



# Rabbit Run-Away Chronicles



e-News Issue # 23 - Nov/Dec 2017

Rabbit Run-Away Orphanage & HRS Australian Chapter



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

## Seasons Greetings to all of our supporters



## for a safe and happy holiday season

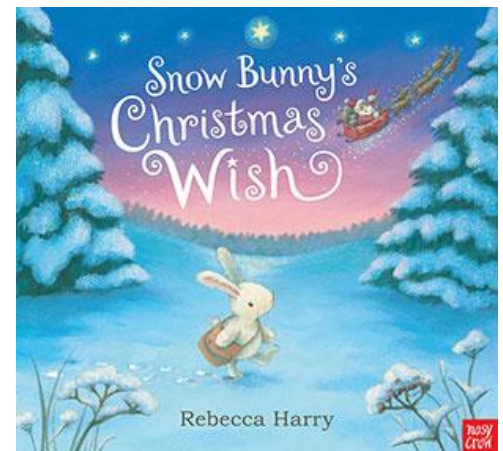


*We have found some lovely Christmas bunny stories to inspire and warm the heart this festive season*

### **Snow Bunny's Christmas Wish: by Rebecca Harry**

The only present Snow Bunny truly wants for Christmas is a friend.

Snow Bunny lives all by herself deep in the wintry forest. When she is too late to mail her letter to Santa, she decides to take it to the North Pole herself. Along the way, she meets other animals who need her help. It's only when Santa brings her home in his sleigh that Snow Bunny realizes she has made her wish come true all on her own! This sweet Christmas story is about the power of kindness and is sure to be a family favourite.

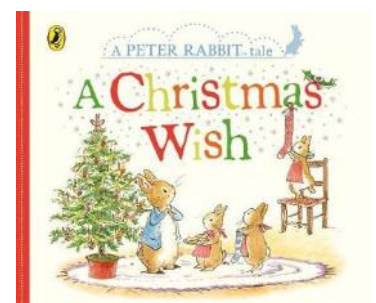


### **The Christmas Bunny: a film by Tom Seidman**

The Christmas Bunny tells the story of a lonely foster child who is taken in for a trial period by a suburban mother hoping to adopt her. The girl is mute, and the woman's husband and son are resistant towards the inclusion of her in the family. On Christmas Eve, the girl finds a lost, injured rabbit in the woods, and she begins to talk again. She takes the rabbit over to an elderly local woman known as "The Bunny Lady", who reluctantly nurses it back to health in her rabbit rescue operation in an old barn behind her Michigan farmhouse. The girl begins to help the Bunny Lady around her farm, and through her love for the rabbits, she slowly begins to re-grasp the feeling of being loved.

### **A Christmas Wish: by Beatrix Potter**

It's Christmas Eve and Peter Rabbit and his sisters are excited, but Peter is worried too. They have all wished for a special present, but Peter can't sleep, and he knows Father Christmas won't visit if he's still awake. As the hours drag by anxious Peter hears a little creak here, and a little bump there, so now he's even less likely to fall asleep. Poor Peter. Will his Christmas wish ever come true?



## The Gift of Giving



A small bundle was found on the side of the road

Cold, hungry and unable to stand upright.

Gentle hands picked up the tiny creature

A phone call secured help at rescue, where

experienced hands took over the care of the tiny creature, who had been attacked.

The tiny creature grew stronger, it found balance to stand alone, soon it was joined by another baby and life was good.



Humans are gifted with compassion, empathy and time. Giving generously of these gifts can lift the spirits and save a life. The gift of giving of time or other gifts lightens the heart and lifts the spirits, relieves burdens and brings joy to all

*What can you do to lighten the burden, support a life or make someone smile over this Festive Season?*

## The Effects of Giving

*The true gift of giving is alive and well*



### Our Personal Experience

An unexpected accident that put us into a state of despair just prior to Christmas was turned around by the gift of giving, when the Orphanage vehicle rolled and turned over, the insurance company wrote the car off.



The insurance was not enough to replace the vehicle with a similar car. With bills to pay, vet visits scheduled and facing a very busy Christmas period, we felt hopeless.

Then we received two lifelines from compassionate and generous people - a call from the owners of Heathcote Winery offering a loan of their spare vehicle for vet visits and rescue work, then another call from Fortiz Accountants offering a permanent replacement car free of charge.



The vehicle was 10 years old and needed a roadworthy. This was organised and the vehicle will become the new Orphanage transport.

These acts of kindness lifted our spirits and lightened our immediate stress at the busiest time of year. We give a heartfelt thanks to Heathcote Winery for their generous offer of the loan car, and to Fortiz Accountants for their generous offer to supply a free of charge permanent vehicle for the Orphanage. Please support these wonderful businesses who put compassion and empathy before monetary gain, a rare find in a financially driven world.

## Vet Tip

Watch out for bunny feet! Unlike dogs and cats who have fleshy pads protecting their paws, rabbits only have fur to protect their feet, and sometimes this is not enough! Rabbits housed on inappropriate substrate such as wire or plywood, or in environments that are not kept clean such that they are sitting in their urine and faeces, are predisposed to developing ulcerated sores on their feet: pododermatitis or 'bumblefoot'.

Rex breeds are the most sensitive to this disease due to their soft coats lacking thicker, protective hairs. Carpet can also be surprisingly abrasive to bunny feet! Ensure your rabbit's environment is kept clean, and bedding is thick and soft. Thick hay, towels, fleeces, vet beds or grass and soil are the softest materials on rabbit paws. If you have any concerns, please get your rabbit checked with your bunny friendly vet; any problems are best caught early on before they become nasty!

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







# Calling all passengers for QF35

## Melbourne to Singapore now boarding



It was the morning of the 11 November 2017 and two little passengers waited nervously cuddled together in their enclosure, for their 5 hour flight. They were not the only nervous ones that morning.

In Melbourne, the carers at Rabbit Runaway Orphanage waiting anxiously for news of these little passengers, Cookie and Muffin, who they had looked after for months prior to their departure. In Singapore an equally anxious owner, who had preceded them to set up home, waited for news. We all breathed a sigh of relief when they touched down in Singapore safe and sound.

Preparation to fly these beloved pets to Singapore to their new home, began months in advance and required the owner to investigate import and export requirements for the country of export (Australia) and country of import (Singapore). Regarding quarantine, we were relieved to hear that Singapore allows for home quarantine in this case. Each country will have different requirements.

### In this case the owner was required to apply for:

- ◆ An import licence
- ◆ Veterinary certification which included a vet check-up within two weeks of travel, and parasite treatment (revolution). There are specialised vets that do this certification.
- ◆ The animals must be healthy with no sign of contagious disease
- ◆ The owner must have had the animals in their care for a minimum of two years.

[PetEx](#) was engaged to coordinate the travel. They looked after the documentation and care of our vulnerable pets. We were relieved to find a company that was caring and diligent and cared about our bunnies. ...cont page 4



## Events Update



## Fundraising Update

We have had some wonderful initiatives from our volunteers and supporters to raise funds towards paying of the backlog of vet bills

- Bunny Yoga raised \$2,200
- Claire's Violin Concert raised \$1000
- The Rabbit Conference raised \$600

We have made significant efforts to pay of the \$24,000 with only \$7,000 still to go.



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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## Calling all passengers for QF35 (cont'd)...

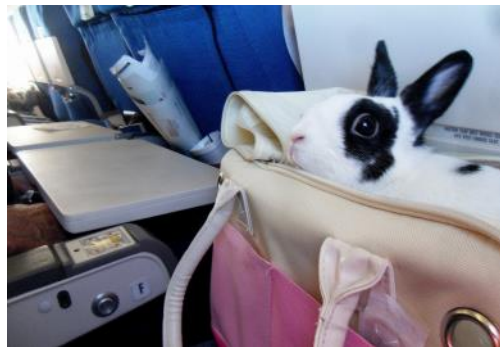
The bunnies were collected from the Orphanage the day before their flight, and stayed at the Pet Ex depot near the airport overnight. The lady that collected them understood our concerns and she sent us a photo of the bunnies in their temporary accommodation prior to travel. We were also pleased to hear that she had a pet house rabbit and understood their requirements.

The following day they boarded their flight. Their carrier had a pet mat, water bottle and pellets, as no hay was allowed for the flight. They were met at Singapore Airport by their owner. They finally arrived... two worried, but safe and alive bunnies.

## Rabbits and Air Travel

With the end of year fast approaching, many people are making life decisions to relocate, and many want to take their much-loved pets with them. Air-travel can be stressful for your rabbit, with changes in altitude, unknown locations and noise.

Firstly, check if your airline allows pets as carry-on or as therapy pets. This will allow you stay close to your beloved bun, and help to ease stress.



to

If your airline requires pets to be transported

with cargo, don't panic. The cargo hold is pressurised, and temperature controlled, just like the cabin. Putting a familiar blanket or soft toy in the carrier with your rabbit will help.

Sedating an animal prior to travel is not advised as it may lower blood-pressure and cause dehydration, adding more stress to the situation.

Consulting a pet travel service, such as [PetEx](#), will ensure that all requirements for travel are met and provide the best possible care for your rabbit. PetEx consultants will create an itinerary for the transport of your pet, provide a regulated travel crate, and transport your bun in a temperature-controlled vehicle, to and from the airport if necessary. They also employ accredited vets to ensure that your pet has the best flight possible.

Read more here: [To Fly or not to Fly?](#)