



A 501(C)3 non-profit
organization

Rabbit Tracks

Newsletter of the New Mexico House Rabbit Society

Issue Number Four

Volunteer Opportunities

CABQ City Shelter

Help with intake
Contact Ned Nevera
nednever@aol.com

Watermelon Mtn. Ranch

Help with daily care
Contact Dennell Sandoval
Dennells2002@yahoo.com

NMHRs

Help behind the scenes, with outreach
events, or fostering
Contact Bill Velasquez
Bill@rabbit.org

IT'S ALMOST TIME!

For the

Annual NMHRs Benefit Yard Sale!

Please contact Dennell
Sandoval-Newhall for
information on how to donate
items to help the bunnies!
dennellhrs@gmail.com

Charitable donation receipts available

Chapter Information

New Mexico House Rabbit Society
Information available and donations
accepted at: www.newmexicohrs.org
Newsletter submissions may be sent to
www.nmhrsnews@googlegroups.com

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE

I am often contacted by the media to tell our story. Recently, I was talking to two different people about NMHRs. I couldn't stop talking about how the people are the ones that make the difference and keep our organization alive. I am incredibly fortunate to know so many people who value the lives of not only the bunnies, but all animals. So many of our volunteers work tirelessly and selflessly to make sure that the bunnies in our care have the best chance at a new life. I remarked to a reporter, "they do all the work and I get all the credit".

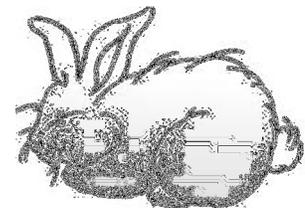
In the short time I have been working with HRS, I have been privileged to work with volunteers from all over the country. I am in awe of the people who are involved with this organization. Many of them possess advanced degrees and are well accomplished in their own fields, yet they take the time to devote their off-work lives to one of the most misunderstood animals in the shelter. Perhaps it is their intellectual curiosity that has drawn them to this mysterious pet. Bunnies have many subtle, and some not so subtle ways, of talking to us. An animal that is most at home in social situations is the focus of people who are not necessarily so at home in social situations themselves. Bunnies don't necessarily seek out our love and I believe it takes an intelligent, patient person with a very giving heart and selfless soul to truly connect with these creatures.

It is no different within our local chapter. I have had the honor of working with so many great people. Some have, sadly, moved on to other chapters in their own lives, but their contributions to our bunny community are not forgotten and have left a lasting impact. It is the love of the delicate bunny souls that binds us together, yet it is the goodness inside each and every person that provides the fuel to ensure that our organization continues to push forward with our mission of providing education and outreach for the bunnies in our community.

For so many of our volunteers, the work never ends. These are our fosterers. They work every day and give the ultimate gift of love - the chance at a life for the bunnies in their care. This work is not easy and not for everyone. We are grateful to the volunteers who give so much of their time to make sure that the bunnies at the shelter know the kindness of a human's touch - many for the first time. There are the volunteers who work at our events and help make sure that our organization continues its outreach efforts. Then there are the volunteers who educate and share their knowledge with the public who, in turn, through understanding, give their bunnies a better life. Finally there are the volunteers who help with our fundraising and also with our governance. Without these people, there would be no organization to ensure that our mission continues. All of our volunteers share equally in the success we enjoy and I am privileged to know so many kind selfless people.

There is a quote by Arthur Schopenhauer that I believe sums up our volunteers, "Compassion towards animals is essentially bound up with goodness of character. Whoever is cruel to them cannot be good to men." I would go a step further and say that those that are kind to animals are good to their fellow mankind. That has been my experience. Our volunteers make all the difference! So give our volunteers the credit they deserve and take the time to thank them when you see them!

Bill Velasquez
NMHRs President





This article reprinted in its entirety with permission from SDHRS. Doc Holly will be back next issue!

Vet's Corner

Is it eye scanning or a stroke?

Rabbits are extremely farsighted and they have monocular vision, a biological indication that the rabbit is prey, not predator. Animals of prey have vision that is designed to detect motion in as much of their environment as possible. Their eyes operate independently, with a field of vision that can reach 180 degrees each, but their vision doesn't meet in front to see straight ahead; that is their blind spot and the reason they seem unable to locate a favorite piece of food that is put directly in front of them.

Predators, on the other hand, have binocular vision, as do humans, where the brain assembles signals from both eyes to create acute, 3-D vision. They need this to locate prey and keep it in focus as they approach straight on. To compensate for non-binocular vision, your rabbit may cock her head and look at you sideways; she's actually looking as straight at you as a bunny can.

"Scanning" or "tracking" is a vision-related rabbit behavior that can cause concern in those unfamiliar with it. Some rabbits will sit and weave or sway slowly back and forth. They appear to be causing motion in order to see an object that is within a short distance of themselves. This behavior is also observed when carrying a rabbit facing forward. Head motion is thought to be a means of enhancing distance measurement. When the eye is moving, close objects move faster than distant ones.

If your rabbit is a scanner--most common in pink-eyed rabbits--she will regularly scan; it won't be a sudden-onset behavior. As with so many other aspects of rabbit behavior and health, sudden changes indicate health problems.

Is it a stroke? If your rabbit, especially an older rabbit, suddenly appears unstable, disoriented with eyes that "twitch," it's very important to note whether the eyes are moving up and down or back and forth. This eye twitching is called nystagmus. Up and down eye movement signifies a brain problem, whereas back and forth signifies an inner ear infection or other problem. In either case, the rabbit needs to get to her veterinarian as soon as possible.

Gardening for the Bunnies

By Kerrie Bushway

I have bunnies. I have a bit of a green thumb. I have a yard. This all adds up to "Why am I buying all of my bunnies' greens at the grocery store?" Last year I attempted a very ambitious garden and its success went beyond my wildest expectations.

In the desert southwest, the most difficult step is getting good soil that will actually grow something. You can slowly amend with compost and develop terrific soil over a few years, or take a short-cut and buy it out of the bag. This latter course was the one I took, however the bunnies have been adding their "garden gold" to my compost bin which will be added in the next 2 years. I anticipate an explosive harvest in the near future.

The next question is: What to grow? Not everything grows in the desert, so I chose carefully in order to avoid withered and unproductive garden plots. I went heavy on the romaine and placed them in the areas of the garden that received the earliest afternoon shade. Arugula did surprisingly well even in the sunniest parts of the garden, as did the collards and kale which produced throughout the hottest summer months. By far my most successful crop was chard, which I could not keep up with. Both the bunnies and I ate tons of it all summer long. The cucumbers grew out of control, and so did the basil, but those are always a hit with my bunnies. The parsley and cilantro also did very well, but were rather slow growers. The carrots tried my patience with their slowness, but the payoff in both luscious tops and taste was worth it. It was thrilling to yank one out of the ground, wash it off, and share a quick little snack with them.

I even planted a few things that rabbits can't eat completely, like beets. I got the beets, they got the tops. Win-win.

My failures were the spinach which didn't grow at all even in the coolest and shadiest part of the garden, and the squash fell prey to the squash bugs despite my best efforts at pest control.

Speaking of pest control, in order to keep the veggies as organic as possible, I didn't use any sprays, just my fingers to remove the aphids. There are organic and chemical-free methods of control out there, if you don't have time for manual pest control.

One of my concerns was the other garden "pest," the wild cottontail. How frustrating would it be if I went through all this trouble to feed my own rabbits, and the wild ones enjoyed the harvest instead? I was stunned to see cottontails in my yard all summer and not a single nibble taken out of a single plant – even in the garden that had no fencing around it! Did they know the gardener loves rabbits and respected that? Or did they smell my rabbits, who live in a screened-in palace right beside the house?

In order to maximize the harvest with the space I had, I used the "square foot gardening method" which also allowed me to easily identify what I was picking for the rabbits. Not everything in the garden was bunny-safe, so it is crucial to know what I am feeding them.

This garden was a huge success despite being planted directly from seed outdoors. I did not buy starts from the nursery. However this year I plan to start the plants indoors in order to get a jump on the season and prolong the harvest as long as I can. As a person who dotes on their bunnies, there are few experiences as satisfying as setting down a huge platter piled high with greens that you've grown yourself and watching them snarf it all down. I tell myself they know the difference and appreciate it.

Adoptable Buns



Hera was born in the shelter just after NY day 2012. She has led a busy life with her siblings working on growing in the great house bunny she knows she can be! She was most recently in foster care in a home with cats/dogs/kids, so we know she does well in an active home and would love to have a cat friend again!



Elmer and Elsie arrived at the ABQ shelter together. However, due to the busy chaotic environment at the shelter, they lost each other once they got there. They ended up in separate cages and were all set to be adopted out as singles, when one of our vigilant members noticed that their intake photos showed them as a pair. As you can see from their picture, these two love each other like only bonded bunnies can. The must be adopted together. Bonded bunnies must never be separated



Hello, my name is Sierra and I have had a rough start to my life. I was left in the cold outside in a tiny hutch with no one to love me, but now I am ready to find my forever home. You may be fooled when you first meet me into thinking I am a shy and quiet bunny. However, if you have enough love and patience you will come to find I am incredibly social and energetic if I am in a comfortable space. I love to be pet and spoken to and want a home where I can be loved as a member of the family. I like to play in cardboard boxes and have lots of fresh hay. I am quite frightened of animals I do not know and need a quiet and loving home that is ideally dog free. I am very active in the evenings and like to work on projects so I need lots of fun things to explore and interact with.

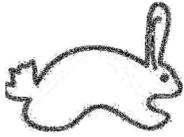


Loki is a little bitty chocolate lionhead bunny who has had a rough past few months. Surrendered to a shelter by his owner, his next adoptive home was not a good one. He is very social and loves to be held and snuggled, and will even come running to the door of his area and then crouch to be picked up! Loki has a lot of energy and likes to play with toys and rearrange his furniture. Despite his small size he is not intimidated by other animals and seems curious but not the least aggressive about the animals who live in his newest foster home. Other animals would be lovely companions for this boy as long as they are gentle because Loki doesn't know he is so small!



Abbot and Costello are a handsome pair of brothers looking for their forever home. If you are interested in meeting them, please contact their fosterer Regina at reginaschacht@yahoo.com

Many other rabbits are looking for their Forever Home. More adoptable buns can be seen at www.rabbit.org/newmexico. Links to bunnies available for adoption through the CABQ shelter can also be found there. All rabbits adopted through NMHRS and CABQ are spayed/neutered.



Volunteer profiles

Volunteers are an integral part of NMHRS, and to honor them, we will introduce a different volunteer every issue.



Victoria Mancha

By Kerrie Bushway

Victoria Mancha, one of our youngest volunteers, is always a bubbly, inspiring presence at NMHRS events. This year alone she has organized adoption events, coordinated our participation at FETCH-apalooza and a huge craft fair at Mama's Minerals – the list goes on. We caught up to this Energizer Bunny of volunteers to ask a few questions about her love of lagomorphs.

How did you get into bunnies?

When I moved into my first apartment, my landlord wouldn't allow dogs or cats. I have never been without animals in my life and I knew I'd go crazy without them. So that's when I met an amazingly handsome white and brown mini-lop that I named Oliver Rigby. I loved Oliver so much, but I didn't know enough about him. While he lived in my bedroom and used a litter box, I didn't feed him the right things. I didn't see the signs that could have told me Oliver was sick, and he passed away suddenly one terrible night. My heart was so broken and I knew I needed to truly learn about rabbits for the unique creatures they are. I also knew I needed to help other rabbits, and that's when I met the amazing souls of New Mexico House Rabbit Society.

What was your gateway into the life of a House Rabbit Society volunteer? What do you do now?

I started out socializing bunnies in Petco, and now I mostly help with events and fundraising. I've had the pleasure of having temporary fosters, and other odd jobs. Generally, I try to butt my nose into whatever I can for NMHRS.

What are the names, ages, and (if known) breeds of your bunnies?

I have been adopted by three beautiful bunnies, Lilah Autumn, Piper Tribble, and Madeline Tumbleweed. Lilah is a stunning white bunny with brown spots and striking blue eyes. She was originally rescued by NMHRS from the Las Cruces shelter and placed in Petco. The day I met her, NMHRS volunteer Victoria Perez was at Petco for a speed date involving her own white lop foster, Bojangles. For me, it was love at first sight, and Victoria said that Bo needed a bunny girlfriend to go home with. I was so enamored that I blindly agreed, and Bo was actually the one who picked Lilah. Bo passed away from a genetic disorder two short months after I brought him home. I believe that Bo's final mission in life was to bring me my Lilah.

This leads me to my next two children. Maddie and Piper are brother and sister, rescued by Margo DeMello and NMHRS from the Albuquerque shelter. Margo raised this spunky litter and I am so lucky that Lilah chose not one bunny, but two bunnies to be her best friends. Maddie and Piper are giant gorgeous black angoras, with attitude to match. While Lilah cuddles on my bed, Maddie and Piper spy on me from their hiding places waiting for me to leave the premises.

Other than bunny volunteerism, what do you do? (Day job? What's a day job?)

I like to hang with my five pound Chihuahua Dixie Michelle. I am currently student teaching an 8th grade English class at Taft Middle School and will graduate from UNM in May 2013. I also enjoy dancing, painting, hiking, and long walks on the beach.

What is your favorite toy to give a bunny?

Homemade! My trio loves stuffed toilet paper rolls and diggy-boxes - large shallow cardboard boxes filled with shredded paper and some dried herbs.

What is your favorite funny bunny story?

When I first moved my trio into my new apartment, Lilah (the bravest of the bunch) was the first to explore while Piper and Maddie cautiously followed. Often Piper and Maddie would stay behind and Lilah literally would go back to them and get them to follow her, letting them know it was safe.

What is your favorite pop culture rabbit reference?

My favorite pop culture rabbit reference has to be the white rabbit in Alice in Wonderland. Alice (and later, Neo) follows the white rabbit down the rabbit hole, leading to an epiphany in a strange and mysterious new world. It's a good reminder to always follow my white rabbit (and two black ones)!

Bunny Boredom Busters: How to Keep Your Bunny's Brain Busy!

By Iris Klimczuk

So you've had your rabbit for a while and perhaps the novelty of the new environment is starting to wear off. Seems like bunny is resting comfortably when you leave in the morning and is still right where you left him when you return home. If you're beginning to think your bunny is a boring pet, you couldn't be more wrong - bunny just needs something to do while you are gone!

I call these things boredom busters - giving bunny something to do to stimulate his mind - while you're away. Rabbits need mental stimulation during those long daytime hours, in addition to getting several hours daily to exercise outside of their enclosures. Being crepuscular creatures, bunnies are most active at dawn and dusk, and by nature tend to rest during the long daytime and nighttime hours. These are the times bunny might enjoy some additional mental stimulation, especially if yours is a solo bun.

Toys, things to shred, chew, gnaw on or eat, are great boredom busters. The trick is to remember to rotate toys so they seem new again to bunny and not to deluge bunny with too many toys at once. Many specialty websites, like BusyBunny.com, have a wonderful selection of rabbit toys from which to choose. But luckily, boredom busters don't have to break the bank. Many of my bunnies' favorites I make for them out of things I find around the house or around town, or that I buy inexpensively at my local grocery, hardware, craft, or dollar stores.

Basic boredom busters for bunny to chew on or toss around are: pine cones (watch for sharp points); willow wisps or wreaths; a corn hand broom; untreated wooden curtain rings (remove any metal hooks first!); willow branches (plain or hand-twisted into small wreaths); untreated, unstained bamboo, jute, wicker & seagrass baskets, plate holders, placemats, table runners or doormats; small clean yogurt cups or lids. Some bunnies like super balls, ping pong balls, wicker balls or cat jingles to bat about and chase. Or try buying some undyed, untreated sisal twine at your local craft/hardware store to make your own small balls or loops as chew toys. Twist the twine about itself in a figure 8 or donut shape and bunny's fun can begin. Make certain that any loops are smaller than bunny's head size and that any balls you make are too large for accidental swallowing!

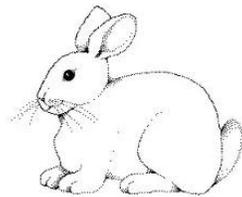
The easiest and cheapest boredom buster of all! A friend of mine likes to leave the radio playing softly in the background while she is away during the daytime and swears listening to music helps her bunny pass the day happily. My suggestion is not to play anything too loud and to stick with easy listening or classical music that won't frighten bunny.

Munchable flooring options for bunny's abode can include untreated, unstained bamboo window shades found at discount retailers (remove all metal parts & any long string or cords first) and plain seagrass placemats or doormats. Large, flat, thin, clean pieces of cardboard are given away free at warehouse stores and can be used to line wire cage bottoms, while also doubling as bunny's shredding material. Sections of small phonebooks become excellent shredding toys and will keep bunny busy ripping pages for a long while!

Let's not forget about sturdy cardboard boxes of various sizes out of which you can cut windows, or you can allow bunny to custom design her own! These are found free at large warehouse stores or sometimes at your local grocery store. Make certain the boxes are clean and avoid detergent/cleaning product cartons in case a toxic residue is present which might make bunny ill if inhaled or ingested. I collect boxes of different sizes & shapes to use as hay boxes for my own bunnies. One can be very creative carving/cutting out small windows to allow bunny access to their hay with minimal mess. Cutting a hole big enough for bunny's head to get at the hay is key, but too large a hole means bunny will hop inside the hay box!

Lastly, I leave you with two easy "boredom buster" games to construct at home which have brought hours of delight to my bunnies! Take a clean, empty, paper egg carton and cut two off the end so they will still close securely. Place a small treat which your bunny loves - maybe a small piece of dried/fresh fruit or an almond sliver or a banana slice or a fresh herb/green - inside both egg indentations & secure the lid again tightly. Bunny can smell the treat inside and must devise a way to open the carton to eat it! This normally takes a while to achieve, but a determined bunny will succeed in the end. Similar is the idea of a round, plastic grape tomato holder with a three inch diameter round opening at the top. The opening is too small for bunny's head to fit inside to get directly at the treat, but big enough for the treat to fall out if bunny flings it about long enough. Drop a favorite healthy treat inside and watch bunny attempt to extricate it. My bunnies never tire of playing this game and are always rewarded with a treat for their efforts. A small, clean yogurt cup & lid with a hole cut into it can serve the same purpose.

So, no more excuses! Start making your bunny some boredom busters today and you may just find that it can be therapeutic for us as well as for our buns! Here's wishing you and your rabbits loads of fun with these edible, chewable, shreddable, tossable and listenable boredom-busting ideas!



Sheltered but not Bored

By Ned Nevera

“A peacock.” That’s my answer when somebody asks me: What is the strangest thing I’ve seen working as a volunteer at the Albuquerque animal shelter. It happened nearly 2 years ago when I was walking some dogs at the west side shelter, (the rabbits were housed at the west side shelter in 2010), and my daughter was with me doing some community service for one of her classes. As we walked along behind a dog who was all too happy to be out for a spot of exercise my daughter said, “There’s a peacock.” Now I’d seen goats, ducks, and roosters (l-o-t-s of roosters) which are pretty exotic for a city mouse like me, but a peacock? I thought, “Catherine must be mista...” and then the darn thing crowed, or whatever it is peacocks do. I looked to my left and sure enough, in one of the wolf pens, was a peacock, feathers fanned wide, crowing. The family run in with a peacock happened early in my shelter rabbit volunteer career, and it established one the recurring themes of my shelter experience – “There is no such thing as a boring day at the shelter.” Rewarding, frustrating, heartwarming, sad, proud, disappointing, rejuvenating...but NEVER boring.

Rewarding: One Sunday morning I arrived at the shelter and saw that a rabbit who had been up for adoption for much too long was no longer in his cage. I asked one of the blue shirted kennel techs what had happened to the rabbit and he replied, “Oh, he just got adopted. The folks who are taking him are probably still up front doing the paperwork.” I hustled out to the adoption area and introduced myself and asked the young couple if they knew much about rabbits. “Not really” they replied, but they were looking for a rabbit and they noticed that this one had been at the shelter for long time and they felt he needed a lucky break. Sensing an opportunity I told the couple, if they were interested, to drop by the rabbit room when they were done and I’d tell them the basics about rabbits. They came back and they got my “Rabbits are on the Fat Albert diet...hay, hay, hay/ Rabbits litter box train you/ Carrots are like Snickers bars” speech. After about 30 minutes and a NMHRS adoption packet later the couple thanked me and off they went...all three of them, a new rabbit family. Yep, rewarding.

Frustrating: “Moving”, “Costs too much”, and the brutal “Doesn’t want any more.” Sometimes the shelter staff will put a very short note on the back of a rabbit’s “kennel card” briefly outlining the reason a bun was surrendered by its owner. The most common responses are listed above. For some inexplicable reason I’ll flip over every “Owner Surrender” kennel card and see if there is some reason why the owner gave up his rabbit to the city. I have no idea why I do this. This action has never, EVER, ended well for me. I have never flipped a card, read the note, and said to myself, “Oh, well. That makes sense.” But Sunday after Sunday, rabbit after rabbit, I flip cards. And for all the rabbits and all the reasons I have yet to find a comment that sufficiently explained why a person gave up on their bunny. I don’t ever expect to either. Yep, frustrating.

Heartwarming: When I’m at the shelter on Sunday mornings the front reception area is open to the public but the kennels are closed until 10:30. The staff are busy cleaning cages and kennels and do not have their blue staff shirts on. So anybody cleaning, wearing gloves and street clothes, looks like a shelter employee...myself included. Because the rabbit room is in the front of the building and I’m working at cleaning cages I’m often mistaken for a shelter worker. People often ask me if they can see one of the cats housed in the front section of the shelter complex. One Sunday, an older couple knocked on the rabbit room door and asked if they could see one of the cats across the hall. I try to follow a rule to never – ever - pass up an opportunity to adopt out an animal to a good home. So I send the couple down to a small meeting room where they can sit down and try and get to know the cat without having to deal with all the shelter traffic and commotion. I collect the cat from its cage and take it to meet the couple. The woman starts petting and playing with the cat so I try and make conversation with the gentleman. I ask him if they have more cats at home. He responds by saying that “No, we don’t have any more cats.” At this point his eyes start welling with tears and he says, “Our old cat just died. We had him for 14 years and we miss him. But my wife wants one more. This is going to be our last cat.” Because sometimes I can be as sharp as a marble it takes a second to dawn on me that this older couple is here to adopt their last pet...and they know it is going to be their last pet. I realize that their old cat meant a lot to them, just like my rabbits mean a lot to me, and they are going to share what’s left of their lives with an animal that somebody else didn’t want. I’m glad I was there to help an old couple find their last pet. I’m glad I was there to help a cat find a home with these people. Yep, heartwarming.

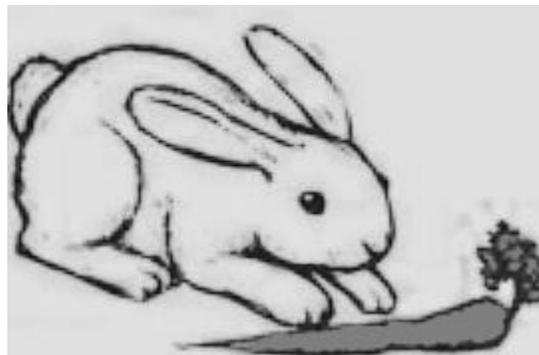
Sad: I once saw a young lady leaving the “Intake” area sobbing so deeply that her raw sorrow stopped me in mid step. It was the level of grief I had previously seen only at funerals and memorials for someone who has passed away too young. A friend followed close behind the young woman offering soft words of encouragement and resting a reassuring hand on the sobbing girl’s shoulder. The friend was failing miserably. I don’t know if the sobbing woman had just surrendered her pet to the city or if she had come to the shelter in a desperate attempt to find a lost animal friend. The reason didn’t matter, to me or to the young lady. She had lost her pet, her friend, and the pain of that loss was breaking her heart. There was nothing her friend, or the city, or I, could do for her. Yep, sad.

Proud: Last spring the Albuquerque shelter contacted NMHRS and said they had a rabbit with a serious eye condition. The shelter veterinarian would be willing to try two risky surgeries – one to remove an eye and the other to trim the other eyelid – IF the House Rabbit Society could find a home for a middle aged, one-eyed, special needs bunny. IF the NMHRS couldn’t take the bunny the city had no choice but to put him down. E-mails flew, phone calls were made, rabbit fans rallied. Within a day the NMHRS picked up the bunny at the westside shelter and ORION, the one eyed bunny, became a loved NMHRS foster bun. Yep, proud.

Disappointing: Every animal has a kennel card. It is a basic biography of the animal and lists a name, an “A” number (the city’s identification number), gender, spay/neuter status, and medical history among other things. One of the other things is the “INTAKE TYPE” which indicates how the animal was brought into the shelter system. I’ve already mentioned “Owner Surrender”. Owner surrender is the most common reason bunnies come into the shelter. Following closely is “Stray”. Then there is the somewhat rare “Confiscate”. That means the city stepped in and took the animal out of its home. This brings me to the most disappointing way a bunny comes into the shelter – even more disappointing than “Owner Surrender” – “Return.” What that means is that the animal was adopted out...and then returned to the city. While a “Return” is rare it has happened often enough that I know exactly what that word on the kennel card means. Yep, disappointing.

Rejuvenating: Last week I noticed that one rabbit’s kennel card was marked with an oversized, hand scribbled, “ADOPTED”. Soon, one of the kennel techs came to the rabbit room to collect the bunny as his new family was at the intake desk to pick him up. I followed the tech and the rabbit out to the intake desk and met the young woman who was adopting the rabbit. I introduced myself, gave her as much on my “Hay, hay, hay/litterbox/Snickers” speech as she could stand, gave her a NMHRS handout and my card and then asked the young woman if she had ever had a rabbit before. She said that she had but that was when she was very young. “Well, I’m glad you decided to get another bunny after all these years”, I said. She responded, “Yeah, I’m the one who brought him to the shelter last week. He was running loose in the neighborhood and I figured he wasn’t going to last long just running wild. But after I brought him here I was worried about where he might wind up so I came back and adopted him.” I smiled, thank her, and went back to the rabbit room to clean cages and sweep floors...because I couldn’t think of anything else I’d find more rewarding to do with my Sunday morning. Yep, rejuvenating.

Now a lot of folks ask me “How can you work at the shelter? It seems like such a sad place.” I respond that yes, it can be sad. “Owner Surrenders”, “Returns”, “Doesn’t want any more” are indeed very sad things. But just like life outside the shelter if you choose to avoid the sad things you also chose to avoid the things that make the effort worthwhile. You endure a “Doesn’t want any more” to see a rabbit go home with the young lady who rescued him. You clean up after 20 “Owner Surrenders” to help a cat find a new home – and a new purpose – with an old couple. You have to watch a young woman grieve over the loss of her pet so you can hear the veterinarian say “If you guys hadn’t taken the rabbit we would have had to...” his voice trailing off. And it’s that rollercoaster ride every Sunday that lets me say, with certainty, “There is no such thing as a boring day at the shelter.”



Are you a supporter of New Mexico HRS?

Here's how you can help:

Volunteer to be a Petco Rabbit Pal, Shelter volunteer, fosterer, or outreach volunteer!

Use your administrative skills to help us with our web site, PR, outreach, and more!

Join NM HRS and be a member!

Make a donation to support our work!

We also accept additional donations of food and other needed supplies.

- I would like to join New Mexico HRS.
- I would like to make an additional donation.
- I would like to volunteer.

Membership fees:

- \$30 for combined national House Rabbit Society and NM HRS membership
- \$20 for combined national House Rabbit Society and NM HRS membership for Students or Seniors

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Please add my email address to your list for periodic announcements. We do not share this list with anyone.

Enclosed is my donation to NM House Rabbit Society in the amount of \$_____

- Check enclosed (Payable to NM HRS)
- Charge my Visa or MC

Card# _____

Exp Date _____

Security Code _____

Signature _____

New Mexico House Rabbit Society is a nonprofit organization. Donations are tax-deductible as provided by law. Send your tax deductible contribution to: NMHRS, PO BOX 95226, Albuquerque, NM 87199