

Telling Tail Tales

My Pet Teenager

By Jasmine Fan





Chloe the Holland Lop bunny

My Pet Teenager

“Cats or dogs?” To this controversial question, I would simply reply, “Neither, I like rabbits.”

On September 14, 2016, my family adopted a cute, sweet, and fluffy Holland Lop bunny named Chloe from the animal shelter. Or so we thought... After a few days, Chloe revealed her true colors to us. Although we hoped she would be the sweet bunny that the animal shelter described, her personality could be summed up in one word: entitled. Later, we found out that Chloe had been abandoned by her previous owner because she was too aggressive. She hated being pet, carried, and cooped up inside. We let Chloe run around in our backyard in an attempt to allow her to let

out some of her energy. Unfortunately, she ate all our garden plants, dug a hole, escaped, and rampaged around in our neighbor’s yard. Simply put, Chloe was not on good terms with our neighbors or the animal control officer.

On top of putting up with Chloe’s bad behavior, having to change her litter box was the low point of my week. The odor was unbearable, and I spent most of my time aimlessly trying to swat away flies. Chloe’s odor and the army of flies it attracted awarded her the nickname “the biohazard.” I still cannot believe that we let her live at our house rent-free.

On the bright side, having a rabbit did come with some perks. For example, we could feed some of our vegetable scraps to her. As time went on, however, we started to lose sight of Chloe’s neck. Instead of being able to hop, Chloe lumbered around and spent most of her time sleeping. I nicknamed her the “furry sausage” because she liked to sprawl out and her elongated body looked like a sausage. On her adventures in our backyard, Chloe enjoyed grazing on our lawn and I often called her “our free lawn mower.” I had to put her on a diet after that.

I have also managed to teach Chloe some tricks such as standing up on her hind legs and hopping in a circle. She has recently mastered the art of hurdling! I look forward to her future career as a track athlete. Of course, Chloe will only perform these tricks under the influence of her favorite treats, either oats or dried fruit (which depends on her mood).

Chloe is a biohazard, a furry sausage, and a free lawn mower. She is the bratty teenager, and I am the unfortunate parent who has to put up with her behavior. Despite these blemishes, I still love Chloe. Her eccentric personality always manages to put a smile on my face. Teaching Chloe tricks has taught me how to be patient, changing her litter box has forced me to be responsible, and dealing with her erratic behavior has trained me to be optimistic, especially during the pandemic.

Rabbits are the perfect balance between social, high maintenance dogs and quiet, low maintenance cats. I could not ask for a better pet.



Chloe learns a new trick



Palo Alto Humane Society

PO Box 60715

Palo Alto, CA 94306

pahs@paloaltohumane.org

p 650.424.1901

www.paloaltohumane.org

