Rabbit Advocates would like to thank everyone who attended and those who volunteered their time and effort to make Bunnypalooza 2015 an overwhelming success. The event, held November 7, 2015, focused on companion pet rabbits and boasted a huge crowd, a dozen vendors, foster and adopted rabbits, low-cost veterinary rabbit health checks and information about rabbits and guinea pigs. More than 200 people attended the event.

The fun continues... Bunnypalooza 2016 has been announced. Come join us.

**November 5, 2016**

Washington County Fairgrounds, Cloverleaf Building

This issue of The Rabbit Advocate focuses on Bunnypalooza. One of the unique features of Bunnypalooza 2015 was the variety of vendors featured. Some of these vendors are profiled in this issue of The Rabbit Advocate.

Now that the date for Bunnypalooza 2016 has been set, the work to plan the event begins. The Bunnypalooza planning committee needs your help. With your help, Bunnypalooza 2016 will be a true celebration.

**HELP WANTED: BUNNYPALOOZA NEEDS YOU!**

We have the date, we have the place, and we have the passion. Now we just need you!

If you are interested in having fun, trying new things or are bursting with ideas, then the Bunnypalooza Committee may be the volunteer activity for you. We are looking to build a dynamic team interested in meeting on a regular basis (usually monthly), and working independently to help make Bunnypalooza 2016 another fun and successful event! There’s nothing quite like getting bunches of bunnies and bunny folk together in one large space devoted to our favorite companion rabbits.

Would you like to focus on the bunny vendors or food offerings?
Do you prefer social media or fund raising?
How about heading up the RA table which is going to be bigger and better than last year?
Or do you like children and crafts?
Maybe your focus is on having our adoptable bunnies the center of attention again.
If we haven’t piqued your interest yet, perhaps you’re holding out for the raffle and silent auctions. Sold!

To join the Bunnypalooza Committee, contact Cherrie at cjctree@hotmail.com.
Rabbit-savvy vets offer expert services

Rabbit Advocates would like to thank the two veterinarians who donated their time and considerable expertise to Bunnypalooza. Dr. Misty Doornek, who practices at Lombard Animal Hospital, and her assistant Alese Acheson, offered free nail trims for rabbits. Dr. Melinda Surrency, who practices at the Hillsboro Veterinary Clinic, with her assistant Erin Coffman, offered discounted health exams. Rabbit Advocates is exceedingly fortunate to have the support of these two veterinarians and their clinics. Both are Rabbit Advocate volunteers. Dr. Surrency is currently president of the Rabbit Advocate board of directors.

Dr. Misty Doornek

Dr. Misty’s love of rabbits began 15 years ago when she brought home her first companion rabbit. Like many rabbit caregivers, she quickly learned the importance of and the need for rabbit-savvy veterinary care. In 2006 she became a Rabbit Advocate volunteer. While working as a veterinary assistant at Lombard Animal Hospital, she attended Portland State University to earn her undergraduate degree. In 2010, she briefly left Portland to earn her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at Oregon State University. Upon graduating, Dr. Misty was eagerly welcomed back to Lombard Animal Hospital. As an associate veterinarian she is able to fulfill her professional passions which include focusing on companion rabbit health. She is thrilled to be in a practice that has two other experienced rabbit veterinarians, Dr. Nell Ostermeier and Dr. Ross Weinstein, and in a hospital that offers both Western and Integrative veterinary care. She enjoys giving back to the community through service work and acts as an ambassador at many neighborhood meetings and community events representing Lombard Animal Hospital. Her free time and home is shared with her partner Jonah; Coconut, a Rabbit Advocate rescue bunny; dog, Barley; and budgie, Perle.

Dr. Melinda Surrency

Dr. Melinda Surrency is a native Oregonian and has had many pet rabbits. She received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Oregon State University. She sees pet rabbits in her practice at Hillsboro Veterinary Clinic. She currently serves as the president of the Rabbit Advocate board of directors.

Mud Bay

What started in 1988 as a tiny farm store on Mud Bay Road in Olympia, Washington, has now grown to nearly 40 locations in Oregon and Washington. Mud Bay is employee owned and operated, specializing in natural nutrition for dogs, cats and small animals.

“Rabbits are dear to the heart of Mud Bay,” says Amy Toler, community outreach coordinator. The company hosts many adoption and educational outreach events with rabbit rescue groups across all their stores throughout the Pacific Northwest. Mud Bay has sponsored education outreaches for Rabbit Advocates and the company was an enthusiastic participant in Bunnypalooza.

“Our selection of rabbit offerings has grown over the years,” Amy says, “as we continue to find new, well-made supplies that are often from small and local companies.” Today Mud Bay carries high quality rabbit products including multiple formulas of Oxbow rabbit food, hay and treats, as well as many natural chews, toys and hideouts.

To find the nearest Mud Bay, visit their website at Mudbay.com.
John Akamatsu owns and operates Bunfectionary, a business focused on creating healthy treats for rabbits and other animals with hay based diets. He was inspired by his own rabbits, Tilbert and Violet, who were soon joined by his partner’s rabbits in the household: Rose, Maddie, Lily, Buttercup and Flower. With so many house rabbits to spoil, John set about making homemade bunny treats.

“After discovering what rabbits should not eat—dairy, animal products, sugar, grains— I was disappointed many of the treats on the market for rabbits contained these same unhealthy ingredients. Around the same time, I came home from a party, wanted a snack, and tried one of Tilbert’s oatmeal-based snacks. I found it very delicious and ate the bag,” John says. That was a big clue for John: if he as a human found the treat delicious, it was probably not healthy for the rabbits.

Inspired by gluten-intolerant and vegan friends, John incorporated his culinary skills and set about making healthy rabbit treats. Soon he discovered he had created the only hay-based treat on the market that is grain-free, vegan, and sweetener-free. “It was unique enough that I was able to patent it,” John says.

Every ingredient in the Bunfectionary treat is carefully chosen. The flavors are based on those that rabbits enjoy, like banana and fennel, but John notes they also come from human tastes like a carrot-and-raisin salad, floral teas, berries and apples.

John chuckles when he admits some flavors did not prove to be popular. For example, lemon balm did not score well with Quality Control (his rabbits). “The ‘Simon and Garfunkel’ biscotti (parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme) frankly bombed,” he said. “We found people prefer to buy flavors they themselves would eat, which is why we see strawberry purchased over cranberry, and why people will wrinkle their noses at the beet and mint,” John says. “But rabbits really like them.”

Bunfectionary’s biscotti treats are handmade, and then slowly dehydrated to preserve flavors and retain the beautiful green color of the grass that serves as the main ingredient. Care is taken in every step of the manufacturing process. Even Bunfectionary’s logo was careful chosen. The design features a rabbit’s profile among blades of grass. “Our graphic designer captured perfectly the importance of hay in a bunny’s diet,” John says. “Without hay, there is no bunny.”

By profession, John is a Seattle-based architect who designs retail spaces and houses. Bunfectionary may be a part-time avocation for him, but for his Quality Control team, it’s a full-time job. John has requested outsourced quality control feedback from customers, so if you purchased a bag of Bunfectionary Bunny Biscotti from John during Bunnypalooza or ordered it online, please let him know what your bunny thinks of his product.

Shoppers can find Bunfectionary biscotti online at BunnyBytes.com, Georgia House Rabbit Society (houserabbitga.com), Bunnies in Baskets (bunniesinbaskets.org), and TranquilityTrails.org.

“Bunnypalooza inspired me to throw the first-ever Bunny Tattoo Contest,” John says. “Look out for details on our Facebook and Instagram pages.”

Find Bunfectionary at: bunfectionary.com, and on Instagram and Facebook at Bunfectionary.
Patricia Rubinelli is a professional photographer who captivated a large audience at Bunnypalooza as she took photos of bunnies and their caretakers. Her body of work can be found on her website and her work is for sale on Etsy.com.

Patricia lives on a vintage houseboat in the Pacific Northwest, “where my furry family and I explore the incredible rivers around Portland,” she says. Patricia grew up in Missouri and earned a fine arts degree in college. She worked for years as a commercial photographer and in a glass studio in Seattle before moving to New York to work on her own glass career.

But that was, as she says, before the bunnies. “When the bunnies came along, they took over everything,” Patricia says. “I was ready to scrap my glass career to be able to stay home and play with them all day. I didn’t really see a bright financial future in that plan, but they were so cute it didn’t matter. Anyone who has bunnies should understand this and back me up!”

Eventually, Patricia started photographing the bunnies "obsessively,” as she describes it, and blogging about her vocation. A few years ago she, her sweetheart and the bunnies came to Oregon and settled on Sauvie Island. Today they live on a houseboat on the Willamette River. “Nothing compares to living aboard a boat,” Patricia says. “I’m amazed constantly by the river and all that surrounds us here. The quality of light through the fog, the power of wind, what it’s like to sleep floating on rocking waves, the wild river animals just a few feet from my desk, it’s an all-encompassing romance.”

Patricia would like to take photos of more bunnies, and is available to take personal portraits of rabbits and their caretakers. Find Patricia on her website: patriciarubinelli.com and on etsy.com as "Invisible Toast."
Alice Liang, SS Bunny Imports

Want a sign warning you have a guard rabbit in your house? Are you a self-professed crazy bunny lady? Or maybe you would enjoy an artful sign featuring a rabbit as it reclines or grooms or does a binky? SS Bunny Imports offers all these and more through its Etsy and online shops.

SS Bunny Imports is owned and operated by Alice Liang. She created her first rabbit-themed sign because a friend saw a novelty sign that was sadly out of stock. Alice noticed that rabbit-themed novelty items were difficult to find, even though rabbits are very popular pets. Disappointed in the designs she was able to find, she began experimenting with the process to make high-quality aluminum signs and found she was good at it. She soon after opened her own Etsy shop with all sorts of bunny themed signs and vinyl decals.

“I also thought opening my shop was a great way to help support rabbit rescues that aren’t local to me,” Alice says. “I can donate merchandise for fundraising events without being at the event myself.”

SS Bunny Imports features a bunny in a pirate hat as its logo and the company is named like sailing ships are named. Originally the idea was to import United Kingdom bunny toys. But that notion did not continue and today the shop consists of handmade creations sourced exclusively from US companies. SS Bunny Imports is headquartered in Cupertino, California.

Alice is a software engineer by profession. The signs she makes are inspired by traffic signs reimagined to include a bunny. Some are inspired by the many rabbit groups and communities in which she participates. She herself has two bonded pairs of rabbits, rescued or adopted from local shelters. She also regularly fosters rabbits for her local rescue group, The Rabbit Haven in Santa Cruz, California.

“Rabbits are currently my biggest interest as a bunny owner,” Alice says. She also has a fluffy white cat “who thinks he’s a rabbit too.” While dog- and cat-themed novelty items are relatively easy to find, she strives to fill the niche of bunny themed items.

San Francisco area rescues and stores carry SS Bunny Imports items. The designs can be found at The Rabbit Haven as well as the San Diego House Rabbit Society.


Above and below are a few of the stickers available on the SS Bunny Imports Etsy site. Photos by SS Bunny Imports.

SS Bunny Imports offer signs, bumper stickers, window clings and other products declaring love for and connection to rabbits. Owner Alice Liang has pet rabbits herself. Photos by SS Bunny Imports.
Buxton Feed Company is a family owned feed mill located in the small town of Buxton, Oregon, in Washington County, about 30 miles from downtown Portland. Buxton Feed Company opened in 2001 and began making cattle feed. But the very local company is reflective of its community and since it began, Buxton Feed has grown and changed several times.

For example, in 2010, the company began offering animal feed free of genetically modified ingredients and free of soy and corn. It was the first company in the Pacific Northwest to offer animal feed without these additives.

Owner Jim Sorensen says Buxton Feed listens carefully to its customers and solicits advice from potential customers. Among the animal feeds Buxton Feed produces is rabbit food. Initially, the food was developed with a high protein content. Most companion pet caretakers look for rabbit food that has a low protein content or is timothy hay based. Finding a locally produced product is difficult. But once again, Buxton Feed has altered its formulas, based on the health requirements of companion pet rabbits.

Among those customers is his granddaughter, who has a pet rabbit herself.

“Many of you at Bunnypalooza spoke with us suggesting that a timothy-based rabbit feed would be better for the rabbits’ health,” Jim says. “So for the past few months we have been working with Dr. Melinda Surrency (president of the Rabbit Advocate board of directors) and our full-time nutritionist to develop a formula that would work for companion rabbits. We had our first run of the changed 10 percent protein rabbit food earlier this year.”

We are proud to announce the development of this high quality food and to announce its new name: Cuddle Bunny.”

Cuddle Bunny comes in five and 10 pound bags as well as a reusable 25-pound bucket. Cuddle Bunny includes no soy bean meal or corn products.

Jim says customer requests have helped create two new product lines he is proud to offer. The first is “Wee Stix,” chewing sticks from pear, apple and willow trees. He says Buxton Feed is very careful to ensure the treats come from trees that have not been sprayed with pesticides. Each bundle weighs one-half pound and the stix are 10 inches long. Each bundle is tied with fiber twine. He reports rabbits love to chew on the stix.

Buxton Feed recently began offering “Little Bites,” high-quality hay from eastern Oregon. The hay is available in two types, timothy and orchard grass. Little Bites is available in 40 ounce or 10 pound bags.

Buxton Feed Company also produces poultry food for those who keep chickens in their yards. Buxton Feed products can be found at many local stores, including the following:

Buxton Feed Company, Banks, Oregon
Creatures Pet Store, Vernonia, Oregon
Healing Ponds, Beaverton
City Farm, St. Johns, Portland
Birds and Bees Nursery, Gladstone, Oregon
Fang and Feather, Kenton, Portland
Linnton Feed & Seed, Linnton, Oregon
The Filling Station, Tigard
Healthy Pets Northwest, multiple locations
Trask River Poultry, Tillamook, Oregon
The Planter Box, Long Beach, Washington

Find more information at www.buxtonfeed.com
Bunnies in Baskets

Bunnies in Baskets is an all-volunteer organization that trains people and rabbits to visit people in a variety of settings such as hospitals, assisted-living facilities, and schools. The rabbits provide instant joy and often stimulate memories of happy times. Sometimes a rabbit’s presence can even encourage someone who is non-communicative to talk. The benefits of animal assisted therapy are well documented and numerous. Although the organization is based in Portland, Bunnies in Baskets trains human-rabbit teams throughout the United States and Canada. http://www.bunniesinbaskets.org/

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**KUDOS**

**RABBIT ANGEL**  
Christine Stamper, in memory of Bunbert

**RABBIT CHAMPION**  
Irene Fu  
Larry Kurtz

**RABBIT BENEFACOR**  
Emily Huang, in appreciation of veggies and rabbits  
Evelyn Roeloffs, in memory of Felonius Spunk

**RABBIT RESCUER**  
Leann Bleakney

**RABBIT SPONSOR**  
Kathryn Fox  
Gail Schroder  
Patricia Toccalino, in memory of Moka and Shadow  
Karen Lewis, in appreciation of Kat and Cherrie  
Cathy Kwapinski, in memory of Huskers, a rabbit in a dog’s body

**RABBIT FRIEND**  
Ruby Shouten  
Jeanne Wang  
Gretchen Burthey  
Doreen Ernst  
Kathy Perry  
Kathleen Tierney  
Columbia Candles, etc., in appreciation of Kat and Cherrie  
Jim Riva, in memory of Boochie

Rabbit Advocates is grateful for these generous donations. All donations made after Jan. 1, 2016, will be acknowledged in the next issue of The Rabbit Advocate. All donations are tax deductible and are very much appreciated.

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Sarah Funseth Baran’s big white bunnies are always this charming. They are even certified charming bunnies, and travel to visit people as animal assisted therapy rabbits. Photo by Kem Sypher.

Maury takes in the crowd coming in the door during Bunnypalooza 2015. Photo by Patricia Rubinelli.

Photographer Patricia Rubinelli captures the personality and beauty of each of the rabbits celebrated during Bunnypalooza 2015. Photo by Patricia Rubinelli.
Upcoming Meetings & Events 2016

General Meetings

3rd Sunday of the month
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm
Location: Humane Society for SW Washington, 1100 NE 192nd Ave., Vancouver, WA
Meetings begin with a “Bunny Basics” Q & A session where we invite your questions about any aspect of rabbit care. The public is welcome!

2016 Dates
APR 17  SEP 18  NOV 20
MAY 15  OCT 16  DEC 18
JUN 19

Bunny’s Best Bites

Hay Packing Parties
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

2016 Dates
APR 2  JUL 2  OCT 1
MAY 7  AUG 6  NOV 5
JUN 4  SEP 3  DEC 3

Education & Adoption Outreaches
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 (suggested donations of $5 for nail trims and $5 for light grooming are appreciated). Outreaches are held the second Sunday of each month from noon-3 pm at the Tigard Petco at 11705 SW Pacific Highway, Tigard, Oregon. For more information, see the Rabbit Advocate website at www.rabbitadvocates.org

2016 Dates
APR 10  JUL 10  OCT 9
MAY 8  AUG 14  NOV 13
JUN 12  SEP 11  DEC 11

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www.rabbitadvocates.org