

THE RABBIT ADVOCATE



Eivira was completely black when she came to live with Fritz at Kem Sypher's house (left). As she aged, Elvira turned grey, just like humans, whose hair turns silvery as we mature.

Older and healthy

The care of geriatric rabbits

By Mark E. Burgess DVM

Rabbits, like other pets, have changing needs as they age. Diseases become more common and more varied, and regular health care is progressively more important. For starters, what defines a geriatric rabbit? Many rabbits live to between 6 and 8 years old, but some can live to 13 years or occasionally beyond. In general, we can consider a rabbit to be an older individual, in terms of health needs, once it reaches 4 or 5 years old. This article will discuss what a pet owner can do to maximize longevity and health in their aging pet, and how the attending veterinarian can help achieve that goal.

As far as preventive medicine is concerned, we should discuss diet first and foremost. The rabbit digestive tract is always a complex and easily-upset system. In middle-aged and older rabbits, the gut can become even more fragile. Treats high in sugar or protein, such as seeds, nuts, and grains, or non-leafy vegetables such as fruits, carrots, and corn, all pose some risk to the rabbit digestive tract, due to their high energy/ low roughage content. Although younger rabbits sometimes tolerate less-than-ideal dietary items, the aging gut is more and more at risk if the diet isn't carefully managed. Older rabbits should be fed a diet of primarily low-protein grass hay, such as timothy or oat hay. Alfalfa hay is too high in protein and calcium to be ideal, and some grass hays, such as meadow grass and orchard grass, can be almost as high in protein as alfalfa.

A measured amount of low protein (13-14 percent protein) timothy-based pellets should be fed, tailored to the rabbit's caloric needs. Examples include Oxbow Bunny Basics-T, or Kaytee Timothy pellets. The pelleted feed is usually the main dietary source of calories, so the amount can be increased or decreased to achieve weight gain or loss, as needed. Pellets also have a guaranteed vitamin and mineral content and contain all essential trace nutrients, so they should always be a part of the diet (though quantities fed can be small in some individuals). Fresh vegetables should be limited primarily to leafy greens, excluding the cabbage family of plants which tend to cause gas and bloating if overfed. Plants in the cabbage group include cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, Brussels sprouts and bok choy. Rabbits are grazing animals and in nature eat more grass than broadleaf plants; even leafy green vegetables are not exactly what the rabbit gut was designed to primarily digest. Thus I usually recommend that fresh vegetables should be limited to no more than 10-15 percent of the rabbit's diet.

Besides diet, the basics of home care do not change a lot with an aging rabbit. Clean bedding, shelter from extremes of temperature, fresh water, and exercise are basic needs that both young and old rabbits require. Older pets may be more sensitive to heat and cold, and moderate temperatures (65-73 degrees fahrenheit) are ideal.

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Older and healthy continued from front page

Home care is half of the health equation; the other half is provided by the attending veterinarian. Preventative medicine is always the best course. Annual examinations by an astute doctor can detect early disease, and identify risk factors such as inappropriate diet before they lead to larger problems. With rabbits more than 4 years old, examinations every six months are ideal, as the rabbit ages faster than other pets such as cats. One year can be an eternity in an 8-year-old pet. Annual blood profiles (a CBC and chemistry panel) are also recommended in rabbits aged over 4 years. These tests can detect changes in your pet's body that even a thorough examination might miss.

Preventive health care can also include spaying the female rabbit, due to the high risk of uterine infection and uterine cancer in older females. Although spaying is ideally done in young healthy animals, the procedure is still safe in many older individuals provided that the patient is carefully assessed prior to surgery. Unspayed females often end up needing surgery to remove a diseased uterus, which is more difficult and often involves an ill patient who is less stable. Intact males have virtually the same health risks as those who are neutered; neutering is often done to reduce unwanted behaviors such as breeding, aggression or urine spraying.

Other than routine physical examinations, a veterinary visit (or at least a call to your vet) is warranted any time you notice a loss of activity, energy, or appetite in your pet. Diarrhea is always a cause for concern in both young and old rabbits, as is total lack of fecal output. Selective appetite loss, often starting with decreased intake of pelleted food (while still eating veggies and hay) suggests early illness and is an important symptom. Difficulty breathing, often manifesting as slower, deep, pumping respirations (with or without audible wheezing) could suggest pneumonia or heart disease. Weight loss may be gradual, but is rarely normal unless you are deliberately dieting your pet.

Rabbits are light-boned and built to be slender, but should not feel bony and angular. Prominent ribs and hip bones, especially in a rabbit who previously felt more solid in build, are suggestive of wasting disease. Excessive thirst can indicate a number of problems, such as kidney disease or diabetes. As you can tell, there are many ways an older pet may take ill, and the above symptoms are not the only ones a sick rabbit may show. The key point is this: if you see any changes in your older pet that you cannot explain, then call your vet and ask if there is cause for concern. It is better to be safe than sorry.

Thanks to better health care and improved understanding of rabbits' needs, pet bunnies are now living longer than ever.

{ With good home care and a little help from your vet now and then, your furry friends should enjoy long and happy lives. }

Editor's Note: The Rabbit Advocates supports spaying and neutering all pet rabbits. We recognize that rabbit overpopulation is a serious problem and our volunteers do not breed rabbits or any other companion animals. We promote adoptions of homeless rabbits from foster homes, shelters and rescue groups.

Dr. Mark Burgess, in 1995, opened Southwest Animal Hospital and sees mostly exotic pets, including rabbits. He is an expert on rabbit health and medical care and is a published author both in medical journals and textbooks. He teaches exotic pet medicine at Oregon State University's Veterinary School, and has lectured at national and international medical conferences. Dr. Burgess can now add "author" to his list of accomplishments as the author of the book "Dog Daze and Cat Naps: A Vet Student's Odyssey." For more information, call the Southwest Animal Hospital at (503) 643-2137 or see its website at www.swanimalhospital.net.

Pet-sitter Primer

FAQ's for Vacation Rabbit Care

by Guin Boostrom

Fall and winter can be a busy travel time with holiday visits to family and friends and mid-winter excursions. All that travel means deciding who will take care of your bunnies while you are gone. Below are some Frequently Asked Questions about arranging for rabbit care while you are away.

- Q) Can I avoid the pet-sitter question by just taking my rabbit with me on my trip?
- A) That might be an option, depending on where you are going, how you are getting there, and how well your rabbit tolerates travel. If you plan to take your bunny with you, you'll need to make sure he is welcome where you are going and that it will be a good environment for your rabbit. Not all hotels and motels that accept dog and cat visitors will accept a rabbit. Even if your friends and family will welcome

your rabbit into their homes, it may not be a safe environment for your rabbit. If you'll be traveling by air, you may find that very few airlines accept rabbits. (See the Winter 2010 issue of the RA newsletter for more info on air travel with rabbits: http://www.adoptarabbit.org/newsletters/Winter_10.pdf). And even if you travel by car, you'll need to be mindful of how well your bunny can handle the stress of travel. If your rabbit tends to tremble, breathe heavily or stop eating as the result of a car

ride, a road trip may be too much stress for your rabbit and it may be better for her if you leave her at home.

- Q) If I'm just going away for the weekend, can I just leave my rabbits with enough food and water to last for a couple days?
- A) When rabbits get sick, the signs can be very subtle at first, and they can go downhill very rapidly. A rabbit that seemed fine as you were leaving on Friday evening can suddenly get

sick Saturday and stop eating. A rabbit that stopped eating on Saturday can quite easily pass away by Sunday afternoon without medical attention. If your rabbit companion is a single bunny who is closely bonded to you or has a particularly sensitive temperament, the very fact that you are gone and there is a disruption in your rabbit's routine may make it even more likely that your bunny will be upset and suffer digestive distress as the result. This makes it all the more important that someone be there to check on your rabbit, preferably at least twice a day.

Q) What should I look for in a rabbit-sitter?

A) The person who is going to sit for your rabbits should be someone who has experience with rabbits or who at the very least is willing to let you give them a crash course in rabbit care and follow your care instructions to the letter. If you are hiring a professional pet-sitter, ask them not only if they have references, but if they specifically have references from rabbit owners who can attest to their rabbit care experience.

If you can't find someone who has specific previous experience sitting for rabbits, it's very important that you find someone who is open-minded to the concept that rabbits have different care requirements from dogs or cats, and is willing to take instruction from you in this regard.

Whether you have a friend or relative, or a paid rabbit sitter looking after your rabbits, the person should:

- 1) Be available to check on your rabbits at least twice a day (the reason for this is that a rabbit who has not eaten or defecated for 12 hours or more could be in a state of gastrointestinal stasis and may need urgent medical care);
- 2) Be willing and able to follow your feeding and care instructions – your rabbit needs to eat hay every day, so your neighbor with a hay allergy who is hoping to get away with just feeding pellets may not be a good choice. Likewise, if you have a long-haired rabbit that needs a daily brushing, you'll want to choose a sitter with the time and inclination to do that;

- 3) Be willing to come over to your house prior to your trip for you to show them the rabbit care ropes (if they will be caring for your rabbit at your house) or be willing to let you come over to their house to see where your rabbit will be staying (if you will be boarding your rabbit at someone else's house);
- 4) Be comfortable administering any medications or other special health treatments your rabbits need;
- 5) Be able to recognize the subtle signs of a rabbit with a health problem – not eating, not defecating, tooth-grinding, lying in a way that suggests an uncomfortable tummy – and be willing to call you or the vet's office for further guidance should any of these behaviors be noted;
- 6) Be willing and able to take your rabbit to the vet if an emergency arises.

Q) Where can I find a rabbit sitter?

A) The ideal situation would be to have a friend, neighbor or relative, who has been to your house and interacted with your rabbits previously, watch your rabbits. Someone who has been around your rabbits will know normal behavior for your rabbits and will be able to quickly identify if your rabbits are behaving in such a way that might indicate that they are sick. It will also be less stressful for your rabbits to be cared for by people that they know.

However, if it is not possible to get someone who knows your rabbits to watch them, the next best solution would be to find someone who is rabbit-savvy. If you are in the Portland, Oregon area, you may wish to e-mail Rabbit Advocates at rabbitsitting@adoptarabbit.org. We have several experienced sitters who offer rabbit-sitting services for a fee. (Please note, those who offer rabbit-sitting do so independently, not as an official service of Rabbit Advocates. Rabbit Advocates cannot assume responsibility for your satisfaction with their services.) Outside the Portland area, you may wish to check the House Rabbit Society website (www.rabbit.org) or your local rabbit rescue group's website for recommendations.

Another place to look for a rabbit-savvy pet-sitter would be at your rabbit's veterinary office. Many vet techs do pet-sitting at their homes, and some veterinary offices provide boarding. (Boarding at a veterinary office may be a good solution for a rabbit that is elderly, has special health care needs or needs medication, but would otherwise typically be a solution of last resort simply because your rabbit is unlikely to get any out-of-cage exercise time or personalized attention in a vet-boarding situation.)

Q) Is it better to have the rabbit-sitter come to my home or take my rabbit over to someone else's place?

A) There are pros and cons to both.

If the sitter comes to your home, your rabbits will remain in their own environment, which will be less stressful to them. However, unless your pet-sitter is able to actually stay at your house while you are away, your rabbits won't receive as much supervision as if they were staying with their caretaker. This means it might be longer before an injury or illness is detected and dealt with. Also, if your rabbits have to be confined to a cage due to landlord restrictions, other pets in the home, etc., your rabbits may only get let out of their cage briefly, if at all, if you rely on a pet-sitter coming to your home.

If you take your rabbits to the sitter's home, your rabbits may have a more stressful time if they are in an unfamiliar environment, especially one that may contain other rabbits or unfamiliar pets. However, with more hours of supervision each day, it's more likely that the sitter would notice if your rabbit isn't feeling well, and your rabbit will likely get more exercise time and more social interaction.

Q) If I'm taking my rabbit to someone else's house for sitting, what should I bring?

A) Although there are exceptions to every rule, most rabbits are creatures of habit that enjoy established routines. Your rabbit will have the easiest time adjusting to being at someone else's house if you provide as many of their own belongings as you can and provide them

Rabbit Advocates' 2011 Holiday Gift Guide

For Bunny Lovers



TIE-DYE RABBIT ADVOCATES T-SHIRTS: A new twist on an old classic, these t-shirts would make a great gift for any rabbit lover. Available in purple, pink, or black tie-dye, they feature the Rabbit Advocates logo on the front in white. \$22, unisex sizes XS-XXL, email Tonie at tonie@colonialcustomforms.net



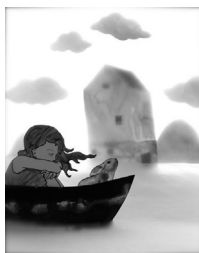
STAINLESS STEEL RABBIT WATER BOTTLE: Drink your water from a safe and sleek-looking reusable bottle that features an elegant rabbit portrait. \$17.99, thegreenlifecostore.com



RABBIT LAMP: Not only is this lamp the perfect accessory for any rabbit-lover's home, it's also incredibly hip (perhaps that explains the hefty price tag). Just be sure to include a cord protector with your gift. \$501.00, hivemodern.com



"KEEP CALM AND LOVE RABBITS" PRINT: This 8 x 10 print conveys a simple message that every human being should follow. You can choose your own background color for the print. \$8.99, etsy.com/shop/keepcalmarsenal



"WITH THE LUCK OF A RABBIT" ARCHIVAL SIGNED PRINT: Artist Elly MacKay used a miniature theater to create this lovely image of a girl setting off in a boat with a rabbit at the helm. \$18.00, etsy.com/shop/theaterclouds



RABBIT DOG HAT: Do you have a dog who loves bunnies? Maybe a dog who wants to be a bunny? A hand-knit rabbit hat, custom made for your dog, would be just the thing. \$20, etsy.com/shop/jessicalynheart

"I LOVE MY GRANDBUNNY" T-SHIRTS, HATS, TOTES, WATER BOTTLES, ETC.: Finally, that elusive perfect gift for your bunny's "grandparents." The message "I Love My Grandbunny" ("Grandbunnies" is also available) can be printed on just about any gift you can imagine. Prices vary, cafepress.com/bunnywhipped



MUNNY IN THE BUNNY BANK: Who says piggys make the best banks? Put your money in this ceramic bunny and watch your savings multiply. \$29, landofnod.com

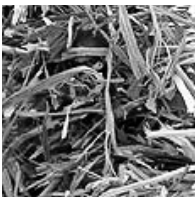
RABBIT READER PEN HOLDER: For the book lover who likes to write in the margins, this pen holder features a sweet gold-colored bunny that clips onto book covers. \$10.99, modcloth.com

Gift Guide cont.

For Bunnies, Be They Naughty or Nice



BUNNY PROJECT BAGS: Made locally by Rabbit Advocate Tonie Young, these paper project bags are filled with timothy hay and untreated wood pieces and tied with sisal ties. Your bunnies will have a blast tearing them apart. \$5, email Tonie at tonie@colonialcustomforms.net



FLOPPER'S GARDEN GRASS BOTANICAL BALL: This edible fiber ball is filled with grass hay and a mixture of apple, strawberry, plantain, and rose leaves. It's bound to provide hours of chewing, digging, and tossing fun. \$8.99, store. binkybunny.com

LEITH PETWERKS BUNNY ABODE CONDO: Has your bunny been especially nice this year? Treat her to a Bunny Abode from Leith Petwerks. Available in multiple sizes and configurations, the Bunny Abode features solid floors and ample room for both play and relaxation. From \$179.95, petwerks.com

HIBISCUS CRUNCH: Your rabbit will love munching on these crunchy dried hibiscus flowers. 4.99, busybunny.com

OXBOW PAPAYA FRUIT PLUS TABLETS: Give your bunny a daily papaya treat and watch him come running when you shake the bottle. \$6.99, bunnybytes.com

TIMMY TUNNEL: A cardboard tunnel stuffed with premium timothy hay—what more could a rabbit ask for? The cardboard is extra thick, providing a great chewing activity for your bunny. 10.99, americanpetdiner.com

The Rabbit Advocate Wish List

The needs of a non-profit organization like the Rabbit Advocates are constant. Much of the money the organization receives through generous donations goes to programs like the Medical Fund to offset costs for pet rabbit medical care. Some of the money goes to expenses like the production of this newsletter. You can help the Rabbit Advocates by volunteering or making a donation. Here are some of the organization's specific needs:

Donate

Rabbit Advocates accepts tax deductible donations in any amount. Use the online donation feature on our web site at www.rabbitadvocates.org to contribute securely with a credit card or through Paypal. Checks can be sent directly to: Rabbit Advocates, P.O. Box 14235, Portland, OR 97293-0235. If you would like your donation to go to the Medical Fund, which offsets the costs of medical procedures and spay and neuter surgeries, please write "Medical Fund" on your check.

Adopt a rabbit

Give a forever home to one (or more!) of the many rabbits currently being fostered by Rabbit Advocate volunteers. Each adopted rabbit opens up a space for another rabbit in need. Adoptable rabbits are featured on our website: www.rabbitadvocates.org.

Foster a rabbit

Provide a temporary home for a rabbit in an emergency situation or for a rabbit that needs special care. For more information on how to foster a rabbit, contact foster care coordinator Mary Huey at rabbit8.mary@gmail.com.

Sponsor a rabbit

Rabbit Advocate volunteers care for many rabbits with medical issues requiring ongoing vet care or major surgeries and medications. All rabbits are in individual foster homes and all expenses, including medical treatments, are paid by the foster person. Most of these special needs rabbits are unadoptable because of their medical problems and will remain in foster care for their lifetimes. The Rabbit Advocate website (www.rabbitadvocates.org) now features a way to help sponsor the ongoing care of these special needs rabbits. Donations are gratefully accepted online with a credit card or through Paypal. All donations are tax deductible. Sponsor names will be gratefully acknowledged

on our web site unless the sponsor would prefer to remain anonymous.

Donate your car

The vehicle does not need to be in running condition, but it should be able to sell for at least \$75 at public auction. All of the proceeds will go to the Rabbit Advocates and you will receive a donation receipt for your tax records. For more information, contact volunteer Chris Arends at carends44@comcast.net.

Wear the logo proudly

The Rabbit Advocates is proud to offer t-shirts (including the new tie-dye shirts), sweatshirts, static-cling stickers and draw-string backpacks featuring our logo.

For more information, contact volunteer Tonie Young at tonie@colonialcustomforms.net.

Search or shop online

Rabbit Advocates is registered with GoodSearch.com and GoodShop.com. Simply select Rabbit Advocates as your designated charity, and each time you conduct an internet search using GoodSearch.com or shop online using GoodShop.com, a donation will be made to our organization. It costs you nothing, but raises a small contribution for the Rabbit Advocates each year.

Donate time to Bunny's Best Bites

Help raise money for the Rabbit Advocates' medical fund by joining other volunteers who mix and bag hay for Bunny's Best Bites, the Rabbit Advocates' own custom blend of hays. Hay packing parties take place at least once a month. For more information check the web site at www.rabbitadvocates.org

Thank You to Our Vets!

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

Dr. Katrina Ramsell
Northwest Exotic Pet Vet, and
Dr. Chris Wilson
Beaverton Pet Clinic, Beaverton

**Dr. Mark Burgess and
Dr. Melinda Surrency**
Southwest Animal Hospital,
Beaverton

Dr. Sheri Schlorman
Creswell Veterinary Hospital,
Creswell

Dr. Doug Ferro
Barclay Hills Animal Clinic,
Oregon City

Dr. Nell Ostermeier
Lombard Animal Hospital, Portland

Dr. Ross Weinstein
North Portland Veterinary Hospital,
Portland

**Dr. Mary Blankenvoort and
Dr. Peter Davis**
St. Johns Veterinary Clinic,
Portland

Dr. Rebecca Prull
NW Neighborhood Vet Hospital,
Portland

Dr. Ken DeReamer
Paws and Claws Pet Medical
Center, Troutdale
and Peninsula Dog and Cat Clinic,
Portland

Dr. Matt Fricke
McKenzie Animal Hospital,
Springfield

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.

Bunnies in Baskets visit Rabbit Advocates

Visits with small creatures strikes a familiar theme to rabbit caretakers

Sarah Baran, treasurer of Bunnies in Baskets, brought not only a bunny but a check to the Rabbit Advocates during the Advocates' May meeting at the Oregon Humane Society. Bunnies in Baskets is a non-profit organization that supports taking therapy rabbits to group situations for visits. While the rabbits charm all attendants, volunteers take the opportunity to talk about rabbits and their care. Baran said all types of organizations and groups, including schools and retirement communities, enjoy visits from Bunnies in Baskets.

Bunnies in Baskets offers training, evaluation of prospective bunny visitors and support for the rabbit caretakers, including insurance in the U.S. and Canada to help cover liability for the rabbit and human interactions. Veterinarians provide

routine medical and behavioral exams of Bunnies in Baskets registered rabbits.

As a non-profit organization, Bunnies in Baskets relies on donations to pay for operating costs. An annual fundraiser is sales of organic gardening seeds. This year, during the month of May, a portion of the proceeds of the seeds sold was given to Rabbit Advocates. At the May Rabbit Advocate meeting, Baran presented then Rabbit Advocate President, Dawn Iveane-Curell, with a check for \$50.

Rabbit Advocates would like to thank Bunnies in Baskets for its generous donation. For more information about Bunnies in Baskets, contact the group's web site at www.bunniesinbaskets.org.

Pet-sitter Primer continued from page 3

with an experience as similar to being at their own home as possible.

You should always bring the following:

- A supply of your rabbit's normal food, including pellets, hay and treats if allowed. If you'll be gone more than a week, it would be a nice gesture to leave your sitter with cash or a grocery store gift card to buy more treats if the initial supply you provided runs out. Be sure to give your sitter specific instructions about how much food to give your rabbit, any dietary restrictions, and the normal feeding schedule.

- Your rabbit's own litter box and a supply of your rabbit's normal litter.

- Your rabbit's own water bottle or crock and food dishes.

- Any medicines your rabbit needs to take (and instructions for administering them)

- A box, tube, or other hidey-hole object that your rabbit likes to hang out in at home, and a selection of your rabbit's own toys

- Contact information for you, and for your vet's office. It's not a bad idea to give your vet's office your credit card information to have on file, so that payment need not be an obstacle if your sitter needs to take your rabbit to the vet while you are away.

In addition to the above, you should talk with your pet-sitter about whether you need to provide the following:

- A cage or exercise pen. This may not be necessary if your sitter has a spare room they can put your rabbit in or a spare exercise pen you can use, but it's best to check.

- Old blankets, towels, carpet remnants, etc. to protect your sitter's floor from urine accidents. (Bunnies with impeccable litter box habits at home can still sometimes have accidents in an unfamiliar setting, especially if there are other pets there that can make the bunny feel territorial.)

“I really like rabbits” young donor says

Eric Lane gives more than \$200 to Rabbit Advocates



Eric Lane loves his rabbits Maddie and Wally (not shown). He loves Rabbit Advocates, too, and gave the organization \$210 this year.

Eric Lane's mother Jane Kim says the allowance requirement started in kindergarten. Eric and his brothers each get \$3 per week as an allowance. But they don't spend it on video games or candy or whatever else a typical 11 year old with extra pocket change might buy. Instead, the boys each keep \$1, donate \$1 to charity and put \$1 in their college funds. At the end of the year, each boy donates \$52 to a charity of his choice.

This year Eric donated \$210 to the Rabbit Advocates.

Eric donated not only the charity portion of his allowance, but other money his grandparents gave him so that more people can learn about rabbits and how to care for them.

Eric was inspired by his teacher, who has a pet rabbit in the classroom and demonstrates on a daily basis how much she loves her bunny. Eric got Wally, a white Netherland dwarf rabbit, about a year ago. Earlier this year, Eric and his family attended a Rabbit Advocate adoption event and there he found Maddie, a recently rescued rabbit cared for by Volunteer Valerie Madison. Maddie is named for Valerie, who rescued the bunny from the outdoors last winter.

Eric is the primary caretaker of Wally and Maddie, feeding them and changing their litter boxes every day. The rabbits clearly like Eric and come to him for petting and for treats.

“I really like bunnies as pets,” Eric says. He says he might even choose the Rabbit Advocates as his charity again next year.

KUDOS

RABBIT ANGELS

The Society for Furry and Feathered Friends
Lorraine Gilbert

RABBIT SPONSORS

Lisa and Matt Freeland
Sky and Kiera Asay

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Ruby Schouten
Barbara Ray
Karla Saindon-Hayes
Kathleen Tierney
Cherrie Champie

Donations made after October 21, 2011, will be gratefully acknowledged in the next newsletter. All donations to the Rabbit Advocates are tax deductible.

The Rabbit Advocate

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Upcoming Meetings & Events 2012

General Meetings	Bunny's Best Bites	Education & Adoption Outreaches																								
<p>Rabbit Advocates monthly meetings are held at the Oregon Humane Society, 1067 NE Columbia Blvd., the third Sunday of each month from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Meetings include a “bunny basics” question and answer session on bunny behavior and care. The public is welcome. Please park in the gravel parking lot just west of the shelter building.</p> <p>2012 General Meeting Dates Check for dates on the Rabbit Advocate web site at: www.rabbitadvocates.org</p>	<p>Hay Packing Volunteers blend and bag different types of hay to create Bunny's Best Bites, our own custom blend of hay. For more information about the hay parties, see the Rabbit Advocate website at www.rabbitadvocates.org.</p> <p>2012 Dates</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Saturday, Jan. 7, 10am</td> <td>Saturday, July 7, 9am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday, Feb. 4, 10am</td> <td>Saturday, Aug. 4, 9am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday, March 4, 10am</td> <td>Sunday, Sept., 2, 9am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday, April 7, 10am</td> <td>Saturday, Oct. 6, 10am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday, May 5, 10am</td> <td>Saturday, Nov. 3, 10am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday, June 3, 10am</td> <td>Sunday, Dec. 2, 10am</td> </tr> </table>	Saturday, Jan. 7, 10am	Saturday, July 7, 9am	Saturday, Feb. 4, 10am	Saturday, Aug. 4, 9am	Sunday, March 4, 10am	Sunday, Sept., 2, 9am	Saturday, April 7, 10am	Saturday, Oct. 6, 10am	Saturday, May 5, 10am	Saturday, Nov. 3, 10am	Sunday, June 3, 10am	Sunday, Dec. 2, 10am	<p>Rabbit Advocates sponsors educational events featuring adoptable foster rabbits along with tips on rabbit handling, diet, housing, health and general care. Experienced volunteers provide grooming and nail trimming services for rabbits (donations appreciated). Outreaches are held the second Saturday of each month from noon-3pm at Western Pet Supply, 6908 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway, Beaverton.</p> <p>2012 Dates</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>January 14</td> <td>May 12</td> <td>September 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>February 11</td> <td>June 9</td> <td>October 13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 10</td> <td>July 14</td> <td>November 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 14</td> <td>August 11</td> <td>December 8</td> </tr> </table>	January 14	May 12	September 8	February 11	June 9	October 13	March 10	July 14	November 10	April 14	August 11	December 8
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