



July 29th, Onyx was out of stasis and eating again. Now that she was pooping and peeing, she was becoming really messy because she dragged herself through her mess and got it in her fur. We were doing baths twice a day and her fur was starting to come off.



I found a vet in my area who does acupuncture on rabbits and I hoped this would help Onyx stand up and walk again. My husband rigged up a contraption that allowed Onyx to get around and the vet started her on injections of adequan to help her with the arthritis that she had developed in her spine.



Early August, Onyx lost control of her bladder and was constantly wet from the urine leaking out.

I took her to the vet and they showed me how to express her bladder and use diapers to keep her dry. This made a huge difference and Onyx's fur started to grow back.

9/14/00, Onyx was starting to make grunting noises when I expressed her bladder and I thought this was

causing her some pain. The next day when I got home from work, I was horrified to discover that Onyx had chewed her foot raw and that for the first time since this all started, she was grinding her teeth from pain. I was starting to feel that it was no longer fair for Onyx to continue suffering and that I needed to make a decision for her soon.

On 9/15/00, I had a long, tearful phone conversation with a bunny friend, followed by a long discussion with my husband and we knew what we had to do. Making the decision to call the vet was the hardest thing I have ever had to do. I have lost 3 bunnies in the 8 years that I have been doing bunnies, but I never was the one to make the decision.

I called the vet and explained what was happening. She asked if I wanted to come in right then and I said I did. Then I really started to cry. I didn't think it could get any more

painful, but it did – knowing that the call was made and we actually had to go.

I held her in my arms the entire way. At each traffic light, I would feed her some of her most favorite treats. When I got there, I was taken right back and Onyx was given her final injection. I stayed with her for about 1 1/2 hours and then had to hand her over to the vet tech to take her away. This was the most difficult and painful decision I ever had to make, but I know in my heart it was the right decision and that it was done out of love.



I beg of all of you with female bunnies to please, please, please get your bunnies spayed and be sure your vet knows to remove ALL the female organs.

This is the greatest gift you could possibly give your bunnies.

**For a more detailed version of Onyx's story, as well as more photos, visit [www.mybunnies.com/onyx\\_surgery.htm](http://www.mybunnies.com/onyx_surgery.htm)**

## Buckeye HRS in Action!

Come see the Buckeye HRS at the Columbus Pet Expo at the state fairgrounds. We'll be there Friday, February 16, 12 pm - 9 pm, Saturday, February 17, 10 am - 9 pm, Sunday, February 18, 11 am - 6 pm.

We will also be participating in the 2nd annual Petapazoola Expo at the John S. Knight Center in downtown Akron Saturday, March 24, 10 am - 6 pm and Sunday March 25, 10 am - 6 pm.

Kristen Doherty and Kristi Cole will present a class entitled "Living With A House Rabbit" at the South Euclid-Lyndhurst branch of the Cuyahoga Public Library on Saturday, March 24th at 2 pm. Though the class is free, please call the library for reservations.