



HAVEN FOR DISABLED AND SPECIAL NEEDS
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION FACILITY

NPC 2019/621739/08 | NPO 241-476 | 18A PBO



SOUTHERN CAPE BUNNY HAVEN

SCBH

SOUTHERN CAPE BUNNY HAVEN

Fully 18A PBO, NPO 241-476, Reg no:2019/621739/08
 TEL : 060 466 2810 sc.bunnyhaven@gmail.com
 Http://bunnyhaven.southern-cape.com



Our STORY

We are the only of our kind in Africa, and the psychological research we do with so much love has not only saved bunnies worldwide but started to bring a whole new dimension to understanding rabbits. We actively study the behavioral and health issues from all that enter, while giving them the utmost care and love. Become part of our plight.

I started the Southern Cape Bunny Haven (SCBH) officially in 2015, after my very special bunny, Dingles, passed on. I made a vow then that I would extend my love to all of Dingles' kind, and provide safety for those of them in need. The Haven is the only one of its kind in Africa. It is also one of only four rescue centers in the world that specifically meet the needs of disabled and special needs rabbits.

Rabbits are often and incorrectly thought to be rodents. They are not. They belong to the taxonomic order Lagomorpha, of which there are two living families: the Leporidae (hares and rabbits) and the Ochotonidae (pikas).^{*} Being the only rabbit rescue in South Africa's Garden Route area, we have our work cut out for us. The area in which we operate is large, and stretches from Witsand to Heidelberg in the Western Cape, as far as Plettenberg Bay, and along the southern Cape coast up to the Karoo's R66.

The Haven rescues between 60 and 80 rabbits every week. This number includes the healthy rabbits from feral colonies we catch in order to rehabilitate and rehome them. They are usually rehomed immediately if the home checks we do at their new homes are successful.

We do not adopt our bunnies out to families with children under a certain age, or to people with specific breeds of animals.

The very young, sick, injured, or special needs bunnies remain at the Haven until they are reassessed and deemed fit for rehoming, or they stay forever.



Creating the perfect balance is key.

MISSION & VISION

The bunnies are at the heart of everything we do, and we have learned so much

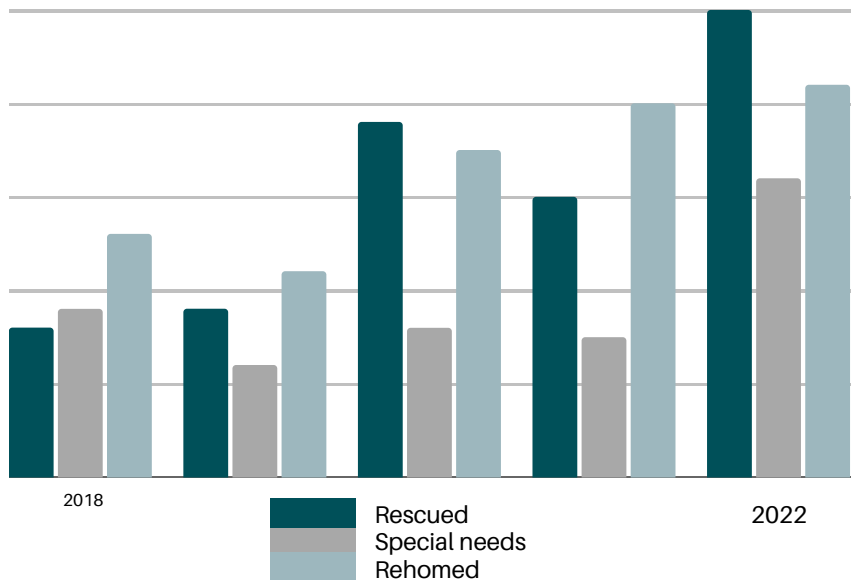
The Haven bunnies all sleep in enclosures inside the farmhouse, as there are numerous predators on the farm. During the day they get to enjoy supervised playtime outside. All male bunnies are sterilised as soon as their age and health allow, and about 80% of the females are sterilised. We have a strict no-breeding policy, but we do accept heavily pregnant females at the Haven. This is where they will safely give birth to their little ones, whom we raise with the greatest love and care.

Our haven is a right-to-life facility, which means that we will only request a vet to euthanize a bunny if it has no quality of life anymore, or when it is suffering permanent and unmanageable pain. We do not tolerate suffering of any kind, and neither do we "let" bunnies "go" to make space for other rabbits. Each one of our bunnies is unique and loved.

Because the special needs rabbits react strongly with "fight or flight" instincts, bunnies who are not bonded with a friend are kept in their own enclosures. Our bunnies cannot share large spaces, as it makes them feel unsafe and anxious.

Understanding the bunnies will help to educate, which will lead to less dumping, breeding and behavioural issues. But more important, it will assist in their health. In depth studies are halfway completed in a variety of illness, that can be ground breaking in stabilizing health issues around the world, which will also mean that rabbit population numbers will stabilize and overpopulation will be managed. Eg: studies on how stressed bunnies have a much larger amount of offsprings.

The Haven is situated on a farm in the Albertinia district of South Africa's southern Cape region. Our closest vet in Mossel Bay is a 60km drive away, and our specialist vet in George is 120km away. Our many extensive rescue operations have pushed the Haven's limits in terms of space and other resources. We have many mouths to feed and many vet bills to pay every month. We carry out cleaning, transport and other operations daily, and we need all the help we can get.



Our

BASIC OPERATIONS

Animals with a good quality of life

We have a very strong belief and no suffering policy, and we have a very straightforward vet. If an animal has a good prognosis, and the animal shows us that he/she WANTS to live, we are there fighting for them the whole way. We are a RIGHT -TO-LIFE institute, meaning no one has their life taken away unless it is from a medical perspective from our vets. Hurt animals heal with care. We rescue each one that we can, removing them from harm and the streets. This is our mission.

Our physically disabled animals are sometimes easier to care for than those animals that have had such horror that they have permanent mental issues. These bunnies are bonded tightly to me and act on my manner, mood, and voice. They are totally freaked out if I do not announce strange visitors. We have to be at home each and every night, for them.

Our oath to look after them means no holidays, no breakaways, not even an evening out. This is good for us, as we stay on a farm where we have a more relaxed lifestyle. We sincerely need to be able to afford our rent and electricity, and their food though.



Inside Pets, Outside Playtime

Because we live on a farm with many wild animals, right next door to a Game Lodge, our animals all sleep inside. We very often hear the lion roar, we have lynx, serval, and wild cats, owls, jackals... keeping our animals safe is a priority. We have 5 rooms with enclosures.

We have 6 runs outside, different sizes, where our bunnies get their playtime. It is all supervised, to ensure maximum safety against hawks and eagles, and even crows. Each run has enough hidey places for the bunnies, shade netting, and only safe plants. We are very strict on exercise, all animals should have proper exercise to keep their muscle tone and bones strong. Our disableds are given physio to ensure their health.

In warning times of RHD, we ensure that Nothing gets to our 3 safe runs, and use only them, still ensuring exercise.

These bunnies are our lives - but we learn from them to help others.

STUDY AND RESEARCH

We actively study the bunnies in our care in order to create better lives and understanding not only in South Africa but worldwide.

All our studies and treatments are discussed with vets in order to ensure a fully responsible way of treatment. We are the only ones realizing what the problems are, and thus seeking correct treatment. We note the treatment prognosis and the responses, and created a median to understand how most animals would respond, and if different treatments or enhancements are needed.

However, having many different bunnies with the same problems, we can see the median and general trends much better, and note how the reactions and effects differ, and this is crucial to understand. Clinical laboratory studies do not give true reflections of how our loved pets will respond long-term. Cases are treated as acute or chronic. In cases with a poor prognosis upon entering the Haven, or low quality of life, our vet sends them over the rainbow bridge while we hold them lovingly. We are a right-to-life institute, but we permit no suffering.

Some of the studies include:

Vision and Hearing problems

This can be from herbicides, poisonous plants, inbreeding.

We have tried treatments in getting the bones of the ears and eyes decalcified as we found poisons like Roundup cause calcification (and a whole range of other problems).

Bunnies that have been fed apples with pips, as well as having had to rely on the poisonous plant as food in order to survive, have a range of other organ issues too.

It is important to understand this esp in the treatment of stasis.

GI Stasis

The main cause of death of Pet rabbits has a multitude of causes. We study the buns that come into the Haven as stasis prone and have worked out ways to easily and effectively bypass these conditions.

Realizing and treating the cause of the Stasis is most important, so we work on finding that and do not just treat the symptoms.

Poisoning

As discussed above, we find huge quantities of poisoned rabbits. Recognizing poisoned animals is most important, as well as the stage of poisoning to decrease suffering. Many organs are affected, some effects are treatable, but some are not.

Encephalitozoon Cuniculi (EC)

One of the most feared illnesses that are prevalent in our area, and affecting wildlife too, we have found sure ways of effectively treating EC, and not only inactive cases. We have identified 3 main areas of EC and also that there are different Encephalitozoons - and they all impact our bunnies differently.

Coccidia

The silent killer needs much more work and treatment to effectively stop.

Other areas of research and working out the very best ways of treatment for the bunnies entering the Haven with conditions includes:

- Tickbite Fever Related Illness in feral rabbits
- Meningeal Infections following cat attacks
- Seizures, Strokes and related issues
- Floppy Bunny Syndrome
- Inbreeding
- Pasteurella
- Bordatella
- Eye and Nasal Infections from Allergies
- Renal Impairment
- Bladder and Kidney stones
- Diabetes from an incorrect diet
- Cancer in Rabbits and Hares
- Littermate Syndrome



NON-medical Research and Studies:

- Rabbit Vision and colour - They see 2 colours and shades
- Colony Structure and Hierarchy - this is very much different from what was previously believed. We have studied not only our groups but also colonies before we rescued and relocated the ensuring a fully functional colony after release.
- Seasonal and weather-related behaviour
- Rabbit Psychology and Emotional Status: Rabbits, being Prey animals are the most complex in behaviour and have the emotional capabilities of a 5-year-old child.

There are 5 different indigenous Rabbit species in South Africa and 3 Hare species. Our studies and research help lagomorphs (rabbits and hares) all around the world. We are working on a book to publish our extensive knowledge.



Our PROCESS



1 Rescuing, Medicals, Quarantine

We have rescued a total of 8 feral colonies now through 5 towns, as well as rescuing single dumped rabbits from areas. Feral colonies harm our Fynbos Ecosystems and the pain and suffering these bunnies experience while they struggle to survive is horrible.

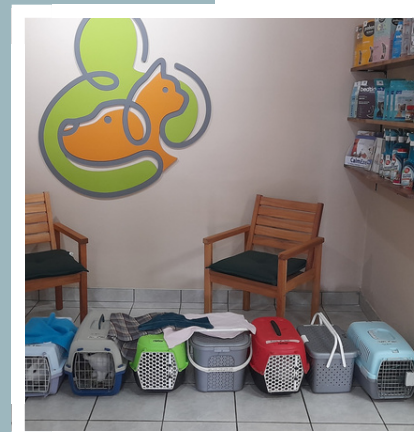
Rabbits are always in Oestrus, meaning forever on heat. Male rabbits are separated and sterilized, while females that are pregnant up to half term are also sterilized. Couples are placed next to each other so they do not break their bonds. Full medical assessments are done, and all new rabbits are in quarantine for 14 days.



2 Rehabilitation and healing.

Rabbits have 3 feeding sessions daily. Rabbits must keep eating or they will get stasis, (gut standstill) and they pass very fast from this.

Hurt rabbits are healed and rehabilitated and those that heal well are up for adoption. In 2021 we saved over 1000 rabbits, sterilized over 700, and have had 968 adoptions to safe homes. Even more were done 2022. Our adoption fee does not cover our Steri fee. A steri is quite expensive, but for us to give a bunny a home, we need to compromise - and ensure that there is no breeding (every 28 days a litter).



3 Searching for the perfect match

Matches to bond bunnies, as well as matches for homes!! We cannot just take in bunnies, we have too little space as it is. We adopt out bunnies to the right homes, after home checks. Feeding advice is given, and we do a medical check every fortnight to ensure that these lucky adoptees are in good health, seeing as vet care is expensive. We do basics like nail trimming and advise on vet care with our trusted vets when needed.

Special needs bunnies stay forever, their normal is just different to our normal. We do not permit suffering, so they are all healing or well, though different.

Special needs rabbits come in from all over the country, and if they can bond, we are happy. We do not believe in force bonding. We will never show a special needs rabbit away.

Our CURRENT PROJECTS



Clearing up the colonies:

In the past 3 months we had major emergencies to fetch bunnies from Mossel Bay, George and Gourits again. These bunnies came from 3 new dumping sites, have started to breed. The bunnies that we already caught needs sterilisation before they can go to one of our Safe Farms, where they will be looked after untill the colonies dies out.

We have colonies needing rescue in Mosselbay, Groot Brak, multiple colonies in George, and a few in Gouritsmond still.

These dumped bunnies are being shot at with pellet guns, maimed, killed with poison, kicked, dogs set on them, and they are caught and skinned alive for eating by traditional people.



Education in Rabbit Care

We are working hard on multiple assignments to increase the correct education on Rabbit Care, as well as on getting books and info pamphlets out to ensure that rabbits are treated better. Everyone is on the bandwagon of cats and dogs, but 99.9% overlook the plight of rabbits. Our campaigns are against dumping rabbits as well as the proper home care so they will not often need vets, which also leads to dumping.

We educate and give advise ALL OVER THE WORLD to ensure that this forgotten pet gets the help they need. Any corporate donors or sponsors will receive huge amounts of publication and advertising from us on our platforms, if agreed.

Advise and assistance worldwide

We try and assist many first time owners and established owners of rabbits with health and medical advise in cases of emergency. We give advise all over the world, and even have vets in both south africa as well as overseas that contact us for advise regarding lagomorphs (rabbits and hares) as these animals' plight are going very visible all over the globe, very fast.

Being classed as exotic animals, not many vets are trained in their unique and specialised care, and not many vets are available worldwide to assist in an emergency. They, and their medications, differ extremely from other small animals and require very specific care.



Veterinary Bills



We have some really harsh veterinary bills, as we deal with specialized, exotic animals. Currently, our Sterilisation Program has to wait, thus our adoptions also have to wait, while we settle the Veterinary bills. The bunnies that are on chronic medication, are in between, but we do need a constant medical supply.

Now with RHD, we would really like to save at least some of the bunnies in the Haven, and vaccinate them.

Operational fees



Fuel, Rental, Electricity, Cleaning, Litter boxes, Food.
 Food for between 350 and 400 bunnies:

Per Week:

5 bales of Oat Hay (or one big bale per 2 weeks)

3 bales Lucerne

5kg Rolled Oats

120kg Pellets

15kg Carrots

15kg Apples

10kg Greens (greens weigh a lot less, so many bags)

A vehicle

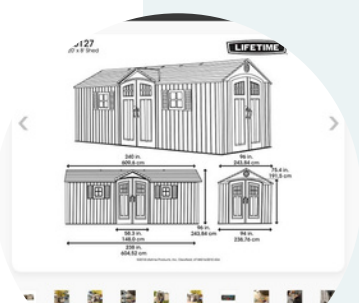


We are in dire need of a new vehicle, preferably a station wagon type vehicle or panel van with access between the front and rear, as we need to be in constant checking on the bunnies we are transporting. We drive up to 12 bunnies - thus 10 to 12 crates in one sterilisation run.

However, we do put in plastic and need to be able to fit in at least 4 bales of food too at a time.

Our current Bunnymobile, an Opal Meriva, is now 19 years old and have serious engine and electrical trouble. She has served us for over 200,000km during these years. A vehicle is the Haven lifeline, and this is pressing.

Expansions



We are in need of an outside shed (eg, wooden /nutec / Wendy) to house some of our bunnies that are rehabilitated.

Bunnies that have been sleeping inside are more difficult to rehabilitate for releasing or managed in outside colonies. They need to stay used to the feeling of being loved and the protection as an inside pet.

We also seriously need more space, so some of our buns that are in smaller spaces can be housed more properly.



Veterinary Bills

We have constant ongoing bills, new bunnies coming in to be sterilized, and medical cases of the new bunnies. Many are hurt, shot, and harmed. Our vet bills are super high, and we are behind.

Sterilization in rabbits to curb the problem of colony explosions is extremely important, and many bunnies we get in have horrible medical issues, but easily treatable with an excellent prognosis.

We do not attempt to treat cases where bunnies are very wild, or a bad prognosis, or chance of low quality of life, but even euthanasia costs money. However, we do our utmost for each and every rabbit coming into our care. Please help us to help them.

Amounts vary from month to month, BUT average about R 7,500.

With RHD that recently struck our country and specifically our area, we need funds to vaccinate our bunnies, esp those with ongoing studies. One Vaccination is R530.



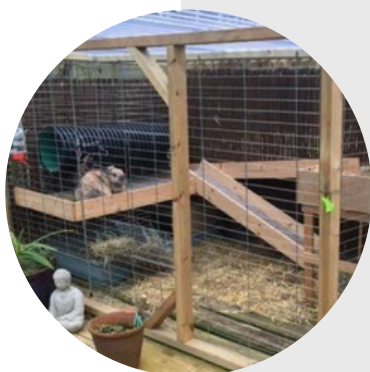
Operational fees

Feeding, fuel, rental, electricity, cleaning, and maintenance... These are our main expenses.

Furthermore, Eskom is really nasty in our accounts, as we are on a rural farm, where availability is much more than in towns.

We need about R20,000 per month to cover these basics. Food alone is about R10,000 monthly +, and more in winter months than in summer.

We need more staff to help us look after these precious lives.



Expansions and vehicle

A Shed for the night, holding cages and quarantine cages and a new safe playtime outside area for the day is needed for these bunnies.

The Holding Area will be of wire, shade netting, 2 PVC sheets, poles, etc. The wire needs to be into the ground so the rabbits cannot dig out, and 3 parts inside the camp, as males and females need to be separate for 28 days after steri. Males are still 28 days fertile after sterilization.

Not all females will be sterilized, so we do not take a chance for breeding.

A vehicle is in dire need at this stage. Any donations or sponsorships are deductible from tax, and you then know where your tax money is spent. A very unique cause needs a very special person or firm to ensure the safety of many lives!

Any amount helps

EMERGENCY!

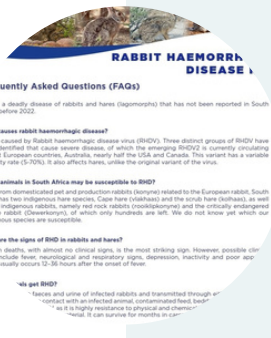
Please...
HELP US



RHD Vaccinations!

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease - Bunny Ebola - has recently entered South Africa and is currently really active in the Western Cape, and Garden Route. Middle of June over 200 dead were found in Knysna, and in very recent days we have lost our very first rescued, sterilized, and relocated Feral colony of 86 rabbits close to Mossel Bay. Also, one of the feral colonies we have been systematically catching passed all in one week.

Vaccines have been used worldwide for over 12 years, with huge success.



PLEASE help our Haven's special bunnies stay safe and sponsor them... this is literally SAVING THEIR LIFE, their only chance. We have placed so much effort and love into these caring souls. We know we cannot save the ferals. But we would like to at least save some of the Haven Bunnies. Many of them are in crucial active studies, surviving and healing from such bad things to be happy and healthy in their own way.

One RHD Vaccination is R530.

A vehicle

Our vehicle (2004) has reached it's end of life for now, needing a service of over R24,000 to be operational again... We are in dire need of this service or a Panel Van with an open driver/back body; or a station wagon that can take a small load. a Bakkie is not ideal, as we have to transport the bunnies in their carriers and be able to communicate and monitor them all the time.

We often get a lot of goods with surrendered rabbits, we have to get feed, materials, also refuse removal, so a vehicle that can have a towbar fitted would be ideal so we do not have to load it inside.

We do not care how old this vehicle is, as long as it is mechanically safe and functional, and in good running condition, not at risk of breaking.... Please... We cannot operate at all without a vehicle.



We are in dire need of assistance. Please...

Our operations are quite extensive, and while we had always been quite self-supportive, we were struck very hard with Covid. My career in Tourism has always ensured us to be able to proceed, but with Covid causing an abrupt end to this career path, we have been struggling.

We have had the choice of going big or going home... and we decided to go HUMONGOUSLY big!

We are a fully registered NPO, 18A PBO with full tax deduction benefits, Thus all donations /sponsored fees can be deducted from Tax, according to your limits. (10% total of GROSS income per anum)

Please help us to continue rescuing the softest, voiceless creatures while helping worldwide. We are the only of our kind in Africa!

Not only for the Tax benefits, but we will also do Marketing for you, Social Media references, and whatever we can. We are willing to do work in exchange for funding. I am a content creator and graphic designer.

Our Gold and Platinum sponsors will be on our website as well, which I am currently rebuilding, and will have a special thank you in our Lagomorph (long ear) Book on behavior and illness that we will bring out. Because you will be making it possible.

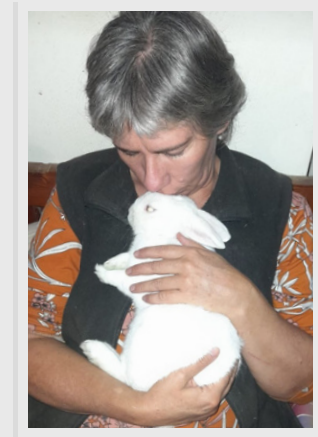
Please assist our cause, in a field that is totally unique and special, and a cause that is going to hit the visibility level all over this country really soon after we finish our website and all the info there. We will be in your face... but not offensive or irritating, but people all over will know of us really soon! And we would love to include you in this visibility!

You are most welcome to visit, visits works by appointment only though, due to our RHDV (Rabbit hemorrhagic Disease Virus) quarantine protocol.

Thank You!

MONIQUE GOOSEN

Founder



Donate or Sponsor

FIRST NATIONAL BANK RSA
 NAME: SOUTHERN CAPE BUNNY HAVEN
 ACCOUNT: 62836860008
 BRANCH: 250655
 SWIFT: FIRNZAJJ
 NPO: 241-476
 REG NO: 2019/621739/08
 18A PBO: 930070625
 Pop/Paypal sc.bunnyhaven@gmail.com

Get in touch

FARM KEURFONTEIN
 GARDEN ROUTE
 WESTERN CAPE

TEL: +27 60 466 2810
 SC.BUNNYHAVEN@GMAIL.COM
 WWW.BUNNYHAVEN.SOUTHERN-CAPE.COM

OUR PLEA

Open your heart

Open your heart

WHY US?

- We are a fully registered 18A PBO, NPO, and NPC with tax benefits to those who sponsor. Know where your tax money goes!
Get updates and info regarding our projects on a regular basis. You invest in us, we keep you closely part of our lives, and we also give full credit to you on our social media and website.
- We are the largest rabbit rescue in the whole of the African continent, one of only 4 registered in the country
- We are the ONLY Haven specifically for the aged, disabled, and special needs on the continent, and our rescue section handles more than 1200 rabbits per year
- We are the only rescue in Africa and one of only 6 that collects data and make this available in research papers and for use by veterinarians.
- We are totally unique and very active, covering over 300x400 km in the Garden Route, plus assist through the whole country - and world.
- Rabbits are the world's 3d most popular pet but the most neglected and harmed because they are quiet - help make the change!
- We give assistance and advice worldwide and are well know in the worldwide rabbit world, certified medical advice contributors in many veterinary certified groups and info pages.



*The Best Thing in Life
arn't Things*

Donate or Sponsor

FIRST NATIONAL BANK RSA
 NAME: SOUTHERN CAPE BUNNY HAVEN
 ACCOUNT : 62836860008
 BRANCH: 250655
 SWIFT: FIRNZAJJ
 NPO: 241-476
 REG NO: 2019/621739/08
 18A PBO: 930070625
 Pop/Paypal sc.bunnyhaven@gmail.com

Get in touch

FARM KEURFONTEIN
 GARDEN ROUTE
 WESTERN CAPE

TEL: +27 60 466 2810
SC.BUNNYHAVEN@GMAIL.COM
WWW.BUNNYHAVEN.SOUTHERN-CAPE.COM