



# HARELINES



Volume 16 Number 3 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

Fall 2012

## The *Harelem* Globetrotter: A Rabbit Relocation How-To

By Jim Brown

In June, 2002, as the result of my wife's corporate transfer, our charcoal grey Netherland dwarf, Raisin, returned unwittingly to the home of his bunny ancestors, the low countries of Belgium and Holland.

We landed in Brussels through low, leaden clouds after an eight-hour flight from Cincinnati. Following a jolting cab ride through the city, we checked into our temporary flat in a building called Le Grey (I'm really not trying to establish mood here, everything really was grey that first day in Brussels; like Raisin, Brussels is suffused in grey). Standing next to the brushed-steel washing machine and enigmatic coffee maker in the kitchen, the three of us—Raisin firmly cradled in our arms—stared out the window overlooking the busy cosmopolitan street thinking "what have we gotten ourselves—and our bunny—into?" (We also had the same reaction that night when we saw a Belgian couple at a faux American café eating a cheeseburger with a fork and knife.) I don't know whose eyes were wider, ours or Raisin's.

When we let Raisin down onto the carpeted floor of the apartment, he found a corner and flopped. He was only a little over a year old at the time, and I think this was the first time we had ever seen him flop. (It became apparent to us that jet lag and time zone changes don't just affect humans.) We set up Raisin's creature comforts and then set in motion the tasks of moving into a foreign country and adapting to a strange culture. Of course, my wife and I were not the only ones

who had to adapt; Raisin also began the same voyage that day, and there were quite a few obstacles we all had to overcome in that foreign and strange place.

We knew plenty of people who had relocated to another country for their jobs; we knew some who had children and some who had dogs and a few who had cats, but we didn't know any who had rabbits. For us, there was a bit of a learning curve ahead. Despite some initial anxieties and inconveniences and worries, our experience—for us and Raisin (if I may speak for him)—was overwhelmingly positive. We spent six years overseas, and have been back now in the U.S. for four. Raisin is thirteen

*Continued on page 6*

### In this issue

Opposites Attract . . . . .	3
Rabbit Anesthesia and Surgery . . . . .	4
Somebunny Needs YOU! . . .	8
Farewell to Chester. . . . .	10
Name Our Next Foster Rabbit! . . . . .	11



*Raisin's Belgian Noël*



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**Chapter Manager:** Herta Rodina  
bhers-herta@ohare.org  
740-797-7616

**Educators & Fosterers:**  
Canton . . . . . Kristi Cole  
330-484-8416  
bhers-kristi@ohare.org

Cleveland . . . . . Kristen Doherty  
440-543-4959  
bhers-kristen@ohare.org

Stephanie Lodge  
bhers-stephanie@ohare.org  
216-571-1088

Fremont . . . Keith & Sue Zimmerman  
419-355-8433  
bhers-sue@ohare.org  
bhers-keith@ohare.org

Cincinnati . . . . . Michele Roth Kerley  
859-261-0556  
bhers-michele@ohare.org

Dayton . . . . . Jann Kuntavanish  
937-435-6899  
bhers-jann@ohare.org

Debbi Braunschweiger  
bhers-debbi@ohare.org  
937-293-7253

Jen Parks  
bhers-jen@ohare.org  
937-770-1261

**Visit the House Rabbit Society at <http://www.rabbit.org> and the Buckeye House Rabbit Society at <http://www.ohare.org>**

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## Special Thanks to:

**Jaime Carpin**, for her generous donation in memory of dear Bam, who passed away on July 4, 2012.

**The Taillard family**, for their contribution in tribute to their beloved **Chester**, who shared their lives for four wonderful years.

**Jude May**, for her thoughtful gift in memory of her sweet **Felix**.

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The following members, whose monetary and in-kind donations allow us to meet our ongoing fostering and educational goals:

**Karen Rocco, Pam Loch, Clay and Nancy Pasternack, Janet Reed, Jim and Laura Gills, Bernda Bacani, Junko Rogers, Jim and Nancy Reed, Martin and Judy O'Neil, Sue Milewski.**

**Our new and continuing Sanctuary Rabbit Sponsors!** This program would not be possible without your compassion and generosity. We wish we could acknowledge each of you individually!

As always, the **Monks Copy Shop** of downtown Columbus, for their discount on printing our newsletter.

## BunFest 2012!

Come join us for Midwest BunFest! Mark your calendar now for Saturday October 27, 9:30 am to 5 pm, Whitehall Community Park Activities Building, Columbus, OH. For details visit <http://www.midwestbunfest.org/>



# Opposites Attract

By Kerry Schutte

In December 2009, my husband (then fiancé) and I went to the Greater Dayton Humane Society to rescue a bunny. Shawn ended up picking out the bunny we took home and we named him Augustus. I quickly realized that Augustus is the neatest rabbit I have ever been around! When hopping around the house, Augustus has never had a potty accident; he always goes back to his litter box. His cage is always immaculate! He has never spilled food or water and he wouldn't dream of missing his litter box. He has a special spot for all his toys and his hay. Nothing is ever out of place. He keeps his cage so clean that, aside from cleaning his litter box, I could go a week without needing to touch the rest of the cage.

We had Augustus about a year when I decided he needed a friend. At this point I volunteered at the Humane Society, so I started looking at the rabbits to find one who would be good for Augustus. I even took in some fosters for him to meet, but he never liked any of them. Then, on Christmas Eve 2010, a white, part-angora rabbit hopped up to a police officer and he brought her to the shelter. Since Shawn is now a police officer, I took that as a sign of fate; when I saw the beautiful white rabbit, it was love at first sight! I adopted her a few weeks later, named her Victoria, and brought her home.

One of the first things I noticed about Victoria is that she is not neat and clean. Every time she drinks water, she gets so much on her fur that she drips it all over her cage. When she eats, she drops food in her water bowl and all over the cage around her bowl. Victoria thinks her litter box is optional and knows that I will clean up after her when she chooses not to use it. Her toys are everywhere; the more she can shred them and the bigger mess they make, the happier she becomes. Her daily goal is to see how much hay she can push through her cage bars and get on my floor. Overall, Victoria is the exact opposite of Augustus.

The funny part of this story is that Shawn picked Augustus and I picked Victoria. Shawn is the neatest person I know. His CD's and DVD's are all alphabetized. His clothing is organized by



season and by color. Shawn dresses perfectly and never, EVER, gets food on his clothes or makes any mess. I, however, am the exact opposite of Shawn. I can't tell you where my CD's are (other than knowing Shawn organized them!). I am lucky if I can close my closet doors, let alone having anything organized. I always get food on myself in a restaurant; I laugh it off and tell Shawn that he can't take me anywhere. I am lucky to find two matching shoes in the morning before work. Don't get me started on finding my car keys or occasionally my credit card!

When looking at our rabbits we realized that we picked the mirror images of ourselves. The road wasn't easy to bonding Victoria and Augustus, just like it took some time for Shawn and me to learn our differences and how to live together. Sometimes I still see Augustus looking at Victoria with horror when she makes another mess, which reminds me of Shawn shaking his head at my lack of organization. But Victoria and I know our guys love us, so we laugh off their sour looks and continue making messes just to keep their lives interesting!



## What's the Big Deal about Rabbit Anesthesia and Surgery?

**By Dr. Diana Dornbusch Cron, DVM**  
*Glenway Animal Hospital, Cincinnati*  
(513) 662-0224

Let's face it – anything involving anesthesia and surgery IS a big deal, even “routine” procedures. And, since no two surgical procedures or patients are exactly alike, nothing can be considered truly “routine”. Rather, the special needs of each pet must be taken into account by caretaker and veterinary team working together to ensure the best possible outcome.

### Basic Surgical Concepts That Apply To All Species

1. Studies show that controlling pain before, during, and after surgery -- as well as keeping stress to a minimum -- helps the patient heal faster.
2. The faster you can get the patient on his/her feet and moving, eating, drinking, urinating, and defecating normally, the better.
3. Multi-modal anesthesia usually works best. This involves a combination of injectable and inhalant anesthetic agents that provide relaxation, pain control, and loss of consciousness.

### Rabbits Are Special Needs Surgical Patients

Your veterinary team needs to be sure that they accommodate all the differences that prey species, rather than carnivores, require for housing, treatment, and surgery.

Differences include:

1. Pre-operative fasting instructions. Because of unique anatomy, rabbits cannot vomit and therefore should not be fasted before surgery. It is important to keep the gut moving. You should plan to bring an abundance of your rabbit's normal foods to be offered up until the time of pre-medication and after your bunny has recovered from anesthesia.
2. A rabbit's oral cavity is long and narrow and intubation (placing a tube in the opening to the trachea or “windpipe”) is technically difficult. Gas anesthesia is often administered via a special face mask for this reason.
3. Housing during hospitalization. Rabbits need a place (preferably quiet) to hide and feel secure during pre-op and recovery.
4. While recovering from anesthesia, care must be taken that bunnies don't flop around in a cage, as this could cause injuries. Bunny burritos (wrapping the rabbit securely in a towel roll) work well, but



*Thumper feels safe and secure in his bunny burrito.*

there is no substitute for having your bunny wake up in the arms of a skilled veterinary technician.

### Sizing It Up

It is more difficult to place intravenous (IV) catheters and endotracheal (ET) tubes in smaller rabbits. These are safety measures used to allow access to the venous system and lungs in case of an emergency. Smaller bodies lose heat faster, and this needs to be addressed with safe external heating devices keeping your bunny warm, especially during longer procedures. Larger, plumper rabbits may have issues with fatty deposits, skin folds, creaky joints, or touchy gastrointestinal tracts.

### Don't Get Under My Skin

Rabbit skin is very thin and tears easily. Bunnies are also very fastidious groomers. Bandages and



*Gas anesthesia administered via face mask.*

sutures are typically a huge annoyance to them and are frequently chewed off or out. I once had a rabbit patient attempt to chew off a limb to get a bandage off! For this reason, subcuticular (inside the skin) and absorbable (do not need to be removed, without protruding knots to chew or pull out) sutures work well. Depending on the type of incision or wound we are closing, we use anything from surgical glue to stainless steel staples. Different vets have different protocols and preferences for surgical closure techniques and suture materials. Like our patients, no two vets do things exactly the same way.

### **Older And Wiser**

Intuitively, anesthesia for older bunnies can be riskier. But this doesn't mean it can't be done safely. Pre-operative blood work is imperative to be sure vital organs are functioning properly. Many anesthetics are not properly metabolized if there is



*This intravenous catheter is being placed in the cephalic vein in a front leg.*



*An endotracheal tube is being placed in this rabbit.*

an organ function issue. If your older rabbit needs to be anesthetized for a surgical procedure, use the opportunity to do those extra diagnostics that may be more difficult to do when your rabbit is awake. Consider dental films (positioning is ALWAYS better when anesthetized) and survey body films to look for heart enlargement, spondylosis (spinal arthritis), abdominal abnormalities, and bladder sludge. Early detection is key for successful treatment of many age-related issues.

### **Be Prepared For The Worst And Be Your Rabbit's Lorax**

If you're superstitious, this is akin to preventing rain by bringing an umbrella. Know what is normal and what is not, what to expect and what to do if the unexpected occurs. Ask questions, a lot if necessary. Have faith in your own observations, gut feelings, and abilities. Remember, since your rabbits cannot speak, you must be their biggest advocate and speak on their behalf (like Dr. Seuss's Lorax, who speaks for the trees). If your vet is unavailable after hours, be sure to know where to go for experienced emergency care. Keep supplies for syringe feeding on hand in case you need to keep your bunny nourished until he can be seen. Avoid becoming overly alarmed by hype and horror stories you read about on the internet. Post-operative complications can and do occur, but with your knowledge and attention to normals for your rabbit, the bumps on the road to recovery are usually minor.



now, and I think from time to time he wants us to take out the old photo album of Europe and relive those experiences. I am doing that now, with the intent of also sharing what we all learned as house rabbit lovers abroad. So for any rabbit owners who might one day find themselves in a similar situation or are considering such a big move, here are just a few words of advice for the house-rabbit expatriate life.

**Note:** I suppose this information is, on its surface, only helpful to a few rabbit owners who are lucky enough (or unlucky, depending on how you look at it) to have an opportunity to move themselves and their bunny to a far-off exotic land. But it also appears to me that some of the information contained herein could be helpful for someone moving from Iowa to California, or from Washington to Florida. And, you never know what the future holds; take this article and file it away for that day three years from now when your employer offers you a three-year assignment in Brazil.

**Prior to the Big Move:** Check with a relocation service or a consulate to see what your host country requires in terms of paperwork for your pet rabbit. While many countries require a quarantine period



*Raisin's new digs in Brussels*

of several weeks for dogs and cats, rabbits are often exempted from this stressful process. Many European countries just want to see a record from your vet that proves your bunny doesn't have Myxomatosis, a nasty disease introduced by Australians in the 1950s to control their rabbit population. Next, check with the airline for their procedures for carrying on your pet rabbit, any paperwork they may require, and enquire about size restrictions on pet carriers. Try not to book an emergency exit row, as you will be required to stow your pet carrier in the overhead compartment. Pack plenty of bunny snacks, because you'll probably want to eat some for yourself after being half-starved on the mini pretzel diet in coach class.

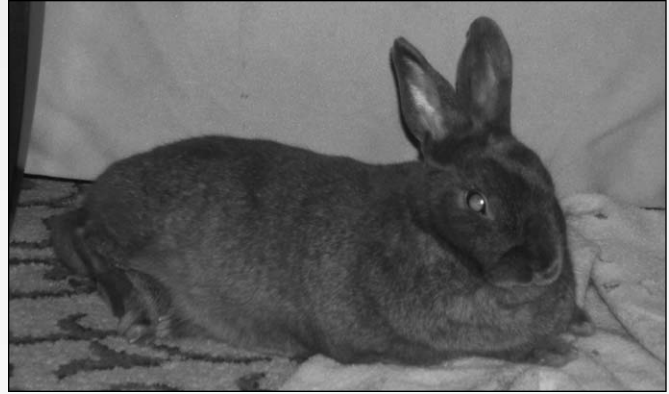
**At the Airport:** Find a flexible, well-ventilated pet carrier that fits through security screeners and fits under aircraft seats. You'll have to walk through the x-ray screeners with bunny (hopefully he's not too shy). You might think getting through the security checkpoints with your pet bun would be a real hassle, but in reality the opposite is true. This is the time for your bun to shine in all his or her cuteness. You and Fluffernutter will get more attention than the Kardashians at a Paparazzi pizza party. Don't tell any terrorists, but you could be dragging a 155mm Howitzer cannon (which is not a camera), and not one screener will even notice if, in your other hand, your bunny is twitching his button nose. Just be prepared for some delays from the security interrogations like, "how did you get to be so cute?" or "aren't those the most adorable bunny lips you ever saw?" Raisin lapped up the limelight, let me assure you. There are, however, times when you want to avoid attracting attention, such as at passport control and customs. Immigration officers won't be impressed with those two white front paws on Snowball, but they might just up and ask for some paperwork that you had never even heard of or been informed about. (I've never experienced this, but it doesn't seem out of the realm of possibility.) Avoid customs officials if it can be helped (having a dark-colored, fabric pet carrier which looks like a normal carry-on is helpful); and keep your pet carrier up off the floor where security and customs dogs roam on a leash.

**House Hunting:** Look at apartments or houses with one eye at rabbit level. In other words, see things from the floor-perspective. In Europe we saw plenty of stylish flats with wood or engineered flooring coupled with an elevated bedroom loft that is appealing to the eye, but combines a slippery surface for rabbits with a dangerous drop-off. We eventually rented an apartment with wood floors, but provided a nearly continuous avenue of rugs for Raisin to hop skip and jump from the bedroom to



the living room. For the bedroom, we found a small remnant section of carpet at discount and placed that under the bed for Raisin. In Southern Europe, wood floors are less common, but cold and equally-rabbit-unfriendly tile is popular. Asian houses and apartments also generally lack rabbit-friendly floors and amenities. (As someone who does research for a consumer products corporation, my wife has visited hundreds of homes in Europe, Asia, and South America). Also, in warmer climes, consider the temperatures some apartments on upper floors can reach if not cooled efficiently. Even in relatively cooler places like Northern Europe, temperatures can be fatal to people and pets a few days each summer, and air conditioning is not nearly so ubiquitous outside the U.S. Our second-floor apartment in Brussels did not have air conditioning, but we did have a cool cellar; if the temperatures rose to alarming levels, we could always take Raisin there.

**Finding Food and Litter:** In Europe, where house-rabbit ownership is more unusual than in the U.S. but not unheard of, finding pellets and even hay at pet stores was not impossible. (Rabbit ownership may in fact be higher in Belgium, but these rabbits are usually kept in hutches out-of-doors.) And there were always leafy greens of some sort at the *supermarché*. You will quickly learn the translations for these essentials, unless you plan to live in Asia, in which case you might just need to show photos! Whatever country you might find yourself in, try to check out a pet store and local supermarket when visiting before your eventual move. Then at least you will have an idea of what is available, and whether you will have to find another source or an alternative for a certain bunny nutritional need. In Belgium, Raisin pretty much ate the same things as he does here. Since hay is so light, and has a relatively long shelf life, it might be worthwhile to bring some Timothy over with you, especially for the first few months after moving. We were not so lucky, however, finding kitty litter he likes. My wife and I travelled back and forth occasionally from Europe to the U.S., and each time we did so we brought an extra suitcase for a few bags of *Yesterday's News*. I also was fortunate to have been employed by the Department of Defense and therefore had an APO address (a military post office box) which made shipping cheaper and less complicated. As an American expat, you may be surprised to know that there is an American military base located near you (consider Italy, Germany, Spain, Belgium, England, Korea, Japan, Guam, just to name a few), and it is equally likely that you will get to know someone with an APO address. See if maybe they won't ship a few valuable pet supplies for you. If not, rely on visitors from the U.S. (and you'll have many), to bring what you need in exchange for giving them



*An acculturated bunny at ease*

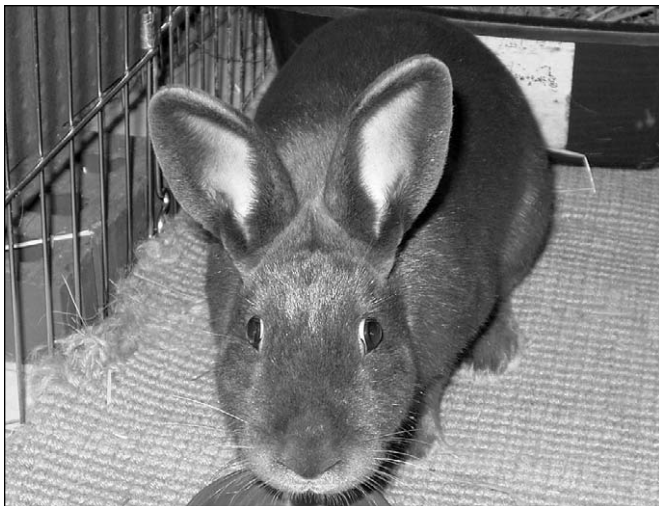
a cramped love seat to sleep on for the two weeks they're visiting. Bunny will thank you (and them) for it.

**Vets and Pet Sitters:** As an expatriate, you will—sometimes out of sheer desperation for American food, culture, or the English language—find other expatriates (and they won't just be Americans) to socialize with and rely on. The expatriate network will provide you with much needed advice and connections. Even if they did not have pet rabbits, our expatriate friends were instrumental in helping us provide for Raisin. For example, we did not have children, but many of our expatriate friends did. They provided us with links to private English-language schools, and the teachers, parents, and students were an excellent source for pet sitters and advice for vets. Our pet sitter, Irene van Broeck, was a Belgian woman who spoke English and was a former secretary at the International School of Brussels where she had built up an extensive clientele of American and British pet owners. She also provided us with a vet recommendation, which turned out to be instrumental in Raisin's health and well-being. Even if you cannot find an English-speaking vet right away, locate a nearby vet or animal hospital, for any potential emergency. Remember, no rabbit speaks English, but doctors still know what's wrong with them. And if they can also provide a tranquilizer for yourself, as you struggle to adapt to life in a foreign country in those early weeks and months, all the better. Just make sure you don't accidentally ask for a dog treat in Flemish.

I can still remember those very first impressions of that day the three of us moved to Belgium: the odd colors, the surprising scents, the confusing tongues. It was a little overwhelming, but with some preparation and advice, your apprehension will turn into curiosity, your anxiety transformed into excitement—not just for yourselves, but for your bunny too. Within a few days of settling in and getting over that jet lag, you and your bunny will be binkying in your new home far away.



# Somebunny Needs YOU!



This is **Pumpkin**! She is a very sweet young lady. Just look at her awesome blue/gray fur! What a beautiful bunny! Pumpkin enjoys playing with her toys and she especially loves to chomp on hay. Wouldn't you love to make Pumpkin a member of your family? **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Meet sisters **Luna** and **Matilda ("Mattie")**. They look a lot like little Siamese kittens. They are very, very curious and anxious to explore their surroundings. Both are friendly and good at being held. They've been spayed and are now ready for adoption. We prefer that they be adopted together. Make an appointment to meet these cuties today! **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

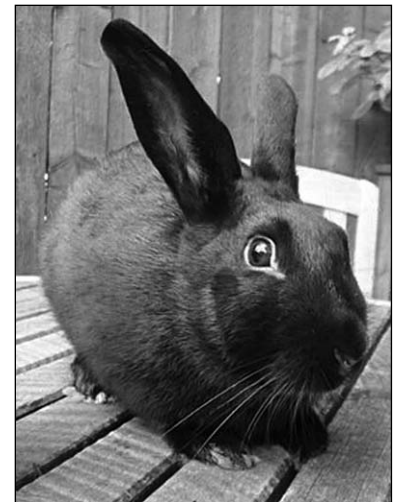
**Roger** is an extraordinarily handsome adolescent male who can be reserved at first, but warms up quickly. Despite his urge to hop around and explore, he can also be a wonderful lap bunny. Once you meet Roger, you'll fall in love!

**Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



If you have a sweet tooth, you will love **Anise**. She is as black as licorice, but way sweeter. This special girl is waiting for a loving family to show off her excellent litterbox habits. Call today to make her a part of your home, but careful, she's so sweet she may cause cavities!

**Please contact Michele Roth Kerley (bhrs-michele@ohare.org) 859-261-0556.**



"Izzy" cute and adorable or what? Yes, he is! Meet **Izzy**; this four-pound gray Dutch bunny is as sweet as he is cute and adorable. He has excellent litterbox habits too. "Izzy" going to be a part of your family?

**Please contact Michele Roth Kerley (bhrs-michele@ohare.org) 859-261-0556.**

**Chiqua** came all the way to Ohio from a large rescue in New Mexico. She is all black with velvety-soft fur and lots of curiosity. Make an appointment to meet her today!

**Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**







9



Meet **Barley** and **Hops**, aka "The Beer Babies." Barley and Hops are a pair of super friendly "BWBs" (Big White Buns). They are six months old. Barley is a sweet boy and likes to be involved in whatever you are doing. Hops is a cute and curious little girl. We would like them to stay together. BWBs grow to be larger than average bunnies, but they have the sweetest temperaments. They are mostly laid back and easy going. BWBs are good for families with younger children. Come see for yourselves how wonderful these guys really are. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

**Addison** is a young and playful little girl who is always busy. She enjoys head pets, giving kisses, hopping through tunnels, and running the "Bunny 500." Her adventurous personality makes a large pen a necessity. Addison is a perfect example that small bunnies can have BIG personalities. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**

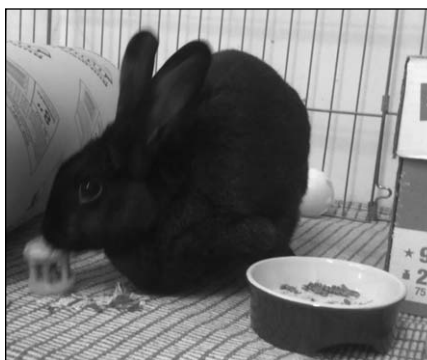


**Malley** is a young chocolate Dutch girl who's less than 1 year old. She's a smaller breed, and that, along with her age, makes her a busy bunny who loves to explore and perform binkies! Like most smaller rabbits, she's a bit skittish, but she also enjoys kisses and head pets. Malley will be a good bunny for someone who enjoys watching a young rabbit as she explores her world! **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



**Rusty** came into foster care as a stray who had been very poorly cared for. He had urine burns on all 4 legs and was malnourished. For some reason, his entire coat was colored red. Since then, he has recovered fantastically! All of his fur is growing back and we've discovered that he actually has a white belly! Rusty has a great personality and he's loving life now. He's about 5 years old, but acts

like a youngster; he hates having to go back to his pen after play time. We think Rusty would be an excellent rabbit for just about any household. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



**Winnie** was found running loose in a neighborhood and hiding under a camper. She's about 3 years old and has a gorgeous black coat with some brown speckles. She's a "full-sized" girl with a giant dewlap that she snuggles her chin

into during sleepy time. At her age, she's not a hyper youngster although she does enjoy casually exploring her surroundings and being petted. Winnie is a good choice for someone who wants to spend lots of time just relaxing with a bun. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

## Adopted!

The Pothast family in Wapakoneta has recently opened their hearts and home to **Charlie**, the amazing Otter Mini Rex. **Nibblets** was not with her foster family very long before Allison and Tallie Siegel decided she was a "must have" addition to their home.



# Farewell to Chester

By Debbie Taillard

May 18, 2008 (adoption and new life as a house rabbit)  
– June 25, 2012

At my request one sunny Saturday morning, our family visited the Cleveland Animal Protective League in search of a bunny companion. Upon entering the rabbit room, I began looking at the rows and rows of cages that seemed to cover the entire wall. I did not notice my daughter and husband calling to me from the far corner. There, in a cage by himself, was a brown bunny. According to the information sheet, he had been admitted two days earlier. A woman had seen him in her Cleveland neighborhood, recognized him as a homeless domestic rabbit, and brought him to the APL. If he hadn't been abused, he certainly had been neglected. He had suffered a broken right hind leg which healed improperly. His face was distorted from imbedded ticks. We felt so sad for all the hardships he had encountered. As we gently lifted him from his cage, he melted into our arms and we knew we wanted to bring him home. However, the APL was closing for the day. My husband said that we should come back the next day, though I was concerned that he wouldn't be there. As we turned to leave, I saw his little face pressed up to the bars of the cage looking for me. We returned at opening the next day. There he was, waiting for us. I was so excited to bring him home. He no longer had the generic name "Thumper" but now became Chester, house rabbit with a family who loved him.

Some would say that he was just a brown bunny, but I felt differently. Looking more closely at his coat, there were many mottled shades. The rusty brown on the softest fur just behind his ears, cream color on his tummy, variegated gray-brown and shades of light and dark brown on his back, a beautiful little cotton tail with black on the top and white on the underside, and large ears tipped in black. We loved his wild, rugged beauty. I felt inspired to put my novice art skills to work in creating a painting or drawing of him. Burnt ochre, raw umber, sienna brown, sepia ... all those wonderful shades of brown. I wish that I had found the time to attempt a drawing.

Chessie lived in our great room and he truly was the focal point of our gatherings. Each morning my son, daughter, husband, or I would look forward to coming downstairs to "let Chessie out." Placing his paws on the rungs and pressing his nose through the slats, Chessie would wait eagerly for us to open the door of his cage so he could hop out. Many days he was out from breakfast to bedtime. Our children are homeschooled and we spend a lot of time in the great room reading books. We would sit on the futon and read while Chessie was nearby. *The Hobbit*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Harry Potter*. Chessie would sit as closely as possible



to us, big ears attentive, until the cadence of our voices gently lulled him to sleep. Then he would lay on his side, deeply dreaming, with his legs, ears, and nose twitching as he seemed to run through a field of dandelions or clover. Sometimes he would fall asleep in a little patch of sunshine.

I learned to be quiet, humble, and still so that Chessie could teach me his subtle form of communication. Once he was sitting in his hay box and he didn't hop out of his cage as he usually did when his door was opened. When I asked him if he was okay, he wiggled his nose repeatedly. One early morning when the house was still quiet, I reached to gently touch his forehead and beautiful silky ears and I noticed him making a sound like a cooing and a purr combined. I had never heard him make such a sound and, since bunnies are quiet little beings, I think he really had to work hard at it. In my heart, I knew what he was saying -- "I am so happy. Thank you. I love you." For me that is one of the most valued experiences of his life.

Bunnies have a way of showing love that is uniquely their own. A dog may wag his tail, but a bunny will put on a dance for you that is almost like a choreographed ballet, leaping into the air and kicking up his heels. On several occasions Chessie would hop a figure eight around my feet in uncontained excitement. I felt the same joy in seeing him.

Chessie was part of our family for four years. Though it has been emotionally difficult for me to write, I want to honor his life and I hope to share (as have so many kind people here) the wonderful gift that bunnies can bring to our lives, if we open our hearts to them. Chessie's life is also a reminder to look in the least likely places (sometimes what seems too ordinary or broken) because often there you will find treasures. I know that his life has been a treasure for me.

My Little Chessie, Sweet Soul, Book Buddy, Beautiful Brown, Forever Friend, True Heart, Sunshine

**Love Always,  
Mom, Katie, Danny, and Dad**



## Name Our Next Foster Rabbit!



For a donation of \$20, the Buckeye House Rabbit Society invites you to choose the name of the next rabbit who comes into our foster care.

With your tax-deductible donation, you will get to choose the name of our next foster bunny and also have your name or family's name included in the bunny's description both on-line and in our newsletters.

**\*\* Makes a great gift or memorial for some-bunny special \*\***

Return this form along with your donation to:

**The Buckeye House Rabbit Society**, PO Box 5767, Athens OH 45701

I would like to name a: (Select one) \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female

Bunny Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(to be added to the Bunny's Name, e.g. Thumper Patterson)

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your support!**

***Find the Buckeye House Rabbit Society on Facebook and Twitter!***



***Search for: Buckeye House Rabbit Society***



***www.twitter.com/BuckeyeHRS***



# MEMBERSHIP FORM

## Your \$33.00 annual membership in the Buckeye HRS includes:

- National membership (\$18.00) and 3-4 issues of the House Rabbit Journal
- Local membership (\$15.00) and issues of Harelines

If you are already a national member, your local fee is \$15.00

- I would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help a foster rabbit (vet care, supplies)
- I would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_.  
The grieving family receives an acknowledgment of your gracious gesture.

## I would like to volunteer to:

- Distribute information to vets
- Assist with mailing
- Help at Buckeye HRS booth at Pet Expos and fairs
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Bunnies' names and special dates \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to:**

**Buckeye**

**House Rabbit Society**

**P.O. Box 5767**

**Athens, OH 45701**

**All donations are tax-deductible.**



**Buckeye House Rabbit Society**

P.O. Box 5767

Athens, OH 45701



Buy a bunny a little time...