



THE Rabbit Advocate



PROVIDING INSIGHTS INTO THE LIVES OF HOUSE RABBITS

FALL / WINTER 2006/07

Medical Fund Buns Say "Thanks"

Our sincere thanks to all the generous folks who contributed to the Rabbit Medical Assistance Fund. In the past year, 28 rabbits received spay/neuter surgery, and 53 rabbits received veterinary treatment for a wide variety of conditions, all with assistance from the fund.

When you designate your donation "for the Medical Fund", 100% of your contribution goes directly to medical care for the rabbits. While most of the fund's beneficiaries are rabbits in foster care, we have also, in a few cases, provided assistance to needy rabbits in permanent homes.

We are pleased to introduce you to some of the many rabbits who are healthy and thriving thanks to our donors.

Santini

Magician Tim Alexander turned to Rabbit Advocates when his beloved companion rabbit and partner in magic, The Great Santini, developed an abscess which required expensive surgery and medication. "Rabbit Advocates saved Santini and saved my business," said Tim. Thanks to the medical fund and designated donations from several donors who wished to contribute to his care, Santini had surgery in March and is now back at work. He participates in one safe, simple and essential part of Tim's act, the hat trick.



photo: courtesy Tim Alexander

Panda

Panda and her brother Freckles were born under a deck to a rabbit who was running loose in a neighborhood. Rabbit Advocates responded to a call for assistance and were able to catch Mother and babies. About a week after being caught,

Freckles, (while playing) bit through Panda's upper and lower eyelids and tore them both. Fortunately, the eye was spared. Thanks to the medical fund, veterinary care was possible. Dr. Burgess stitched up the eyelids but the lower



photo: Kevin Gardes

one was mostly irreparable. The eye healed to a pretty normal shape but the opening is about half-size. Panda and Freckles live with their foster family. Freckles is paired up with a lonely little girl and Panda is still with her Mother.

Gwen

Guinivere (Gwen right) came to us through the "bunderground railroad" from San Francisco a couple of years ago, one of a big group of rescued rabbits. Gwen developed a large abscess on her abdomen. With assistance from the medical fund, the abscess was removed surgically and then flushed and packed with Neosporin twice daily for a couple of weeks. She was on heavy antibiotics for most of a month. Her recovery seems to be complete. As you can see from her picture, Lady Guenivere rules with an iron paw and lives very happily in her foster home.



photo: Kevin Gardes



photo: Chris Arends

Autumn

Autumn developed head tilt, a condition that requires immediate treatment and medication. Thanks to quick medical attention, she is now thriving and happy. She lives in foster care with her partner Adam.



photo: Delia Bayley

Alfalfa and Binky

Alfalfa (above) and Binky (above right) were from a litter of nine bunnies born to a just-rescued rabbit. Thanks to the medical fund, Alfalfa and Binky were neutered and Alfalfa has already been adopted. Binky is in the process of bonding with his sister.



photo: Delia Bayley

Sniffy

This handsome fellow (below) has a chronic respiratory condition and has received veterinary care thanks to the medical fund. His foster mom is closely monitoring his health, as he is not yet ready for adoption.



photo: Janeen Hammers

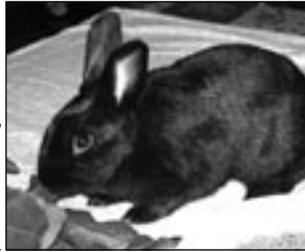


photo: Shari Cleveenger

Roger Rabbit

Roger (above) was neutered with help from the medical fund. He's an adorable adult white lop, 5 1/2 lbs. He's very sweet and easy to hold, and has been a big hit at RA outreach. He is living in foster care and is available for adoption. **Contact: ovine22@yahoo.com**

St. Francis

Fran (right) is a very sweet little 3 pound white dwarf with pink eyes. He was rescued in May. He was tested for a parasite (coccidia) with assistance from the medical fund and he is completely healthy. Fran is living in foster care and is eager to find his forever home.

Contact: ovine22@yahoo.com



Photo: Janeen Hammers

Heidi (above)

Left on a doorstep! Don't know how old she is, only that she's a dear little girl who needs a good home. She had sudden onset of head tilt, probably caused by ear infection or E. cuniculi. Treatment needs to be immediate when this condition of a slight head tilt is observed. Thanks to quick medi-

cal treatment Heidi is healthy and living in a foster home. **Contact: KokoEwok@msn.com**

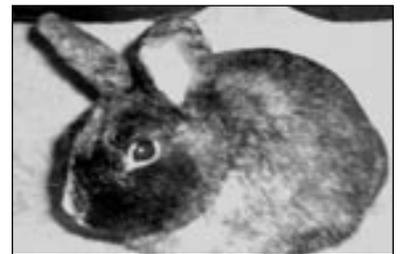
Raz Ma Taz & Bling Bling

Raz and Bling (right) were neutered with assistance from the medical fund. They are living with their foster mom while they

wait for their forever home. **Contact: ovine22@yahoo.com**



photo: Dawn Iveane-Curell



photos: Dawn Iveane-Curell



photo: Dawn Iweane-Currell

Ten Tips to Keep Your Rabbit Healthy and Happy

Pammy Jo & Buckwheat

Pammy Jo was one of a large group of rabbits rescued from a park, and Buckwheat came to us through the SW Washington Humane Society. This lovely pair were spayed and neutered with assistance from the fund. They live in a foster home and are available for adoption.

Contact: ovine22@yahoo.com

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**

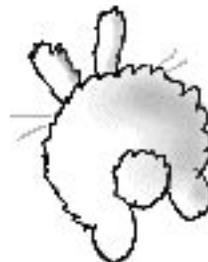
**Dr. Katrina Ramsell,
Southwest Animal Hospital**

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

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

*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.*

- 1** Hay, hay, hay! A diet high in hay promotes good health. Add a modest supplement (1/4 cup per 5 pounds of body weight) of good quality pelleted feed and rabbit-safe veggies (see our website for complete list). Avoid sugary treats.
- 2** Companionship, human or animal, is very important to your rabbit. Consider bonding her with another rabbit. Spend time with her every day, and learn to read her body language.
- 3** An indoor home with room to roam. A roomy pen and daily exercise time help keep bunny fit. But take care to hide computer cables and electrical cords – bunnies can't resist a nibble.
- 4** A quiet, low-stress environment. Rabbits are prey animals and are easily frightened.
- 5** Mental stimulation. Your rabbit is an intelligent animal who enjoys exploring her environment and interacting with her human family. Keep her supplied with toys, and change them often.
- 6** Learn proper handling techniques. For your safety, and the safety of your rabbit, be sure you can lift and hold him comfortably. Learn to trim his nails.
- 7** Locate a rabbit-savvy veterinarian and bring your rabbit in for regular visits. Don't wait for problems to develop.
- 8** Keep an eye on the litter box. If bunny stops pooping or eating, consider it an emergency and consult a vet right away.
- 9** If your rabbit has not been spayed/neutered, consider having it done.
- 10** Give your rabbit rewarded many lots of love! You'll be times over.



Hay Elves Invade Sherwood Shed

Top Quality Hay Mix Now Available from Rabbit Advocates

By Jan Hutto

I've recently been in touch with Elizabeth Olson, a San Diego House Rabbit Society (SDHRS) member who is considering relocation to this area. Elizabeth wanted to learn about pet sitting and other bunny resources and asked where we buy hay. After I sent her my hay supplier list, Elizabeth responded:

"I've been spoiled because SDHRS members pack mixed hay and re-sell it to raise funds and to ensure that our area bunnies have plenty of good eats. The mix is irresistible to rabbits. Has Rabbit Advocates ever considered hay packing as a fundraiser and a service?"

As I researched their highly successful fundraising project at www.rabbit.org/chapters/san-diego/diet/sources.html, I knew I wanted to become a hay elf too! Elizabeth put me in touch with Judith Pierce, SDHRS Chapter Manager, who replied that day!

Judith explained, "SDHRS volunteers mix and box several types of bunny-healthy hay. 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."

Coincidentally, Rabbit Advocate Shellie Fletcher e-mailed me saying her parents' Sherwood shed was now clean and ready for RA winter hay storage. I explained the new fundraising project to her and she agreed to become my accomplice! Once I saw their enormous clean shed with my own eyes, I realized it was heaven-sent.

Terri Roush, the buyer at OHS 'Best Friends Corner,' helped me find the perfect bag for hay storage. The bag can be dumped into an 18-gallon Rubbermaid bin for easy stacking and storage, and then



photo: courtesy Jan Hutto

Hay elves (L to R) Peter, Jan, Karen, Helen (back) and Shellie join in for the first hay party.

returned to RA at our meetings in good condition for re-use.

Next up was purchasing the hay. Shellie and I visited Jim and Annette Neely in Wilsonville to get their first-cut timothy and a mix of fescue/rye grass. The Neely's even agreed to deliver future bales to the Sherwood location! Larry, of G & G Hay, sold us wonderful fresh alfalfa from Tygh Valley and leafy second-cut orchard grass from Joseph, OR. We obtained oat hay from a grower in Sandy, OR, purchasing it through Raevyn Carney.

Our mix, "Bunny's Best Bites," is approximately 50% first-cut timothy, 25% orchard grass, and 25% equal parts of oat and rye-fescue mixed grass. We will sell alfalfa hay separately in 10-pound "Young Bunny's Best Bites" bags. We will ensure that the hay is properly cured and dry to prevent issues with moisture or mold.

Our website will let people know that we offer a free bag to everyone who adopts from Rabbit Advocates and that people can buy more hay at each RA general meeting. This encourages repeat orders, education, and new Rabbit Advocates! Anyone also may e-mail Shellie or myself from the website and arrange to pick up hay from us. (People also can request a special order mix before the next hay

packing party.) All proceeds after expenses go to the RA Medical Assistance Fund to help Portland and vicinity rabbits.

Upon hearing about our first hay-packing party, Elizabeth wrote, "I'm so thrilled that my little seed of an idea has sprouted into a full-blown project! Look for our \$50 donation to help you purchase supplies for hay packing." This project truly was a joint effort! Thanks to Shellie Fletcher and her parents for donating their space and letting hay elves invade their lives. Thanks also to SDHRS for sharing their ideas and expertise, and to the RA Board members, who supported us at every step and appropriated essential startup funds. Binkies to our fabulous first hay elves Helen Swann, Peter Levy and especially Karen Corsini, who contributed her hay handling tools and skills. Also to the creative people who suggested names for our name contest, and to Mary Thompson, Arlene MacMonagle and Helen Swann for their infinite wisdom and e-mail consultations.

The cost of the hay is \$7.50 per ten pound bag, and will be available at Rabbit Advocates general meetings at the Oregon Humane Society. E-mail me at jhhutto2@msn.com if you need hay sooner.

Kaitlyn ni Donovan, Musician and RA Volunteer

Kaitlyn ni Donovan is a musician, animal lover and Rabbit Advocate volunteer who lives and works in Portland, Oregon. She performs with the band Isolade and also performs and tours with The High Violets. She composes and performs on numerous stringed instruments, including violin, viola, guitar, mandolin and ukelele and is working on an album scheduled for 2007 release.

Kaitlyn's music has been described as "pop noir" or "chamber pop", and is characterized by a melodic mix of strings and modern music, creating a brooding, sensual, and intensely personal sound.

Kaitlyn tries to make time whenever she can to volunteer in the small animal room at the Oregon Humane Society. She says, "I love to see the surprise on people's faces when they learn that bunnies can be litter box trained, love to play and can even reside in multiple-pet homes. I do emphasize that bunnies require a lot of attention in an indoor home that is well bunny-proofed. A lot of time is spent talking people out of impulse purchases, educating that bunnies are a long-term commitment and that they would do best in quieter homes."

Animal welfare is an important part of Kaitlyn's life. She cares for four rabbits in her home along with three guinea pigs, a hamster, five degus and a very confused cat named Sardine. She loves rabbits for their curious, adorable nature.

Kaitlyn ni Donovan and Isolade will be perform-



photo: courtesy Kaitlyn Ni Donovan

Kaitlyn with Esmay. Her other rabbit companions are Midnight, Stella, Fairbanks and foster, Sam.

ing on January 11, 2007, 9:00 PM at Holocene, 1001 SE Morrison Street, Portland.

Kaitlyn will be performing with The High Violets on January 20, 2007, 9:30 PM at the same location.

For more about Kaitlyn's music, future performances, and her love of animals, see <http://www.myspace.com/kaitlynnidonovan>. Visit www.thehighviolets.com for future show dates.

Please Donate to Our Garage Sale

Please think of Rabbit Advocates when you're cleaning out those closets! We are seeking donations for our annual garage sale, scheduled for June 2007. The sale is the largest single source of funding for our education programs, medical fund, and adoption/fostering services. Thanks to the generous outpouring of donations from the community, it has been a big success for us in the past.

Please be understanding if we're not able to accept all items. We will probably (there may be exceptions) NOT accept TV's, computers and related equipment, clothes, exercise

equipment, skis, large or upholstered furniture. We are not trying to be picky but our experience is that we either do not have people to move it or it does not sell.

Let us turn your castaways into cash for the rabbits. Thank you, donors, for making our work possible!

Jan Hutto jhhutto2@msn.com

Tara Rockwell wtrdragyn@gmail.com

Arlene MacMonagle ituri2@aol.com

KUDOS

BUSINESS DONORS

Ancient-Modern, Inc.
Prudential Foundation, in honor of Erica Hartmann

RABBIT BENEFACTOR

Mrs. Akiko Atsumi, in memory of Ichiroh and Grace

Laurens & Linda Johansen, in appreciation of Dr. Weinstein & Miss Bingley

RABBIT RESCUER

Nancy Ducharme
Greg & Joyce Fallgatter
Debra K. Hentz, in appreciation of Kem Sypher
Kimberly Osmonson, in memory of Ouzo
Barbara Spears
Emily M. Stuparyk, in loving memory of dear little Suzy Bear Rabbit

RABBIT SPONSOR

Keni Cyr-Rumble, in honor of June Yamrick
Kristi E. Johnson-James
Darryl & Robin Lang
Elizabeth Olson
Patricia A. Nevin
Jeff & Erika Robinson, in appreciation of the happiness bunnies bring to our lives.

RABBIT FRIEND

Anne Blumer
Lorraine Bushek
Kenny & Penny Dillon
Karin Maczko, in appreciation of Veronica Nordeen
Ashie K. Melloy-Obradovic
Neil Moeller
Lorraine Nettles
Karla J. Saindon-Hayes
Serge & Julian Ungar
Satomi F. Wise
Valda L. Wold

Special thanks to Virginia Winter for her soapmaking fundraiser project.

Donations received after September 30, 2006 will be acknowledged in the next newsletter.

13 Rabbits Rescued from Beaverton Park

by Mary Huey

The summer of 2006 found Rabbit Advocates making multiple visits to a Beaverton park and working cooperatively to rescue 13 rabbits who were abandoned by their owners. Each week we thought we were close to getting all of them, only to find there was one more.

The fate of these domestic rabbits, and others in similar situations, is grave. Animal abandonment is a Class B misdemeanor under ORS 167.340, punishable by 60 days in jail or \$1000 fine.

After many many hours and days, all the rabbits were captured and are safely awaiting new forever homes. Below is a note from the last little rabbit who was rescued:

Hello,

I am the little black rabbit who USED to live at the park.

Yesterday morning at the crack of dawn someone quickly walked into my thicket with that metal thingie again and left it. I couldn't stay far enough away from it. I knew what it was and that was that. Instead I frolicked on the grass and the other end of my brushy space. No way was I going near that thing.

Well, later a whole bunch of people showed up and boldly walked right into my territory! Their nerve! They began beating the bushes and poking their faces into my hidey places. You know, I am black, so they had a hard time finding me, especially if I didn't move. And they didn't have any flashlights either. Ha!

Then they came clanging in with these metal thingies and made a long fence type thing which they thought would keep me from going past it. Hah, I outsmarted

them. I just ran around it one time, and another time I turned around and went back into the thicket and hid.

So, they carted these metal thingies out onto the lawn and beat the bushes again. I didn't like any of this and ran out onto the grass. Gee, this big guy came at me with this meshy thing and yelled "I got him!" Oh, NO HE DIDN'T! I leaped up and ran out from under this mesh. I think I heard a couple of words which I probably shouldn't repeat here, okay?

I would move to another space in my bushes and they would follow me with those metal things. I really had them on the run and I was hoping they would give it up. But no! These people wouldn't let things rest. I heard someone say "We can't give up". Now what did that mean, anyway?

I was getting really tired and decided to rest in a thicket surrounded by walking paths. Above me I could see this lady's face and I could hear her saying "Yes, I can see him". Was she talking about me? Then, everybody got real busy and rushed around with those metal thingies again while I quietly rested inside my hiding place. Gee, they began shaking the bushes again. I ran out of there but when I did, I hit the metal thingy and was sort of confused. I didn't know where to run. Then I saw this lady's face right down near me. Her hands grabbed me and wrestled me into her arms. I fought for my life but she won! That was scary. She put me into a plastic box with a metal cover on the front and I was stuck. Sheesh!

I am home now, warm and dry and safe. I hear it is raining cats and dogs, and maybe rabbits, out there today. What great timing!

You know, I think I did need help and these nice people gave it to me. They wore me out but you know, I think I did a good job of wearing them out too. Thank you Everybunn for giving me my life.

Love, Sarah

(Sarah is living in foster care and is waiting for her forever home. She is named after volunteer Sarah Yasutake, who caught her.)

Seven Year Old Raises Money for Medical Fund

On October 7th, seven year old Phoebe Ostrander and her mom Shannon joined with Rabbit Advocate volunteers Valerie Madison, Bobbi Waggoner, and Joan Gilbert for a combined outreach and fundraising effort. While the Rabbit Advocates and foster bunny Roger Rabbit met and educated the public, Phoebe sold lemonade, carrots and bunny toys that she made. Phoebe raised an impressive \$30 for the medical fund.

Phoebe and her mom learned about the Rabbit Medical Assistance Fund when they visited our garage sale in June. Although Phoebe does not have a rabbit of her own, she was inspired to do something to help save the lives of rabbits. This very special young person is an inspiration to our volunteers



photo: Bobbi Waggoner

Phoebe holds Roger Rabbit as she displays her wares.

and we are grateful for her willingness to step up and help.

We salute Phoebe and Shannon for their generosity and love of animals!

Clicker Train Your Rabbit

Most of us accept that our rabbit has a mind of her own and will cooperate with us only when she wants to! But it sure would be nice if she came when called, or returned to her pen, instead of hiding behind the furniture at bedtime.

Well, there is a way. Clicker training is a system of positive reinforcement in which a click sound is used to tell the rabbit, "Yes, that's right!". The click is closely followed with a yummy treat so that the rabbit comes to associate the click with something desirable. The precision and consistency of the click is superior to the use of a food treat alone, or verbal praise, according to Joan Orr and Teresa Lewin, co-authors of "Getting Started: Clicking with Your Rabbit."

Training provides mental and physical stimulation for your rabbit. Best of all, the time spent together deepens the bond between human and rabbit. While it is possible to teach bunny to do tricks, the training is useful in practical ways: cooperating with nail clipping, getting



photo: Joan Orr

Little Angel following a target. Note the clicker in the girl's right hand.

into a carrier, eliminating fearful behavior in shy or feral rabbits.

To learn more about the fine points of clicker training, visit www.clickerbunny.com.

Farewell to Brad Sypher

We note with sadness the passing of Brad Sypher, who died on October 29th at the age of 94. Many of us met Brad, the father of Rabbit Advocate volunteer Kem Sypher, on numerous occasions when we gathered at Kem's home for board and committee meetings. We've enjoyed his wonderful wood carvings on display throughout the house.

Brad had great affection for his rabbits Elvira and Fritz, and they brought him much happiness in his final years. Brad was known for spoiling them with lots of banana treats! Elvira visited Brad at the adult care facility just days before his passing. Our condolences to Brad's human and rabbit family. We'll miss his good humor and his rabbit stories.



Brad and Buttons.

Help Wanted!

Can you spare some time to help us with these tasks? Contact Arlene MacMonagle at 503-232-6460 for more information.

Volunteer to Handle Bulk Mail

Volunteer to oversee the bulk mailing of our quarterly newsletter. Volunteers are available to help with preparation. Person would need to have a good knowledge of the process and Post Office rules (school available). This volunteer would need to come to the preparation meetings and take the mailing to the Post Office. This would save us a substantial amount of money as we are sending at first class rates now.

Adoption and Foster Rabbit Record Keeping

We need a volunteer to maintain contact with our foster homes and track rabbits that are in three categories. Foster rabbits available for adoption; Adoptions, (how many and when), Foster rabbits who have been rescued and are not available for adoption. We need this information to help us with Grants and Fundraising opportunities.

RA Board of Directors

**Helen Swann,
President**

**Arlene MacMonagle,
Vice President**

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

Sandy Alto, Publications

Kevin Gerdes, OHS Liason

Joan Gilbert, Volunteer Coordinator

Mary Huey, Adoptions/ Foster

Brian Zulauf, Programs

Upcoming Meetings & Events

The Rabbit Advocates meet at the Oregon Humane Society, 1067 NE Columbia Boulevard, Portland, Oregon, on the third Sunday of every month (or as noted) 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!

2007 RA General Meeting Schedule & Educational Topic

January 20, 4-6

Understanding Your Rabbit's Immune Response

February 17, 4-6

Rabbit Safe Medication

March 17, 4-6

How to Get Involved in Foster Care

April 21, 4-6

Acupuncture

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



Top Quality Hay Mix Now Available from Rabbit Advocates

"Bunny's Best Bites" is a yummy blend of grasses for your house rabbit in a manageable quantity. More on page 4.

Western Pet Outreach Schedule

6908 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy. Portland, 97225

All outreaches are Saturdays from 11am-2 pm
January 6th, February 10th, and March 3rd



Rabbit Advocates

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Portland

Oregon

97293-0235

Helpline 503.617.1625

www.adoptarabbit.org

**"Promoting
the Welfare of
Domestic Rabbits"**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED