

## Rabbits and Me, Cont'd.

As my limited knowledge quickly grew, I realized that bunnies are so much more interactive and require so much more care and attention than I ever imagined. And I loved it. Just as I finished bunny-proofing my apartment, I got a frantic call from a friend who had seen me schlepping Hektor around in his little harness and leash.

"My neighbor is neglecting her bunny - can you take him?" she pleaded.

Aw jeez, I thought to myself. I met the woman in a parking lot about an hour later. The poor neglected bunny was hunkered down because he couldn't even sit up straight in his horribly undersized cage. I picked him up to check out his ears and teeth (not wanting to give Hektor ear-mites or deal with malocclusions) and he felt like a bag of bones. I also knew that rabbits are extremely clean animals, and this little guy had dingleberries

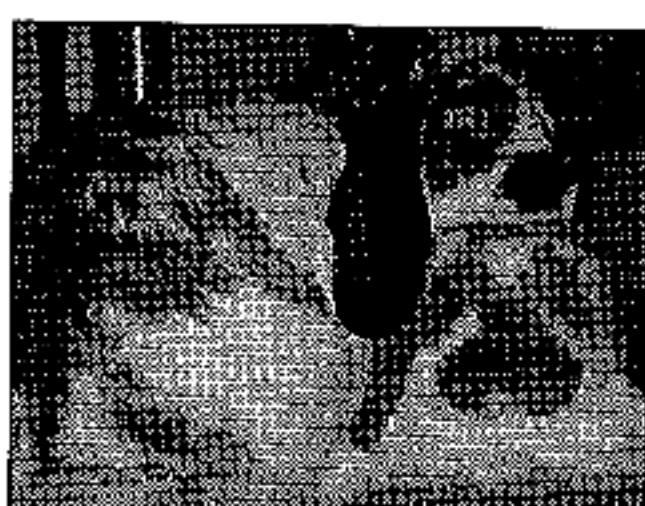
and even poop on his nose. I knew he was coming home with me.

The woman who gave him over to me let me know that "he really likes tortilla chips" and went on her merry way, and my true job as a bunny mom started. I got him cleaned up (he was almost a year old and his nails had never been cut!!!) and took him to the vet immediately. I was told to get him beefed up from his measly 2.6 pounds and that we would get him and Hektor neutered at the same time, three long weeks away.

I never imagined bunnies could hate each other so vehemently, but Hektor was outraged that I brought whats-his-head home, and I was worried that he was gonna hate me forever. Needless to say, after they were neutered I was able to bond them (thank goodness that worked!) and now they're best of friends. I renamed the second little guy Travis (his name had been Stew, like Rabbit Stew!!).

I just recently added two girls to my bunny family - Piglet (née C.C. Brown) and Mackie (née Pearl) from the Buckeye House Rabbit Society. I couldn't have predicted that I would end up being "the bunny lady", but all the little girls in my neighborhood call me that, so I guess it must be true. My guys won't let me snuggle them now that they're big, but Piglet will snuggle down on my chest for hours while I watch television, and she even lets my dog, Mona, lick her all over. Mackie is still recovering from being spayed, so she growls at me when I come into her room, but I'm sure she'll be just fine once her hormones fade down - (I know I growl at people when I feel funky.....).

I'd like to thank Kristen Doherty and Eileen Matias for taking such good foster care of the little girls I just adopted, and for trusting me to be a good bunny mom. (Jeez, even human kids don't always get their own rooms!) Thanks! 🐰



*Hektor is the black & white lop, Travis is the brown & white lop, Piglet is Agouti with one white paw and Mackie is the black rex.*