



Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue, Inc.

Safe Haven Scoop

By Karen Augustynowicz, President

Welcome Spring!

Inside this issue:

Finally Spring!!	1
The Forever Home	2
Spring Events	3
Did You Know?	3
Educational Corner	4-5
Adoption Updates	6-7



Have you taken a look at our “[Adoptables](#)” page lately? We have lots of great bunnies available for adoption right now. I couldn't even fit everybun on the picture! The calls for in-take are extremely high this year as well. Not because of Easter either. We get bombarded everyday with calls and emails no matter the time of year. If you have room for just one more, please think about fostering or adopting.

If you cannot adopt or foster, you can still help the bunnies through your [donations](#) and support of our fundraising events! And, since it is spring, that means it is time for our

“[Bike for the Buns!](#)” event. Registrations are underway, so please [sign-up](#) today. Special tributes can be yours as a [Bunny Buddy](#), or [Sponsor](#) as well. The bunnies would love to see your name!

Special thanks once again go to Linda Torlay, our Florida volunteer, who keeps this newsletter filled with great articles. Have fun with her “Rabbit Trivia” quiz—I bet some of it will have you stumped! I also want to thank everyone else who contributed. For it is our adopters, volunteers and friends who write with love about their bunnies, share their experiences and what they have learned who make this newsletter a fun, entertaining read.

As always, let us know your thoughts or questions you might have about caring for your rabbits. We are happy to share our experiences to help you and your rabbits live the best life possible.

Have a Happy Spring! *Karen A.*



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The Forever Home: Is it for you or for them?

by Gail Peterson, Safe Haven Volunteer



We adopted Brianna the first week of July 2015. We had an attachment to her that was stronger than we realized. She was the baby of our Honey, my first rabbit. She was born a year before we got Honey and had lived in comfort at the rescue for five years.

When Honey died suddenly in April 2015, we didn't even think twice. We knew we had to bring Brianna home to us, for Honey, for us, for Brianna to have a forever home. We knew that Honey's mate needed a bond, and we just assumed Brianna would fit the bill.

Not so much. It has been six months and although they tolerate each other, and we continue to attempt to bond them, it isn't working. Bear was very lonely and sad when Honey died. She had been his caretaker, his best friend, his pillow, his guardian. She watched over him and groomed him. She loved him so much that any other bun would have a high bar. He was her man. Bear was lost without her.

Enter Brianna. We call her Bri (Bree). She had been in the rescue for five years, no interaction with other buns up close, and being her own girl. Giving to another bun is foreign to her. She is sweet. Oh so very sweet and kind. She loves her pets on the top of her head. But don't touch her anywhere else. She has gotten used to being picked up every day for playtime downstairs. She has learned to dig her head into her mommy's sweater and snuggle on the way downstairs. She will have her nails cut and a brush without a struggle. She LOVES to play. Knock down toilet rolls, push blankets, jump over feet...she is a fun girl. All this came with time, patience, lots of attention and love.



We are lucky as our rabbits are our kids. We can give them undivided attention and play all they want. But the fact that Bri and Bear aren't bonding is a very big disappointment. It may happen. But at this point, we have our doubts.



But Bri has her forever home. No matter if she bonds with Bear or not. Yes, it would be easier to clean one pen, to have them play together, to let them live outside their pens in a room to be exercised. It would be great if they could clean each other's ears and snuggle when the wind blows. But it may not be in the cards.

No matter to us. Bri has her forever home and it is about her; about her being healthy and happy. It's not about my convenience or Bear's needs. She is a lovely, sweet bun and deserves a life of her own. Full of exercise, pets and toilet rolls.

Spring Events!

Our 7th Annual "Bike For The Buns!"

Saturday, June 18, 2016

The 'Bike for the Buns' event is a noncompetitive, fundraising bicycle ride along the scenic towpaths within Bull's Island State Park, Stockton, NJ

We are looking forward to seeing you again and hope you will bring more friends and family to join in!

You'll not want to miss the picnic either!

Even those who do not ride bikes can register as non-riders to come and enjoy the day.



Visit our [Bike For The Buns! Website](#)

and [Register today](#)

Will you help us promote our event? This [pdf flyer](#) is perfect to post up at work, gyms, grocery stores, and wherever postings are allowed. Thanks for helping us spread the word!

-Or-

We set up a separate super-easy [fundraising page](#) for you to Share on FaceBook and Twitter and Email to your friends, co-worker, family, and whoever else you can think of!

The bunnies and volunteers all appreciate your help and support!

Did You Know?

By Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator

RABBIT RABBIT

DID YOU KNOW if the first words you speak out loud when you wake, on the first of each new month, are "RABBIT RABBIT " that you'll have good luck that day and for the rest of month?

This centuries old tradition/superstition is most common in Britain. It's exact origin is not known, when it started, or even why, but people have been saying it for a very long time.

There are as many variations of "RABBIT RABBIT" as there are rabbits. Some say it needs to be spoken three times, some say you have to hop on one foot while saying it, some say it's extra lucky on a birthday month, there are some that say WHITE RABBIT, and on and on its spoken.

However you say it, the concluding idea is for it to be said for Good Luck. But does this mean you'll have bad luck if you forget ... No worries! Just say "TIBBAR TIBBAR" (rabbit spelled backwards) or BLACK RABBIT (the opposite of white).

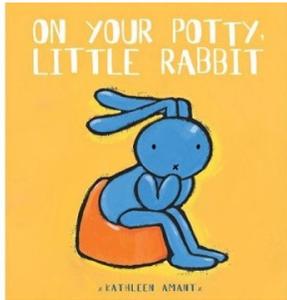




Educational Corner

by Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator

LITTER BOX TRAINING



I almost find it comical when I talk to "non-rabbit" owning people about my bunny noting she lives indoors with us and is trained to do her business in a litter box. I'm often asked "how is that possible? I didn't think rabbits could be trained to use a litter box".

Contrary to the belief that rabbits are not trainable, they are, and training your rabbit to use a litter box is not that difficult. Given the right set-up and a little positive encouragement, rabbits will almost instinctively use one.

In our last newsletter we talked about *Litters* and types of *Litter Boxes* ([previous article](#)). Now that you have what you need, we'll talk about how to train your rabbit to use a litter box. As previously noted, the bigger the litter box the better. Nobunny likes cramped quarters and the more room you provide the more inviting the area will be.

Start by filling the litter box with enough litter to cover the bottom of the box (I like to lay the litter about 1 inch deep). Next scatter some of your rabbit's droppings in the litter box. A piece of paper towel soaked in her urine can also be placed in the box with some litter over it. The idea is for her to associate the box with her scent. Add a good handful of hay and place in your rabbit's enclosure. Rabbits like to munch on hay while in their litter box which is another reason for using a box with ample room. You want to allow enough room for her to eliminate in one area of the box while being able to keep enough hay free from being soiled. Ideally when initiating litter box training the penned enclosure should be big enough for your rabbit to move comfortably around but not so big that she has to seek out her box. Rabbits tend to prefer an area in a corner. It's not uncommon to discover that the corner you choose to place her litter box in may not be the corner of her choosing. If this is the case, simply move the litter box to the corner of your rabbit's choice or use two or more litter boxes until she decides which one she favors. Once you are confident that your rabbit is using her litter box habitually you can expand her penned area. During supervised playtimes out of her pen remember to leave the pen open so if "duty" calls she can get to her litter box and again increase the area of play after you are confident she knows to retreat to her litter box when she needs it. If her designated playtime area is away from her pen then provide another litter box in the playtime area.

Be patient. Some grasp the idea more easily than others and others simply need time, help, and understanding. NEVER EVER punish your rabbit if she fails or if her "good" litter box habits suddenly change. Punishing, yelling, or hitting a rabbit only instills fear and adds no value to the process but positive reinforcement and rewards will help her make the connection that her litter box is the proper place to relieve herself.

If all is good and suddenly your rabbit's litter box habits do change there could be a reason other than failed training. Listed are some reasons why and further investigation is needed.

- * rabbit reaches puberty and hormones kick in
- * a medical condition manifests such as a urinary tract infection or bladder sludge
- * physical needs arise such as an injury or arthritis making it difficult to get in the litter box
- * changes in the household that are upsetting routine
- * another rabbit/animal in your rabbit's "territory" making your rabbit "mark" hers
- * dominance/hierarchy establishment in multi rabbit households
- * litter box not being kept clean



Educational Corner

by Linda Torlay, Safe Haven Educator

LITTER BOX TRAINING (continued)

If a urine accident does occur outside the litter box it is best to clean up the liquid with a solution specifically made to neutralize the odor so the scent is removed as best it can be and does not encourage using that spot again. Most pet stores sell products designed for this. Please know that most rabbits are not 100% perfect 100% of the time. There will be times when a couple solid droppings will be outside the litter box or urine spills over the edge and just like any other bathroom clean up is just what comes next.

If you have any questions or unusual situations please ask us here at Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue for some guidance or helpful input.

RABBIT TRIVIA: HOW WELL CAN YOU ANSWER THESE 10 QUESTIONS?

1. What is a baby rabbit called?
a. pup b. kit c. bunny d. kid
2. How many teeth does an adult rabbit have?
a. 19 b. 25 c. 28 d. 32
3. What is a group of rabbits called?
a. a herd b. a flock c. a gathering d. a group
4. What is considered a normal internal temperature for a rabbit?
a. 96.3 - 98.8 b. 98.9 - 100.4 c. 100.5 - 103.5 d. 103.6 - 105.2
5. Where are a rabbit's scent glands located?
a. pads of feet b. chin c. around tail/anus d. chin and around tail/anus
6. A rabbit can hear noises up to?
a. 520 feet away b. 5,200 feet away c. 1,200 feet away d. 10,200 feet away
7. Domestic baby rabbits are born with?
a. with fur and their eyes closed b. without fur and their eyes open c. with fur and their eyes open
d. without fur and their eyes closed
8. A rabbit's tail is called a?
a. scut b. tail c. pom-pom d. tatule
9. What is the number of taste buds the average rabbit has?
a. 700 b. 1,700 c. 17,000 d. 170,000
10. A rabbit's whisker are?
a. as long as their feet b. as long as their body is wide c. as long as their ears d. as long as their head



See answers next page

News from our Adopters



Hello from Vermont!

Just a quick hello from us in Vermont. We really love our Taco! I have been snuggling with him for over hour. His teeth are chattering happily. I hope all is well with you. Regards, Lisa

(Lisa Ackel-Judge & Taco!)



Friends – sitting together in sun room



Muffin & Frankie—Sent in by Bev Kistler



Connor

Connor is doing great! He has adjusted pretty well and isn't trying to find hiding/borrowing places as much as is coming over for pets more often. Tonight we have some friends over and he played for a while tossing things into the air for quite some time and let a stranger pet him for awhile with his eyes almost closed (so I am glad to see he is feeling more and more secure and safe).

Annette Trierweiler

RABBIT TRIVIA

Answers:

1=b, 2=c, 3=a, 4=c, 5=d,

6=b, 7=d, 8=a, 9=c, 10=b

How did you do?

News from our Adopters (continued)

Also, great news about our little Heidi and her new man Riley! If you haven't seen their [video](#), check it out! It was one of those rare, magical, love at first sight bondings that we all hope for. These two were smitten with each other from their first meeting. Here is a little update from her mom, Sonia Scala:

Everything here is wonderful. Heidi has fit in beautifully and she is doing great. Heidi and Riley are like an old married couple and are inseparable. She loves getting her head and ears cleaned by Riley and always rests her head under his chin. They never chase each other and they share their food dish without any problems. They do try to steal those papaya tablets from each other, which are in high demand these days. So cute watching them eat it and then check to see if the other has anymore.



Heidi is definitely feeling more comfortable here these days and loves to explore. We

tried to have her watch TV with us on the sofa but she has no problem jumping onto the ground and checking out the dog toys or following Riley where ever he goes. She continues to eat a lot of hay and seems very happy. My husband said he even saw her do a happy jump the other day :)



We love hearing about our former foster buns as each one of them has left their mark on their foster parents and everyone who shared just a portion of their journeys to their forever homes. So, keep the notes and pictures coming in and we will continue to share the smiles!

Thank you for your continued dedication to your rabbits and for your support of Safe Haven Rabbit Rescue. We could not do it without you!