



# HARELINES



Volume 17 Number 3 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

Fall 2013

## From Rags To Riches

By Debra Swank

Holly, originally known as Parker, had an unfortunate beginning to her life. She was part of the hoarding situation in Huber Heights, a suburb of Dayton. She and about 300 other animals were seized from one house. Luckily for Holly, she quickly found her new home. Debra Swank with the Akron Zoo tells us about Holly's new life:

I thought that she would be nervous and shy. The Dutch rabbit had arrived at the Akron Zoo from the Buckeye House Rabbit Society after being rescued from a hoarding situation. She had not had a good start in life and had every reason to hold a grudge. But this rabbit seemed to be able to look past this and be grateful for new beginnings. Her name now is Holly, and Holly is part of the animal ambassador program at the Akron Zoo. She travels with zoo education staff to schools, libraries, camps, senior centers, and so forth, where she helps teach about the important role of wild rabbits within their habitats and also about pet responsibility.

When Holly is not educating kids throughout northeast Ohio in the Zoomobile, she enjoys the

perks that come with living in a zoo. Holly now has many new fellow furry friends. She spends time in both the indoor and outdoor enrichment play areas with a guinea pig, a chinchilla, and a 10 year-old Netherland dwarf rabbit named Shadow. Shadow and Holly have become wonderful companions for each other. Holly will hop up to Shadow and lie down next to him so he can lick her ears, and then she will return the grooming favor for him.

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*Holly*



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We know our members value their privacy and that's why we never, ever, sell our mailing list or distribute it to any other party. All of our members' information is held in the strictest confidence.

## Special Thanks to:

**Everyone who so generously donated** to help cover GusGus's medical bills. We're happy to report that his broken leg has mended -- and he has found his forever home!

**Laurie and Billy at Small Pet Select**, for donating 10% of your timothy hay purchases to the Buckeye HRS. See our website for details (under Rabbit Supplies) and remember to use the coupon code "Buckeye" to receive free shipping and to help us help more bunnies.

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

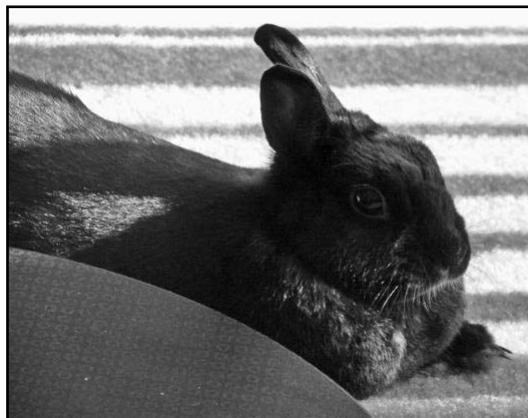
**Bob and Holly Piekarczyk, David and Joyce Weaver, Junko Rogers, Sue Milewski, Adriana Mastroguiseppe, Phyllis O'Beollain, Joann Strelzoff, Pam Loch, Judy O'Neil, Janet Reed, Tracy Soltesz and Harold Chittum, Jim and Nancy Reed.**

**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 2013!

Come join us for Midwest BunFest! Mark your calendar now for Saturday November 2, 9:30 am to 5 pm, Whitehall Community Park Activities Building, Columbus, Ohio. For details visit <http://www.midwestbunfest.org>





*Holly (right) and some furry friends*

Holly has many new human friends as well. When in her holding pen, she lies pressed against the doors so everyone passing by can give her scratches or food treats. She also enjoys hopping around the zoo's library, reminding the staff that not many workplaces allow you to have a rabbit to keep you company at your desk.

The Akron Zoo appreciates the cooperation that the Buckeye House Rabbit Society provided in setting up the adoption of this special animal.

## Introducing Our Newest Volunteer!

Hi! My name is Shawwna Lemerise and I have always been an animal lover thanks to my family. In addition to one rabbit, we have two dogs, two parrots, and a cat. Through many carpet cleanings and replacements, squawking, barking, ruined furniture, garbage break-ins, vet trips, escapes into "the wild", hairballs, and cleaning up more poop than I care to remember, the animals have always been members of our family.

My compassion for animals has led me to a vegetarian diet, though it still includes fish and dairy. I currently work in fundraising for a Cleveland-based non-profit organization. I graduated from Cleveland State University last year with an MA in Sociology and hold a BA from John Carroll University with a major in English and minors in Philosophy and Sociology.

As a teenager, I made the newbie mistake of going into a pet store, falling in love with a gray baby French Lop, and taking him home knowing nothing about rabbits. Although I made plenty of mistakes, luckily for Foo-Foo I was eager to learn and became aware that he was much more than a live stuffed animal. I learned that you have to earn a rabbit's trust, but once you do, there is nothing more rewarding. We had a very happy, but short, seven years together. Unfortunately, I also had to learn how to say goodbye, which I will admit I will probably never really learn how to do.

I took in my second and current rabbit when he was two months old. He is a male Lionhead named Boo-Boo. Boo-Boo was a runt from an accidental second litter and was bullied by his older siblings. When I adopted him, he was scabby with chunks of fur missing, skinny, and sad looking. Now, I am happy to report, he is a healthy and fluffy bun with an attitude to match his cuteness.

I wholeheartedly believe that when you adopt an animal, you are making a lifelong commitment. No matter the expense, time, or how things change, you owe it to the rabbit, or any animal, to do the best you can to care for him or her because all s/he has is you. Although I still have plenty to learn, it is an honor to join the Buckeye HRS and I look forward to what is to come!





# Rabbit Fractures

By Dr. Gary Riggs DVM, ABVP  
NorthCoast Bird & Exotic Specialties

Rabbits, by nature, are prey species ... and they make their living with quick getaways. To accomplish this, they are equipped with very strong muscles and light, but strong, bones. This system works great ... until something goes wrong and a bone gets broken. Rabbit fractures are often characterized by explosive bone breaks. The light bones, when subjected to a sudden twist or pressure, can break into sharp fragments that can easily penetrate muscle and skin. Since rabbit legs are heavily muscled on top, with little lower support, the fractures often occur near the elbows or knees, which further complicates repair since the integrity of the joints needs to be preserved. To make matters worse, the strong leg muscles immediately start to pull the sharp fragments farther out of alignment, causing secondary damage to muscle, nerves, blood vessels, and skin.

Rabbit fractures, therefore, need to be dealt with quickly to minimize further damage, bone displacement, and joint injury. As soon as possible, soft tissue wounds need to be closed or covered and antibiotics started (ONLY if there is a risk of contamination); fluids should be used if the rabbit experienced blood loss, and pain medication should be administered. The goal of fracture repair is **STRONG** stabilization with the least amount of additional trauma. Because good bone alignment is critical and because a rabbit's limb shapes make application difficult, splints or casts are seldom used, unless the fractures are below the elbow on front legs and below the ankle on the rear. IF splints or casts are utilized, it is very important to check them frequently to ensure that they are not rubbing or slipping. When other, better methods of repair cannot be utilized, a specialized splint (Schroeder-Thomas splint, dating from the 1930's) is a useful alternative. Although bulky, this traction splint featuring an outer metal ring with connected bars can sometimes salvage an otherwise un-repairable fracture.

In most cases, rabbit long-bone fractures are repaired with an intramedullary pin, a pin inserted inside the bone. This is an appropriately-sized stainless steel pin placed down the bone canal of both fragments and anchored in solid bone without penetrating the joints. If multiple fragments exist, or if the fragments are irregular in shape, additional strength is obtained by the use of stainless steel (cerclage) wires to anchor the pieces. Bone plates are less commonly utilized in rabbits



*Harley Quinn*

due to small bone sizes, bone fragility, and frequent proximity to joints.

In situations where more stability is required or where multiple fragments cannot be easily joined, an external fixation device can be used, either in conjunction with an intramedullary pin or alone. In this form of repair, stainless steel threaded pins are driven perpendicular to the leg, through the skin and anchored in the bone. At least one pin is placed on each side of the fracture and the pins are joined by a bar parallel to the leg thereby creating an outside brace. Finally, the external fixators are covered with bandage material for protection.

Post-op, the bunnies require appropriate levels of pain control and anti-inflammatories. They need to be in confinement after release from the hospital, and close attention should be paid to the bandage to prevent rub lesions or excessive swelling. Fractures are normally rechecked at one week, then as often as needed prior to radiographs to check healing at five to six weeks. If healing is complete, the external fixation and intramedullary pins can be removed. Activity should be minimized for an additional two weeks to build bone and muscle strength before returning to normal activity.

## Holiday Raffle to Benefit Buckeye HRS Foster Rabbits!

Included in our eighth annual holiday raffle are:

- Two beautiful limited-edition decorative rabbit plates from the Bradford Exchange, designed by Vivi Crandall
- 8-1/8 inches diameter
- Surrounded by a simple decorative border and a band of 22-karat gold
- Both plates come with a Certificate of Authenticity
- "Footloose" is a first issue in the Bunny Tails collection (Plate number 16966A)
- "I'm All Ears" is a second issue in the Bunny Tails collection (Plate Number 8318C)
- Wrought iron wall hanging display
- 31.5" height, 5.5" width, 1.75" depth
- Hardware is included

All proceeds will go directly to our foster program and will ensure that needy bunnies have a safe and happy holiday season while they await the ultimate gift, a permanent home. Tickets cost \$1 each and you may buy as many as you wish. **All entries must be postmarked no later than December 9, 2013.** Please include your phone number and email (if available) with your check or money order and indicate it's for the raffle. Mail your request to: Buckeye HRS, P.O. Box 5767, Athens, OH 45701. We regret that you can no longer use PayPal to buy raffle tickets, since any activity dependent on chance is against their corporate police, even harmless raffles for nonprofits. An online payment through your bank for ticket purchases of \$5 or more is always an alternative to a check. The lucky winner will be notified in early December and will receive his/her prize in time for holiday gift-giving.





# Balancing Life

By Kerry Schutte

We have all heard people explaining it, "I just couldn't keep the dog, we don't have enough money." Or, "We just ran out of time for the bunny." Or even, "We were having a baby so we had to get rid of all our pets."

I am the proud mother to a wonderful six-month-old baby girl named Lilly! Before that I was a mom to our dogs, cats, and our bunny. When we found out we were pregnant, we vowed that we would not be getting rid of any of our animals when the baby came. The baby is now here and we still have our large fur babies! I thought that balancing caring for my animals, working full time, studying for my master's degree, and having a baby would be a breeze! Boy was I in for a wake-up call when we got home from the hospital! I thought everything would fall in place and we would have a perfect blended family. That did not quite happen. There have been days when Augustus (our rabbit) has not gotten his kale at dinner time (because I was too tired to go to the grocery after work the night before). The dogs have gone on fewer walks and the cats have gotten fewer treats in the past six months. My house is a little hairier than before we had the baby and there are generally a few dirty dishes in the sink, but at the end of the day we are one big, happy family! We treat our pets like they are family and getting rid of them is unthinkable. I am still working through the balancing act that is life, but I know we are all happier with each other than we would be if I split us up!



*Lilly at five months, with her Dad and Augustus.*

## 375 Rabbits Confiscated in Indiana

Back in June, authorities in Indianapolis seized 375 rabbits from a single home. Three hundred and seventy-five. Their living conditions were horrible – some had no food or water, cages were so small that some couldn't even move, many had urine burns from standing in their own feces and urine, the smell was nauseating. And, of course, there were babies. Our neighbor, the Indiana HRS, was overwhelmed. HRS chapters, independent rescue groups, and shelters across the country stepped in to help. The Buckeye HRS contributed some money for supplies; our fosterers took in several rabbits and helped transport others to local shelters. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the amazing Indiana HRS volunteers, all confiscated bunnies have been placed in foster or shelter care. Now, after a rough start in life, they have a chance to be happy, healthy, house buns.

Five Indiana rescues – lovely Daphne and her four adorable babies – are featured on page 8. Other Indiana rescues will be posted soon on our website. Consider opening your heart and home to one of them. Every adoption makes a difference. Every one of those 375 buns could be just as sweet and smart and happy as yours.



## Trials and Tribulations of a Fosterer

By Michele Roth

A trip to the shelter where an unfortunate, gentle creature is underfed and has ear mites; nails that have never been trimmed; sore hocks from the wire cage that is the only surface available. When you approach the scared creature, he backs into a corner afraid. And there are even worse situations than this. Tears well in the fosterer's eyes.

You get a call – we don't have time to take care of our rabbit anymore. Can you take "it"? Because if I don't find a home for "it" I'll have to take "it" to the shelter and they'll euthanize "it". Not only is the caller trying to sound like they're doing what's best for the rabbit, they're trying to guilt and manipulate the fosterer into relieving them of their responsibility. The anger releases in the form of tears.

Then there is the rabbit who has been in foster care for a long time, occasionally even being adopted only to be returned. We continue to hope for the forever home for this sweet bunny and believe with all our heart that in time that home will come. Unfortunately, the foster rabbit has passed away without making it to her forever home and many tears fall.

All the time unwanted or neglected rabbits are either abandoned, abused, or both. It is heart wrenching, sad, and even tiring. Will people ever understand that they are looking at a long-term commitment, that they will need patience to correct easily-fixed behavioral issues?

So why do we continue to do it?

Because that rabbit who was in bad shape is not only eating, but discovering that he loves cilantro and banana slices. The ear mites are gone and the sore hocks feel better

now that they have been treated. And he now knows that hands are not a bad thing, but are the source of pleasure, joy... and love.

The rabbit who was so easily discarded is now doing binkies and has an appointment to meet a potential new companion in a home that is already filled with the joy of having a rabbit as part of the family. Not only will he have a new home, but a playmate as well.

And last but not least, the rabbit who passed away in foster care without finding her forever home. She was loved and cared for by her foster parent, who shed tears when she passed and felt the loss of her leaving. The same fosterer who saw joy and excitement in her bunny eyes when she walked in the room. Her forever home was with the person who knew that her favorite spot to be petted was at the base of her ears.

And that is why we continue.



*Anise*



# Somebunny Needs YOU!



**Daphne** is a small mini-rex new momma. Only one year old, she was seized along with 375 other rabbits from Indianapolis. Luckily, the Indiana House Rabbit Society helped to arrange her transfer to Buckeye. Daphne is very social, gives kisses, and her fur feels like the lushest velvet you've ever experienced. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**

**Daphne's Babies:** These four sweeties will be available for adoption as soon as they can be spayed/neutered in October. They are all very social and are accustomed to being held, petted, and talked to throughout the day. They thrive on the attention!

**Dokken (Dok)** is largest of his brothers and sister. He's adventurous and super sweet. His hindquarters have more black than his brothers. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



**Kinsie**, although slightly smaller than Dok, has an equally fun-loving personality. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



**Mo Cheeks** has an all-black nose, unlike his brother Kinsie, but otherwise looks just like him. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



**Linny**, the only baby girl, is currently more reserved than her brothers but is slowly coming out of her shell. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



Have you ever wanted back into a time of innocence, when rabbits could be big and white and magic? This young lovely, born in spring '09, will take you there. Open your door to her, and come home to the land of **Honalee**. Please contact **Herta Rodina (bhrs-herta@ohare.org) 740-797-3085**.



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**.



Meet **Barley** and **Hops**, aka "The Beer Babies". Barley and Hops are a pair of super friendly "BWBs" (Big White Buns). 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**.

## Adopted!

It didn't take long for **Gustavo (Gus, GusGus)** to find his forever home. Long-time supporter Gregg Page and his other bun, Scooter, have welcomed Gus into their home and hearts. Gus couldn't have found a better, more caring home.



# Somebunny Needs YOU!

**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 (bhers-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



**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 (bhers-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



"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 (bhers-michele@ohare.org) 859-261-0556.**



**Carmen** was found in Cincinnati with Woodruff and other bunnies loose in a neighborhood. She absolutely thrives on human interaction and gets excited each time she sees someone. She is younger, under 3 years and a perfectly healthy happy bunny. Her interests include body pets and chunky pieces of Timothy hay. Just

seeing her silly head shakes will bring a smile to your face. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhers-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**

# Somebunny Needs YOU!



Meet the beautiful **Miss Izzy-Belle** with her gorgeous blend of gray and brown fur and an agouti belly. She is friendly and neat -- and tidy with her bunny house. She enjoys snuggling and being held. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



**Scout** is an adorable Mini Rex mix rabbit. About one and a half years old, she is on the smaller side and is very friendly. She enjoys playing in her box and being held. Scout is very good with her litter-box habits. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

**Happiness  
is a warm  
bun**





# 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...