



Easter Update

We have had a tough start to the year with many rabbits coming into Fat Fluffs with health issues. From abscesses to teeth and even two little boys blind from ulcers in their eyes. As a result our Fat Fluff group has swelled to 18 and although the bond has been slow the newbies are settling and seem to be enjoying group life and the freedom of free ranging round the Fat Fluffs garden.

The exciting news is that we are looking at getting our own place and although this is incredibly daunting for us it is a real step forward that we have been longing to make for some time now. We have completely outgrown our current HQ and with so many rabbits on our waiting list and the Fat Fluff sanctuary group growing we just need more space.

If you have any expertise in planning applications, window fitting, building work, roofing, renovations, electrical work or anything involved with, well anything!, we would be more than happy to hear from you as it is all new to us and we would appreciate any advice you can give.... watch this space!

Chloe Fluff

Huey and Louie

When someone contacts Fat Fluffs asking for help to re-home their rabbits we can only take their word on the rabbit's description and their current condition. This means that sometimes we take on rabbits with health problems that vary in severity that we aren't aware of before they come to us.

Earlier this month we had just such a case and two gorgeous lopy boys called Huey and Louie joined us in the barn. As soon as the two inquisitive faces looked up from the box they came in I could see they both had damage to both of their eyes. They were bright and curious though so after a quick check over for any other signs of illness they were free to start exploring their run which they did with slight trepidation at first, but then with more enthusiasm.



They had never been to the vets with the previous owner as they were born with the defects and were otherwise bright and happy, seemingly unaffected, so she felt there was no need. The visible marks on their eyes are most likely corneal lesions which must be causing them huge problems with their vision and we suspect they are pretty much blind. When rabbits are born with defects like this it is most likely from the result of two closely related rabbits mating. This highlights the importance of neutering, and also that of properly sexing young and separating them after they are weaned and before they are sexually mature.

These boys are bright and energetic, keen to know what is going on and always up for some fuss, so their lack of sight doesn't seem to be holding them back. Since being with us they have enjoyed time free ranging in the garden just as all the rescue buns do and they go exploring with enthusiasm!

We aren't really sure what will be best long term for these two and whether they would be better with their own partners who have full sight or keeping the two brothers together. Either way we are hoping they will be able to find a lovely forever home whether it is together or with a new friend. If you would like any more info about these rabbits or interested in adopting them please drop us an email to team@fatfluffs.com



Events Update

2012 has begun with a series of successful events for Fat Fluffs ... and the calendar is already filling up for the spring and summer ahead!

On February 12th we hosted our 4th 'Love your Bunny' event at Fat Fluffs HQ. Again experienced bunny vet Rebecca Frost was available to give bunnies their 'MOT' whilst the team clipped nails, gave advice, served tea and introduced visitors to the rescue and sanctuary residents of the barn. It was lovely to see lots of our former residents back with their new families and, as always, it was great to welcome new faces and meet their bunnies too.

On March 10th the Fluffs descended on Morrisons in Solihull for our, now annual, charity bag pack. Everyone got stuck-in, chatting to the Saturday shoppers and assisting them to pack their bags, in the hope that they would drop a few coins into our orange collecting buckets. Our mascot, Rocky, kept the shoppers entertained in the foyer and whilst we appreciate everyone who supported us, a special thank you must go to the brave volunteers who donned the bunny suit! Counting up afterwards was another mammoth task, but we were thrilled with the total of £675 – not bad for a day's work!

Then on March 24th Fat Fluffs attended the 2nd North Worcestershire Rabbit Show at Kidderminster Town Hall. This was a vital opportunity to talk to bunny owners of all ages and advise them on rabbit care and welfare. Chloe judged the "Best Rescue Rabbit Category", choosing Noah, whose mum Megan was chuffed with her prize of a year's sponsorship of Arnold. Jo J and Sarah H manned the trading stall and Sue did a roaring trade on the refreshments. A great morning's fundraising alongside promoting the work of the rescue and guiding owners to improve the lives of their pets.



We are now excited about our forthcoming Bunny Bonanza at Hatton Country World on May 7th and our 3rd charity quiz at The Highwood in Solihull on May 19th. Don't forget that you can keep up-to-date with upcoming events on our website: www.fatfluffs.com/donate/events. Extra pairs of hands are always welcome to staff events – if you're interested then please do drop me an e-mail: abi@fatfluffs.com

Dates for your diary

May

FAT FLUFFS BUNNY BONANZA - Bank Holiday Monday, 7th May @ Hatton Country World, CV35 8XE. 10am-4.30pm

KNOWLE FUN RUN - Sunday, 13th May 2012

FAT FLUFFS CHARITY QUIZ - Saturday, 19th May 2012 @ The Highwood, Solihull. 7.30pm

HATTON DOG SHOW - Sunday, May 27th 2012 @ Hatton Country World, CV35 8XE. 11am-4pm

June

SOLIHULL COLLEGE OPEN DAY - Sunday June 24th

More dates to be confirmed

If you know or hear of any events we could attend we'd love to hear from you. Please contact abi@fatfluffs.com

www.fatfluffs.com

Please remember to check out our website and blog for regular news and updates. We also have an online shop



Recycle your Mobiles & Cartridges



As well as helping the environment, Fat Fluffs can benefit from recycling your mobiles and printer cartridges.

Contact vickie@fatfluffs.com for more details



Please support Fat Fluffs on ebay

ebay sellers can support us by donating a percentage of the item sale to support FF. We now have official charity status through 'Mission Fish'

[twitter](https://twitter.com/fatfluffs) www.twitter.com/fatfluffs

Abi Fluff



Meet our Foster Co-Ordinator, Sarah

Hi I'm Sarah Hebblethwaite, aka "Foster Fluff" and I help Fat Fluffs by supporting and coordinating our fabulous team of fosterers.

I try and manage a daily Fat Fluff and work balance which is not always easy as I work all over the place! Most of my FF role is answering e-mails, responding to phone queries and liaising with other FF team members, especially Jo Fluff who runs the Headquarters, on a day to day basis.



All enquiries from potential fosterers are passed onto me so I can contact and explain what's involved in fostering as it is a big but very rewarding job. I ensure that our database of bunnies and hutches is kept up to date so that the rest of the team knows where they can place bunnies if they need a short notice foster home.

My biggest challenge is matching potential fosterers with donated hutches; we have nowhere to store spare hutches and rely on help with transporting hutches to new homes. I'm always on the look-out for volunteers with storage space, horse boxes, large vans or trailers to help move hutches around the area (let me know if you know anyone who can help with this please!)

I am also there to support existing fosterers and am their first point of call if they need any help and especially for advice if a bun needs medical help. Fat Fluffs always stresses the importance of foster parents getting to know their bunnies well so they are able to pick up on the early signs if their buns are poorly so we can make sure the buns get the correct medical help needed and quickly.

Being a Foster Fluff is great; our fosterers are the best and I'm sure all the bunnies agree! If you are interested in fostering give me a call or e-mail me at foster@fatfluffs.com.

Sarah Foster Fluff

Rescue Review

I wonder if we could ask all our fosterers and adopters out there to take some time to write a review on the work we do at Fat Fluffs? This will help increase our profile on the review website and will also help us make changes/improvements based on your feedback.

If you could spare 5 minutes we would be very grateful. You can find the Rescue Review website at the following address

www.rescuereview.co.uk

Many Thanks,

The Fat Fluffs Team

Unwanted Gifts Always Gratefully Received!

Please think about donating any of your unwanted gifts or other items to the Fat Fluffs tombola as this is a very successful fundraiser for us. If you have anything you can donate please e-mail Vickie@fatfluffs.com.

Thank you!

Can you spare a little time?

We have lots of events planned. If you could spare us an hour or two to rattle a tin or help support the team, please email abi@fatfluffs.com and we'll be sure to put you to good use!

Raise funds as you search

Use easysearch every time you search the web and Fat Fluffs will get 50% of the fees paid by sponsors.

fatfluffsrr.easysearch.org.uk



Our Fat Fluffs sanctuary is home to numerous bunnies who cannot be rehomed for medical or social reasons. Arnold, Charlie Too, Dawn, Stripe and Nosey will live in the barn for the remainder of their natural lives. Dental bunnies Laurel and Beckham live in long-term foster care. All seven of these bunnies are looking for generous people to sponsor then through our "Sponsor-a-bun" scheme.

To sponsor a long-term bunny we ask for a £24 donation for the year – this can be a one-off payment or you can set-up a standing order for £2/month. You will receive a welcome pack including a 2012 FF calendar, details of your chosen sponsor bun, a coaster, a keyring and a FF badge plus your bunny will send you a surprise on your birthday and at Christmas. Throughout the year your chosen bunny will then e-mail you new photographs and updates of what they have been up to

Sponsoring a bunny makes an unusual gift for someone who has everything – and they're always very welcome to come along to FF and meet their bun!

For more details click on 'Sponsor a Bun' on the website menu or go to: www.fatfluffs.com/donate/sponsor





Keep Your Rabbits' Gnashers Gnawing Gnaturally!

By Cat Henstridge BVSc MRCVS

Rabbits suffer terribly with their teeth and problems can be so serious, it is not unusual for a bunny to be euthanised. However, the news is not all bad, it is actually very easy to keep a rabbits gnashers gnawing naturally!

Rabbits have teeth which are growing all the time. They do this because in the wild their diet consists of tough, woody grasses and plants and if they didn't, they would soon be worn away to nothing. However, since they have been domesticated their diets are

often very different and this is what causes problems.

If the teeth are not worn down they still continue to grow. The molar

teeth can develop sharp spikes which dig into the flesh and are very painful.

The incisor teeth can become



extremely long and curl out of the mouth or into it, digging into the flesh and bone. Again this is very painful and makes it almost impossible for the rabbit to eat.

Spotting these problems is not always easy because rabbits will hide when they are poorly but watching their weight, examining their mouths (as far as is possible at home) and carefully monitoring their appetite are all good ways of picking up on the signs.

The treatment of over-grown teeth can be a challenge and many bunnies need repeated vet visits for them to be trimmed, often under an anaesthetic, or, in the case of the incisors, removed. By far the best thing is prevention rather than cure and this is

done very easily by making sure your bunny's diet is as similar as possible to that of their wild cousins; lots and lots and lots of chewy hay and grass!

Jim Bob

Adopted by Alison, Dan and Connor - October 2011

Jim Bob and Millie are totally loved up and getting on like a house on fire. They have both taught each other some good habits. Millie is a reformed character as Jim has definitely been a good influence on her as she is now much more friendly and outgoing. He has converted her to eating hay which as you probably remember she wouldn't touch before. He follows her everywhere and is definitely the doting husband!



With all the cold weather we often find them snuggled up together in the hay cleaning each other's ears! A big thank you to everyone at Fat Fluffs especially Jo for all the help and advice you provided in bonding and getting these two love bunnies together - a happy ending for Mr and Mrs Bob living happy ever after in Wordsley for many years to come!

If you've adopted and wouldn't mind sharing your story, we'd love to hear from you. Please send your story and, if possible, a photo to abi@fatfluffs.com. It would be great to hear how your buns are doing. More stories can be found at fatfluffs.com/articles.

Welcome To Our New Fosterers...

Fat Fluffs would like to say a big thank you to our newest fosterers Emily Rush and Ruth Reader! If you too are interested in fostering bunnies while they wait for their forever homes please contact foster@fatfluffs.com.



Fat Fluffs Trading

There have been many changes to the trading team recently and we are currently looking for a new supplier for our clothing with hopefully a new range too. While we search we still have lots of Fat Fluff clothing available on the shop website and eBay. <http://www.fatfluffs.com/shop/>

New items coming soon are our Fat Fluffs mugs and pens, along with bunny key rings and phone covers, so keep your eyes on our website for more information.

Top 5 selling items this quarter have been:

1. 2012 Calendar 2012 - just 6 copies left at £1.50. If you are interested please email sarah@fatfluffs.com (first come first served)
2. Fat Fluffs Hoodies, still available in Medium Black, Sports Grey XL and Large White to enquire please email sarah@fatfluffs.com (first come first served)
3. Excel Nature Snacks in Dandelion, Nettle and Mint flavours.
4. Phone Charms
5. Bunny Salt and Pepper Pots.



Sarah Fluff



Everyone knows it's a hard life being a bunny and everybun needs a holiday now and again, be it a romantic weekend away or a few weeks in the sun...



If you need somewhere for your rabbits to put their paws up for any length of time and for whatever reason, why not give Fat Fluffs a call?

We provide expert care for your rabbits. Experienced staff are on hand at all times to tend to their needs and you can relax knowing they will be well cared for.



Giant breeds and groups are all welcome and will enjoy a relaxed stay with time in the sun and space to kick up their heels!

What are you waiting for? Pack your bunny bags and call Fat Fluffs!

For more details about our Bunny Boarding service, call 07737 218 035

For any other info visit the Fat Fluffs website.



For more information visit our website or email us on team@fatfluffs.com

www.fatfluffs.com

Registered Charity No. 1124870

Thank you for helping our rabbits

Some of the rabbits that come to us are either too unwell to be rehomed or have some emotional scars that just won't heal, so they stay here to be looked after and live happy lives. They are all neutered, as long as they are well enough, vaccinated routinely and given the vet care they need.

If you would like to help support us in looking after these bunnies then please consider sponsoring a bunny for a year. It only costs £24.

It is easy to do, just hit the donate button at the top right of the home page at www.fatfluffs.com.

Alternatively, please complete this form and send it to us together with your donation. It could also make a great gift for someone who loves bunnies or for someone who already has everything!



- I enclose a cheque for £..... as a donation.
- I would like to fundraise for Fat Fluffs. Please contact me.

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

Signature Date

- I wish to gift aid this donation and any further donations to Fat Fluffs.
- If you do not wish to receive any future Fat Fluffs information please tick here.

Please make your cheque payable to 'Fat Fluffs Rabbit Rescue' and send it to :
Fat Fluffs Rabbit Rescue. 9 Moat Lane, Solihull, West Midlands. B91 2LN

Donate today