

Rabbit Run-Away Chronicles



e-News Issue # 18 - Jan/Feb 2017 Rabbit Run-Away Orphanage & HRS Australian Chapter



Happy New Year and welcome to the latest edition of Rabbit Run-Away Chronicles, our newsletter for Rabbit Run-Away Orphanage and the House Rabbit Society Australian Chapter....

A BIG Thank You

Thank you to those who answered our calls for "Christmas Foster Angels", to help us care for our bunnies over the holiday period. The roller-coaster started mid December and we are most grateful to everyone that put up their hand to help us over this hectic time.

We could not have done this without you. On behalf of all the bunnies we say a BIG THANKYOU.



Why House Rabbits?

In Australia, indoor housing is the only appropriate and safe environment for a rabbit, that has been bred and domesticated as a family pet.



There is increased risks of predator attack from stray dogs and foxes, which are sighted regularly in the inner and outer suburbs of Melbourne. Myxomatosis and Calici viruses are also deadly to rabbits, as well as our extreme weather conditions.

Our commitment to the rabbits

We have taken on a serious responsibility to ensure each rabbit that comes through our doors is

placed into a secure and appropriate home where their needs and care are understood prior to adoption. Hence, adoption becomes a serious process. follow a set of protocols to insure that potential adopters are fully aware of the requirements of the rabbit as a pet and are prepared and willing to take on this commitment. One common misconception is that rabbits are child appropriate or easy pets. On the contrary they require a safe and secure environment, a routine, interaction with their carer and a financial commitment to care for them when they are ill.

Rabbits are a prey animal which means their instincts and behaviours are completely different from a cat or a dog. They are also very subtle communicators, to subtle for a child to understand, therefore losing interest in the animal within a short period of time. Gaining a rabbit's trust is key to establishing a positive relationship with the rabbit.

Rabbits are social animals, they enjoy the presence of another rabbit, and humans. They adapt well to an indoor environment, where they feel safe and can interact with their carers. This is the only way you will see and experience the true nature of your rabbit when they are a treasured member of your family.

Lee-Ann Tee, HRS Australian Chapter Educator

 $\frac{\times}{4}$ REHOMING Figures for 2016: 160

Adoptions: 130 VIB Foster Homes: 10

Permanent Foster Homes: 20

Orphans of the Month

In this edition we take time to acknowledge some of the 'happily ever after' orphans who have found their forever homes, as well as those little buns who sadly grew their 'angel wings' in 2016.

Angel Wings at Christmas

We grieve the passing of some of our fur babies around the Christmas Season where their little stockings hung waiting for Santa, instead these little ones spread their angel wings to cross the Rainbow Bridge. Many buns crossed over, although they are all treasured members of our families, we remember some that touched many of us at the orphanage in their own unique ways.



Gingermegs

Gingermegs came to us a year ago as his young owner could not afford vet care and he had a huge abscess on his leg. The abscess was removed and his leg was saved. He grew

stronger and went into a loving foster home with Carly. Sadly, he became unwell and over a few weeks he was diagnosed with kidney failure. He passed away with his little Christmas stocking hanging beside his little bun wife's. He was deeply loved by his foster carer who provided the best care for him. Can you see his angel wings as he passes the brightest star in the Christmas night sky on his way to the clover fields across the rainbow bridge? RIP little man - always remembered.



Lu Lu

Lu Lu was adopted from the Orphanage and one day we saw her on a rehoming site. We made sure she came back to the safety of the Orphanage where she found her loving forever

home with Ally. Lu Lu crossed the bridge suddenly leaving behind her devastated family and her husbun Pepper, thank you Ally and family for loving Lu Lu, binky free in the clover fields little one.



Queenie

Assertive and intelligent, Queenie was destined for the plate until intervention

saw her come out to the Orphanage. She was bonded with Alfie, a gorgeous head tilt bun, and later Denzel and a special needs little bun, Fury. The trio lived with one of our wonderful vets Dr Lizzie, Fury adored Queenie and would copy her behaviour, whilst Queenie looked after the gentle Alfie and then Denzel. Queenie had numerous health issues which became to much for her and she grew her angel wings. Thankyou Dr Lizzie for giving these buns such a wonderful life, RIP gorgeous girl.

Jazz



Jazz was adopted by Emma and Carl in 2010 and played an integral part on their wedding day, She had numerous health issues that Emma and Carl lovingly nursed her through, until kidney failure started her journey to the bridge. RIP Jazz, sadly missed by your loving family

and those of us that knew you. Binky in the clover fields beyond the Bridge little one.



Cheeky Solo was adopted from the Orphanage 3 years ago by our volunteer Lee-Ann after she was cleaning his cage and he sprayed her all over! It was love. Solo her soul bunny reminded Lee-Ann everyday

of the joy of providing an animal the chance at a new life, to be loved, and happy and healthy. For such a small bunny he knew how to weave his way into people's hearts with his adorable and crazy antics. We are deeply sorry for the loss of Solo and in the words of his Mumma 'Rest In Peace my beautiful little ninja', binky free.

Lani



Little Lani came to the Orphanage in a thunderstorm 7 years ago after being abandoned outside a house for sale. She had eaten all the grass from under her cage.

She was always timid and spent most of her time hiding, but would allow Judi to give her a pat now and then. Lani spent her life at the Orphanage, binky free in the clover fields beautiful girl, you are sadly missed.



HRS Update

The House Rabbit Society Australian Chapter is proud to bestow full educator status to Lee-Ann Tee, who has been volunteering with us for over 5 years. Lee-Ann's experience as an educator

ranges from developing our primary school responsible pet ownership programs, organising and running our offsite events, managing all our adoptions, designing and managing our website, and other administration duties. Lee-Ann joins Judi and Bryce and Dr Gerry Skinner as full educators for the Australian Chapter of the House Rabbit Society. We are excited to celebrate her contributions through recognition as a HRS educator.



Congratulations and well done Lee-Ann!

Orphans of the Month

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'Hoppy Endings Corner'

Hugo and Ellie

A big thankyou to Mary for offering a permanent home to little Hugo (9 years old) and his Ellie (5 years old). This is the first permanent home they have had, now Hugo can spend his elder years enjoying a real home instead of bouncing back and forward to the Orphanage. Hugo was found living in a 10 gallon drum with a rat and met Ellie at the Orphanage. He was known 'Bossy Boots' as he would boss around the volunteers, he has mellowed a little in his elder years.

THIS WAS THE BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT WE COULD HAVE WISHED FOR! Thankyou Mary for giving them a loving home.

Dolly



Little Dolly is an elder bun now with a young husbun, Frank. Dolly has lost 2 husbuns and has been lonely. She meet Frank at the Orphanage and are now in the care of Cassie and Pete, who are excellent at



looking after elder buns.

They also looked after Mr Bunny (Stan) until he crossed the Rainbow Bridge at nearly 13 years of age.

Grace and Millie

Our beautiful girls Grace and Millie found their forever home at last! These sweet girls have been at the Orphanage for years until they met Steph and her family, who love their precious girls and believe they are lucky to have found them too, thank you for opening up your home and heart to these two beautiful souls.



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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Vet Tip: Teeth

Rabbits have a total of 28 teeth. This includes the four incisor tooth 'smile' that we can see at the front of the mouth, two smaller peg teeth that sit behind the upper incisors, with the remainder being the

grinding cheek teeth that sit towards the back of the mouth.

Rabbits have a set of baby teeth like humans, dogs and cats do, but these fall out either shortly after birth or even when the babies are still in the uterus! All of the permanent teeth grow continuously throughout the life of the rabbit.

Inappropriate overgrowth can cause changes to the jaw, tear duct blockages, ulcers in the mouth and infections, so it is very important to have your rabbit's teeth checked at least every six months with a bunny friendly vet, and to have your rabbit on an ideal diet to provide enough fibre to keep the teeth wearing well.

Dr. Belinda Oppenheimer BVSc (Hons) - The Rabbit Doctors

Rabbit Run-Away Calendar	
Location	Dates
Adoption Day, My Pet Warehouse Rowville	Sat 11th March 2017
Pets in the Park, Central Park, East Malvern	Sun 26th March 2017



Positions Available

Intersection Collectors:

paid positions

Shelter volunteers:

week day and weekend shifts

Long term Foster Carers: for our VIB bunnies and couples, all equipment, supplies and vet care covered.

Please <u>contact the orphanage</u> if you (or others) can help.