



# Bunny Lu's House Rabbit News

Newsletter for Bunny Lu Adoptions,  
Fall/Winter 2005

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Dear Friends:

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a foster bunny? Probably not, but I can tell you if it wasn't for Bunny Lu Adoptions, and all the kind people who provide financial donations and hands on assistance to make sure we are all properly cared for, there would be a lot of unhappy, sick and disillusioned bunnies. My companion Hazel and I can confirm this because we were rescued from very sad circumstances and given immediate medical attention, a safe environment, good food, fun toys and lots of tender loving care at Bunny Lu. At first we were a bit skeptical of this kindness. You see, except for the excitement of being purchased as baby bunnies and all the attention we were given at first by our previous humans, we rapidly became "a burden." The kids who had to have us didn't want to take care of us anymore, and their parents didn't have time for us either. It was very lonely and a sad time. I was so bored and upset that I started chewing all the fur off my body. Finally, my family decided to find someone else to take me and brought me to Bunny Lu. It was just in time. I had started chewing myself in other places and needed 3 surgeries to correct my self-neuter. After I recovered, I found Hazel, a brown furred beauty who tried to resist me. Not to be ignored, I jumped into her room one day while Mary Ellen was cleaning it. Hazel was shocked, but she couldn't say "No" to my charms any longer. We've been together ever since :o)

It's a good thing we've had each other too. Despite careful screening of potential adopters, things did not work out. We first went to live in Bristow, Virginia with a wonderful family. For 1 year we were quite happy and then we were back at Bunny Lu. I think they told Mary Ellen they had "allergies" or something. This was depressing to us because we thought we had been very good bunnies. We always used our litter box and we were quiet and participated in family events when we were allowed to. Anyway, Bunny Lu has a clause in their adoption contract that requires all adopters who no longer want or cannot properly care for their bunnies, to return them to Bunny Lu. Whew, what a relief. I've heard stories from other buns about being taken to a shelter and discovered by accident to be a Bunny Lu bunny just prior to being euthanized!! County shelters are so overcrowded that often bunnies, especially big bunnies or those who show signs of illness like a runny nose or eyes, are eliminated. It's scary. I think this is another reason Bunny Lu is the only rescue in the entire Metro area, maybe even the whole East Coast, that microchips all their foster bunnies to insure their safety. If lost, stolen or misplaced, the microchip help us find our way back to Bunny Lu.



So anyway, Hazel and I were happy to be back at Bunny Lu 'cause the food, toys, rooms and people are really great. And we knew another loving family would be found for us one day. Well on April 30, 2005 we met that family, and we were very happy again. It's nice to be wanted. We went home with them but it wasn't exactly what we had in mind. Instead of the roomy cube cage we were promised, we were kept in a small cage and only allowed to run occasionally. Now Hazel and I adore each other but we're getting older and we need room to exercise and stretch sometimes, you know? Even so, we thought we could handle it. But then things changed and we

found ourselves back at Bunny Lu on August 3. Actually, the family told Bunny Lu that if they didn't take us back immediately, we'd be taken "somewhere else." EEK! Mary Ellen squeezed us in somewhere because she was not going to risk anything happening to us. She really loves us. We didn't think it was fair though to expect some place as busy as Bunny Lu to make arrangements in less than 3 days. It's impossible with the number of buns they rescue. Our situation doesn't happen very often but Bunny Lu has decided to refine their adoption policies and screening procedures to reduce a recurrence of what happened to us. We've heard the third time is the charm. But Bunny Lu does love bunnies and our welfare is their greatest concern!

Love, Harvey



### *From the Editor...*

Harvey and Hazel are very near and dear to my heart. I remember the night Harvey came into Bunny Lu. He was in bad shape, and had a lot of healing to do both physically and emotionally. It was a difficult and worrisome time, but Harvey is a survivor like so many of the buns we see. They just need a chance to be safe, loved and understood. Don't we all wish this for our buns? Oh, and that they will live forever?? Well, this brings me to the theme of this newsletter. Bunnies are living longer!! According to a recent article in *Rabbiting On*, the journal for the Rabbit Welfare Association in the UK, "the average lifespan for a domestic rabbit is somewhere between 8-10 years, with a maximum lifespan between 10-15 years." This is a change from many years ago when rabbits were fortunate to live only 5 years. There are many reasons for the increased longevity of our lapin friends, the main ones being diet and health care. Rabbits are eating better these days because we realize the importance of fresh hay and veggies. While pellets are still considered part of a rabbit's diet, they aren't as important as we once thought and are only recommended in limited amounts along with unlimited amounts of fresh hay and a variety of fresh veggies everyday. Secondly, more vets are learning to care for rabbits these days. There is a better understanding of rabbit illness and treatment. More people are having their rabbit(s) spayed/neutered at a younger age, and more buns are being successfully treated for conditions such as Pasteurella and head tilt, health issues that used to have a grim outcome. Dental care in rabbits has improved, and we are fortunate to have vets like Dr. Campbell and Dr. Behm at Blue Ridge who provide state of the art health care to our buns including a tubing procedure for buns suffering from bloat. Dr. Behm has contributed a health care article for us on Dental Problems in Rabbits (page 13).

On another note, Bunny Lu is **bursting** at the seams with bunnies. The phone is ringing off the hook with people who no longer want the responsibility of that "cute little Easter bunny." And we aren't the only ones. Area shelters have been inundated with bunnies from people who **won** bunnies as prizes at county fairs this summer. We're doing some things to help: Providing educational classes on proper house rabbit care for those who are considering or who have bunnies, beginning a training program for people who have extra space and love in their home for another bunny or two waiting to be adopted, distributing printed rabbit care information to area pet shops, veterinary offices, etc., maintaining a website, working with local shelters and the public to coordinate care, answering daily phone calls on our dedicated Bunny Lu phone line, finding media opportunities through television, radio and newspapers to get the message out, and more. While this won't solve the problems of over breeding and impulsive purchasing of bunnies, it will hopefully make an impression. But we need a lot more people to actively help us in these endeavors. Are you one of them? Read how you can help on Page 3....Linda, editor

*\*\*\*Bunny Lu respects your privacy and does not share our mailing list with any other organization. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please contact: [maillist@bunnylu.org](mailto:maillist@bunnylu.org)*



Bunny Lu Adoptions, Inc., is a tax exempt (501 C3 nonprofit) domestic rabbit rescue incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia, dedicated to helping abused, abandoned and neglected rabbits with food, medical needs and a safe indoor environment until a more permanent home is found. For more information about Bunny Lu, please visit our website:

[www.bunnylu.org](http://www.bunnylu.org) or contact us at: P.O. Box 1036, Manassas, VA 20108. Telephone: 703-335-9176

Board of Directors: Mary Ellen Glover, President; Tina Scott, Secretary; Mary O'Malley, Treasurer

Board Members: Stacey Hartman, Crys Turner and Linda Seeman

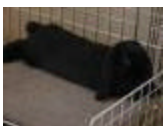
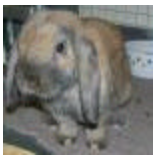
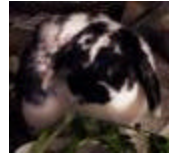
Bunny Lu House Rabbit News Editor: Linda Seeman



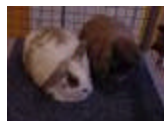
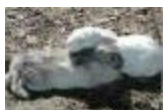
## Toooooooo Many Bunnies!!!!



Bunny Lu is trying to devise ways to help more bunnies. Phone calls to the main foster home average 3-5 per day from people who want to surrender their rabbit. The personal reasons given include "the kids don't take care of it anymore," an allergy, moving into an apartment that doesn't allow pets, the breeder won't take him back, or the child is off to college. This last reason is another example of why getting a rabbit should be a family decision. Children often lack the discipline or understanding of long-term responsibility. And then they go off to college. We've heard them all. It's unfortunate that people don't stop to think of the consequences of their actions and what is involved in getting a pet, especially a rabbit who has care needs that are much different than a cat and dog, the animals most people are use to having. For some reason, rabbits seem to be more disposable. Why is that???? So, rescue groups such as Bunny Lu get called to help. It costs at least \$100 for each bun taken into foster care at Bunny Lu to receive a spay/neuter procedure and a microchip insertion. If the bun is in need of additional medical care such as dental work or other health concerns, the cost escalates. Then there's the cost of food, shelter, toys, etc., each bun is provided until a good home can be found. There is no "average" length of time buns are kept in foster care. But some of the buns such as April and Archie, and Lollypop and Velvet have been at Bunny Lu for over 1-1/2 years. Everything is done to find good homes for the buns awaiting adoption from posting on the Bunny Lu website and Petfinder, biannual newsletters, and word of mouth. Newspaper/magazine advertising costs money that we just don't have. Trying to locate free advertising is difficult. While we have a good adoption rate (over 90%) and very few bunnies returned to foster care, this isn't enough because as soon as we get buns adopted more come into our care. We even have a waiting list for buns coming into foster care, often working with people the best we can to help as many buns stay safe.



Bunny Lu does not receive any funding from the County, State or Federal government like the local shelters do. As a nonprofit 501 C 3 organization, we raise our own operating funds through the sale of rabbit care supplies, bunny sitting, donations, and the occasional grant. When Bunny Lu established its Charter in 1999, the decision was made to forego membership fees like many of the other rabbit organizations because we wanted to help as many people and buns as possible. We did not believe then and still don't today that people should have to pay to get information and assistance. People surrendering their bun(s) contact Bunny Lu and tell us they don't want to take their bun(s) to the shelter because they are afraid it will be euthanized. They are aware Bunny Lu is a no kill organization. So how do we continue to do the best we can for the buns? We educate people as best we can through presentations in the community and through printed rabbit care literature we distribute to interested persons, pet shops and vet offices. These efforts have led to our success, but they have also created difficulties. Everyone contacts Bunny Lu because we are friendly, responsive and we really care about bunnies. However, there is only so much room and so much money available. So, we rely on people like you to help us. People like us who have a special place in their hearts for the welfare of rabbits everywhere. We need more trained foster parents/homes to take in buns whose owners may not have the time or finances to wait for an opening at Bunny Lu. We need people to distribute literature throughout the community. And financial donations are crucial to our survival. We need more money to survive and to be able help as many buns as we possibly can. If we don't, who will?? These are difficult times and a lot of charities are asking for money. We recognize this and really don't like to ask for help but hope you will find it in your heart to remember the bunnies. Please take the time to send a tax-deductible contribution in the enclosed envelope. No amount is too small. The bunnies thank you and so do we.





## Bunny Lu “Hoppenings”

During the first 9 months of 2005, Bunny Lu Adoptions rescued and fostered 135 rabbits, and found loving homes for 77 of these buns. **A new foster facility was opened in Sykesville, Maryland** in early 2005, but many more foster homes are needed to keep up with the demand. To help with this endeavor, Linda will be conducting classes on fostering bunnies starting early December. If you can open your home to a foster bunny or two, it will help decrease the burden on our main foster facility. Approved foster homes will be provided with cube cages, hay, and pellets. Foster parents are responsible for fresh veggies and TLC.

Bunny Lu set up at the **Washington Pet Expo at the Dulles Convention Center in Chantilly April 1-3**. This was our 5<sup>th</sup> appearance at the annual event that allows us to meet lots of people and spread the word about rabbits and the care they deserve. Look for the dates of the next Expo in the upcoming Spring/Summer newsletter.

Bunny Lu volunteer Mary O'Malley (with Pookie) gave a presentation on rabbit care at the Fairfax County Shelter on Saturday June 9, 2005, entitled, **“So You Think You Want A Rabbit: The Things Every Bunny Parent Should Know.”** The two-hour workshop taught prospective rabbit owners the pros and cons of owning a rabbit, and provided information on housing, feeding, and veterinary care requirements. Mary is the lead volunteer for small animals at the Fairfax County Shelter located at 4500 West Ox Road. Some adoptable buns participated in hands on demonstration. For more information on the next rabbit care class, please contact the Shelter at 703-830-8805. If you are interested in a rabbit class for your school or organization, please contact Linda: [askrabbittlady@hotmail.com](mailto:askrabbittlady@hotmail.com)



**Diane Roadcap** stopped by to do readings on all the Bunny Lu bunnies on August 6. It was great to see Diane again and benefit from her incredible talent as she told us what the foster buns were thinking and feeling. She'll be back at our Open House again this year. Visit Diane's website: [www.animalstalktoo.com](http://www.animalstalktoo.com)

Mary Ellen and Mary O'Malley were present at a recent taping of **Capitol Pets**, sponsored by Channel 10 cable in Fairfax, Virginia on August 11. If you'd like to view this taping online, please visit [www.capitolpets.com/Episodes.html](http://www.capitolpets.com/Episodes.html). It's Episode 20.

**Channel 9/WUSA News** in Washington DC will be interviewing Mary O'Malley and buns on air, October 29.

We'll be having our **Annual Open House and Fundraiser held Sunday, November 6 from noon to 5 PM** at 9208Greengate Court, Manassas, VA 20110. We will have special guests Diane Roadcap, Radio Personality for Station WBIG (Oldies 100.3), Joann Scott, DVT and a representative from Healthy P.A.W.S. Medical Center in Haymarket, Virginia. Pet Artist Kristine Kasheta will be here too. Check our website for more details. Hope to see you there!

A new educational manual, **“Bunny Lu's House Rabbit Standards of Care”** was recently written, and we were able to have 1000 copies printed to good reviews. We hope to get grant money to have more printed soon.

### **Supplies Available at our Manassas/Sykesville Locations**

Bunny Lu maintains a huge selection of rabbit supplies to keep all of our bunnies happy and healthy. Fresh cut orchard grass from the Midwest (once your bunny tries it, s/he won't want anything else), rabbit pellets, Carefresh litter, health supplies, books, Cottontail Cottages and a variety of bunny toys from The Busy Bunny and elsewhere. Bunny Lu uses these products for all our foster buns, and sells them to the public to raise money for our efforts. Supplies can be picked up on Saturdays and Sundays, but please call ahead. Bunny Lu also sells T-shirts and sweatshirts with our famous logo, “We've Got Great Buns.”

## In Memory of POKEY

By Brian Seeman

Brandi told us to be patient, that she was looking for just the perfect bunny to replace her recently departed companion, Smokey. After several months of looking she had rejected all suitors. However, when she laid eyes upon Pokey, it was love at first sight for Brandi. Unfortunately, Pokey did not feel the same way. Still, Brandi was certain he was the one, so we brought him home from Bunny Lu.



The first three years of Pokey's life had not been good before he came to live with us, a familiar story to many of us who cannot imagine life without our bunnies, and who would walk through fire to help them out. His first reaction when we got him home was to try and take a bite out of Brandi! What we know now, but did not realize at the time, was that Pokey was telling Brandi and us that this was HIS home, and that he was allowing US to live in it. He was feisty, arrogant, and unbelievably cute and adorable. Brandi thought so too. It took six months of frustrating effort to get Pokey to accept the fact that Brandi was worthy of him. Then, almost magically, that great day came, and Brandi had the companion of her dreams.

For almost five years, they were inseparable companions. Playing their little games, snuggling, cleaning each other, and even allowing us to tell them how cute they were and give them kisses. We felt privileged to share our home with them. One day Brandi looked at us and may as well have said, "see, I told you so".

Their time together passed faster than either Linda or I could imagine. Wonderful years. It brings the thought to mind that opposite do attract. Brandi, a standard Chinchilla, was patient, smart and was almost never sick. Pokey, a mini-lop, was pushy, less intellectual, and never seemed to catch a break when it came to illness. Serious stuff, like GI stasis and bloat. Things that seem to come on with no warning, and that easily kill bunnies. He had way more than his fair share of these maladies, and we began to think of him as the bunny with nine lives. Kept together with bailing wire and scotch tape.

But, of course, it was more than that. Pokey received the most wonderful care from Linda---AKA Rabbit Lady---as well as excellent rabbit vets at RidgeLake Animal Hospital and Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates. Because of their experience with Pokey, Dr Behm at Blue Ridge established two rabbit care protocols, and Linda wrote her well-received article on bloat. As a layman, my most important lesson from the many travails of Pokey was the importance of pain medicine. Two years before he died, the immediate application of pain medicines to Pokey started him on the road to recovery from bloat. NEVER LET A VET TELL YOU BUNNIES DO NOT FEEL PAIN. THEY HURT JUST LIKE YOU AND ME. Get pain medications applied as if it was you on the table in the vets office.

When he died in our arms last spring, there was a sense of inevitability for both Linda and myself. He had been through so much, and had been so loved, that it was simply time for him to go to the Rainbow Bridge. All rabbit owners who have lost bunnies know the feeling. But for almost five years, Brandi had the love of her life, and that is a rich heritage. We are thankful he came our way.



### Bunny Readings by Diane Roadcap: November 6, 2005

Diane Roadcap, Pet Psychic on WBIG Radio, will give a short presentation and will once again be providing readings of your bunnies. Please contact Mary Ellen via email: [Maryellen@bunnylu.org](mailto:Maryellen@bunnylu.org) to make a reservation for Diane talk with your bunny. Space is limited since Diane can only see 12 appointments. So please reserve early so you and your bunny are not disappointed.



A Special Thank You to our volunteers who perform vet runs, cleaning and fostering duties: We couldn't do it without you!!



Heather Somerville ♥ Angel Brooks ♥ Lindsay & Colin Weiner ♥ Kara Murdock ♥ Shelby Blauert ♥ Clara Bergeron ♥ Mary Holgate ♥ Dana Hansen ♥ Bronwyn Ziegler ♥ Crys Turner ♥ Cindy & Rusty Hettenhouser ♥ Stacey Hartman ♥ Linda & Brian Seeman

We want to give a special thanks to Talisha Herring for giving up her garage last year for us to store 100 bales (10,000 pounds!) of hay. Thank you Talisha!!

**\*\*\*\*We are in desperate need of a place for hay storage\*\*\*\***  
*If you have a large shed or enclosed area that we can use to store bales of hay, please contact Mary Ellen at 703-335-9176 or email: [Maryellen@bunnylu.org](mailto:Maryellen@bunnylu.org)*

### **A Very Special Thank You for your tax-deductible donation of \$50 or more!!!!**



Gale Richards ♥ James & Roberta Dale ♥ John & Suzanne Leonard ♥ John White ♥ Albert & Linda Somerville ♥ Andrew & Cynthia Bartoriello ♥ Athanasia Mantzouranis ♥ Eric Breidenbaugh ♥ Eric Mull ♥ Wyling Liew ♥ Elizabeth Ceballos & David Kirby ♥ James & Gwen Costa ♥ John & Cindy Hettenhouser ♥ Linda Seeman ♥ Roberta Moreland ♥ Candace Joy ♥ Pearl Khuo ♥ Mary Ellen Glover ♥ Daniel & Karen Moran ♥ Richard Pfiester ♥ Michael & Laura Cruise ♥ Richard & Bronwyn Ziegler ♥ Donna Partos ♥ Janet Marsh ♥ Jane Lakata ♥ DEP Printing ♥ Lisa & Paul at the Busy Bunny ♥ Drs. Campbell & Behm at Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates ♥

(Photo of Roger resting on his ball)

## Meet some of our Dedicated Volunteers

Bunny Lu is very fortunate to have a wonderful group of dedicated bunny lovers who come weekly to clean bunny room and provide socialization. Here are a few of our youngest.



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Shelby Blauert (left with Snickers) started volunteering at Bunny Lu during Spring 2004. She enjoys making sure everybun has a nice clean room, and spends extra time teaching the buns socialization skills. Shelby adopted Noah and Julie from Bunny Lu and while she would love to have more buns she spends her spare time helping to rescue and foster other less fortunate buns. Thanks Shelby!!

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Kara Murdoch (right with oversized Bubba) adopted Polly and Raisin from Bunny Lu and has been a volunteer since 2004. She really enjoys helping to care for all the bunnies. Thanks Kara!



\*\*\*\*\*

Clara Bergeron (left with Roger) has been volunteering with Bunny Lu for a year now and is very good with the rabbits. She doesn't have any of her own yet, but maybe Roger will change her mind? Thanks Clara!

## Bunny Note Cards and Christmas Cards

Looking for the perfect note cards or Christmas cards that show your love of bunnies? Why not purchase them from Bunny Lu? There are many designs available including "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" featuring one of Bunny Lu's own rescues, Pokey, by artist Evonne Vey. Others feature the artwork of Kristine Kasheta, who like Evonne really knows how to capture a bunny's special qualities. The cards are blank inside for your own message, with a description of Bunny Lu's mission on the back. They also make a nice thank you card or note for holiday sending. Each card is \$1.75.



## ◆◆◆◆◆ Rabbit Quiz: Can you spot the imposter?? ◆◆◆◆◆



## Bonded Pairs for Adoption



HARVEY is a minilop boy with dark smoke colored fur born November 2000 and HAZEL, a minilop/rex girl born April 2001, this adorable pair was returned to Bunny Lu due to "allergies." They would love another chance and would be perfect buns for anyone who has lots of love to share.

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HONEY BUN is a minilop girl with fawn colored fur estimated to be two years old and has been in foster care for almost 2 years. She was bonded with SNOWFLAKE, a very handsome white minilop/mix with blue eyes. They enjoy each other and are sweet buns.



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BONNIE (black fur) & CLYDE (California Mix) are a young pair of up ear buns born September 2004 who dearly love each other. After being outdoor buns prior to being rescued by Bunny Lu, they have become much friendlier and love attention. Bonnie and Clyde are happy to have toys to play with and they both enjoy their papaya treats. Clyde will even stand on your chest to get his! Bonnie is becoming friendlier.

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SUMMER, a young girl bun with fawn colored fur, and SNICKERS, a young agouti colored girl, are a beautiful pair born August 30, 2004. These siblings really enjoy each others company and need to be adopted together.

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LOLLIPOP and VELVET are minilop does, estimated DOB is April 2003. Lollipop is a solid agouti color and Velvet is a solid black. They are a little shy but very sweet bunnies. Since their arrival at Bunny Lu they have gained weight and their coats have taken on a very luxurious feel. They are bonded together and cannot be separated. They enjoy running and playing, as well as being petted.

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PAPRIKA is a minilop girl, broken agouti color, estimated to be about 3 1/2 years. CHARLIE is a minilop, torte color, estimated to be almost 3 years. Charlie is deaf, but Paprika looks out for him. These are beautiful little bunnies and are very sweet with good litter habits. Charlie is very social and Paprika a bit shy, but both enjoy their room with a ramp and a large hay basket. These are very easy bunnies to keep. . .and they adore each other.



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GOLDILOCKS, a fawn colored girl and ALEX, a frost colored boy, are Easter bunnies that were turned into the shelter not long after they were purchased. DOB is estimated as Jan/Feb 2004. This little pair of minilops is very sweet but have been known to chew carpet when bored.

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PETE, a minilop boy with agouti fur and WENDY a Hotot mix, are estimated to be about 5 years old. They love to play with their toys and run through their tunnel. Not much is known about their background. Pete adores Wendy and is a bit protective of her so they will require some patience and understanding. Experienced bunny parents will be rewarded with this pair.





MICKEY (Chinchilla) and ZIPPY (white) are sweet little boys. They are from the same litter and were born in September 2004. Both have great litter box habits and really enjoy their toys, especially their cardboard tube.

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What a gorgeous couple. SIMMIE is a Californian Mix female and BRUCE is a torte color. They were born in September 2004. Bruce is very sweet but has a bit of an attitude that could be cured with TLC.



KELLY (broken black) and LISA (broken chinchilla) are both up ear girls born sometime in 2003. This very sweet pair of buns has excellent litter habits, and is easy to care for. They lost their home when their family fell on hard times.

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MIKE and IKE are littermates who lost their home when Mom lost her job and couldn't care for them anymore. These minilop boys were probably born in March 2003 and would like a chance at happiness with another family.



LUNA & LANA are darling lion head girls who just came into foster care. Please check our website for details.

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SNOOPY and VIOLET (baby sisters) were born this spring, a few days after Mom was surrendered. Being raised in a foster home with lots of bunnies and dogs has created a pair of super friendly girls who have no fear. They even use Shane (Irish wolfhound) as a launching pad.



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ALASKA is a broken gray colored minilop (6-7 years) who found the love of his life with SOPHIE, age 2 years. This happy pair really enjoys each other's company. Alaska has spent most of his life in rescues and could benefit from a permanent and loving home with his beloved Sophie.



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MARCY, a beautiful white New Zealand mix girl and SONNY, a handsome fawn and white Dutch boy, were both born in April 2005. They are very loving and adore each other.



## Bachelors and Bachelorettes



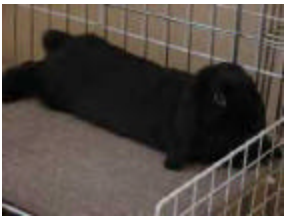
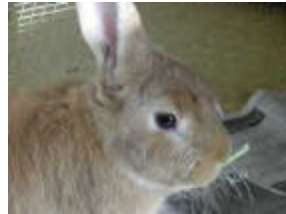
BUTTONS is a very sweet little minilop baby boy with torte colored fur who has tons of energy and is very loving. He loves toys. A great bunny.

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POPPA BUN is a French Lop/mix male, approximately 4 years old, who was set loose to fend for himself and his family. Poppa is a very sweet and handsome guy who currently shares his room with his son, Pumpkin (below).



PUMPKIN is about 2 years old and is a Satin/French Lop mix boy with beautiful fawn colored fur. He was let loose with Mom and Dad was lucky not to become food for some predator. Pumpkin and Dad get along well but they can be split up for just the right girl.



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HOPE is an adorable little baby girl minilop who has very strong opinions about everything. She is an escape artist and proud of it. We believe she is happy as a single gal bunny and suggest you have some 'bunny experience' if you want to take her home.

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HUGHIE, a very sweet little minilop boy with broken blue fur, approximately 2 years, was found injured along the side of the road. He was treated for a hernia and neutered. Hughie was recently bonded with Pansy, a solid blue minilop (not yet photographed).

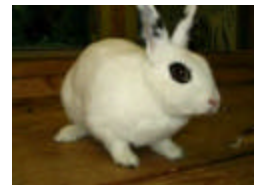


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BAXTER Jr. is a very handsome minilop boy born February 2005. He was left at the shelter the day after Easter along with 28 other buns by a breeder who did not get them sold! This adorable little guy sleeps a lot when he is in his room but comes to life when he can come out to play.

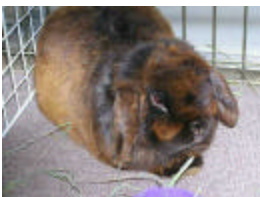
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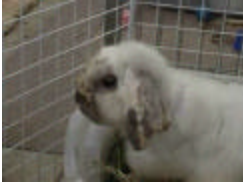
BANDITA, a 2-year old Hotot mix girl was found along the side of the road during Hurricane Isabel. She is a very intelligent bunny with a mind of her own, who loves attention. Once she has had time to run, play and dance, Bandita will allow you to pick her up. She really is a wonderful "people" bunny but will need some time to adjust to a new home considering her background.



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BLACKIE is a 3-year-old Holland lop boy who was kept in an outside cage before being rescued by Bunny Lu. His fur burned brown from being in the sun but is returning to its beautiful rich black color as he sheds. This sweet tiny guy loves all the attention, food and toys he missed out on previously.





EDGAR is lovingly called the "Grandfather of Bunny Lu" since his date of birth is 1995. This 10 year old was an outdoor hutch bunny who did not receive much attention until arriving at Bunny Lu. He enjoys being inside, loves all the attention he is getting (he even gives nose kisses), and eats whatever he is fed. His litter box habits are not good and for health reasons, our vets have advised not to have him neutered. Edgar needs someone who understands the difficulties he has faced and is able to give him the love and attention he deserves.

\*\*\*\*\*

PATRICK, a young male minilop, was abandoned at a local pet store with 2 other bunnies. This handsome little guy is very sweet and gentle.

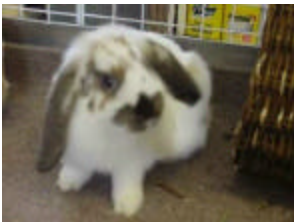
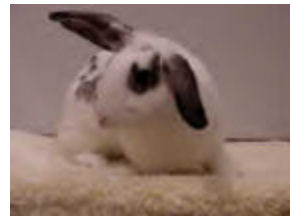
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FLOPPY III is a young male minilop who was impulsively purchased by grandparents during Easter 2005. Surprise, the grandkids didn't want him! Floppy is always full of energy and loves throwing his toys. He hasn't quite decided where he wants his litter box and is known to move it different places depending on his mood. But he uses it consistently, so we don't complain. He'll find the perfect spot one-day!

\*\*\*\*\*

GUINNESS was abandoned in a state park, and was luckily found by a park ranger before he became food. We're confused as to why he was abandoned because he is so good.



\*\*\*\*\*

HARRY JR. is a minilop boy born January 15, 2005. He has tons of energy and loves to play with his toys. This little guy is also a love bun!

\*\*\*\*\*



MS BUTTONS lost her home because the fiancé didn't like her. Well we think she's terrific and you will too. This sweet little minilop is approximately 3-4 years old and loves her hay, veggies and toys. She also enjoys being petted and told how darling she is.

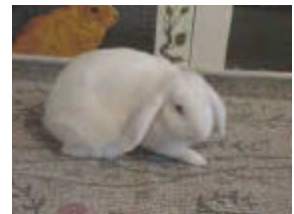


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PAYTON is a 6-year-old minilop girl with black fur who was recently spayed in July 2005. She is very sweet, loves to be petted, and enjoys her hay and toys.

\*\*\*\*\*

PHOEBE, a very beautiful white minilop girl with ruby eyes loves toys. This sweet little girl is always hungry and can never never gets enough to eat. Phoebe is a lot of fun and can use help with her litter box.



\*\*\*\*\*

CAUTION!! ROGER (RJ) is a little doll baby who loves food, attention and toys, not necessarily in that order! This very sweet minilop male with broken fawn colored fur has been known to melt many a heart. He's learning to tolerate being picked up.



## More Single Buns

SABRINA is a sweet 2-year-old Californian girl who lost her home due to "allergies". She answers to her name and has an excellent personality. Sabrina loves to run through her cardboard tube and play with her toys.



\*\*\*\*\*

SKIPPY was recently dropped off at pet store. This young minirex male is very nice.

\*\*\*\*\*

RALPH LEVI RABBIT, a Netherland Dwarf mix with a beautiful shiny black coat is "absolutely wonderful" according to foster Mom Cindy. He likes to be held and picked up for short periods.



HONEY is a little "cutie" and the perfect bunny if you like to snuggle. This 2-1/2 year old minilop is very affectionate and especially likes to sit in his towel on your lap and be petted for hours! He has great litter habits and loves to run and play.



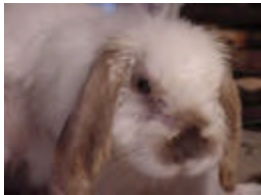
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SNICKERS, a young female minilop, is quick to greet anyone who stops by, loves attention and enjoys playtime. This little girl is very friendly and would benefit from a companion bunny.



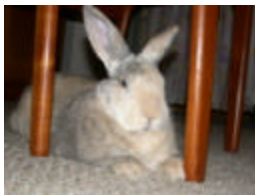
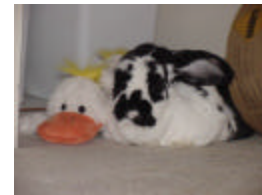
## ♥Loving Farewells♥

### ♥Goodbye to some special buns who touched our hearts♥



HARRY, age 8---A little minilop who was left outside with the trash and rescued by a caring man who brought him to Bunny Lu. As starved and as neglected as he was, Harry only wanted loving and would smother you with kisses rather than eat his food. He was in foster care for 8 months, and left a lasting impression on all of us. We all miss you Harry. Love Mary Ellen, Linda, Brian, Colin, Lindsay and Roo.

MOLLIE, age 10---A very dignified and sweet French Lop who nursed her companion Spencer through serious health problems. She then met AJ who was the love of her life. Mollie never recovered from AJ's loss and spent her last few years providing stability and guidance to all the foster buns @ Bunny Lu. She was considered the "Queen." Diane Roadcap told us the buns told her Mollie still visits them. It's not the same without you! Love, Mary Ellen and Linda (I'm sorry I didn't get to say goodbye Mollie, but I got your message. Love, Linda)



DUSTY, age 3—a beautiful and very playful bunny girl who died too young. She survived abdominal surgery, but her body never recovered completely. Dusty really didn't enjoy snuggling but knew how much it meant to her human. You will always hold a special place in my heart... Love, Janelle

HAPPY, age 6—a very friendly and loving English Spot who had multiple health problems but never let them get him down. His fortitude was rewarded by the many people whose lives he touched including our own Diane Roadcap (pictured) who met him at our Open House last year. During her recent visit in August, she told us upon arrival that Happy was in the car with her as she drove to Bunny Lu. We miss you Happy!! Love Richard, Linda & Brian



## Whatever Happened To?????? Mr. Bunny and Chibi By Lindsay Weiner



My husband Colin was helping Mary Ellen update the website while I was feeding the buns. My final stop was the computer room with Sarah and Sally, and a trio of buns there for bunny sitting. As I put the greens in the trio's cage I petted one of the buns; she was black and her fur felt so soft. I asked Mary Ellen, "What breed is this bun, she's so soft?" Mary Ellen said "She's a Mini Rex, and if you're willing there's a pair with a Mini Rex and a Dutch that need some extra help with behavior issues." I immediately said "We'll do it!" Colin looked at me like I was crazy. He asked Mary Ellen "Where are they?" She told us they were at Bronwyn's house.

A few days later we went to Bronwyn's and met Chibi and Mr. Bunny. Well Mr. Bunny was as far back in the cage as he could get, stiff as a board, and his eyes were almost rolled completely back in his head. Chibi was curious to see whom we were and what were we doing. Colin and I sat in a pen with them for while. We decided we would try them at our house. Two days later we picked up Chibi and Mr. Bunny. We had a pen set up in our kitchen that marked off half the kitchen for them. Colin set the carrier in the pen and we sat down inside the pen while Chibi and Mr. Bunny decided it was safe to come out after about twenty minutes.

We sat with the buns for at least an hour each night. On the third night I sat down with Mr. Bunny and the laptop on the kitchen floor. Colin and I had decided Mr. Bunny needed a better name. We wanted to keep Mr. B (his nickname) so I found baby names on the web that started with "B." We tried a few names but they didn't fit. I found Bruno and looked at Mr. B and asked if Bruno would be "Okay." Chibi and "Bruno" looked at us as if they approved so Bruno stuck.

After 3 weeks or so of fostering the buns their behavior issues were almost gone. I called Mary Ellen to give her an update and asked, "What's next?" Mary Ellen said, "They have done better with you than three previous foster homes, it sounds like you've adopted your second pair. Come fill out the paperwork when you guys get a chance." We were shocked that they adopted us. Colin and I feel we just gave them time and space and they came around.

Today Chibi and Bruno have their very own cage and they adore it. When we let them out, our favorite sight is two buns one with a little back butt, and one with a big brown butt and ears flopping the breeze, running down the hall. We love you Bruno and Chibi!

*Editors note: Have you adopted a bunny from Bunny Lu? Tell us how things are going and we'll print them in future newsletters. Just email your stories with photo to [askrabbitleady@hotmail.com](mailto:askrabbitleady@hotmail.com)*



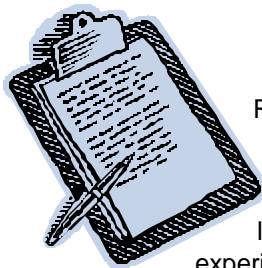
### **Veterinary Consult: "Rabbit Dental Problems"** By Wendy Behm, DVM Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates



One of the most common presenting complaints of sick rabbits is loss of appetite and/or weight loss. There are many medical conditions that cause your rabbit to stop eating. It is critical for your veterinarian to give a thorough evaluation to include full physical examination, blood work, possibly Xrays and a sedated oral exam. Dental problems are often the root cause of unthrifty bunnies. These rabbits may or may not also exhibit drooling, teeth grinding, chronic soft stools, runny eyes, fever or jaw swelling. It is impossible (and I say this from personal experience) to adequately evaluate the molars of a rabbit without sedation. Use of an oral speculum on an

awake rabbit may allow the examiner to visualize dental problems but often not. Once the rabbit is anesthetized (with a safe intravenous agent followed by isoflurane if needed) a thorough exam is performed and appropriate dentistry performed. Special tools including oral speculum, tongue retractor, cheek pouch dilator, ronguers and high-speed compressor driven dental burrs are necessary. The molars of a rabbit grow continuously and points often develop on upper molar outer edges and lower molar inner edges. The sharp points may lacerate the tongue or cheek. In some cases, I have seen extensive mal-alignment allowing one tooth to grow like a spike into the tongue or gum. Geriatric rabbits are more prone to molar overgrowth although problems may occur at any age. In guinea pigs the problem is most often an overgrowth of the lower molars medially creating a complete bridge that entraps the tongue. Often there is severe secondary infection involving the sinuses/eyes and even the jawbones. In some cases tooth extraction or jaw surgery is necessary to clear up the infection and long-term antibiotics are warranted. Once molar malocclusion is diagnosed these animals need to be maintained with regular tooth floating every 4-16 weeks depending on the severity of the situation. Obviously this requires long-term commitment on the part of the owner. In the case of overgrown incisors in rabbits we now strongly recommend extracting the abnormal teeth as opposed to repeated trimmings. These animals do great and often require no additional follow-up. In conclusion we often see dental problems in rabbits and guinea pigs leading to life threatening anorexia and infection. These problems are most often manageable but require a veterinarian with dental skills and long-term commitment.

*Editors Note: Dr. Behm has been providing excellent dental care to our bunnies since 1999. She performed the first complete incisor extraction of our foster bunny Ben in 2000 (see [www.bunnylu.org/dental.html](http://www.bunnylu.org/dental.html)). Ben continued to eat like a there was no tomorrow and was the first of many buns to have their incisors successfully removed by Dr. Behm. Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates is located in Purcellville, VA. Telephone: 540-338-7387*



## Improved Health Care for Rabbits

Rabbit care has come a long way in the past 25 years. Prior to the 1980s, rabbits were usually raised for agricultural purposes or for medical research. A “pet” rabbit was a rarity and was probably kept in a backyard hutch. While we don’t like to think of these matters, it explains why it is taking so long to educate people about proper house rabbit care, to find a rabbit experienced vet, and to establish standards of care or treatment protocols to keep our bunnies healthy. Today, more vets have rabbit care training and experience, and they know more about major health issues in rabbits such as anesthesia, the importance of spay/neuter procedures, Pasteurella infections, dental issues and GI problems. Some of these advances are discussed below.

**Finding an experienced rabbit vet** can be frustrating. I remember when we got our first bunny Muffin, a Netherland Dwarf from a breeder in 1982. Few people had heard of “house rabbits” at the time, but I knew as soon as Muffin came home with us that she would stay in the house, participate in family activities, and be litter box trained. It never occurred to me that vets *didn’t* take care of rabbits. We had a dog at the time and his vet was Dr. Roger Nichols at Dumfries Animal Hospital. So we took Muffin there to be checked out. For the next 5 years, Dr. Nichols took care of Muffin. Fortunately, she was pretty healthy and the only major malady she suffered was bladder stones. Dr. Nichols checked his “rabbit book” and gave her appropriate antibiotics that made her better. After Muffin passed away in 1987, we continued to get rabbits and Dr. Nichols cared for them until 1994 when he decided his practice needed a vet who had “real” rabbit training. At that time, few vets were trained in rabbit medicine. Considering most people did not take their rabbit to the vet, there were a limited number of training opportunities available and not many vets were even motivated to attend them. There was also a high mortality rate associated with anesthesia in buns, so it was rare to have a rabbit undergo surgery. None of my

buns was actually spayed until 1996. Nowadays, the DC-Metro area is fortunate to have several experienced rabbit vets but there still aren't enough. Some of the emergency vet hospitals such as Woodbridge Emergency Animal Hospital **will not** treat rabbits. Alexandria Animal Hospital has a rabbit vet on call but they **would not tube** bunnies for bloat. It is always a good idea to call ahead and ask, and even more important to know what alternative rabbit health care is available in your area in the event your rabbit gets sick after office hours, a common occurrence. Keep a bunny first aid kit handy, and have a rabbit experienced vet check your bun before s/he gets sick. Also if you live outside the DC-Metro area, or if you travel a lot with your bun like my husband and I do, it may be more difficult to locate an experienced rabbit vet. Do some research ahead of time and ask around. Log onto [www.rabbit.org](http://www.rabbit.org) or [www.morfz.com](http://www.morfz.com) and check the national listing of rabbit vets. If you can't find a rabbit vet, perhaps a local vet will be willing to learn about rabbits like Dr. Nichols. I know I will always be grateful to him for caring enough to learn how to treat our first few bunnies, and for hiring an associate experienced with Exotic animals.

**Anesthesia** is a risk with any surgery, but it is especially so for rabbits. While anesthesia is safer than it use to be just 10 years ago, certain precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of anesthesia related deaths. Make sure your rabbit is acting normally—eating, drinking, and eliminating properly *before* any surgical procedure. If your bunny is older than 3 or 4 years of age, or has a preexisting health condition, have blood tests done *before* surgery to check liver and kidney function. Make sure your vet has experience with anesthesia in bunnies. Find out how many bunnies your vet sees on a monthly basis, how many times he has performed surgery on buns and the outcome. It is also very important that your vet has a quiet, secluded area away from dogs and cats to decrease any stress your rabbit may feel during his or her stay.

More buns are being **spayed/neutered** at a young age. This helps prevent reproductive cancers that can shorten a buns life. A female rabbit has an 85% risk of developing uterine or mammary cancer by age 5 years if she isn't spayed during puberty according to published literature. Males can also develop testicular cancer although the risk isn't as high as it is for females. Bunny Lu has found this risk of reproductive cancers to be true as we rescue more and more older buns. Our vets, Dr. Campbell and Dr. Behm have found cancers in several female rabbits during routine spay procedures. Unfortunately, some of the cancers have already spread, and there is little that can be done. My 10+ year old chinchilla bun Brandi, who was spayed 4 days after being rescued in 1997, developed mammary cancer in May 2001. Fortunately, the cancer was caught early and the tumor removed. Brandi was given Tamoxifen, a human anti-estrogen drug for 18 months after her surgery on the advice of Dr. Carolyn Harvey, vet for the House Rabbit Society in California. There is no doubt in my mind that early recognition, surgery and drug therapy saved Brandi's life. I'm proud to tell people she is a 4-year breast cancer survivor. Besides the cancer risk, a spay/neuter procedure provides the added benefit of being able to provide your bunny with a rabbit companion. Hormonal behaviors are reduced and there is no fear of over population. Studies have demonstrated that rabbits in a bonded relationship are happier, healthier and less likely to get into mischief than their single counterparts.

**Pasteurella** use to be a grim diagnosis for buns, but it isn't any longer. A recent on-line search discovered that up to 90% of all buns are infected with *Pasteurella multocida*. Since this bacterium only exhibits itself during periods of stress (physical or emotional) not all buns appear "sick," but they may still harbor the bacterium. Symptoms of *Pasteurella* include respiratory signs such as runny eyes/nose (snuffles), pneumonia, ear infections, and abscesses. Other organisms such as *Bordetella*, *Staph* and *E.cuniculi* can cause similar symptoms, but rabbit vets nowadays know to culture the drainage to verify the bacterium, and provide appropriate antibiotics. While *Pasteurella* cannot be cured, it can be controlled. The vets caring for our foster buns have even told us that rabbits with *Pasteurella* can be bonded with other healthy buns without fear of infection. We have found this to be true over the years and believe a companion rabbit actually helps reduce stress levels to the rabbit with *Pasteurella*.

\*\*Next issue: Health Care, Part Two



It's that time of year. **Bunny Lu's Open House and Fundraiser.**

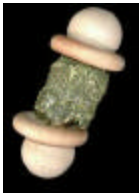
Help support Bunny Lu's efforts to help the bunnies

On **Sunday November 6, 12-5 PM**

At 9208 Greengate Court/ Manassas, VA 20110

Lots of neat bunny things for you and your bun including Busy Bunny toys, calendars, sweatshirts with our colorful logo, "We've Got Great Buns", books, hay, supplements, cards, etc.!

Special Guests: Diane Roadcap (Pet Psychic), Joann Scott DVT (Blue Ridge Vet Associates), artist Kristine Kasheta and more! Meet the foster buns and other people who love buns as much as you!! Light fare available. Don't miss it....



## Bunny Lu Adoptions, Inc

PO Box 1036

Manassas, VA 20108

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