

Sparkle

The little Lionhead was trying her best to survive but was not faring well in big horse, cow, and farming country. First, domestic rabbits are gregarious so for one rabbit on her own, everything is just too overwhelming.

Second, the poor little rabbit has a serious physical condition: both of her back knees were swollen and appeared to be extremely painful. This slowed her down considerably, making her easy prey. Her time was running out.

Fortunately, a young girl saw the rabbit and knew that she had to catch her, especially when she noticed the rabbit was having difficulty hopping. In the pursuit, the girl unwittingly ended up in another's pasture. A man approached her, gun in hand. "Get off my land," he yelled. She replied, "I'm trying to catch a pet rabbit." The man waved the gun and yelled angrily, "I'll shoot the damn rabbit." The girl retreated but resolved to keep watch for the struggling little rabbit and to continue her pursuit albeit not on that particular property. Within a few days the rabbit reappeared. The girl was able to secure her with no resistance from either the rabbit or an angry man.

The rabbit's condition was poor. She was quite thin and had fleas, ticks, and warbles. Both back knees were swollen. The left knee was oozing pus. The girl headed straight to her vet with the rabbit. The vet administered anti-parasitic to kill the fleas. The ticks and warbles were removed, and the warble "wounds" were flushed. X-rays were taken of the rabbit's knees and legs.

Presented with the bill, the rabbit's rescuer needed financial help and reached out to Greg and Angel at Izzie's Pond Sanctuary. As friends of the Rabbit Sanctuary, Greg and Angel contacted us. They arrived, paid the vet bill, and drove the rabbit to us.

After a few days of "settling in," we drove the rabbit, now named Sparkle, to Healthpointe where Doctor Hurlbert reviewed the x-rays. She explained, "Sparkle's condition is congenital. Her femur and tibia are malaligned in both back legs, and this of course affects her knee joints."

Sparkle's condition makes her a special needs rabbit. As such, she will have to live in the Health Care Building to receive her meds and special care for the rest of her life. Sparkle was introduced to Brisco, also a special needs rabbit with an injured back. They do wonderfully together and life is good for both.

None of us involved in Sparkle's rescue caught the name of the brave young girl who saved Sparkle's life. We really feel bad about this, as we like to pay tribute to the kind people who go to great lengths to save rabbits.

You can help by adopting Sparkle. Her medical expenses, medications, and spay surgery so far total \$294.