

Suffield Veterinary Hospital March 2015 Patient of the Month

Meet Kringle, an **ADORABLE BUNNY AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION** at 3 Bunnies Rabbit Rescue Inc. This incredibly cute photo was taken by Lorilee Photography of Enfield. Kringle was found as a stray by animal control officers, and when nobody claimed him, he was taken to a shelter for adoption. While he was being neutered, the shelter vet discovered that he needed major dental work, so 3 Bunnies Rabbit Rescue Inc. was contacted and they brought Kringle in to Dr. Sabellico at Suffield Veterinary Hospital.

Kringle is a very curious and active little guy. He has a huge stuffed toy bunny he loves to jump on top of to get a better look at what is going on. Kringle does not mind being held and snuggled.

Dr Sabellico says: "Kringle's front teeth were crooked and overgrown. This is a common hereditary condition in younger rabbits — especially the dwarf breeds. In Kringle's case, we decided to extract his incisors under anesthesia to permanently fix his problem.

Rabbits have "open-rooted teeth," which means their teeth grow and erupt continuously throughout life. Normal chewing action of fibrous foods such as timothy hay wears the teeth down to the point that they don't overgrow and the teeth stay properly aligned. It is very important that hay should make up at least 75% of their diet.

Pet rabbits should have regular veterinary exams that include a complete dental check. As rabbits age they can develop problems with their molar teeth which cannot be seen without a proper exam using a scope. Rabbits who have trouble eating may act painful, make grinding noises, drool and lose weight. When the molar teeth don't wear properly, points on the edges of the teeth abrade the tongue and cheek and may need to be filed under sedation.

We are proud to name Kringle our Patient of the Month for allowing us to highlight this important health issue for rabbits, and to bring awareness to 3 Bunnies Rabbit Rescue Inc. — an all volunteer nonprofit organization rescuing unwanted, abandoned and abused rabbits. **If you are interested in adopting Kringle, please contact them at 3bunniesinfo@gmail.com.**



Suffield Veterinary Hospital

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