



# FRIENDS OF RABBITS & House Rabbit Sanctuary

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## In this Issue

- Stray Rabbit Rescue
- 2014 - A Year in Review
- 2015- A Hop Forward  
w/new coordinator information
- Sanctuary Rabbit Update
- Easter Events
- Bunny 201 Seminars
- Spa Days
- Bunny Speed Dating
- Featured Rabbit(s)
-  Adoption Events
- Information/Upcoming Events

## Rescuing the Gaithersburg Three

By Gail N.

An unlikely success story unfolded one bitterly cold evening before Thanksgiving 2014. A Friends of Rabbits (FoR) fosterer, Cathey, called to say that there were two stray rabbits in a Gaithersburg neighborhood. The location bordered a park with predators, including foxes and hawks. Cathey went out that evening to see if she could find the rabbits. It was dusk and less than 20°F outside when she arrived but no rabbits were in sight. All we could do was hope that they had some shelter.

My husband, Ted, and I went out to the neighborhood the next day and found the two rabbits out and about. A black and white spotted one ran away from us immediately. The other, with black fur let me sit on the ground and talk quietly but when I offered a treat off he ran.

I knocked on the door of the house where we thought the rabbits were living. The man that answered the door confirmed that the rabbits belonged to the property

owner but said she was unavailable to talk to us. He refused our offer of hay and pellets, insisting that the rabbits were well cared for. I explained that our organization, Friends of Rabbits, would be happy to capture the rabbits for them and place them in indoor homes. I left both FoR's and my own contact information with the man. We continued to stop by the house almost every day often seeing the rabbits scavenging for greens in neighborhood yards. They never allowed us to get close to them.

About a week later, we knocked on the door and the same man answered the door. This time, he mentioned that there was a younger rabbit and a baby rabbit. Again, the property owner could not speak to us. He accepted a cardboard shelter that Ted had made and filled with hay and pellets. I left my name and number again and hoped that we would hear something from the property owner before snow covered the lawns.



The rabbits, close to the second entrance to the warren. Garage is to the left. Photo: Gail N.

Continued on page 10

## 2014: The Year in Review

by Beck B.

Last year was a turning point for Friends of Rabbits, full of both successes and snags. We had an outpouring of support and generous matching during our mid-year and end-of-year fundraisers, which was indispensable for the numerous rabbits with medical crises. The number of shelter requests to take in rabbits was also higher than usual, prompting the formation of a Fostering and Adoption Committee to organize transport, foster home placement, and eventual adoption. We worked closely with the Animal Welfare Leagues of Arlington & Alexandria, both of which are rabbit-savvy, who help us take in large groups of rabbits from struggling shelters, while they rely on us to rehabilitate older or aggressive rabbits.

We're proud of last year's accomplishments helping rabbits live a happy and healthy life, through rescue efforts and public outreach with tremendous help from our loyal volunteers. Here are some highlights:

- We rescued about 100 rabbits and adopted out nearly 70.

9 Guinea pigs were taken in because of crowding in Montgomery County's shelter.

- 29 bunnies are residents of our sanctuary, due to special needs, poor health, age or behavioral issues (read more on page 4).

- 4 rescue missions saved stray rabbits from the harsh elements (see cover story, for one).

- The Bunny 201 seminar was created for teaching practical skills in emergency rabbit care (read more on page 5).

- Our annual calendar sale again created a gorgeous calendar, full of tips and advice from expert rabbit vets and beautiful bunny photographs thanks to Barb, the talented Katherine Marmion, and Freed Photography. Calendars were sold by Barb and through partnerships with Daedalus Books in Columbia and the Ivy Bookstore in Baltimore.

- Macy's Shop for a Cause event raised money and awareness for FoR.

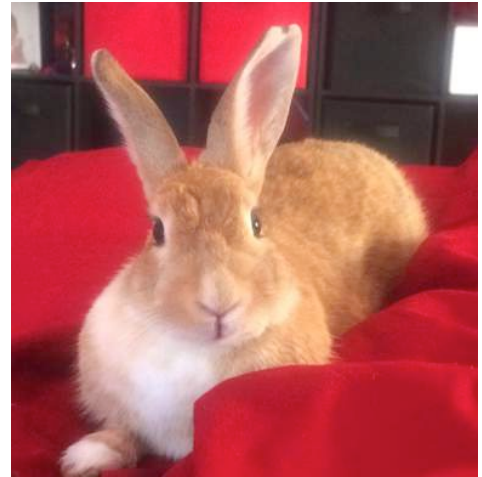
- 3 Spa Days primped and preened dozens of rabbits from Maryland to Virginia (read more on page 6).

- 5 🐾bark!🐾 Stores adoption events in 2014 and 5 additional in 2015 (read more on page 9).

- Friends of Rabbits volunteers partnered with House Rabbit Society members to **protest Whole Foods' sale of rabbit meat**. The 3 DC/MD/VA protests got coverage on local news outlet WTOP, and the National Day of Action was covered nationwide. The Virginia Beach Whole Foods has since stopped selling rabbit meat.

- The Halloween Flash Auction raised money for our medical crisis fund and provided a well-stocked Bunny First Aid kit and 1 hour of instruction.

- The mid-year and end-of-year fundraisers raised over \$20,000 to support our rabbit rescue efforts.



Avi, a little bunny that was running around loose in a housing development near the railroad tracks in Alexandria, Virginia. One of our teams was able to catch her and she has recently found a new forever home.



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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Rabbits/118547468200761>

## 2015: A Hop Forward

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Like the famous show jumping rabbits, Friends of Rabbits had to jump over many hurdles in the recent past. FoR is in the process of reorganizing to streamline our efforts and build a team of many volunteers to form a family of support for our bunnies. As you can see, since January, we have relaunched our newsletter, established a new Board of Directors, developed several Coordinator positions, all while continuously rescuing and adopting our rabbits! **Thank you** to the many dedicated volunteers who have stepped forward to make this happen!

**New coordinator positions** will distribute the duties to better serve rabbits and the rabbit community. Newly-appointed coordinators will now be the points-of-contact in key areas to facilitate adoption correspondence, rabbit transport, outreach to the public and volunteer/fundraising efforts.

Alexandra Deckert- Adoption Event  
Coordinator (Maryland)  
[alex@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:alex@friendsofrabbits.org)

Arialle Hence- Adoptions Coordinator and Communications  
Coordinator  
*Want to adopt or bond rabbits?* [adopt@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:adopt@friendsofrabbits.org)

Mara Hurwitt - Development and Fundraising  
Coordinator [give@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:give@friendsofrabbits.org)

Beck Burgess- Newsletter Coordinator  
*Idea for an article?* [editor@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:editor@friendsofrabbits.org)

Melissa R'Kingsley - Volunteer Coordinator  
[volunteer@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:volunteer@friendsofrabbits.org)

You can always email our general email for any other inquiries  
[info@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:info@friendsofrabbits.org)

In our reorganization, we **seek volunteers to fill 3 critical coordinator positions:** Fostering Coordinator, Housing and Rabbit Care Coordinator, Adoption Event Coordinator (Virginia).

**Other coordinator positions needed are:** Assistant Fundraising Coordinators (Bunny Spa Days, E-fundraising, Bunny Glamour Shots Sessions); Assistant Coordinator, Assistant Communications Coordinators (Social Media, E-communications). For more information, **contact Melissa at [volunteer@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:volunteer@friendsofrabbits.org)**

**Volunteers for short-term commitments are also needed**, such as coverage of adoption events for the newsletter or helping out at tables, assembling general rabbit information or adoption goodie bags, graphic design/merchandise design and performing home visits. Help with rabbit grooming and enrichment/socializing is also needed in Columbia, MD. If you are interested learning more about these positions, short-term volunteer, or junior volunteer opportunities, please contact Melissa at [volunteer@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:volunteer@friendsofrabbits.org)

We have some big goals for the organization in 2015, and wish to:

- Increase adoptions, education, and outreach
- Create a member newsletter and a veterinarian newsletter—providing news and topics of interest
- Start an educational campaign at one or more county fairs to raise rabbit awareness
- Update the website and provide additional services and links
- Develop more fundraising events, currently in the works- more information soon!

Please continue to be patient with us during this time period. If you are new, and you want to help but are unsure how, please also contact Melissa at the above e-mail. We always need **new volunteers with fresh ideas and vision to advance our quest to save rabbits**. Stay tuned for information about our volunteer orientation at the end of July, and social gatherings, where we can leave the rabbits at home, and get to know each other better. Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication to our bunnies; we look forward to working together for a 2015 that is full of happy, hoppy rabbits. There are still so many rabbits that need our help...



## Sanctuary Rabbit Update

by Pam H.

Our sanctuary bunnies are rabbits who are considered to be less adoptable due to either **chronic medical or behavioral issues**, age or any other problem that may prevent people from wanting to adopt them.

In 2014, we had 29 sanctuary bunnies. Three of those passed away in 2014 due to chronic illnesses. The most common chronic medical issues with our sanctuary bunnies have been with teeth (**overgrown molars and incisors**), **bacterial infections, megacolon** and other problems with the digestive and urinary tracts. At least 9 of our sanctuary bunnies have regular molar trims, ranging from every 2 weeks to once a year.

Recurring infections are also common in our sanctuary bunnies, particularly for the ears and urinary and respiratory tracts. These are managed, but in some cases have not been totally eliminated. We have had 3 bunnies with possible **megacolon**, a very serious, often genetically inherited disease in which there are recurring bouts of **stasis** and very large, oddly shaped poops. Two of our bunnies passed away from it and one has some of the symptoms and is being carefully watched.

Some of our sanctuary bunnies have behavioral issues, including **aggression** and **refusing to use a litterbox**. Some of the bunnies are one person bunnies and will attack other members of the family. Others have just been extremely **nervous** and **shy**.

Finally, we have bunnies that have had no problems but just never got adopted. Susan's troop of 7 came from two litters from the same parents that were combined and adopted out one by one to bond with other rabbits. Eventually, the rest of them became too old to be separated and they now enjoy the rest of their days in the sanctuary.



Photo: Alex D.  
The Rabbits enjoy some time with the kids at Terrapin Adventures.

## The Easter Bunnies of FoR: Educating Everyone about Rabbits This Easter

By Kat R.

This Easter, instead of handing out chocolate eggs, the rabbits of FoR helped teach adults and children new things about bunnies. Things kicked off at Terrapin Adventures in Savage Maryland, where two Friends of Rabbits Volunteers, (Melissa and Alex) held an educational event that saw more than fifty adults and

children come to learn about and pet rabbits. Kids colored in FoR children's books, and learned more about rabbit rescue and the mission of the organization. The Terrapin Adventures staff got involved too, nicknaming two of the rabbits 'Fast' and 'Furious' and offering to donate to FoR. They also offered the FoR volunteers a ride on their zip line, which one brave rabbit rescuer took them up on.



Photo: Melissa R. Kingsley  
A Friends of Rabbits volunteer enjoys the zip line at Terrapin Adventures.

Meanwhile, at the Czech Embassy in Washington DC, things were busy for FoR volunteers Susan and Robin at their Easter event. The event celebrates both American and Czech Easter traditions, with Easter egg decorating, an Easter egg hunt, and the highlight of the event, the Easter Bunnies. The stars of the 2015 Easter event were four rabbits named Ducky, Paris, Heckle, and Jekyll. Ducky is a honey-colored dwarf who loves to sit on laps, while Paris is a black and white spotted rabbit who is mature with a sense of humor. Heckle and Jekyll, the babies of the group, are fearless 7-month old bunnies who love to play and act like typical pre-teen boys. From 11 am to 1 pm they entertained about eighty surprisingly well-behaved kids on the porch of the Czech Embassy.

**Foster homes for rabbits are sorely needed.** Please consider opening your home to a bunny while he/she waits for their *forever* home. If you would like to foster a rabbit, please contact [fostering@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:fostering@friendsofrabbits.org)



Photo: Czech Embassy Facebook.

Robin and Ducky Teach Two Children about Rabbits at the Czech Embassy.

The kids were very eager to learn about rabbits and meet the Easter bunnies, in addition to decorating and hunting for Easter eggs. The volunteers who worked the event commented that there might be a few future FoR volunteers among the children there that day. In addition to teaching the kids more about rabbits, the FoR volunteers also educated the adults about the organization and rabbit ownership. Overall, it was a pair of very successful events and a great Easter weekend for FoR! Czech Embassy: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Embassy-of-the-Czech-Republic/60072045034>

## **Bunny 201 Practical Skills Seminars: FoR Members Learn Potentially Life-Saving Skills for Medical Emergencies**

By Amy S.

This past year, FoR held two hands-on seminars for learning the practical skills to provide medical care in an emergency situation. Barb took the helm of

this endeavor, finding the veterinarians to provide space and impart their knowledge, signing up FoR members, assembling emergency supply kits, and ensuring that the events ran smoothly.

During these workshops, participants learned how to assess a rabbit's condition and take steps to keep them safe until they can be taken to a vet. Attendees learned what signs could indicate a medical emergency (such as gastrointestinal stasis), and skills such as safely determining a rabbit's temperature, administering medication, creating a warm chamber, and administering subcutaneous ("Sub-Q") fluids. They also left with a large basic emergency supply kit consisting of such items as critical care, simethicone (baby gas drops), syringes, fluids with needles, and more.

The first seminar was held at Stahl's Exotic Animal Veterinary Services in Fairfax, VA in August. It was offered free of charge to fosterers, as they are responsible for the care of the FoR foster rabbits before they are adopted into their more permanent families. This seminar was aimed at enhancing (or refreshing) advanced rabbit care skills and featured live demonstrations on rabbits. The second "Bunny 201" seminar was held in October out in Purcellville, VA at the Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates. This paid seminar was open to any experienced FoR member who wanted to take their rabbit skills to the next level. This one included a "wet lab," allowing participants to practice their newly learned skills on real bunnies. This great opportunity made more than one participant nervous, particularly when it came to administering the Sub-Q. The good news is that the rabbits were calm - even more so than some of the humans - and attendees left with very useful skills to care for their own bunnies at home.



Photo: Beck B.

Stabilizing your rabbit until you can get to an experienced rabbit veterinarian is stressful but potentially life-saving.

## Spa Days Relax, Rejuvenate, and Refresh your Rabbit

By Beck B.

We all need a little pampering now and again. At the Bunny Spa days, foster rabbits, shelter rabbits and rabbits with forever homes get their chance for manicures, coat grooming and a relaxing massage. Friends of Rabbits hosted three Spa Days in 2014, the first was at Susan's house, followed by two at partner shelters:



A groomed and gorgeous lionhead.

The Animal Welfare League of Arlington and the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

Spa Days are a fantastic way to raise money for the rescue rabbits and the shelter while providing important grooming services. Rabbit grooming helps maintain health in several ways: regular nail trims are important to prevent nail splitting, tearing or curving inward into the foot. Brushing removes excess fur that could be ingested by the rabbit and lead to digestive issues. The contact with humans also helps solidify bonds or



Above: A rabbit mid-massage. Below: two young volunteers brush a client.

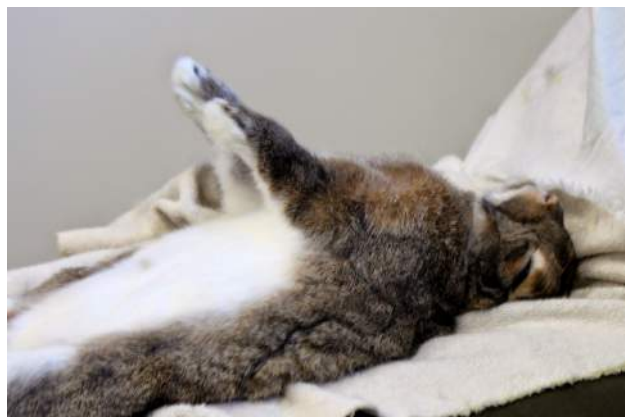


acclimate a skittish rabbit to being touched. Rabbit caretakers who bring their rabbits also get a chance to learn about grooming techniques from our volunteers and purchase rabbit supplies. Volunteers have a great time getting to know some local rabbits and share their knowledge with the rabbit community.



Nail clipping performed by two volunteers.

During their sessions, rabbits visit three stations - first they get a thorough brushing, before moving into nail trims and finally, a massage from expert bunny masseuse Aileen. This latter station is a particular joy to behold, as rabbits become 'tranced' and will lay upside down for many minutes, which any bunny lover knows is a rarity. Our next Bunny Spa Day will be Sunday, July 19, 2015, from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria's Vola Lawson Animal Shelter. Be sure to watch your email for the Spa Day announcement and details on making appointments for your rabbits! There are also plenty of Spa Day volunteer opportunities! Full spa services are \$25 suggested donation per rabbit.



A fully tranced bunny after a massage from Aileen.

All photos: Amy S.

## E-Haremony: Bunny Speed Dating

Responsible pet owners searching to adopt a new rabbit often worry about how that new pet might get along with their current rabbit. The good news is that there is a way to see how your current rabbit might get along with a new friend: Bunny Speed Dating!



Jim and Bun Bun meet Cindy. Photo credit: Kat R.

At bunny speed dating events, rabbit owners bring their pets to meet potential new friends and make sure that everyone gets along before an adoption is finalized. Skilled Friends of Rabbits volunteers try to match the rabbits based on their personalities, increasing the chances of getting a good match. Once a potential match is identified, the rabbits are placed in temporary pens that are set up specifically for them to meet. This allows them to check one another out on neutral ground while their nervous human owners hover around, hoping that they will get along, and ready to jump in should they not. Rabbits typically will be introduced to a number of potential matches throughout the day, hence the 'speed' part of bunny speed dating. Sometimes the odd thump is heard, but more often than not, the rabbits take pretty well to one another, improving the odds of a happy ending for everyone. Once a good match is found, the rabbits are kept together for an extended period of time in neutral territory with an experienced volunteer, in the hopes that they will bond. Then, finally, if all goes well, the pet owner will go home with a new rabbit.



Jackson, single M. An experienced gentleman and foodie.



Pepe, single M. 2 years old. Loves to run and is tidy.



Truman, single M. A true explorer.



Cole, single M. Young and energetic.



Nita, single F. Beautiful, loving and assertive.



Yoshi, single F. Sweet and sassy.



Silver, single F. 8-9 years old. Elegant and laid-back.



Claire, single F, 1 year old. Miss Congeniality.



Topsy, single F. Mellow adventurer.



Penny, single F. Friendly and inquisitive.



Grey Boy, single M. Small, w/ a big heart!



Violet, single F. A diva with a sense of humor.



Paige, single F. Young and cute.



Prue, single F. Looking for fun? Look no further.

## Featured Rabbits- Albert and Jessica

By Pam H.

Several years ago, one of the Friends of Rabbits fosterers went to a local shelter to pick up some rabbits. While there, one of the shelter staff took her to a back room where a sweet rabbit was housed, scheduled to be euthanized. He was constantly sneezing and the shelter did not think it would be possible to adopt him out. The staff person said that he was such a nice bunny that it was not fair to have to euthanize him. They had tried one antibiotic, which did not work. The fosterer picked him up and named him Sneezer. Within a few weeks, he



Jessica (left) and Albert (right). © Freed photo.

was transferred to another fosterer who takes in a lot of the sick bunnies and he was renamed Albert. Albert is a fabulous large rabbit with a great personality. A nasal culture sensitivity test showed that he had two antibiotic resistant bacteria infecting his nasal passages. Over a period of 6 months, we tried all the antibiotics on the list to which these bacteria usually responded, but none worked. A second nasal culture showed that one of two types of bacteria had been cleared but the second was still going strong. It also showed a slightly different antibiotic sensitivity profile, so we finally tried ciprofloxacin nose drops and those worked. Albert had finally stopped sneezing!

Albert was adopted out to a loving home but later came back due to tussles with one of the other rabbits in the home. Given the number of homes he had been in since birth and his age, we decided that 7 homes was enough and Albert became a sanctuary bunny. Jessica came into our foster family in 2010. She was adoptable at the time but was passed over during adoption events. Eventually, she developed teeth problems and needed her molars trimmed every 6 to 8 weeks. She also developed poor litter box habits, which made adoption difficult as well. Jessica has been in several foster homes and finally settled into one where she would stay permanently as a sanctuary bunny.

In 2012, Albert and Jessica were bonded together and have been happy and stable, living in the loft of one of the fosterers. Albert continues to need treatment from time to time when his sneezing kicks in.

### ADOPTABLE PAIRS



Jack & Jill



Dante & Two Socks



Henry & Adele



Cotton & Cloudy



Taylor  
& Hayley



Donnie & Mrs. Snuggles



Sammy & Coco



## **bark!** Pet Supply Stores Help FoR Through Adoption Events and Fundraising

By Amy S.

Last April, a representative of BARK! Pawsitive Petfood - a Maryland chain of pet supply stores - contacted FoR about conducting an event at their store. That summer, FoR started running a number of adoption and public awareness events at Bark! stores. Foster rabbits were brought into different store locations for people to see our adoptable rabbits and staff were on hand to answer questions and educate the public on the benefits and care of house rabbits.

Barb organized a month-long event at BARK! stores in September - Friends of Rabbits Month at BARK! - to continue to showcase the adoptable bunnies, educate the public, and sell copies of the new FoR 2015 calendar (a professionally-designed calendar featuring photos of FoR members' bunnies and helpful rabbit care tips each month). These events were held at the Silver Spring, Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Olney stores with the hard work of FoR fosterers and volunteers.

After a few more events in the fall, BARK! approached FoR again with another generous offer - to participate in their *BARK! Cares Campaign*. This campaign helps local non-profit groups bring awareness to issues affecting animal welfare. Every 3 months, the store chain features two organizations through multiple methods. First, they encourage financial donations through what they call "round up for charity" upon checkout. Customers can round up to the nearest dollar (or choose any dollar amount) to donate to the two featured organizations. Second, each week they feature a different animal (in this case, our foster rabbits) on their Facebook page to help publicize animals in need of a forever home. In addition, they were happy to continue having FoR conduct adoption events in their stores. FoR agreed to this generous offer, and we became one of the two organizations featured during the first quarter of the year (January - March 2015).

Robin and Alex, two very active FoR volunteers and fosterers, worked hard to coordinate this campaign



Photo: Robin S.

Ike shows off his best side as customers admire the FoR bunnies at BARK!

and run the in-store adoption events to showcase our foster rabbits. During this 3-month period, they coordinated with the local stores, fosterers, and volunteers to schedule the events and bunnies to showcase. Approximately 9-11 adoptable rabbits (or pairs) participated in these events. All of these adoption events attracted the store's customers - children and adults alike - who were interested in seeing the rabbits, many of whom knew very little about having rabbits as house pets. For many of these events, individuals and families who had already expressed an interest in adopting a rabbit - including those who had already submitted an application to FoR - came to the store to meet the rabbits they were interested in meeting. The adoption events during this campaign included two in January (Silver Spring and Rockville stores), one in February (Gaithersburg store), and two in March (Olney and Clarksville stores). Several foster bunnies happily found their forever homes through these events.

FoR recently learned that check-out counter donations to the two featured animal non-profit organizations totaled \$2563.42. Although the amount was to be split between the two featured organizations, Bark's generous match policy means that *each* of the organizations received a donation of \$2563.42.

Many thanks to BARK! and the hard-working volunteers/fosterers - especially Robin and Alex - for the success of the events in facilitating rabbit adoptions, bringing awareness and education to the pet-loving public, and raising much-needed funds to help FoR continue saving bunnies.

## If you see stray rabbits

- Determine if the rabbit is a wild rabbit or a domestic stray. If it's a wild rabbit, leave it alone unless it's visibly hurt.



Photo: Beck B.

Baby wild rabbit: cute but not needing our help.

- If it's a domestic rabbit, try to catch and secure the rabbit in a pen or cage and provide hay, water, and fresh greens.
- Leave a note with neighbors asking if they've lost their rabbit. Don't put a description of the bunny, they should be able to describe the rabbit if it's theirs.
- Post notices at vet offices and local shops.
- Contact Friends of Rabbits if you need help catching the rabbit or have caught a stray and need help finding his/her home.

## Rabbit Rescue (continued from cover page)

By now, it was after Thanksgiving but all we could do was to check on the rabbits every few days. We brought treats and greens attempting to acclimate the rabbits to our presence. Unfortunately, there was nothing more FoR could do without consent from the property owner.

The second week of December, the phone rang and the woman on the other end said she was calling about the rabbits running loose in Gaithersburg. She told me that the rabbits were an impulse buy and she did not know anything about rabbits. After learning more about FoR, she gave us permission to catch and adopt out the rabbits. I discovered that the rabbits were living under her garage and that Montgomery County Animal Services (MCAS) had attempted to catch rabbits several times. After work that day, Ted and I grabbed



Mrs. B and Topsy

exercise pens (x-pens), crates, and greens and headed over to the property. I walked around the sides and back of the house in a daze. There was wet, moldy hay and no pellets or fresh water. The yard was a sea of mud. We saw a large cat go into the hole under the garage that the rabbits had entered. The sound of barking dogs could be heard from inside the house. Our attempts to capture the rabbits that day and over the next few days were unsuccessful; they were such fearful rabbits.

Cathey and Alex, another FoR volunteer, agreed to try catching them over the weekend of December 13<sup>th</sup>, as the probability of severe winter weather was ever increasing. They excavated the front entrance to the warren in the backyard to see if there were kits inside. The soil was too loose to dig very far down without collapsing the warren. Surrounded by dogs, chickens and cats, they set up x-pens, crates and live traps. They tried twice that weekend, tirelessly climbing fences, walking through mud and rotten hay, but without success.

The next week, while checking on the rabbits, Ted talked to a woman walking a dog. She told us about a group of foxes that gathered at the end of the park path every morning. After hearing this, we quickly assembled a team of five (Ted, Alex, Cathey, Athena and Myself,) to make a concerted effort to catch the rabbits on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. When we arrived, we did not see any rabbits. Then, we saw a third, smaller rabbit that none of us had ever seen before. Luckily, Alex and Athena are both experienced and agile rabbit people who quickly laid out x-pens to contain the rabbit. Athena deftly picked her up and had her in a crate before she realized what was happening. Next, we blocked off the main entrance to the warren. Then we positioned pens around the exit to the warren to form a corral into a dog crate with treats inside. The black rabbit came out, was cut off from the warren by Athena and scooped up by Alex into a second crate. It all happened so fast it was surreal. The two rabbits came home with me to be checked out by a vet.

## Rabbit Rescue (continued)

The next day Alex and Athena, and later, Alex and Cathey made unsuccessful attempts to catch the white and black spotted rabbit. However, they met another neighbor, Elle, who had been feeding the rabbits and trying to catch them. Together they set up pens and a crate and discussed strategies to catch the rabbit. It wasn't until Jan 3, that Elle caught the black and white rabbit. She agreed to keep him overnight so we could take him directly to the vet. He had fur mites, chiggers and three internal parasites were identified. One of these is normally found in foxes.

The adult black rabbit (Mrs. B) had several surprises for us. The vet found fur mites, chiggers and several unusual internal parasites. Then the vet called us to the back and showed us a picture on a screen. The picture looked like...tiny rabbit ears. What I thought was a male rabbit full of parasites was a female rabbit full of babies. On the best New Year's Eve of my life, Mrs. B had eight kits. She must have been terrified but she let me check them every day and never even gave me a mean look. She and her babies are now in the hands of another one of FoR's capable fosterers. The small chocolate rabbit, Topsy was barely 8 weeks old when we caught her. She will be spayed soon and adopted out. She is an affectionate rabbit despite having been confined and medicated for her first months around people.

This is the best example I have seen to reinforce one of FoR's missions to educate people about what it means to care for a rabbit. These rabbits are now safe but they could easily have had sad deaths from cold, parasites or predators. Dalai Lama, the black and white rabbit, is terrified of our dog. I believe he still feels the breath of foxes on his shoulders.



Mrs. B's babies at 9 days old.



Mrs. B, her beautiful babies and a basket that won't contain their energy!



Dalai Lama, the black and white rabbit.

All Photos: Gail N.

**We can always use donated supplies for the foster rabbits!**

email [info@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:info@friendsofrabbits.org) or call 703-627-7892 for information and drop off locations.

**Our wish list is:**

Old towels (clean, but a few holes are fine)  
Paper towels  
Toilet brushes (new)  
Garden hose reel

Sturdy hose nozzles  
Trash bags  
Large ceramic water bowls  
Homemade toys  
Distilled white vinegar

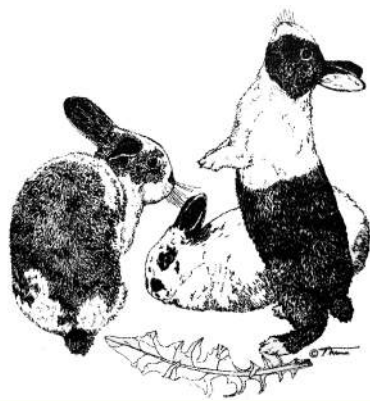


# Friends of Rabbits



Address: P.O. Box 1112  
Alexandria, VA 22313

## Friends of Rabbits



### 2015 Board Members

Pamela Hurley  
Susan Wong  
Alexandra Deckert  
Athena Crosby Wilding  
Mara Hurwitt  
Melissa R'Kingsley  
Herbert Hulls, D.V.M.

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

*Thank you for your continued support helping us save bunnies!*

## Rabbit Supplies for Sale!

Local Timothy Hay Bales  
CareFresh Bedding  
High Fiber Rabbit Diet  
Oxbow Bunny Basics T 10lbs.  
Early Cut Western Timothy Hay  
Papaya Tablets

Busy Bunny toys:  
Willow Bowls  
Chew Rings  
Grass Ball  
Unpeeled Willow Tent  
Tunnel  
Baskets

Grooming Supplies:  
nail clippers  
grooming kits  
combs/brushes  
scissors

In MD email:  
[MDsupplies@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:MDsupplies@friendsofrabbits.org)  
in VA:  
[info@friendsofrabbits.org](mailto:info@friendsofrabbits.org)  
or call **703-627-7892**

## Join us for Upcoming Events

- June 27** - Adoption Event at *Bark!* Silver Spring store
- July 11** - Adoption Event at *Bark!* Kentlands Market Square store, Gaithersburg, MD
- July 19** - Bunny Spa Day at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria's Animal Shelter- reserve now! **see page 6**
- Oct 3rd** - Friends of Rabbits at DC Veg Fest

**More adoption events and spa days forthcoming!**