



HARELINES



Volume 18 Number 3 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

Fall 2014

Cheaper By The Dozen

By Mark, Robin & Dustin Covert

Fosterer's note: Mark and Robin Covert are our most prolific adopters! We have had the pleasure of meeting them and fulfilling their bunny needs many times over the years and they've also helped out with emergency fostering when we've asked. We are immensely grateful for their generous contributions to the Buckeye House Rabbit Society!

Greetings! My wife Robin, our son Dustin, and I have had the remarkable experience of adopting a dozen (well, in reality eleven) house rabbits. If we include the wild rabbits that have been guests, the count pushes up to 15. We usually try to keep an even number; we've found that bored rabbits are destructive and single rabbits are easily bored.

Maggie and Daisy came to live with us in 1993 and completely stole our hearts. This was before we had our son and these two quickly became our kids. We were not the perfect bunny parents, as we had much to learn; one of those lessons was the importance of neutering and spaying. Maggie was an adorable Holland lop and Daisy was a mini lop.

Joxer, a cute Californian originally named Ernie, came from one of the first bunny bunches that Kristi Cole had fostered.

Lola was a mini lop baby, also from Kristi, and became the perfect little playmate for Joxer.

Stevie, also from Kristi's bunch, was incredibly handsome with his very long lop ears. Unfortunately Stevie had jaw issues and required multiple surgeries over the years until finally he had to be put to sleep. What a terrible time that was for our family.

Penny, a copper-colored mini Rex, had rarely been out of a cage and had never known the love of a bunny friend. We rescued him and he became such a wonderful comfort to Stevie during his recovery after each jaw surgery. Penny was older, never neutered, and died suddenly one day while lying next to Stevie. Stevie and Penny had been best buds during their short time together. Sadly, it was not long after Penny passed that Stevie had to be put down.

After Stevie passed, we suddenly found ourselves with no rabbits for the first time in years! There were no more visits to the pet

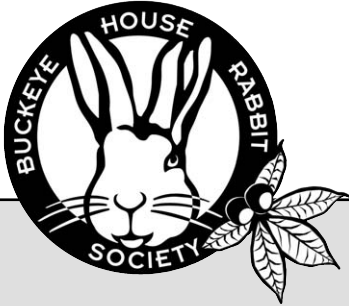
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Bell and Harley

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

The Buckeye HRS Respects Your Privacy
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:

Gary Embree, for his very generous contribution to our foster program. We have many fond memories of Sue Embree and of bunny Feather and we are saddened to learn of their passing.

Kathy Kallay, for her kind and generous donation in memory of Ken Clark.

Carey Miklavcic, for her thoughtful gift in memory of Trouble.

Linda and Mark Gardner, for their extensive color printing, sign making, bunny ears for people and cars, leadership, and positive attitudes for our Whole Foods protest (story on page 11). Their time and hard work made a world of difference to the cause.

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 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:

Barbara Roberts, Norma Jeanne Mudry, Clay and Nancy Pasternack, Judith Smith-May, Bob Piekarczyk, Janet Reed, Deborah Raddish, Cynthia Slezak, Junko Rogers, Mohan Keole, Judy O'Neil, Jim and Nancy Reed, Barbara Bramley-Galambos, Debbie Dowell, 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 2014!

Come join us for Midwest BunFest! Mark your calendar now for Saturday November 8, 9:30 am to 5 pm, Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, 4900 Sinclair Rd, Columbus, OH 43229. For details visit <http://www.midwestbunfest.org> Hope to see you all there!





store for bun supplies. We swore we would never have another rabbit because the pain of losing them was too great. Well ... that all changed when I heard a friend talk about a baby bunny who was horribly mistreated by a family with toddlers. The bunny needed a loving family to come to the rescue and we did just that. Enter Latté. We named him Latté because he is the color of one of our favorite Starbucks drinks and he has the energy of someone on high octane caffeine! He has a large hole in his ear and totally rules the roost, always under our feet and as nosey as can be. We have not dismissed the possibility that Latté is really a pug-nose puppy dog instead of a Holland lop because of the way he hops on his back legs while standing up begging for his food.

Maggie Pie, a Harlequin, came home in 2009 from Keith and Sue Zimmerman's. She was one BIG bunny! With her girth and gentleness, she became the figurehead for The Fat Rabbit website. Latté chose her from many competitors and totally loved his fat-bottom girl. Unfortunately, we found a tumor over Maggie Pie's spine shortly after she came to live with us and she had to have a major surgery. She recovered very well and the vet thought that all the cancer had been removed, but since it was so close to her spine, only time would tell. She passed away suddenly one night and little Latté went into Bunny Depression.

Fortunately Dixie, also from the Zimmermans, became Latté's companion. She has become our princess and will take long routes around her enclosure, keeping to the rugs and cardboard because she does not like her

feet touching the tile floor. Dixie is a Florida White and has gorgeous pink eyes!

We rescued Harley from a dirty barn floor where he had very little space to live and had to sit in his own waste. His fur was filthy and he had urine scald over much of his body. Within weeks of living with us, he lost most of his fur and when it grew back he had a beautiful lion-like mane. Our first Lion Head now looks like a college professor and enjoys reigning over his domain, perched upon his box.

Well, after a year we knew it was time to get Harley a companion so ... back to the Zimmerman's we went. We came home with a lovely big girl named Izzybelle and the bonding process is still going on. Another ride in the back seat of our big diesel truck over bumpy roads should do the trick to bring them closer together. One thing we noticed about Izzy, she is not a stranger to the food bowl!

Over the past years we've also enjoyed providing support for sanctuary rabbits; we recall Harvey, Annie, and Patty. Each bunny kid has held a special place in our home and hearts and, with four mouths to feed now, the pet store knows us by name! We have also entertained a number of orphaned wild rabbits, mostly from one cottontail who was intent on having her litter near the front porch every year. Some of these orphans return and even come when called.

The rewards are so great when taking in a little bunny to be part of the family. They are wonderful pets with distinct personalities and lots of love to give.



Latté and Dixie



Cultivating Contacts

By **Debbi Braunschweiger**

If you're reading this, chances are you have adopted from a rescue or shelter, volunteer at one, or "c" all of the above. No matter which of these scenarios applies to you, we are always reminded of the financial and staffing needs that fuel these operations.

How many times has someone struck up a conversation with you in the grocery checkout asking about your healthy lifestyle because you have so many greens, only to find out they aren't for you but instead for your rabbits? Or how often do other clients in the veterinarian's office ask what animal you have in your carrier and then wonder whether rabbits make good pets?

I've lost count of the number of times this has happened to me, but each time I try to view it as a new opportunity to advocate for rabbits. Sure, I've had days when the last thing I want to do is make small talk with another well-meaning, albeit annoying, person at the grocery. The same could be said when I'm totally stressed over my rabbit's condition and the person's dog is getting way too close for comfort. In all of those instances I try to look beyond myself and use them as a chance to provide some education and insight about these special creatures we all love.

About six years ago I started volunteering at our local shelter. The minute I walked into the lobby and saw the stressed and longing faces of rabbits in random cages on a chaotic Saturday afternoon, I knew I had to advocate on their behalf. That seems to be a common thread among volunteers - feeling the need to be an animal advocate and give

them a voice when they're unable to speak for themselves.

Early on I found that sharing your passion and knowledge does pay off in unexpected ways. "Karen" was so grateful to have adopted "Fiona" that she sent a check for \$1000 to improve the lives of our shelter's rabbits. That money set the wheels in motion for the "Rabbitat," a dedicated room assigned to the rabbits, as well as a Leith Petwerks cage configuration to house nine bunnies.

Each spring one of our area's assets in farm and animal education, Aullwood Audubon Farms, hosts a family event called Farm Babies Fest. It encourages young and old to learn about the new baby animals born at the farm and invites local rescues to bring some of their animals for adoption. My husband, Craig, did a lot of volunteer work with their board and mentioned my work with rabbits to their staff. One day I got a call asking if we'd consider bringing some of our rabbits to their event. Initially I was torn about taking shelter



Volunteer Jade introduces Boots the bunny to a new friend.



rabbits to a working farm that breeds livestock for meat. However, looking at the bigger picture, it seemed that it was one of the best regular opportunities we would have to educate entire families, especially those from neighboring rural towns accustomed to rabbits in outdoor hutches. The bigger-picture thinking won out and we've participated in the event for the last three years. Do we do on-site adoptions? No. Is it a huge undertaking trying to keep an eye on the rabbits while children want to poke and pet and still talk to their parents about rabbits as indoor pets? Absolutely! Would I trade the opportunity for the chance to educate just one person who might have made the decision, right or wrong, to get a rabbit as a pet? Not a chance. If just one person learns what great house pets they make or what they should be feeding their current rabbit, then it's all worthwhile.

Last year in Dayton we had a hoarding case involving 38 rabbits. To compound the problem there were 15 pregnant females from only 4 males. If there were ever a situation that called for a network of contacts, this was one. We made calls to area vets to assist with emergency spays, posted Facebook pleas to recruit help with kenneling, and sent emails to suppliers seeking food, toys, and hay. We reached out to our friend and rabbit-loving partner, Dr. Diana Cron in Cincinnati, who organized a triage the day of their arrival and spent her entire Saturday sexing and assessing each bun's health. We spent evenings

phoning and emailing any and all rescues that took in rabbits to help take one or two off our hands. In the end, we were able to relocate 16 rabbits to other rescues and adopted out the remaining 22. Without a colossal effort on the part of many folks, most of those rabbits would never have had a second chance at a better life.

Every day it seems that I'm given the opportunity to make a difference in unexpected ways. It could be that someone who just took one of our training classes has a friend whose child's school has a classroom rabbit who's not being cared for properly. Or maybe a local business that sponsors a donation box like my past employer, Jeanette at her Wild Birds Unlimited store, allows us to do an on-site fundraising event on short notice. Or maybe you meet someone with family in an area without a House Rabbit Society chapter who wants to get involved with rabbits.

You get my point. The possibilities are endless for cultivating contacts personally and professionally that could very well be the start of a relationship that just might save a bunny's life or at the very least improve it.

So the next time someone strikes up a conversation about rabbits, even if it is ill-timed, please take a second to think before responding. You just might be talking to the next person willing to help you and the rabbits you're helping.

Holiday Raffle to Benefit Buckeye HRS Foster Rabbits!

Our ninth annual holiday raffle features a charming Tassel Bowler Bag by ASOS Collection. The details include: leather-look fabric, a spacious design with a zip top closure, a tassel zip pull, twin grab handles with studded detailing, a rabbit plaque to the front, a detachable across-the-body strap, a fully-lined interior, and a zip pocket to the back wall. Outer: 100% polyurethane. Trim: 50% polyurethane, 50% polyvinylchloride. Lining: 100% polyester.

Additional details:

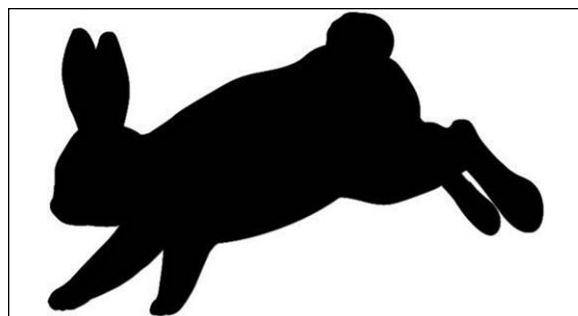
- **gold hardware and 2.75" rabbit decoration**
- **dimensions: 11" wide, 7.5" tall, 8" deep**
- **two handles and one shoulder strap with 22" drop**



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 8, 2014. 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. If you prefer, you may pay by credit card through our website – www.ohare.org/wordpress/support/our-raffle – for ticket purchases of \$5 or more. The lucky winners will be notified in early December and will receive their prize in time for holiday gift-giving.



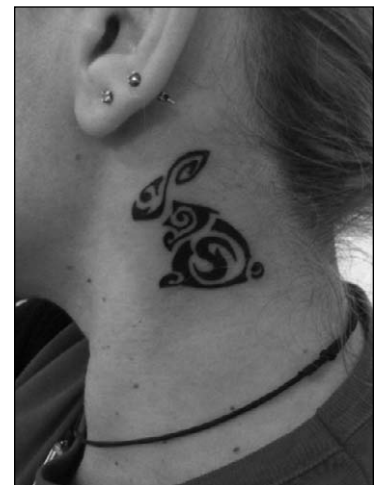
More Rabbit Tattoos!



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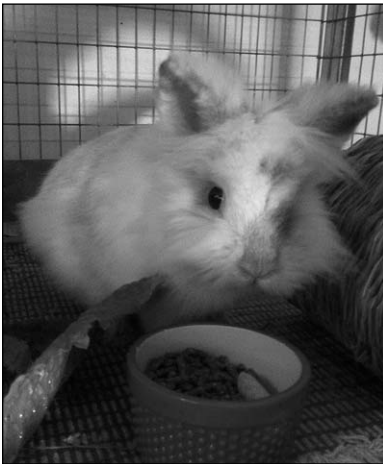


More Rabbit Tattoos!





Somebunny Needs YOU!



We are excited to announce that **Figaro Cooke** has finally arrived! He received his name from a generous donor through our Name Our Next Foster Rabbit program. Figaro is a one-year old adorable male lion head. He came to us recently from another large hoarding case in Indiana involving over 200 rabbits. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Meet **Leo**! Leo is a handsome, curious young fellow who enjoys the company of humans and likes to be held. He is very neat with his litter box and keeps his house nice and clean. Leo is an all-around good bunny. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Jessica is the sweetest, most affectionate sooty face lop that I have ever met. She loves kisses on her head and she will give you little bunny kisses right back. She is snuggly and loves being with people. **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.**



Meet **Raven**, she is a big, beautiful and sweet rabbit with shiny black fur. Although shy at first, she is curious and playful. If Poe had met this Raven, he would have rewritten his poem for her ... Quoth the Raven, "my forever home." **Please contact Michele Roth (bhrs-michele@ohare.org) 859-261-0556.**



Tavi, a small Mini Rex, is full of love and energy. She enjoys exploring her surroundings and doesn't mind being held for a good cuddle. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



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Here's **Tobias ("Tobey")**. Big Bun. Big Ears. Big Personality. We can't say enough good things about Tobey. He loves people and wants to be with you wherever you go. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Kierra ("Kia") is a stunningly beautiful lion head. She is also very sweet and a bit of a snuggle bunny. She would love to have a forever home with you. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrrs-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 (bhrrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



Carmen is one of our most treasured bunnies. She had a rough start because someone dumped her in the woods in Cincinnati. Even though she was quite shy in the beginning, she has metamorphosed into the most loving, easy going bunny during these past two years we've had her as a foster. I'm amazed we still have her. Her coat is beautiful brown and she matches everything -- brown is the new black! She adores people, cats, and guinea pigs. If you're interested in meeting Carmen, **please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**

Daphne's Babies: Now that they're neutered, these two sweeties are showing exactly how neat and friendly they can be. Both boys are very loving to people and to each other. There's nothing more precious than watching them snuggle and groom. Living in a large pen with space to run around gives them a safe place and room to race and jump. Both are excellent with their litterbox.



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

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





Meet The Indiana Babies

By Sue Zimmerman

Just after Easter, a female bunny was dumped on the porch of a local cottontail rehabber in Indiana, only to give birth to eleven kits a few days later. Seven of the babies survived and have been with the Buckeye HRS since they were three weeks old. It has been such a joy to watch them grow. This batch of baby buns is now almost six months old and ready to be spayed/ neutered and adopted to loving homes. Please email bhrs-sue@ohare.org for more info.



Jaxson and Samuel



Dazey and Nikki



Bunny has a unique marking on her nose. Depending on how you look at it, you will either see the head/face of a rabbit or the back profile of a bunny.



Karley, Bunny and Lindsay

Whole Foods Protest Day

By Linda Gardner and Stephanie Lodge

On August 17th, ten rabbit advocates -- Stephanie and Phillip Lodge, Linda and Mark Gardner, Katie Straka, Kyra Kester, Christina Collins, Lane Ferrante, Cindy Slezak, Stephanie Smanto -- gathered in Cleveland, OH, to protest the Woodmere Whole Foods carrying domestic rabbit meat in their meat counter. This protest was in unison with about forty other nationwide protests at Whole Foods (WF) locations. Most of us were a little nervous at first; until we all realized we were in the same boat.

We decorated all our cars with rabbit ears and pink noses and then placed large posters visible for anyone to see. The store manager asked us to move away from the front of the store and explained we could stand on the grassy areas in front of the shopping plaza facing a busy Chagrin Blvd.



The manager came out again and tried to make us leave the area where he had told us we could be. Mark Gardner said, "When you get the owner of the property to call me and ask us to leave, we will." The manager got a bit frustrated and said he was calling the cops.

We tried explaining as he walked away, "we are not asking people to boycott WF, we like shopping there. All we are asking is that you stop carrying rabbit."

The police did show up and to our surprise, they were super-nice and never confronted us, as we were on public property despite what the WF manager tried to tell us. The highlight of the experience was at the end; one policewoman requested some of our literature from Stephanie. The officer is vegan and wanted to help support our cause!

Sadly, we did have one strange lady who accused us of discriminating against pigs, cows, and chickens. We tried to patiently explain to her -- that was not our battle today. Today, we are speaking out for our bunnies, who are our pets.

Interested in helping???

Sign our petition. Please go to www.change.org/petitions/wholefoods-please-do-not-sell-rabbit-meat-in-your-stores Or just google "Whole Foods petition." Visit www.wholefoodsmarket.com and tell them how you feel about them selling domestic rabbits as meat.



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

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Buy a bunny a little time...