



Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc.

# Safe Haven Scoop

*By Karen Augustynowicz, Director*

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## Foster Homes Needed!

Do you have room for just one more bunny? Foster home care is always needed as our "Adoptables" wait for their forever home.

Please contact us via our [Volunteer form](#) if you are interested in fostering. All needed supplies are provided.



And [Twitter](#)



## 2018—Already???

Hard to believe! Seems like we just celebrated Safe Haven's 10 year anniversary a year or two ago; but no, that will be 5 years ago in May. So, here we are moving into our 15th year! Maybe that is why my bones are talking to me and it takes longer to get things done :)) Mother time sure is trying to get my attention.

As always, I am truly always grateful to everyone for their continued support of Safe Haven's rescue efforts. Whether that be through volunteering, fostering, adopting, participating in our events, sponsoring, boarding or through your donations—every bit helps and it is only with your support that Safe Haven can continue to help bunnies and educate their owners.

The in-take requests in 2017 hit an all time high. Well over 400—more than one a day and sadly many people with multiples or babies they want to re-home, so the need to continue trying to get the proper education and commitment out there continues as never before.

We look forward to our challenges of finding new ways to educate and encourage our supporters and alumni to help us spread the word about the joys of having a companion rabbit and the knowledge of caring for them. Rabbits truly are deserving of our best efforts and reward our efforts many times over.

**Wishing you a  
Blessed Holiday Season!**

*With sincere thanks,  
Karen Augustynowicz, Director*

## *Our Latest Adoptions!*



Trudy—  
Adopted 10/14



Gerry & Deana  
Adopted 11/15



Holly—  
Adopted 11/24

## Recent Event Photos. . .

*Our 5th Annual Bun-nanza! Held Sept. 24, 2017*



This year's Bun-nanza offered many fun ways to learn more about our bunnies and it seems both our human and lagomorph visitors really enjoyed the opportunities! We had several new vendors this year bringing lots of shopping opportunities for bunny food and toys! And the bunnies.....well, they sure had fun playing in the maze and new obstacle course! We were not quite sure how they all would react, but they all seemed to love checking it out and were especially delighted by the fresh willow from California they found along the way! You will find **many more photos on our [website](#)**.

**Thank you to all  
our Volunteers! —>**

For it is their dedication,  
time and talents that al-  
lows Safe Haven to help  
the bunnies in need.

*"Alone we can do so  
little; together we can do  
so much." Hellen Keller*

Bernadette Danner (Educational Tables)  
Nina Danner (Sales table)  
Kate Coakley (Sales Table)  
Stacey Bavos (Publicity & Bunny Course)  
Astrid Hesse (Grooming)  
Sherry Totaro (Busy Bunny Sales)  
Maria Sgourdas (Busy Bunny Sales)  
Peggy Macaoay (Willow Sales)  
Diane Romano (Guess How Many Game / Refreshments)  
Gail Peterson (Planning & Maze)  
Bill Mack (Video Corner & Maze attendant)  
Catherine Eubanks (Check in – Registration)  
Madeleine Eichorn (Checkin—Registration)  
Michelle Manderski (Grooming)



## Ask the Vet . . .

**Question: My bunny is in good health. Why is blood work important for a wellness exam? What are you looking for?**

**Dr. Sharon Marx, DVM at VCA Animal Healing Center in Yardley, PA replied:**

### WHY DO I HAVE TO RUN BLOOD WORK ON MY HEALTHY BUNNY?

Rabbits are a prey species. This means they are hunted by large birds and bigger mammals. Therefore in the wild it is to their benefit to mask when they are sick so that predators will not see them as easy prey. Since rabbits hide their symptoms until they are very sick, abnormalities in bloodwork can detect health problems earlier. Changes in bloodwork occur before rabbits show symptoms of not feeling well. The blood values can indicate illness such as infection, anemia, poor immune function, liver disease, kidney insufficiency, and low or high blood sugar.

If abnormalities are detected, many times simple supplements, medications or treatments can be administered and often can extend the length and quality of your pet's life. Your veterinarian can discuss treatment choices to accommodate your lifestyle and budget based on the blood work results.

In addition, running regular blood work can establish baseline values for your particular pet., In this way, trends can pick up abnormalities that may still be in the "normal" range. These healthy baseline values can also be used for comparison when your pet is sick.

Blood can be drawn quickly on most rabbits without sedation. A rabbit friendly vet knows special ways to restrain so it will not be stressful to your pet. There are specialized small tubes and needles so that only a small amount of blood needs to be taken.

Urine should be checked at the same time as blood since it can show infection, low concentration and the presence of blood which can indicate bladder stones.

So with so little to lose and so much to gain, hop on over to your bunny friendly vet and let them help your bunny be healthier, happier and live a longer life.

VCA Animal Healing Center is located at 1724 Yardley-Langhorne Road in Yardley, PA. Phone: 215-493-0621.

[www.vcahospitals.com/animal-healing-center](http://www.vcahospitals.com/animal-healing-center)



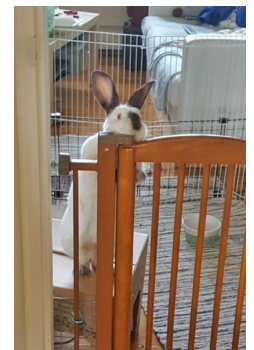
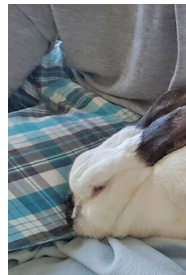
### Meet Louise!



Our Latest Rescue! Louise is an attention seeking luv-bug of a bunny. A little bit on the larger size (only 7.2 lbs.), Louise was left in an outside hutch and only fed "occasionally" until concerned neighbors started feeding her and called us.

Louise quickly took to her new pampered life of plentiful food and TLC. Still a youngster, we gave her a birth date of October 10, 2016.

If you want a bunny who will follow you around and beg for attention— Louise is the one! Fill out an [application](#) and come meet her. You will fall in love for sure!







## *Educational Corner*

*by Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator*



### *Riding with Rabbits*

I never want to take for granted that everyone knows how to travel safely in a car with their rabbit, so I thought it would be a good topic to write about.

Most rabbits do not like car rides and stress easily. The only time most of us have our rabbit in the car is when they have a Veterinarian appointment or when they need to be boarded. Rabbits, for the most part, stay at home and don't require to be transported often and because of that we may not pay as much attention to their traveling safety as we should.

When transporting your rabbit the ideal containment is a hard non-collapsible carrier, the kind used for small dogs and cats. It is made of hard plastic and is lightweight yet very sturdy and difficult to chew thru. Carriers that have both a top and front opening are best for rabbits. Use the front door to put the rabbit in; and the top door to get the rabbit out. If the carrier only has a front opening it is difficult to get the rabbit out because the rabbit will crouch itself up against the back wall. Having a top opening makes it much easier to take the rabbit out of the carrier—especially at the vet's.

The carrier should be big enough for your rabbit to be able to turn around, sit up, or lie down comfortably but not so big that she will not have stability when your car makes turns. Rabbits need to feel safe and secure so a carrier that is not open on all sides is best but with adequate ventilation all around. Placing a thick towel in the bottom is ideal so your rabbit does not slide around. Most rabbits while in a carrier will "hold it" and not go to the bathroom, but there are those exceptions and bringing an extra towel or two to change out should it get soiled is smart so your rabbit does not sit in waste. Some people will put a layer of litter on top of the towel for added absorbency. It's always a good idea too to place a handful of hay in their carrier so if they should choose to eat it is available. Bring fresh water and when you stop offer a fresh bowl.

It is important to keep your rabbit in an ideal comfortable temperature when traveling. Rabbits can tolerate cold more than they can heat and thus can easily suffer from heat stroke in a hot car. Indoor car temperatures can soar in a matter of minutes even when it's cool outside. When temperatures are blustery and cold covering the carrier in a thick towel or blanket when coming and going from building to car is good so your rabbit does not get that shock of cold air. A towel or blanket can be cut down to size the carrier with a slit cut along the top for the carrier's handle. The towel or blanket can then be draped over the carrier nicely. Never ever leave your rabbit unattended in a car and always fasten the carrier with a seat belt or place in the foot well ensuring the carrier does not slide around by reinforcing with towels or blankets.



## *Educational Corner*

*by Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator*  
*(Continued)*

Always check your carrier for loose or broken parts before using and keep it clean like you would anything else your rabbit uses.

It's pretty simple and basic information but information worth reviewing.

Example of a proper carrier:



**ADOPT A SENIOR PET !**

When a person or family considers adopting a pet the animals that have reached their senior years are often overlooked, this too is true for bunnies.

Seniors may not be as spunky, may have a health concern or require special care, and may not be your companion for as long but their need to be loved and cared for is no different than that of a youngster. Their souls are wise, they long for companionship, they love, and they too want to belong and be part of a family. So please, please, please open your heart and give a senior bunny that chance when adopting.

*Let's make every month*  
*ADOPT A SENIOR BUNNY*  
*month!*

## ***Did You Know?***

*By Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator*

***Did You Know*** rabbit's are notorious diggers ... some say even more so than a dog. It's a natural behavior, innate to their biological makeup, and actually what their wild relatives need to do in order to survive.

Most wild rabbits live in some sort of burrow (a hole or tunnel dug into the ground). It provides a safe space for sleeping, escaping predators, a retreat from harsh weather, and raising young. With rabbits, individual burrows are often connected with other burrows thus establishing warrens (a network of interconnecting burrows). The most obvious way to make a burrow is by digging.

Rabbit's front paws are sturdy and do a fine job digging out dirt. They also do a fine job tearing up your wall-to-wall carpet too which is why providing your rabbit with an appropriate digging space all her own can help her satisfy this natural urge as well as keep her mind stimulated and her body exercised. Building a "Diggy-Box" for your rabbit is not hard. All it takes is a little imagination and a few supplies.

Start with a large clean cardboard box (avoid plastic bins because they can be slippery making jumping out difficult). It should be low enough for your rabbit to be able to hop into but high enough so the digging material does not go flying out all over the place too much when your rabbit begins digging. A popular digging material for indoor use is shredded paper. Paper can be shredded thru a shredder or torn into strips. Packing paper is ideal because it is clean and free of ink and/or staples. If your rabbit is not using a light-weight paper based litter (ex: CareFresh) it too is ideal to use however if she is using this type of litter it is not recommended to use for digging as you don't want her to confuse her "Diggy-Box" with a litter box.

Some rabbits' curiosity will immediately draw them to their "new" toy, for others it may take time, some might not even have an interest, and others may be intrigued if a treat can be found at the bottom. No matter, a rabbit's activities should always be monitored to ensure their safety. If you see your rabbit is eating her "Diggy-Box" material or using it for a litter box changes need to be made accordingly.



Examples (found via an internet search) of a "Diggy Box" made from a cardboard box and shredded paper.

*Happy Holidays*