



August 2013
Issue # 18

Welcome to the August 2013 edition of Rabbit Runaway Round-up, our quick monthly newsletter..

Orphans of the Month

Featured this month are RRO's resident Rexes, Mitsy and Beatrix (VIB) (pictured below). Beatrix was dumped in a Melbourne suburb when the owners left the area. Her friend disappeared and she survived for 18 months prior to a neighbour alerting us to her predicament. Little Beatrix then came to RRO where she was diagnosed with teeth issues. She is currently undergoing treatment, and lives with her new friend Mitsy.

If you would like to contribute to Beatrix's care, you can [sponsor her](#) or make a donation through our [website](#).



Who's who in RRO?

Binkies to Eve and David - our very first RRO members. HUGE thanks for your commitment to our humble charity over the past years and to your generous hearts for fostering and adopting many of the buns in need.

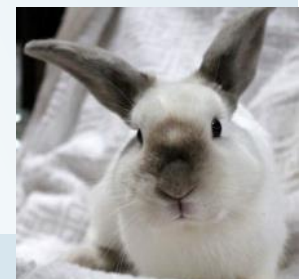
Congratulations to Gabby Driscoll, who has stepped up to take on the role of Membership Coordinator. Thank you Gabby, for your great efforts in looking after our membership base. If you would like to support the Orphanage by becoming a member, please contact Gabby at membership@rabbitrunaway.org.au

And last but certainly not least - congratulations to our secretary Ylva and her husband Jim, who has just had their first baby - all the best to you and your family Ylva!

Royal Melbourne Show

The Royal Melbourne Show is almost here again! It is being held from Sat 21 Sept to Wed 2 October. Last year was a great success and we are looking for volunteers to help out this time round. If you are interested, please [contact RRO](#) for more details and to see how you could help.

Celery Day: This month, Celery Day is dedicated to our VIB bunnies who are lined up for surgeries. Remember the date! Celery Day is held on the last Tuesday of each month, and it's as easy as setting up a monthly direct debit - less than price of cup of coffee. See the Orphans of the month for Beatrix's story and how to donate.





"THE EVENT" is coming.... We're sooooo excited!

Listen to my very important announcement. "The Event" is on the 19th October, from 6pm - have you written it down? Have you?

So mark your calendar and get your group together for a night of fun! Watch our [Facebook](#) page and [website](#) for further details.

A Bunny's Point of View: Part 2

This article follows on from Part 1 that was featured in last month's newsletter.

Once you have taken your bunny home, place them into their prepared space as discussed in last month's newsletter. It is crucial that the foster bunny knows where 'their' space is. Their area should include a hiding spot where you never enter unless in an emergency. They will likely be nervous at first but this should change once they have explored their space and they know where they can go when they are scared.

A change of environment can be stressful for a new bun, but they will adjust to the sounds and movements once they realise that these things will not harm them.

To assist with the transition, keep sudden noise and movements to a minimum and keep other household pets away from the bunnies initially. To gain the trust of your bunny you'll need to spend time with them without interacting with them. You'll likely find that they are very inquisitive but very shy to start with.

Sit with them quietly reading or playing a game so that your attention is away from them, and you'll find that it won't take long for them to come up to you. Don't try and pat them initially until they are more confident in the space.

These quiet activities will teach them that they can trust you. This may take days, weeks or months, but each day trust will build a little more. You can also talk to them so that they will become used to your voice.

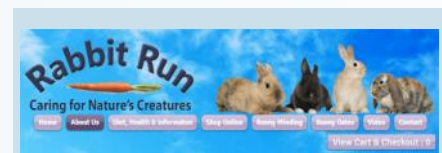
If a rabbit is scared of hands, give them a favourite treat, then progress to feeding them from your hands and eventually they will climb over you to get to the treats as long as they trust that you won't try and handle them. Soon you'll be able to move your hands without scaring them, and at this time you may try to stroke their heads while they are eating.

Bunnies are prey animals and associate being picked up with being taken by a predator. In the hands of an inexperienced person they may be very scared, struggle and jump possibly causing injury. When attempting to pick up your bunny always kneel on the floor, place one hand under the chest and under the

back legs and draw them close to your body. Slide your arm under the bunny to support them and have one hand over the nape of the neck to avoid the bunny jumping out of your arms. Small children should never pick up a bunny, as this can cause injury to both the child and the rabbit.

Taking on a bunny that needs socialising requires considerable thought and dedication. However, seeing a bunny blossom into a happy, confident house bunny is an achievement which will make a tremendous difference in finding them a new home.

If you have the time and space, have any questions, or think you're up to the challenge, please contact the Orphanage Foster Coordinator at foster@rabbitrunaway.org.au



Go to the [Rabbit Run Online Store](#) to purchase all sorts of goodies such as bunny-care hampers, toys, vet sponsorships, t-shirts and GoodWill Wine as a treat for yourself! Proceeds go directly back to bunny care.

Bunny Education - See the links below for handy information about caring for your bun:

[Bunny Care Booklet](#) | [Responsible Bunny Ownership](#) | [The Myxomatosis Virus](#)
[The Bunny Diet](#) | [Bunnies as Indoor Pets](#) | [Companion Bunnies](#) | [When a Bunny Needs a Vet](#)

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