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**Buckeye House Rabbit Society**

P.O. Box 5767

Athens, OH 45701



*Buy a bunny a little time...*



# HARELINES

Volume 6 Number 1

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

Winter 2002

## Bunnies and Babies

(or How My Bunnies Prepared Me for Motherhood)

by Janis Abel Hyde  
Reprinted with permission from *The Rabbit Review*, Volume 5, Issue 1, April 2001



*The author is pictured here with her human and rabbit family.*

When I was pregnant, many people asked me "What are you going to do with the rabbits?" What? I was dumbfounded by the question. I didn't see (and I still don't) that I had any choice except to make it work. I had taken responsibility for each critter's entire life the day I brought him or her home. I would never say that the pets are more important than my daughter, but they are certainly not un-important.

I have been a Mom for almost eight years – ever since I brought home my first bunny, Squizzer. My title of "Mom" finally became socially acceptable, however, when my human daughter Annie was born 15 months ago. This past year with a human child has been a learning process, but I am continually amazed by how well prepared I was for this child. It's the bunnies' fault, really.

Squizzer taught me many life-lessons as we got to know each other. Although I'd had pets as a child, this was different. I learned to care for another creature, and we both learned the value of companionship and trust. He had never been out of a cage before, so he had to learn to hop. He quickly mastered the litterbox and explored the apartment, tasting everything. He woke me up every night at 2:00 a.m. as he raced gleefully through the apartment, including over my face in bed! He gradually adjusted to his freedom, though, and he began sleeping by my pillow instead.

### In this issue

- Somebunny Needs You! ... 4
- Mid-Ohio Fall Picnic Pics ... 6
- Choosing A Rabbit Vet ... 8
- Special Dates ... 11



I had to consider Squizzer with every decision I made. I worried about toxic products and electrical cords. I worried about his diet. I checked on him first thing every morning and last thing every night. If I wanted to go anywhere, I had to find a bunny-sitter or bring him with me. Bringing him with me meant packing every piece of "equipment" he needed (food, bedding, carrier ... not unlike a baby!).

Soon, I found a community of rabbit people on the internet, and my furry family began to grow. I became involved with animal rescue, and I began fostering and adopting critters of all shapes and sizes. Over the years, I lost some of them, including my beloved Squizzer, and the sorrow was profound. I never knew how deep the bond was until it was broken.

*Continued on page 3*



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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:

**June Gates**, for her thoughtful gift in memory of her beloved Dusty and the 12 years of joy and companionship he gave her.

**Ann Zimmerman and Ray Vasvari**, for their most generous donation in honor of Dylan, who passed away after 10 years.

**Amy Pecsok**, for contributing in Gus's name.

**Jim and Laura Brown**, for their generous gift in memory of Bosco.

**Kathy Smith**, for her tribute to Stormy.

**Anne and Wilma Jagodnik**, for their contribution in memory of Molly, who passed away in January, 2000.

**Christy Schroeter**, for her gift in Missy's honor.

**Cynthia and Scott Hatfield**, for their generous donation in memory of their beloved Muffin and Daphne.

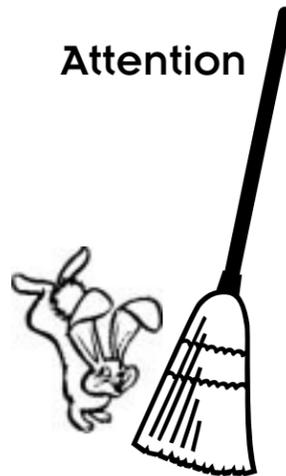
**Vicki and Tony Ricci of PIP Printing in Youngstown**, for donating materials and labor for 3,000 copies of our brochure "Living with a House Rabbit."

**W.W. Grainger, Inc.**, for their 3-for-1 matching gift.

**The Monks Copy Shop of Worthington**, for their discount on printing our newsletter.

The following members, whose wonderful generosity has helped so many rabbits: **Diane Magiera, Miriam Palevsky, Laine and Doug Kathary, Adrian Mastroguiseppe, Eric and Lois Raphael, rubberhedgehog.com, Irma Laszlo, Jane Winik, Missy Mansfield, Kathryn Kallay, Cathy and David Zipf, Bob Piekarczyk, Linda Gardner, Kelly Zentz, Pam Loch, Mary Backherms, John and Heather Klaehn, Brenda Pflaum, Tyrone Johnston, Joyce and David Weaver, Christine Hales, Carmella Coia.** We couldn't do it without you!

## Attention North-East Ohio Members!



Remember Buckeye HRS when you do your spring cleaning this year. We are having a garage sale in the spring to benefit the foster rabbits and would love to have your gently-used items to sell. We will also need volunteers to help set up and price things and work at the sale itself. Stay tuned for specifics about date and time. **Contact Christine Hales for more info: [ceh2@po.cwru.edu](mailto:ceh2@po.cwru.edu) or (216) 991-6804.**

## Bunnies and Babies, Cont'd.

Three years ago, I married a wonderful man, and my family gained a new dimension. Of course, he shares my passion for furry critters (with a little less zeal, perhaps), and his two cats joined my multi-species family. This story is written in first person, but that does not diminish my husband's importance in any way.

When Annie was born, I already knew how to take care of an innocent creature who totally depended on me. I was already prepared to respond to her nonverbal cues, and I knew instinctively the value of a cuddle and soft caress. Spit-up and dirty diapers do not bother me much. (I have cared for enough sick rabbits already!) I knew how to sleep with an ear "open" for peculiar noises in the night. I have had enough rebellious critters to know how to hide stuff that can hurt them or be hurt by them, so the house was already child-proofed, with gates and hidden electrical cords. I find myself calmly distracting Annie from the things she shouldn't play with (just like the rabbit who wants to dig at carpet or chew on a baseboard). Of course, she puts everything in her mouth, just like the bunnies, and I am so relieved that bunny-poop is innocuous (she did grow out of that habit!).

Of course, there are valid concerns when you introduce babies to companion animals. You do not want to leave a baby unattended with any animal until you are certain that the

animal is trustworthy. When Annie was two months old, we introduced her to Rosie, our most mellow bunny. It didn't take long to figure out that Rosie wouldn't be any problem – she was even tolerant of Annie's flailing arms and grabby fingers. Not all bunnies are this easy! The cats and the nervous rabbits just stay out of her way. I have even found that our most territorial and aggressive bunnies instinctively seem to "know" that Annie is not a threat, and they have never acted badly toward her. However, Annie does taunt our cats, and she has been scratched. Since I cannot (and will not) blame the cat for defending herself, I focus on teaching Annie appropriate behavior instead.

Now, Annie is strong enough to pick up a rabbit. Not a good idea! We have to teach her rules and limits. She does know the difference between live animals and stuffed ones, but she still tries to pick them all up – a natural behavior for any child – so we watch the interactions. Annie is also incredibly active, and the animals had to learn to get out of her way. Annie loves all animals and has great empathy for them. She even cries when she sees any critter in a cage or carrier! She also has no real fear of animals, even big slobbery dogs. Watching her now, I am so glad that we had the animals first, instead of trying to teach her this compassion later in life.

It really is possible (and relatively easy) to bring a baby into a home with pets ... but more importantly, it is wonderful! 🐰



*There is a lot of misinformation out there about companion animals and children. I learned so much more from my veterinarians than I did from my obstetrician, midwife or pediatrician. I hope some of this helps other parents.*

- Breastfeeding is the surest way to reduce the chances for asthma and allergies to everything, especially to animals. (Get support – this is incredibly important if you are going to have any companion animals and babies.)
- Jealousy is (usually) easy to avoid if your pets have furry friends of their own. Once your baby is born, you will not have as much time to spend with your pets.
- Bunny poop, hay, and pellets will not hurt babies.
- There aren't any known diseases that domesticated bunnies can transmit to people.
- Cats do not smother babies, and they do not need to be declawed or banished from the nursery.
- Toxoplasmosis is carried by cats – not rabbits. It is a risk if you are exposed to it during pregnancy. Talk to your veterinarian, and ask your doctor about getting a blood test to find out if you've already been exposed. (Let somebody else clean the cat boxes, but the cats can still live with you.)

## Somebunny Needs YOU!



**Hamilton** (who was named after the town in which he was found) was left in a cardboard box at the front stoop of a shelter in Nov. He weighs about 8

lbs. and is very calm and friendly. He loves attention and being petted.

**Please contact Kristi Cole** (kristi@ohare.org) 330-484-8416.

**PJ** is a 2.5 lb Himalayan dwarf who is as friendly as she is cute.



PJ has exemplary litterbox habits, and surprisingly, can pack a large quantity of hay into her tiny body. PJ loves to be stroked on the nose. She also likes to run through her miniature tube and cardboard box. **Please contact Kristen Doherty** (kristen@ohare.org) 440-543-4959.

**Rusty** is a very friendly and calm rex with beautiful shimmery-brown fur. He's roughly 4 years old, weighs 6 lbs, and likes to thoroughly investigate his surroundings.



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



**Curtis** is a handsome black spotted male rabbit, weighing

4 lbs., who keeps his area very tidy. He was likely an Easter bunny this year, so is less than a year old. He enjoys wicker baskets and- as you can see- tossing his plastic ball.

**Please contact Kristi Cole** (kristi@ohare.org) 330-484-8416.

**Juno** should be called White Lightning.



He is less than a year old and in motion most of the time when he is out of his cage. He has a friendly personality and enjoys ripping up cardboard boxes. His weight is 5 lbs. **Please contact Eileen Matias** (eileen@ohare.org) 330-865-9924.



**Venus** - This sweet 5.8 lb all-black lop was rescued with the help

of the Wood County Humane Society. She loves to be petted, knows how to use her litterbox, and enjoys handfuls of fresh hay.

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



These best friends came into foster care during the holiday season and are hoping 2002 will bring them

a loving home. Caramel-colored **Holly** has the expressive "airplane ears" and **Ivy** has the pretty white and brown Dutch markings. Both are about 1 year old. They're inseparable and must be adopted together.

**Please contact Herta Rodina** (herta@ohare.org) 740-797-7616.

**Checkers** is a young active male, roughly 6 months old, who was left



on someone's doorstep. His favorite activity is eating his salads on top of his cardboard box. Checkers loves people and although he's a busy boy, he always stops for pets.

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



**Jasmine** is a black and white beauty who is playful and very mischievous. She

likes to explore and loves to climb. She also likes to sit on my lap and get pets for up to a half hour at a time. Jasmine is 1-2 years old and weighs 5 lbs. **Please contact Eileen Matias** (eileen@ohare.org) 330-865-9924.

**Harley** was found in a park and has a now-healed



wound on one eye from the time he spent outdoors fending for himself. He is doing just fine now and enjoying life safely indoors. Harley is approximately 1-2 years old and has shiny black fur with a white nose and white tips at the ends of his front paws. He comes running at food time and enjoys human attention. He weighs about 6-7 lbs.

**Please contact Kristi Cole** (kristi@ohare.org) 330-484-8416.

Little **Pluto** is a compact bundle of energy and playfulness.



He's six months to one year old and weighs about four pounds. He craves human contact and affection and will stop whatever he's doing for a good cuddle. With his striking good looks and winning character, it's hard to believe Pluto was about to be euthanized at the Lake County Humane Society. **Please contact Herta Rodina** (herta@ohare.org) 740-797-7616.

## Gifts in Kind

**Would you like to donate to the Buckeye HRS, but can't afford to send money? Our foster homes are always in need of supplies and we'd be grateful for any assistance. Here are a few of the items on our wish list:**

- Fleece fabric • Blankets • Laundry soap (biodegradable)
- Litter (wood stove pellets, Yesterday's News, Feline Pine)
- Paper towels • Large cloth towels • Wire exercise pens, 30" or 36" tall
- Large-size litterboxes • White vinegar • Stamps • Fresh greens
- Untreated wicker or willow baskets for chewing

To donate any of these items, please contact Kristen Doherty (kristen@ohare.org) 440-543-4959 or Kristi Cole (kristi@ohare.org) 330-484-8416.

## Adopted!

**Sullivan** is now enjoying his new home with Jessica and a special kitty. ♡ **Shelby** is now pals with a fellow rex named Mr. Bunny and this velvety duo lives with Jill. ♡ **Fred** (now **Slater**) is living with Jane and is becoming fast friends with the very pretty Colette. ♡ **Kipling** (now **Raisin**) is delighting Laura and Jim with his sweet demeanor and high-spirited bunny antics. ♡ **Chester** is now soaking up attention from Ray and Ann, and snuggling with his new rabbit pal, Gwyn. ♡ **Savanna** has a new home with Linda in Columbus, where she's enjoying lots of attention and cuddles. ♡ **Sir Flopsalot** was adopted by Jessica and Eddie and will be nudging them for pets from now on. ♡ **Tundra** (now **Emma the Fuzz Bunny**) is enjoying all the pleasures of a permanent home with Patty in Kentucky. ♡ **Dreyfus** shares a home with 2 new bunny pals and Tracy and Erik of Medina. ♡ **Milagro** is enjoying being the boss of her new friend Tabby at Jodi and Rick's in Pittsburgh. ♡ **Homer** (now **Max**) was welcomed into the home of Renee and Dan of Chardon, and hopes to one day become close friends with Sidney. ♡ **Sappho** didn't take long to settle in with her new friend Bailey at the home of Kelly and Bobby in Cleveland Heights- it was love at first sight. ♡ **Dolly** (now **Penelope**) enjoys vast amounts of run space and much attention at the Stafford family home in Willoughby. ♡ **Flo-Jo** has spiced up the life of pal Bigwig at the home of Jennifer Wolfe, one of our volunteers, in Cincinnati. ♡ **Giselle** has been adopted by Kathleen and David in Highland Heights, KY and has a new companion, Merry. ♡ **Carlisle** has captured the hearts of Jan Blazer and her husband of Hanoverton.

**PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS**

# 1st Annual Mid-Ohio Fall Picnic Pics!



**FUNNIEST FACE**

photo of Ping submitted by Cara Cox.



**BUNNIES AND FRIENDS**

photo of Bigwig with Jake and Lady MacBeth submitted by Jennifer Wolfe.



**CUTEST FACE**

photo of The Bunny submitted by Laine and Doug Kathary.



**Good bunny...**



**...bad bunny!**

**BUNNIES IN ACTION**

photo of Bigwig submitted by Jennifer Wolfe.



**PHOTO CONTEST AND RAFFLE WINNERS (L TO R)**

Jane Winik (raffle) • Lynn Ihrig (travelled farthest)  
 Cara Cox (photo contest) • Jennifer Wolfe (photo contest)  
 Laine + Doug Kathary (photo contest and raffle)



Above:  
 Checking out our newest foster bunnies

Left:  
 Members enjoy good food and conversation



A few of our prizes



Party favors fresh from Ellen Eder's garden



We are most grateful to the following businesses who generously donated items for our raffle and photo contest prizes, as well as for our welcome bags. We encourage our members to patronize companies that support the Buckeye HRS's rabbit rescue and education efforts.



**Annie's Homegrown**

www.annies.com  
 1-781-224-9639

**Bunny Bytes**

www.bunnybytes.com  
 1-888-563-9300

**Bunny Heaven**

www.bunnyheaven.com  
 1-609-324-9270

**Busy Bunny**

www.busybunny.com  
 1-877-99-BUNNY

**Neeps, Inc.**

www.theferretstore.com  
 1-888-833-7738



## Choosing a Rabbit Veterinarian

by Kathy Smith  
 Reprinted with permission from  
*Rabbit Health in the 21st Century*

Good rabbit veterinarians are hard to find. Rabbit medicine requires special training, understanding, and dedication to keeping up with the latest information. Your rabbit is an important member of your family. You'll need to put some time and energy into finding the right person to trust with your rabbit's life.

Don't assume that the clinic down the street or the veterinarian who is so wonderful with a friend's dog or cat is a good place to start. The most dangerous veterinarians are those who don't know about rabbits and won't admit it! If there is a House Rabbit Society Chapter in your area, or if you know other people with rabbits, ask for referrals. Don't, however, assume that because a doctor is recommended that she is necessarily right for you.

If you can't get a recommendation, start with the Yellow Pages and call the clinics that mention "Exotics" in their advertisements. Ask if they treat rabbits, and if so, approximately how many a year they see. More is usually better, but not always. Ask if you can schedule a time to talk to the primary rabbit doctor and ask some general questions. You may

choose to do this by phone or you may want to meet the doctor in person and tour the clinic.

Either through recommendations or from the Yellow Pages, try to come up with at least three doctors to interview. (This may mean looking some distance from your home.) Have a standard set of questions that you ask each one. The following are some of the questions you might want to ask and some tips on evaluating the answers you get. Of course, you will want to add your own questions!

### 1. What percent of the rabbits you see are indoor companions? Outdoor pets? Show/stock animals?

More rabbits are not necessarily better if a large percent are considered livestock or live alone in a hutch outside. If the best veterinarian you can find sees primarily these types of rabbits (and this is possible in some areas), you will have to do a lot of educating about your rabbit's role in your family and the lengths to which you are willing to go to keep him healthy. Doctors who treat rabbits as "livestock" are more likely to suggest euthanasia for an ill — or even "imperfect" — rabbit.

### 2. What diagnostic tools and treatments do you normally use for GI slowdowns? What is your success rate?

Avoid any doctor who mentions surgery except as a last resort. They will also probably have a low success

rate. Look for doctors who use x-rays to determine whether there is an actual obstruction and treat accordingly. Drugs such as Reglan® (metoclopramide) Propulsid® (cisapride) are excellent if there is no obstruction, but can be deadly if there is. A GI slowdown with no obstruction may be a result of stress or it may be secondary to other physical ailments such as bacterial infections or dental problems. A good veterinarian will treat the GI problem and try to find the source of the problem.

Regardless of the cause of the slowdown, a good veterinarian will suggest supportive measures such as subcutaneous fluids, abdominal massage, and keeping the rabbit warm. If your rabbit is not eating or drinking on his own, she will probably suggest syringe-feeding to get the GI moving again. Ask what she recommends. Good answers include Oxbow's Critical Care, canned pumpkin (100% pumpkin only, not pie filling), a softened pellet mixture, Ensure or Deliver 2.0, baby foods (avoid those containing onion), or some combination of these. She may also suggest oral fluids including fresh pineapple juice, Pedialyte, or Gatorade. Finally, ask her opinion about pain medication for GI problems. Banamine® (flunixin meglumine) is excellent for this type of pain and can literally make the difference between life and death.

### 3. When treating infections, what diagnostic tools do you use to determine which medication to prescribe?

Beware of a veterinarian who simply prescribes Baytril® (enrofloxacin) — or any other drug — without attempting to identify the bacteria. If you get this answer, ask about doing a culture/sensitivity test. Many veterinarians don't suggest this because clients are unwilling to spend the money. This is one way to communicate how important it is to you that your rabbit be given the best possible care! A good veterinarian should be happy to have you bring up the subject.

When an infection is present, most veterinarians will initiate antibiotic therapy while waiting for results of the culture/sensitivity test. The best diagnosticians do cytology (gram staining and then viewing a sample through a microscope) to visually identify the pathogen, followed by the culture/sensitivity to determine the drug(s) that will be most effective. A doctor who can and will do cytology has a better chance of prescribing the right drug initially.

### 4. Under what conditions (if any) would you prescribe Amoxicillin, Clindamycin, or Erythromycin for a rabbit?

The answer should be "Never!" or possibly "Only if every other option has been tried and has failed." Oral penicillin (Amoxicillin, Clavamox, etc.) or erythromycin can kill your

rabbit by destroying the good gut flora. Death can occur shortly after administration of the drug or up to three weeks after the drug has been taken. Injectable Penicillin Procaine G with Benzathine is a fairly safe antibiotic for rabbits, though normally not a first-choice drug. (See sections on Infections and Drugs for more detail.)

### 5. What types of surgery, if any, have you performed on rabbits? What is your success rate? If a rabbit needs to be sedated or anesthetized for a procedure, what anesthetic do you use?

If the doctor you are talking to does not do surgery, ask where she would refer you if surgery were necessary. A veterinarian who does not do surgery may not be a bad choice — an excellent surgeon may be more likely to suggest a surgical solution for conditions that can be treated in less invasive ways. However, if you choose a doctor who does not do surgery, be sure to interview the surgeon as well! Success rates should be high (at or near 100% for routine procedures such as neuters and spays). The safest anesthetic for rabbits is isoflurane gas. It is best if the rabbit is masked rather than intubated unless your veterinarian is skilled at intubation. (For people good at intubating, this is a safer route since there is no chance for aspiration and the airway is preserved through virtually all maneuvering).

### 6. What is your opinion of de-clawing a rabbit?

Rabbits do not have retractable claws like cats do. A rabbit's claws are an integral part of the foot's structure. A rabbit who has been de-clawed has actually had the first phalanx of each toe amputated. Be wary of any veterinarian who doesn't know this.

### 7. How would you handle a critical illness (for example, cancer) where the care of a specialist was required, but the specialist has no experience treating rabbits?

Look for a doctor who is comfortable working as part of a treatment team. If you are lucky (as I was), the veterinarian you are talking to will answer with this approach. If not, ask if she would be willing to be the rabbit specialist in a team environment. Some day your rabbit's life may depend on her answer.

You will also want to find out about the doctor's after-hours emergency coverage. If doctors in the clinic rotate being "on call" — or if your vet uses an emergency clinic — ask how much these doctors know about rabbit health. Unless they are equally skilled in dealing with rabbits, ask if your doctor is willing to be contacted (by the emergency doctor) for phone consultations in case of an emergency with your rabbit.

### Choosing a Rabbit Veterinarian, Cont'd.

If you don't find a veterinarian you are completely comfortable with during your initial search, identify the "best" candidate(s) — and keep looking. Continue asking rabbit friends for referrals and check the Yellow Pages each year for new "Exotics" veterinarians. Be patient and persistent — your rabbit is worth it!

Once you find a veterinarian you are happy with, don't put all your eggs in one basket. Continue your search until you also have at least one good backup. Remember, your primary veterinarian is only human. She will need time off for seminars, vacations, and family emergencies. She may become ill, decide to become a full-time parent, move to another city, or simply "burn out." You need a backup plan.

Every bit as important as a doctor's professional knowledge and skills is her openness to outside information.

It is essential that she recognize that you are the expert on what is normal behavior for your rabbit and that she respects your instinct that something is wrong. Equally critical is openness to new information from a variety of sources (including House Rabbit Society data) and a willingness to consult with other veterinarians if a case is unusual or if your rabbit is not responding to standard treatments. Although it is important for you to have confidence in your veterinarian and for her to have self-confidence, blind trust is dangerous. If at any time you are not comfortable with the treatment she is providing, don't hesitate to get a second opinion. Remember, each doctor has her strengths and weaknesses. When you have a sick bunny, choose a doctor based on the person most qualified to treat the current problem. Remember, your bunny's life depends on the medical choices you make for him. 🐰

### Farewells



**Muffin** (5/97 – 9/15/01) and **Daphne** (11/99-11-03-01)

Muffin came into our lives as a severely neglected bunny, covered in feces and fur mites, with his teeth so badly overgrown that he was unable to open his mouth to eat, drink or groom himself. Muffin recovered well and became a member of our family. He was a very loving bunny, peaceful and really laid back. He clearly

needed a mate, and shortly after he joined our family, we invited Daphne into our lives. Daphne was a house rabbit rescue; she had been running wild in a park. For the first few months to a year or so, Daphne continued to run from us – she was high strung and skittish.

Nevertheless, we proceeded to "bond" them. Perhaps the world's most difficult bonding experience; Muffin wanted desperately to love Daphne, and Daphne could only think of getting away. Needless to say, it took a long time, and Muffin's lovely lop ears were never quite the same. But it was worth it; they lived happily together for the next several years.

Over time, Daphne had settled down, and would now allow us to love and pet her. They went everywhere with us: camping, on vacation, to visit

family. Both bunnies were true house rabbits. Although Muffin stayed in the kitchen (home base) much of the day, Daphne could be found lounging in the living room, or sleeping under our bed. They also loved their outdoor exercise time and would line up at the front door to be let out in the morning or evening. Once outdoors, Muffin would liven up, and run all over the yard often digging for the sheer joy of it. Daphne, however, was content to run in my flowerbeds and garden and sample the plants.

This summer we returned from vacation to find Muffin had an infection – Pasteurella. We tried everything for the next 2 months, but eventually we had to let him go. Daphne, who had never been sick, was never quite the same after Muffin died. She developed bladder sludge, which we

successfully treated, but died suddenly from an internal bleed only 7 weeks after Muffin.

Muffin, we miss your sweet nature and the thumps of your feet chasing Daphne down the hallway. Daphne, we miss your begging for treats, and your unique way of bringing us joy with your playful antics. We miss petting and loving both of you; our house is empty and our lives will never be quite the same. We hope you are together, now, playing freely forever.

*Cynthia and Scott Hatfield*



### To Gus

It was so hard for me to make the decision. It broke my heart to see you wasting away, becoming so thin and frail. You were so strong and tried so hard; you fought like no other. I'm sorry I was wrapped up in my new job and did not brush you as much as I should have. If you did not have the intestinal block, the surgery which harmed you would not have been necessary. You were so strong and recovered so fast from surgery but something in your brain was declining. My sweet strong Gus. I feel like it was my fault and that I failed you. I wish I could have protected you from this. Please forgive me; please know how much I loved you – my Gus Bus, with your bucking ram head. We will meet again someday. Rest in peace with Princess, Mr. B, and Moon.

*Mom (Amy Pecsok)*

### Special Dates

*Congratulations and best wishes to these cherished bunnies and their devoted human companions!*

#### Celebrating in January:

**Rusty** with Lisa; **Thumper Amelia**, 4 years with Laura; **Harvey and The Pookas**, 2 years with Mary; **Bijou**, 2 years with Julia and Annie; **Domino**, 3 years with Debi; **Munny**, 2 years with Suzanne; **Knickers**, 2 years with Keith and Sue; **Nutmeg**, 2 years with Paul and Jean; **Punkin** with Kristen; **Sniffles**, 9 years with Lori; **Buffy**, 4 years with Deanna; **Rodney**, 4 years with Linda; **Louie**, 1 year with Adrian.

#### Celebrating in February:

**Buster**, 6 years with Linda; **Ninnie** and **Erin**, 10 and 7 years, respectively, with Carla and Patrick; **Bandit** and **Missy**, 3 years with Carol and Joe; **Wild Boy**, 11 years with Vince and Christina; **Nutmeg**, 3 years with Karen and Mike; **Bunny**, 3 years with John and Mary Jo; **Tucker** with Lois and Eric; **Fiver**, 7 years with Dawn and Cliff; **Thumper**, 5 years with Carolyn; **Groucho Marks**, 2 years with Sydney; **Ella Chastity** and **Evin Charles**, 4 and 3 years, respectively, with Michelle; **Oliver**, 3 years with Linda; **Casey**, 3 years with Susan and Michele; **Buster**, 5 years with Kelly; **Toby**, 4 years with Kimberly; **Porthos** with Ty; **Chip**, **Fred**, and **Henriette**, 1 year with Kathy; **Patches**, 8 years with Carla; **Annabelle**, 4 years with Eileen; **Onyx** with Jeannette; **Dickens** and **Darby**, 4 years with Michele and Susan; **Roger**, 3 years with Keith and Sue; **Ernie**, 2 years with John and Heather.

#### Celebrating in March:

**J.J.**, 3 years with Lynn; **Dusty**, 5 years with Wendy; **Noser**, 10 years with Linda; **Poppy** with Carolyn; **Iona**, 4 years with Carla and Patrick; **JoJo**, 4 years with John and Mary Jo; **Mena**, 2 years with Marcia; **Funky**, 6 years with Laura; **Cocoa** with Kristen; **Breeny**, 4 years with Tina; **April** with Angela Marie; **Cutie**, 4 years with Don and Sharon; **Sweetie**, 3 years with Sherrie; **Hershey** and **Curiosity** with Debbie; **Dakota** with Scott; **Maddie**, 3 years with Brenda and Paul; **Oreo**, 3 years with Carolyn.

#### Celebrating in April:

**Dulcita**, 5 years with Kai; **Mopsy**, 3 years with Ralfe; **Rico**, 2 years with the Smiths; **Snooks**, 4 years with Paul and Jean; **Weezy** with Angela; **Danny** with Melodye; **Joplin**, 4 years with Karen; **Benji**, 2 years with Anne and Wilma; **Petey** and **Pokey**, 5 years with Barb; **Cecilia**, 6 years with Jennifer; **Blossom**, 8 years with David and Herta; **Bonnie O'Hare**, 7 years with Carla and Patrick; **Moesha**, 3 years with Pamela; **Tassels**, 4 years with Karen and Mike; **Voodoo**, 2 years with Stacie; **Cole**, 6 years with Laura; **Brie**, 6 years with Dagmar; **Jazmine** and **Oreo** with Debbie; **Spot**, **Snowy**, **Freckles** and **Stripe**, 3 years with Leslie; **Spud**, 4 years with Julie; **DeeDee** and **Dexter**, 3 years with Laura.