animals than [an individual] can adequately care for." Approximately 250 thousand animals fall victim to hoarding every year according to the Animal Legal Defense Fund. No one knows what causes animal hoarding or how it develops. It is a complex issue that encompasses mental health, animal welfare, and public safety concerns. Compulsive animal hoarding is a symptom of a mental disorder rather than deliberate cruelty towards animals. It is defined by an inability to provide even minimal standards of nutrition, sanitation, shelter and veterinary care—often resulting in animal starvation, illness and death. Animal hoarders are deeply attached to their pets and find it extremely difficult to let them go. They simply cannot comprehend that they are harming their pets through their inability to provide proper care and housing conditions.

The Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium (HARC) identifies the following characteristics as common to all hoarders:

- Accumulation of numerous animals, which has overwhelmed that person's ability to provide even minimal standards of nutrition, sanitation, and veterinary care;
- Failure to acknowledge the deteriorating condition of the animals (including disease, starvation, and even death) and the household environment (severe overcrowding, very unsanitary conditions); and—
- Failure to recognize the negative effect of the collection on his or her own health and well-being, and on that of other household members

According to the Wisconsin House Rabbit Society (HRS), "three-quarters of hoarders are female; three quarters are single, divorced or widowed; over half live alone; almost half are 60 or older and 37% are between 40 and 59 years. In 80% of cases, some animals were found dead or in severe condition, and in three-quarters of cases, the premises were unsanitary and overcrowded."

Animal hoarders in the United States can be prosecuted under state animal cruelty laws for failing to provide a certain level of care to their animals. Failure to properly care for an animal is considered a misdemeanor offense in most states. Penalties under state animal cruelty statutes can include fines, animal forfeiture, the cost of care for the seized animals, and jail time. States such as California may even allow the courts to order psychological counseling at the court's discretion or may require the defendant to undergo anger management counseling.

Often people who are hoarding animals do so out of a desire to help animals in need, but they cannot and do not provide adequate care. What, then, is the difference between a rescuer and a hoarder? Animal rescuers acknowledge that they can't rescue every animal, but they will help those they can. They know that an adoptive

Photo: Alex D.



Urine-stained and scared upon their arrival at FoR.

home is much better at providing the love and care that a companion animal needs. And finally, they know that placing a rabbit in a forever home creates a space for rescuing another abandoned bunny. In the end, "hoarding doesn't solve the problem; it only creates a larger one for [the] real rescuers at a later date" (HRS Wisconsin Chapter). Hopefully by bringing attention to hoarding cases we can help raise awareness and save the unfortunate animals born into these situations.

Donations are being solicited to help care for the rabbits. FoR set a goal to raise \$10,000 to cover the costs of the NJ rabbits. They have raised approximately \$1,500 to date. The average cost of caring for one rabbit from the day he or she arrives at the sanctuary to the day he or she is adopted into a forever home averages \$250 to \$500 and is often significantly more. Unlike FoR's ordinary shelter rescues, these rabbits will require additional veterinary assessments and treatments for parasites and upper respiratory infections due to severe neglect. With the hard work and support of this wonderful rabbit community, FoR is confident that the worst is over for these rabbits and they can find the happiness they deserve. Let's hope we can intercept other neglect cases before it's too late.

**Thank you to all the rescue organizations involved in the NJ Rabbit Rescue!**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Hug-A-Bunny Rabbit Rescue:<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/hugabunnyrabbitrescue/?fref=ts">https://www.facebook.com/hugabunnyrabbitrescue/?fref=ts</a>                          | Willy's Wabbits (on site rescue and temporary holding):<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/Willys-Wabbits-553520464726759/">https://www.facebook.com/Willys-Wabbits-553520464726759/</a> |
| Hop Along Hollow:<br><a href="http://www.hopalonghollow.org/">http://www.hopalonghollow.org/</a>   | House Rabbit Society Southeastern PA-Delaware Chapter:<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/SEPADEHRChapter/">https://www.facebook.com/SEPADEHRChapter/</a>                                |
| Helping All Little Things (guinea pigs)<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/HALTRescue/?fref=ts">https://www.facebook.com/HALTRescue/?fref=ts</a>                                   | Kind Heart Rescue:<br><a href="http://awos.petfinder.com/shelters/NJ86.html">http://awos.petfinder.com/shelters/NJ86.html</a>  |
| Precious Petz Rescue:<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/PreciousPetzRescue/">https://www.facebook.com/PreciousPetzRescue/</a>   | Eastern Shore Rabbit Rescue & Education Center:<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/esrrec/?rc=p">https://www.facebook.com/esrrec/?rc=p</a>   |
| My Hope's in You Small Animal Rescue:<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/My-Hopes-In-You-Small-Animal-Resc.../">https://www.facebook.com/My-Hopes-In-You-Small-Animal-Resc.../</a> | Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue:<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/SafeHavenRabbitRescue/">https://www.facebook.com/SafeHavenRabbitRescue/</a>   |
| Everybunny Counts:<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/EverybunnyCounts/">https://www.facebook.com/EverybunnyCounts/</a>  | Bunny Lu Adoptions:<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/Bunny-Lu-Adoptions-Inc-119215644.../">https://www.facebook.com/Bunny-Lu-Adoptions-Inc-119215644.../...</a>                        |
| Bun Bun Brigade:<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/bunbunbrigade/">https://www.facebook.com/bunbunbrigade/</a>  | Reenie's Rabbit Rescue:<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/Reenies-Rabbit-Rescue-5435566524.../">https://www.facebook.com/Reenies-Rabbit-Rescue-5435566524.../...</a>                    |
| Friends of Rabbits:<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Rabbits-1185474682007.../">https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Rabbits-1185474682007.../...</a>                  | Bergen County Animal Shelter: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/BCAnimalShelter/">https://www.facebook.com/BCAnimalShelter/</a>  |

**FoR Fostering and Sanctuary Wish list**

Empty 2-3 lb plastic nut or food containers w/ lids	Office supplies wishlist:
Empty 2 cup take-out soup containers w/ lids	Paper clips (all sizes)
Toilet bowl brushes	Staples
Top-opening pet carriers	Binder clips (all sizes)
1 gal or larger jugs of white vinegar	Rubber bands (medium)
Pet Stroller	Pens
Exercise pens of all heights	Sharpies/permanent markers
Stainless steel exam table	Scissors
	Hanging file folders
	Packaging tape
	Scotch tape
	Forever stamps

**Currently Adoptable Rabbits from the NJ Rescue Mission**

**Gabriella**      **Collette**

**Xavier**      **Abby**

**Ellen**

Photos: Robin S.

Help us care for these sweet rabbits by donating supplies or adopting today!

## Extreme Makeover: Rabbit Home Edition

*By Amy S.*

Renovations are underway at the Friends of Rabbits Columbia Headquarters (aka Susan’s house). Perhaps they are not truly extreme, but they are positive changes that will help FoR members take care of the bunnies housed there.

The first step is complete, with new flooring installed in the intake room. This is the front room where rabbits are first brought after being rescued to await medical care and placement into a foster home. The plan is to increase FoR’s intake capacity by being able to put more stackable cages in the room. More cages means more rescues are possible. (A win for the bunnies!)

The heart of the rabbit housing is in the basement of the house, where one can find rabbits in a number of pens set up. Several renovations are planned for the basement. First, the ceiling will be renovated with more lighting added. Second, FoR will move the “herd” of seven bonded sanctuary bunnies to an upstairs bedroom. Because their current extended pen takes up a large area of the basement, this move will create more room for either a bunny play area or an overflow area when space for additional rabbits is necessary. Finally, they will add an industrial strength washer and dryer. This should make it much easier for volunteers to wash the sizable number towels used in bunny care and cleaning without having to walk up and down the stairs to get to the current laundry room. (A win for the volunteers!)



Photo: Alex D.

New Flooring in the intake room, ready for move-in.



Photos: Robin S.



Two views of the newly reorganized Columbia Friends of Rabbits store. Extra special thanks for volunteer Sean Lineweaver for doing such a great job!

In addition to the rabbit housing areas within the house, there are a few more changes to make things easier for FoR volunteers and other members. For example, outside the house, there will be improvements to the path that leads to the compost pile. In the garage, the “store” has been reorganized (thanks to FoR volunteer Sean) into aisles for greater accessibility of the supplies that members can purchase to care for their rabbits.

If you haven’t been to this location, now is your chance to see the “before” version of the house. So, head on over to Columbia to volunteer (and buy supplies for your own rabbits) soon!



## Supply Store

Local Hay Bales - **only \$24!**  
 CareFresh Bedding  
 Oxbow Bunny Basics T (10, 25lbs.)  
 Oxbow Hays (15 oz, 25 lb or 50 lb)  
 Oxbow Orchard Grass  
 Oxbow Natural Science Supplements  
 Oxbow Simple Rewards Treats  
 Oxbow Critical Care  
 Organic Rabbit Food (3 lbs)  
 Eco Straw

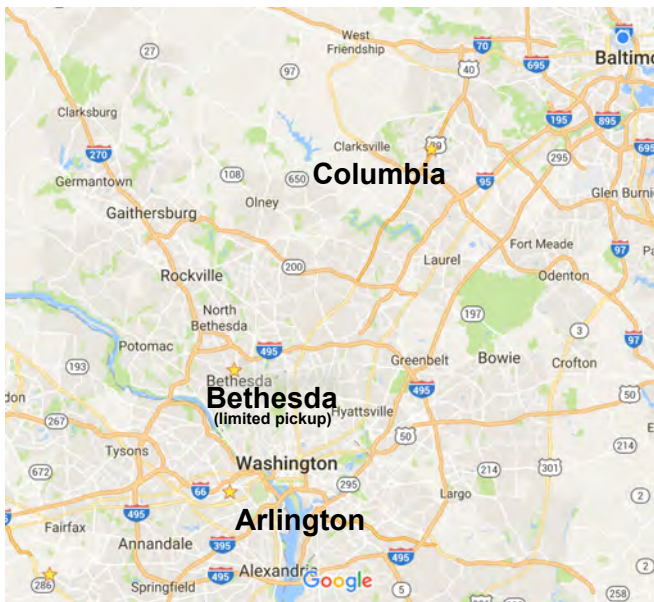
### Grass & Willow toys:

Willow Bowls  
 Willow balls  
 Chew Rings  
 Grass Ball  
 Unpeeled Willow Tent  
 Tunnels  
 Baskets  
 Cottontail Cottage  
 Critter Castle  
 Haystacks

### Grooming supplies and more!

\*ask about our volunteer discounts!

### Four convenient locations!



**Fairfax Station**  
(hay only)



FoR's Columbia location manager, Paris



## Pet sitting Services

### Daily Rates:

\$15.00 per rabbit  
 \$ 5.00 for each extra rabbit in the same space  
 \$10.00 for each rabbit in a separate space

### Weekly Rates:

\$90.00 for a single rabbit  
 \$125.00 for a pair

Volunteers receive a 20% discount.

### Extra fees apply for:

special feeding,  
 administration of medications, trips to the vet, or other special needs. In-home bunny sitting is subject to extra fees and subject to sitter availability.

Discounts are available for long-term rabbit sitting, caged housing, military deployment, and low income community members.



Guest rabbits will be housed in a spacious pen approximately 20 sq. ft., allowing for running, jumping and playing and even hiding in a hidey box.

**Please email [info@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:info@friendsofrabbits.org) to schedule your rabbits' stay with us, or to get a quote**

(if you email us individually and we're out of town, we may not get your request in a timely manner).

## No Time for ‘Vegging Out’ at DC VegFest 2016

By *Chris O.*

‘You are what you eat, from your head to your feet,’ is a well-known adage that many of us first heard when we were kids, perhaps scooping an extra mound of ice-cream into a well-packed bowl. But for twenty thousand people that attended this year’s DC VegFest, Saturday, September 24, an alternative ending came to mind: ‘and you can do without meat!’

Pair that with a picture of Torre Washington, a chiseled vegan body-builder, and you have a convincing argument. But all were welcome at the event hosted at Yards Park in Washington, D.C., where vegans, vegetarians, pescatarians, and omnivores congregated to sample unique recipes and enjoy an educational, merry festival. Kids bounced around in a colorful Kid Zone, while dogs of all sizes made a playful ruckus in a field dubbed the ‘Barking Lot.’ It was a day to celebrate the burgeoning interest in vegan diet and lifestyle in America. Admission was free.

Nearly two hundred sponsors and exhibitors – including FoR – graced the day with everything from free food samples and delectable goods for sale, to expert nutritional education and news about recent animal rights victories. Among larger scale commercial vendors, such as Dr. Bronner’s and Herbivore Clothing, were eccentric local businesses such as Baltimore’s The Land of Kush restaurant. On a small stage, chefs from The Land of Kush performed a cooking demo, where seated visitors could pick up some new tricks and ask questions. The event was not necessarily for those wanting some time ‘vegging out.’

For all the fun, visitors for next year’s event should be warned of the exceedingly long – though amicable – lines, especially for Vegan Treats Bakery from Bethlehem, PA. While the atmosphere remained positive, one could walk by a stand, return an hour later, and, without exaggeration, see the same folks still in line. But for you early birds, don’t worry about picking up too many goods while you are meandering—groups, such as Compassion Over



Photo: DC VegFest/ Compassion over Killing

DC VegFest 2016 volunteers with a compassionate carrot.

Killing handed out free tote bags to the first rush of visitors.

This past month, in September, Compassion Over Killing (COK) reached a great milestone in one of its many campaigns, most recently against ‘boning’ in the poultry industry—the insertion of a plastic tube through a male chicken’s nostrils to limit their food intake). As a result of the COK investigation and subsequent action, Tyson Foods launched procedures to stop ‘boning’ and fired ten employees for animal cruelty. COK Communications Manager, Jennifer Mishler, added that Perdue Foods and Wayne Farms have also begun a process for shutting down this practice. The fight for humane practices in the food industry is ongoing.

There was a light tone to the festival, as well. For those that struggle to keep their particular diet ongoing, Dustin Harder, the so-called ‘Vegan Roadie’ of [www.veganroadie.com](http://www.veganroadie.com), gave a quirky talk on vegan eating on the road. People of every diet style can benefit from these clever on-the-go recipes that are both minimalist and nutritious!

Ironically, many food items still retain a non-vegan origin, such as ‘Tofu Egg Salad,’ ‘Tofurkey,’ ‘vegan burgers,’ and even ‘vegan shrimp.’ The nomenclature is a testament to the resistance to change that is natural in societies, but also to the fact that vegan cuisine is entirely nutritious on its own. At such a well-attended event, the message is widespread.

Mishler noted, "Holding this event in the nation's capital also helps to initiate an important larger conversation, putting vegan eating on the national political map."

Thus, attendees kept conscious of the fact that every being, all the way up the food-chain, from the occasional fly by the trash bin to the self-labeled 'carnivore' who wanted to try something new, fits into a delicate ecosystem. It is only us, however, that can follow both our science and our hearts to maintain a loving stewardship of the Earth, in whatever form of diet, volunteering, or action that may be.



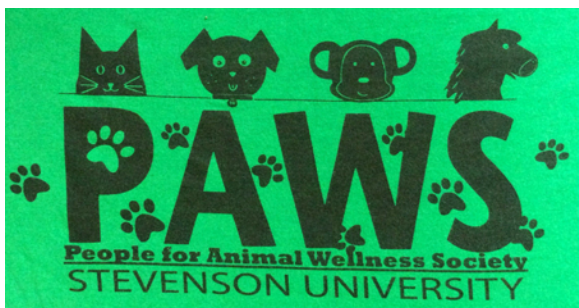
Photo: DC VegFest/ Compassion over Killing

Aerial view of the grounds of DC VegFest 2016. Friends of Rabbits showcased our rescue work to the nearly 20,000 attendees.

## FoR receives fundraiser proceeds from Stevenson University animal welfare organization PAWS

*By Beck B.*

Friends of Rabbits was the honored recipient of the year's fundraising proceeds from a student organization from Stevenson University in Owings Mills, MD. The student group, People for Animal Wellness Society, or PAWS, works to advocate for animal welfare and the ethical treatment of animals. Their work helps educate the Stevenson students, faculty and staff, as well as the wider community about responsible pet care by working closely with local organizations. Their fundraising activities each year are given to local organizations, and Friends of Rabbits received the 2015-2016 proceeds totaling \$1757. This generous gift will go a long way to help us find more needy rabbits their forever homes-thank you PAWS!



## Representing Rabbits at Loudoun Pet Expo

*By Beck B.*

The Loudoun pet expo in Loudoun, VA was an opportunity for residents to hear about local pet/animal business, mingle with non-profit organizations and build community support for animal welfare. FoR had a table at the expo and provided information about our mission, and educated many attendees about our work in the community.



Photo: Alex D.

Loudoun Pet Expo exhibitors and attendees enjoyed the beautiful weather and informative displays.



## FoR's Holds First Ever Baby Bunny Shower

*By Beck B.*

What do you do when a number of expectant mama rabbits show up on your doorstep? Why you throw them a baby bunny shower! On August 7<sup>th</sup>, fundraising coordinator Mara H. organized a beautiful afternoon baby shower in her home in Virginia. Attendees were able to meet Vida, one of our newest special needs rabbits and Her Ladyship the Duchess Nora was pleased to receive visitors in her room throughout the event. Mingling guests enjoyed the expansive spread of food and had a chance to meet and cuddle some baby bunnies. Generous gifts were donated to help care for the new arrivals, and it was such a success it was gained the attention of the animal welfare website Care 2, who covered it on their website. See their full article here:

<http://www.care2.com/causes/a-nonprofit-threw-a-bunny-baby-shower-for-its-mama-bunnies-and-it-was-adorable.html>.

## Adoption and Fostering workshop

*By Beck B.*

**Fostering and Adoptions are the most direct ways volunteers can support our rescue mission**, as it allows FoR to take in more rabbits from shelters or abuse situations. A workshop was held on August 14<sup>th</sup> at Susan's house to allow members of the rabbit community learn more about how they could 1. foster rescue rabbits in their home 2. support fostering activities or 3. help increase adoptions of our rescue rabbits. The event spotlighted such critical topics as: responsibilities of fosterers, support of fosterers by FoR, and hosting/organizing adoption events.

**Foster homes are always in short supply, and limits the number of rabbits we can save!** For more information about Fostering, please contact Alex [alex@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:alex@friendsofrabbits.org).



Photo: Jennie M.

Above: table centerpiece. Below: litter of babies taken in just a few weeks after the shower.

## Brews FoR Bunnies returns to Jailbreak Brewing Company

*By Beck B.*

Bunny lovers from near and far converged on Laurel, MD to fill the Jailbreak Brewing Company for a second successful Brews for Bunnies event. Held on a rare cool August evening, the outdoor seating area was just as hopping as the tap room. Parked just outside the seating area the "Pasta La Vista, Baby" food truck served up amazing Italian dishes, including their divine vegan mushroom ravioli with a light and fresh tomato sauce. Steps away from dinner was dessert in the form of "cake walks," a 1950's party game where contestants walk in formation to music in hopes that they win cake by being in the marked tile when the music stops. Those seeking libations for dessert were in luck, as the event coincided with the seasonal release of the sweet and smooth Carrot Conspiracy Ale, which smacks of a





nicely seasoned carrot cake and was a welcome alternative to the pumpkin offerings of the season. The spirit indoors was gleeful with revelers enjoying tours of the brewery, tasting flights of the various craft beers and petting the adoptable rabbits. The silent

auction featured the work of talented artisans in the local community, as well as donated items from local vendors. All in all, it was fantastic fundraiser for FoR, raising a total of \$2,689. Fundraising aside, it was an enjoyable event for the rabbit community to come together and celebrate the coming of Fall.

**We would like to thank the following companies and merchants for supporting our 2016 Brews FoR Bunnies Fundraisers:**

Jailbreak Brewing Company – Sponsor  
Bad Wolf Brewing Company - Sponsor  
Small Pet Select  
Leith Petwerks  
Buns, Beds and Beyond  
Kessler Bunny Castles  
Bark! Pet Supplies  
Weber Pet Supplies  
Petco, Burke VA  
Pet Supplies Plus, Kingstowne VA  
Pet Valu, Kingstowne VA  
M.E. Swing Coffee Roasters

Curry Mantra  
Kingstowne VA Massage Envy  
Ah Love Oil & Vinegar  
Darwin & Co. Pottery  
She Had Me in Stitches  
The Livingston Line Custom Stationery  
Pat Deckert Art Creations  
Elsie the Rex  
Calypso Bunny  
Mr. Woody  
Snowball the Blizzard Bunny  
Her Ladyship the Duchess Nora

**And all of our generous supporters who donated items for the silent auctions, raffles, and cake walks and our wonderful volunteers!**

## Bunny Spa Day in Fairfax

*By Steph M.*

Bunny Spa day has become a bit of a Friends of Rabbits tradition. Each year, Friends of Rabbits holds a fundraiser that has steadily generated more and more interest each year. In its first year back almost 10 years ago, a handful of bunnies were lucky enough to have their humans sign them up for some pampering. This year, we had more than 20 reservations!

This year's event was attended by buns and humans from far and wide, and benefited from a partnership with the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. They were generous in allowing us to host the event at the shelter, and cross-promoted the event through their social media channels.

In total, more than 30 buns enjoyed grooming, nail trims and massages. We saw everything from tiny dwarfs, all the way up to a Flemish giant named Sunny. Beyond the primary goal of fundraising, Friends of Rabbits also took one of the shelter's beloved but rambunctious buns, "Krazy Kenny," as a transfer that day. Additionally, having the event at the shelter helped foster some great relationships with key staff, which will hopefully result in future collaborations.



Doesn't Sunny look like she is enjoying her massage?

Photo: Amy S.

## Rabbit Health 101

By Susan W.

For those of you who have had rabbits for a while, you'll know what I'm talking about when I say that rabbits appear to choose the worst times to get sick. Holidays, Saturday nights, Sunday mornings. I've spent many of these days at the emergency vets. Holding off Thanksgiving Dinner with my father, canceling the Fourth of July, etc. so that I could spend the day at the vets.

We know that it's sometimes hard to tell when your rabbit is sick, really sick, or not even sick at all. Here are some tips to determine whether you need to rush off to the vet or not.

Please note: the information below is just for guidance and is not a diagnosis of your rabbit's condition.

### Signs of a well rabbit:

- Normal eating patterns (hay, veggies and pellets)
- Nose is wiggling. Rabbits breathe through their nose.
- Ears should be up and alert, moving around (unless you're a lop). Ears may be cool or warm depending if she or he's been snoozing. Ears should be pretty and pink and should not have any discharge or buildup of wax.
- Eyes should be open and bright/glowing
- Normal feces and urine output. Feces should be dark brown, hard and dry. Rabbits may have yellow-to-orange-to red urine. Usually if your rabbit's urine has excessive color, it's likely not blood, but colored urine. Blood in urine does not look like blood coming out of a cut. Blood in urine is usually rather diluted in color.
- The rabbit flop (right) is not a seizure but a sign of a happy rabbit.

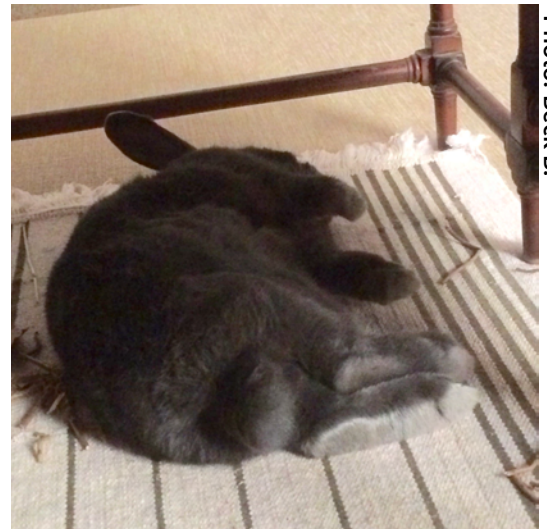


Photo: Beck B.

A rabbit flop. Nothing to be concerned about.

### Common ailments:

- ★ Gut Stasis
- ★ Teeth problems (front and back)
- ★ Dehydration
- ★ Microbial infections - intestinal, respiratory, neurological
- ★ Worms
- ★ Tumors and thymomas
- ★ Cataracts
- ★ Bladder or kidney stones
- ★ Fur mites/Ear mites

The most common rabbit ailments (above) may have symptoms that you may not be aware of. Here's a list of questions to answer and things to look out for. If the answer to any of these is yes, it indicates your rabbit may have a condition that may warrant a visit to the vet or the emergency vet.

#### • Is your rabbit grinding his or her teeth?

- ➔ This is a sign of pain and should not be confused with the teeth purring when they are happy. Usually you'll see other symptoms below.

#### • Did your rabbit stop eating and will not accept treats?

- ➔ Is your rabbit's stomach firm or hard (not doughy)?
- ➔ Can you hear gas? Do you have gas medication (baby simethicone) on hand to give? If so, you can always give the infant dose of 0.3 ml and massage the stomach. If

this does not help within 2 hours, seek veterinary attention.

• **Did your rabbit stop eating hay or pellets? Or has become picky about veggies?**

- ➔ May be some teeth issues - check incisors if you can. If the incisors appear fine, then it could be back teeth.
- ➔ Possible ulcers in his/her mouth

• **Is your rabbit drooling? Do you feel lumps around the mouth and jaw?**

- ➔ This might be teeth problems or other issues with the mouth

• **Has your rabbit stopped defecating or has his/her droppings become small?**

- ➔ An indicator of gut stasis

• **Has your rabbit stopped urinating?**

- ➔ Your rabbit might be dehydrated

• **Is your rabbit breathing through his/her mouth and perhaps also stretching their head out/up?**

- ➔ This may present a serious problem and should be immediately addressed by your veterinarian.

• **Is your rabbit's nose wet or crusty?**

- ➔ Can you see mucus coming out of his nose?
- ➔ Are his front paws wet or crusty from wiping a drippy nose?

• **Are your rabbit's ears cold and pulled back?**

- ➔ This might be an indicator of discomfort, but usually combined with other symptoms.

• **Are your rabbit's eyes not alert or half closed or closed? Are the eyes cloudy or look dry?**

• **Does your rabbit have urine scald or a wet bottom?**

• **Does your rabbit have diarrhea or soft stools?**

• **Does your rabbit have an unusual amount of dandruff?**

- ➔ If your rabbit normally does not have dandruff and you suddenly notice it, then this is an important change to notice because it could be fur mites.

• **Is your rabbit scratching their ears a lot? Or does his/her ear appear irritated?**

- ➔ Are his/her ears clean?

• **Has your rabbit been hiding or sitting in the same place for many hours? Is your rabbit reluctant to move?**

Please contact your veterinarian if your rabbit is showing signs of illness. Sometimes it's hard to tell if your rabbit is ill or not, so when you're unsure, please contact Friends of Rabbits and we might be able to give you some guidance.

## Emergency services recommended by Friends of Rabbits:

### Warning signs:

- Unconsciousness
- Inability to respond to stimulation
- Behavior changes
- No eating for 12 hours
- Gasping for air
- Stretching the neck and head up
- Seizures
- Acting "drunk"
- Rolling or tilted head.
- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Extreme diarrhea.
- Ingestion of a toxic substance
- Nonproductive straining to urinate
- Dangling limb or awkwardly angled limb
- Inability to bear weight on a leg
- Hind limb paralysis.

*NOTE: ALWAYS CALL FIRST as if the exotics veterinarian are not there, the present vet may not be able to see exotics.*

Dr Tino Luehman  
Emergency Veterinary Clinic  
32 Mellor Ave  
Catonsville, MD 21228  
410-788-7040

Dr Nelson Bricker  
Rocky Gorge Animal Hospital  
7515 Brooklyn Bridge Road  
Laurel, MD 20707  
301-776-7744

Anne Arundel Veterinary  
Emergency Clinic  
808 Bestgate Road  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
410-224-0331

Animal Emergency Hospital  
807 Baltimore Pike  
Bel Air, MD 21014  
410-420-7297

**One place that will always see exotics is:**

Pender Veterinary Centre  
4001 Legato Road  
Fairfax, VA 22033  
703-654-3100



Emergency cut-out card- snip and save!



# Upcoming Events

**Saturday 11/5** - Adoption Event at Bark! Clarksville  
5805 Clarksville Square Dr, Clarksville, MD

**Sunday 11/20** - FoR Appreciation Celebration, Columbia MD.  
Join us in giving thanks for our wonderful volunteers and donors!

**Saturday 12/10** - FoR Holiday Party, Fairfax Station VA

**Saturday 12/20** - Adoption Event at Bark! Kentlands  
235 Kentlands Blvd, Gaithersburg, MD

## Recurrent Adoption Events:

**Every 3rd Saturday** 12-3pm Adoption event at  
Petco 9230 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke, VA  
Next events: 11/19, 12/17

**Every 3rd Sunday** 12-3 pm Adoption events at  
Pet Supplies Plus 7007 Manchester Blvd.  
Franconia, VA  
Next events: 11/20, 12/18

*Save the date and keep an eye on your email for more information about our two upcoming rabbit community holiday parties!*

## Bunny Personals



**Dervish, M.** I'm 6 months old and I hope you can look past my tilted head. People say it's becoming. I have a ton of energy, and a love for attention.



**Thistles, F.** 1.5 years old. Are you looking for a large lovely lady in your life? I'm your gal. I know what I want in life; I'll charm you with my ambition.



**Gumdrop, M.** My age is irrelevant; can't you see how gorgeous I am? Between my piebald eyes and my kissable nose, I'm irresistible.



**Chauncey, F.** I've endured some bad situations in my life; I love being silly and lighthearted.



**Laurel, F.** 1 year old. Om nom nom nom nom nom nom.



**Henry, M.** 3 years old. I might be missing some teeth but it doesn't stop me from enjoying life to its fullest. I love to play and get pet.



**Evie, F.** I love naps and snuggling. I have a little head tilt, but it doesn't bother me!



**Michael, M.** 1 year old. I'm game for just about anything, can't you tell?



**Hansel and Gretel, M/F pair.** We are a young and fun brother/sister pair who need a new home.