



THE Rabbit Advocate



PROVIDING INSIGHTS INTO THE LIVES OF HOUSE RABBITS

FALL 2007

Giving Thanks

When the year began, Rabbit Advocates had mobilized to assist the Hillsboro Police and Oregon Humane Society with an unprecedented situation: the care of over 200 rabbits that had been removed from the home of an animal hoarder. It took a staggering amount of labor, challenged our volunteers as no other situation has done, and we are grateful to everyone who helped.

Volunteers also stepped forward to produce “Bunny’s Best Bites”, a top-quality hay mix that has been a fabulous fundraiser. And many volunteer hours went into our garage sale, monthly outreaches, and ongoing efforts like our helpline, website, medical fund, and the production of this newsletter. Foster parents give a gift that is priceless: a safe, nurturing place for rabbits in need. Thank you, volunteers, for your labors of love. You are the heart and soul of Rabbit Advocates.

At this time of year, we reflect upon all that we’ve accomplished and give thanks to all of you who have made it possible: our donors, volunteers, foster parents, and veterinarians.

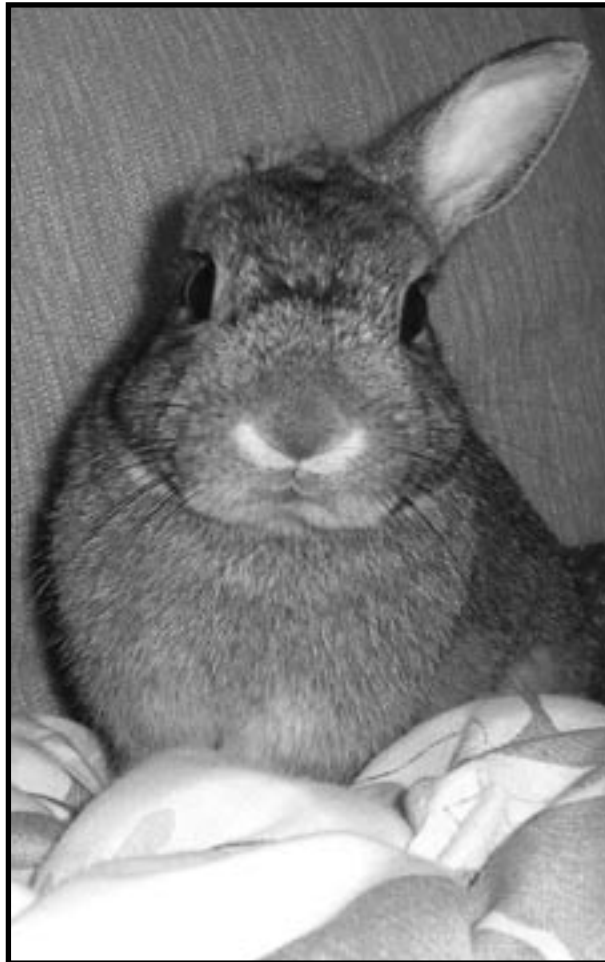


photo: Lori L. Cohen

Curious George is one of many rabbits whose lives were saved this year.

A special thank you to our donors. Your contributions make all of our programs possible, and your gifts have saved many lives, provided desperately needed medical care, and funded our educational efforts.

And lastly, our thanks to the wonderful veterinarians and their staffs who have given generously of their time to help our rescued rabbits: Dr. Wilson of Beaverton Pet Clinic; Drs. Burgess and Ramsell of Southwest Animal Hospital; and Dr. DeReamer of Paws and Claws Pet Medical Center in Troutdale.

Happy Holidays to All!

Sunshine's Story... *or how a reluctant rescuer made a big difference for one special rabbit.*

He had a bright sunny disposition in spite of his hanging sack eye and underweight condition. I greeted him with "Hello Sunshine" every time I went into his stall, and he would hop over to see me. I was smitten.

by Karen Corsini

I got the call about 7:00 pm. Actually, it was a message on my answering machine about a rabbit in Sherwood. The caller "had a question" for me. My husband and I were getting ready to take our 2 dogs to our weekly dog obedience class. We REALLY needed to go. I hate to admit it, but my first thought was, "I'm not going to return the call." I was exhausted from the end of the school year and taking care of the animals on my "hobby farm." (Hobby farm means you have all the work of a farm and a full time job to support the hobby).

My husband, commonly known as "The Animal Voice of Reason," keeps the animal population in check around here. I'm more the animal acquirer and care-giver. He said to me, "Why don't you just return the call and answer her question?" Clearly, he didn't know what that meant. The caller, a foster parent from Bonnie Hayes shelter, lived in Hillsboro and was beyond her capacity for what she was allowed in bunny numbers. I agreed to rescue the bunny but absolutely, positively couldn't keep it. I was very clear about that.



photo: Karen Corsini

Sunshine and Cloud have bonded and found happiness in a loving home

We arranged to go to the apartment complex after obedience class at about 9:30 pm. The caller had a tame bunny that showed up in her front garden. She said it was a "nice bunny" and she was worried about predators. We arrived there with two dogs in our car, no crate for transporting the bunny at about 10:00 pm. (We were very naïve.) Waving to us from the front porch were three elderly women, one was the caller who was in a wheelchair. They had found a box and the bunny was under it. This event seemed to be a highlight for our new senior citizen friends. As we were driving away, they waved and yelled out, "Find him a good home."

I set up an exercise pen in my barn. After all, he was just staying for a couple of days. When we let him out of the box I noticed a problem with his eye. There was a brown sack hanging where one eye was supposed to be. He was a super sweet, tame bunny and let me pick him up to look at the eye. I

locked him away safely in the barn and left him for the night.

I checked him the next morning and he turned his huge, adorable ears towards me. He had a bright, sunny disposition in spite of his hanging sack eye and underweight condition. I greeted him with "Hello Sunshine" every time I went into his pen, and he would hop over to see me. I was smitten. I was panicked about the eye and was getting attached to him. This is a very dangerous combination!

Fortunately, Dr. Wilson of Beaverton Pet Clinic agreed to do an exam and followed by an eye removal and a neuter. His generosity towards homeless rabbits combined with his rabbit healing skills is legendary among Rabbit Advocates, myself included. Funds from the Rabbit Advocate medical fund were used to cover some, but not all, of the costs of these services.



photo: Karen Corsini

Sunshine recovering from surgery to remove an injured eye.

After surgery I needed to move Sunshine inside in order to give him pain meds and watch him more closely. I rearranged my two other buns and moved him right next to my lonely bunny, Cloud (a previous foster failure, can you see where this is going?).

As I write this, a one eyed ray of Sunshine is binkying around my home office. This experience was at times high drama, adrenaline pumping, and thoroughly gratifying. Thankfully, I listened when the Animal Voice of Reason said, “Just return the call and answer her question.”

Editor’s note:

Sunshine and Cloud have bonded and have found a permanent place in Karen’s heart and home.

Please help us continue the good work of the Medical Fund. 100% of designated donations are used to assist rabbits with medical needs. Just send your check to Rabbit Advocates, with a note that it is for the Medical Fund. You may also designate funds for Sunshine’s medical care.

Garage Sale Success

Our 2007 garage sale was a great success, thanks to all the generous donations we received during the year. Special thanks to Tara Rockwell, who organized the event (a job whose complexity defies description), and Arlene MacMonagle, who allowed us once again to take over her home, inside and out. And thanks to the volunteers who spent countless hours pricing items, boxing, loading and driving the truck, setting up, manning tables, feeding the volunteers, and cleaning up.

The sale has been our single largest fundraising effort, and all funds raised go toward our programs which directly



Garage sale volunteers cuddle a guinea pig while they wait for the next customer.

benefit the rabbits. However, due to changes in our fundraising strategy, we probably will not hold the sale next year, concentrating instead on selling Bunny’s Best Bites, our premium hay. We appreciate all the community support for our garage sales over the past several years.



Bunny Tip 1

Vinegar is a bunny parent’s best friend! We buy it by the gallon. Use it to clean and deodorize - it’s great for neutralizing urine odor. Soak your rabbit’s litter box in vinegar to freshen it.

Bunny Tip 2

Most buns enjoy noise making toys. Hard plastic baby toys, like rattles or keys, are fun to throw around. Don’t be surprised if bunny starts ringing for “room service” when you’re late with his breakfast!

Bunny Tip 3

You don’t have to spend any money to give bunny a stimulating new toy. Let your rabbit “recycle” cardboard boxes, paper bags, and old phone books. Fill a small cardboard tube with hay and watch bunny play!

KUDOS

BUSINESS BENEFACTOR

Portland General Electric
The Standard

RABBIT CHAMPION

Beccy Kirk & Ron DeLuca,
in honor of Valerie Madison,
in memory of Dazzle & Snowy

RABBIT RESCUER

Heather Brunelle, in memory
of Diamond, and in apprecia-
tion of Dove Lewis Hospital
Vicki Holechek

Kathleen Kromm, in appre-
ciation of Rabbit Advocates
Diane Kay Sauvageau
Art & Mary G. Swann, in
appreciation of Arlene Mac-
Monagle and Helen Swann

RABBIT SPONSOR

Anonymous, in memory of
Shadow

Tiah Abbas, in memory of
Lucky

Leann M. Bleakney

Sheila David & Erik Bakkom

Charlene DeLuca

Lisa & Matt Freeland, in
memory of Percephone

Edmay Honeycutt

Laurence Malony

Janelle Olson

Kimberly Osmonson, in
memory of Clover & Otto

Roxanne Payne

Diane Shank, in appreciation
of Bunny Blitz

Claire Smith

Emily Stuparyk, in loving
memory of Suzybear Rabbit

Andrew Yamrick, in honor of
June Yamrick

RABBIT FRIEND

Anonymous

Marie Broderick, in memory
of Crumpetts

Lorelei L. Cohen, in memory
of Blackie

Karen Corsini

Gina Crowder, in apprecia-
tion of Otis & Lulu

Kenneth Dillon

Nancy Ducharme

Julie Eddy

Diane Elizondo, in honor of
Evelyn Roeloffs

Chris & Shelley Hanel, in
memory of Mr. B

Heidi Harvey, in honor of
John Langford

Birthday Fundraising Instead Of Toys!

You may find John creating his own rabbit shelter one day, as it seems a visit to drop off his birthday donation to RA Valerie Madison and holding a newborn bun in his hand has inspired such a dream.

by Shannon Batts

What makes a child for his 8th birthday request money for bunnies in need instead of his usual favorite Hot Wheels? Ask John of the Langford family and he'll say, "because bunnies are cute!"

"I have enough stuff," John says, but that doesn't motivate most folks to fundraise. Charitable giving runs in this family with big sister Elizabeth, now 12, collecting donations instead of presents for her last three birthdays and giving them to a therapeutic horse riding program for disabled children. Mom, Cheryl and Dad, William are in on this too, fostering, then adopting three cats. Four year old brother James is sure to be next.

The rescued cats introduced the Langfords to Rabbit Advocates when the RA link jumped out from the Oregon Humane Society web-



photo: courtesy of Langford family

At 8 years old, John Langford is a dedicated animal advocate.

site they were cruising while delving into cat fostering.

An unexpected bonus during John's birthday fundraising his mom explains, was that "every guest learned about Rabbit Advocates because of his request. Not one person who wrote out



Dear Rabby

a check knew what Rabbit Advocates was, nor that rabbits were being fostered or sheltered and John filled them in.”

John’s love of rabbits didn’t start with turning 8 years old. “He’s always loved rabbits and is always begging for one,” Cheryl, his mom says, “but we have 3 kids and 4 cats and would want to give a rabbit enough attention.”

Last year, instead of giving his 2nd grade teacher a Christmas gift, he made a rabbit storybook for her and noted his donation to Rabbit Advocates on her behalf.

As recently as this month, a children’s soccer game ended with John bringing an abandoned furball home (see photo), once he and his soccer pals figured out how to remove a bunny holding ground beneath a parked car. Now the Langfords are in the thick of it, getting a taste of animal rescue firsthand.

You may find John creating his own rabbit shelter one day, as it seems a visit to drop off his birthday donation to RA Valerie Madison and holding a newborn bun in his hand has inspired such a dream. We will be seeing more of him sooner than that as he has the heart of a rabbit advocate and is on the lookout for ways to help.

Shannon Batts is a pet sitter at rabbitcareportland.com.



Help! My Bun Has “Poopy Butt”

Dear Rabby,

My dear rabbit Wally has an embarrassing problem. His backside is always covered with a clump of sticky, smelly poop. It’s affecting our relationship because I don’t pick him up and hold him like I used to. I no longer let him run in the living room because I don’t want smudges on the carpet, and I keep him hidden when visitors come to the house. Can you help us?

Wally’s Mom

Dear Mom,

Don’t let “Poopy Butt” ruin your relationship with your rabbit! This problem is fairly common in house rabbits, and usually can be corrected with some simple adjustments to Wally’s diet.

Cut out all sweet, sugary treats. No cookies, raisins, or apples—no matter how much he begs! Reduce the amount of pelleted feed. (The recommended amount is just 1/4 cup per 5 pounds of body weight per day.) Feed lots of good quality hay.

You should see results in a few days. In the meantime, put a towel on your lap and give that bun lots of love!

If dietary changes don’t help, see a vet. Wally may have a physical problem (such as arthritic spine or obesity) which prevents him from reaching his bottom and keeping himself clean.

You’ll have to do a clean-up for Wally. It’s not a pleasant job, but you’ll both be grateful when he’s clean and fresh. Take your time and be very careful not to injure his sensitive skin. Carefully clip away soiled fur, and gently pull away material that has accumulated. Bathing is generally not recommended—it’s very stressful for the rabbit—but a damp cloth may be helpful.

RABBIT FRIEND cont.

Yen P. Ho, in honor of John Langford

Dawn Iveane-Curell, in appreciation of Valerie Madison

Constance B. Kenney

Cheryl Langford, in honor of Kathy Fink

Cheryl Langford, in honor of John Langford

Filaree Livezey, in appreciation of Milly & Winky

Kristie Maczko

Linda McBarron

Maegen Mickman

Therese Mitchell

Joann M. Myers, in memory of Snow and Dugan

Peggy & Michael Pohl, in memory of Fartsie

Susan M. Rice, in honor of John Langford

Ruby Schouten

Julie & Sean Stewart, in appreciation of Nimbus & Huckleberry

Elaine Studebaker

Jeffrey Wiseman

Valda Wold

Craig and Pam Yoshida, in memory of Mouse Iwasaki

Yao Yuan, in honor of John Langford

Special thanks to hay elves Jan Hutto and Shellie Fletcher for Bunny’s Best Bites.

Donations received after July 31, 2007 will be acknowledged in the next newsletter.

Would you like to continue receiving our newsletter, or update your mailing address? Or maybe make a comment or suggestion?

WRITE TO US AT:

newsletter@adoptarabbit.org

“Bunny’s Best Bites” Hay Mix for Sale

Beans turned up his nose at hay until he tried “Bunny’s Best Bites”, our high quality hay mix. Now he can’t get enough of it!

Hay is the most important component of a rabbit’s diet, and it’s one of the keys to good health and long life.

Rabbit Advocate volunteers mix and package several types of bunny-healthy hay: approximately 50% first-cut timothy, 25% orchard grass, and 25% equal parts of oat and rye-fescue mixed grass. We also sell alfalfa hay separately in 10-pound “Young Bunny’s Best Bites” bags. The hay is properly cured and dried to prevent issues with moisture or mold.

Given its freshness, the convenience of several purchasing locations, and that it supports rabbit rescue, our customers feel it’s a real bargain. It’s great for ‘1 or 2 bunny’ homes otherwise faced with buying expensive pet store hay in small quantities, or a whole bale that isn’t easily stored, provides little variety, and becomes stale by the time you finish it up.

The ten pound bag can be dumped into an 18-gallon Rubbermaid bin for

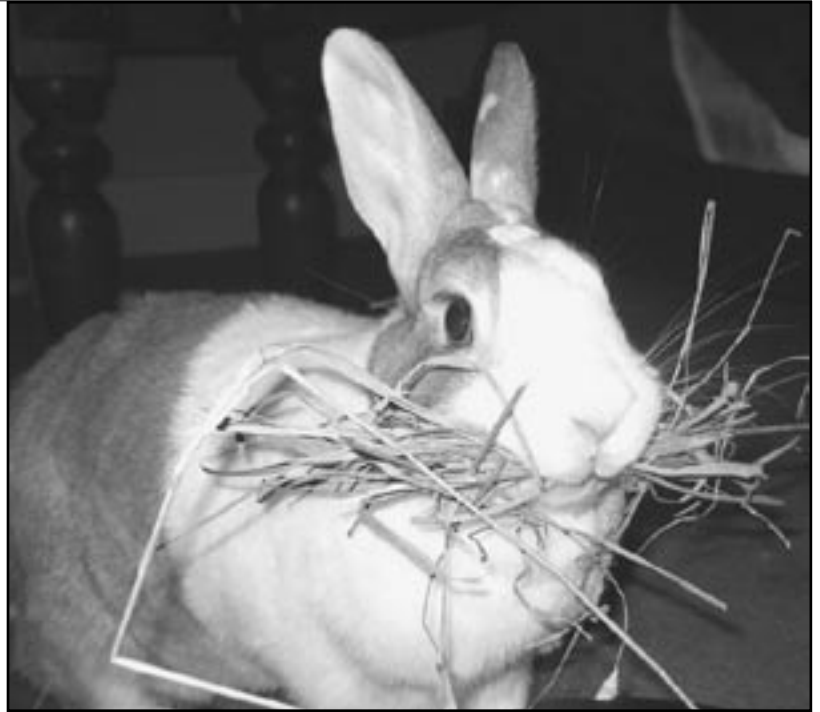


photo: Maegan Mickman

Beans can’t get enough of his favorite hay.

easy stacking and storage, and then returned to RA at our meetings in good condition for re-use.

We offer a free bag to everyone who adopts from Rabbit Advocates. All proceeds after expenses go to the RA Medical Assistance Fund.

The cost of the hay is \$8.50 per ten pound bag, and is available at Rabbit Advocate general meetings. You can also arrange to pick up hay or volunteer to help package it. E-mail Jan Hutto, BBB co-ordinator: jhhutto2@msn.com. or Joan Gilbert: RA volunteer co-ordinator: lobunny88@aol.com.



photo: Jan Hutto

Veg Fest 2007

Rabbit Advocate volunteers participated in VegFest 2007, a celebration of the vegetarian and vegan lifestyle, and spoke to lots of folks about the joys of house rabbits.

Many thanks to Kevin Gerdes, Leann Bleakney, Helen Swann, Bobbi Waggoner, Ron DeLuca, Beccy Kirk and Valerie Madison.

They met lots of people and they made life better for many rabbits. Pretty much everyone there was an animal lover and the event was great fun. There was a ton of food and all of it vegetarian or



Volunteers Kevin Gerdes and Valerie Madison share their knowledge and good cheer at Veg Fest 2007.

vegan. The energy of the event was the most striking. It was time and effort very well spent.

Web Hopping

We love this music video by Portland musician Belinda Underwood. Belinda and her sister Melissa perform as "Beliss", and have just released their first album, entitled "Beliss", which includes the lovely song "Elvira", a musical tribute to Belinda's dear rabbit.

www.beliss.cosmikmuse.com/new-pages/media.html



Thank You to Our Vets!

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the following veterinarians and staffs for their services to our rescued rabbits:

**Dr. Chris Wilson,
Beaverton Pet Clinic**

**Dr. Mark Burgess,
Southwest Animal Hospital
Beaverton**

**Dr. Katrina Ramsell,
Southwest Animal Hospital**

**Dr. Ken DeReamer,
Paws & Claws Pet Medical Center
Troutdale**

**Dr. Ross Weinstein,
North Portland Veterinary Hospital**

**Dr. Mary Blankenvoort,
St. Johns Veterinary Clinic**

**Dr. Peter Davis,
St. Johns Veterinary Clinic**

**Dr. Rebecca Prull,
Dogwood Pet Hospital, Gresham**

*We'd love to add more names to this list!
Please call us at 503- 617-1625 if you are
a rabbit-savvy vet who is able to donate
services to help rescued rabbits.*

RA Board of Directors

**Helen Swann,
President**

**Arlene MacMonagle,
Vice President**

**Kem Sypher, Secretary/ Treasurer
Leann Bleakney, Recording Secretary**

Kevin Gerdes, OHS Liason

Joan Gilbert, Volunteer Coordinator

Mary Huey, Adoptions/ Foster

Mary Thompson, Webmaster

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Back to OHS for General Meetings

Rabbit Advocates have returned to the Oregon Humane Society, 1067 NE Columbia Boulevard, Portland Oregon, where we meet in the new Manners Hall 1 on the third Sunday of every month from 4:00–6:00 PM. Meetings include a “Bunny Basics” Q & A session where we invite your questions about any aspect of rabbit care. The public is welcome!

Upcoming General Meeting Dates:

No meeting in December—Happy Holidays!

Next meeting January 20th

Western Pet Outreaches

Volunteers are on hand to answer your questions about rabbit care. Nail clipping demo. Meet sweet adoptable rescued rabbits.

Saturday, December 8, 11 AM–2 PM

6908 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy. Portland, 97225

2008 Western Pet Outreach Schedule

January 19

February 16

March 15

April 19

May 17

June 21

July 19



photo: Lorraine Bushek

Volunteer Lorraine Bushek met this big rabbit while traveling in Graz, Austria.



Rabbit Advocates

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Oregon

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www.adoptarabbit.org

**“Promoting
the Welfare of
Domestic Rabbits”**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED