



Things are “Hopping” at Eastern Shore Rabbit Rescue!

By Cora Dickson, ESRREC President

January 13, 2020

As we close out 2019 and hop into action for 2020, I wanted to let you know how grateful we are for your support and highlight the accomplishments that you helped make possible. Bear with me as this will get a bit long, but I promise it will be interesting!

Last year we were able to continue many of our traditions and start some new ones.

- We held our **3rd Annual Hop-A-Thon** in April and our *5th Annual Just Desserts* in November.
- We held a new event in June, **Bunny Yoga**, that allowed adoptable bunnies to mingle with yoga students.
- We joined the nationwide campaign “**Clear the Shelters**” in August -- which resulted in 16 adoptions!
- We increased our presence in **Salisbury** including an outreach table at Third Friday, adoption events at the local PetSmart stores, and featured videos on the [“Pets on the Plaza”](#) news segment on WMDT.

Over five years we have surpassed so many goals and grown larger to meet the needs of abandoned bunnies on the Eastern Shore. The chart here shows our annual progress with rabbits in our care (note: 2018 had a larger intake and more spay/neuters because of the Denton Rescue Bunnies).

Year	Intake	Adoptions	Spay/Neuter
2015	22	8	21
2016	28	24	18
2017	43	31	36
2018	75	45	66
2019	44	53	35
2020	9	2	1
Totals	221	163	177

The importance of the work we are doing on the Lower Eastern Shore cannot be understated. **The most populous city on the Eastern Shore is Salisbury (over 30,000 residents), and the most populous county is Wicomico County (98,700).** The Salisbury metropolitan area is the only metropolitan statistical area on the Eastern Shore.

At the end of December we took in a stray rabbit, whom we named Sidney. He was so weak and emaciated when he walked up to his rescuer in Snow Hill, MD that he was easily picked up. **He has struggled with a range of health issues including a respiratory infection, a paralyzed hind leg, and tissue damage on his testicles possibly caused by frostbite.** We have spent over \$800 to rehabilitate Sidney – including neuter – but thanks to our compassionate volunteers, there is hope that someday he will find a forever home with a family that won't abandon him.



At the beginning of this month we were also faced with an additional challenge in **Wicomico County**, where animal control seized a large number and variety of neglected animals at a farm including 18 rabbits that were being bred for fur and/or meat. This included 5 rabbits that appeared to be Flemish Giants.

A small organization such as ours needs to be careful about managing our intake, so we tried a new approach. First, our volunteers helped Wicomico Humane verify the sex and condition of the rabbits. Being a resource for local shelters is part of our core mission.

ESRREC pulled four rabbits to start with; then we contacted the House Rabbit Society and the **“Bunderground Railroad”** to see if we could get more placed elsewhere in the country. We helped transport four rabbits to the House Rabbit Network in Massachusetts. We pulled another five rabbits which are also going to head to New England at the end of the month after we get solid health checks (and in one case, a spay) from our bunny-savvy veterinarian. So out of the original 18, we assisted with 13 rabbits. **At this time, we are only ultimately**

responsible for four rabbits – but two might be pregnant, so we are prepared to deal with that situation as it arises. At least the babies won't be born at the shelter!

I am also excited to announce that starting in 2020, we have implemented an online database using management software from [ShelterLuv](https://shelterluv.com/). We have already started conducting a new adoption process with digitally signed contracts that get emailed to adopters along with the rabbit's medical history. The ShelterLuv database will make it easier to track fosters and produce statistics that we can use for grant applications.

All of these efforts are made possible by your donations and the hard work of volunteers. On behalf of Eastern Shore Rabbit Rescue, thank you for your continuing support!