

Rabbit Sanctuary Newsletter

Adopt-A-Rabbit



A Program of Rabbit Sanctuary, Inc.

**OUR MISSION: TO PROVIDE RESCUED DOMESTIC RABBITS
A HOME FOR LIFE**

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Sky



Sky relaxing in the bunny building

Mary Black Heath System of Spartanburg, SC sits on a campus that includes the hospital and several other affiliated buildings, including doctors' offices and a large conference center. The grounds have a nature trail that winds through woods and meadows. There is a fast-flowing creek, crossed at one point by a picturesque wooden footbridge. In front of the buildings, fountains with pools attract birds and wild ducks. It's a beautiful parklike setting.

Last May, someone – we don't know who – considered this safe, tranquil place the perfect location to release his/her pet rabbit. Someone – for whatever reason – decided he/she could no longer keep the large white New Zealand doe we have named Sky. By selecting this haven, it seems the owner cared about the rabbit, wanted her to be safe and have a good life.

However, because Sky is a domestic pet, she could not survive for long even in this beautiful setting. As pets, domestic rabbits do not have to call upon their wild instincts in their protected indoor lives. Often they have lived compatibly with dogs and cats. They therefore don't recognize danger. They are far too trusting, and when abandoned out doors, become easy prey for dogs, cats, and coyotes.

Domestic rabbits have a hard time getting enough to eat on a wild diet, and soon after release they begin to starve. They are dependent upon richer and more plentiful food sources. Abandoned rabbits also fall victim to internal and external parasites. In only two to three days their strength and health begin to decline.

The first order of business for a domestic rabbit abandoned out of doors is to find a hiding place. On the Mary Black campus, Sky sought refuge in the thick weeds and brambles along the steep creek bank.



Over the following days, she made periodic sojourns from her hiding place and mapped out the surrounding area. She made note of good grazing areas and numerous hiding places. She decided the bank of the creek, where cover was thickest, would be the most secret and protected spot to begin construction of her tunnel. This would be the beginning of her future warren.

Domestic rabbits are gregarious animals, and Sky believed surely other rabbits would soon appear to help her in the construction of her warren. But as the days went by, no other rabbits appeared. Sky felt very alone and began to wonder how she could do everything by herself.

By the end of the first week, she began to get very hungry. She was losing weight and losing strength. Ticks, fleas, and warbles targeted her. She was beginning to despair.

People and cars were constantly coming and going in and out of the buildings and parking lots. Little did Sky know she was becoming a topic of conversation within the hospital halls and doctors' offices. Word was spreading among the Mary Black nurses and staff members: "Did you see that big white rabbit hopping around the parking lot this morning?" And, "I was walking on the trail at lunch, and a white rabbit ran out of the bushes right in front of me!" Many became concerned: Deb, Gia, and Daphne to name a few. Over the upcoming days, they made several attempts to catch Sky. All attempts failed. Sky always foiled everyone by disappearing into her secret, well-hidden tunnel.

One evening after work, Gia returned to the scene with her teenaged son. She was sure he could catch the rabbit – and he did! "He had his hands around that rabbit, but she slipped out of his grip and ran clean away," Gia reported.

On another evening in the pouring rain, Deb went to the creek bank after work to look for Sky. And there she was, grazing by the side of the creek. Deb walked slowly toward Sky, talking softly to her. She walked on the edge of the creek bank in hopes of preventing Sky from descending down the bank into the thick weeds and disappearing as she had always done before.

Deb got too close to the edge of the bank; and in the slippery wet mud, she lost her footing. Suddenly she went sliding down the steep bank, landing in the creek. When she recovered herself, she realized Sky had vanished. Arriving home wet, muddy, and disheveled, Deb was greeted by her husband who inquired, "Rough day?"

By the third week, Sky was noticeably slower. Everyone knew she wasn't doing well and couldn't survive much longer. All concerned were now more determined than ever to catch this elusive white rabbit.

Gia and Deb, both Mary Black practice managers, and Daphne, a nurse, agreed to meet at the creek after work. Deb brought wire-segmented fencing. Their plan was to close in on Sky, surround her with the fence and trap her.

Deb was the first to show up. Before Gia and Daphne arrived, an unknown woman pulled into the parking lot and got out of her car with a bag of carrots. Evidently the carrot delivery was expected because just then Sky appeared. The two women, total strangers, slowly approached Sky, each holding one end of the expanding wire fence. The woman with the carrots tossed one on the ground in front of Sky. So very hungry, Sky went for it. The two women quickly unfolded the fence in a tight circle around Sky. Deb seized the opportunity and grabbed the surprised rabbit. The three-week ordeal was over. Sky was caught at last!

As if on cue, Gia and Daphne arrived with a pet carrier and helped secure Sky. Deb took pictures after Sky was rescued. The first pictured shows Sky wet, muddy, thin, forlorn, and defeated. Her eyes dull, sad, hopeless, reflected her story. Deb took Sky home. She cleaned, dried, and fluffed Sky in warm towels. She gave her hay, salad,



pellets, and water. She treated her with love, gentleness, and kindness. Then she bedded her down in the kitchen for the night.

The second picture was taken in the morning. Just that quickly, the picture reveals a whole different story. Sky's eyes were bright, alert, hopeful. Clearly she knew, "I'm going to be all right!"

At the Sanctuary, Sky's health issues were immediately addressed. She began to gain weight and strength. For several months she lived in the Sanctuary Health Care Building. Then along came Babbit. He was the perfect mate for Sky. No bonding period was necessary. They hit it off right from the start! (Look for Babbit's rescue story in our Summer 2018 newsletter.)

Thank you to all the nurses and staff at Mary Black who persevered and to the unknown woman with the bag of carrots!



*Sky is safe after being rescued
by Debra & Daphne.*



Continue the kindness of Debra, Gia, & Daphne

***Adopt Sky as a gift or for yourself
Your adoption fee of \$30.00 or more
will help pay for her \$300 spay surgery
and her \$121 wellness check.***



Dandy



On April 10, 2016, the Sanctuary received a call from Dr. Kathryn Marshall at the Poinsett Animal Hospital in Greenville, SC. She explained, "When I arrived at work several days ago, there was a large white rabbit in a cage at the front entrance. I'm located near Animal Care and Control, the county-run shelter on Furman Hall Road. I presume the rabbit was refused at the shelter, and in desperation his owner discarded the rabbit on my doorstep."

Dr. Marshall continued, "My practice is limited to dogs and cats, but I brought the rabbit in and gave him a cursory check-up to assure he was all right. He appears to be well taken care of and very friendly. Actually, he's a real charmer; and my staff has fallen in love with him." "We can't find anyone who will help. We are so grateful to have found you," Dr. Marshall said.

Sanctuary friend Li Martin retrieved "Dandy" and took him straight to our vet for a thorough health exam. Our vet thought Dandy was about one year old. He was diagnosed with giardia, an intestinal parasitic protozoa, for which he was treated. On April 19, he was neutered.

Some weeks later, we introduced him to Wisp. (You might remember Wisp from our Spring/Summer 2017 Sanctuary newsletter.) Since both had been discarded in their pens, they have a lot in common. They took to each other right away and now reside in Rabbitat II. Life for both is finally as it should be: HAPPY!



*Continue the kindness of Dr. Kathryn Marshall
Adopt Dandy as a gift or for yourself.
Your adoption fee of \$30.00 or more will help with
the cost of his wellness checkup and neuter which
cost \$215.*



Going, Going, Gone!

Fundraising for a non-profit is always an on-going and challenging effort. In addition to seeking membership support (for which we are very grateful), we are also reaching out to companies and philanthropic organizations, especially those that may have a connection to rabbits. We're always thinking of ways to support the needs of our rabbits!

During a recent conversation with Board members and volunteers, the idea of holding an auction was discussed. One was held some years ago, and it was a successful event for the Sanctuary. Now, however, we've decided to go "high tech" (well, for the Sanctuary anyway). Rather than just having auction items available for bid at our annual *Picnic with the Rabbits*, we thought posting the items on-line would provide those who could not attend an opportunity to bid on some great stuff.

And that's where you come in! We are seeking items to auction off to the highest bidders. Do you have a favorite restaurant that you frequent often? If so, please ask the manager to donate a gift card or certificate. Do you crochet? A gender-neutral baby blanket would be a wonderful addition to the auction! Are you a Clemson Tiger or Carolina Gamecock fan? How about assembling a basket of items supporting your favorite team? If you have a special skill or talent, we'd love to auction off that too. We've already received a donation of a will writing from our attorney (a \$400 value)!

Please contact the Sanctuary if you have any questions, ideas, or wish to donate something. You can reach us by e-mail at adoptarabbit@hotmail.com. All items must be received by February 1, 2018. All donors will be acknowledged and receive a letter of thanks which will serve as their receipt for taxes.



Publix



Rabbit Sanctuary Inc. has been a faithful customer at Publix Market for twenty years. Recently we discovered Publix is on the list of markets that sell rabbit meat, according to Rabbit Advocacy Network.

Rabbit Sanctuary Inc. wrote to Publix asking them to stop supporting the cruel and unnecessary rabbit meat industry and to include rabbits in their Publix PAWS Program. So far, they have refused. Let's keep the pressure on!

Here's how you can help:

- You can find a petition on change.org. Type in "Publix rabbit meat." to get to the petition. Or to make it even easier to join the petition, visit our web site and follow the link.
- Write to Publix at P. O. Box 407 Lakeland, FL. 33802. Ask that they stop selling our beloved pets as meat and ask that they add rabbits to the PAWS Program.
- Go to their web site and leave a comment on their contact page voicing your concerns. Follow the link on our website to visit their page. Let's make a difference!



Domestic rabbits are our family pets and our beloved companions. Nine million homes in America can attest to that!

Lilibelle escaped from a backyard meat operation. She was injured and starving. She objects to being considered a "meat" rabbit. She is a pet, friend, and companion, not an entree.



Legacies

If you have named our Sanctuary as a beneficiary in your will or are considering doing so, make sure we are listed as Rabbit Sanctuary, Inc. The address is:
Rabbit Sanctuary Inc., P. O. Box 80036 Simpsonville, SC 29680

Thank you

Veg Fest 2017

Imagine a festival held on a warm autumn day in Hilton Head, SC where event goers were animal advocates, friends of the earth, and plant-based eaters. Such were the circumstances the Rabbit Sanctuary found when it attended the Second Annual Veg Fest on October 21! Our mission was warmly embraced by the many who stopped by our booth to inquire about our facility and its residents. In addition to raising awareness about our work, we also sold T-shirts, books, and raffle tickets for original artwork donated by well-respected Hilton Head artist Amos Hummell. The Sanctuary was a big hit with the many who marveled at its vision and devotion in caring for these underserved animals in need. Having had such a good experience, we may make this an annual event!



Veg Fest Crew

Val Magin, Caroline Gilbert, Amos Hummell,
Erik Bogart, Lynne Hummell

Auction for a Kaws

What Keli Miller started in 2010 to assist area animal rescue groups has grown to an annual gala which last year raised over \$100,000! Next year's event will be held on Saturday, February 3 at Embassy Suites in Greenville, SC. Money is raised by bids made on the bachelors and bachelorettes auctioned off as well as ticket sales to this formal evening of fun, food, and drink. We encourage your support of this event because....drum roll, please....the Rabbit Sanctuary has been selected as one of the charities who will benefit for the 2018 auction!

Please stay connected to the 2018 Auction for a Kaws through Facebook and websites. Your support of this event will benefit local animals in need including the Rabbit Sanctuary!

Thank You New and Renewing Members

Includes donations given through October 15, 2017

Lisa Alleman
Carol Anderson
Carolyn Anderson, DVM
Donna Arrington

Malinda Baker
Dana Beck
Erik Bogart
Christine Brouwer
Marilyn Brown

Lori & Tom Calhoun
Don & Eleanor Campbell
Loren Chang
Phyllis Chartier
Brandon & Maya Christen
Brittany Christmas
Donna Clanton
Mary Coleman

James Daniels
P.J. Deitschel, DVM
Gia Del Prince
Joanne Deyoe
Mark & Amy Dunning

Laura Elder
Diana Emkjer

Cesar Filippi
June & Ron Fisher
Joel Freedman

Sherry Frye
Faith Gabel
Dave & Alice Geisler
Lynn & Jean-Luc Glorieux
Bob & Lianne Goodwin
Martha Grigsby
William & Brian Ground
Jenna & Tom Gutierrez

Ann Harris
Dora Hazard
Patricia Hill, DVM
Dawn-Michelle Hiseley
Becky Hummell

Phyllis Jacob
Cathy & Bill Jacobson
Kathy Jayko

Debra Keller
Byron & Barbara Knuth
Marilyn Krizansky

Marilyn Lautenschlaeger
Landry Layson
Sonja Levine

Jane Lewis
Manuel Lopez
Erin Luntay

Peter Mady
Jeff Marsala
Marion Moir

Holly & Gordon Nason

Patti Packer
Charlotte Palmer
Marilyn Patterson
Jack Pendarvis
Maitland & Nola Pine
Joanne Prieto
Philip Prince

Becky, Steve & Hoppy Quinn

Real Deals
Pat Reber
Cheryl Remsburg
Harriet Robinson

Jessica Schaner
Joan Servis
Lauren Shilling
Sandi Smith
Monica Stone
Christie & Darren Strain
Richard Strouse
Kerry Sullivan
Meili Swanson

Leslie Tripp

Robb & Nancy Tucker

Lynn & Mark Varacallo

Jane Waldmann
Lillian Wanda
Mary Ladd Watts
John & Beth Wehlitz
Linda Weider
Rebecca Weider
Carey White
Ashley Wofford
Tallah Woykowski
Loretta Wroble
Julia Wun

Ellen & Steffen Zinsser



Spots

Photo contributions for this issue by: Chandler Hummell, Becky Hummell, & Debra Reuter

In Honor Of People

Dave & Alice Geisler The Sanctuary Rabbits

In Honor of Rabbits

Alfie Landry Layson
Honey Bunny White Lightning, & Goodie Donna Clanton
Honey Bunny & Frannie Ann Harris
Ike Julia & Jocelin Wun
The Sanctuary Rabbits Hoppy Quinn
Pickens Monica Stone



Alfie, Sundance,
& Dunder

In Memory of Rabbits

Kiddo our Sanctuary horse of 20 years, who passed away in March.

Jack Pendarvis
Linda Weider
Gordon & Holly Mason
Tara & Nancy Landrum
Deb & Michael Reuter
Ron & Patrice Pruitte
Charlotte Palmer
Tom & Jenna Gutierrez
Maria Collins
Carol Anderson
Coco Janine Ryan & Ian Harkey
Hops The Sanctuary Rabbits



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Adopt - A - Rabbit

P. O. Box 80036

Simpsonville, SC 29680

rabbitsanctuaryinc.org

OUR VISION: To see the DOMESTIC RABBIT win his rightful place as a valued and beloved COMPANION ANIMAL

The Rabbit Sanctuary provides a HOME FOR LIFE for rescued domestic rabbits. Rabbits given a second chance at life by kind people who, regardless of inconvenience, expense or even their own safety, made an extra effort to help rabbits in need.

Our Adopt-A-Rabbit program, a virtual adoption program, offers an alternative to supporting the cruel pet industry and the bunny mills. For \$30.00 or more you can choose and virtually adopt one of the Sanctuary's rescued rabbits. You will receive a photo of your rabbit, certificate of adoption, sanctuary news letters and invitation to our annual Picnic with the Rabbits. Sponsorship is renewable annually. Additional rabbit adoptions are \$30.00 per adoption.

Your support is vital to our ongoing work. Please help as you can. In return, we will devote ourselves to ensuring a wonderful life for the rabbits.

ALL DONATIONS, OF ANY SIZE, ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Cut along dotted line and enclose with your check.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

_____ NEW SPONSORSHIP I would like to adopt _____ I need a receipt _____ YES _____ NO

_____ RENEWING DONATION \$ _____ VOLUNTEER IN _____ general office _____ grounds