



Bunny Lu's House Rabbit News

Newsletter for Bunny Lu Adoptions, Inc.
Fall 2004

Dear Friends:

During the first 9 months of 2004, Bunny Lu Adoptions rescued 95 rabbits and found loving and permanent homes for 75. Despite this, we still have too many rabbits in foster care. You may remember we rescued 57 buns from one location in January 2004, and many more have found their way to Bunny Lu. Some of their stories are within this newsletter along with information about GI Problems in Buns, and news about our Annual Open House November 14. Those of you attending last year's Open House may remember seeing two French Lops under the dining room table. It is with a sad heart that we announce Goldie and Winston passed away this past spring, and this newsletter is dedicated to their memory.

Many of you know that one of Bunny Lu's Goals is to make sure all buns adopted out are well cared for in their new homes and are safe and happy. After dealing with a certain rabbit rescue in NJ several years ago, Goldie, a beautiful and sweet French Lop female, was adopted to the head of the rescue as her own personal bunny. Regular communication was maintained and then some weird things started to happen. The owner of the rescue went down to Florida to raise money leaving Goldie and her new companion Winston, as well as the other foster buns, in the care of her Mother. By the time we realized the head of the rescue was not coming back to NJ, things were in pretty bad shape. With the help of another rabbit rescue in the area, plans were made to rescue Goldie and Winston. On Memorial Day 2003, Crys Turner and Mary Ellen drove to NJ to pick up Goldie and Winston. The parents refused and after much difficulty, Goldie was finally returned to Mary Ellen. Goldie was in poor physical condition---very soiled and sickly, indicating she had been poorly cared for. With a lot of vet attention and TLC, Goldie began to recover physically, but it was obvious that she was missing Winston.

Phone calls and letters between Bunny Lu and the NJ rescues continued, and unfortunately the Police Department and Animal Control became involved. Finally, two months after picking up Goldie, Mary Ellen received the phone call that Winston was at another rabbit rescue, and to come pick him up. She was there the next day and Winston was reunited with Goldie. Unfortunately, Goldie assumed Winston had abandoned her and the bond had been broken. It took two months for Goldie to forgive Winston but once again, their commitment to each other was solid.

The first week in March Goldie became ill. Blood tests revealed a rapid form of leukemia and on March 11, she passed away with Winston at her side. The grief was too much for Winston and after developing head tilt within a couple of weeks he died of a broken heart on April 11. Both Goldie and Winston are together again where they belong. It is a great loss for us, and we miss them dearly.

Goldie and Winston's situation made us realize that we needed to do something more to insure the well-being of the foster buns. In January of 2004, PetCo approved our request and provided Bunny Lu with grant money to purchase 100 microchips. Every foster bun receives a microchip proving guardianship status to Bunny Lu Adoptions. The rescues and shelters in the area were

notified of the new policy and will return any abandoned or surrendered rabbits to Bunny Lu where they belong and where they can be safe, loved, and well cared for.

In Memory: Goldie and Winston



Request for Bunny Stories:

Bunny Lu is always thrilled to hear about your bunnies, and we have had many good laughs and tears about their escapades. While we always tell people how entertaining and smart our bunnies are, we think it is time to share these stories with the world. Won't you send us your stories about your bunny adventures and antics?? They will be compiled into book form for publication. The proceeds will support the rescue and foster program for Bunny Lu Adoptions. Please send your stories to: Bunny Lu Adoptions, Inc. PO Box 1036, Manassas, VA 20108 or email them to Maryellen@Bunnylu.org/ We'll announce publication of the book and information on how you can purchase one in a future issue of the Bunny Lu News. Thanks!

Bunny Sitting:

Bunny Lu provides bunny-sitting services to people who need to go out of town and need someone experienced to care for their bunny. Bunny Lu has a lot of rabbit experience and provides your bun with good fresh nutritious food, great accommodations with room service, and lots of TLC while you are away. A file is kept on each bun with any specific information-likes, dislikes, etc., and your contact information along with your vet of choice.

Rates are very reasonable: \$10 per day per bun and \$15 per day per bonded pair*. No worry about your bun being bothered by the smells and sounds of barking dogs or cats that might happen if left with your vet. There's even someone on premises at night. Space is limited during summer and holidays so don't forget to book early! (*Medical treatments may require an additional charge)

HARRY

A concerned citizen recently rescued a minilop found in a small cage without any food or water who was left out with the trash in Woodbridge, VA. He contacted Bunny Lu for help. This little bun was skin and bones, and had sore hocks along with a severe mite and flea problems causing severe fur loss.

Harry immediately went to Blue Ridge Vet Associates for treatment. His check up also revealed that Harry needed some teeth filed down and a neuter procedure. Once the veterinary care was completed, Harry began his recovery period in foster care with lots of food and nutritional supplements, a safe environment, and plenty of TLC.



It has been about two weeks since Harry was rescued and he has gained about 6 ounces. His undercoat is growing back in and there are no signs of mites or fleas. Despite Harry's previous neglect and abuse, he is a "people" bunny and loves attention. Harry has a very vocal repertoire of squeaks, honks and oinks. He loves to be snuggled with and kissed.

Harry is only one of the many buns currently needing a permanent and loving home. If you can't adopt, please consider providing a financial tax-deductible contribution to help Bunny Lu care for other buns like Harry. Bunny Lu helps all buns and is a no kill rescue organization. We are also the only rabbit rescue organization in the Washington, DC-Metro area to have a business listing phone number in the telephone book enabling anyone with a bunny question to easily contact us.

Diane Roadcap, Pet Psychic

Ever wondered what your bunny was thinking??? Bunny Lu is pleased to announce that Diane Roadcap, Pet Psychic currently heard on the radio will be at the Bunny Lu Open House this year. Diane came to Bunny Lu last year to communicate with some of the foster buns and we were amazed at how accurate she was.

Buns needing Homes:



Butterscotch (left) is a very friendly minilop with the most adorable face and disposition. He is lonely and is looking for a sweet girl bun to share his life with. His estimated date of birth is January 2001. Butterscotch's fur is a broken fawn color.

second chance. She would be a good first rabbit and is very independent.

Cotton (not pictured) is a young white minilop female with ruby eyes. She is very sweet and loves attention and cuddles. Rescued from the shelter before she could be euthanized, Cotton seems to understand she has been given a

Norma Jean and Dusty (right) are a bonded pair of minilops that will melt your heart. They are very devoted to each other and respond well to attention. They are approximately two years old and have recently lost their home. This is also a wonderful pair for first timers.



Alaska (not pictured) is a very wonderful 5-year-old minilop buck and is sweet sweet sweet. AK is not happy being alone and would like to find a special girl bunny. He needs lots of attention because he is so loving.



Sweetpea (left) is a very petite, pale gray mini/holland lop female with the most fabulous ears. They are long and lovely, and Sweetpea is especially proud of them. This little cutie is extremely friendly and always desires love and attention. She is approximately 3 months old.

Pansy, a 2-year old black minilop girl and Ozzie, a 3-year old white minilop boy with ruby eyes (not pictured) are another very dear and special pair of buns. Recently, Pansy developed a dental abscess requiring the extraction of 3 molars and bicillin therapy. She has recovered completely but will need to have continued dental checks every 36 months. Pansy and Ozzie are very social, sweet and love attention.

These are just a few of the buns currently available for adoption from Bunny Lu. Please check our websites, www.bunnylu.org and www.petfinder.org for a complete listing. All of our buns are spayed/neutered, litter box trained and socialized prior to adoption.



It is with a sad heart that we announce that our beloved Ben passed away at 3:04 AM on March 25, 2003. Some of you may remember the previous article discussing Ben's dramatic rescue after being found loose and running across Route 234 in April of 2001. His dental problems from malocclusion lead to the web article, "Dental Disease in Rabbits", with help from Dr. Wendy Behm at Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates. The extraction of Ben's front incisors never deterred him from having a very healthy appetite. Ben was devoted to his companion, Snowy. Together, this darling pair of minilops was never adopted, but they were always loved and treasured by Linda and Mary Ellen. We feel honored to have known this darling and most precious boy bun. We miss you BenBen!

Bunny Lu wants to recognize everyone who has helped our efforts during 2003. We appreciate your faith and trust in our mission and thank you all for your help and support!!

Special Gifts

- ◆ Evonne Vey in memory of Muffy ◆ Tammy Mazur in honor of Lucky ◆
- ◆ Maile Gesling in honor of Punkin ◆ Phyllis & Ted Buff in memory of Melody ◆
- ◆ Talisha Herring in memory of Sandy ◆ Karen Rarick in memory of Andy ◆
- ◆ Linda & Brian Seeman in memory of Ben ◆

Donations

◆ Sherry Alexander ◆ Fred and Barbara Becker ◆ Darlene and Bill Brower ◆ Phyllis and Ted Buff
 ◆ Susan Cleveland ◆ Nancy Cochran ◆ Harry Darlington ◆ Janet Dietrich ◆ Pam Dixon ◆ Gail
 and Kevin Dolan ◆ John and Wendy Ealding ◆ John Franz ◆ Nancy McGory ◆ Lawrence Grala
 ◆ Susan Groth ◆ Caroline Hammond ◆ Connie Hardy ◆ D&C Hartson ◆ Diane Liguorgi ◆ Karen
 Lillard ◆ Jennifer Loach ◆ Michele Malik ◆ MaryBeth Malooly ◆ Robin McClary ◆ Tim Mitchell ◆
 Walter and Natrina Rampey ◆ Steve Samowich ◆ Julie Silverman ◆ Tom and Mary Reid ◆ Joan
 Randolph ◆ Dwan Simmons ◆ Sandy Stettin ◆ Doug and Tracey Stockman ◆ DEP Printing in
 Woodbridge, VA ◆ ◆ The Busy Bunny ◆ Petfinder.com ◆ Evonne's Art Creations ◆

◆ ◆ A Very Special Thank You to Dr. Wendy Behm and Dr. Valerie Campbell and staff at Blue
 Ridge Veterinary Associates in Purcellville, VA for keeping our buns happy and healthy!

Bunny Supplies Available at our Manassas Location

Hay: Bunny Lu is happy to announce that we have found a wonderful quality Orchard Grass from the Midwest. Our own buns and the foster buns can't seem to get enough of it. It even smells good enough for people to eat! The hay is currently being sold in 15-pound packages for \$10 each.

Pellets: Bunny Lu is very aware of the mycotoxin issues with rabbit pellets and storage. After a thorough review of all the rabbit pellets on the market, we use Purina Green Label Rabbit Chow for all our buns because they are free of animal fats and undergo routine quality control procedures. These pellets are alfalfa based and have 16% protein and 20% fiber. We recommend storing pellets in a cool, dry location for no longer than 2-3 months. Plastic containers should not be used to store pellets. These pellets are only sold in 50-pound bags so by purchasing them from Bunny Lu you are preventing waste and guaranteeing freshness. A 5 pound bag is \$3.00.

Nutritional Supplements:

Papaya:	Dried, 1 cup	\$ 3.00
Fabulous Fur:	8 ounce bottle	\$ 8.00
Acidophilus:	Banana, 8 oz bottle	\$ 8.00

Litter Boxes: Save on Carefresh and other expensive litters. These boxes, exclusive to Bunny Lu Adoptions, have a fall through wire grid and can be lined with newspapers.

Small (12x18x6)	\$25.00
Large (12x24x6)	\$33.00



Toys: Bunny safe baskets and toys \$ 2.00
 Busy Bunny Toys (suggested retail price)

Books:

House Rabbit Handbook:	\$10.00
Rabbit Health in the 21 st Century	\$15.00

Bunny Lu Logo Items: “We’ve Got Great Buns” (artwork by Evonne Vey)

Short Sleeve T-shirts*	\$15.00
Long Sleeve T-shirts*	\$18.00
Sweatshirts*	\$22.00
Tote Bags	\$10.00
Note Cards	\$ 1.50
Christmas Note Cards	\$ 1.50

* Sizes Small through X-Large/ Please add an additional \$3.00 per item for size 2X

GI Problems in Bunnies

Bunny Lu receives many calls from people concerned that their bunny is eating differently, or not eating at all. Any change in eating habits is an immediate concern because rabbits have very sensitive digestive systems. As prey animals, rabbits are easily stressed by any physical or emotional change. But to immediately reveal this discomfort or pain, would make them “vulnerable to attack” and appear weak. So they hide this “sick” behavior until it overwhelms their entire being. Their GI tract begins to slow down causing gas and pain to develop. The rabbit is not as interested in food, and may even stop eating causing a more serious situation to develop. Thanks to Dana Kremple at the University of Miami, we now understand this slowdown of the GI tract, known as GI Stasis, is a mere symptom of something more serious. But the initial focus, has to be on relieving and eliminating the slowdown of the GI tract, and then to determine its cause. Causes may include insufficient dietary fiber, pain, dental problems, or an underlying problem in the body.

In all my years of caring for bunnies, I have noticed that subtle changes in the litterbox often indicate the beginning of a GI problem. Fecal pellets that are smaller in size or number than normal, or fecal pellets having a different shape or consistency, are usually the first indicator that your bun is going into stasis. This concept has recently been recognized among many rabbit experts and is being published in vet journals. But if this sign is missed, in a few hours to days you will most likely notice a change in your rabbit’s eating habits.

Rabbits experiencing discomfort from a GI slowdown exhibit specific behaviors. They eat differently and you may hear loud stomach gurgles. They reduce their activity and often go off by themselves. They may sit in a hunched position or even hide. They may fail to groom themselves or grind their teeth. The majority of experienced rabbit vets, including Dr. Behm and Campbell at Blue Ridge, recommend giving the bunny Simethicone (Baby Mylicon® or Gas-X®, regular strength) at the first sign of gas. Simethicone is an inert substance and does not get into the bloodstream. Rather it breaks up the gas bubble into smaller, easier to pass particles. Give an initial dose of 0.3 ml of baby Mylicon® or one tablet of Gas-X® before calling your vet. Most vets recommend giving a dose every hour for three doses, and then a dose every three to eight hours. A gentle tummy massage may help to break up the gas bubbles as well, but in the event the rabbit’s stomach is hard or enlarged, do not massage in case the bunny has bloat.



Please join us for our 4th Annual Open House and Fundraiser on Sunday, November 2, 2003 from 1-5 PM at our foster home in Manassas. We will have lots of great items available for you and your bun. This is always a fun time for all!

Casual dress is recommended and complimentary light fare available. Please check our website for updates on this event.

Bunny Lu Adoptions, Inc
PO Box 1036
Manassas, VA 20108
www.bunnylu.org