



Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc.

Safe Haven Scoop

A very hectic summer! *By Karen Augustynowicz, President*

Special points of interest:

- Amber's Story
- Adoption Updates - Always A Favorite!
- News to share
- Fundraising Events

It is hard to believe that once again winter is approaching! Safe Haven has been very busy since our last newsletter. This past summer has been a dreadful one with regard to the number of strays needing rescue. Many, many more than we could possibly bring into our foster program. One of the hardest things about being in animal rescue is that for every *one* you can help there are *hundreds* that you cannot. When the "dump" and "stray found" phone calls and emails outnumber the interest in adoption calls at least 25 to 1 it can become very disheartening. I have to keep reminding myself about the man and the starfish story and have to believe that truly "it matters to this one".

You will see many Thank You's throughout this newsletter for without help our work could not continue. I am thankful to the volunteers who offer their support and grateful to each and every adopter who open their hearts and homes to the rabbits in need. Many of these rabbits have come a very long way since the day of their rescue. Please know that it is *your* support - whether it be fundraising, donations, memberships, fostering, sponsoring or time - that makes it possible for us to continue. The pages of this newsletter are full of heartwarming stories as people share their feelings about their bunny friends. I hope you will enjoy reading them as much as I enjoy receiving them!

Amber's Story

contributed by Linda Guarino

She's only 3.5 pounds, soft heather gray, very gentle with the face of an angel. Why then would someone dump her at a park thinking she could live happily ever after? Why would someone discard her as carelessly as they would a candy bar wrapper?

I received a call from Safe Haven and was asked if I would foster a rabbit that was found abandoned in a local community park. The people who found her were not "rabbit people" and were doing their best to find her a home while they cared for her. They named her Amber because she has a small splotch of amber colored fur on the nape of her neck. Amber was being housed outside, alone and exposed. The summer heat was intensifying and a heat wave warning went into effect. I opened my doors without hesitation and welcomed her into my home to be cared for as she should be.



At first, Amber was very timid and fearful. She appeared unsure of what was

happening and was cage aggressive. Her eating habits were terrible and she dug constantly in her litter making quite a mess. Soon enough though she began to trust me and knew I was on her side, to help her and care for her. I made an appointment with my vet to have her health checked and then to have her spayed. I set up a nice cage for her that she could call her own, bought her new toys and helped her develop better eating habits.

It's been 3 months now and Amber has adapted well and is a very happy bunny. Amber's personality and telltale signs indicate she might do well bonded. Amber does not like to be held or picked up and is still apprehensive towards being handled. She does enjoy being petted, brushed and kissed and loves to be out and in the company of someone. I feel she would do best in an adult home in that she has come to trust again in an adult environment. If your home sounds ideal for Amber, please contact Safe Haven to adopt this beautiful and wonderful little girl!

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Out and About.....

The Boys From Reno.....

You may have heard about ‘The Great Bunny Rescue’ which was undertaken by Best Friends Animal Shelter located in Reno, Nevada. If not, the story goes that Best Friends received a call from someone who had 800 rabbits in their backyard. Yes, 800! Or so.... And they were multiplying everyday. By the time Best Friends took them all in there were over 1200. With babies being born everyday, the final count was around 1600 before all the spays and neuters were completed. Then, the only task was to find homes for them all. And, that they did!

Safe Haven played a small role by doing home visit checks in NJ and serving as transporter out of Newark airport. A very big special THANK YOU goes out to volunteers Barbara and Rick Bruyer for turning their station wagon into the “BUN MOBILE” and getting the “Boys from Reno” to their NJ home.

On August 26th, Barbara, Rick and I headed to Newark airport to meet 8 rabbits being flown in. Barbara, having tracked their flight which originated in Sacramento, CA and stopped in Houston, TX noted that the plane was just over Indiana as we headed to the airport - not that we were anxious or anything! We also were to meet Jill (from Massachusetts) who would be taking two of the rabbits home with her. The other six, all neutered males, would go with us to Lambertville. Once reaching the airport, we patiently waited for their arrival and soon we had our 8 charges.

After finding a quiet spot in the airport and separating them to determine who was who, we settled our surprisingly calm bunnies into the car for the ride home.



Jill identifies her two

Having been on the plane since midnight, the Boys from Reno were very happy bunnies when they reached their final NJ destination at 3 pm - safe and sound!

The boys in the Bun Mobile!

Welcome to NJ!



Are we there yet?

Fund Raising Efforts.....

Safe Haven hosted Animal Reiki Benefits in June and October. Many, many thanks go out to all who made both days very successful--with special appreciation to Reiki masters Jacqueline Crown and Marie Jackson who generously donated their services and to Alice Shoppe for allowing us to use her store (Country Pet Specialties) in Lebanon.



Jacqui (on left) with a very happy participant.

The days brought wonderful learning experiences for all as we watched the animals relax into their treatment. While some had experienced Reiki before, for most it was their first Reiki treatment.

Reiki is a holistic healing system and is part of the emerging field of energetic healing, rediscovered from the wisdom and knowledge of ancient cultures for use in modern times. Reiki is *not* a substitute for professional veterinary care. It is a non-medical therapy that complements and supports other healing therapies.



Marie (left) and Jacqui soothe two sisters.

Judging by the reactions we saw those two days...the animals quickly recognized the benefits and loved it!



News to share!



Safe Haven welcomes:

- * **Linda Guarino** of Bordentown, NJ as a foster parent to Amber. Linda has been a long time supporter and contributor to Safe Haven and when the need arose to ask yet another favor, Linda stepped up to the request. **Linda** shares Amber’s story in this issue.
- * **Wendy Milligan** of Bridgewater, NJ who accepted an officer position and joins our Board of Directors.
- * **Louise Santacroce** of Springfield, NJ who also joined our Board of Directors.

A very sincere
Welcome to All!



Adoption Updates (Stories contributed by new parents)

Pickles

Adopted by Jacqueline Crown— 3/18/2006

When Jim and I decided to make a bunny part of our family, I spent about three months waiting for the right bun to come along. The moment I saw Pickles on the Safe Haven website, I knew he was our boy. I have always had animal companions with all kinds of issues show up on my doorstep. It seems I have never had a “normal” animal living with me, and when I read Pickles’ story, it broke my heart.



Apparently Pickles had endured some pretty rough treatment. Karen rescued him from a kill shelter when they decided that he was aggressive and scheduled him to be put down. He spent 2 years at Safe Haven with Karen spending lots of time working with him.

When I first contacted Karen about Pickles she was hesitant when I told her he would be our first bunny. Pickles still had some strange behaviors she wasn’t sure we would be able to handle. I explained to Karen that I am in the healing arts field, and that I do a form of energy work called Reiki. Reiki is a system of healing that is very beneficial to animals. I have used Reiki on all of my animal companions, and have seen wonderful changes. Karen decided to give us a chance, and we are so grateful. Pickles has now been with us for six months and he is an absolute delight.



It took Pickles some time to adjust to us and his new environment. I spent many hours just sitting on the floor with him. He did not like to be touched at first, so I would just sit near him. I would do Reiki at a distance with him, and then occasionally he would let me

touch him. He slowly began to warm up to us.

The thing he hated most was being put in his cage at night. First of all, he hated being picked up, and we were not experienced bunny handlers yet, especially with a crazy bunny that did not want to be touched. We would finally get him in his cage, clean and bandage our wounds and then go to bed. Then at 5:00 am Pickles would start biting and boxing his cage demanding to get out. We spent about two weeks hardly sleeping and having our arms covered with bites and bruises

before we decided it might be best for Pickles to not be caged.

Pickles is very good using his litter box and not chewing any furniture, so we gated off a section of the house and just let him “be free”. This worked great until he learned how to break through his gate into the living room. Well, once he discovered the living room there was no going back. So, I bunny proofed the living room and let him have at it. He was thrilled with his new found freedom, until he discovered our guest bedroom. Most of our house has hardwood floors, except for the bedrooms, so when he got his little toes into the wall to wall carpet in the guest bedroom he was elated. So, I bunny proofed the guest bedroom and now we have a crazy Pickles, running full speed through the room with binkies galore. The more space he had to run, the happier he got.

Now, six months later, our entire house is bunny proofed. Pickles is never caged and has full run of everything. He is the happiest bunny. Every morning he flies around our bedroom, spins out across the hardwood floor, then hits the carpet in the guest bedroom. It is hysterical to wake up to. We open our eyes to see Pickles binkyng past the bed! He has completely taken over here.

We now even occasionally sit on the balcony together so he can feel like he is a wild bunny. He loves listening to the birds and sniffing the fresh air in the morning. He is so much calmer now. He loves interacting with most things we



do. He now demands his Reiki session every evening, and even lets me massage him, in addition to wanting to be petted all the time. His newest thing is he likes to sit on a purple velvet pillow to be fed his papaya treats and pellets before bed.

Pickles is the sweetest boy, and we are so grateful that Karen saved him, and allowed us to adopt him. We don’t know what we would do without him. He has filled our hearts with more love than he’ll ever know. We are so happy to have him as part of our family.



Adoption Updates *(Continued)*

Dyani and Logan

Adopted by Doreen & Jeff Jacobus—3/17 and 8/8/2006, respectively

BUNNIES, BUNNIES, BUNNIES



What can I say I love them and my husband loves them too!!! We never knew just how special and how much fun they are until now. We always thought they just sat around in an outside cage and you fed them twice a day because that's what we've see with some other bunny owners. (Don't worry Karen I'm

spreading the word on proper diet and care!) I wish I could rescue them all. Especially the over weight ones you see in the pet stores with the large bowl of pellets.

I remember when we were on our way for our first meeting with Karen and how nervous I was. We picked up a bunny book on the way and I read it to my husband through breakfast and as we were driving all the way to Karen's house.

We met Karen and saw all of those cute little and not so little bunnies with the wiggly noses and there was Dyani who just bowed down to us and wanted us to pet her. We knew she was just the perfect bunny for us. Karen gave us the crash course on bunny care and pointed out sections in our pet store bunny book that were incorrect. I took lots and lots of notes. This little 3.5 lb bunny was so fragile compared to our 75lb dog that had passed. My husband and I ran all over and worked really hard and fast to make our house ready for the arrival of Ms. Dyani Bunny.

March 17, 2006 couldn't arrive fast enough for me;) Karen spent time going over things again and making sure we had everything right and then she was gone and we were left with this little 3.5 lb bunny ball. Just one little innocent bunny. I remember watching Dyani use the litter pan for the first time. I thought she would never be done. I wanted to give her something to read. She was just the sweetest bunny until it came time for bed and then she turned into a totally different bunny—almost unrecognizable! We called her Tasmanian Bunny because the first couple nights we thought she was going to tear her nighttime cage apart that my husband so loving built. It's amazing how much noise one bunny can make when she's not quite happy. It still makes me laugh to think about it.

The first night I left her alone with my husband he was out in the kitchen heating up some dinner and Dyani was very innocently hanging out in the chair. Until he came back into the living room

and discovered our remote control buttons had all been chewed off! Sometimes we girls would hang out at night after my husband went to sleep, Dyani on her stool and me petting her. She's like the Queen of Sheba when she is up on her stool. Oh yes, we worship the beautiful Dyani. She's a very smart bunny and loves to throw and chew her pine sticks. She knows when she's doing something wrong too because I'll go up to her and tell her no and she rockets away doing binkies all the while. I thought dogs only teased you like that. Bunnies are so much fun!

We decided we might like to get Dyani a friend and mentioned this to Karen. Dyani had three male prospects to choose from. Karen thought Dyani would do best with a handsome redhead named Logan. So, the arrangements were made and

we started a new adventure of bunny bonding. I think that we got lucky because they never fought and after two weeks with much nerve racking supervi-



sion I left them together totally and their love has grown ever since. It was really a very amazing process to watch. I read that their love grows over time and I believe this to be true as I'm experiencing it still today.

Logan is totally different from Dyani. He's just a true guy. Very sleepy and a little messy where Dyani is Miss pretty prim and proper. It's so funny to feed them, Logan smacking his food very loudly and Dyani taking small bites very quietly. Yes, they both like a little fresh mint after dinner for fresh breath. You can hear Logan coming from a mile away, he's like a locomotive where Dyani is so quiet we have to be careful we don't step on her. Logan loves to jump up on you when you're lying on the sofa and he just kisses you to death. I think sometimes they have the true male female relationship because Dyani is always looking for attention and Logan just seems oblivious to it all, Mr. happy go lucky. What did you say Dyani?... but then, he finally does notice his beautiful bunny partner and they snuggle down close to each other.

Logan loves to be on our bed scratching and jumping through the pillows and Dyani gets a very bewildered look on her face when he's doing this. He does get very determined like he's on some kind of mission. I pet Dyani and whisper in her ear "he's a male Dyani and who knows why he's doing what he's doing"! Like a good patient bunny she waits for him to finish and then they're off on some

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Adoption Updates *(continued)*

(Continued from page 4)
other kind of adventure!

The first time we heard a thump was pretty amazing, it took us a bit to figure out what it was. Logan follows me around like a little dog not wanting to miss a thing. They love to go downstairs where we have wall to wall carpeting and boy is that just exciting and fun for them and for us to watch. We laugh all night long. They are both excellent bunnies and pretty much have free range of most of the house that we feel is safe for them when we're not around. We both noticed that Logan seems to have more sparkle in his eyes then when he first arrived. We're pretty much trained with our papaya pellets and they just run for bed on most nights now. I think we have two very happy bunnies and one very happy family. There's just so much to tell but I guess I babbled on long enough already!



Ryan

Adopted by Kell and Lorrie Cunniff – 3/05/2006

The first question Karen asked us was 'Why Ryan?'. I replied "because he looks like he has a lot of personality—and looks like he wants to get into trouble!" that is what intrigued us. Karen explained about Ryan's jumping abilities and how he has a reputation for being an escape artist. But, how could anyone resist that adorable face?

Ryan loves to climb up high—on the back of the sofa, for example. When his best buddy, Owen (our German Shepherd) starts to whine, we now take it as a warning that Ryan is up to mischief and half the things on the desk are about to come crashing to the floor!



Ryan loves to zip around very, very fast and makes us all laugh with delight. He doesn't care too much about being cuddled and

will let you know when he doesn't want to be bothered. We are happy to be his loving forever home and family. We love him and feel completely blessed by his love.

Tina

Adopted by Kathi Keena – 5/22/2006

Hello fellow rabbit lovers. While going through a very difficult divorce several years ago, I came across a beautiful and unusually small black dwarf rabbit who stole my heart and left me no choice but to bring "her" home. I named her Sophie, but soon discovered that "she" was a "he". Since he was already responding to his name, I decided that Sophie he would always be.

I survived that difficult period of my life thanks mostly to Sophie who is still with me. My wonderful new husband fell in love with him at first sight and agreed that "our" sons would benefit from the love that additional rabbits would provide. So, we purchased Michael and Jackson. Soon thereafter, a group of my students surprised me with the best gift I've ever received: Chloe, a rabbit who could no longer be cared for by her owners. A few weeks later, my husband saw an article about Alexander, a rabbit who had been set loose by his owners to make room for a "new" Easter bunny, and we decided that Alexander should join our family. Soon thereafter, Michael passed away and left Jackson in a deep depression...

After some time had passed, we realized that Jackson needed company, so I searched the internet and came across Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue. Within seconds I saw a photo of Tina, who looks like a larger version of Sophie, and my interest was peaked. After contacting Karen and finding out more about her organization, I knew that I would never again purchase another bunny from a store, that Safe Haven would be my only rabbit adoption agency, and that I would either adopt Tina or whichever rabbit Jackson "chose".

When I brought Jackson to meet Tina, it was love at first sight. Both Karen and I sensed that they were a good match, because Tina, who had re-



jected prior mates, seemed very comfortable with Jackson and even groomed him and allowed him to groom

Adoption Updates (Continued from page 3)

her during their first “date”! Soon thereafter, Tina moved in with us, was renamed “Tina Keena”, and proceeded to turn the lonely, sad Jackson into the happy Jackson we knew when Michael was alive.



Thank you, Karen, from Tina Keena, Jackson and the human Keenas who love her and thank her for making Jackson happy again!!

Update on Fern & Bobby O'Brien..... Remember the not so happy bonding story in the last newsletter?..... Well, now we hear that love has blossomed! Congratulations to all!



Most recent adoptions.....



Adopted by
Bev Kistler & Family -
7/1/2006



Adopted by
Jeff & Doreen Jacobus -
8/8/2006



Adopted by
Kevin Dotts & Family -
8/14/2006



Adopted by
Elaine Campbell & Family
- 9/2/2006



Adopted by
Mike & Kathy Stefanik-
Gregory - 9/3/2006



Adopted by
Al Cohen & Family -
10/8/2006



Adopted by
Alison Tamborlane &
Michel Scheffers -
10/8/2006

Look at this!!!! You may recognize this rabbit as the one who served as model for our website buttons. Well, we just learned that now McHunny’s talents are flowing over to the musical field! He is pictured here intently practicing his lesson; lovingly supervised by Ms. Karen Moore!



McHunny was adopted by the Moore Family on
July 17, 2004.

And.... The Moore Family recently held a benefit bake sale for the rabbits and I just had to share pieces of this wonderful note:

I had so much fun having a bake sale to support Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue. My mom and I made cupcakes, brownies, banana nut bread, and a pumpkin roll for the drinks we made lemonaid. and my dad even made coffee!

My brother Ryan sold some of his baseball cards and donated some money too. We gave out copies of your brochures to everyone.

From: *Karen Moore*
P.S. McHunny says hi.

Way to go! Thank you so much for the love and time you all gave to this. and yes, Karen, it will help the bunnies very, very much!!

Bulletin Board.....

HELP WANTED

Safe Haven needs volunteers to be able to continue operating. There are many ways you can help. We understand that fostering is a huge responsibility and not for everyone, but please consider helping in other ways!

- * Organize a fundraiser
- * Write an article for the newsletter
- * Sponsor a rabbit in foster care
- * Distribute educational material in your area
- * Educate anyone who will listen!

Please email adopt@saf havenrr.org and let us know how you can help.

Personalized Holiday Ornaments!

Be sure your bunny is the first on your block to have his very own holiday ornament! Wooden, handcrafted, bunny shaped ornaments with YOUR bunny's picture!

Simply email your favorite picture to us and we will custom create one for you!

Decorative (not a bunny toy) ornament is 4" x 3" and can include your bunny's name and greeting of your choice. Your \$7 donation will go toward our spay / neuter fund.

Email: fundraising@saf havenrr.org for details



Ms. La-



Bunny Pette

Do you have questions about caring for your bunny? Or does your bunny need help getting you to understand him? If so, drop Ms. Bunny LaPette an email or a note to the PO Box. Email her at:

BunnyLP@SafeHavenRR.org



Is your car sporting one of these?

If not, hurry out to our website and order yours today! Only \$5, plus \$1 postage. Show everyone how you feel with these adorable magnets!

Join Us Today!

\$15 Annual Membership includes official membership card, newsletters, and early notification of special events!

Foster Homes Needed!

There are many bunnies needing care! If you can take in one or two, please let us know.

Love-A-Bun? Please Sponsor One!

We cannot do it without you! With vet bills especially high as of late, our bunnies really need your support. You can choose a specific bunny to sponsor or let us choose the most needy. Either way, you will receive a key fob, complete with a picture of your sponsored bun!



Please Print Clearly!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

___ 1 year membership - \$15

___ Sponsorship - \$15 for _____ (Bunny's Name)

___ Donation - Any amount greatly appreciated!!



Please make check payable to: Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc. and mail to PO 5057, Clinton, NJ 08809

THANK YOU!

Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc. is a federally recognized, tax-deductible 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc.
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Clinton, NJ 08809

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Phone: 908-238-0814
Email: adopt@SafeHavenRR.org
Website: www.SafeHavenRR.org

Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc. was founded in the spring of 2003 by a dedicated group of volunteers. Incorporated in the state of New Jersey, SHRR is a federally recognized, tax-exempt 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The main purposes of Safe Haven are:

- To rescue abandoned, stray or abused rabbits, and find permanent indoor homes for them with caring owners.
- To educate the public about the unique qualities of rabbits, and to educate rabbit owners and humane societies as to the care and maintenance of rabbits.
- To promote and raise awareness of rabbits as indoor companion pets.

Visit our website for more information regarding bunnies available for adoption or to join our team!

Safe Haven adopts to INDOOR homes only!