

Welcome to the 31st edition of Rabbit Run-Away Round-up, our quick newsletter update for our members and supporters...

Spring Babies

Whilst spring is usually the celebration of new life, it is a very difficult and stressful time for rabbit rescues as most female rabbits found or abandoned are already pregnant. Last year we ended up with 35 babies from pregnant mothers. This over population is due to people not de-sexing their rabbits.

Did you know that a rabbit can get pregnant the day after giving birth? After three consecutive litters, usually the mother dies from the burden placed on her body and the babies are surrendered to be hand reared by the orphanage. Their survival rate is very poor when hand reared from a few days old. It is very irresponsible to let your rabbits breed, when the shelters are full of abandoned and lost pets whose survival is ominous.

Orphans of the Month - Gracie & Chloe

So far this spring, the orphanage has had 10 female rabbits come in pregnant. Two of these buns are Gracie and Chloe.

Gracie (pictured top left in the group) is a medium sized bunny and she was found living in a loading dock at Woolworths in Bundoora. Soon after her arrival she had a litter.

Chloe (pictured bottom left in the group) is a

Love is in the Air

Big congratulations go out to our lovely volunteers Lisa Cheetham and Megan Davis. Lisa became engaged on August 13th in Queenstown, New Zealand; and Megan celebrated her marriage on October the 26th!



smaller giant breed and was surrendered after she was left running with two males and a female. She had multiple litters and was pregnant and in very poor condition when she arrived.

Chloe and Gracie's babies will be ready for adoption in a few weeks. If you are interested in adopting any of RRO's orphans and are able to house the bunnies indoors, please contact us on 1300 959 370 or 03 9751 1229.

Volunteers of the Month (Aug/Sept)

Congratulations go out to Janine Rigby for August and Katherine Robinson for September as our volunteers of the month! Your hard work and dedication to the orphanage is truly appreciated.



Who's who at RRO?

This month we talk to volunteer and foster carer, Leisa Guley.

How did you hear about the orphanage?

My cousin Joanne who has a bunny named Boo told me about a bunny group and it was through that group that I first heard about RRO and all of the wonderful work they do with abandoned bunnies.

Why did you start to volunteer at the orphanage?

Once I visited RRO and met Bryce and Judi I was overwhelmed with admiration for these lovely people who dedicate their lives to save and care for such dear little animals.

As an animal lover helping at the orphanage makes me feel as though I am doing something really worthwhile and as a parent of two daughters it has helped to teach them what happens if you don't take the responsibility of a pet seriously. It has also shown them that there are some truly wonderful people in the world who do their best to help others.

I have met some wonderful people through RRO and my husband and I especially look forward to the Trivia nights, which are always so much fun and we can all get together and share our love of bunnies.

How do you help at the orphanage?

As I live in Geelong it is difficult to get to RRO on a regular basis so I try and donate whenever I can and I act as a Foster Carer mainly for baby bunnies. Last Christmas

Vet Tip



It's spring and new babies are everywhere.... Rabbits are no different, and can breed rapidly. Did you know rabbits are "induced ovulators" which means the act of mating causes the release of eggs, so they can get pregnant every time they mate?

Pregnancy lasts 31-33 days, and rabbits can fall pregnant again the day they give birth! Average litter size is 5-8, although some rabbits have been known to produce litters in excess of 20!

The only way to avoid unwanted litters is to de-sex your bunnies – both males and females need de-sexing. Talk to your rabbit friendly vet about this procedure.

Dr Gerry Skinner BSc BVSc PhD MRCVS MANZCVSc - The Rabbit Doctor

I hand reared Peta, Penny and Cinnamon who have all since been adopted and I am currently caring for a Flemish Giant who has just given birth to five adorable babies.

Do you have any bunnies of your own?

I have five gorgeous bunnies of my own, Phoebe, Sooty, Rosie, Diego and Tiffany. Rosie was a rescue from the local Primary School, Sooty and Diego are adopted and in the very near future we will be finalising the adoption of Tiffany.



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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