

SAN DIEGO RABBIT NEWS

FALL 2003

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Bunnyfest 2003 More Successful Than Ever

It's amazing to think how far we have come in 12 years. Our first Bunnyfest was held at a beautiful winery with a couple of vendors and a handful of people attending. We loved the fact that people were interested and wanted to learn more about the House Rabbit Society and learn how to care for their own rabbits better.

This year we estimate that more than 500 people attended Bunnyfest in Heritage Park. We had many fabulous vendors, great food and an auction with more than 100 items. What a difference dedicated volunteers can make!

This year we are also celebrating what a fabulous fundraiser Bunnyfest is. We are so grateful for all the support and donations we received from our volunteers, supporters and the community. This year we are happy to report we raised \$9,000, far exceeding last year.

It was fabulous to see the many people who support our work year after year, but it was also great to see new

people asking questions and learning about their rabbits. Many people traveled from areas near and far to be at Bunnyfest. We appreciate your support!

We are very grateful to all our volunteers who pitched in to help.

Without our volunteers, this event would not exist.

Set up/tear down. The early risers and those who stayed late to pack up deserve a big thank you. This is hard work and we appreciate the time — and the vehicles — of Scott Schalon, Larry Dudus, Patti Scott and Jim Sweet, Debra Doerfler, Marie Milliner, Smithers, John and Kristi Koivula. Thanks

also goes to Raphael's Rentals who showed up on time with tables and canopies and did a great job for us.

Kids area. We were lucky to have Cara Burgoyne help coordinate this area from afar — she had moved to the Bay Area! Cara joined us and she, along with several kids from High Tech High School, helped coordinate the children's games and crafts. They also made gift



(continued on page 6)

Shelter Volunteers Needed

Do you have a few hours a month to volunteer at your local animal shelter? We need shelter volunteers in all areas of the county. Duties include cleaning cages, grooming and socializing rabbits, handing out veggies and hay; and updating HRS. Shelter volunteers must have some experience handling rabbits, be reliable and able to communicate with shelter staff and HRS volunteers.

If you are interested in helping at your local shelter, contact Michelle at 619-718-7777 for further information. The bunnies say thanks and hurry up with the carrots!

UPDATE: North County Humane Society is in desperate need of volunteers to provide even the most minimal care. If you have a couple of hours to give the bunnies fresh food and water, that would be incredibly helpful. See article on page 10.

Malcolm and Louise

The passing of two special HRS sanctuary rabbits reminds me of the unique bond two rabbits can have between each other.

Malcolm (aka Malky) was a 10-year-old gray and white Dutch rabbit and Louise (aka Squeezer) was a 10-year-old agouti and white standard rabbit. They were the best of friends.

Malcolm and Louise were brought into HRS foster care in September 1994, when North County Animal Control called with “too many rabbits.” Shortly after they arrived, we came to realize that both rabbits had “attitudes.” And, not only did Malcolm have an attitude, but his ears had apparently been chewed off at birth. He had little “cat-style” ears. That alone was enough to make a bun cranky, I guess. Malcolm was about a year old when he was rescued from the shelter.

Louise was sister to Thelma and once the girls began to fight, Thelma was moved to another foster home and Louise stayed in foster care with me. A temperamental girl for sure, but sweet in her own right and easy to hold (which is how she got her nickname Squeezer).

One fateful day, Louise’s cage door was accidentally left open.

Conveniently, she hopped down one level to visit Malcolm and when I entered the room, the two were bonded. No fur flying, no tussles, just bonded. Since I knew these two rabbits were going to be very hard to adopt out, I decided to leave them together for companionship from that point on.

As time went by, I saw just how dependent they were on each other and, although loving to Louise, Malcolm clearly had his own agenda and it usually involved food. Ta dumm.. ta dumm... ta dumm.. out to the kitchen he would go in search of food, food, food.

Not wanting to walk on floor tile, Louise was content to have the food brought to her, as well it should be. She was, after all, the one in charge.

Over the years the two grew closer and closer, and never fought unless a visiting female bun went too close to their cage. Then, Louise would put Malky in his place, although he wasn’t really looking at the other rabbit. “I swear I didn’t look at her!”

Both rabbits mellowed considerably with age and Malky even began giving kisses instead of nips. About six months ago Malcolm lost the ability to hop and scooted around as best he could. He had lost a lot of weight, too, but still ate with gusto and groomed his gal regularly — the perfect example of making the most of what you’ve got. Then, Louise (who had never been sick a day in her life) began to have trouble with her molars and went off her food. After a month of difficulties, Louise lost her battle and passed away quietly. For her to leave us before Malcolm was unexpected. We soon learned that Malky could not live without his girl when he passed away five days later.

For these past nine years, HRS provided a sanctuary home for these two special rabbits — two rabbits who would not have had lives together or lives at all actually, had HRS not been available to care for them.

Malky and Squeezer say “Thanks for supporting the work of HRS.”

By Michelle Wilhelms, SD HRS Chapter Manager

Valued Volunteer: Claudia LaRue

Writing these articles is always interesting. As volunteers we can work together for years, and yet somehow we neglect to share our personal histories. I think we're always too busy talking about our rabbits! That's how it is with this issue's Valued Volunteer, Claudia LaRue, who has been volunteering since 1996. It's not until you really start asking questions, that real information comes to the surface. Here's what she has to say.

Debra Doerfler: How did you get involved with the House Rabbit Society?

Claudia LaRue: My involvement began both as a volunteer and an adopter. Years ago I had a bunny as a teenager, but didn't know much about rabbits. That first bunny didn't live very long, but he made a lasting impression on me. Later, when I moved out of my parents house, I was interested in having animals so when I ran into an HRS booth in 1996, perhaps at Earth Day, it was like karma — I wanted to have bunnies. At the time, my living arrangements didn't allow for having rabbits though.

DD: You started volunteering even before you had rabbits?

CL: Yes, but it wasn't right away. I remember stumbling across Bunnyfest 1996.: There was a large group of people and there were all these bunnies. Seeing HRS again, and all the rabbit people sparked my interest again. I decided I wanted to be a volunteer and shortly after that I started showing up at volunteer meetings and education events, sort of on-the-job-training. I still didn't know that much, but I wanted to help. A couple months into volunteering my living arrangements changed and I adopted Nicholas and Noel from HRS.

DD: You've certainly become a great asset to HRS. What's your favorite volunteer activity?

CL: I really enjoy doing the education events. They're a way to reach out to people, to tell them about homeless rabbits and get them to go to the shelters and HRS adoption events. I like steering people in the right direction. I do a lot of other things, too, like being a hay elf, shuttling rabbits to the vets, volunteering at the shelter some, and fostering bunnies, but education is key.

DD: Yes, it is! How do you find time to do the events during the workweek? You don't work a 9-5 job do you?

CL: No, I don't. Not many people know that I'm a costumer by profession. I work with a Colorado-based company that supplies costumes nationwide, but primarily on the East Coast. We do a lot of period pieces — Medieval- and Renaissance-type designs. I used to make the big velvet ladies' gowns, but have shifted my focus to the men's costumes; they're much easier to work with. And right now we're very busy with Halloween costumes, too. Working in this industry allows me a certain freedom to keep my own hours, so I'm fortunate that I can help out HRS at different times.



Claudia LaRue

Claudia is our San Diego HRS resident artist. She painted the giant Herman Head on the office wall. We also use her talents for some of our presentation pieces and appreciate her direction for other art work we need done.

Between her job as a costumer and many volunteer activities, Claudia cares for her own house full of critters including five guinea pigs, two leopard geckos and rabbits Nicholas, Maxwell and Victoria, and Jose and Rosalyn.

Thank you, Claudia, for all of your hard work!

Living with Rabbit Allergies

The caller on the help line is in tears. “My doctor says I’m allergic to my rabbit and I have to get rid of her. I love her so much. Can you find a good home for her?”

These calls are heartbreaking. It’s true that the easiest allergy treatment is to remove the triggering agent. But this ignores the importance of companion animals to our health and well being. Our fosterers’ experiences show that allergy sufferers can live safely and happily with rabbits and other pets.

What are allergies?

Allergies are part of the body’s normal response to fighting infections. Sometimes the immune system becomes hyperstimulated and reacts to agents that normally are ignored. Common allergens include dust mites, cockroaches, and plant pollens. Allergies to animals are often caused by the saliva proteins left on the fur after licking and not the fur itself. Touching the fur transfers these proteins to our fingertips, and then to the face, eyes and nose. In turn, these entrances into our body are lined with immune cells ready to respond to any invaders.

For some people the proteins on rabbit fur are considered dangerous invaders, prompting the immune system to mount a full scale defense. Watery eyes and dripping nose try to wash away these proteins. The airway constricts in response to hormones such as histamines, which recruit more immune cells to the invasion site. This response is beneficial when the invader is influenza. A response to rabbits or other companion animals can instead cause misery and trouble. For several of our fosterers, the inconvenience of allergies is far outweighed by love for our companions. Discussed here are strategies that HRS fosterers successfully use to minimize these discomforts.

What am I really allergic to?

The first step is to determine whether you’re truly allergic to your rabbit. Physicians sometimes jump the gun in blaming an animal, and allergy tests can overestimate a person’s sensitivities. Use your best judgment and common sense. Be a detective. Rule out “suspected criminals” one by one. Is it bunnies or dust bunnies that make you sneeze? The hay tub with its pollen and dust? Frequent cleaning greatly reduces allergies.

Living with rabbit allergies

What if the worst happens and you’re allergic to your rabbit? The most important step is to minimize triggering those allergies. A few people may need to find their rabbit a new home; for severe asthmatics, a strong reaction can be life-threatening. For the majority of allergy sufferers, including several HRS fosterers, extra effort lets us share our homes for years to come.

Minimize direct contact. Never touch your face after handling your rabbit or items she contacts. Always wash hands (and don’t forget eye-glasses!) after visiting her. Have someone else clean her cage with the room’s door closed; if you must clean it, wear a mask and/or special clothes. Immediately remove soiled litter and hay from the house.

Restrict your rabbit’s territory. This reduces the spread of rabbit allergens in the house. Use baby gates to restrict her to certain rooms. This also makes cleaning easier.

Have rabbit-free rooms. Set aside at least one room in the home where the rabbit never visits, a safe area where the immune system isn’t stimulated. Your bedroom should be one of these rooms, because so much time is spent there.

Clean frequently! Dust and vacuum often, not just furniture but

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Sunday, Nov. 2

Pacific Beach HRS Adoption Day, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 619-718-7777

Monday, Nov. 3

Volunteers’ Meeting, 4750 Cass Street, Pacific Beach, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 8

Shelter Rabbit Adoption Day - Petsmart Sports Arena, 3610 Rosecans, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 619-718-7777

Sunday, Nov. 16

North County HRS Adoption Day, 1-3 p.m., call 619-718-7777

DECEMBER

Sunday, Dec. 7

Pacific Beach HRS Adoption Day, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 619-718-7777

Monday, Dec. 8

Volunteers’ Meeting, 4750 Cass Street, Pacific Beach, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 10

HRS Holiday Party, War Memorial Building, Balboa Park, 7-9 p.m. See page 9 for details.

JANUARY

Sunday, Jan. 4

Pacific Beach HRS Adoption Day, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 619-718-7777

Monday, Jan. 5

Volunteers’ Meeting, 4750 Cass Street, Pacific Beach, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 18

North County HRS Adoption Day, 1-3 p.m. Call 619-718-7777

door frames, window ledges, lamps and curtains. Damp mop wooden floors, especially under beds and furniture. Reduce clutter. Keep hay in a tub, or try a different type of hay; some find misting the hay with water can be helpful in reducing dust. Store hay in a garage or location where you infrequently go. Many people find that their supposed rabbit allergy is actually caused by hay and dust mites.

Invest in air filtration units. The best are HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filtration units, which pull microscopic dust, fur and other particles from the air. Although expensive, these filters are an excellent investment and improve the lives of many allergy sufferers. Minimally, run a HEPA filter full-time in your rabbit-free bedroom with the door closed; place additional units in other rooms, including the rabbit room. Central air systems with electrostatic filters are also helpful. Clean or change the filters regularly.

Try allergy neutralizers. Products such as “AllerPet” and “AllerPet/C” are liquids/sprays which are applied regularly to fur and neutralize some of the fur allergens. Shampoo formulations are not recommended, as many rabbits are stressed by baths. These products work, but are expensive and

must be used regularly. An alternative is daily brushing (preferably outside) and wiping fur with a damp cloth. These products are not substitutes for previous recommendations.

Seek allergy medication. Nasal sprays containing anti-inflammatory steroids are excellent for controlling severe allergies. These drugs suppress the local immune system in eyes and nose before the allergy is triggered. Others have good success with allergy desensitization shots; ask whether you can use your rabbit’s own fur. For myself, regular use of nasal steroid sprays almost completely suppressed my allergies to pollen, guinea pigs and cats; now I need it rarely. Consult a sympathetic doctor and find products that work for you.

It’s true that these suggestions require effort. Given our rabbits’ unconditional love, it’s the least we can do in return.

By Susan Smith, Ph.D. Originally printed in the spring 1999 House Rabbit Journal; reprinted with permission from the HRS website, www.rabbit.org. Susan Smith is an associate professor of nutritional sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She thanks contributors to Etherbun, Housebun, and Petbunny for generously sharing expertise and experiences summarized here.

Thank You, Thank You

Thank you to Harry Helms for a \$100 donation in memory of Scooter, Tina Otis’ 9-year-old rabbit.

Thanks to Bentley Prince Street, carpet manufacturers in the City of Industry. They donated (and shipped!) 200 carpet samples to SD HRS for use with the shelter and foster rabbits. Thanks so much!

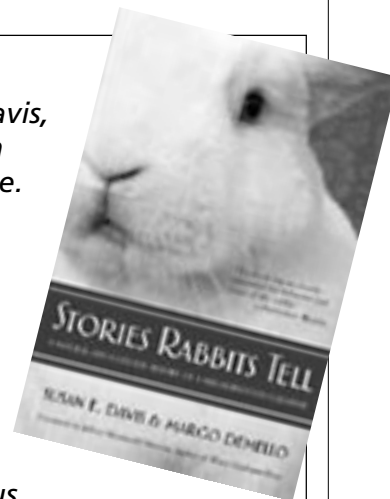
Thanks goes to Bronle Crosby, Claudia La Rue and her friend Julia for working so hard on two new T-shirt designs for us. Great job, ladies!

A huge thank you to the Casterline family for their continuing support. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Stories Rabbits Tell, A Natural and Cultural History of a Misunderstood Creature, by Susan E. Davis, Margo DeMello, 320 pages, \$22. Use order form on page 15, or save postage by buying at the HRS office. See page 7 for office days, hours.

Stories Rabbits Tell takes a comprehensive look at the rabbit as a wild animal, ancient symbol, pop culture icon, commercial “product” and domesticated pet. The first book of its kind, Stories Rabbits Tell provides invaluable information and insight into the life and history of an animal whom many love, but whom most of us barely know. As such, it is a key addition to the current thinking on animal emotions, intelligences and welfare, and the way that human perceptions influence the treatment of individual species.

—From Amazon.com review



Bunnyfest

(continued from page 1)

bags for shelter and foster rabbits. Special thanks goes to HRS adopter and teacher Jill Jicha and her kids Leslie, Rachel, Alexis, Nicole, Christopher, Fatima and Brian. Thanks so much!

Lagomorph

Lounge. The Lounge was coordinated by Sandi Stewart this year. All the visiting four-legged fur babies got to rest in the shade under the watchful eyes of Sandi Stewart, Candy Garner, Patti Scott and Lisa Ronco.

These ladies also trimmed a lot of nails and sold the bunny toys that Candy had donated. Thanks so much!

Premium table. Each year this table is coordinated by Tina Otis and she always does a great job! We had new T-shirts to sell and many items for sale. We also got many new HRS members from this booth. Thanks to the following volunteers: Tina Otis, Fenella Speece, Marisa Castro and Karin Ingvarsdotter. We'd also like to thank Claudia La Rue, her friend Julia and Bronle Crosby for their work designing our new T-shirts. They were a big hit. Thank you!

Raffle. We had a small raffle going throughout the day and once again, the kids from High Tech High School helped keep an eye on the items and raise funds! Thanks so much!

The Cottontail Cafe. Debra

Doerfler and her volunteers did a fabulous job with the Cafe this year. Lots of yummy food, drinks and home-made goodies. Thanks for the extra effort — the Cafe looked great! Special thanks too to the Kids Community Service from Rancho Coastal Humane Society. These dedicated young adults helped drum up business for the Cafe. You did a great job for the bunnies!

Auction. Judith Pierce took on the daunting task of the auction this year. She did an amazing job, although we are sure she lost some sleep with more than 100

items to organize! Thanks so much, Judith. You did a fabulous job! And, thank you to all the generous donors.

Info Booth. The HRS Info booth was staffed by Larry Dudus, Diane Calkins, Claudia La Rue and myself. We talked to a lot of people throughout the day. We are confident many rabbits will now receive better care because of our time spent there. We also garnered a few potential adoptions while we were at it! Thanks for volunteering your time to this important table.

Veterinarians.

We'd like to thank Dr. Jeff Jenkins and his staff for their support throughout the year as well for having a booth at Bunnyfest. We were also lucky to have Dr. Brian Loudis from All Pets Animal Hospital and Dr. Carmine Bousonne and staff from Acacia Animal

Hospital. These vets all work with HRS and allow us to continue our important work with foster and shelter rabbits.

Thank you to everyone who supported HRS and Bunnyfest with their generous donations.



Online Update

Want to keep updated on the San Diego chapter activities by e-mail? Join our online update and get monthly updates sent right to your desktop. We post to this list only once or twice a month as important events come up, so don't worry, this is not a busy list. Join by sending a blank e-mail to: sandiegorabbitsonline-subscribe@yahogroups.com

The bunnies thank you and so do we!

Shuttle. Cloud 9, a great shuttle service, offered free rides to Bunnyfest from nearby parking areas. Thanks for your help throughout the day.

Book-signing.

This year we were honored to have HRS Executive Director Margo De Mello join us from Berkeley for a special book signing — only to sell out two dozen books in just an hour! Thanks, Margo, for joining us. We appreciate the support. Contact SD HRS for your copy of her new book, *Stories Rabbits Tell*. See the order form in this issue.

TTouch. Judy Boyce kept the crowd captivated while she demonstrated TTtouch. Thanks so much for joining us again this year. You are always a hit.

Photography. Bunnyfest photography was provided this year by David Anderson, a professional photographer who does work for Rancho Coastal Humane Society. The pictures in this issue and on our website are David's. Thanks, David, the photos are super!

Our Vendors

A huge thank you to our vendors this year. We appreciate your support and are glad you could join us.

Cats and Rabbits and More.

Toys, gifts, and supplies for your favorite rabbit companions.
www.catsandrabbitsandmore.com

Bunnyart. Thanks for joining us with your beautiful rabbit-themed gift items, including ceramics, artwork, tapestries and more.

KW Cages. Be sure to drop by KW Cages in Santee and pick up a new cage or other supplies for your rabbit.



Thanks, Kevin, for lending us a canopy too! www.kwcages.com

Garden Variety. Garden statuary with a rabbit theme. Thanks for joining us every year!

Over the Moon.

Local pottery artists had unique rabbit-themed bowls, mugs and hand-decorated mirrors. Thanks for joining us at Bunnyfest.

AK Specialties of San Diego. Beautiful etched glass and rabbit-themed jewelry. We appreciate

your support so much!

Avian & Exotic Animal Hospital.

Thanks for your support of HRS throughout the year!

All Pets Animal Hospital and Acacia Animal Hospital. Thanks for your support and for joining us at Bunnyfest!

Linda Slette, our Bunnyfest Massage Therapist. More popular every year. Thanks, Linda, for donating your proceeds to HRS and for doing a great job. Snuggles to your rabbits!



Kristina's Kreations. Unique jewelry with a bunny theme. Thanks for joining us this year.

By Michelle Wilhelms, SD HRS Chapter Manager

**HRS Office Open
1st & 3rd Saturdays**

The HRS office in Pacific Beach is now open the first and third Saturdays each month from 12 noon - 3 p.m. for your convenience. Drop by to purchase fresh hay, pellets, and other supplies and goodies for your rabbit. Proceeds benefit SD HRS. The office is located at 4750 Cass St., four blocks north of Garnet Avenue, in Pacific Beach.

The Magnificent Auction

Auction Volunteers

Thanks to these energetic volunteers, the auction was a success: Larry Nixon, Gerry Streff, Marie Milliner,



Scott Schalon, Cindy Vestyck, Steve & Shelley Thraen, Donna Choy & Ryan Nakawatase, and Angela Bachmann. Without their help, we would not have done as well as we did. They set everything up, helped to keep things moving, and assisted bidders with their auction purchases, and kept all the paperwork and money

well organized. Thank you very much!

Individual Donors

Brian Barfoot, Animal Artist, (www.brianbarfoot.com/home.htm)
Chris Dekker, The Bunnies Cartoons (<http://home.earthlink.net/~hooverby/index.html>)
Vicki Graff
Cara Burgoyne
Chef Hanis Cavin (Dakota Grill)
Donna Choy & Ryan Nakawatase
Tina Otis
Marie Milliner
Kathy Burke & Pete Rivas
Ian Lutes (The Prado)
Delora Fletcher & John Sepe
Fenella Speece
Diane Calkins
Debra Doerfler
Candy Garner
Karen Gurneck
Gerry Streff
Marisa Castro

Shannon Guimont
Michelle Wilhelms
Michelle & Doug Beale
Erin Sammons
Freddie Rico & Claire de Lune
Judith Pierce & Larry Nixon
Shelley Thraen
Amy Spintman
Rita Bowen
Eva Stresemann
John Horgan & Jamie Valencia
Alison Leinbach
Jeffrey Hammer & Dan Lee
Larry Gotkin (www.larrygotkin.com/petportraits/)
Pat Benedict
Suzanne Esko
Marie Foster
Linda Slette

Business Donors

Cohn Restaurant Group (www.cohnrestaurants.com)
Annie's Homegrown (www.annies.com)
Ark Antiques (Girard Avenue, La Jolla)
Bath Rabbit Soap Company (www.bathrabbit.com)
Warwick's Book Store (www.warwicks.com)
Cloud 9 Shuttle (www.cloud9shuttle.com)
Bessie Bunny's Bed & Breakfast (www.bessiebunnys.com)
Birch Aquarium (<http://aquarium.ucsd.edu/>)
David Anderson Photography
Disney Resorts (www.disneyland.disney.go.com)
Zoological Society of San Diego (www.sandiegozoo.org)
San Diego Harbor Excursions (www.sdhe.com/html/harborexursions.htm)
Ben & Jerry's, Hillcrest
Starbuck's, Poway
Shelter Pointe Hotel & Marina (www.shelterpointe.com)
Tom Ham's Lighthouse (www.tomhamslighthouse.com)

Toy Tip

Looking for unique toys for your rabbit friend?

Try these specialty web sites:

www.bunnybytes.com
www.leithpetwerks.com
www.catsandrabbitsandmore.com
www.forotheotherlivingthings.com
www.bunnymail.co.uk
www.busybunny.com

Hornblower Cruise Events
(www.hornblower.com/)

Amy Sommerville, AK Specialties
R Hay & Grain, Escondido

Bunny Heaven
(www.bunnyheaven.com)

Bunny Bytes (www.bunnybytes.com)

Busy Bunny (www.busybunny.com)

The Bunny Store
(www.bunnystore.com)

Dr. Gary Rose, Cabrillo Veterinary
Hospital & Pet Care Center

Dr. Gary Gallerstein, Acacia Animal
Health Center (www.acaciavet.com)

Dr. Brian Loudis, All Pets Animal
Hospital (www.allpetsanimal.com)

Dr. Jeff Jenkins, Avian & Exotic Ani-
mal Hospital (http://drexotic.com)

PetsMart - La Jolla

California Ballet Company
(www.californiaballet.org)

Diane Wat Designs
(www.dianewat.com)

Fumio Nakamura, Shien of Osaka

Geppetto's a Child's Fantasy, Fashion
Valley (www.geppetostoy.com)

Harmony Ball Company, Harmony
Kingdom
(www.harmonykingdom.com)

KW Cages (www.kwcages.com)

Lego Retail & Legoland California
(www.lego.com/legolandnew/
california/)

Olsen Chiropractic, Martin Olsen, D.C.

Ocean Beach People's Organic Foods
Market

San Diego Padres Ball Club
(www.padres.com)

San Diego Chargers Football
(www.chargers.com)

Lori Greene, Ph.D., pet bereavement
counselor

Ricker Pewter Galleries
(www.ricker.com)

Rio Hotel & Suites, Las Vegas
(www.harrahs.com/our_casinos/rlv/
location_home.html)

Souplantation
(www.souplantation.com)

Kristina's Kreations

Lynn Johnston, For Better or For Worse
(www.fborfw.com)

Cats and Rabbits and More
(www.catsandrabbitsandmore.com)

BunnyArt
Garden Variety
Over the Moon Pottery
Pet-Tenders of San Diego
(www.pet-tenders.com)

Thank you, also, to those who donated anonymously, or whose names I never received in conjunction with their donation. We truly appreciate your generosity in helping us to earn money to accomplish our important work.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you so much to all of you who bid on items at our fundraising auction. Your dollars go directly to helping the homeless rabbits of San Diego County. You really do make a difference in their lives.

It was a great Bunnyfest and we hope to see you all again next year.

By Judith Pierce, 2003 Auction Coordinator



Holiday Party
Wednesday, Dec. 10
7-9 p.m.

*Veterans' War Memorial Building Auditorium
3325 Zoo Dr., just north of Zoo parking lot, Balboa Park*

Please bring a favorite vegetarian dish to share.

*There will be a fund-raising raffle, gifts for you and your rabbit,
and great food! Come celebrate the holidays with your
rabbit friends.*

*\$5 per person, kids under 12 free
Beverages and utensils furnished.*

*Bunnies welcome, on a leash or in a carrier.
Questions about what to bring?
Call 619-718-7777.*

Cottontail Cafe Volunteers, Donors

The Cottontail Café served up tasty treats throughout the day and the addition of the roving sales force kept people stocked with cool drinks and food. Dozens of people volunteered to help by staffing and baking goodies for the café, and others made generous donations.

Many thanks go to Phyllis McLaughlin, Bronle Crosby, Kristin Tow, Delora Fletcher, Brenda Bowen, Pat Stresky, Lori Ng, Sarah Sedgewick, The Fouad family — Lesley, Sarah, Ryan & Adam — Suzanne Zaman, Shannon Guimont, Sandi Stewart, Rita Bowen, John & Kristi Koivula, Vicki &

Joey Harris, Carole Schmerbauch, Trish Pullara, Bill Quackenbush and Patty Tanaka.

Special thanks also to Stephanie's Bakery in Ocean Beach for the yummy vegan cookies, to Doug Beale at the Poway Starbucks for the generous coffee donation, and to Bill Quackenbush for the giant canopy.

Our roving sales force was from the

Rancho Coastal Humane Society. Thank you to Dorell Phillips, Mary Simpson, John Simpson, Edie Flaiz, Alex Simpson, Emma



Kids Community Service volunteers from Rancho Coastal Humane Society

Mariscal, Yimo Tian, Lane Lessman, Tracey Powers and David Anderson.

Local Animal Shelters

(call for hours of operation)

• San Diego County Department of Animal Services:

•• Central, 5500 Gaines St., San Diego

619-236-4250

•• North County, 2481 Palomar Airport Rd., Carlsbad

760-438-2312

•• South County, 5821

Sweetwater Rd., Bonita

619-263-7741

• San Diego Humane Society,

5500 Gaines St., San Diego

619-299-7012

• Chula Vista Animal Shelter,

130 Beyer Way, Chula Vista

619-691-5123

• Rancho Coastal Humane

Society, 389 Requeza, Encinitas

760-753-6413

• North County Humane Society

& SPCA, 2905 San Luis Rey,

Oceanside

760-757-HELP

• Escondido Humane Society,

3450 East Valley Parkway,

Escondido

760-888-BARK

Oceanside Shelter Desperate for Volunteers

If you can spare as little as a couple of hours a week to help care for shelter rabbits, you can make a huge difference in their lives.

One of the most important ways HRS volunteers help the rabbits in San Diego is by spending time volunteering at our local shelters. HRS volunteers help feed, clean, exercise and groom the rabbits up for adoption in our various shelters. You may also be called upon to help educate shelter staff or visitors looking to adopt a rabbit. It is amazing the impact just a few hours a week will have on so many, rabbits and people alike.

Shelter volunteer work is clearly not for everyone as it can be difficult when not all the rabbits can be saved. But, because of our volunteer presence in the

shelters, most rabbits do find homes and few are put down. Only with your help, can this continue.

Think about it... can you spare just eight hours a month? Do you enjoy spending time with rabbits and watching them blossom? Do you enjoy educating people about something you are passionate about?

If the answer is yes, please consider volunteering for your local shelter as a rabbit volunteer. All our shelters are currently looking for more people who can help them care for the rabbits. Our help is especially important now with the county-wide budget cuts.

If you think this might be something you would enjoy, please contact Michelle at 619-718-7777 to learn more about a shelter near you.

HRS Volunteers Create Exercise Area for Rabbits at North County Shelter

A great big THANK YOU to volunteers Larry Dudus, Gerry Streff, Vicki Graff, Sarah Sedgwick and Debra Doerfler for their long hours at the North County Animal Services shelter in Carlsbad. The shelter had agreed to let HRS install an exercise area at the shelter for the rabbits and, after two back-breaking days of cutting and chipper/shredding several 8-foot-high twisted juniper shrubs, enough space was created to install a nice large exercise pen for the bunnies.

Both the staff and volunteers are very pleased with the results and the rabbits benefit greatly now that they can be exercised on a regular basis. It is through the joint efforts of shelter personnel and HRS volunteers that projects like this are undertaken. Thank you to all involved for your continued support!

The new pen is 7'x6'x13' and includes several enrichment toys including tunnels, boxes and a "chinning stump" that the rabbits enjoy chewing on, digging around and chinning.



Volunteers Larry Dudus and Gerry Streff removing 8-foot-high junipers to install exercise run.



Aria and Skip explore the new exercise area at the North County Animal Control shelter in Carlsbad.

HRS Volunteers Essential to Shelter Adoptions

For the thousands of animals who come into the County of San Diego's Department of Animal Services three shelters each year, many find homes through the selfless and tireless efforts from the many breed rescue groups that are in our community and the private shelters that take our "adoptable" animals into their adoption programs. Some of the people the department relies on the most are the House Rabbit Society volunteers.

As rabbits become more popular as pets, the volunteers at HRS enable us to provide quality adoption screening, education, and additional adoption opportunities for the rabbits in the shelters. They also transport the bunnies to private veterinarians for altering, which saves the County valuable resources. In addition to their guidance and assistance with the public in regards to owning a house rabbit, the county shelters welcome HRS volunteers daily into the shelters where they improve the quality of life for these bunnies by cleaning cages, providing hay and delicious treats, and spending hours grooming and socializing those who need a little tender loving care.

By Dawn Danielson, Director of County Animal Services.

Adopting from the HRS

Did you know that rabbits crave companionship and are typically most happy when part of a pair? If you have only one rabbit, go to www.rabbit.org/faq/sections/multiple.html and learn about the advantages of getting a companion. HRS volunteers will be happy to help you find an appropriate companion for your bunny and guide you through the bonding process.

Unless noted otherwise, call 619-718-7777 to learn more about any of these, or other, rabbits.

The HRS adoption fee is \$50 (\$80 for a pair), which includes a spayed or neutered rabbit, free vet exam, box of hay, coupon for another box of hay and a one-year membership in the San Diego House Rabbit Society. Supplies are also available at HRS adoption days.

Double the Fun

Experienced bunny families will tell you that bunnies usually prefer to have a friend, and caring for a bonded pair is just as easy as for one! Visit the HRS website to learn more: www.sandiegorabbits.org.

Rabbits Awaiting Adoption

Popcorn is a neutered male Mini Lop, about 3 years old. He's an active boy who loves his run time, and needs a lot of interaction to keep him mentally stimulated and prevent boredom. Popcorn can be a bit skittish at first with newcomers, but he's a really nice bunny who, given one-on-one attention and love, has proven to be very sweet – he'll even give kisses! Popcorn does



not like being picked up, therefore we do not feel he would be appropriate for children. What he needs is a quiet, rabbit-experienced home with adults who will be patient and loving, and take the time to earn his trust.

Honey Bunny is a sweet rabbit who is about 3 years old and spayed. Because of a cataract and glaucoma,



she's had to have her left eye removed. She has been treated for e. cuniculi and is doing very well. Honey Bunny is playful, although a bit shy, and loves to be held. The perfect home for Honey is with adults who have the time to spend doting on her.

BunnyBoy is a year-old French lop who, at 8 lbs., is still filling out a bit. He is young, thus very active and loves to get out of his cage and play.



He's fond of running through tunnels and hopping in and out of boxes. BB likes spinach and romaine lettuce, and loves grapes and blueberries as treats. He enjoys attention and loves being pet. Mature French lops are usually quite mellow, but big, so a large cage or pen is required.

Miss **Lilly** has a spunky attitude and a friendly personality. She's great with her litterbox and doesn't mind being held for a short time. Lilly would like a home where she can have lots of run time, and someone special to play with. At this time in her life we don't feel that she's a good companion choice, as she's just a bit too bossy and has a tendency to nip, making the boys really mad! She would do well in an adult



home or one with older children (10 or older).

Georgia is a big beautiful black New Zealand/Standard mix girl. She has one white sock and a white dot on



her chin. She loves attention but can be a little grumpy when you reach into her cage uninvited. She does love her playtime, however, and will run, jump, and dance with glee! We think she would do best in an adult home where she can receive plenty of attention.

Angel is a Netherland Dwarf female, between 2 - 3 years old. This sweet girl was lovingly cared-for in her last home, so she is taken aback by the circumstances in which she now finds herself, and is sometimes a little grumpy in her cage. But, one scratch on the cheek and she leans into your hand

for more! She loves being held and is very sweet once outside her cage.

We don't recommend Angel for a home with young children. Our wish is to place her as a companion to an older boy bunny, in an adult home. If you have a smaller bunny boy looking for a petite bunny girl, give us a call about Angel.



Lizetta is a beautiful girl, easy to handle, friendly, funny and would like a lot of run time and interaction to keep her happy. She also is friendly with cats and dogs, and would love to be your new best friend!



Pepe is a 3-year-old Standard/Lop mix male. He is an active boy who loves to have his nose rubbed, but he's not yet comfortable with being held. He'd rather you hang out on the floor with him and watch TV. Pepe has lived with older children (10 yrs+) and had a cat friend with whom he liked to play. He does love his chew toys, so his new family will need to be sure to bunnyproof well and give Pepe all the great chew toys he loves, such as seagrass mats, willow baskets, cardboard boxes, and more! Call us soon, because Pepe wants a new, permanent home right away!



Rabbit Care Resources

- www.rabbit.org — House Rabbit Society
- www.sandiegorabbits.org — San Diego House Rabbit Society
- www.morfz.com/rabrefs.html — Rabbit Resources
- www.catsandrabbitsandmore.com — Cats & Rabbits & More

Who We Are

The San Diego Rabbit News is published by the nonprofit House Rabbit Society, San Diego Chapter. Every reasonable effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information in the News, however the editors and House Rabbit Society assume no responsibility for unintentional errors and omissions.

The content of this newsletter has not been reviewed by the national House Rabbit Society, which is in no way responsible for its content.

There is no expressed or implied recommendation for any vendor/sponsor named in this newsletter.

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Hay, CareFRESH Sources

The House Rabbit Hay Exchange offers fresh hay and grasses at an affordable price. For just \$8 (\$8.62 with tax) you get a good-sized box filled with hay. Plan ahead. Don't let your hay supply run out before trying to buy more.

Hay sales by the sources below provide valuable income for the HRS. The money supports our spay/neuter efforts and the veterinary care for our foster and shelter bunnies.

Hay is boxed and distributed by volunteers. Please call ahead to see if there is hay available so you won't waste a trip.

Central San Diego	Cabrillo Veterinary Hospital HRS office in Pacific Beach	619-224-9516 619-718-7777
East County	Rancho San Diego Animal Hospital	619-660-6767
North County	Diane Calkins Acacia Animal Hospital	760-633-1564 760-745-8115

Many pet supply stores, as well as some of the hay sources listed here, carry CareFRESH litter. Pet People now carries Oxbow pellets.

Beware of Outdoor Threats from the Sky

I have seen hawks in trees around our house before, but today while I was in the backyard with our older bonded pair (Humphrey and Willow), a small hawk swooped down on Humphrey (a 3.5 lb, 8+ year-old little Polish), talons extended in full attack mode.

God bless his little heart, Humphrey did a quick spin-kick, evaded the initial attack and turned to face the hawk. By this time I was up and yelling at the hawk, the combination of my accosting the hawk and Humphrey's astute defensive reactions, the hawk retreated to a power line overhead.

I threw an avocado at the hawk, and chased him off, meanwhile Humphrey ran for cover under a Rosemary bush.

After the event, I was far more shaken than was Humphrey, but I just wanted to let others know that even in a city there are many threats to outdoor rabbits.

We live on the westside of LA. I have seen raccoons and a heron trying to fish in our koi pond, and hawks and owls hunting for game.

Feeling very grateful tonight...

By Doug Shook

New Clothing Designs



Chapter T-shirt



"Established" T-shirt
Imprint says "House Rabbit Society - Established 1988"

To buy, use order form on page 15.

ORDER FORM

Name _____ I'm interested in volunteering. Please call me.

Address _____ Apt. _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____ E-mail _____

ITEM	COLOR: 1st choice	2nd choice	SIZE	QTY	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
NEW Stories Rabbits Tell, A Natural and Cultural History of a Misunderstood Creature , by Susan E. Davis, Margo DeMello, 320 pages, paperback					\$22	
SAN DIEGO RABBIT NEWS with 1-year San Diego chapter membership 1 YR <i>(San Diego membership does NOT include national membership; join national below)</i>					\$10	no tax
National House Rabbit Society Membership <i>(Does not include local membership or San Diego's newsletter)</i>				1 YR	\$18	no tax
House Rabbit Handbook, 3rd edition					\$10	

New designs just in time for the holidays!

Caps — Cotton baseball-style caps, one size with adjustable strap. Herman head design (upper right this page) or "caffeine bunny." Apricot, aqua, blue, natural **\$12**

Clock motif T-shirt — Long-sleeve, imprinted in front in black. Gray or natural in S,M,L,XL,XXL; sky blue or bright yellow in M,L,XL **\$18**

Clock motif T-shirt — Short-sleeve tee, imprinted center front in black. White or gray in S,M,L,XL,XXL; sky blue or bright yellow in M,L,XL,XXL **\$15**

Scoop-neck ladies short-sleeve T-shirt — Clock motif on violet, light blue, light yellow T-shirt. S,M,L **\$15**; new SD Chapter motif in color (shown on p. 14) on white or natural, S,M,L,XL,XXL **\$15**

NEW

3-Rabbit T-shirt - Crew-neck short-sleeve tee with color illustrations on white backgrounds. Blue or natural in S,M,L,XL,XXL **\$15**

3-rabbit motif in scoop-neck ladies short-sleeve T. White, yellow or violet in S,M,L,XL **\$15**

3-Rabbit sweatshirt - Color illustrations on white backgrounds. Blue, purple or natural in S,M,L,XL **\$22**

NEW

"Established" T-shirt — Message silk-screened on front (see p. 14). Crew-neck short-sleeve T-shirt in white with green imprint, or red with pink imprint. S,M,L,XL **\$15**

"Established" motif in long-sleeve crew-neck T-shirt in gray with black imprint, or blue with navy imprint. **\$18**



"Clock" motif



HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY
"Caffeine bunny"



3-rabbit design

For delivery in Calif., add 7.75% sales tax

Postage & handling (see below)

Additional donation for San Diego rabbit rescue

TOTAL ENCLOSED

Postage & handling:

Clothing / caps: Southern Cal delivery \$4 first item, \$1 each additional; all other areas, \$5 first item, \$1.50 each additional item.

*Handbook: \$2.50 each
"Stories Rabbits Tell": \$3.00 each*

Make checks payable to House Rabbit Society and mail with this order form to P. O. Box 2628, Spring Valley, CA 91979

NOTE: Quantities may be limited in some sizes and colors, so please indicate a second choice.

Check your expiration date
and renew early.



Printed on recycled paper

**Mark Your Calendar
for the HRS Holiday
Party, Dec. 10.
See details on
page 9.**



Claire and Freddie

Happy Adoption: Claire and Freddie

Claire and Freddie are doing so well together. They have to be the two most snuggly buns in the world. Groom, groom, groom...kiss, kiss, kiss...etc, etc, etc. They are just darling, both as individuals and as a bonded couple. They have such different personalities.

Whenever Claire thinks she has done something mischievous, like knock all of the cushions off of the sofa, she will run to Freddie and start to groom him. It is very cute, because she can look so guilty and so innocent at the same time.

They have melted our hearts, and are big-time members of our family. It's amaz-

ing how much joy furry animals can bring to your life.

We send our thanks to everyone at HRS.

John and Kristi Koivula

Happy Adoption: Princess Dorothy

I thought I would write to give you an update on Princess Dorothy. She is such an absolute love!! She has settled in well and is warming to Jeremiah (our Springer). She does bunny dances of joy, loves her tube, and really wants to chew up all of our computer cords. My

keyboard is a recent casualty! However, that was strictly mom's fault, because she was playing her computer game and didn't notice Her Highness sneaking into the computer room!!

Dorothy gets all of the snuggles she wants, and she is very generous with her kisses. We are hoping to send updated photos soon. We take a lot of joy in watching Dorothy explore, play, sleep, and munch on her kale. She does everything with gusto!

We can't believe our good fortune in finding such a lovely bunny to be a slave to.

Regards, The Eitelbergs

Happy Adoption: Coal and Phoebe

I just wanted to keep in touch and let you know that Coal and Phoebe (previously Joe Black and Natasha) are doing great!

We can't believe how close and bonded they are! They're constantly grooming each

other and can't seem to bear being apart for any length of time. A perfect match! Hope you all are doing well!

Yours, The Jacobs Family



Coal and Phoebe

Standard Presort
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