And it’s all... **Thanks to a rabbit**

The story is familiar. A rabbit suddenly comes into a person’s life and both lives are changed forever. The rabbit becomes a family pet but even more than a companion, the pet becomes an integral part of the family’s life. Photographs are taken of the new companion. Excitement greets the antics: the apple slice stolen, the binkies launched, the hide-and-seek games played.

The pet may seem a little lonely, perhaps in need of a friend. Or perhaps that’s the human projecting that idea onto the rabbit. Either way, one rabbit becomes two. The bond between the bunnies is solid. They are so adorable together. Or the bond is never made and two rabbits occupy two pens. It hardly matters. The important thing is that now there are two rabbits and the household is complete.

The excitement about these fun, charming, demanding pets fails to diminish. And there is so much to learn! The needs of these little pets are specialized, not at all like those of dogs and cats. Perhaps there is a way to get good-quality hay and learn from other people.

As luck would have it, there is. Rabbit Advocates and its volunteers are waiting for each and every person who falls under the spell of a little rabbit. You know which rabbit: the one that the neighbors decided they didn’t want, the one found in the backyard, the one listed on Craigslist, the one from the local park, the one from the school classroom. It doesn’t matter the humble beginnings that connected human and rabbit. All that matters now is trying to get the best education to provide the optimum care to the most darling of little pets.

Rabbit Advocates has, for more than a decade, existed to be the safety net for the humans and rabbits that find themselves thrown together by circumstance. When that connection is made, information is at the ready. So is someone to help trim toenails or to talk through giving medication for the first time or to provide some good-quality hay. Rabbit Advocates the organization is made up of dedicated volunteers who stand poised to help when a rabbit and the rabbit’s person need assistance.

But Rabbit Advocates the organization needs help too. As a volunteer organization, the help needed is human effort. The currency is volunteer time and effort.

This issue of The Rabbit Advocate focuses on volunteers: needs, opportunities and the people who make the organization strong. If you are a volunteer for Rabbit Advocates, this issue of the newsletter is dedicated to you. Thank you for your service to the rabbits and to the organization. Rabbit Advocates does not exist without you.

If you are not currently a volunteer for Rabbit Advocates, this newsletter is an official request to lend a hand. The organization needs you. The rabbits need you.

“**Bunny creep**” means more rabbits and helping wherever there is need

Mary and Dave Marvin

The front room of Mary and Dave Marvin’s Beaverton home is not the full-time home to a rabbit. That seems unusual for the home of Rabbit Advocate volunteers who do so much for rabbits and for the organization. The Marvins rescue rabbits, foster rabbits, organize monthly outreaches and bag hay. But the rabbits are elsewhere in the house and once gathered in the front room, Aurora, a beautiful white New Zealand rabbit at the Marvin home on a foster basis, joins the party. At a Rabbit Advocate volunteer home, a rabbit in the room is necessary for conversation. Like the cocktails of the swingin’ Sixties, rabbits are social lubrication for Rabbit Advocate parties.

The Marvins share their home with several rabbits. The rabbits came to the home for a variety of reasons: children in the neighborhood found one running loose and brought it to them, a poorly groomed rabbit at an outreach was surrendered to

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“Bunny creep” continued from page 1

Mary is proud of the time and care outreach volunteers take to trim rabbit toe nails and offer health checks. But she said the outreachs need more volunteers. People bring rabbits to the outreachs where Rabbit Advocate volunteers are willing to trim bunny toe nails. It’s a service to the community so popular that volunteers care for about 24 rabbits in a single event. While the rabbit is being groomed, volunteers take the opportunity to talk with bunny owners about a proper diet and good care of the animal.

For Dave, “bunny creep” was a gradual progression. He responded to a plea to care for a baby bunny that a cat caught in the back yard. By the time the cat’s owner arrived, there were not just one but three baby bunnies to care for. All three bunnies thrived and one was adopted. Two are still at the Marvin home.

“Bunny creep” came even closer to Dave when he responded to another plea. Abandoned rabbits were noticed near a warehouse close to Canyon Road. Dave responded to the plea, which came last December, during the cold winter. The round-up was a learning experience, Dave says. He learned that wrangling rabbits is easier than wrangling a group of humans, the volunteers who came to help catch the rabbits. It took three attempts, but three rabbits were caught. Again, one was adopted out and two remain at the Marvin household. The Marvins consider them foster rabbits and would like to find a loving forever home for the bunnies.

Mary notes that every time Rabbit Advocates are asked to solve a problem in the community, rabbits need a home. Abandoned rabbits have to go somewhere. More adoptive and foster homes are desperately needed. “We need more people to volunteer,” she says. “If we want to have a successful organization, we need a few more hands.”

For more information about the monthly hay packing events and the Tigard Petco outreachs, please go to the Rabbit Advocate website at www.rabbitadvocates.org.
Ex-sergeant Bob Sherman finds calmer life with his rabbits

By Daybreak South, CBC News Posted: Jan 31, 2015 9:06 AM PT

When Bob Sherman retired from a career in policing in Oregon state he moved to Kelowna, B.C. to pursue a quieter life with his rabbits.

“When we re-designed this house we had a little area and said, ‘Well, let’s put in a room for bunnies,’” Sherman told Daybreak South’s Adrian Nieoczym.

The room is home to a three-storey indoor hutch that houses Sunny and Honey — a bonded pair.

“Granted it’s a little bit elaborate, but they have a lot of room to run around in here and besides, they come out for playtime. They’re out for about an hour in the morning and an hour at night.”

A separate hutch houses Lucky — another male. Sherman said male rabbits typically don’t get along, so Sunny and Lucky are kept apart.

Sherman was introduced to the world of rabbits while living in Hillsboro, Oregon, where his neighbours needed a new home for their bunny, Penny Anne.

“When we adopted Penny, I was still working down in Portland, Oregon. I was a police sergeant down there. I was working day shift, I worked up in the high crime area where we had a lot of typical U.S.A. police situations,” he said.

“I found when I got home I could spend some time with my rabbit, get Penny out — watch her run around, pet her when she felt like it, and I think it’s very good company for me.”

Sherman and his wife Marie have started the Kelowna Rabbit Advocates Society, and give free seminars for people considering adopting rabbits of their own.

By Daybreak South, CBC News Posted: Jan 31, 2015 9:06 AM PT

Someday very soon, Anne Tunnicliffe and Chris DePastene will be famous. But until that eventuality, Rabbit Advocates has the good fortunate of the creative energy of these two young volunteers.

Anne and Chris moved from their native New York to Portland last August. By September last year they had found Rabbit Advocates, attended a meeting and volunteered to be on the steering committee that is planning the Bunnypalooza event Nov. 7 at the Washington County Fairgrounds. Their work is not limited to attending committee meetings. Anne uses her considerable event planning and management skills to help identify and pull together the diverse elements of this big event. Chris is an artist and designer, among many talents, and designed the logo for Bunnypalooza.
Bunnies Best Bites a cornerstone of Rabbit Advocates

Hard-working volunteers make sure quality hay is available

This story is based on information supplied by Betty Bussey, who volunteered with the hay packing project for six years. Betty just recently retired from this duty and her diligent hard work will be missed. Cherrie Champie, Betty’s co-leader, continues on as Bunnies Best Bites leader. If you would like to help create Bunny’s Best Bites, Cherrie would like to invite you to join in the fun. Please see the Rabbit Advocate website for more information: rabbitadvocates.org

“I want to thank Betty Bussey for all her help with the BBB’s hay packing for the last few years,” Cherrie says. “Betty is a trouper, on time, always coming up with new ideas and what I call a “Steady Eddy” to get things done on hay packing day. We will all miss her at hay packing and truly appreciate how she helped improve our process for packing BBB’s and Special Orders. Thank you, Betty for all your hard work and dedication. You will be missed.”

Betty’s account below describes the hay packing event that took place on Saturday, May 2. A dozen volunteers helped produce a record number of bags of hay. Twelve volunteers would be welcome every month. All the hay that is bagged can be sold so more bags created means more money for the Rabbit Advocate medical fund. All profits from BBB sales go directly to the medical fund to help pay for rabbit spay and neuter procedures and offset the costs of other medical expenses.

As Betty describes it, there is much involved in a day of hay packing. From setup to cleanup in just five hours, the team of stalwart volunteers produced 135 10-pound bags of hay. This included 97 bags of BBB and 25 bags of special order hay.

Once the hay is mixed and bagged, with labels affixed, the bags are moved to a specific car for transport to the designated home seller or moved to storage in the garage at Evelyn Roeloff’s home. Evelyn has generously given up most of the garage at her home to the BBB project. Hay packing occurs at her home once a month.

Twenty-five individual special orders are packed into a certain colored bag (for easy identification).
What are other ways to help Rabbit Advocates?

**Donate**
Rabbit Advocates accepts tax deductible donations in any amount. Use the online donation feature on our web site (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 Karen Anderson at karanimal84@yahoo.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**
Rabbit Advocates is proud to offer t-shirts, sweatshirts, static-cling stickers and draw-string backpacks featuring our logo. For more information, contact volunteer Leann Bleakney at lbleakney@gmail.com.

**Search or shop online**
Rabbit Advocates is registered with GoodSearch.com, GoodShop.com and Amazon Smile. 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 and Amazon Smile, a donation will be made to our organization. It costs you nothing, but raises a small contribution for the Rabbit Advocates each year.

**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 web site at www.oregonhumane.org.

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**Find us on Petfinder**
Rabbit Advocate volunteers care for pet rabbits on a foster basis. Profiles about these pet rabbits available for adoption can be found on the website Petfinder. Go to www.petfinder.com for more information and to learn about the rabbits available for adoption.
The pair of black-and-white bunnies sniffed my fingers curiously through the wires of their tiny cage. Their long lop ears dwarfed their tiny, thin bodies. They didn’t have a food bowl or a water bottle. What kind of pet store was this?

My husband and I didn’t make a habit out of visiting pet stores. All of our pets were rescues, including a big white rabbit named Clover we’d adopted from the Oregon Humane Society a few months earlier. But when we’d stumbled upon this aquarium store, we’d gone in wanting to see the fish. The last thing we’d expected to find was a pair of emaciated rabbits.

The cage was sitting on the floor in a corner. It didn’t have a price tag on it. Nearby, a giant snake lay coiled in a glass tank. My husband put it all together first. These were feeder rabbits.

The employee was more than happy to sell us the rabbits. “Twenty dollars for both of them,” he said. “You can keep the cage.” Maybe they’d gotten too big for the snake to eat.

I remembered when we’d adopted Clover, we’d spoken with a nice man who gave us the business card for an organization he volunteered with called Rabbit Advocates (that nice man was Kem Sypher). He’d urged us to call the number on the card if I had any questions. Now seemed like a good time.

It was Mary Huey who returned my call. She told me that there were too many bunnies and not enough homes, and it would be best if we could keep the bunnies. By now we’d named them Winky and Binky. Truth to be told, we’d already fallen in love with them. Of course we’d keep them. Mary also urged us to attend the next Rabbit Advocates meeting.

When I went to that first Rabbit Advocates meeting, I knew so little about rabbits. The more I got involved, the more I learned.

Before I knew it, I was serving on the Rabbit Advocates board as recording secretary and writing for the newsletter. I volunteered in the small animal room at the humane society and helped out with the Rabbit Advocates’ booth at the Oregon Pet Expo. I helped with yard sales and participated in several loose rabbit rescues at Beaverton’s Commonwealth Lake Park. And my husband and I fostered several rabbits who we’ll never forget. Along the way, I made enduring friendships with some of the most caring and dedicated people I’ve ever known.

In 2010, ten years after I first joined Rabbit Advocates, my husband’s job took us across the country to Maryland. Since then, Leann Bleakney has graciously allowed me to stay on board as a newsletter writer. I write the annual holiday gift guide and other articles as Leann assigns them. It’s a wonderful way to stay involved with an organization I love, even from afar.

Maybe you’ve been thinking about getting more involved with Rabbit Advocates as a volunteer. I urge you to do it! Everyone has skills that they can contribute, and in the process you’ll meet a wonderful group of like-minded people and learn more about rabbits. The bunnies will thank you.
Annie Tunnicliffe hosted a benefit show on her 21st birthday. This promotional poster was designed by Chris DePastene.

Young volunteers... continued from page 3

Anne says she has always loved animals and always wanted to volunteer on their behalf. She adopted her first animal, a cat, when she was just 5 years old. Instead of ritual imbibing with her friends on her 21st birthday, she organized a fundraiser for the animal shelter in New York for which she volunteered. The five-hour event raised $800 and became an annual tradition called “Annie’s Good Time Bunny Rodeo Benefit Show.”

She adopted her rabbit Hoptimus from the New York shelter. The three loaded their car and drove across the country, landing in Portland a year ago. Anne and Chris are motivated to help animals where they can. They adopted Butterscotch as a partner for Hoptimus from Rabbit Advocate volunteer Karen Anderson. They were moved by their first Rabbit Advocate meeting and encouraged to get involved by Rabbit Advocate board President Theresa Brennan. “We really wanted to help with the organization and we got very positive feedback from sharing our ideas,” she says.

Like many young, creative people drawn to Portland, Anne and Chris have day jobs and then they have vocations about which they are passionate. Anne works at a bakery but she’s actually a freelance music promoter. She manages concert events, has been on tour with bands and handles logistical details, right down to securing venues. Chris, the quieter of the duo, does the art work for the events she promotes, writes all the press releases and photographs the events. Together, they are a dynamic special event team, always thinking of how to make events better and more professional.

“What you strive for is something fun that isn’t really work,” Anne says of her music promoter career. She loves event planning and naturally is able to pull together pieces into a manageable whole. Her volunteer work for Rabbit Advocates is taken up with the same love. She and Chris are already thinking of potential fun events for the organization, events which could have a fundraising element to them, with music and artistic flavor, perhaps some food and beverages to go along. Chris will start sketching designs for a logo...
Upcoming Meetings & Events 2015

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<th>Bunny’s Best Bites</th>
<th>Education &amp; Adoption Outreaches</th>
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<td><strong>3rd Sunday of the month</strong>&lt;br&gt;3:30 pm – 5:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Hay Packing Parties</strong>&lt;br&gt;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 <a href="http://www.rabbitadvocates.org">www.rabbitadvocates.org</a></td>
<td>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 <a href="http://www.rabbitadvocates.org">www.rabbitadvocates.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>2015 Dates</strong>&lt;br&gt;AUG *&lt;br&gt;Sep 20&lt;br&gt;OCT 18</td>
<td><strong>2015 Dates</strong>&lt;br&gt;AUG 1&lt;br&gt;SEP 5&lt;br&gt;OCT 3</td>
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<td>*Rabbit Advocates will not be holding a monthly meeting during the months of July and August. Check our website for more information.</td>
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Mark Your Calendar!<br><br>BUNNYPALOOZA<br>November 7, 2015

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www.rabbitadvocates.org