



Brambleley Hedge

RABBIT RESCUE

HOPpenings

January - February 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2012!



Photo of Rupert, Ashleigh and Nigel (clockwise from upper left) courtesy of Julia Wilkinson

**May your New Year be filled with Long Ears,
Furry Faces, Bodacious Binkies, and of course,
TWITCHING NOSES!**





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WINTER *Travel* GUIDE

It's that time of year again - wintertime in the desert means long nights and short, chilly days. There's still plenty of time to cash in those frequent-flyer miles and send your favorite lagomorphs on a fun-filled, sun-filled vacation. So pack them up with some extra carrots and timothy hay and hop on down to the airport - here are some destination ideas:



MOUNT RABBMORE

Warrensville, New Zealand

Everyone knows about the mountain in South Dakota that has the carvings of the old guys with trees growing out their noses. But did you know that there is a truly monumental tribute to a famous rabbit breed, the New Zealand White? A mecca for bunnies and bunny-loving tourists, Mount Rabbmore can be seen from miles around, which will scare the living daylights out of you if you're a carrot. Your rabbit will love visiting Mount Rabbmore, although when he gets back home he may expect to see something similar in the back yard.



BUNDI BEACH

Outside Sydney, Australia

Not many people are aware of this, but bunnies are excellent surfers. In fact surfing was invented many years ago by Hawaiian Rabbit King Kamehahipoh. It soon spread all over the world, and one of the best places to be a surf bunny is Australia's Bundi Beach. Your rabbit can delight to the antics of the bunny-boarders and thrill to the bravery of the Bundi Bunny Rescuers, who are always ready to jump in and assist human surfers in peril. After a hearty lunch and a long, restful nap, of course.



TORTOISE RACING

Sillibun, South Africa

South African tortoise racing has been hugely popular for a long time and is starting to be recognized the world over as a source of thrilling, fast-paced entertainment. Well, maybe not "fast-paced," but you get what we mean. Your bunny will enjoy heart-stopping events such as the Three-Meter Dash, the Two-Day Single Lap and the Quarter-Kilometer Sprint, usually held the last two weeks of January. Rabbits love every minute of these exciting races, although it's recommended that humans bring along 4 or 5 good books to read.

- Stephen Guida



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The Wonderful Work of

Therapy Bunnies

You've probably heard of therapy dogs or even cats, but have you ever heard of a therapy rabbit? Believe it or not, they do exist! In fact, Brambley Hedge Rabbit Rescue has adopted out rabbits that have become certified therapy rabbits or are currently in training to become one. The concept and purpose of therapy rabbits is the same as therapy dogs and cats. Rabbits and other pets offer unconditional love and affection that comforts patients that are interacting with them. It has been shown that interaction with animals can stimulate social interaction and laughter causing sad or depressed patients to become happier. Some find that therapy animals are beneficial to patients who have anxiety issues and are looking for someone easy to talk to. Being accepted and loved by therapy rabbits and other therapy animals can also build confidence and self-assurance and make a big difference in the lives of patients.



Photo from "Bunnies In Baskets"

Now, you may be wondering how exactly you and your rabbit or rabbits can become a therapy rabbit team. We recommend being certified through an organization called Bunnies in Baskets. It is important to note that it takes a very affectionate and non-aggressive rabbit to become a therapy rabbit. If you think your rabbit or rabbits fit this description, you will, first, have to take a month long online class on training your rabbit and on therapy animals in general. After you've completed the class, you will have to pass a health and behavior evaluation by a rabbit savvy veterinarian. You will also need to complete a total of two hours of supervised visits at a facility of your choice before you can become a certified rabbit team. It may seem like a lengthy process but the outcome is very much worth it!

- Reid Lycio

Rabbit Haiku

In honor of Valentine's Day we offer some haiku poetry written by rabbits, who invented the classical 17-syllable, 5-7-5 short-poem artform in the sixth century.

<p><i>"Rabbits listen hard. Long Ears turn and swivel like Flowers in the Wind."</i></p>	<p><i>"Phone Cord looked like Snake! I had to Protect Myself. Is there a Problem?"</i></p>	<p><i>"Treat Bowl is Empty - Saddest Thing Ever! You Must End the Misery!"</i></p>
<p><i>"You Massage my Ears, Brush my Fur and Bring me Treats. I think I'll keep you."</i></p>	<p><i>"I love to Binky! Jump High, Side Kick, Dance on Air - Spread Joy Ev'rywhere!"</i></p>	<p><i>"Why are You so Mad? Litter Box too Far Away - Your Shoes were closer."</i></p>

- Stephen Guida



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Spotlight On **English Lops**

The English Lop is one of the oldest breeds of rabbits. It was the first true fancy breed of domestic rabbit. One lovable characteristic of bunnies is their ears but of course rabbit ears are not the same among the breeds. Lops have ears that flop over and grow long and sometimes their ears slant sideways or over the front of their head. The most recognizable trait of the English Lop is their extremely long ears. Some people refer to English Lops as 'floppy-eared'. Their ears grow to a minimum of 21 inches from top to bottom and can grow to 25 inches or greater, however most stay within 21 to 25 inches. The ears of an English Lop are normally falling on the ground. The ears usually stop growing at about 4 months of age.

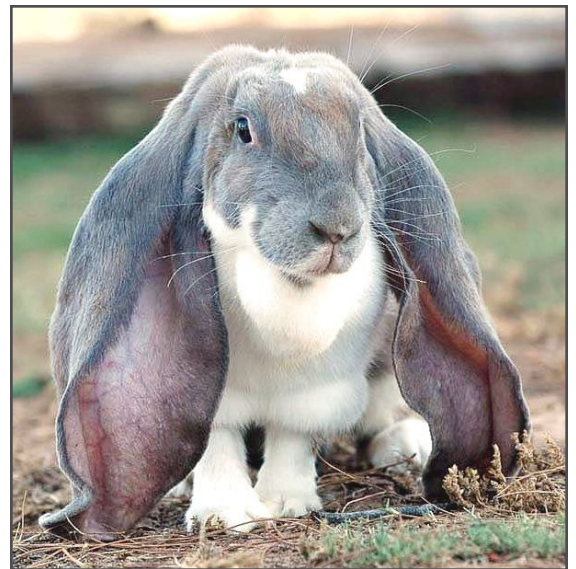


Bunny Model: *Baxter*

The English Lop has a cylindrical body shape. Their back is straight and does not have an arch. The English Lops' body is the same width from the front of their body to the back. They do not have a smaller front compared to their back as most bunnies do and therefore have an unusual shape.

English Lops weigh a minimum of nine pounds. English Lop rabbits are a large breed and grow very big. There is no maximum weight size for English Lops. There two varieties of the English Lop; solid or self colors and broken colors (colors broken by white).

This breed is very docile and friendly. They make a good breed for a pet because of their temperament. The extremely long ears can be very delicate, and the English Lop requires a very large hutch to avoid treading on its own ears. This breed does require extra care due to those l-o-n-g ears. They are prone to ear infections and wax build up. An owner must be proactive in caring for their ears. The other concern about the ears is that the rabbit might fall and hurt their ears. Most of the time the English Lops' ears are proportionate to their body size. However, a common problem is tears or rips in their ears caused by the rabbit itself. To prevent this issue, owners must be vigilant in clipping their nails regularly. An owner must also be aware that there could be a loss of body heat due to the ear size their fine, silky coat which lacks a dense undercoat. The English Lop is a special breed and they need a caring and attentive owner.



Amelia

Brambley Hedge Rabbit Rescue's beloved mascot, Amelia, was an English Lop. She was our Bunny Ambassador, accompanying us to many public events. We love her and miss her very much.

- Tina Tegtmeyer



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BACK PAGE

January - February 2012

RECENT ADOPTIONS

Anderson & Cooper
Angelo
Aristotle
Bentley
Calista
Cricket
Desoto & Doheny
Heidi
Kona
Leo
Rube
Selena
Sir Winston



ASK DOCTOR BUNSLEY

Dear Dr. Bunsley,
The humans in my house have started acting crazy again this year over something called "Valentine's Day." They're getting all lovey-dovey with each other and I actually heard one of them call the other one "Schmoopy." What can I do to stop this embarrassing behavior?
Tired of Love-sick Humans

Dear Tired,
We're sure this holiday is a plot by the chocolate manufacturers to get rid of excess hallucinogens they've stockpiled throughout the year. Try to be patient with them but if they keep up with the "Schmoopy" stuff, call the Animal Abuse hotline.
Dr. B

Dear Dr. Bunsley,
"American Idol" or "X Factor?" You decide.
TV Bunny

Dear TVB,
That's like trying to choose between ticks and fleas. The answer is no.
Dr. B

Bunny Laffs



Bunny Model: Jazz

"I don't want to hear about your 'bad hair day.' I have a 'bad hair LIFE!'"



There's always great shopping at the
BRAMBLEY HEDGE RABBIT RESCUE THRIFT STORE
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Mon 12 noon - 5pm * Tue - Fri 11am - 4pm * Sat 10am - 4pm * Closed Sunday
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<http://www.bhrabbitrescue.org/links/fundraise.htm>

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