



# HARELINES



Volume 15 Number 2 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY Spring/Summer 2011

## Pre- and Post-Operative Care of Rabbits

By Dana Krempels, Ph.D.  
University of Miami Department of Biology  
Reprinted with permission.

Any surgery can be physically and emotionally hard on both you and your companion rabbit, since there's really no such thing as a surgery that is 100% risk free. I hope the following information

will help you and your rabbit get through either emergency or elective surgery with maximal safety and minimal stress.

### Pre-operative Care

1. Be sure to schedule surgery with a veterinarian who is very familiar with the rabbit's unique anatomy and physiology, and who has had a great deal of experience and success with rabbit anesthesia and surgery. You might wish to start with the HRS veterinary listings on rabbit.org and ohare.org. Veterinarians specializing in "exotic" species

### In this issue

Be Somebunny's Hero . . . 3

Introducing Our Newest Volunteer. . . . . 8

Buckeye HRS Chapter Expenses . . . . . 11



are often rabbit-savvy. But before you commit to surgery, make sure – rabbit.org has an excellent page on how to find a good rabbit vet that should make this easy.

2. If possible, schedule the surgery so that you can bring your bunny home with you the same evening. Spending the night in an unfamiliar place, surrounded by strange people and the sound and smell of potential predators, can add unnecessary stress and lengthen your rabbit's recovery. Very few veterinary hospitals have 24-hour monitoring staff, and your bunny will probably not be watched for at least part of the night if s/he stays in the hospital. Home, where he can be monitored lovingly and regularly, is almost always best.

3. If your rabbit is bonded to another rabbit, it is important to bring them to the hospital together so that the mate can offer moral support in the pre-operative waiting period and



Continued on page 4



*Harelines*, the Buckeye House Rabbit Society Newsletter, is published by the all-volunteer, non-profit Buckeye House Rabbit Society, Athens, OH.

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

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

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

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

**Newsletter Editor:** . . Herta Rodina

**Layout/Design:** . Rebecca Nagley

**Contributing Writers:** . . . . Michele Kerley, Dana Krempels, Sue Zimmerman.

**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:

**Marjorie Aleva**, for her generous donation in memory of her mother, **Margaret Aleva**, who gave Marjorie her first bunny and taught her a deep love for animals.

**Liz Claytor**, for her thoughtful contribution in tribute to her beloved **Cookie**.

**Jude May**, for her much-appreciated donation in memory of her dear **Felix**.

**The GE Foundation**, for their matching grant program. Many companies match employee gifts to charity; make sure to check if yours does!

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

**Joyce Weaver, Janet Reed, Gloria Easterday, Sara Jennings, Kathy Kallay, igive.com, Dorothea Mayerchak, Gary Savage, Barbara Mirlenbrink, Doris and Adriana Mastroguiseppe, Debbie Raschke, Dennis and Shirley Wood, Jim and Laura Gills, Reva Thoroughman, Pinehaven Garden Center, Tracy Soltesz and Harold Chittum, Scott Edwards.**

**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.



## OUR WINNER!

We have a winner for our third annual spring raffle – Liz Claytor of Cincinnati! Congratulations to Liz and an extra-warm thank you to Christine Anielski for donating the beautiful wall hanging for our raffle prize. Thanks also to the generosity of our members and website visitors who purchased tickets; you are directly improving the health and quality of life of individual foster rabbits and putting them one hop closer to their forever home.

Happy Spring to All!





# Be Somebunny's Hero: Consider Adopting a "less-adoptable" Rabbit

By Sue Zimmerman

Have you ever noticed in the back of these newsletters and on ohare.org that some of the same bunnies have been listed there for years? Take a look. Read their stories. And ask yourself, "Do I have room in my heart for a bunny who is seeking a permanent home, but may never find one?" Although we love having these buns live here with us, I can't help but feel sorry for them. They deserve a chance at a forever home and the special bond that comes with adoption.

**Sylvester:** Age 6, in foster care since 7/2005. Sylvester has been in my home for most of his life. He has some quirky behaviors and he really prefers human females to human males. But once he bonds to you, he is your buddy for life. He loves feeding time and likes to do binkies.

**Pumpkin:** Age 5, in foster care since 11/2005. Pumpkin was raised as a meat rabbit. She is extremely shy, but comes out of her shell big time when she gets free time. She will do the most binkies you have ever seen! Pumpkin would be great with someone who can give her free range, which makes her happiest.

**The Black Bunny Syndrome.** More often than not many great rabbits have been overlooked because people just don't seem to like pets that are plain black. I am not sure why that is, but you will find this to be true with most shelter dogs and cats as well. Perhaps folks want a bunny with fancier coloring? I don't



understand it. These great bunnies have been sadly overlooked simply because of their color.

**Tessie:** 9 months old, in foster care since 10/2010. I can't say enough good things about Tess. She is super-friendly and loves people.

**Chilli:** Age 1.5, in foster care since 7/2009.

**Chiqua:** Age 1.5, in foster care since 7/2009.

**Cocoa Bean:** Age 2.5, in foster care since 8/2010.

**The White Bunny Syndrome:** Just as with the black bunnies, people seem to have a big hang-up about white bunnies with pink eyes. I have been told that their eyes are "creepy-looking" or simply, "I don't like bunnies with pink eyes." Of all the bunnies that I have fostered through the years, I have found white bunnies with pink eyes to have the best personalities and be the most cuddly and social.



**Dixie:** Age 4, in foster care since 6/2009. Dixie is a real sweetheart. She would love to be bonded to another bunny. When we first got her in she had just lost her mate.

**Honalee:** Age 2, in foster care with Herta Rodina since 9/09. Honalee is a bit shy, but will warm up to you once you earn her trust. She craves company and will do best in a home already familiar with house rabbits. She has gorgeous ruby eyes!

Look over all the bunnies listed above. Can you offer a forever home to one of these beautiful creatures who so desperately would like the chance to be adopted? Giving one of them a home also opens a spot for us to rescue more rabbits. Can you be somebunny's hero?



*Pre- and Post-Operative Care of Rabbits Cont'd.*

during recovery. It will also help prevent the dreaded un-bonding phenomenon that sometimes occurs when one member of a bonded pair comes home smelling of Strange and Scary Hospital. The last thing you want your bunny to suffer after surgery is violent rejection by his/her own mate! Unfortunately, this goes for bonded groups, too. It is best to bring everyone in for moral support and to prevent post-operative social rejection.

**4. DO NOT FAST YOUR RABBIT PRIOR TO THE SURGICAL APPOINTMENT,** even if the person scheduling your appointment tells you to do so. (Receptionists giving such instructions often recite the rules for dogs and cats, not realizing that the rules are different for rabbits.) Here are the reasons why some clinic staff inexperienced with rabbits might suggest fasting, and why these reasons do not hold true for

rabbits:

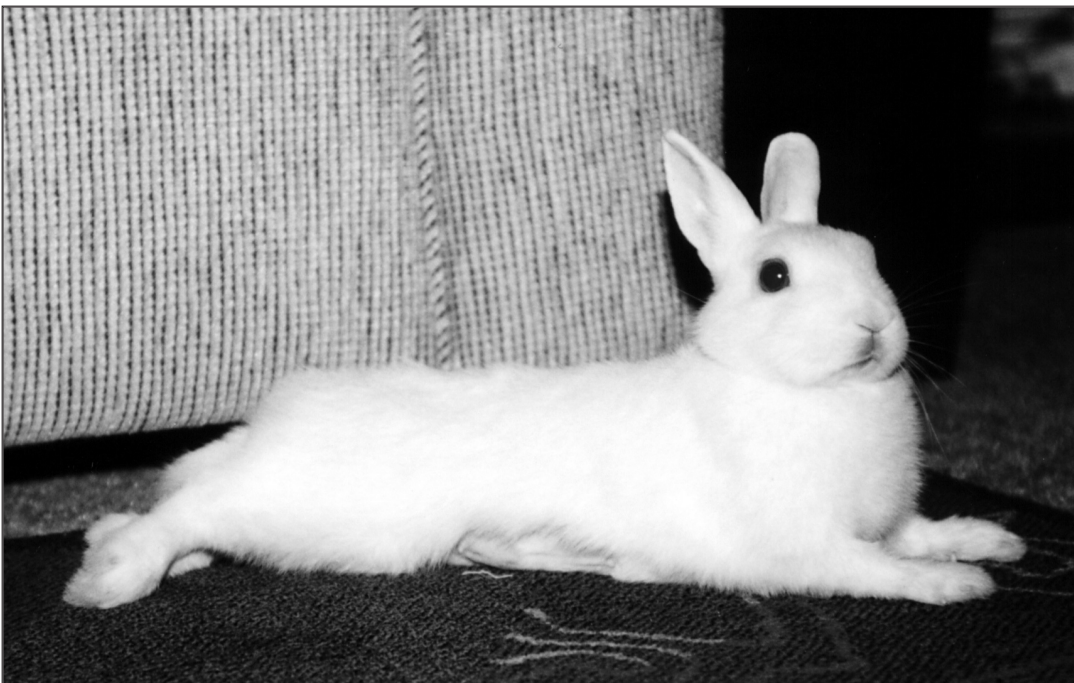
- a. Some surgical anesthetics can cause nausea. One of the reasons veterinarians fast most animals pre-operatively is the risk of vomiting during surgery or recovery. This can cause accidental aspiration, the breathing of liquid into the lungs, which can be fatal. However, rabbits lack the vomiting reflex, and are physically almost incapable of regurgitation. In rabbits, the risk of aspiration due to vomiting is negligible.
- b. Feeding your bunny before surgery helps the gastrointestinal (GI) tract remain active, which will speed recovery. Rabbits who become inappetant (not wanting to eat) after surgery are more difficult to "jump start" back to normal eating habits. Even relatively brief periods (24 hours) of anorexia can result in GI stasis and some liver damage in rabbits.
- c. Some veterinarians may be concerned that food in the intestine will interfere with

their obtaining a correct body weight, necessary for calculating the proper dose of injected anesthetic. This should not be a concern with rabbits because:

- Under normal circumstances, the intestine of a healthy rabbit is never empty, and should not be. Rabbit GI passage time is relatively lengthy (approximately 12 hours), so to get the intestine completely empty would take a very long time. Also, since an anorectic rabbit can begin to suffer liver damage in relatively short time when the GI tract is empty, it is not advisable to fast the rabbit before surgery.
- If the veterinarian is using isoflurane or sevoflurane, the gas anesthetic of choice, body weight is not an issue, since the gas is administered through the respiratory tract. Even though isoflurane gas is more expensive than injectable anesthetics, it is worth the extra cost to ensure a safer surgery and faster recovery.

• **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Although intubation allows much more precise administration and monitoring of gas anesthesia, and is safer in case of an emergency cardiac or respiratory arrest during surgery, please be aware that intubation of rabbits is a delicate procedure requiring a great deal of practice and expertise. If your vet is NOT experienced with rabbit intubations, it is probably much safer for the isoflurane to be administered via mask. You might wish to ask

*Lily rests comfortably after her spay.*





your vet about this before you schedule the surgery.

- Injectable pre-anesthetic doses are not likely to be affected by the slight difference in weight of a rabbit with a full intestine.

**5.** Take a bit of your rabbit's normal food (pellets and hay) along, as well as a small bag of favorite fresh herbs. Ask that the foods be offered to your bunny after the anesthesia has worn off. The sooner bunny starts nibbling after surgery, the quicker the recovery.

### **Post-Surgical Care Pain Management**

- Any surgery, including a neuter or (especially) a spay, will make bunny sore for one to several days.
- Pain management in rabbits is critical to uneventful recovery.
- Most experienced vets routinely administer analgesics such as metacam/meloxicam, Banamine (flunixin meglumine), buprenorphine, tramadol, etc. before or shortly after surgery, so the bunny will be as comfortable as possible while waking up.
- Ask the veterinarian about this before scheduling surgery. If no pain medications are going to be given to your rabbit, you should probably seek a different vet!
- Before bringing your bunny home, ask your vet about follow-up pain management at home, when the initial dose wears off.

### **Post-Surgical Monitoring and Care**

#### **1. Warmth**

- Immediately after surgery, keep your bunny warm and quiet.
- Provide a warm water bottle

or other heat source (that can't leak, burn, or cause injury) wrapped in a soft towel for bunny to lean against or move away from, at his/her discretion. **DO NOT** use any type of electrical heating source that could be an electrocution risk, should bunny chew on it!

- Rabbits will tolerate a soft, light blanket better than a heavy one.

#### **2. Post-surgical Contact and Handling**

- Don't hover. A bunny after surgery may feel groggy and unhappy, and not in the mood for cuddling.

- Unless you know that your rabbit wants cuddling, it's best to let him/her recover quietly and without more human interruption than is necessary to ensure that all is well.

#### **3. Post-surgical Monitoring for Trouble**

- Be sure to carefully (and gently) check the sutures daily for a few days after surgery to be sure the bunny isn't chewing them.
- Many vets use subcuticular (under the skin) sutures that cannot be chewed out, and may even put a line of surgical glue over the incision for extra strength. Ask your vet about this before surgery, so you will know what to expect.
- Be alert for excessive bleeding (a bit of oozing is not unusual, but outright bleeding is a cause for concern)
- Excessive redness or signs of



*Penny's buddy offers support in an unfamiliar environment.*

infection such as swelling or pus are not normal.

- If you see anything that causes concern, call the vet immediately for further instructions.

#### **The Healing Process**

If all goes well, your bunny will start to perk up noticeably by the second day after surgery. Healing begins quickly; adhesions (normal tissue repair) usually start to form within 24 hours of surgery in rabbits. In the case of spay/neuter, a male will usually recover more quickly, since a neuter is less invasive than a spay.

- A male is usually ready for normal activity within a few days of surgery.
- A female might take a bit longer to recover from a spay.

Recovery time will depend on the type of surgery, the surgeon's technique, the surgery itself, and any complications.



# Somebunny Needs YOU!



**Sylvester** is quite a unique looking bunny with his stripes and two-toned face! He LOVES his free time and pellets. This handsome guy would make a great addition to your home. He has lots of love to give. Why not make an appointment to meet him? **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhhs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



**Shorty** is a very unique looking young boy. He appears to be a mix of lionhead and Dutch rabbits, and it makes him look like he's having a bad hair day. He is a lovable little guy who likes being groomed and he's cautiously curious. He is also very good with his litterbox. **Please contact**

**Sue Zimmerman (bhhs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

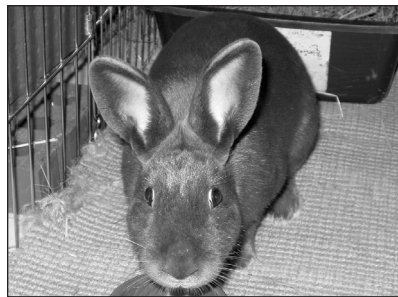


**Dixie** knows how to have a good time; whether it is tossing around her toys, chewing on her ball, or racing through her tunnel. When she is done, this adorable white bunny (with long white eye lashes), will sit for a

good petting and then stretch out in her box for a nice nap. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhhs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

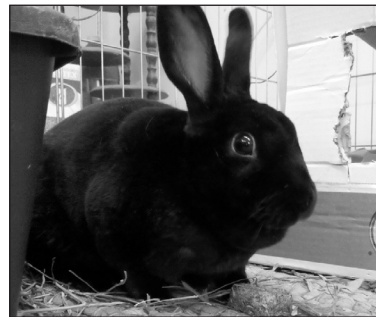


Have you ever wanted back into a time of innocence, when rabbits could be big and white and magic? This young lovely, born in spring '09, will take you there. Open your door to her, and come home to the land of **Honalee. Please contact Herta Rodina (bhhs-herta@ohare.org) 740-797-7616.**



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



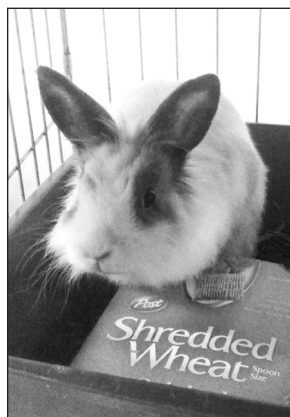
**Coco Bean** is a real snuggle bunny. She loves to be petted and is very friendly. With her velvet soft fur **Coco** is quite a beauty. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhhs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Every season will be a winning season with this Bengal striped bunny. **Henry** (named for the late Chris Henry) has excellent litter box habits and knows how to make the play. Make **Henry** a member of your team today. Whodey! **Please contact Michele Roth Kerley (bhhs-michele@ohare.org) 859-261-0556.**



**Chili and Chiqua** came all the way to Ohio from a large rescue in New Mexico. **Chili** has dark chocolate-brown fur and a spicy personality. She also has one ear that lops down and the other that stands straight up. **Chiqua** is all black with velvety-soft fur and lots of curiosity. Make an appointment to meet them today! **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhers-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



**Hilary** is a peppy, funny girl with a wild mane of lionhead hair. Mostly white fur with brown accents, she has a unique look about her. Hilary is an adventurous free spirit -- yet very tidy. If you can give this girl some time and a place to run around, she'd love to be a part of your home. **Please contact Kristen Doherty (bhers-kristen@ohare.org) 440-543-4959.**



**Mischa** is a very energetic young female who LOVES her free time. She always wants to explore and prefers not to be in her pen. She is a voracious hay eater (that's a good thing!), and does well with her

litterbox. She's also fearless and gets along well with our dogs. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhers-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



**Alma (Alma Sedges Tidy Beets),** a beautiful blue-gray mini lop, and **Ellsworth,** a 4 lb. gray and white Dutch who acts as her chief protector and bodyguard, have a unique bond unlike anything we've seen. Most times you will find them snuggling

and grooming each other sweetly, though occasionally **Ellsworth** will give a loud grunt if he thinks you will harm Alma in any way. They are very funny to watch. They are roughly 4-5 years old, in very good health, and must be adopted as a pair. **Please contact Kristen Doherty (bhers-kristen@ohare.org) 440-543-4959.**

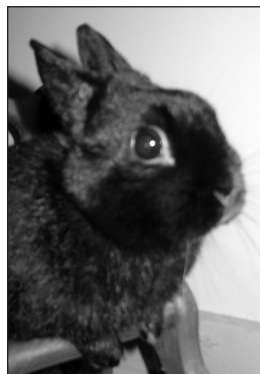


**Tabby** is a gorgeous petite black bun with a spot on her nose and the tips of her front toes. She is friendly, enjoys being groomed, and is great with her litterbox. She is full grown, so this is as big as she's going to get! **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhers-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



**Ella** knows how to keep her cool especially around cats; in fact, she made friends with many of the rescue cats she lived with for several months. She has a beautiful soft rex fur coat, brown and white, and loves to be petted. Super neat and clean, she would be a good companion for kids, another bunny, or other animals in general.

**Please contact Kristen Doherty (bhers-kristen@ohare.org) 440-543-4959.**

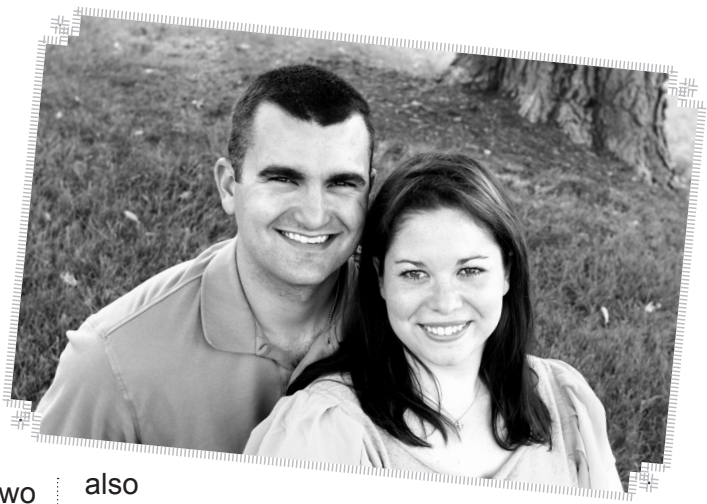


You'll have a whale of a good time with this dwarf bunny. Many tales will be told of **Moby's** sweet nature and great litter box habits. At two pounds he's the catch of the day and will make an excellent addition to your family. **Please contact Michele Roth Kerley (bhers-michele@ohare.org) 859-261-0556.**



## Introducing our Newest Dayton Volunteer!

My name is Kerry Schutte and I am a new volunteer with the Buckeye House Rabbit Society. I am a recent college graduate from Wittenberg University, class of 2010, and I just got married in December 2010. My husband and I live in a Dayton suburb with our fur children: two dogs, two cats, and two bunnies! I became involved with rabbits about two and a half years ago when I started researching them. After about six months, I decided I was ready to own my own bunny! I went straight to the Humane Society of Greater Dayton and took Augustus home on Dec 27, 2009. I then decided that learning more about rabbits was important since I was a new owner, so I became a volunteer at the Humane Society and spend most Saturday mornings there taking care of the rabbits. I have



also been known to take in an occasional foster if an emergency arises. Becoming a volunteer with the Buckeye HRS has been one of the most rewarding things I have done so far in my life; animals have no say in how they live or are treated, and that is especially true of rabbits. In the coming years I look forward to helping this organization as well as educating the general public, and giving the rabbits a voice.

### *Pre- and Post-Operative Care of Rabbits Cont'd.*

#### **1. Post-operative Preventive Care**

- Under normal circumstances, rabbits do not require post-surgical antibiotics to prevent infection.
- Except in very unusual cases, an E-collar ("Elizabethan collar" that plastic cone around the neck that prevents suture chewing and makes your companion look like a satellite dish) is not necessary for a rabbit, and will cause more stress than it's worth.
- If your bunny does try to damage her incision and ends up wearing an E-collar for a day or two, you will have to hand-feed cecotropes, since s/he will not be able to reach them for normal ingestion.
- This is how much we love our bunnies.

#### **2. Monitoring the Poop: Signs of Recovery or Trouble**

- It is not unusual to see a few soft or mucus-covered stools after surgery. Fecal pellets should return to normal within a day or two, once your bunny has

regained normal eating habits.

- If you continue to see mucus in the fecal matter beyond a day or two, or if fecal production stops, consult your veterinarian immediately.
- If your rabbit hasn't eaten anything within 24 hours of surgery, contact your veterinarian.
- Monitor the output of fecal pellets closely. If fecal output slows or stops after surgery for more than 36 hours, your bunny may be suffering from ileus, an uncommon but serious post-surgical complication. If this happens, seek emergency care immediately.

#### **Post-surgical Social Interaction**

- Keep your rabbit quiet for a few days after surgery, but try to maintain normal feeding and bonding times.
- There is no reason to separate bonded pairs or groups as long as the bunnies interact calmly.
- A post-surgical bunny will usually manage his/her own activity quite well, and knows not to "push it" too soon.
- If your bonded pair continues to mount or play too roughly after surgery, then it might be necessary to





physically separate them for a day or two to avoid injury. This is almost never necessary.

- However, if you must separate the bunnies, be sure they can see, smell, and touch one another even if they don't have full physical contact.
- Remember: the rabbit who has undergone surgery needs the emotional support of his/her mate for an uneventful recovery. Allowing them to be in contact reduces the chances that they will fight upon full re-introduction.

### Post-surgical Nutrition

- Offer your rabbit a heavy ceramic bowl of water, even if you usually provide a sipper bottle. A rabbit needs to drink after surgery, but often won't do so if s/he has to "work" for water. A well-hydrated bunny recovers more quickly and feels better in the process.
- If your bunny is reluctant to eat after surgery, offer a favorite treat. Fragrant herbs such as basil, parsley, dill and mint seem to appeal to a convalescent bunny.
- Rabbits seem to prefer healthy foods such as fresh greens and hay while they are recovering, rather than starchy treats, which is all for the better.
- If your bunny does suffer complications from surgery that cause him to stop eating, you may need to hand-feed for a few days afterwards to help get the GI tract back to normal. Ask your veterinarian for advice about whether this is necessary. Products made specifically for recovery feeding include Critical Care (Oxbow Hay Company) and Critter be Better (American Pet Diner). Or you can make your own recovery food:

- Pour warm water or

chamomile tea over a 1/4 cup of pellets in a bowl

- Allow to sit for about five minutes, letting the pellets "fluff"
  - Add additional water or chamomile tea and mix well to make a pudding-like slurry
- Always use any type of recovery food "slurry" with caution:
    - Never force too much.
- Allow bunny time to chew and swallow.
- Use a wide-bore syringe or plastic dropper with the narrow tip cut off to safely administer
  - If the tip is too narrow, larger bits can get stuck. Forcing a stuck chunk through the tip can cause a huge blob of food to enter the mouth too quickly, and could cause aspiration.
  - Squirt the food into the mouth sideways, behind the incisors, not straight back.
  - NEVER try to force feed an animal who is not swallowing normally. Consult your veterinarian immediately if this is the case.

### Special Notes for Neuter Surgeries

The de-sexing of a male animal is known as a castration, or neuter. It involves removing the testicles and some associated structures. (Some tubules and other structures are left behind, as they are located in the lower abdomen.) The purpose of neutering is to remove the main source of testosterone and to permanently stop the production of sperm. While testosterone has its subjective benefits, it also has its risks: it suppresses the immune system, increases aggression, and generally shortens the lifespan of the individual producing it. For this

reason alone, your male bunny may live a longer, more peaceful life if he is neutered.

Although most rabbit-savvy vets perform pre-scrotal neuters, in which the scrotum is not cut, a few old-fashioned practitioners still remove the testicles directly through the scrotum. If your male bunny has undergone a scrotal neuter, he may be very sore and swollen (which is why the pre-scrotal method is preferred; ask your vet beforehand, so you will know what to expect.)

A sitz bath in a dilute solution of betadine (about 1 tablespoon of povidone iodine per cup of lukewarm water) can be very soothing to a bunny who has undergone a scrotal neuter. But wait until a day after surgery to do this, to allow some recovery from anesthesia and the stress of the surgery itself.

**NOTE THAT MALES MAY HAVE VIABLE SPERM FOR SEVERAL WEEKS POST-NEUTERING!** Do not place your male with an intact female until a minimum of three weeks after his neuter surgery! Some males can retain viable sperm for even longer.

The key to success in any elective or necessary surgery is good preparation and attentive care afterwards. A rabbit-savvy veterinarian can make this process as anxiety-free as possible, and will give you all the advice you need for follow-up care. I hope this makes your job easier, and may all your sutures be removed or absorbed without





# Adopted!



The agreeable **Maximus Rabbiticus** is loving his new life with Kelli, Justin and their 5 kids in South Euclid. ♥ **Kitty Kat (now Molly)** is enjoying condo living with Gregg in Cleveland and her bunny partner Scooter. ♥ **JJ** now shares a beautiful old farmhouse with Heather and her family of cats in Marshallville. ♥ **Lenny** is now snuggle-buddies with Arnold and lives with Laurie in Berea. ♥ **Squiggy** is loving his new home with Dale and family of Solon. ♥ **Frankie** packed up his litter box and his toys and has gone to his new home in Huron. Proud parents are Megan and Alex Huber. ♥ The sweet little **Isabella** is now enjoying head rubs with her new forever family in Seven Hills. Aimee, Mike and their two little girls adore her as much as she does them. It's the perfect match!

## Fun Rabbit Facts

By Michele Kerley

- Rabbits are not rodents, they are lagomorphs.
- A rabbit's teeth never stop growing; chewing and gnawing keeps them trim.
- Rabbits have 28 teeth that grow approximately one to five millimeters every week.
- Rabbits grind their teeth, a sound similar to a cat purring.
- Rabbits cannot vomit, which is why they don't need to fast before surgery.
- Rabbits in the wild do not hibernate.
- Rabbits can suffer heat stroke, so never expose them to temperature extremes.
- Rabbits have a blind spot directly in front of their face.

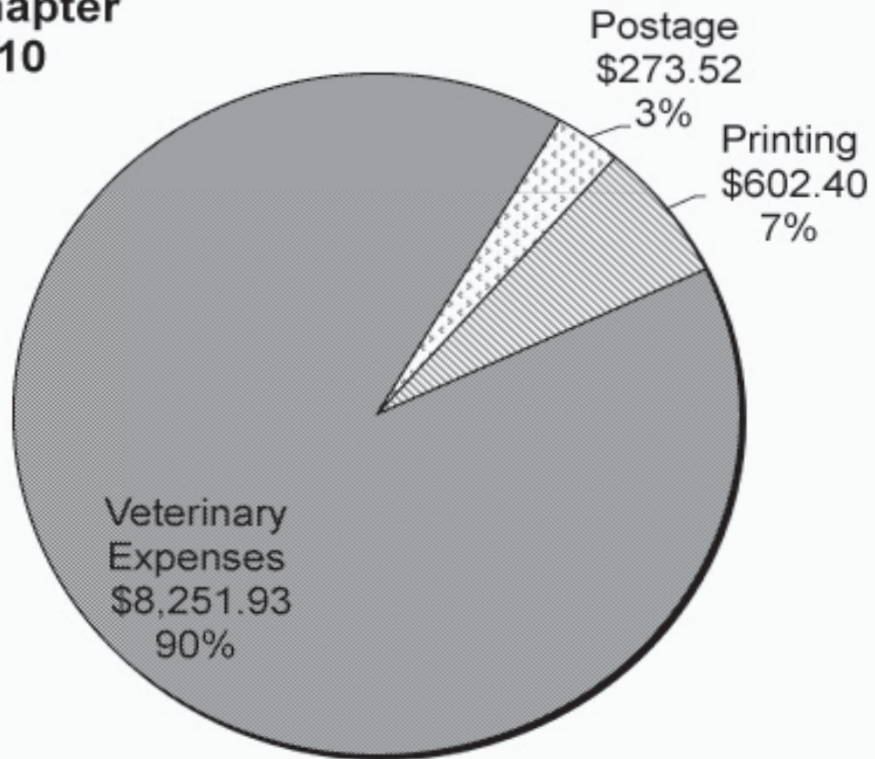


- When rabbits are happy, they will jump and twist; rabbit folk call this a "binky".
- Domestic rabbits cannot breed with wild rabbits.
- The only place a rabbit sweats is through the pads on his feet.
- According to Wikipedia, the Chinese Year of the Rabbit is actually the Chinese Year of the Hare, as China has seven native species of hares and no native species of rabbits. The Chinese applied their word for hare to the first rabbits brought to China, and the word is now erroneously back-translated into English as rabbit. The hare is the fourth animal in the twelve-year cycle of the Chinese zodiac.





## Buckeye HRS Chapter Expenses 2010



We wish to thank all the wonderful people who made donations to the Buckeye HRS in 2010. Be assured of our appreciation as well as our conservative use of donated funds. The graph shows how our money was spent last year.

The 7% for printing and 3% for postage was used to get our newsletter out to members and other educational materials out to the public.

As you can see, the vast majority of our funds (90%) was spent on veterinary care. That included spays, neuters, and medical care for foster rabbits as well as ongoing medical care and supplies for our sanctuary rabbits.

Here is one of the many examples of the use of funds for veterinary purposes last year: Isabella was rescued in December 2010 from a local shelter that informed us that she had been urinating blood. They had noticed potentially

cancerous tissue in her abdominal area during her spay surgery and since they couldn't help her any more, they were going to euthanize her. One of our volunteers stepped in and took her to Barberton Veterinary Clinic, where Dr. Riggs performed major surgery. He removed a cancerous growth the size of a softball that was adhered to and tangled up in her intestines. Amazingly, Isabella recovered quickly and is now a healthy, happy bunny. She's had several follow-up visits with Dr. Riggs and continues to do well; however, she developed a sudden weakness in her back left leg. She went back to see Dr. Riggs, who ran x-rays that showed some degradation of the leg bone, so he put a splint on it to see if it might help to keep pressure off it for a few days. The splint is off and she is getting around much better. She also no longer needs to take the two daily pain medications that were prescribed to her. Best news, Isabella has been adopted!



# 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...