

SAN DIEGO RABBIT NEWS

SUMMER 2002

What's Inside

Valued Volunteers

Gerry Streff is the first interview in new series profiling HRS workers...2, 3

Calendar

Upcoming events...3

Summer Fun

Plan ahead for a safe, enjoyable summer...4

On the Road Again

Travel with rabbits...5

Truffle's New Home

Hermoine gets a new name, new family...6

Girl Scouts

Scouts learn about buns...8

Bunnyfest

What's in store for HRS annual bash...10

The Rabbit Wait

Benefits of learning about rabbits before adopting...12

Keep Cool

Tips to cool down a hot bunny...15

Adoptable Rabbits

Some of 100 homeless bunnies in San Diego...16

Hay Sources

Where to get hay, litter...18

Order Form

Membership and HRS products by mail...19

Rabbit or Porcupine?

When is a rabbit like a porcupine? When she needs a good grooming!

Does your bunny have spiky fur or a tutu of spikes around her butt? Is your couch suddenly covered in fur? If so, it's time to give your rabbit a good grooming.

Rabbits molt heavily a couple of times per year and, unlike cats, rabbits cannot vomit up a fur ball. If excessive fur is ingested, the rabbit risks an intestinal blockage, which can be deadly. For this reason, it is particularly important to groom your rabbit when she is molting. You may also see that her droppings have gotten smaller or that they are strung together (actually strung together with fur). This is also known as a String Of Pearls. This definitely indicates there is fur in her system and you need to do something about it. Hay and fluids will help keep her digestive track moving, but it is imperative that you groom your rabbit as well. It is a good idea to get in the habit of grooming regularly so she learns to tolerate it. Grooming can be a wonderful bonding experience for you and your rabbit, if done properly.

You'll need a towel, a good flea comb (even if she doesn't have fleas), a soft slicker brush, spray bottle with water or a glass of water and nail clippers and Kwik Stop. Have all your tools ready and easily accessible before you start.

There are different ways to set up a rabbit for grooming, so experiment and see what works best for you. You can try folding up a thick towel and placing it on a kitchen or bathroom counter or while sitting on a chair, place the

rabbit on a carpet sample on your lap. Somehow, contain her. Some rabbits will allow you to groom them on the floor but many will hop away.

Start by talking to her and telling her what a beautiful bunny she is and how beautiful she will be when you are all done! Give her a chunk of carrot if need be. Then, begin brushing her



Bad hair day: Tufts of undercoat indicate a molt.

gently with the slicker brush. Brush from the top of her head down her back and along her sides and legs if she will allow. Be careful of her eyes. Do this several times over. Then, try using a good metal, thinly spaced flea comb. These combs tend to tug out the loose fur very well. Rabbit skin tears easily so be gentle. If you find fleas trapped in the flea comb, you can dunk them in the glass of water. If you need treatment for fleas, contact your vet and ask about Advantage or Program for flea control. If you see bare spots or flaky dry skin, she could have skin mites. A trip to the vet is in order for a couple of shots of Ivermectin.

Look at your rabbit for lumps and bumps or injuries during this time.

(continued on page 18)

VALUED VOLUNTEER

Gerry Streff Honored by RCHS

Gerry Streff is so confident working with the rabbits — a natural lagomorph communicator — that it seems like she's been working with HRS



Gerry communicates at the rabbit's level.

rescue and adoption forever, but it's really more like a couple of years. Gerry works many, many hours with the rabbits at the Oceanside Humane Society, North County Animal Control and Rancho Coastal Humane Society shelters — screening, socializing, transporting to veterinary appointments and adoption events. Gerry can also be found at HRS education events and at Bunnyfest.

For her dedicated service at its shelter, Rancho Coastal Humane Society recently named Gerry its Volunteer of the Week. "Selecting Gerry as our most recent honoree was an easy choice," said Rita Harding, Volunteer Coordinator at RCHS. "She is wonderful and we are very fortunate to have her as a volunteer. Her knowledge and dedication have been tremendous assets for Rancho Coastal."

Debra Doerfler, one of our new Valued Volunteer column editors, recently talked with Gerry about her volunteer work with rabbits.

DD: Gerry, how did you get involved with HRS and rabbits?

GS: It was sort of an accident. A lady I know wanted to get a rabbit but didn't know where to go so I volunteered to look on the Internet for her. That's where I saw Clover, my first bunny. I went down to the shelter, filled out the paperwork and handed it

in. They asked if I wanted to see her [Clover] first. I didn't really think about it; I knew she was meant to be a part of my life. Clover started it all. I still have the picture of her that was on the Internet; I call it the "hula" pose. It makes me laugh when she does her little hula.

DD: How many hours a week do you volunteer at the shelter?

GS: Who can tell really, I mean it's not like when I leave the shelter grounds my involvement stops for the day. I'm contacting people about potential adoptions, driving rabbits around, and doing a myriad of other things to try and find the bunnies homes. What I'm doing for them...it's part of my life.

DD: What's something that not many of the rabbit folks know about you?

GS: Hmm. . . well, in addition to helping rabbits in San Diego I also volunteer for Habitat for Humanity building houses. It's a great organization with a wonderful group of regular volunteers. I've learned a lot from them and have fun doing it. Ultimately I'd like to work on a project outside this area, too. They have projects all over the country and all over the world.

Gerry also keeps busy with her pet-sitting business and caring for her bunnies, Clover and Angel, and her dog, Mandy.

Shelter volunteers like Gerry are the reason that the San Diego HRS has such an outstanding record of mutual cooperation with shelters. Thank you, Gerry. The rabbits are in your debt.

In coming issues you'll read about more of our hard working HRS volunteers.

Adoption Updates

Have you adopted from SD HRS? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Send us a note or photo of your happy house bun to be included in the SD Rabbit News. Hearing from you and knowing our ex-foster buns are doing well, makes our day!

Valued Volunteers

For some time we've been thinking that you might like to know our volunteers a little better — how they began helping rabbits, what they like best about it, and even a little about their personal side. Sure, we all have rabbits in common, but did you know that Charlotte (not her real name) likes to ride Harley Davidson motorcycles on the weekends? So, with this issue of the San Diego Rabbit News we begin profiling HRS volunteers who have helped to make San Diego HRS so successful over the past 10 years. Find out who our Harley rider is in an upcoming issue!

You can help us make this idea work: nominate volunteers to be profiled. Make your nomination using the form available on our website. Just go to our home page at www.sandiegorabbits.org and click on the VOLUNTEERS link in the lower right.

Then submit the form to the volunteer profile editors, Debra Doerfler (debraskibun@cs.com) or Judith Pierce (pierceja@cox.net) by e-mail, or by U.S. Mail to HRS, P.O. Box 2628, Spring Valley, CA 91979, Attn: Volunteer Profiles.

If you cannot access the form online, send an e-mail to one of the editors and she will send you a form. Or, call the HRS helpline at 619-718-7777 and request a form.

Volunteers must have been active San Diego HRS members for at least 6 months.

We will try to publish 1-2 profiles per issue, but that will depend on the number of nominations, availability of those people to be interviewed, and so forth. The volunteers must agree to be profiled — no unauthorized biographies here! — and our writers/editors will work with them on the stories.

Profilees will get to read over the story once for accuracy. Be assured that we want everyone to look great, in words

and pictures, so we'll do our best to make that happen.

If you don't see your nominee in the newsletter, there could be many reasons, among them that the person declined to be profiled, was unavailable for interview, or there were many other nominees who were submitted before yours.

Lastly, we would like to say THANK YOU to our valued volunteers. Without your commitment to the bunnies, HRS would not be able to save the number of rabbits we do each year. It's your support that gives real meaning to our goals of Rescue, Adoption, and Education.

We Get Letters

Dear HRS,

Just letting you know that Mandy is doing great! After her adoption in November 1999, her attitude has changed dramatically. Mandy went from a shy, quiet bunny to the ornery bun we know and love. She still doesn't like new people or things, but she is extremely loving towards us (as long as we are out of her way!). Her nose is an accomplished whacker/nudger. Chewing is never attempted — on her things that is! As to the property of others in the house, well, the little tooth marks speak for themselves. There is definitely a future in interior cage decorating for her. She will occasionally yank her litter box to a new position. Mandy loves her cushioned loft in her cage, "her" Christmas trees, the window-seat in the sunroom, her box-city, private concerts underneath the piano, and Mom's stuffed animal bunnies (excuse me, did I say "Mom's"? I meant Mandy's!) I don't know what we'd do without her!

The Ratelles

CALENDAR

JULY

Monday, July 1

Volunteers' meeting, 4750-A Cass St., Pacific Beach, 7 p.m.

Saturday, July 6

Channel 10 Leadership Day - stop by our booth at Qualcomm stadium

Sunday, July 7

Pacific Beach Adoption Day, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., call 858-490-9003

Saturday, July 13

Bunny 101 Class, 4750 Cass Street, Pacific Beach, 12 noon - 2 p.m. Free class.

Come by and learn about caring for your rabbit and purchase rabbit supplies too!

Sunday, July 21

North County Adoption Day, 1-4 p.m., call 858-490-9003

AUGUST

Sunday, Aug. 4

Pacific Beach Adoption Day, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., call 858-490-9003

Monday, Aug. 5

Volunteers' meeting, 4750-A Cass St., Pacific Beach, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 18

North County Adoption Day, 1-4 p.m., call 858-490-9003

SEPTEMBER

Monday, Sept. 2

Volunteers' meeting, 4750-A Cass St., Pacific Beach, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 8

Pacific Beach Adoption Day, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., call 858-490-9003

Sunday, Sept. 22

BUNNYFEST 2002, Heritage Park in Old Town. Join hundreds of people for this all-day fund-raiser for SD HRS. See page 10 for more information.

Sunday, Sept. 29

North County Adoption Day, 1-4 p.m., call 858-490-9003

Hot Fun in the Summertime

Renew Early

Check your membership expiration date on the mailing panel and be sure to renew early so you won't miss an issue of the San Diego Rabbit News. Timely renewals also save the chapter the cost of mailing you a reminder flyer. You may use the order form on page 15.

You can now renew membership (combo local+national only) on our website, www.sandiegorabbits.org. Click the "Donate Online" button on the homepage.

The online combo membership is \$30 to cover our costs of processing, vs. \$28 by mail. You have the convenience of using a credit card or electronic check.

While you're online, consider a generous tax-deductible donation to the San Diego HRS. Contributions stay in San Diego to support rabbit rescue, adoption and education.

Online Update

Want to keep updated on chapter activities by e-mail? Join our Online Update and get monthly updates sent right to your desk top. 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 email to: sandiegorabbitsonline-subscribe@yahoo.com

Summer is a time when we enjoy more activities outdoors. We garden, play and just lounge around in the fresh air and sun. Should your bunny join you?

Maybe. Some rabbits are afraid of the outdoors, but some enjoy a good romp in a bunnyproofed yard. However, we must ensure the area is secure, bug- and poison-free, and the rabbits need to be brought indoors when you can't supervise them any longer. Too often we hear the sad stories of the neighbor's dog who got the rabbit or the rabbit who escaped when the human went indoors "just for a moment." Don't let this happen to you.

Make sure the yard or run area is completely secure from predators. This means the top, bottom and sides. Predators can leap, fly or simply walk into a yard. And, rabbits can dig out under fences amazingly fast.

Additionally, make sure children are taught to close gates and to be watchful of your family's rabbit. You can run chicken wire under ground at the fence to prohibit them from digging out, but walk the fence line frequently to ensure escape routes have not been dug. Check that plants in the yard are not poisonous — yes, rabbits might eat poisonous plants! If you create a rabbit run with chain link fencing, cover the top with shade cloth or other material for shade as well as protection from birds and cats. Do not leave your rabbit outside at night or unsupervised at ANY time and never leave him in the sun!

Bugs that bug your bunny. If your rabbit goes outdoors, he is at greater risk of picking up fleas, ticks or even maggots. Fleas can be combed out of your rabbit with a flea comb, but for serious flea problems, you'll want to check with your vet about using Advantage or Program. **Do NOT use FRONTLINE. It is DEADLY to rabbits.** Left untreated, fleas can cause

life-threatening anemia in your rabbit. Once attached to your rabbit, ticks should be removed by your veterinarian.

Maggots (fly larvae) are usually found on rabbits who are housed outdoors or on those who have "poopy" bottoms, open wounds or suffer from severe neglect. But, maggots have been found on perfectly healthy indoor rabbits as well. The best way to prevent "fly strike" — maggot infestation — is to keep your rabbit healthy and clean and to get rid of flies around your home and yard. One fly can lay hundreds of larvae in your rabbit causing severe trauma and death. Open wounds and smelly cages and litter boxes are enough to draw the pesky fly to your rabbit. Repair screens on windows and doors and keep your rabbit in a clean environment.

Speaking of clean, when was the last time you really cleaned your rabbits cage or play area? Fur, litter, hay and dust can all build up around these areas. It might be a good idea to pull Thumper's cage out or fold down her pen and give it a good summer cleaning. You can use white vinegar to clean the cage and litter boxes. White vinegar is non-toxic, reduces odors and gets rid of urine build-up in litter boxes and cage trays. Wipe down the floor around the cage or vacuum under the cage. Clean food and water bowls, too. You might want to change out the carpet or straw mats in her cage and give her a fresh new set up. This will give your rabbit new decorating ideas and keep her busy, for a while anyway!

How to keep your bunny cool in hot weather, page 15

Rabbits on the Road

Summer is upon us, and if you are planning to travel with your rabbit(s), finding pet-friendly lodging is much easier than it used to be. Not only does it seem that more establishments are allowing pets, but also the Internet has a wealth of resources for finding accommodations along your travels.

These websites let you search their listings for free:

www.petswelcome.com
www.petfriendlyhotels.com
www.petfriendlytravel.com
www.digitalcity.com/pethotels/
www.thecherishedmoments.com/
pet-friendly-hotels-statelist.htm
www.travelpets.com
www.allstays.com/Special/
petfriendly.com

Takeyourpet.com [no 'www' in the URL] requires \$1.95 membership to see its listings.

Hotel petiquette

To be safe, call ahead to verify a hotel's pet policies. Make sure they take rabbits and assure them your rabbit won't be loose in the room. Ask if there's a pet charge. Once at the hotel/motel, never leave your pets alone in the room unless you've discussed the arrangements with the housekeeping department. To avoid damage to the room, keep your rabbit in his cage. For exercise time, you can take a pen with a piece of linoleum to cover the bottom and protect the hotel's carpet.

Before you go

- Have a veterinarian examine your pet and provide a health certificate.
- Ask your veterinarian for flea protection such as Advantage. You many not normally need this, but if you let your rabbit exercise in the grass along your journey, he could easily pick up fleas.

- Make sure your destination doesn't have any quarantine requirements.

- Go to the HRS website, www.rabbit.org, and print out the names of recommended veterinarians along your route. It's easy to find a dog/cat vet in a new city, but rabbit-savvy vets are few and far between.

- Bring recent photos of your pet.
- Microchip your pet. Especially when you are traveling, there are no neighbors who know your animals and will return the wanderer. A microchip can help you reunite with your lost pet anywhere in the country. Your vet implants a microchip about the size of a grain of rice between your pet's shoulder blades, and you register your information with the vet and the chip manufacturer's national database. If you lose your pet on the road, you can contact them with your location to aid the reunion. Scanners to read the chips are free to shelters, and more shelters are equipped with them.

What to pack

- Cage and washable sheepskin or towel for soft sitting surface

- Water bottle and/or bowl

- "Bring water from home," advises Warren Eckstein, who hosts a pet radio show. "City water varies and can upset the pet's tummy. Gradually mix the home water with the new."

- Litter boxes and litter

- Dry food (pellets, hay)

- A cooler with fresh fruits and veggies, and plastic bottles of water both to drink and as something cool for Bunny to sit next to.

- Toys

- First-aid kit and any medicine your rabbit uses regularly

- Brush, flea comb, nail trimmers

- Camera to take photos of Bunny on the road...oh, and the family and sights, too.

Now buckle up and have a safe trip.

Thank You, Thank You

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual Open House in April. We were able to take in just over \$1,000 that day and had two adoptions, as well. Thanks also to our volunteers who helped clean, bake goodies and educate the masses!

A special thank you to HRS volunteer Amy Spintman for her generous donation of a new color printer. Amy does so much for our chapter, she really deserves a big thank you! Amy maintains our membership list, coordinates the East County hay packing, responds to hundreds of chapter e-mails, maintains the website www.catsandrabbitsandmore.com, which promotes all our shelter rabbits, and so much more. Thank you, Amy, for your time and generosity.

Bernard Hodes Advertising and Lori Cheng get big bunny hugs for their generous donation of a conference table and chairs to SD HRS. Thank you for thinking of SD HRS!

Thank you to Debbie and Harry Copeland for their continuing generosity to SD HRS.

Help Spread the Word

Is there a "community" bulletin board at your work? At the local supermarket? The library? School? Neighborhood center?

HRS adoption flyers, news releases and other announcements are available for download at www.sandiegorabbits.org.

Click on "volunteers" in lower right and print out as many of these materials as you can post around town.

Help us help the rabbits by posting these materials in pet supply and feed stores (that do not sell rabbits), vet offices, businesses, coffee houses, and any place that hosts a community bulletin board. All materials can be viewed through Adobe Acrobat Reader®.

Check back frequently for updates and special event flyers you can distribute. The bunnies say "Thanks for your help"!

A New Home for Truffle

We didn't think we'd have another rabbit in the house after Bandit, our 8-year-old dwarf lop, died. But, with the cage cleaned and put away, and bunny toys discarded, it took less than a week for us to know that our house just wasn't complete without a rabbit. So, a short web search, a couple of e-mails, and we were in touch with the San Diego Chapter of HRS. Lucky for us, another adoption day was only weeks away, and there were certainly plenty of cute bunnies to choose from, according to the web site.

We eagerly awaited the adoption date, and even came home from our vacation a day early to prepare. After all, we had to get the cage back out, re-bunnyproof, and get our hands on new bunny toys, litter boxes, and anything else we thought our new family member would need.

Charlotte and I had narrowed our search to several pictures and descriptions online, and constantly shared via e-mail cute pictures which we had found on the "Bunny Randomizer" (www.rabbit.org). After several "interviews" with Debra Doerfler [HRS volunteer adoption counselor] over the phone, we had narrowed our potential adoptee to a couple of lovely foster rabbits. Debra wanted to make sure they were at the adoption day if they were still available.

Sunday the 7th arrived, and my wife almost bounded out of bed, eagerly anticipating adopting her new bunny. We arrived early, walked around the block several times, and finally saw the door open. We ventured into the storefront and saw the floor rapidly filling with bunnies, as foster caregivers brought them in. Debra ushered Charlotte to where Truffle, a beautiful Holland lop was penned. Charlotte sat in the pen, and Truffle (then named Hermoine) hesitantly checked her out. I would venture to guess that both my wife and Truffle had picked one

another in those first few minutes.

Truffle had a hard start, according to the folks with HRS. She had been a stray. Her ear appeared to be a little chewed-up, and for a bunny, even a dwarf, she appeared a bit small for her age, estimated at a year. She needed experienced caretakers we were told. Well, needless to say, the rest of the bunnies had disappeared from our list, and this beautiful dark brown little girl was coming home with us. After hearing her likes and dislikes from her caregiver, we packed her into the carrier and headed home. She tolerated the ride home well, settling into her cage right away once we arrived at our house. Of course, the dogs were curious, and our first hint of her personality should've been how she did not appear to be afraid whenever they approached her cage. She munched on greens and hay, took a nap, and my wife and I just sat on the cold tile, watching her for hours.

That evening after dinner, we decided it was time for her to have room to roam in the kitchen, so we put up the "bunny gate" to close off the other rooms from her. Truffle cautiously poked her head out of the open cage door, sniffed and looked around, and then she was off, exploring her new domain. We sat on the floor enthralled, watching her discover new treasures. Of course, we had all the rabbit toys strewn on the floor, and she would occasionally stop by to play with one for a few minutes.

It didn't take her long to start displaying typical happy rabbit behavior. Her bounds, leaps, scurries and spins merged into a wonderful bunny "Dance of Joy," and we laughed ourselves silly until Truffle flopped onto the carpet nearby, sprawling out to take a rest. It was obvious to both of us she had quickly become comfortable with her new home.

By then, it was our bedtime, and no television could have entertained us as much as Truffle did that first night. Within several days, with dogs crying at the bunny gate, we realized it was time for Truffle to extend her explorations beyond the kitchen and dining room. We removed the gate, retired to the sofa, and waited for her to venture out. We'd already concluded that we wouldn't have long to wait, and she didn't disappoint.

Hoppity, hoppity, stop. Sniff... Hoppity. THUMP! Truffle had spotted one of the dogs, thumped her rear feet down, and took off. But after Bandit, and by this time, the dogs had grown used to a bunny in the house. They paid her little mind. Truffle, however, had plans for them...

Each night brought renewed entertainment, with Truffle diverting our attention from books or television. The sight of a speeding, jumping, dancing bunny racing through the room refreshed my cubicle-numbered funny bone. She tried getting into mischief, but we had obviously bunnyproofed too well for her likes.

The dogs had long grown used to lying at our feet and sleeping after dinner, but were now disturbed by this inquisitive rabbit, poking at their hindquarters, and sniffing their faces. Both dogs look up at us as if to say, "Stop it, she's touching me." Truffle, however, has much more in mind, it appears, and we have no doubt, before long she'll start jumping on them, wanting to play, just as Bandit did. Her persistence has paid off with Greta, our Rottweiler. Greta will deign to give her a kiss if she approaches, and Truffle shows no fear of the dogs unless startled. For some odd reason, just as we try to snap a picture of Truffle with either of the dogs or us, she dashes off, leaving us with photographs of legs or dog noses and a brown blur.

She has staked her claim on most every area of the living room now. Our evening isn't complete without strok-

ing soft, furry ears, playing catch with bunny toys on the floor, or replacing the pillows she pushes from the back of the sofa. She has also acquired a taste for dog food, and each evening, we have to pick up the dogs' bowls after hearing a little "munch, munch, munch" coming from the kitchen.

In all, we are glad to have her share our home with us, restoring balance to our menagerie, and realize Truffle's quick assimilation is only partially her personality. The rest we credit to our contact with the HRS volunteers over the web or on the phone. Both Charlotte and I know Truffle's adventures have only just begun. It will only be a matter of time before she ventures down the dark hall and stands outside my office door, just as Bandit did. She'll wait to hear me say, "This is not your room," and then dash off, only to return a few minutes later, to continue our little game.

By William L. Pelkey, Ph.D.

Editors Note: We recommend dog and rabbit introductions be made very carefully over time. William and Charlotte Pelkey are very experienced with both dogs and rabbits.

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, especially South County. Duties include cleaning cages, grooming and socializing rabbits, handing out veggies and hay, and updating HRS listings of available rabbits. Shelter volunteers must have some experience handling rabbits, be reliable and able to communicate with shelter staff and other HRS volunteers.

If you are interested in helping at your local shelter, contact Michelle at 858-490-9003 or e-mail mewhrs@aol.com. The bunnies say thanks and hurry up with the carrots!

Thank You, Brenda & Rich!

SD HRS would like to say good-bye and thank you to two special people and wonderful HRS volunteers, Brenda Bowen and Richard Olea. Brenda and Richard moved to San Luis Obispo this spring after volunteering for SD HRS for more than a year. While in San Diego, they had many rabbits pass through their loving foster home and go on to homes all their own. Brenda and Richard also helped at educational events, provided care for the shelter bunnies at both the South County and Chula Vista shelters and were dedicated Hay Elves. Brenda and Richard were also pretty good at adopting rabbits, leaving San Diego with nine rabbits of their own...plus a dog and several cats and birds!

A huge bunny hug to both Richard and Brenda for all they did for SD HRS and the rabbits. We will miss your sense of humor and your compassion. Please visit us at Bunnyfest — we promise not to put you to work!

Editor's Note: It was just announced that Richard and Brenda have married. Congratulations !!

Girl Scouts Get Theatrical

In yet another example of how the best learning is by doing, Girl Scout Troup 1104 in Encinitas quickly absorbed information about house rabbits brought to them by our San Diego HRS volunteers Amy Spintman and Sandi Stewart, and bunnies Lara and Heidi.



Leading lady Lara is available for adoption. She is an adult lop, maybe about 4-5 years old, who was found running loose. She is easy to hold and loves an audience. Might like a leading man. Call 619-718-7777 or e-mail mewhrs@aol.com for more information.

Troop leader Alecia Nelson had prepared the second-grade girls for the HRS presentation this spring by printing out a few pages from our website (www.sandiegorabbits.org) as well as the Kids-n-Bunnies Coloring Book, available for download from the site.

The girls were prepared! They had made several toys for rabbits, including a dozen hay tubes (toilet paper rolls stuffed with hay), and they brought lots of fresh veggies and fruits to share with the rabbits.

Amy and Sandi discussed with the girls what it means to be a prey animal, so they could better understand rabbit behavior. The girls pretended to be rabbits themselves, by hopping on the floor, low to the ground, and squinting their eyes (so that they couldn't see very well), while the adults walked around and occasionally "swooped" down to pick one up. The girls shared what it felt like to be low to the ground, with the people so much bigger than they were. Because they couldn't see well, they didn't know whether they were being picked up by a caring person or a predator, like a hawk.



Heidi

Next, one of the girls pretended to be a "house" rabbit, while another was a rabbit in a hutch outside. We asked the girls to share how they thought each rabbit felt. The house rabbit was loved, comfortable, protected from predators, and well fed. The hutch

rabbit was scared, alone, and could only just sit there and wait to be fed.

Through this exercise, the girls learned to empathize with all animals, not just rabbits. We feel it's vital to teach this at a young age, so children can grow up to be caring, responsible pet caretakers.

After this bit of improvisational theater, we split into two groups; each group sat in a tight circle, with Lara inside one circle and Heidi inside the other. The girls observed how the rabbits moved around and explored their surroundings. The girls were not allowed to reach out or touch the rabbits at this time. We then showed the girls the proper way to pick up and hold a rabbit, and each girl had an opportunity to do so themselves under close supervision. Heidi and Lara were so well behaved!

Since we still had a little time left, the girls surprised us by asking if they could perform a play about rabbits for us. They went outside for about five minutes, and came back completely prepared with a narrator, three girls pretending to be bunnies, and two girls portraying their caretakers. They acted out a cute story of the rabbits being rescued, and well cared for, living in their respective homes. It was clear that they had really paid attention! They had the rabbits eating the correct foods, and the owners protecting the rabbits from hawks when they brought them to the park.

Thanks go out to Alecia for inviting us out to speak with the Girl Scout Troop, and to the girls for making the hay tubes and bringing the rabbits fresh veggies and hay. They also made a beautiful thank you poster with a rabbit made from cotton balls which we have proudly displayed in our office.

If you have a group that would like a presentation by Amy and Sandi (or their under-studies), please call 858-490-9003 or e-mail mewhrs@aol.com.

Easter Wrap-up

We would like to thank all the people who helped us get the word out at Easter that rabbits and Easter don't mix. Thank you to everyone who posted a flyer, passed out a business card or talked to people about getting (or not getting) a rabbit at Easter. We appreciate your help.

Thanks also to volunteer Judith Pierce who made sure our news releases were sent out. The San Diego Union-Tribune and the Coast News supported our efforts, and the North County Times interviewed HRS volunteer Debra Doerfler. We also made the news on KUSI-TV, Channel 51, as well as KDCI Headline News.

Below are two stories we would like to share from people who took it upon themselves to educate people about how special rabbits are and how they should not be used just for Easter baskets. Both ladies were very creative and we know these great ideas and presentations will have lasting effects. Thank you so much!

Shara Wright, Maria Montessori Elementary, writes:

I adopted one of two New Zealand sisters (Blanca and Bianca) from the Chula Vista shelter last year. They were born in the shelter and considered unadoptable because they were so shy. After a year of patience, Annabelle has overcome her shyness and she is living happily with her "sweetheart," Robbie, and her "adopted" sister Mindy.

Annabelle has been a wonderful addition to my family of animals. I thought you might like to know how well-loved and happy she is. I also want people to know how rewarding it is to give the difficult ones a chance.

My main purpose for contacting you, though, is to let you know that Gaia Croston — she adopted Baby from you — is in my 3rd/4th grade class. She is helping me put together an educational program for the chil-

dren at our school, Maria Montessori Elementary. We want to support your efforts to educate children and parents that Easter and bunnies don't mix. I also plan to send a letter out to the parents. The letter will come from the children and we plan to attach copies of your "Easter and Bunnies don't mix" flyers.

We are going to encourage the children to distribute the flyers and to ask for stuffed animals for Easter, rather than baby bunnies and chicks. We hope this helps your efforts.

Liz Kidd, Library Assistant, Kings Park Public Library, Burke, Virginia, writes:

Thank you for your support in pulling together programs for Easter. It really was a successful program. I had about 19 children, ages 6 to 10. I began by introducing my rabbits, Buster and Rosemary, and by telling the stories of where they came from. Buster is an HRS bun and I found Rosemary on the side of the road, so they provided a great opportunity to introduce the idea of keeping bunnies safe inside.

I then alternated with a show-and-tell of things like rabbit toys, rabbit food and litter boxes. The kids pretended to be rabbits. Much fun, especially the thumping and bunny binkies!

The bunny circle went pretty well. For the most part the kids were good about not reaching out to touch Buster and Rosemary, but they did need reminders. Having bunny toys scattered in the circle was a big hit with both the bunnies and the children.

I had copies of the *House Rabbit Handbook* and other bunny books available for check out, and of course the SD HRS coloring books were all snapped up. I plan to make those a staple of future programs. I was also pleased that the parents who stayed also asked some questions about rabbits.

Calming the Fearful Bun

Do you know a rabbit who is fearful? A shelter rabbit, a foster bun, or maybe your own rabbit. One veteran fosterer recommends regular handling, rather than the hands-off, they'll come-around-eventually approach.

To be adopted and successfully integrated into a household, a rabbit needs to be socialized at least to the extent that they can be handled for nail trimming, to groom them, to check for illness, and to medicate if ill or injured. But even better, is having a bun who enjoys being pet and will offer her nose for a little rub.

Start slowly by petting, picking up gently for just a moment at a time, and talking to them in a very soothing tone of voice. Keep at this slow pace for weeks, until they get used to your touch, the sound of your voice, and your smell. Then work up from there and keep going, without pushing the limits and stressing the bun.

Most rabbits don't like to be held, but you can work on them to get them used to it. You don't want to have to "fight" them all the time, setting up an adversarial relationship.

If you're socializing a foster or shelter rabbit, the reality is that most adopters want to hold their bunny. They want to hold, snuggle, pet and kiss — at least once in a while! So it really pays to work with a bunny to get them used to being handled.



Sunday, September 22, 2002

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Heritage Park, Old Town,

San Diego

Photos are from
Bunnyfest 2001.

All bunnies, all day. Bunnyfest is our time to wallow in bunnydom, surrounded by fellow bunny slaves, unashamed of our devotion to our four-legged furry kids.

Mark your calendars and get ready for a great day for rabbits and their people! Support the efforts of San Diego HRS and join hundreds of people for our annual fund-raiser and largest event of the year, **Bunnyfest 2002**. This event draws people from not only San Diego and Southern California, but across the U.S. (Last year we had visitors from Pennsylvania, Texas, northern California and Alabama!) As in years past, Bunnyfest will be held at Heritage Park in Old Town, San Diego. Join us on Sunday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

New photo contest categories

Start snappin' those photos now! We will have our ever-popular photo contest, this year with new categories. Winners will be determined at Bunnyfest. Winning photos will be published in this newsletter and on our website. immortalize your best bunny moments — enter your photos. Contest

categories are:

“Bunny’s Best Friend”

“Most Mischievous Moment”

“Snuggle Bunnies”

“My Favorite Photo”

Deadline for photo submission is Aug. 31, 2002. Mail photos to: P.O. Box 2628, Spring Valley, CA 91979. Sorry, photos cannot be returned. By submitting photos, you grant the San Diego HRS the rights to use the photo(s) for any chapter purposes. Color or black and white photos no larger than 4" x 6" please.

And the winning bid is...

At Bunnyfest, you will also be able to bid on wonderful items at our fund-raising auction, visit several vendors and purchase gifts for yourself and your rabbit, eat yummy goodies at the Cottontail Cafe, get your rabbit questions answered at the HRS Educational Booth and much more.

Donate to the needy

For the first time this year, we will be collecting toys for shelter and foster rabbits. Donate a new bunny toy at Bunnyfest and make a homeless rabbit happy! Suggested bunny toys include:



- Cardboard concrete forms for burrowing
- Untreated willow baskets
- Cat toys: Batta balls, jingle bells and other hard cat toys that can be rolled or tossed.
 - Parrot toys that can be tossed, or hung from the top of the cage.
 - Baby toys: hard plastic (not teething) toys like rattles and keys, things that can be tossed
 - “Busy Bunny” toys from www.busybunny.com
 - Plastic Rainbow slinkies
 - Toys with ramps and lookouts for climbing and viewing the world
 - Untreated sea grass or maize mats from Pier One or Cost Plus
 - Canning jar rings and shower curtain rings looped together.

Bring your toy donations with you and donate them at Bunnyfest!

Going, going, GONE!

As many of you saw, the 2001 Bunnyfest auction was huge, almost too huge with more than 150 items to organize and auction. Therefore, this year we’ve had to set some guidelines. Do you have something you want to donate — or do you want to get a donation for us, but don’t know what would be appropriate? Here are some ideas to consider. This is a rabbit-friendly crowd, therefore items should be either rabbit themed or rabbit friendly. This doesn’t mean we won’t accept non-rabbit items, this is just a suggestion. Items should be new or “like new” and must not require repair.

People tend to like actual items rather than certificates, so if you are offering a service (massage, hair care, spa) let us know, so perhaps we can work it into a gift basket.

High-end rabbit-themed kitchen items — such as Dedham Pottery, Arthur Court metalware, and crystal or porcelain giftware — are very sought-after and usually bring a high bid. Garden items are also popular, things such as statuary, bird baths and garden signage. Items for the bunnies themselves are also attractive, including

baskets with toys, brushes, carriers, etc.

Gift baskets are handsome and draw the eye. If you have bath items or hair care items and want to donate them in a basket, please check that the items are not tested on animals. A good source for these types of items is the Body Shop and other specialty stores that deal strictly in items not tested on animals.

Don’t be afraid to ask the store manager — it shows you care about animals!

This year we are asking our donors to consider that the House Rabbit Society Philosophy states, “When we...dress them (rabbits) up in human clothes for amusement...we deny them the right to exist as rabbits.” Please look for donations that keep within our philosophy.

If you have a donation, please contact us so we can make arrangements to include it in the auction.

Items must be to us by Sept 14. We will only be accepting 100 items this year, so please let us know about your donation as soon as possible. Remember, all donations are deductible for tax purposes and we will provide you with a donation letter if requested.

Auction questions? Please call Debra Doerfler at 760-737-8397 or e-mail debraskibun@cs.com. The bunnies thank you!

NOTE: The Bunny Pageant will not be offered at Bunnyfest 2002



Waiting for the Right Rabbits

No Guacamole for Peter Rabbit

"Avocados contain a toxic component called persin," explains Jill A. Richardson, DVM, of the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC), "which has been shown to produce cardiac tissue damage, respiratory distress and mammary gland damage in a variety of animals, including horses, goats, sheep, dogs, cattle, rabbits, fish and birds."

Consider the case of the cockatiel who had been given some guacamole by his owner. Within four hours of ingestion, the bird started behaving strangely — puffing his feathers and acting uncomfortable — and got progressively worse. The bird's owner brought him to an emergency clinic, and the veterinarian there contacted the APCC. Says Richardson, "We gave him recommendations on treating the animal — an oxygen cage and diuretics to remove the fluid on the bird's lungs." The animal was hospitalized for several days and recovered. "Needless to say," adds Richardson, "guacamole is NOT on the menu any longer!"

If you suspect that your animal companion has eaten avocado or any other potentially dangerous substance, call your veterinarian or the APCC's emergency hotline at (888) 4-ANI-HELP for round-the-clock telephone assistance. For more information on poison prevention, visit the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center.

It's been about two years since our family last had a pet. We had a sweet dog who was ill, and who we nursed the entire five years of her life. My husband and I recently decided it would be good to have another pet. We have a son who is six years old; he is quiet, reserved, and fearful of animals. Our daughter is four years old, and a "ball of energy" who adores animals. We wanted to have a pet that was non-threatening and could be handled. Somehow, a rabbit came to mind.

Since we had never had a rabbit, I went to the library and checked out several books on caring for rabbits. I read them all and realized that a rabbit would be a good pet for our family. I started to look in the paper for rabbits for sale and found the House Rabbit Society, and called to leave a message. I also visited a couple of rabbits at people's homes and fell in love with the Rex breed. My daughter fell in love with any rabbit who had marks and colors, and my son fell in love with rabbits with big ears; for some reason he doesn't like lops. I'll bet you're wondering how we ended up with New Zealand White rabbits, since they are different from everything we saw and wanted.

A few days later, I got a call from Judith, a volunteer with the House Rabbit Society, who talked to me for more than an hour and educated me about the different breeds of rabbits, their temperament, behavior and care. She also told me about abandoned rabbits for adoption at the animal shelters. I was leery at first, because I didn't want rabbits that were afraid of people. I told Judith that I was looking for two rabbits, who would be good to each other, and friendly. I explained that I was not in a rush to get the rabbits and that I was willing wait.

The next day, I loaded the kids in the car and went to the San Diego Humane Society to look at the bunnies.

I was greeted with a friendly smile, given a folder of information about rabbit care and adoption, and was told about a Bunny 101 class offered by the Humane Society. Since the class wasn't offered until two weeks later, I called Judith and told her that I wasn't ready to adopt just yet. Judith invited us to her home to learn about bunnyproofing, handling rabbits, and litter box training. She let the kids pet her rabbits and see the different breeds that are available. We also saw different kinds of cages and pens. It was a great way for us to see how rabbits live with their families.

Finally, it was time to attend the Bunny 101 class. What an eye-opening experience! We were the only ones in class without rabbits. Tina, the instructor from HRS, was very informative and helpful to everyone there. Just watching her work with the rabbits was amazing; they were comfortable with the way she handled them, and she explained their behavior to us. After the class, it inspired me to read more on rabbit care and role-play with the children, on gentleness and patience. I also put together a container for brushes, combs and nail clippers, and bought a fence to block off areas in the house. I called Judith and said, "We're ready!" so she put the word out that we wanted a pair of rabbits, and that we were looking for ones who were healthy, friendly, and would be good with the kids.

A week later, Judith called and told me about two rabbits who were available for adoption at the Central County animal shelter. She said they are New Zealand White rabbits. Well, not spotted and not a Rex, but according to Judith they were very friendly and might get along really well.

Judith said that Stormy (the name my son gave him) loves to give kisses and is very friendly. She also mentioned a

female rabbit, Princess Leia (named by my daughter), who had been injured on her nose and has a bump, but she is friendly although a little shy. I said, "As long as they are friendly, that's all that matters to me."

Judith thought that Stormy and Leia might be able to bond so they could live together. I told my son and daughter about the possible adoption, and about how the rabbits were abandoned and one had an injured nose. I also told them about how Stormy loves to give kisses. My son had a big smile on his face and my daughter was concerned about the rabbit with the sore nose, and if she was hurting.

The next day we met Judith at the shelter, and she and another volunteer, Claudia, helped us to put the two rabbits together to see if they could bond. Princess Leia was looking around the area, standing up and down, and twitching her bumped nose. Meanwhile Stormy, who had just been neutered, was mounting her continuously. I was praying that she would not bite him or fight him off. Stormy would not leave her alone. I was getting a little upset, but I watched patiently while Claudia worked with them to do the introduction. Then Princess Leia said, "That's it. I'm out of here," and she climbed up the pen and over she went! I was so happy to see that, because she just decided to leave instead of fighting. Judith informed me that she thought they will be a great pair. Now it was up to us. Did we want them? So I gathered up the kids for a family conference and we talked. We all agreed that we wanted to adopt them and I was thinking, "How are we going to tell them apart?" We noticed that Stormy has a broad face, like a box. And, Princess Leia has a bumped nose and a narrow face. So, now we could tell who was who. But how would we know if they would really get along?

Judith offered to take the bunnies to her home and bond them for us. So I

went though the adoption process and met Judith back at the rabbit area. The kids and I said good-bye to Stormy and Princess Leia and hoped to see them in a week. A week went by with good news, only Stormy's hormones were still in high gear and it would take another week. Our family was sad to hear it would be longer, but we knew we just had to wait.

Finally, the big day came! Judith brought the bunnies to our home and we all greeted Princess Leia and Stormy. We took photos, and the kids presented the bunnies with pictures they had drawn for them and gave them some treats. Judith showed us how to hold a rabbit and to examine its teeth, nails, and ears. Then it was time to put them in their cage for time alone and to settle into their new home. We all knew that it was going to take time for the rabbits to get used to their new surroundings and to us.

During the past week we learned that Princess Leia loves to explore and dance. She'll nudge you out of the way when she wants to go by, and she loves my husband and comes up to him often. She grooms and licks my daughter's hair while she is lying down and singing. Stormy loves to give kisses and he will come up to anyone. He is wonderful with my son, who claims that Stormy "listens" and talks to him. Stormy gave my son a kiss on the nose after he gave him a carrot. Also, Stormy loves to eat, and eat, and eat! When my husband



A Carrier for Every Rabbit

Get one of these cardboard carriers for each of your rabbits and be prepared for emergencies when you need to evacuate your animals. In the meantime, use the carriers for trips to the veterinarian and the bunnysitter. They are inexpensive and collapsible for efficient storage. Available at adoption days (see Calendar, page 3).



The Gayon children enjoy Princess Leia and Stormy.

(continued on page 14)

Newsletter Alerts Reader To Problem

Did You Say Binky?

Ever wonder what your rabbit is trying to tell you? The Language of Lagomorphs website (www.muridae.com/rabbits/rabbittalk.html) gives you clues as to what your rabbit is saying...and how to speak back.

Dear HRS,

I want you to know that your latest newsletter was VERY helpful to me and my bun Nellie. She hadn't been eating her carrot for a few days, and I can't believe it now, but at the time I figured she'd just stopped liking carrots, as she was eating everything else and acting normal. Then I got my HRS newsletter and read the article about bunny teeth, which listed warning signs for problems including not eating carrot! I called Dr. Loudis right away and, sure enough,

she needed her teeth filed down.

She'd never had tooth problems before. I am SO happy that she seems to be fine now. She started eating carrots again yesterday (he's warned me that she'd have a sore mouth for a few days).

Thank you so much for all of the great info you put in the newsletters! Nellie and Nani are almost nine years old now (this July), in huge part thanks to you!!!

J.Z.

Cord Crisis: Don't Let It Happen To You

Have you ever come home and sat down at your computer, only to find that it seems to be "dead?" Come on now, admit it, it's probably happened to you at least once, hasn't it?

As the photo shows, this bunny parent found out the hard way that her bunny had gotten into the "closed" computer room and had a ball with her computer's power strip and cords. Yikes!! Luckily for this bunny mom, all that got injured was this power cord, but it could have been much worse. She could have lost many more cords and cables in this room — and her bunny might have been electrocuted.



Bunnyproofing of light, TV, computer and other power cords is an essential part of making your home bunny "safe." Safe for you, the homeowner, and safe for your favorite bunny companion. In addition to bunnyproofing electrical cords, keep in mind that if your bunny

loves to chew, you may also need to take steps to protect your furniture, base boards, wall corners and carpeting.

Ceramic tiles, carpet squares, reinforced tubing and plastic corner protectors are all items that come in handy when preparing your home to be "bunny proof." Get some great ideas on how to use these items, and more, on the HRS web site at www.sandiegorabbits.org. Follow the link to *Bunnyproofing Tips and Tricks* from our home page.

If you have some innovative solutions for bunnyproofing, please share them with us. We love to get great new ideas to make our homes safe for our favorite family pets.

Photo courtesy of Hazel and Coriander (last name withheld upon request!)

Right Rabbits

(continued from page 13)

groomed Stormy, he was so content that he just stretched out with a "flop."

Sure, it's not all roses; Princess Leia started to chew on the rug, so I put a sea grass mat over the area. Stormy started to dig, so I put him in his litter box. I got a few scratches from not holding them correctly, and the kids are learning that it takes time and work to care for the rabbits, and that sometimes it's not fun. But, they are learning to care for another being. I have seen my children shower Princess Leia and Stormy with affection and love. This makes my heart fill with joy.

We are so glad that we took the time to learn all we could about rabbits before bringing them home. And we are also glad that we kept an open mind about the kind of rabbits we would adopt. We had never heard about New Zealand White rabbits, and until talking to Judith didn't know what wonderful pets they could be for our family. We are so happy that we took our time, and waited for the "right" rabbits.

Written by the Gayon family

Edited by Judith Pierce

Bunnyproof Your Recliner

Recliners can be very dangerous if your rabbit gets underneath, in the mechanical workings — especially if someone is getting into or out of the chair and using the recliner feature. Rabbits can be trapped, injured and killed by the powerful mechanism.

Here is one way to bunnyproof. Turn the chair over and stuff underneath where you can with newspaper and plastic grocery bags, making sure not to keep the footrest part from going up. Loosely staple heavy-duty plastic sheeting to the underside of the chair on the back and two sides (just tuck extra plastic up into the chair in the front, because if you staple it there you can't operate the footrest).

This creates a place where it will be difficult for a bunny to quickly gain access, and any inside movement makes a rustling sound. It may be slightly annoying to you if you rock a lot but you can make some adjustments with how tightly the plastic was stapled on so there would only be rustling if a bunny tried to get in.

If your rabbit has access to the chair unsupervised, you might try something more sturdy than plastic, like metal mesh.

Finally, if a bunny tries to go under or inside the chair, pound loudly on the side and make lots of noise to say that this is not a plaything and keep him away.

This is a good precaution even if you don't use the recliner part of the chair — a guest in your home might put it up or down while a bunny is there, and that could be a disaster all around.

Sofas and beds

Even a plain sofa and your bed's box springs can be dangerous if a bunny gets underneath into the springs, so remember to bunnyproof the underside of these furnishings,

too. One HRS volunteer suggests getting discount upholstery fabric (the uglier it is, the cheaper they'll sell it). This fabric is extra wide and very sturdy. Staple-gun it tightly to the wood frame to cover all access to the inner stuffing and springs.

Rabbits and Amazon.com

If you access Amazon.com from the link on the homepage of the national House Rabbit Society at www.rabbit.org, then the House Rabbit Society receives five percent of the purchase of anything you buy from Amazon.com.



CLIP AND KEEP

Hot Tips on Keeping Bunny Cool

Heat can be deadly to rabbits, and when the temperature creeps up into the 80s and higher, heat stress becomes a real concern. Here are suggestions for keeping your rabbit cool during the hot summer months:

- Freeze water in one or two liter-size soda bottles and keep in the cage as a giant ice cube for bunny to lean against. Keep a couple of bottles rotating in the freezer.
- Dampen a towel and drape it over one end of the cage with a fan blowing gently on it, enough for good air circulation but not so it's drafty.
- Gently mist rabbits' ears and fur with clean, cool water.
- Place a square or two of ceramic tile or marble in the cage. It will remain cooler than the air temperature and will be a cool place for Bun to rest.
- Always have plenty of fresh drinking water available. Perhaps add a few ice cubes.
- If your rabbit spends time outdoors, be sure to provide shade and keep him out of the direct sun in the hottest times of day.
- Brush out excessive fur. Who wants to wear an extra fur coat in the summer? If you have a long haired rabbit, consider cropping your bunny's coat short for the summer months.
- Be sure Bun is getting his fair share of veggies to help keep him hydrated.
- Be especially watchful of rabbits over 5 years old or ones who are overweight or have difficulty getting around. These rabbits tend to be more sedentary and may not get up to drink water if they are too hot. This can quickly lead to dehydration which can lead to death or other health problems.

If your rabbit becomes exposed to too much heat, seems listless, is not eating or acting normally, get him to a veterinarian immediately. Do not wait!

Is This Bun For You?

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 (\$85 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 to SD House Rabbit Society. Supplies are also available at HRS adoption days.

Rabbit References

Find everything you want to know about house rabbits at the Rabbit References website: www.morfz.com/rabrefs.html. Hundreds of articles about rabbit care, behavior and health are linked from this site and organized in a clear manner. Be sure to bookmark this page!

Lara is a sweet adult lop girl, found running loose. We believe she is



about 4 to 5 years old. Lara is very sweet-natured and easy

to hold, and might make a good companion choice for a mellow boy bunny.

Misty is a Californian girl about 1 year old, who is very active and needs a lot of run time. She also exhibits one of the more interesting sides of the Californian breed, their ability to change colors! Misty is a big girl —



more than 10 pounds — and is an amazing snuggle bun, who loves to be held and will cuddle with you for as long as you can stand to hold her. Misty will need a home with a very experienced bunny lover, who can handle her confident behavior. Call HRS at 619-718-7777, or e-mail pierceja@cox.net

Becky is an active, beautiful girl, about 2 years old. She needs a home with experienced rabbit people as she has been known to nip if startled but also loves to be pet. Becky has a great appetite and enjoys prancing around her pen with her carrot chunk in her mouth! A lively girl looking for a patient, experienced home.



Annie and Sharon are a bonded pair of Dutch-mix girls, about 18 months old, who grew up together from



the same litter. They are devoted to each other and need a home where they will get plenty of attention and play time. They are fairly easy to handle, but somewhat shy, so will need someone who can give them time to adjust to a new environment, and lots of attention to draw them into a more interactive relationship. They would probably do best in an adult home or one with older children.

Sweet **Violet** is a spayed New Zealand white girl, about a year old. She is very curious and loves to jump up on boxes, shelves...anything she can get to. She enjoys getting out and



visiting with people and seems to do OK with supervised children. Sometimes larger bunnies are best for kids because little people can't lift big rabbits. Violet has been to work and schools educating people about proper rabbit care; she's pretty easy going. Here she is, relaxing on the patio after a nice romp in the bunnies' flower garden.

Patrick Murphy is young neutered male, Angora mix, just about 1 year old. He is shy at first but warms up to you with gentle handling. Patrick is mostly white, with butterscotch-colored ears and rings around his eyes; a very pretty combination.



Patrick would likely make a good companion to your spayed bunny girl. With his long Angora fur, Patrick will require the additional responsibility of weekly grooming to keep it from matting and becoming dirty. Call HRS at 619-718-7777, or e-mail pierceja@cox.net

Sweet **Charlotte**, a young New Zealand female about a year old, is a gentle girl who is coming around in foster care, and has even grown a bit of “attitude.” When it’s time to go back to her cage after playing, she’ll jump into the flower garden and play “hide ‘n’ seek” to get away. Charlotte may make a good companion choice, but is not considered a good “first bunny”



as she is not easy to hold and can get easily startled. Call HRS at 619-718-7777 or e-mail pierceja@cox.net

Mayla & Joey are a wonderful pair of Mini Lop mixes, about 2 years old. They are quite the couple and still appear to be on their honeymoon, if grooming is any indication. Mayla is the tri-colored girl, Joey her knight in white. They are



both sweet as can be, enjoy being pet and love to go exploring in the house together. Joey may be a bit timid when it comes to new surroundings, but Mayla quickly shows him it’s OK, “Follow me!” For more information about Mayla and Joey, call HRS at (619) 718-7777, or e-mail pierceja@cox.net



Walter is a young agouti-colored male, just under a year old. He loves people and will come to you, looking for pets. Walter loves to have fun and will make up games to play, even on his own! We think he might enjoy the company of older children or other pets, which would stimulate his mind and give him plenty of special friends with whom to play. Call HRS at 619-718-7777, or e-mail pierceja@cox.net



Sunny is a sweet, dwarf-mix girl, about 3 years old. She is very alert to other pets and activities going on around her, and is cautious in new surroundings, but warms up quickly to gentle attention and care. Sunny is high-energy and really loves to play. You can also easily pick her up and hold her for long periods of time. Sunny would do best in an adult home as she prefers her peace and quiet, and can be a bit cage protective when over stimulated.



Olivia This little Fuzzy Lop cutie is Olivia. About a year old, she is very lively and can be cage protective. She does, however, *love* to have her head pet and her face

massaged — and food seems to be an excellent bribe. Olivia will need a home with experienced bunny people who are willing to tend to her grooming needs as well as understand her confident, active personality.

Who We Are

The San Diego Rabbit News is published by the all-volunteer, 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.

Contact Us

Mail comments and suggestions to the San Diego Rabbit News, P.O. Box 2628, Spring Valley, CA 91979 or e-mail to the addresses below.

Chapter Manager
Michelle Wilhelms
MEWHRS@aol.com

Newsletter Editor
Kristin Tow
Lopears1@aol.com

Website Editor
Judith Pierce
pierceja@cox.net

San Diego Rabbits Online
Amy Spintman
SDiegoHRS@aol.com

Website

www.sandiegorabbits.org

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	619-224-9516
	Avian & Exotic Animal Hospital	619-260-1412
East County	Rancho San Diego Animal Hospital	619-660-6767
North County	Diane Calkins	760-633-1564
	Acacia Animal Hospital	760-745-8115

Many pet supply stores, as well as some of the hay sources listed here, carry CareFRESH litter.

Grooming

(continued from page 1)

Talk to her soothingly and calmly. Rabbits can get over-stimulated, so if Bun starts to nip or gets anxious, perhaps she needs a break — or even a potty break! Put her down for a while and try again later. She will become more tolerant the more accustomed she is to being groomed.

If your rabbit allows you to turn her on her back, go ahead and do that. Make sure her bottom is clean and carefully comb her belly if she allows. Next, you can trim her nails. This may be a two-person job. We recommend using the small cat nail scissors or guillotine style clippers. Turn the rabbit on her back and trim a bit of each nail leaving some white and not cutting into the blood line. If your rabbit has dark nails, try shining a flashlight from behind the nail to see the blood line. Some people trim nails while the rabbit is sitting up, contained on the towel or carpet piece. Just slightly lift one paw at a time. If you cut into the blood line, you will have quite a bit of blood on you, the towel and your ceiling as she shakes her paw. If this happens, quickly dab on the powered Kwik Stop and apply pressure.

Or, you can bring your bun to an HRS adoption day and volunteers will trim her nails for a small donation!

After you have groomed her with the brush and comb and have gotten off most of the loose fur, try dampening your hands with water or giving her a light mist from the spray bottle (don't get her too wet). Then gently massage her damp coat with your hands. You can also use the comb again at this point, brushing the fur forward and backward. A surprisingly large amount of fur will still come off in your hands — just rub your hands together and toss out the damp balls of fur. Rabbits generally enjoy this relaxing massage and they smell so fresh and clean when you're done! Smooth her fur back into place, give her a kiss on the head and put her down to hop around all clean and pretty. Then, get out the vacuum and start on the house!

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ITEM	COLOR: 1st choice	2nd choice	SIZE	QTY	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
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"Clock" motif

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HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY
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Summer 2002

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people at our
annual, blow-out
fund-raiser and
bunny adoration
event.**

10 a.m. - 4. p.m.

**Heritage Park, Old
Town, San Diego**

See pages 10-11

Bunnyfest

Happy Adoption: Oreo

Dear HRS,

Just checking in at long last to let you know how we are doing and to tell you that adopting a rabbit was most certainly the way to go for us!

Oreo is starting to be more comfortable with us. He has free run of his room every week day morning till about noon. In the afternoons and evenings, he and Sharlyn do their homework together under her bed. That is his favorite spot. Her pinewood bed frame is tall and has a lot of room underneath, with a little door they can both crawl through. He has found a small little area under the bed where he loves to stretch out like a dog...he feels safe there. On the weekends he's out

almost all day. We are enchanted by him. My husband often spends early morning coffee hour with Oreo, cooing over him and chatting to him...Sharlyn and I get a real kick out of this!

Oreo has a basket full of toys, but his rings remain his favorite. We are still learning and have made some mistakes. Handing Oreo to Sharlyn while she is wearing a short-sleeve

T-shirt is not a good plan! We've also learned that other websites may have misinformation: a national show rabbit site said yogurt drops were

fine...whoops! He prefers apples and carrots anyway.

He is most happy when we sit with him and he loves to go nose to nose. He is still not really comfortable when Sharlyn picks him up, but it's improving and they love just hanging out together. He loves to climb on us and we've actually kind of been limiting the picking up while he transitions.

Sharlyn has friends who have bunnies...they are outdoors, dogs sniffing at them, eating all the wrong things. Sharlyn

gives them your web address and is very sweetly teaching them about hay and proper rabbit care. I told my husband I could easily become a crazy old rabbit woman in my retirement, with a bunny in every room! Thank you for everything, for checking in on us, answering our questions and for helping Sharlyn. And thanks for our little boy!

June Heinz



Sharlyn and Oreo (formerly Hydrus)