Snickers Gets a Sweet Life
How Rabbit Advocate volunteers saved one little bunny

This is a story about the best part of Rabbit Advocates and the power of a few motivated, dedicated people.

Rabbit Advocates is a non-profit organization. It does not have a paid staff to help with the many tasks of running its day-to-day operation to fulfill its mission. It relies exclusively on volunteers. Those volunteers do their best to take care of their own bunnies and to give aid to other rabbits whenever they can.

Among the many projects the volunteers handle for Rabbit Advocates is a telephone help line. People who have questions about rabbits can call and leave a message. Rabbit Advocate volunteers check the messages every day and call people back when requested. Some days the phone calls are questions about health or behavior related issues. Some days they are dispiriting messages about rabbits that no one wants. But one day, Rabbit Advocate President Theresa Brennan checked the messages and found a phone call from Dr. Melinda Surrency, veterinarian with the Hillsboro Veterinary Clinic. Dr. Surrency is also a member of the Rabbit Advocate board of directors.

Dr. Surrency recounted to Theresa a very sad story about a little rabbit born as a stray. A family had adopted this little rabbit and now brought her to Dr. Surrency because of a significant health problem. The rabbit had a mass growing under her left eye. Dr. Surrency found that the mass stemmed from a tooth root abscess. At least one, and perhaps several, teeth would need to be removed in an effort to preserve her left eye. Only by extracting the tooth would the bunny be able to heal from the infection and eat normally.

The family that brought the rabbit to Dr. Surrency was well-meaning but had no money to treat the rabbit in the way necessary to allow her to live normally. They took the bunny home and didn't bring her back for several weeks. When they returned to the clinic, they asked Dr. Surrency to euthanize the rabbit.

Dr. Surrency knew that with the help of surgery and antibiotics, the rabbit’s life could be saved. Without intervention, the rabbit would die. But the rabbit was not so ill that it needed to be euthanized. She called Rabbit Advocates to ask for help.

Theresa Brennan took the call and the wheels of Rabbit Advocate help began to turn. The medical fund would help offset the costs of the surgery and treatment. Theresa would foster the rabbit. Dr. Surrency would perform the surgery and help with the costs, including treatment.

continued on page 2
And the little bunny began a new life.

Dr. Surrency removed a tooth fragment which had already decayed in the gum and extracted a molar which was the source of the infection. She then surgically opened up and drained a secondary cheek abscess which formed from the tooth root. She aggressively flushed the infected area and prescribed antibiotics.

Theresa has the little rabbit, named Snickers. She is doing very well, has recovered from her surgery and is able to eat normally. It took Dr. Surrency’s insistence that the rabbit could live a normal life, Theresa’s willingness to take Snickers after surgery, and all the work that supports the medical fund to save Snickers. But Snickers is very grateful.

Rabbit Advocates needs volunteer help to keep the medical fund going, to take phone calls on the help line and to foster rabbits just like Snickers. To learn more about these and other volunteer activities, see page 7 of this newsletter.

Snickers is fully healed and feeling good. Her surgery and care afterward would not have been possible without the intervention of determined people and the help of the Rabbit Advocate medical fund.

**Bunny blessings prompt quiet reflection**

Event celebrates spirit of St. Francis of Assisi and care of animals

With a whispered blessing and a comforting touch, two leaders of local churches offered a blessing for bunnies and Rabbit Advocates during the October monthly meeting.

Pastors Linda Stewart-Kalen of the Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church and David Zaworski of the Waverly Heights United Church of Christ, spoke of the experience of St. Francis of Assisi, the saint known for his focus on animals and ecology. They offered blessings for all the bunnies at the meeting, and for the human caretakers as well. The special topic attracted a large audience with many bunnies present for the blessing. Audience members were obviously emotionally moved by the pastors’ kind and thoughtful words.

Pastor Stewart-Kalen takes care of bunnies in her own home, and sang a children’s hymn that celebrated the saintly work of caring for small creatures and all those who need protection and comfort. The pastors work together often as their churches are located near the Rabbit Advocate meeting location in Southeast Portland.

This is a summary of the pastors’ presentation:

**Pastor Zaworski**

Today is a day of serving those we might consider “the least” of the members of creation—animals that have been neglected or discarded. It is fitting as we gather, and remember, Francis of Assisi, a saint who listened to the sacred voice urging an expansive practice of love and generosity. He was a person who took care of creation and who ministered to animals.

St. Francis grew up in a wealthy household, and as a young man decided to give up all his riches—even his nice clothes—to serve God and others. He treated animals with respect and, it is said, once preached to a flock of birds and even reasoned with a wolf who had been feared as the marauder of a local village.

So we look to that example of Francis of Assisi in serving and giving to others. As part of the wealthy merchant class in Assisi, Italy, Francis could have lived a life of great luxury. Instead, he lived a life of great service and deep sharing. He sought a life close to the goodness of creation. He recognized that if one suffers we all suffer, and the well being of the most vulnerable or the least is part of our own well-being.

**Pastor Stewart-Kalen**

You may have heard this sometime about rescue work: “you are a saint for what you do.” We believe that you are. In our tradition, all who seek to serve that expansive love and generosity from the greatest to the least are rightly called saints.

The life of St. Francis of Assisi serves as a powerful example. We are all asked to be compassionate, to share and to serve. As we honor our own animals this day, we also honor animals that have not always been blessed in human kindness and care. We pray to serve them with our gifts, our blessing and ourselves.

**Pastor Zaworski**

May the spirit that was in St. Francis be in you. Bless this organization and each of you, and may you be filled with compassion in your care and calling with these precious creatures and with each other.
New year promises many Rabbit Advocate activities

By Theresa Brennan, President of the Rabbit Advocate Board of Directors

As the newly-elected incoming president of the Rabbit Advocate Board of Directors, I want to express my warm thanks to our board members, all of our wonderful volunteers, the many donors and contributors, and the multitude of caring bunny lovers among our populace. Each and every person does so much to sustain our mission of providing welfare for abandoned and abused domestic rabbits. This organization would not have enjoyed success over the last 12 years without the aid of all these volunteers. But our work is not done and we need help.

Our main goals for the coming year will be to improve our internal operating efficiency and recruit dedicated board members, active volunteers, and foster homes. We will also exert a concentrated effort to raise public awareness of rabbits as companion pets through Rabbit Advocate participation in select activities focused on animal and rabbit rescue.

A never-ending key component to our existence is identifying and orchestrating ways to fund our operation through various sources, including Bunnies Best Bites hay, outreaches, calendars, donations, and special events like our planned “bunny fest” in late 2015.

We appeal to everyone having affection for bunnies to come join us!
FOR BUNNIES

1. Crazy Carrot Rabbit Playground. Happy Rabbit Toys makes all of its products in the U.S.A. from nontoxic materials. The Crazy Carrot Rabbit Playground comes in three sizes (the smallest is 8 inches long) and features multiple hanging toys for your bunny’s enjoyment. $24.97 for the small size, happyrabbittoys.com

2. Ikea Duktig Solid Pine “Bunny” Bed. Okay, so this is sold as a doll bed, but it’s just the right size for a bunny bed. It’s available at Ikea stores for $19.99, or if you don’t live near an Ikea you can purchase it online from bunnyapproved.com for $28.99.

3. Three-Way Nylon Tunnel. Everybunny loves a tunnel! This three-way tunnel has an opening in the top so bunny can pop his head out for hide-and-seek. $19.95, bunnyapproved.com

4. 2015 Holiday Basket. The folks at The Busy Bunny might be getting a bit ahead of themselves, but this gift basket will work just fine for the 2014 holiday season. It consists of a 7x7-inch willow basket filled with three willow candy canes, one peeled willow bell, one wood tree, one wood star, three pinecones and a mini willow wreath. $21.99, store.busybunny.com

5. BunTales Tree House. The owner of BunTales created the customizable bunny tree house for her own rescued buns to have a safe and fun place to play. The houses are made from solid pine with removable/replaceable cardboard inserts. Best of all, BunTales will donate 10 percent of the purchase price to the rabbit rescue of your choice! $158-$335, etsy.com/shop/BunTales

6. Bunny Hugger Bed. Another wonderful product from The Hare Apparent, this soft fleece bed is designed to be comfortable and supportive for bunnies, because it gives them something to lean against as they sleep. Proceeds support the shop owner’s rabbit and bird sanctuary. Note that the company is in the U.K. but ships to the U.S. $21.16, etsy.com/shop/thehareapparent
FOR BUNNY LOVERS

7. Rabbit Advocates 2015 Calendar. This gorgeous calendar was created by Rabbit Advocates volunteers and features photos of bunnies submitted by Rabbit Advocates and friends of the organization. $18 plus $6.95 for shipping anywhere in the U.S., contact Tonie at tonie@colonialcustomforms.net.

8. “Dame De Lapin Fou” T-shirt. Translated from French, this t-shirt with a drawing of a beret-wearing rabbit reads “Mad Rabbit Lady.” Proceeds benefit the shop owner’s rabbit and bird sanctuary. $39.06, etsy.com/shop/thehareapparent

9. Bunny Butt Apothecary Artisan Soaps. Available in a variety of delicious sounding scents, these handcrafted soaps are made even more divine by the fact that they’re cruelty free. $6, bunnybuttapothecary.com

10. Bunny-Print Fabric iPhone Case. Abella Couture sells handmade fabric iPhone cases in a variety of prints, including several lovely rabbit prints. Available for iPhone 5 and 6. 30 percent of the proceeds are donated to animal rescue organizations, including rabbit rescues. $11.50–$14.50, abellacouture.com

11. Bunny-in-Tea-Cup Coffee Mug. The Bunny Stop shop features mugs, t-shirts, stickers and more with the original artwork of Penny Collins. This sweet coffee mug with a drawing of a bunny in a tea cup is certain to delight. $20.95, zazzle.com/the_bunny_stop

12. Wooden Rabbit Signs. Portland artist Beth Myrick makes wooden rabbits using a jigsaw then paints them in custom colors. The signs are approximately 8 inches long, 4 inches tall. On request, the rabbits can be weatherized so they can be used outside. To order, contact Beth at (503) 314-1485 or email her at beth_myrick@yahoo.com. $15 each, $20 with shipping.

Gift Guide researched, compiled and written by Sarah Yasutake
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
Southwest Animal Hospital,
Beaverton

Dr. Sheri Schlorman
Creswell Veterinary Hospital,
Creswell

Dr. Melinda Surrency
Hillsboro Veterinary Clinic,
Hillsboro

Dr. Doug Ferro
Barclay Hills Animal Clinic,
Oregon City

Dr. Nell Ostermeier
Lombard Animal Hospital, Portland

Dr. Peter Davis
St. Johns Veterinary Clinic,
Portland

Dr. Rebecca Prull
NW Neighborhood Vet Hospital,
Portland

Dr. Ken DeReamer
Dr. Monica Pollock
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.
The Rabbit Advocate Wish List ~ 2015

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 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
The Rabbit Advocates is proud to offer all sorts of great logo gear at its brand new Cafe Press store. A portion of the sales from the shop go directly to Rabbit Advocates. For more information, check www.cafepress.com/rabbitadvocates.

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 website at: www.rabbitadvocates.org.

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.

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 now 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.

Buy a Rabbit Advocate calendar
Each month of the Rabbit Advocate calendar features beautiful, funny bunnies. The calendar is only $18 and $6.95 shipping (flat rate anywhere in the U.S.). If you live in the Portland Metro area, you can pick up the calendars at general meetings, outreaches or by contacting Tonie at: tonie@colonialcustomforms.net or Anne at: anne@colonialcustomforms.net

Please make checks payable to Rabbit Advocates and mail to Colonial Custom Forms, 10211 SW Barbur Blvd., Suite 207a, Portland OR 97219.
Upcoming Meetings & Events 2015

### General Meetings

3rd Sunday of the month  
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm  
Location: Courtyard Manor Assisted Living, 6125 SE Division St., Portland
Meetings begin with a “Bunny Basics” Q & A session where we invite your questions about any aspect of rabbit care. The public is welcome!

**2015 Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JAN 18</th>
<th>MAY 17</th>
<th>SEP 20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEB 15</td>
<td>JUN 21</td>
<td>OCT 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 15</td>
<td>JUL *</td>
<td>NOV 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 19</td>
<td>AUG *</td>
<td>DEC 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Rabbit Advocates will not be holding a monthly meeting during the months of July and August. Check our web site for more information.*

Find us on Facebook: Rabbit Advocates

### 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](http://www.rabbitadvocates.org)

First Saturday of the month, 10 am – 2 pm  
*Please note, July’s date is the second Saturday.*

**2015 Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JAN 3</th>
<th>JUL 11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEB 7</td>
<td>AUG 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 7</td>
<td>SEP 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 4</td>
<td>OCT 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 2</td>
<td>NOV 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUN 6</td>
<td>DEC 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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](http://www.rabbitadvocates.org)

**2015 Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JAN 11</th>
<th>MAY 10</th>
<th>SEP 13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEB 8</td>
<td>JUN 14</td>
<td>OCT 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 8</td>
<td>JUL 12</td>
<td>NOV 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 12</td>
<td>AUG 9</td>
<td>DEC 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Follow us on Pinterest