With your help, more rabbits can have a place to call home

The weeks at the end of the calendar year can be a busy time, with stressors like holidays, tax preparation and family commitments. But in all the busyness, Rabbit Advocates asks that you consider opening your heart and home to take in an otherwise homeless rabbit. There is currently a desperate need for foster and adoptive homes. Perhaps this is the year you commit to being a foster caretaker, or finally take the plunge and bring home a rabbit to its forever home.

Rabbit Advocates does not operate its own shelter. Instead, volunteers form a network of private foster homes that care for rabbits until they can be adopted into their forever homes. More foster homes in the network means more rabbits can be saved.

Sometimes a rescued rabbit needs a calming home with loving humans to learn to trust again. Sometimes they need medical care until they can heal and recover enough to be adopted. Foster caretakers open their homes and hearts to care for rabbits on a sometimes short temporary basis, or a sometimes long-term basis.

Mary Thompson knows very well how to help a rabbit find its permanent home… even if the permanent home is hers. Mary started working with rabbits in 1994 when she volunteered with the Oregon Humane Society. There she found a group of like-minded volunteers who loved rabbits and wanted to do more for them. At that time, there was not a lot of information available about rabbits as companion pets and there were few resources available. But Mary and her group worked hard to find homes for the rabbits at the shelter and to find temporary homes until permanent homes could be found. In fact, Mary first took home a foster rabbit in 1998.

It was Christmas Day, Mary says, and she was at the shelter. An entire litter of black rabbits was there and Mary spent her holiday trying to socialize two brothers, Shadow and Quinn. Shadow and Quinn were particularly nervous and shy, so Mary agreed to bring them home. Quinn was later adopted, and Shadow stayed. He lived to be 13 years old.

Mary estimates that about 30 rabbits have lived in her home since she first started caring for them. Most of these rabbits she brought home to foster for what she intended to be a temporary stay. Some stayed with her their entire lives. It can be this way for those willing to foster a rabbit. Some come to the foster home because they aren’t quite ready for an adoptive home. They might need socialization, they might need to be spayed or neutered, they might need other medical attention. If the medical issue or behavioral issue is profound, they might not be a good candidate for adoption to a forever home.

Volunteers new to fostering rabbits may choose not to take in these rabbits with more substantial need. Right now there are so many rabbits needing placement that volunteers need not take rabbits with special needs. But Rabbit Advocates is especially grateful if foster homes can take rabbits with special needs because these rabbits can be difficult to place in permanent homes.

Mary has two foster rabbits right now. One is named Alyce, a big white rabbit who is bossy and full of attitude. The other is Augustine, a chocolate satin mix. He is a special needs rabbit who has a very old injury of a broken bone near his pelvis. Today, the injury doesn’t affect his mobility, as proof is how easily he can jump up on the couch, Mary says.

The fear of attachment sometimes stops people from being willing to foster rabbits. It’s true you miss your foster rabbit, Mary
admits, but “it’s really great when you see a good adoption,” she says. Last year Mary adopted an older foster rabbit to a couple who had an entire room ready for the rabbit, including a variety of toys in a basket. It was very gratifying to see a home that was so well prepared to adopt a companion pet.

“Fostering is fulfilling. If we see we’ve done a good adoption, we feel very satisfied that the right thing has happened,” Mary says. “And it frees up our home for more foster rabbits.”

How to get started fostering a rabbit

A volunteer foster parent temporarily helps care for one or more rabbits at home until the rabbits can be adopted. Opening your home temporarily to a rabbit is a special way to show your love for these wonderful, intelligent, fuzzy, and fun creatures.

What does a foster volunteer do? As a foster volunteer, you might care for:

- Rabbits with special medical or behavioral needs;
- Rabbits that need special feeding and socialization;
- Rabbits that have been dumped or abandoned in the wild;
- Rabbits whose owners no longer can or wish to care for them.

By fostering a rabbit, you are providing a nurturing home environment and socializing them so they will be ready for permanent adoption into a loving home.

Karen Wilson is a Rabbit Advocate volunteer who agreed to take in a foster rabbit simply because there was a need. Currently she has four foster rabbits, all available for adoption.

Lucky and Luna are a sweet middle-aged bonded pair of rabbits who had been adopted out once but were returned to Rabbit Advocates. Lucky is a Netherland dwarf rabbit with brown fur that makes him look like a wild rabbit. Luna is a Californian rabbit with grey markings on her white coat. A bonded pair of rabbits is no more work than a single rabbit, Karen notes, and it is a joy to watch them interact. They share the same pen and litterbox, so they don’t take up any additional space. “They are no more of a time commitment,” Karen says.

In addition to Lucky and Luna, Karen shares her home with foster rabbits DJ, a young male silver Marten rabbit Karen describes as “spunky” and Babar, a “gentle, inquisitive young boy” who is an English spot, with a black stripe down his back and black ears. Karen’s foster rabbits are featured on the Rabbit Advocate website and more information about each of them can be found at rabbitadvocates.org.

Karen’s household includes not just rabbits but dogs and cats as well. She emphasizes that, with some precautions, a multispecies household can be a peaceful one. She wants people interested in fostering rabbits to know having dogs or cats is not necessarily a barrier. “It’s okay to foster rabbits if you have other animals,” she says, “you just really need to know their personalities and take some elementary precautions and provide adequate supervision.”

Likewise, with adequate adult supervision and appropriate planning, children can also be good foster providers, Karen says. And developing and setting up precautions are not something potential foster homes have to do on their own. Rabbit Advocates offers support in many forms, Karen says, including volunteers who will help customize the in-home set up and provide ongoing support and assistance. Supplies are also available, including pens and litter boxes.

Karen said foster rabbits will receive the benefit of covered medical expenses, so taking in a rabbit that needs medical treatment will not be a burden the foster home has to bear alone. Spay and neuter surgeries are covered for foster rabbits.

Legally, the foster rabbit belongs to Rabbit Advocates, and the foster home receives these benefits in exchange for the agreement to care for and nurture the rabbit. To help find an adoptive home, the foster family should meet and talk with potential adopters. Karen says she tries to attend one of the monthly adoption outreaches Rabbit Advocates hosts each month. It’s a good opportunity for the rabbit to meet potential adopters and it helps to showcase the charm of the bunnies.

“A person needs only to donate time to care for the rabbit and meet with potential adopters,” Karen says. “We can help the foster home get ready and provide ongoing support. We just need the foster home to supply time and love.”
HELP WANTED!

BUNNYPALOOZA... a key activity needs you!

By Karen Wilson
Chair of the 2018 Bunnypalooza planning committee

Bunnypalooza is an opportunity to celebrate rabbits as domestic companion pets and family members. Bunnypalooza can be the Rabbit Advocates’ seminal fundraising event. Our fund raising elevates the domestic rabbit to that of “pet” because money raised can pay for community education, supplies for foster and adoptive homes and can help offset the costs of medical procedures and treatment including spays and neuters.

The Bunnypalooza planning committee consists of teams of volunteers assigned to organize specified sectors of the event. These teams will need to be staffed with volunteers, and we need your help.

Bunnypalooza is a big event and we need everyone’s involvement. Join us. We are only limited by our imagination. Whether you can donate an hour or 20, it does not matter. Your time is a valuable resource. This is Rabbit Advocate’s event.

To get involved, email me at karenmwilsonlaw@yahoo.com.

Thank you!
FOR BUNNIES

1. Handmade Pet Beds, Caves, Worms, and Mats. Made by our very own Tonie Young, these crocheted beds and worms will keep your rabbit cozy (and if you have a cat or small dog, they will enjoy it, too). The worms can provide support for geriatric and disabled rabbits. Made from acrylic yarn and polyester fill, the beds and worms are hand washable. Sizes vary. Flat Round Beds: $21-$28, Caves: $28-$36, Beds with worm side: $35, Worms: $6-$10, Bone Mats: $8-$10. To order contact Tonie Young: tonie@colonialcustomforms.net, 503-318-8792.

2. Trixie Snack Board Logic Toy. Designed for rabbits and other small animals, this toy has a plastic base with seven covered holes for treats. Your bunny will have fun tossing the covers aside to find a surprise! $13.99, bunnyapproved.com

3. Rosewood Naturals Carrot Cottage. Your bunny can eat his way out of house and home in this edible cottage. The sides are meadow-hay-coated cardboard, and the roof is made of dried carrot. $25, amazon.com

4. Dried Pumpkin Flakes. A yummy treat for bunny…maybe you can put some in the Trixie snack board? $5.99 for 3.5oz, bunnyapproved.com

5. Giant Basket of Bunny Toys. Wow! Spoil your rabbit with this basket of twenty fun toys, packed in an edible willow basket. $39.99, etsy.com/shop/FuzzysToyShop

6. Tropical Treat Sampler. Your bunny will be dreaming of palm trees and ocean breezes with this box of papaya, mango, pineapple, and banana-based treats. $7.99, bunnybytes.com
FOR BUNNY LOVERS

7. “BUN” Bumper Sticker. Show your bunny love on your car with this European-style oval bumper sticker. $3.99, binkybunny.com

8. 2018 Rabbit Rescue Calendar. This charming wall calendar features photos of rescued rabbits in fairy tale, legend, and nursery rhyme settings. Profits support the St. Louis chapter of the House Rabbit Society of Missouri. $17 (discount for multiple calendars purchased), bunnycalendar.com

9. Bunny-Shaped Thermos. Give your beverage an extra dose of cuteness with this bunny-shaped thermos. $18, girlygirlalice.storeenvy.com

10. “I Love My Bunny” T-Shirt. Share your bunny love with this adorable shirt. A portion of the proceeds goes to animal rescue groups. $25, animalhearted.com

11. Bunny Bow Tie. Available in a variety of colors, this dapper bow tie is self-tying and adjustable. $25, etsy.com/shop/HopsalotSnacks

12. Keep Calm Towel. In case you forget...this red kitchen towel will remind you to Keep Calm and Binky On! $17.85, zazzle.com/ragingbuns
Bunny Spa Days focus time and attention on pet rabbits

The opportunity to talk with rabbit caretakers is central to the idea of Rabbit Advocate adoption outreaches, education events and Spa Days. Each of these events provides to people who have rabbits as companion pets the chance to talk with Rabbit Advocates volunteers and learn from more experienced rabbit caretakers.

Rabbit Advocates hosts Spa Days, when volunteers groom and trim the nails of pet rabbits, at two different locations: Naomi’s Organic Farm Supply in Southeast Portland and at the Tigard PetSmart. These events are held at each location once a month.

The events are busy and volunteers are efficient in their work to trim nails, brush hair and answer questions. Nearly a dozen volunteers are needed at each event to provide enough hands to give lots of attention to these beloved pets. “We love all the rabbits and are very pleased to be able to have the time to give to each of them,” said Mary Marvin, Rabbit Advocate board president and spa day coordinator.

People who bring in their rabbits for grooming are asked to consider a donation to the Rabbit Advocates.

For more information about the Spa Days, adoption outreaches, education events and all other events, check the Rabbit Advocate website at rabbitadvocates.org or the Rabbit Advocate Facebook page.

Rabbit Advocates would like to thank Naomi’s Organic Farm Supply and the Tigard PetSmart for hosting these events. To learn more about Naomi’s Organic Farm Supply, go to the website at naomisorganic.blogspot.com. To learn more about the Tigard PetSmart, go to the website at petsmart.com.

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, Beaverton

Dr. Chris Wilson
Beaverton Pet Clinic, Beaverton

Dr. Mark Burgess
Southwest Animal Hospital, Beaverton

Dr. Sheri Schlorman
Creswell Veterinary Hospital, Creswell

Dr. Melinda Surrency
Scales & Tails Exotic Pet Clinic, Hillsboro

Dr. Doug Ferro
Barclay Hills Animal Clinic, Oregon City

Dr. Nell Ostermeier
Lombard Animal Hospital, Portland

Dr. Ken DeReamer
Peninsula Veterinary Clinic, Portland

Dr. Rebecca Prull
NW Neighborhood Vet Hospital, Portland

Dr. Monica Pollock
Paws and Claws Pet Medical Center, Troutdale

Dr. Matt Fricke
McKenzie Animal Hospital, Springfield

Dr. Erica Lipanovich
Dr. Cherie Connolly
Compass Veterinary Clinic, Lake Oswego

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.
Here’s how you can make a difference in a bunny’s life!

Rabbit Advocates depends on generous people like you, who give of themselves, their time and their resources. Please consider Rabbit Advocates during this time of the year. Here’s how you can help.

Donate
Rabbit Advocates accepts tax deductible donations in any amount. Use the online donation feature on our website (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 Rabbi 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 Rabbit Advocates at www.rabbitadvocates.org.

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 caregiver. 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 website 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.

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, usually the first Saturday of the month, at the Alpenrose Dairy in Southwest Portland. For more information check the website at www.rabbitadvocates.org.

Help with Bunny Events
The Rabbit Advocates outreach teams are busy, with adoption, education, and grooming events offered each month.

Spa Days
Volunteers can be found trimming rabbit toenails, grooming coats, and dispensing advice.

Naomi’s Organic Farm Supply
Usually the first Sunday of the month, noon-3 pm. 3454 SE Powell Blvd, Portland

Tigard PetSmart
Usually the second Sunday of the month, noon-3pm. 7501 SW Dartmouth St, Tigard

Adoption “Meet ‘n’ Greet” events
Foster rabbits are the focus here, with adoption counselors ready to answer questions and help adoptive homes through the process. Rabbits are not adopted on site, these are “get acquainted” events.

Bunnies in Baskets
Usually the second Saturday of the month, noon-1:30 p.m. 201 N. Alberta Street, Portland

The Filling Station
Usually the third Saturday of the month, noon-3 p.m. 10115 SW Nimbus Ave., Suite 100, Portland

Mud Bay

Volunteer for OHS
Rabbit Advocates started as a group of Oregon Humane Society volunteers and the connection with the shelter remains strong. Rabbit Advocates volunteers are encouraged to spend time at the shelter, helping the rabbits in the Small Animal Room. For more information on how to volunteer for OHS, check the website at www.oregonhumane.org.

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.

Shop at Fred Meyer
Fred Meyer, Inc., is donating $2.5 million per year to non-profit organizations in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Rabbit Advocates is listed as one of the non-profit organizations eligible to receive donations. The donations are based on customer shopping patterns. To help direct donations to Rabbit Advocates, register your Fred Meyer rewards card and follow the prompts to direct your donation to bunnies. This is part of the Fred Meyer community rewards program. If you have a Fred Meyer Rewards card, register it at www.fredmeyer.com/community rewards. Search for Rabbit Advocates by name or by the assigned non-profit number, 81975. Every time you shop and use your rewards card, Rabbit Advocates earns a small donation. The program does not change your earnings for rewards points or fuel points. But it will help Rabbit Advocates. If you do not have a Fred Meyer Rewards Card, pick one up today.
Upcoming Meetings & Events 2018

Visit our website for the final 2017 dates for all events… rabbitadvocates.org

BUNNY’S BEST BITES

Hay Packing Parties
Usually the 1st Saturday of the month, 10am to 2:30pm
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 rabbitadvocates.org

NEW LOCATION:
Alpenrose Dairy
6149 SW Shattuck Road, Portland

JAN 6  JUL 7
FEB 3  AUG 4
MAR 3  SEP 1
APR 7  OCT 6
MAY 5  NOV 3
JUN 2  DEC 1

Bunny’s Spa Days
Two locations, from noon to 3:00pm

USUALLY 1ST SUNDAYS:
Naomi’s Organic Farm Supply
3454 SE Powell Blvd
JAN 7  JUL 1
FEB 4  AUG 5
MAR 4  SEP 2
APR 1  OCT 7
MAY 6  NOV 4
JUN 3  DEC 2

USUALLY 2ND SUNDAYS:
Tigard PetSmart
7501 SW Dartmouth St
JAN 14  JUL 8
FEB 11  AUG 12
MAR 11  SEP 9
APR 8  OCT 14
MAY 13  NOV 11
JUN 10  DEC 9

Adoption Meet ‘n’ Greet Events
Come out to a meet ‘n’ greet event to get to know some of Rabbit Advocates’ adorable, adoptable foster rabbits. Note: These are “get acquainted” events only. No rabbits will be adopted on-site.

at Bunnies in Baskets
10115 SW Nimbus Ave #100
Usually the 2nd Saturday, from noon to 3:00pm
JAN 13  MAY 12  SEP 8
FEB 10  JUN 9  OCT 13
MAR 10  JUL 7  NOV 10
APR 14  AUG 11  DEC 8

at The Filling Station
10115 SW Nimbus Ave #100
Usually the 3rd Saturday, from noon to 3:00pm
JAN 20  MAY 19  SEP 15
FEB 17  JUN 16  OCT 20
MAR 17  JUL 14  NOV 17
APR 21  AUG 18  DEC 15

at Tigard PetSmart
7501 SW Dartmouth St
Usually the 3rd Sunday, from noon to 3:00pm
JAN 21  MAY 20  SEP 16
FEB 18  JUN 17  OCT 21
MAR 18  JUL 15  NOV 18
APR 15  AUG 19  DEC 16

at Mud Bay
Alternating between the Cedar Mill and Tanasbourne Mud Bay locations
Usually the 4th Saturday, from noon to 3:00pm

CEDAR MILL
JAN 27  JUL 28
MAR 24  SEP 22
MAY 26  NOV 24

TANASBOURNE
FEB 24  AUG 25
APR 28  OCT 27
JUN 23  DEC 27

www.rabbitadvocates.org

“Promoting the Welfare of Domestic Rabbits”