



# Annual Report 2023

*Eastern Shore Rabbit Rescue and Education Center, Inc. is a volunteer-run nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status*

*IRS EIN #47-2520393*

<http://esrrec.org>

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## INTRODUCTION

*By Cora C. Dickson, President, ESRREC*

In 2024, Eastern Shore Rabbit Rescue and Education Center (ESRREC) enters its 10th year of operations. ESRREC opened its shelter in Rock Hall, Maryland in 2015, with volunteers responsible for the daily care of the rabbits housed there in addition to foster rabbits. In 2023 ESRREC transitioned to become foster-based while still managing the care of roughly 40-50 rabbits. We remain an organization completely administered by volunteers, including the Board of Directors, who are each involved in the intake and adoptions as well as fundraising and outreach. ESRREC devotes around 60 percent of its funds to veterinary expenses.



In the interests of transparency as well as showcasing our achievements, we release our first public Annual Report. The year 2023 featured a milestone to celebrate, with our 400th adoption, but also was challenging as we transferred 32 rabbits from various county shelters in Maryland. Unfortunately, many county shelters in our region do not spay or neuter rabbits because they prioritize their resources for cats and dogs, so we take on that financial burden as well.

As the founder of ESRREC, I admit there have been ups and downs over the years, but overall I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish as a small nonprofit.

Clearly, we are providing a much-needed service to our community, not only through the intake and adoptions but also advice and education for bunny owners. Hopefully this annual report will help illustrate the extent to which we are having a positive impact in the region.



## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The ESRREC Checking account is used for all income and expenses. On February 8, ESRREC also opened a Savings account in order to manage the new Spay/Neuter Transport Program, using \$1,100 from Checking raised during Giving Tuesday 2022. For this program, money is transferred from savings to checking to cover any financial assistance requests.

Balance 12/31/2022	\$3,952.97
Income	\$38,378.67
Expenses	\$39,845.84
BALANCE 12/31/2023	\$2,407.98

### Income

Sources of income were mainly donations (individual, corporate, anonymous); service fees (adoption, surrender, vacation boarding); and merch sales (e.g., ESRREC logo t-shirts, Bunny Bazaar). One major fundraiser was held in April 2023, the Bun Run 5K, with \$1,722.30 net revenue.

Statistics indicate that a total of \$4,891.94 was processed on the Shelterluv app in 2023 (payments accepted in cash, credit or check), which included: \$3,015.45 in adoption fees, \$910.18 in other services, \$564.96 in one-time donations, and \$401.35 in monthly donations.

### Expenses

In 2023, the highest category of expense for ESRREC was veterinary, with a total of \$23,700 spent not including the outstanding balance to Chadwell, which was paid in early January 2024.

Major admin expenses are shown below. NOTE: in 2023, expenses for phone and rent were significantly reduced compared to 2022.

Insurance	\$1,266.00
Rent	\$3,300.00
Phone	\$310.75
Electricity	\$528.13

## ADOPTIONS AND INTAKE

In 2023 ESRREC had 51 adoptions, of which 13 were conducted during Clear the Shelters Month.

During 2023 ESRREC took in 64 rabbits including 10 returns. This year the combination of transfers from regional shelters and strays accounted for nearly 80 percent of all intake. ESRREC took in only 4 owner surrenders. Due to a variety of medical reasons, and despite devoted attempts to rehabilitate, 7 rabbits became deceased this past year.

ESRREC transferred 32 rabbits from several county shelters in Maryland as indicated below.

Calvert - 4

Caroline - 2

Cecil - 4

Prince George's – 7 (mother and 6 newborns)

Queen Anne's – 15 (from a case where one owner surrendered 22 rabbits)

Volunteers for ESRREC also devoted time, effort, and resources to help rescue 8 stray rabbits from a property in Queenstown over the summer, with 7 of the rabbits taken in by ESRREC and 1 by the county shelter.

The chart below provides ESRREC's historical data for comparison.

	Intake	Adoptions	Returns*	Spay/Neuter	Deceased	Transfer Out
<b>2023</b>	64	51	10	43	7	
<b>2022</b>	55	67	12	45	2	
<b>2021</b>	90	61	3	50	9	
<b>2020</b>	75	83	6	58	4	5
<b>2019</b>	44	53	2	35	4	
<b>2018</b>	75	45	3	66	2	
<b>2017</b>	43	31		36		
<b>2016</b>	28	24		18	1	
<b>2015</b>	22	8		21		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5</b>

\*Returns are included in intake numbers

## EVENTS AND OUTREACH

Given the transition from a shelter to a foster-based rescue, ESRREC volunteers have increased the number of adoption meet & greets. In addition, PetSmart changed their policy to allow rescues to bring vaccinated rabbits for in-store adoption events. From February through November 2023, ESRREC brought adoptable rabbits to locations throughout our region of Maryland: Rock Hall, Annapolis, Easton, Denton, Salisbury, Ocean City, Chestertown, and Kent Island; in Delaware, Seaford, Milton, and Milford.

ESRREC organized two in-person fundraisers: Bunny Yoga (January) and the Bun Run 5K (April).

Volunteers staffed booths/tables for ESRREC at the following events:

- World of Pets Expo: January 27-29, Timonium MD
- Fresh Start Artisan Festival: April 22, Rock Hall
- Blue Jeans Festival (Caroline County Humane Society): May 6, Denton
- Delmarva Pride Festival: June 17, Easton
- Bark to School (Talbot Humane): August 5, Easton
- Tractor Supply Pet Appreciation Day: September 16, Chestertown
- The Grooming Place Pet Shop Huge Pet Event: September 30, Kent Island
- Wags & Whiskers: October 21, Milton, DE
- Home & Condo Show: November 10-12, Ocean City

The new ESRREC “Outreach Building” in Rock Hall was open to the public during the town’s major events: Fourth of July Parade, Pirates and Wenches Weekend, Fall Fest, and Witches Weekend.

ESRREC was also active in social media with a March Madness contest featuring a bracket tournament for “Cutest ESRREC Rabbit” and the fourth annual Halloween costume contest.

In addition, ESRREC adoptable rabbits continued to be featured regularly in video segments on WMDT’s “Pets on the Plaza” that are also shareable online.