

THE CARROT CONNECTION



Brambley Hedge Rabbit Rescue

June - July 2001

Mission Statement

Brambley Hedge Rabbit Rescue

We are the only local rescue group dedicated solely to caring for abused, abandoned and unwanted domestic rabbits. We are a non-profit 501(c)(3), all volunteer run, no-kill shelter, housing approximately 75 rabbits at any time.

Since 1986, we have placed over 950 rabbits with caring, adoptive parents...121 last year alone. We work together with county agencies to check on abuse situations, offer humane traps to the general public to capture stray rabbits, and teach rabbit care classes at Arizona Humane Society.

Hopline (480) 443-3990

Visit our Website:

**[http://www.nivoloc.com/
RabbitRescue.html](http://www.nivoloc.com/RabbitRescue.html)**

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Living with Real Bunnies: Coping with Fluffy and the Swath of Destruction

by Lyssa Krabbenhoft

In an ongoing series, we hope to enlighten those new to the bunny cohabitation experience. As beautiful and wonderful as bunnies are, we all must deal with certain "obstacles" when adjusting to living with a house rabbit. These behaviors are completely normal for a bunny. Unfortunately we each have to learn (often the hard way) how to prevent and redirect a bunny's natural tendencies.

Those of you new to bunnies may find this a seemingly overwhelming task. We all face these bumps with our bunnies, but with guidance and innovation, we can still live peaceably with our bundle of joy. To use the words of another bunny owner, Deb McGarry, "Patience. This too shall pass."

We've interviewed the humans of house bunnies to get a first hand glimpse of what mayhem can lie behind that innocent little face...and how to cope.

Princess Pooh

Princess Pooh is a beautiful 3 year old lop. She's sweet tempered, very gentle natured and more likely to beg from you with a doe-eyes expression than ever show aggression. An ideal bunny you might say? Even Princess Pooh gives in to her rabbit nature.

Debra McGarry, Princess Pooh's human, describes a destructive bunny as "a rabbit who does what rabbits do...chew and gnaw...gnaw and chew." Apparently Princess Pooh, like most rabbits, fits this description perfectly.

"Princess Pooh was very, very destructive for the first two years. For some reason (perhaps it is my diligent bunny proofing efforts) she doesn't get into too much right now." Debra noted "most depressing was her ruination of a priceless book of poetry. It was published in 1900 and hand autographed for Valentine's Day on 2/14/1900. Was mint condition...well at least I still enjoy the poems. Most annoying: all my speaker wires, mouse cords, modem wires and a



Princess Pooh practices disemboweling a helpless paper bag.

See **Swath of Destruction** Cont. on page 2

couple of lamps in the span of one hour flat. Most humorous: she took a big chunk out of my history text book. WHILE I WAS READING IT!!! Just jumped up on me and CHOMP!!!! Most expensive: chewed through a trash bag my husband set down briefly, snarfing God only knows what. Bad case of stasis resulting in a \$300 vet bill over Christmas weekend.”

When asked how she was able to prevent such destruction, Debra replied, “Duct tape, duct tape, duct tape. Baby gates in front of bookcases. Shoes in heavy plastic under bed and couch. No exposed wires anywhere. I just have to put all sorts of things under the bed so she can’t tunnel into my box spring (she did that once too.)”

These are wonderful examples of how bunny proofing really can protect your belongings as well as your bunnies health. What does Debra adore about Princess Pooh, even if she has these tendencies? “Those beautiful doe eyes and wiggly nose. The way she begs for petting and food. And she’s so very gentle with my precious birds.”

Squitters...A Walk on the Wild Side

“She was found running down a road but I believe she ate her previous humans and set their house on fire.” Deneen has her hands full with this little rabbit! Believe it or not, Squitters really isn’t that much different than Princess Pooh, she’s just more...expressive of her rabbit heritage.

I was almost afraid to ask about Squitter’s swath of destruction. I mean really, what kind of damage can a little bunny actually do?

“An apartment. The whole thing. We replaced all the rugs, the vanity, the vinyl floors, sanded any salvageable molding and replaced the rest. I’m still upset about the brand

new comforter she shredded, it took me a long time to save the money to buy it. We sanded the doors and the windowsills. Any cords in the house were a goner the first week. The sofa I gave to her. She ate my data exam study guides. Shoes, purse, a very expensive brief case, jeans and sweaters. Oh wait, the office chair. Foam everywhere. She was mad I went to dinner after work. She has also eaten: a bowl of red hots, chicken sandwich, Big Mac, leather, vinyl, rubber bands, fabric, french fries, unidentifiable plant, plastic pen cap, carpet, padding styrofoam, pillow stuffing, dirt, litter, cricket, worm, ant, moth, mouse tail, flies and tried to tunnel her way out of the apartment. Currently working on brand new drywall that SO put up. She was free roaming and I didn’t bunny proof so although she did this much damage, I was to blame.”

The basis of bunny proofing is much like child proofing for a toddler...keeping your bunny away from the item because you cannot expect it to “know better” and leave the item alone.

Deneen did come up with a plan so she and Squitters could safely co-habitate. “I hide everything I don’t want her to get to. We also spent about \$5000 on making them a room of their own, fully bunny proofed or so I thought—we’ve got some drywall missing. Spend as much time as I can with her. If I’m hugging and petting her, she’s not eating my house.”

When asked what she loves about Squitters in spite of her destructiveness, Deneen replied, “she has a real personality. I can ‘have a chat with her’ and she really understands. She comforts me. If I’m laying down, she wants to lay right beside me. She really loves and trusts me. She rescued me.”

Both Debra and Deneen use basic, yet effective techniques to protect their households. They bunny proof



Squitters plotting to find something else to chew on.. Maybe one of her buddies...or that nice red box in the background.

See **Swath of Destruction** Cont. on page 3

their homes to prevent access to dangerous or expensive items, combined with supervision (particularly in Squitters' case).

What is bunny proofing?

The basis of bunny proofing is much like child proofing for toddler....keeping your bunny away from the item because you cannot expect it to "know better" and leave the item alone. You cannot train a bunny to stay away from electrical cords or toxic plants. While they may "listen" when you are in the room with them, the minute you turn your back, you can have an accident on your hands. The following is not meant to be a complete list, but covers basic techniques.

Cords

Cords can be protected by using an air hose for fish tanks. You can slit the hose down the length and push the cord inside. This is meant to slow your bunny down, some persistent bunnies may chew through this. There are a variety of similar products, including a new outlet protector which actually encases the outlet and the plug...a favorite place for some bunnies to access the otherwise protected electric cords.

Carpet

Some rabbits take up carpet digging as a past-time. These are rabbits that really should not be left unsupervised on a carpeted surface. Ingesting the carpet fibers can cause impactions or other intestinal problems. If your

supervised bunny likes to dig in the corners of a room (a favorite place for most bunnies) put large ceramic tiles over those areas.

Containment

If your bunny is destructive, it is MUCH safer to leave your rabbit in a safe area while you're away. This could mean a cage, a dog exercise pen, or a non-carpeted room like the bathroom or laundry room (providing access to all cords and other items are fully blocked).

Barricades

If there is a room with expensive or dangerous items that you cannot adequately protect, a baby-gate or pet gate might be the best answer. By totally blocking off access to the room, you can potentially save your bunny as well as those priceless items. Not all baby-gates are made alike. If your rabbit is a chewer, expect your bunny to chew a hole in the plastic mesh of most gates. Or if your bunny is a jumper, a 24 inch tall gate might not be tall enough. I've personally had success using the 30-32 inch wire mesh baby gate. Even with this, I do have to watch one of my rabbits, the other 7 have been completely fine with this gate. Panels from dog exercise pens also work very well.

These suggestions should get you started on your way to living safely with your bunny.

A special thanks to Debra and Deneen who shared their stores with us! 🥕

FOSTER HOMES NEEDED!!

Foster homes are needed. The cages, food, supplies and vet care (if necessary) will be provided by Brambley Hedge Rabbit Rescue. A requirement for fostering a bunny is to bring the foster bunny to one or two of our adoption days each month. (You can simply drop off the rabbit on adoption days, no need for you to stay.) If you can open your home to fostering a bunny while it's waiting for a permanent home, or if you would like additional information, please contact Stacey Shirer by phone (602-225-0934 - evenings) or email at ma2jess@concentric.net.



Ask Eddie

Dear Eddie,

How come my mom always spends so much time brushing my butt?

Bashfully,
Sid

P.S. Mom made me spell everything right this time.

Dear Sid,

Hey buddy how's it hangin'? Well if you're like most of us probably not very low. Har Har Har. I just woke up one day and no more jelly beans. But that's a completely different story.

You want to know why you're human slave is so obsessed with your butt? Well it's not just your mom but all properly trained human slaves. Let's face it, we have really cute butts. Who wouldn't want to touch 'em? I ask you that!

Ya see Sid, the thing is, have you ever noticed durin' the day when you're grooming yourself that there's just certain areas you can't reach. Like the back of your butt. Now this is where the humans come in Sid. Because we can't groom our butts we have a lot of extra fur back there that humans just have to have. I don't know what they do with it but I heard some silly rumor about preventing hairballs. If only they knew that if they fed us plenty o' bananas, we wouldn't get no stinkin' hairballs. So that's it in a nutshell Sid. Thanks for the question.

Binkies,
Eddie

Event Calendar

June 2:

Saturday

Adoption Day at PETsMART

Location: NE corner of Tatum & Shea, Phoenix

Time: 10am-3pm

June 16 & 17:

Saturday & Sunday

Adoption Day at PETsMART

Location: NE corner of Tatum & Shea, Phoenix

Time: 10am-3pm

June 23 & 24:

Saturday & Sunday

Meet Your Match Adoptathon Weekend

Location: NE corner of Tatum & Shea, Phoenix

Time: 10am-3pm

See below for more info

July 7:

Saturday

Adoption Day at PETsMART

Location: NE corner of Tatum & Shea, Phoenix

Time: 10am-3pm

July 15:

Sunday

Adoption Day at PETsMART

Location: NE corner of Tatum & Shea, Phoenix

Time: 10am-3pm

July 21:

Saturday

Adoption Day at PETsMART

Location: NE corner of Tatum & Shea, Phoenix

Time: 10am-3pm

July 29:

Sunday

Adoption Day at PETsMART

Location: NE corner of Tatum & Shea, Phoenix

Time: 10am-3pm

Meet Your Match - A Very Special Adoption Weekend

PETsMART Charities will host a **Meet Your Match** adoption weekend, June 22-24. (Brambley Hedge Rabbit Rescue will be participating on June 23 and 24.) This weekend is different from regular adoption program in that all of Adoption Partners may join in at the same time.

Participating Adoption Partners can receive a \$75 PETsMART gift card for each day of participation. If you participate during all three days of the **Meet Your Match** adoption weekend, your agency will receive a \$225 gift card.

PETsMART gets the public revved up about adopting pets by rolling out national advertising and marketing campaigns to promote the weekend. This year, PETsMART plans to run an eight page special section in *Woman's Day* magazine and a four-color Sunday insert that will reach 30 million people. These promotions generate an enormous turnout at PETsMART stores increasing the chances that homeless pets will find new homes that weekend. Last year, more than 15,000 pets were adopted during our special adoption weekend.

Are you Tough Enough?

Toys to entertain destructive bunnies.

By Lyssa Krabbenhoft

Face it, we're all creatures of habit. Ever thought of "mixing it up a little" for your bunnies? Rabbits are intelligent. If you don't provide them with entertainment, they will make their own forms of fun...usually at the cost of your couch or even the carpet. "Pop goes the Carpet Fiber" is a favorite game in this household, as well as "What can I eat that will put me in Stasis?"

Although my bunnies are kept in bunny-proofed areas, keeping them busy (and wanting to stay in their enclosures) is big challenge. I've found that a good combination of incentive (food) and destruction during the day keeps my bunnies busy and my resident Houdini stays where she's supposed to be.

Nothing captures a bunny's attention like food, particularly those bunnies who are on a limited pellet scheme...er..diet. A reoccurring theme I rely on is getting the bunny to work for a length of time for very small food pay offs. It keeps the bunny focused, and keeps them engaged in their "toys."

Do It Yourself Toys

- **Scattering pellets** - This is by far the cheapest toy invented, and yes, my bunnies think I'm cruel. My bunnies are on rationed pellets, so each one they find is a delectable morsel. I scatter 1/2 cup of pellets through the entire enclosure or room, much as if I were feeding chickens, then I leave for the day. It takes one of my bunny couples at least an hour of focused effort to find and eat every pellet. Even the laziest of bunnies will participate in this game.
- **Paper bag maze** – this is only slightly more advanced than the scattered pellets. So even bunnies with little patience will participate. A lunch bag, a hand full of grass hay, and a raisin. Stuff the hay inside, let bunny sniff, but not have the raisin. Drop the raisin in the bag, fold bag down several times. If you think this game might be too hard for your bunny, you might want to poke a couple of pencil-sized holes in the side. Toss bag in enclosure. This would take my rabbits about 2 seconds, but might keep your bunnies occupied for up to an hour.

- **Cardboard Cage** – an advanced version of the paper bag maze. I remove any adhesive tape from the box, stuff it with some grass hay, and hide a tiny piece of apple or carrot inside. I close up the box, folding the flaps with overlapping edges so it stays closed. I might poke just a couple of small, pencil sized holes in the side so that they can get a good whiff of the apple. I toss it in the enclosure and leave. This is a bigger project, and depending on your bunny could take anywhere from 30 minutes to 4 hours to break into the loot. You can control the level of difficulty by the size and thickness of the box.

- **Digging for Treasure** – this may appeal to bunnies who love to dig. Take a large box filled with some grass hay.

Hide an unroasted peanut (in the shell) in the very bottom of the box. To increase difficulty you might also lay a grass mat over the peanut (depends on how persistent your bunny is). Some bunnies like to also make this into their very own game of "leave the human with a soaking wet box." You've been warned.

Manufactured Toys

- **Bounce Back toys** – you can find these in most PetSmarts as well as at Bunny Bytes (<http://www.bunnybytes.com>). They are very durable and have a range of levels. For bunnies who have short attention spans, I use the Bunny Bounce Back. You can wedge some veggies in it and keep them occupied for a little while. For more advanced bunnies who will work for food, I prefer the Ferret and Rat Bounce Back. Same toy as the Bunny Bounce Back, only the holes are much smaller. The ferret version is great for dispensing a whole raw almond or two, while the rat version is excellent for dispensing pellets. My rabbit of mass destruction, Lark, is served her pellets in this contraption every morning. She is a world class chewer, and has not been able to demolish this toy. I have rarely seen a toy take such a pounding and come back for more. On several occasions she has grabbed the toy by its ears and flung it against the wall. It hasn't broken yet!

*Rabbits are intelligent.
If you don't provide them
with entertainment, they will
make their own forms of
fun...usually at the cost of
your couch or even the carpet.*

See **Tough Enough** Cont. on page 6

BunnyLuv Connection

Needed: A special foster home for two special needs bunny girls.



Narissa: We are still in need of temporary foster care for a special needs bunny. Narissa has been suffering from the vestibular effects of head tilt. She has responded well to her treatment so far. We would like to find her a foster home where she can have some activity around her most of the time. The activity stimulates her and she shows some curiosity about what's around her. She is happy and is doing very well and progressing as best as we can hope. She does NOT like to be picked up at this time, but does enjoy attention and long petting sessions.



Sabrina: Sabrina is a white female dwarf mix and is a very special little girl. She is in need of a quiet home with someone who can spend time with her and regain some of her trust. This little girl has an incredible spirit but a sad story. She was rescued from an abuse situation where she was found tied by her neck to a tree and used to bait dogs. Despite her past, she is very sweet but still needs a loving home to help her heal. She is around 6-8 months old and will make the right someone a fabulous bunny companion.

If you think you can help either of these very sweet bunny girls, please give Stacey a call at 602-225-0934 (evenings) or contact Brambley Hedge by email at brambleyhedge@home.com.

For more adorable and very available bun buns, visit our Most Wanted list at www.nivoloc.com/BHRR/WANTED.html

Tough Enough Cont. from page 5



- **Parrot toys** – Jungle Talk makes a great toy for bunnies who are caged during the day. The Hide-a-Treat is a hanging “toy” that is basically a small food dish with a lid that slides up the chain. It has holes so bunny can smell the food in there, but they have to figure out how to get the food out. Presley swings it back and forth, smacking it against the side of his cage, until he can tip it just enough to wedge his nose in...and snag the goodie! Presley is not the most patient bunny, but this toy above all else has captured his attention. It's very durable and one of these has lasted Lark almost 3 years and counting.
- **Ferret balls** – these are nice for bunnies who like to push toys around but don't want to work very hard. This medium sized ball twists apart and you can put food inside. The slots are pretty big, so I like to also put grass hay in there so the “treat” food doesn't work out so quickly.

This lasts Lark maybe 10 minutes, but it takes Leroy about an hour to deal with it.

For those of you who are feeling particularly evil, this is the toy for you. I would only use this for “advanced” bunnies as it does take a lot of concentration. They make “rodent balls” (the kind of balls you put hamsters in, and then let them run around on the floor). Well, they've come out with a new ball that is smaller and for dwarf hamsters and mice. The air vent slits are very thin, and these balls are cheap...around \$3. I put 1/2 tsp. of raw, shelled sunflower / seeds in one of these balls, twist down the hatch, and give it to Lark. It takes her about 4 hours to work those seeds out...and that's only by pushing that ball around nearly half the day. She has not destroyed this torture device either, and this is the bunny who can eat an entire set of plastic baby keys in five minutes flat! 🥕





Bambi & Flower: Flower is an adult black pointy eared female and who also happens to be Bambi's mom! Bambi is a stunning milk chocolate brown, 5-6 month old male with blue eyes! He's very curious and both these guys could use a loving home. Please not that Bambi and Flower can be adopted separately.



Smokey: Smokey is a gorgeous 1 to 2 year old male Lop mix . He is absolutely AAAAadorable. He's almost a pointy eared varmint but the left ear lops and the right ear wants to be on that side too! He'd be a great addition to any home. Great with children, lots of energy, and an extremely sweet and loving bunny.



Spanky: Spanky is a 1 to 2 year old charcoal gray pointy eared male rabbit. This gorgeous little guy is a wonderful bunny boy and would make a great second bunny for a lovely bunny girl. He's very friendly and would good with children 6 years or older.



Aries: Aries is a 6 Month old New Zealand White male. He is a sweetie pie and a very inquisitive bunny boy who will climb all over you for some love. Aries is going to get even bigger, probably up to 10 lbs. A very sweet gentle giant of a bunny!

Robinson's May Charity Benefit Shopping Day

Dear BHRR Supporters and Volunteers,

Robinson's May of Chandler will be opening October 16, 2001. Opening day has been designated Charity Benefit Shopping Day and Brambley Hedge Rabbit Rescue has been chosen as one of the charities to receive opening day profits.

The program works as follows: \$5.00 tickets are sold to receive 25% discounts, a chance to win \$1,000 or a cosmetic gift basket valued at \$250.00. If BHRR sells the most tickets we could win \$1,000.00. Each \$5.00 ticket we sell comes back directly to BHRR! If you'd like to buy tickets or sell the packets please contact us at brambleyhedge@home.com

Each and every dollar sold goes to our bunnies. We need ALL your help as this is a very simple way to raise money for the bunnies.

Remember when selling tickets:

- The ticket holder has a chance to win \$1,000.
- The ticket holder gets 25% off all opening day specials throughout store.
- The ticket holder's name goes for a drawing on a \$250.00 cosmetic basket.
- The ticket holder is helping our bunnies!!!!

Friends, neighbors, coaches, teachers, business associates and everyone you come in contact with on a daily basis is a potential sale. Remember to remove the top two copies of the ticket and return them to Kim Dezelon.

Again, thank you for your support ... it's all for the bunnies!!!!

Recent Adoptions

Little Bit		Tara
Fritz (Monti)	Big Wig	Digger
Bugsy	Puppy	
	Willow	

Brambley Hedge Rabbit Rescue Wants You!

Volunteers and fosterers are always welcome and needed at Brambley Hedge Rabbit Rescue.

For more information contact
Stacey Shirer at 602-225-0934 or
email at ma2jess@concentric.net

"KASH FOR BUNNIES"

Brambley Hedge Rabbit Rescue needs your used Laser and Ink Jet printer cartridges. Earn Extra Dollars ... for the bunnies' medical bills, food, toys, or whatever these furkids may need.



Turn your printer trash into "KASH FOR BUNNIES"

(480) 844-7855

ask for Terry or email at:

tmcbride@radiantlaser.com



We Need Your Yesterdays News UPC Codes

**Brambley Hedge Rabbit Rescue gets
1 free bag of Yesterdays News for every
7 UPC codes we send in.**

**Please mail your UPC codes to
Brambley Hedge Rabbit Rescue,
PO Box 54506, Phoenix, AZ 85078**

New Chenille Bunnies!

No functioning bedspreads were sacrificed in the creation of these bunnies! Each bunny is approx. 12 inches long and 6 inches high, very fat with a little cottontail on its backside! Each bunny is available for \$25.



For colors and availability or more info contact brambleyhedge@home.com

Marilyn's Bunny Boutique

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