



Bunny Lu's House Rabbit News

Newsletter for Bunny Lu Adoptions, Inc.
Spring 2004

Dear Friends:

Our 2003 statistics are in. Bunny Lu Adoptions rescued and fostered 102 rabbits during the past year. Loving homes were found for 82 of these buns. Five foster buns died despite excellent veterinary care. This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Ben, Coco, Lily, Butterscotch and Buns. We miss you!

2004 is off to a busy start. The first one and one-half months have brought 57 rabbits into foster care! Our vet expenses are currently between \$3,500 and \$4,000 for spay/neuter procedures and other medical necessities. **We Need Help!!** These expenses do not even account for food and litter. We have a lot of bunnies. Does your bunny need a companion or are you interested in adopting another bonded pair? Please check our website, www.bunnylu.org for more information about bonded pairs; as well as other important rabbit care information.

Spring is the time when baby buns start appearing in pet shops and are advertised on road signs by locals and breeders hoping to make some money. People buy these adorable little buns without knowing how to care for them, and often give them as gifts to children. They quickly find out what experienced rabbit people already know. Buns are not suitable for young children who like to pick them up and carry them around because as prey animals, buns feel safest on the ground. Adults and children also don't understand the reason the cute bunny scratches and bites them (fear), nor do they understand the negative behaviors (chewing, spraying, loss of litter box habits, etc.) that arise during puberty (4-6 months). This usually results in a child losing interest and the rabbit losing its home. A spay/neuter procedure by a rabbit experienced vet is almost always necessary to reduce this hormone related behavior for any house rabbit. Finally, there is the person who buys two buns after being told they are the same sex, only to find a litter a few months later. All of these situations create a misunderstanding of a rabbit's nature and often results in neglect, abandonment, or abuse. Almost all the buns surrendered by their owners to Bunny Lu become happy, social, friendly and healthy animal companions once they are spayed/neutered and provided with a proper rabbit diet and environment.

Bunny Lu attempts to get educational materials distributed throughout the year to help people understand the care a rabbit requires *before* bringing a rabbit home. Getting accurate rabbit care information out to those buying baby buns is always a challenge since many of these buns end up being surrendered to the local animal shelter, let loose to fend for themselves when in reality they become food for predatory animals such as dogs, cats, hawks, raccoons, etc., or taken into foster care by Bunny Lu (see inside story). If you know of any pet shop, shelter, or vet in your area that could benefit from rabbit care information to prevent this cycle from happening, please contact us. We will get these educational brochures to you for distribution.

Your financial contribution to Bunny Lu means so much to the bunnies. We hope you will take the time to send a tax-deductible donation by using the enclosed envelope. Thank you!!

Fifty-Seven Reasons



The calls come in all the time. "Will you take my rabbit?" and "My two male rabbits just had babies-help." There are also some calls from people trying to do the right thing after finding stray rabbits in their neighborhood. Such was the case in Ashburn when two rabbits were found on the sidewalk. But one of the biggest calls recently came from a woman in southwest Virginia who tried to help by taking in stray rabbits. She had trouble determining their sex and did not get them spayed or neutered. When Bunny Lu went to her home to help with supplies and information, it was obvious the situation was way out of control. After hearing that the local shelter advised her to let the rabbits loose, Bunny Lu brought them all into foster care. Emergency foster homes were identified to handle all of these buns, 42 in total. The rabbits that were old enough were immediately spayed/neutered by Blue Ridge Vet Associates and many rabbits were given medical/surgical care for malocclusions and bite wounds. The rabbits, all minilops and Holland lops, are happy and healthy and safe. Now we just need to pay our vet bills and find them loving homes. Can you help?

Bunny Lu Adoptions, PO Box 1036, Manassas, VA 20108, 703-335-9176, www.bunnylu.org

To Support Bunny Lu



Not long after that call, a local Petco store manager contacted Bunny Lu. It seems someone abandoned Willie, a minilop, and his three babies, Winken, Blinken and Nod, in his store. Since Petco is not set up to handle buns, Bunny Lu agreed to take them into foster care. The babies are growing up quickly and will soon be spayed/neutered.

The foster buns are shown by appointment on weekends in Manassas, VA. Supplies, such as pellets, hay, supplements, toys, etc., can also be purchased on weekends. Please call Mary Ellen at 703-335-9176 to make an appointment

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The Pet Expo in Chantilly, VA April 2-4, 2004

Bunny Lu Adoptions will once again be set up at the Pet Expo. Last year's event was a huge success and we were able to meet a lot of great people. Our booth this year will be similar to last year's. Please stop by and visit with us. Come meet some of our many foster buns, check out our cube cages, pick up some free educational materials, and buy some of our high quality hay, supplements and Busy Bunny toys. We'll also have our popular tees and sweatshirts with our logo, "We've Got Great Buns." Artwork by the talented rabbit artist Evonne Vey will also be available. All of this helps support our efforts to rescue and rehome abandoned, neglected and abused buns.

Hours are: Friday, April 2, 6-9 PM
 Saturday, April 3, 10AM – 6PM
 Sunday, April 4, 10 AM – 6 PM

We look forward to seeing you there. If you can volunteer some time to assist us in manning the booth, or to help set-up or take down, please contact: Maryellen@bunnylu.org

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