

# Friends of Rabbits

## Rabbit And Small Animal Rescue Newsletter

[info@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:info@friendsofrabbits.org) • [www.friendsofrabbits.org](http://www.friendsofrabbits.org) • 703-627-7892

### The Las Vegas Dumpsite Rabbits' Rescue

By Maxine K.

Dandelion, Marigold, and Big Daddy have become overnight celebrities. They travel to Friends of Rabbits (FoR) adoption events, are featured as the “rabbit of the week” at Pet Supplies Plus, and are cheered on by participants at bunny yoga. But just three months ago, they were wandering the grounds of a Las Vegas, Nevada dumpsite outside a state mental health facility terrified and literally fighting for their lives. Fortune and fame were the last things on their minds.

On February 18, 2018, more than two dozen “domestic feral” were found dead at the



State of Nevada's West Charleston campus, the largest of the “bunny dumpsites” in Las Vegas. The deaths were initially assumed to be the result of poisoning from food laced with antifreeze. However, later necropsies on three of the rabbits revealed evidence of “blunt force trauma”. The rabbits didn't die from poisoning; they died from “hemorrhage caused by 7-10 severely broken ribs (rabbits only have 12 ribs).” The deaths came just two days after the state Department of Health and Human

Services' Child and Family Services Division issued a warning that the rabbits carried the threat of diseases such as rabies and salmonella, but the necropsies showed no evidence of disease. “All three rabbits tested negative for tularemia, which means they were not potential carriers of the disease, and did not pose a threat to public health.” (<https://rabbit.org/lasvegascrisis>).

Some of the rabbits, like Big Daddy were matted, but none were determined to be a public health risk.

#### What Happens in Vegas Doesn't Always Stay in Vegas

The deaths of the Las Vegas Dumpsite Bunnies sparked outrage throughout the house rabbit Facebook community, and local rescue groups such as Bunnies Matter in Vegas, Too and Rusty and Furrfriends: Vegas Dumpsite Bunnies wasted no time in removing the remaining survivors from further harm. They reached out to “House Rabbit Society approved” rescues and shelters across the country to help transport the rabbits out of Nevada. More than 20 rescues agreed to take in anywhere from 3 to 30 bunnies at one time.

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FoR was one of the rescues that answered the call for help. Mara H. was instrumental in working with the “No Bunny Left Behind – Las Vegas, USA” Facebook group to coordinate the transport of 18 rabbits from Nevada to Maryland and Virginia via Albuquerque, NM, St. Louis, MO, and Columbus, OH. Susan Wong met the transport in Ellicott City, MD to pick up 6 rabbits and take them back to FoR headquarters in Columbia. From that same transport, Mara picked up 12 rabbits from Lisa White of Bunny Lu Adoptions and delivered 6 each to the Animal Welfare Leagues of Alexandria and Arlington respectively. All of the Vegas rabbits that went to the AWL of Alexandria were adopted. Dandelion, Marigold, and Big Daddy are 3 of the FoR intakes from that first batch of transports.

Mara met a second transport in Richmond in early April. On this round, she delivered 6 more Vegas bunnies to the AWL of Alexandria. FoR did not take any rabbits from this last transport, and although future transports and placement requests are anticipated in the coming months, it is unknown whether FoR will have space to take additional Vegas bunnies in the near future.

### **What Are “Domestic Feral” Rabbits?**

“Feral rabbits are domesticated rabbits that have been abandoned or escaped outdoors and in the rare case have thrived and created a colony.” They lack the survival instincts of their wild cousins. Therefore, setting your rabbit “free” is basically issuing him a death sentence. “Putting an unwanted rabbit to sleep is kinder than abandoning him in the streets or outdoors...It is similar [to] having a city person purposely abandoned on a deserted island with no prepared food, water, or survival skills and animals willing to hunt and kill you for food.” ([http://wabbitwiki.com/wiki/Feral\\_and\\_stray\\_rabbits](http://wabbitwiki.com/wiki/Feral_and_stray_rabbits))

### **Where Did All These Bunnies Come From?**

It all started when the staff at the Nevada state-run Desert Willow Treatment Center released a pair of pet rabbits on the grounds. They thought the rabbits would be “therapeutic” for the youth there. There was just one problem - they did what rabbits do. They bred, and bred, and bred. It wasn’t long before 800 to 1,000 “domestic feral” rabbits were living on the center’s grounds. Overwhelmed pet-owners saw the rabbits at the site and began to follow suit, setting their bunnies “free” to survive the elements. The rabbits now overwhelm any attempt at government control, digging up public property, chewing on pipes, and ending up dead in the sewers. To survive, they depend entirely on the kindness of self-identified “bunny-lovers” - volunteers like Stacey Taylor and Dave Schweiger of Bunnies Matter in Vegas, Too and Erin Urano from Rusty and Furriends: Vegas Dumpsite Bunnies.



Marigold and Dandelion

Rabbits are the third most popular pet in America after cats and dogs. They’re also the third most abandoned. The months following Easter show a rise in surrenders and abandonments as the adorable baby bunnies purchased as Easter presents hit puberty and turn into hormonal teenagers, scratching, biting, and basically chewing everything in sight. “A staggering 95% of all bunnies purchased at Easter are dumped within their first year as pets and most of these adorable “Easter gifts” end up, if not homeless...DEAD!”(<https://www.shescribes.com/easter-is-not-for-bunnies-3/>)

Spaying or neutering generally eliminates these behaviors, but most people who buy a rabbit on impulse for \$30 balk at the idea of spending \$200 or more to spay or neuter it. They think it’s going to be a low-maintenance “starter pet” and they quickly tire of the time and expense required to maintain it once reality sets in. (<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/04/rabbits-easter-animal-welfare-pets-rescue-bunnies/>) Another sad statistic is that although abandonments peak in the months following Easter, it is actually a year-round problem. “Jennifer McGee, co-manager of the Georgia chapter of House Rabbit Society, a shelter in the

southeastern part of the state, says they normally receive one to two calls a week about abandoned rabbits. But in the six weeks after Easter, the shelter gets three to four calls a day.” (<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/04/rabbits-easter-animal-welfare-pets-rescue-bunnies/>)

### **Life on the Streets**

A day in the life of a “domestic feral” rabbit is anything but glamorous. First of all, it’s the desert. That means cold nights in the winter (sometimes below freezing) and 130 degree temperatures in the summer. Domesticated rabbits were never intended to live outdoors. They have been specifically bred, over generations, to be indoor pets. They lack the survival instincts of their wild cousins, making them easy prey for hawks and coyotes. They can also suffer from starvation and disease or be hit by a passing car. And then there are the ill-intentioned humans who think they make good bait for dog fighting or poisoning.

Rabbits may appear docile, but they are actually quite territorial. The established bunnies will attack newly-dumped bunnies in an attempt to defend their “turf”. If you dump your rabbit outside, another rabbit will likely kill or injure it.

Because rabbits’ teeth are constantly growing, they need to always be chewing on something. A rabbit left outside without food and water will chew whatever it can find – and that means pipes, electric wires, and private property.

Finally, the majority of dumped bunnies are not spayed or neutered. An unsprayed female rabbit can have a new litter every 30 days, so several dozen rabbits can quickly turn into several hundred.

### **Other Bunny Dumpsites**

Rabbit dumping isn’t confined to Las Vegas. “Domestic feral” rabbit colonies can be found all across the United States as well as Canada, Hong Kong, and Australia.

Bandaid for Bunnies was established in 2011 to help the abandoned rabbits on the streets and in the parks of Richmond, B.C., Canada. “The goals were to bring public awareness to the abandonment issue, educate people on the needs of rabbits, and obtain medical help for the abandoned rabbits.” (<https://bandaidsforbunniesbook.wordpress.com/about-2/>)

Bandaid for Bunnies later established the No Rabbit Left Behind Society. The No Rabbit Left Behind Society’s mission is to improve the lives of rabbits in general, with a special focus on pet rabbits that are abandoned. Their goal is to promote individuals, organizations and government to work together to help the abandoned pet rabbits living on the streets and in the parks of Richmond, BC, until there is no rabbit left behind to suffer needlessly.

The University of Victoria in British Columbia is another popular dumpsite for pet rabbits. The abandoned rabbits have multiplied and literally taken over the campus, destroying greenery and athletic fields in their wake. The problem became so bad that in August 2010 the university had planned to trap and eradicate all but 200 of them. But thanks to Laura-Leah Shaw, a former federal Green Party candidate, the Canadian Ministry of Environment gave its official approval to allow 1,000 of the rabbits from the University of Victoria to be transported to an animal rescue sanctuary in Texas, saving them from a certain, planned death. The bunnies were safely transported to the Wild Rose Rescue Ranch in Whitehouse, Texas. All of the rabbits were spayed or neutered prior to heading to Texas, thanks to the help of a \$50,000 donation from the non-profit Fur-Bearer Defenders. Volunteer groups and fundraising efforts also helped foray the transportation costs of the rabbits.

Wild Rose Rescue Ranch’s mission is “to rescue, rehabilitate (and, whenever possible, adopt out to “forever homes”) lost, orphaned, injured or unwanted animals that would otherwise suffer.” The ranch is currently home to “a countless array of wildlife as well as domestic animals including horses, dogs, and a special group of bunnies that came from Canada.” (emphasis mine) (<http://wildroserescueranch.com/about.html>)

Furrytail Life Rabbit Rescue and Sanctuary is quickly becoming one of the largest rabbit rescues in Arizona. This 501c3 rescue was established after 19 unfixed young bunnies were dumped from a trash can into a Glendale, AZ park in June 2016. They have rescued over 100 rabbits from this site to date. Approximately 25-30 unfixed domestic rabbits still inhabit this park. Paula Svendsen, director of Furrytail Life Rabbit Rescue partner, visits the park every night to feed the rabbits that remain there. Many of the remaining rabbits are in poor health and physical condition, and despite the volunteers' best efforts, they still find dead rabbits on a regular basis; some only week-old kits.

On May 9, 2018, more than 3 dozen pet rabbits were found living outdoors underneath a gazebo in Caroline County, MD. The owner of the property had recently moved there and discovered that the previous owner had most likely let their unneutered pet rabbits loose. Of the 19 pulled that day, at least 3 were pregnant and many more have given birth in the weeks following their capture. Eastern Shore Rabbit Rescue and Education Center (ESRREC) is partnering the Caroline County Humane Society to ensure that the rabbits receive medical attention. The rabbits will be living at Caroline Humane until they are medically cleared for foster and/or adoption. This includes spay/neuter. ESRREC's mission is to "ensure the health, safety and emotional well-being of abandoned pet rabbits on Maryland's Eastern Shore through shelter and care, with guidance to the families who adopt them as companion animals." ESRREC is hosting a "Basic Bunny Care" seminar on June 2, 2018 at the Ridgley Firehouse. People will have an opportunity to meet and handle some of the Denton bunnies and maybe even foster or adopt one of them.



Tina.

### **Where Are They Now?**

As of March 31, 2018, the Desert Willow Treatment Center is no longer the largest rabbit dumpsite in Las Vegas. They are down to about 20 adults and 30 or so teens. The transports continue to occur on a regular basis. The most recent transport was just completed on 22 May 2018 when the bunnies traveled from Las Vegas all the way to Maine.

As for Dandelion, Marigold, and Big Daddy, life is pretty darn good these days. Although they'd prefer not to be in the limelight so much, they are enjoying the indoor lifestyle in Columbia, Maryland and hope to find permanent homes in the very near future.

### **How You Can Help**

Please consider making a donation to one of the below Vegas rabbit rescue groups:

[All Creatures Sanctuary](#)

[Bunnies Matter in Vegas Too](#)

[Rusty & Furriends: Vegas Dumpsite Bunnies](#)

[Vegas Bunny Rescue](#)

Help FoR and the HRS to educate the public to [never abandon a companion animal outside](https://rabbit.org/never-abandon-a-rabbit-outside). "Releasing domestic animals into the wild is animal abandonment and is a crime. Abandoning a pet rabbit isn't only illegal, it's unethical. It's ecologically destructive. It's inhumane. It's a burden on taxpayers, city services, humane organizations and good Samaritans. (<https://rabbit.org/never-abandon-a-rabbit-outside>)

## Bunny Yoga

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By Maxine K.

Friends of Rabbits (FoR) hosted its first Bunny Yoga event on March 24, at the Veterinary Holistic Center of Northern Virginia in North Springfield. Instructors Shannon and Colt Meraw of uVibe Yoga led about 50 participants and 20 FoR foster rabbits through a series of gentle yoga poses suitable for all fitness levels. Volunteers, known as “rabbit wranglers,” were on-hand to sweep up hay and droppings and to monitor the bunnies during the hour-long class.

The event was publicized on the FoR Facebook page in January, and the tickets sold out in a record 10 days. There was a drawing for a special Bunny Yoga door prize (Yoga Bunny by Brian Russo) and a raffle for a beautiful Bunny Yoga mat. Friends of Rabbits t-shirts and merchandise were available for purchase before and after the class.

Bunny Yoga provided a fun and unique opportunity to educate the public about rabbits as domestic pets while simultaneously raising funds for FoR. Word must have spread within the local community because a reporter from *Connections* magazine appeared to cover the story. The article appears online and in the print edition for Springfield, Franconia, and Kingstowne.

Bunny Yoga resulted in one potential adopter, one potential fosterer and at least two people interested in volunteering. Approximately \$1,400 was raised through a combination of ticket sales, raffle, t-shirts, and donations.

### What is “Bunny Yoga?”

Bunny Yoga is “yoga with adoptable bunnies in attendance”, and it’s quickly gaining popularity within the rabbit and yoga communities. Adoptable rabbits attend the class and are free to roam as they please. The Small Animal Rescue Society (SARS) of Vancouver, B.C., states, “While you are practicing they will freely hop around and act adorable. They may even make themselves comfortable on your mat.” The big difference in setup, compared to a traditional yoga class is that there are cages along the classroom walls so the bunnies can hide if necessary.

### Where did the idea for bunny yoga originate?

It all started in Richmond, British Columbia, in 2015 when Sunberry Fitness, a women-only fitness

center, began hosting events. The studio partnered with BandAids For Bunnies who supplied the buns. “This is [an] easy flow/yin yoga class with bunnies roaming around you. The bunnies are free to choose humans they like and explore the space while you practice yoga. The yoga sequences are put together to be bunny friendly and to encourage bunny-human interaction.” (<http://www.sunberryfitness.com/bunny-yoga/>)



### Why Bunny Yoga?

Rescues hope to encourage people to adopt rescued rabbits and to raise awareness of the problems these creatures face such as abandonment. “The purpose of the class is to create an educational opportunity and to act as a conversation starter,” says Smith. Even if the event doesn’t lead to direct adoptions, bunny yoga provides a wonderful opportunity to socialize rescue bunnies and get them accustomed to being around people.

### Are future events planned for FoR?

Before the event was even hosted, Mara was approached by both participants and those who were unable to buy tickets inquiring when the next bunny yoga event will be held. Dr. Kocen has already offered the use of his facility again later this year, so if Shannon and Colt are willing, FoR hopes to host another bunny yoga class this Fall. Another volunteer yoga instructor is searching for a venue near Culpeper, VA to host a class for us, so it looks like bunny yoga is here to stay.

tributes

## Blue the Rabbit: Adding Color to our lives!

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**By Beth B.**

We are so in love with our Blue that I am compelled to share her progress with FoR! We adopted her on Oct. 26, 2017. We did not want to keep her in a cage so we gave her the entire spare room that we had in our house. It gets tons of afternoon sun and she loves to take sun naps. She has her area for her litter box and fresh water, but has the entire bunny-proofed room for roaming. Despite having a wood desk in the room she never once chewed on it. She is a perfect angel. We added a radio to her room and on most days we have WETA on for her. We don't bother her on Saturday afternoons: That is when WETA's "Saturday at the Met"



**Blue in her bedroom.**

performances are broadcast and she is in a complete zen mode for the entire show!

In mid-January, she bonded with us to the point that I was able to start brushing her. I started slowly with just the top of her head.

Now she will sit there and let me brush her entire body. All the while I'm using a soft voice, uttering words of kindness, "Oh, look at how beautiful you are!"

She is a huge fan of kale and always has plenty of hay.

She has had to put up with our two dogs as well. One is an older girl and likes to simply sit in the room with her from time to time.

The younger dog has no interest in her, but loves to go in her room to steal her hay! Blue has been fostered with dogs and has no fear of this young gal. She goes nose to nose with her and will

thump at her to say "back off of my hay!"

Blue has become a bit of a demanding lady....and we are proud of her for that quality! She will tug on the gate in her room to tell me to come in and feed her kibble before I have coffee. A challenging request: any task prior to morning coffee! - but I comply.

We are encouraging her to be free roam. I am home most days and she loves to have the gate to her room open so she always has the opportunity to explore if she chooses. To date, she has made it up and down the hall and into the two bedrooms and my home office. All of which are carpeted so she can move with ease.

Our daughter, Blue's mom, joined the Virginia 4-H Youth Development Program in Fairfax. We attended our first meeting in January and took Blue to her first event in February: Club members took their rabbits to a homeless shelter in Fairfax so the kids at the shelter could interact and learn about rabbits. Since it was her first event (and the volume in the room was quite high with excited children!) we kept Blue in her travel cage. We opened the top of the cage and they could gently reach in and pet her. She did an amazing job. She was an incredible angel! One child told our daughter, "I've never pet an animal before." That comment alone was worth the hour spent here and enough to give both of us pause to remember how fortunate we are to have Blue and our two dogs. In March, Blue and the two of us attended a 4H club event at the Burke Library. All of this will culminate with the 4H Fair at Frying Pan Farm Park in August. We will keep you posted! Maybe her name will be changed to "Blue Ribbon Blue!"



**Blue, awaiting her grooming.**

## Paris- The Queen of the Columbia House

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It is with a heavy heart that we must report that our beloved sanctuary rabbit, Paris, has passed away. As some of you may know, she was diagnosed with a tumor in her chest earlier this year. We did everything we could to remedy this, but the tumor was incurable. In the end, we decided that it would be best to just let Paris live out the rest of her days as comfortably as she could.

In the weeks that followed her diagnosis, Paris kept her happy personality despite the solemn air surrounding her condition. In fact, she seemed to grow more and more friendly and snuggly with every passing day. It was as if she knew that we needed more comfort than her in those difficult times. Paris was not sad at all. She



knew that she lived a perfect bunny life. She felt no pain. She felt no suffering. She felt only love.

Even when she was slowing down, Paris did not neglect her duties as the guard bunny at HQ. She still made time to sniff, chew, and mark everything in the house. Her somewhat negligent litter box habits now became endearing instead of burdensome and finding items that she had chewed became a welcome ray of sunlight in an otherwise dark time. We all grew to appreciate Paris even more: her personality quirks, her sassy attitude, her love for raisins, and more. She taught us how each and every animal is special and is to be loved through the good and the bad moments. As naughty as she could be, we never stopped loving

Paris. She was always “just being a bunny” to us.

In her final days, all Paris wanted to do was snuggle. She didn’t do this out of fear or pain, but rather as a means to comfort us. She knew that her time with us was coming to a close and that she needed to move on. Paris passed away peacefully on February 25, 2018 in the arms of her mother and surrounded by her friends, both bunny and human.

It has been a quiet couple of weeks at HQ without her presence. Nobody running under our feet, greeting us at the door, or racing to pick up any dropped veggies. We still find reminders of her everywhere. Our baseboards will always be chewed, our flooring will always be stained, our furniture will always be scratched, but our hearts will never be emptied of our love for Paris.

Paris has certainly not been without her influence on us and the Friends of Rabbits community. She showed so many adopters that rabbits are amazing creatures who deserve to be a part of the family. She truly personified our cause of giving animals a second chance at life. We never knew how just one sassy bunny could take control of an entire sanctuary, but she did. Somehow, Paris became the boss of everyone who came through our doors and a hope for what life might be like for our rescue bunnies.



We don’t quite know where Paris is right now. She may be in the great litter box in the sky with all of our departed bunnies. Her soul may have moved on to another bunny, helping to bring love and joy into somebody else’s life. Moving on is mysterious like that, we never really find out exactly what happens on the other side. All we do know, is that Paris will always remain a part of Friends of Rabbits and she forever holds a special place in our hearts.

volunteer spotlight

## Encouraging Special Needs Adoptions

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*By Adlyn P.*

Like any other sweet bunny, special needs bunnies deserve to live with love and dignity. Yet, quite often, through no fault of their own, they have a much harder time finding a Furever Home.

There are many loving and compassionate people who are willing to open their homes – and their hearts – to special needs bunnies. While the prospect of caring for such bunnies can seem daunting, all you need is a big heart.

Contrary to popular belief, you do not need to have veterinary expertise or a large disposable income. As long as you have a loving and open heart, FoR will help with the rest! Here's how FoR works to encourage adoptions of special needs bunnies.

### 1. SUPPORT, SUPPORT, SUPPORT

The number one reason potential adopters hesitate to take in special needs bunnies is lack of support. As rewarding as it often is, adopting a chronically ill or disabled rabbit can be a daunting task. It can be overwhelming to give them the care they need without having anyone to turn to for basic advice, resources, and emergencies. It is therefore critical that adopters have the emotional and logistical support they need to care for them.

More than anyone, adopters who take in special needs rabbits deserve access to a community of supportive and competent bunny lovers who will be there through the easy and challenging times of caring for a disabled bun.

FoR works hard to provide adopters the needed support after the initial adoption. Adopters are never alone on the journey of taking care of their special needs buns. FoR will always be there to offer guidance, share resources, and answer questions.

- Adopters can call, email, or text FoR for anything they may need at any time. FoR sets a high priority on being available to adopters who have taken in special needs bunnies, and ensure a quick response.
- When adopters need to go away for work or pleasure, FoR provides adopters a list of experienced and trustworthy bunny sitters who have experience with special needs buns and know how to administer medication, routine care, and arrange any needed trips to the vet. Adopters can rest easy while away knowing their beloved bunnies are receiving good care.
- FoR offers other varied and creative resources, including contact information of bunny lovers who have experience with special needs buns, access to ongoing classes, links to discounted medications, hotlines, and other rabbit rescue agencies which may be available to answer questions and give advice.

### 2. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Adopters do not need to have veterinary expertise in order to care for a special needs bunny.

- FoR offers adopters “Bunny 101” health courses with step-by-step instructions on how to administer medications, injections, bathe, clean irritated areas, and identify potential health problems. FoR helps to



Head tilt in rabbits looks scary, but is a manageable condition.



demystify common symptoms and ailments, their causes and treatment, as well as prevention. Adopters can practice administering medical care until they feel confident they can do it on their own.

- FoR provides training manuals and written care sheets, including a section on “signs that you need to take your rabbit to the vet.”
- In addition, adopters can call or text FoR anytime as questions arise related to routine care or emergencies.

### 3. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Many adopters fear the potential financial burdens that come from caring for special needs bunnies. FoR is there to help ensure these special bunnies get the care they need.

- FoR can provide guidance on how to pay for medical costs and veterinary care. A good financial resource is CareCredit, found at [www.carecredit.com](http://www.carecredit.com). Adopters can use it this credit card to cover large and unexpected costs, and then pay it off bit by bit. It comes with a 6 month no-interest period, or longer. With a resource like this, adopters can rest easy knowing that their rabbits will always get the care they need when they need it, regardless of how much money they have in their pocket.
- FoR can connect adopters with other financial resources, such as pet insurance, and work with adopters to identify the right kind of plan for their bunnies.
- FoR can also help raise funds for the much-needed care of these very special bunnies.

Only people with the biggest hearts consider adopting special-needs animals. FoR is always there to provide the support and encouragement they need. This kind of support should always be the first thing an adopter learns about when looking at the profile of a special needs bunny. If potential adopters understand that they will always have someone to turn to for support, that will remove a major barrier to adopting a special needs bunny.

**See all of our adoptable special needs rabbits on [Petfinder](http://Petfinder), [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).**



## Friends of Rabbits

### Pet sitting Services

**Daily Rates:**  
\$20.00 per rabbit  
\$ 5.00 for each extra rabbit in the same space  
\$15.00 for each rabbit in a separate space

**Weekly Rates:**  
\$100.00 for a single rabbit  
\$135.00 for a pair



## Your bunny buds will be in good hands with FoR!

**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. Volunteers receive a 20% discount.

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).

## adoption stories

### Pumpkin

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By Rachel K.

I am Pumpkin. For over 5 1/2 years I have lived in the Baltimore area. It all started when my adoptive humans, D & R, along with my future husbun, Oreo, drove to meet me in the Rabbit Rescue in Centreville, VA. Initially, I was a bit hesitant about sharing my life with them and must admit after they took me home I did quite a lot of stomping, thumping, and rather nasty chasing. Then one day, after almost 3 weeks when I overheard the humans exchanging worried concerns about my bonding with Oreo (who was rescued from folks who only fed him Kashi) and considering the possibility of returning me, I knew it was time to think things over and realized I really did have a wonderful new life. Oh, my goodness! I immediately, almost overnight changed my obnoxious aggressive behaviors and started snuggling with Oreo. All of a sudden, I could scamper around in happiness knowing D & R were no longer just D & R, but Dad and Mom, and Oreo was that partner I had wanted for so long but didn't realize it. Such a forgiving Oreo, my white and black furry partner who had put up generally complaisantly with my dreadful shenanigans. The silly comment was even made that one day Oreo and I would get married and he would give me something with three "carats." I discovered how we could actually share the same piece of parsley or nibble on the same carrot at the same time.

Now I could happily stir up trouble, like the time I chewed open the dust cover under one of the kitchen chairs and I actually hid up inside there ....and yep, I even encouraged Oreo to hop up in there with me for a bit. Man, were Mom and Dad ever distressed! They searched and searched the house and even tried to figure out if I had escaped when they had quickly gone out to peer into the carport. I am sure they will never forget their hours of anguish I created. However, life became filled with lots of hugging, petting, sweet talking and even occasional non-threatening visits from Moira, the grand-dog-ter who whenever she dropped over would trot into the kitchen, survey the room, check us out, and then go about her own patrol of the house. I live pretty freely in the kitchen, plenty of healthy food and water, designated places to poop, with hiding and cuddly sleeping locations. Unfortunately, about 4 months ago my dear Oreo died. I know that Mom and Dad have watched me carefully for any signs of depression. Yes, I am sad and miss him but now I am getting a bit settled in my ways and appreciate the household routines which give me love and support...like the daily fresh vegetables....my favorites are, of course, the leafy lettuce, parsley, and carrots plus my cool water along my hay and rabbit kibble. Every day my toileting areas are refreshed and my space is tidied. And because I "allow" Mom or Dad to do this for me, I also allow them to reward me with a few craisins which I eagerly take, sometimes, believe it or not, straight from Mom's pursed lips. My evening routine can also include snuggling in front of the TV while Dad and Mom try to answer the questions on Jeopardy. Needless to say... I'm not ready to try out for that show!

Being with Mom and Dad has provided me with unexpected opportunities to teach. I have shown them how I like an occasional bath when I have some defecating issues. Frankly, between you and me, I sort of set that up just so I can enjoy my warm water dip in the kitchen sink filled with bubbly baby shampoo, followed by cuddling in towels and brushing and combing. I showed Mom that I even like her use of the hair dryer. I have taught her that I love sitting outside on the patio in comfortable weather while being brushed and preened. I have shown them how I appreciate all sorts of places to climb on or hide in. I am aware that I am the reigning queen of the house. Mom and Dad know how important it is to introduce me to their guests and how I appreciate the happy sound of folks conversing nearby. I hear them discuss my lovely white furry necklace or point out the delicate variations in my fur color or my adorable little ears. Mom and Dad know I love it when they come into the kitchen in the morning, talk to me, discussing plans for the day. And, at night, that final, "Good Night" before they shut off the light. It's taken a while, but I definitely know now.....Yes, 'tis a good life I am living. I'm so grateful for having been rescued!



Pumpkin and Oreo, hanging out.

classifieds

## Help Wanted

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### Newsletter help wanted

We aim to have a quarterly newsletter coming out to you (Jan, May, Jul, Nov) but to keep delivering this, we need YOUR help! The following tasks are what it takes to get the newsletter out to our community. Taking just one task from the editor will help keep the process run more smoothly and on time— keeping the latest FoR news coming! For any of the positions, we will provide contacts and information for you to carry out these tasks— thanks in advance for considering!

- ★ Article idea gathering from FoR and from recent events (email, phone, or in-person)
- ★ Writer recruitment, follow-up, collecting articles from writers (email).
- ★ Collecting info for 'upcoming events' section (email).
- ★ Rabbit pictures and text for 'bunny personals' section (email).
- ★ Newsletter layout- Beck B.
- ★ Proofreading/fact-checking- Tina von K., Beth R., Diana O., FoR Board
- ★ Newsletter pickup and sending to mailing list- Alan J. — **Thank you!**

### Home wanted

Dante and Two Socks are a charming pair of bunnies. At 7 and 8 years of age, respectively, they enjoy a relaxed life, love to be pet, and will come to you for treats. They are both Dutch mixes and are impeccable with their litter boxes. This extremely friendly pair will be wonderful companions to anyone looking for a chill addition to the family. **They really deserve a forever home and their adoption fee has been sponsored by a generous donor!** Please Email [info@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:info@friendsofrabbits.org) for more information.



## Friends of Rabbits Columbia Supply Store

### Open Daily

If you need information or assistance, please contact [info@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:info@friendsofrabbits.org)



Address: [10706 Vista Rd, Columbia, MD](https://www.google.com/maps/place/10706+Vista+Rd,+Columbia,+MD)

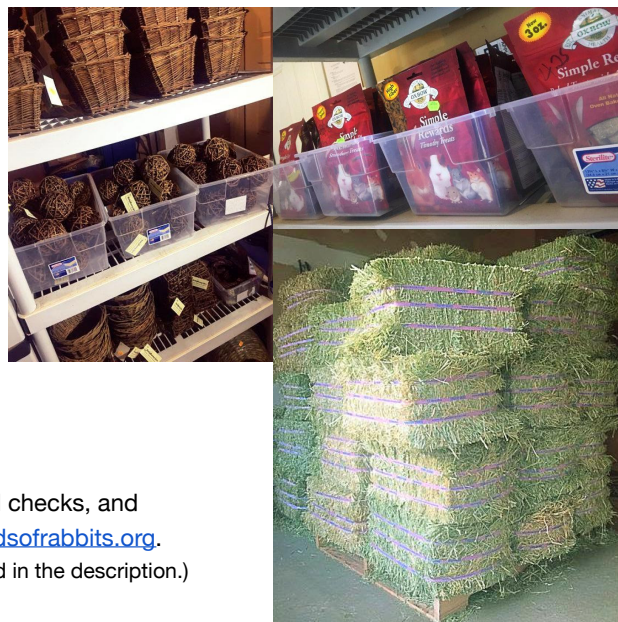
### We carry all your bunny needs!

**Standlee Timothy Hay and Orchard Grass- half and full bales**

**Binky Bunny Willow Toys & Tents**

**Oxbow food, treats & hay**

We can accept purchases made with credit/debit cards, personal checks, and cash. Payments can be made through PayPal to [donations@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:donations@friendsofrabbits.org). (If you choose to pay with PayPal, please list which item(s) you purchased in the description.)



upcoming events

## Adoption Day at Columbia HQ

**Every Second Sunday** - email [info@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:info@friendsofrabbits.org) for more info and to schedule 'bunny speed dates.'  
Upcoming dates: 6/10, 7/8, 8/12.

## Adoption events at **PET SUPPLIES PLUS**

**Every Saturday** 11AM – 12 PM – New Rabbit of the Week and a short Q & A hosted by Susan W. [susan@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:susan@friendsofrabbits.org)  
11054 Lee Highway Fairfax, VA call Pet Supplies Plus to confirm (703) 359-2659

## Adoption events at **petco**

**Every 3rd Saturday** 12-3pm Adoption event at Petco 9230 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke, VA

## Adoption Events at **bark!**

**Saturdays 12-3pm**, please see schedule online for more info

## FoR Grooming Days!

### 4th Sunday of each month

Friends of Rabbits in Columbia now offers grooming services and nail trims: Please email [info@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:info@friendsofrabbits.org) to schedule an appointment! Walk-ins are welcome, but have the possibility of a long wait time. Nail trim \$12, Grooming \$15, extra charge may apply for matting.

## Mother/Fathers Day Giving Campaign

Honor your mom, dad, special someone - or special bunny - with a donation to our Spring Fundraiser and your gift will be tripled! A generous supporter has pledged \$2 for each \$1 donated, up to \$15,000!

Our vet bills exceeded \$56,000 in 2017. This year we expect to spend over \$75,000, due to higher spay/neuter fees and the increasing number of rabbits we are rescuing, some requiring special vet care.

For the most up-to-date event schedule, follow Friends of Rabbits on social media:

- Instagram ([friendsofrabbits](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofrabbits)),
- Twitter ([@Friends\\_Rabbits](https://twitter.com/Friends_Rabbits))
- Facebook
- or visit [www.friendsofrabbits.org](http://www.friendsofrabbits.org).



Editors: Diana O., Tina von K.  
FoR Board: Alex, Susan, Pam and Mara.  
Managing Editor: Beck B.  
[editor@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:editor@friendsofrabbits.org)

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