



HARELINES



Volume 21 Number 2 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY Spring/Summer 2017

Twenty Years, Hundreds of Rabbits

The Buckeye HRS leaps into its third decade of service! Time flies, but even so it's hard to believe that August 2017 marks our 20th anniversary. During these twenty years, we've fostered over 1,500 rabbits – "hrai" in *Watership Down* rabbit vocabulary! -- and have helped many more by educating the public on all aspects of companion rabbit care. This issue of *Harelines* is our 60th.

Of course, numbers tell only part of the story. Each foster rabbit is unique; sometimes we know her

past, most often we are left to guess. Some bunnies have been discarded after hours at animal shelters, dumped in the woods, or left in a cage by the side of a road; others have been seized by authorities from situations of neglect or rescued by kind-hearted people from parking lots, frozen fields, and even dumpsters. Many have arrived in good health, while others have borne the scars of silent battles – a missing eye, a chewed off ear, open wounds, a broken leg. Many have come with the universal signs of homelessness – malnutrition, dehydration, internal and external parasites. A

In this issue

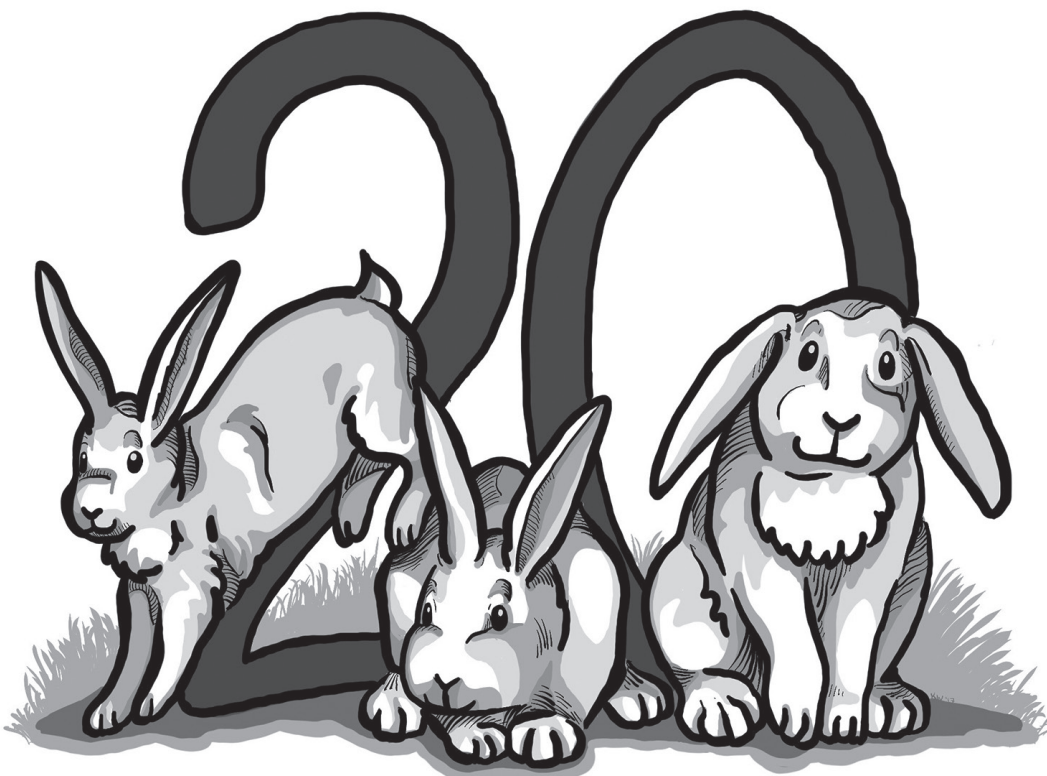
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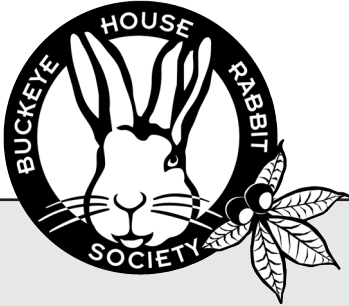
couple dozen have even had their day in court.

We are reminded every day that we haven't helped – indeed will never be able to help -- every rabbit who needs us. This is a heartache shared by all rescue groups. There will never be enough time, money, and volunteers to save them all. Still, we persist, and we hope for a day when organizations like ours will be obsolete, a day when there won't be any homeless rabbits.

In the meantime, with the support, compassion, and generosity of our members, we will continue to foster and educate -- one rabbit and one day at a time.



Original artwork by Katie Williams



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

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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:

Lynne Funk and Marti Hentschel, for their thoughtful contribution in honor of the late Jason Hill.

Michele Quiroz and family, for their most generous donation in memory of Robert "Rabbit" Quiroz and for selecting the Buckeye HRS as their preferred charity for gifts in Mr. Quiroz's memory.

Renata Hill and Virginia Schomp, for their much-appreciated tribute to Robert Quiroz.

Bob Willison, for his very generous donation in honor of his late wife, Georgia, who loved her rabbits dearly and who was a loyal supporter of the Buckeye HRS.

Small Pet Select, for donating a percentage of hay purchases to us. See our website for details (under Recommended 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:

John Urbansky, Kathy Kallay, Dawn Bokan, Carol Harvey, Lori Fair and Mark Kotzbauer, Liz Claytor, June Gates, Jackie and Dave Csehi, Bob and Holly Piekarczyk, Irma Laszlo, Dorothea Mayerchak, Judy O'Neil.

Our new and continuing Sanctuary Rabbit Sponsors! These special rabbits, who will spend the rest of their lives in foster care due to serious medical conditions, have you kind and generous people to thank!

As always, the **Monks Copy Shop** of downtown Columbus, for their discount on printing our newsletter.

NEW MAILING ADDRESS

The Buckeye HRS has a new mailing address!

**Buckeye House Rabbit Society
P.O. Box 61
Vickery, OH 43464**

Please make note of the change and send all your correspondence to our new address. The Athens PO box will remain operational during the transition to ensure that all mail reaches us.

Introducing Our New Co-Chapter Manager!

By Herta Rodina

The past twenty years have seen a number of changes at the Buckeye HRS. Our most recent and most exciting change is having long-time fosterer, educator, and Board member Keith Zimmerman become a co-chapter manager!

Keith has graciously agreed to take over day-to-day responsibilities such as maintaining our post office box, tracking new and renewing members, recording and acknowledging donations, and so forth. I'm confident that Keith's steady presence and comfort with detail will ensure that everything continues smoothly. Please join me in thanking him!

I'll be continuing as co-chapter manager for the foreseeable future and will concentrate my time and energy on *Harelines*, helping with new volunteers, and outreach efforts with the National HRS and other chapters.

As some of you know, I've been with Buckeye



Keith Zimmerman

since its creation in 1997, as a founding member along with Kristi Cole and Libby Armstrong. Our volunteers, the rabbits we help, and the organization we're part of are very dear to me. I'm totally committed to ensuring that the Buckeye HRS continues to help needy rabbits well into the future.

***Find the Buckeye House Rabbit Society
on Facebook and Twitter!***



***Search for:
Buckeye House
Rabbit Society***



***Search for:
@BuckeyeHRS***



Mythical Rabbits (Final Installment of the 3-part series)

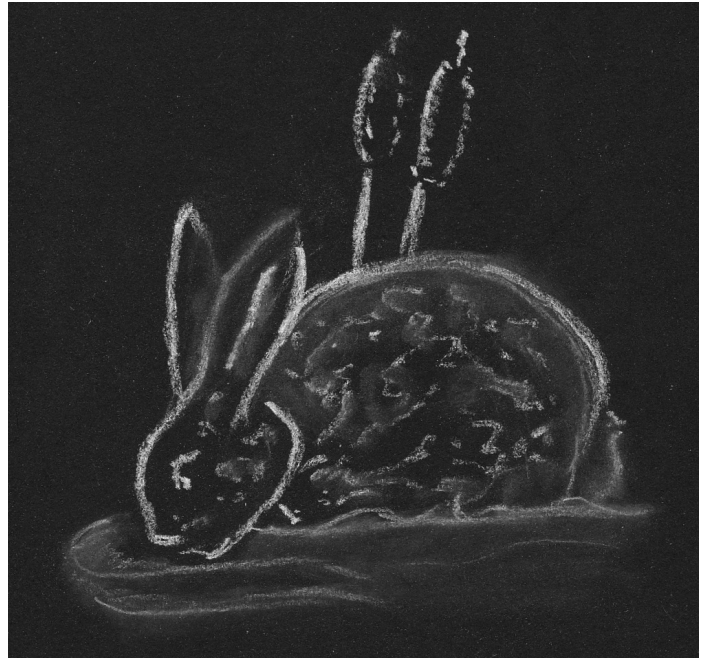
Around the world stories of mythical rabbits were created and, over time, turned into folklore. Here is the final segment about these mythical creatures and their tall tales.

Hare of Inaba

There are two tales of this mythical rabbit; the one shared here is the Kojiki version and dates back to eight-century Japan. The legend tells of a man and his eighty brothers traveling to what is now the city of Tottori to court the princess. Along the way they came across a flayed rabbit that asked for their help. The older brothers told it to clean-up in the sea and dry in the wind, which caused great pain. The youngest of the brothers, Okuninushi, advised the rabbit to bathe in the fresh water of the river and to roll in the pollen of cattails, which restored the rabbit to its original state. The rabbit then returned to its true form as a god and rewarded Okuninushi with the hand of Princess Yakami.

Wolpertinger

The Wolpertinger is a mythical Bavarian creature featuring the head of a rabbit with antlers, wings, and sometimes pheasant legs. This mythological hybrid is said to live in the Alpine forests. A permanent exhibit dedicated to the Wolpertinger is on display at the Deutsches Jagd-und Fischereimuseum in Munich. Images of this creature have been recorded since the 17th century and it is believed that tales began after people spotted rabbits with the Papillomavirus (the virus causes rabbits to have bone-like tumors on the head and body and was mentioned in the first part of this series). According to legend,



Hare of Inaba

the Wolpertinger has a fondness for young, beautiful women. On the night of a full moon, a woman should go into the forest and when the



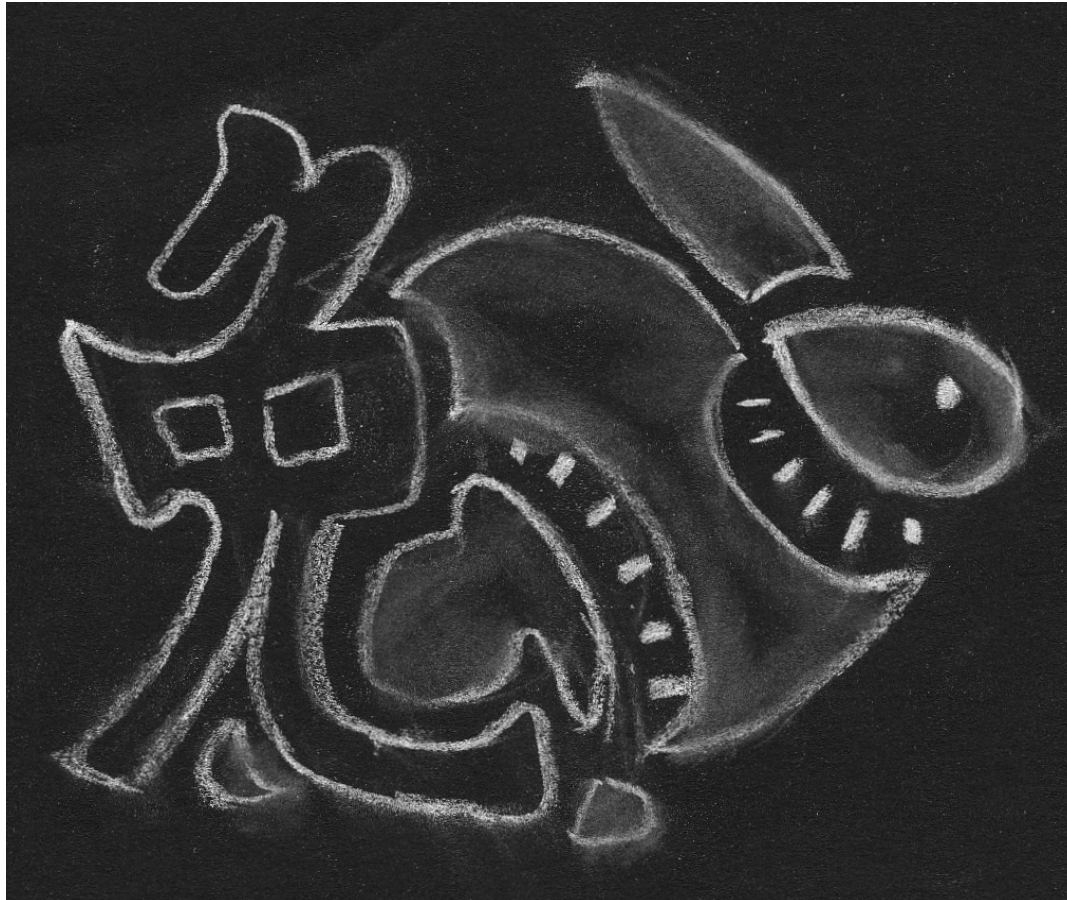
Wolpertinger

Wolpertinger appears she then should expose her breasts, instantly leaving the Wolpertinger defenseless and easy to be captured.

Chinese Zodiac, Year of the Rabbit

The Chinese Zodiac is a twelve-part cycle with an

animal assigned to each year. Those born in the Year of the Rabbit are said to be easy-going and always willing to help others. They tend to be leaders and are great planners with tender hearts and an approachable demeanor. On the downside, they tend to over analyze their thoughts and



feelings, causing great stress. They get along well with Rats, Tigers, and Dragons, but not so well with Oxen, Monkeys, and Roosters. The lucky numbers under the sign of the rabbit are 3, 4, 6, and 7; the numbers to avoid are 1, 2, and 8. The fixed season for the rabbit is spring, the fixed direction is the East, and the Sun Sign associated with the Rabbit is Pisces. The Years of the Rabbit include 1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023...

Reference:
Wikipedia the free encyclopedia

Adopted!

Handsome **Emmy** has FINALLY found his forever home – with Megan Metzger from the Columbus House Rabbit Society. Emmy may have had a rough start in this world, but he will have the life of Riley from now on. Emmy, we will miss you dearly. ♥ **Mochi Levy** (now Luna) has been adopted by the Streaker family of Fremont. Luna is becoming best buddies with bunny Cadbury. ♥ **Rosemary** has been adopted by Kate Gott of Sandusky. Congratulations to them both! ♥ Big Bunny **Brutus** has hopped into the home of the Hınca family of Fremont, Ohio. We wish him the Big Bunny Best! ♥ **Stannis** has found his happily-ever-after with his new dad, Nathan, and his new sister, Jenny. Stannis is in heaven in his brand-new homemade house, with little Jenny to love on him. ♥ Jackie and Dave Csehi, who recently adopted **BoBo** (now Beau), couldn't wait to find a friend for Beau. They have added bunny **Nelly** to the family, too. Thank you, Jackie and Dave, for adopting two bunnies!! ♥ Rachel Levy and her bunny, Buttercup, have welcomed **Fred** (renamed Ollie) into their family. He and Buttercup have become best friends. ♥ **Abby** has found her new family with Allison, Tony, Spooky (husbun), and Sydney (doggy sister). To say Abby is the queen of her castle is an understatement! ♥ **Lolly Pop** has found the perfect forever home! Kyra is simply thrilled with her beautiful, loving bunny. Lolly has even made new friends with a cat (Bungee) and a bird! ♥ Little **Garfunkel** (now Rocky) has been adopted by Matt Grabnic. Matt reports that Rocky is doing fantastic in his new home. ♥ **Ruth Bader Ginsbun** is now Lilly and has found her forever home with Amanda and her husband, Josh. She has her own room that she shares with her mini-pig siblings. We couldn't be happier for her.



Healthy Treats for House Rabbits

By Phyllis O'Beollain

Are you looking for a healthy treat for your house rabbit? Perhaps you have a bunny who has been under the weather and you are seeking a healthy indulgence to help increase his or her weight or stimulate the appetite. Sometimes, finding the appropriate healthy delicacy may be complicated by a rabbit's ongoing medical conditions (unfortunately the author definitely has experience in this area).

Finding a healthy treat for your bunny can be as simple as offering him one of his favorite greens or herbs in dehydrated form. This concentrates the natural flavors of the greens by removing the water content. Most health food stores have a wide variety of organic dried herbs which can either be offered to bunny as is or sprinkled over bunny's fresh greens or mixed in with her hay.

Veterinarian-approved pro- and/or pre-biotic wafers and pellets, such as Protexin Pro-Fibre pellets for rabbits, are considered a delicious treat by most bunnies and are also beneficial to the GI tract at the same time! The author's extremely finicky rabbit adores the pre- and probiotic Pro-Fibre pellets for rabbits (a half tablespoon twice daily), as well as his veterinarian-approved strawberry-flavored probiotic wafer from American Health.

Lord Grantham (reference "author's extremely finicky rabbit," above) gets a teaspoon of Pro-Fibre pellets at bedtime inside a Go Cat Go toy -- a hard plastic ball with a hole in it; he has to push the ball around with his nose to get the treats to fall out. Entertainment, a little exercise, and a treat all rolled into one!

Homemade treats are another option, allowing you to know exactly what is going into your bunny's tummy. The following recipe is very flexible; vary the ingredients depending upon what your pet usually likes. Most bunnies enjoy raspberries, but some prefer strawberries. Some bunnies like mint while others prefer lemon balm.

Bunny food pellets can be ground in a blender,



Mint, herbs, pellets & hay combine to make great healthy treats.

food processor, or coffee/spice grinder (provided you are able to wipe every bit of coffee out of it first!). Or you can use the pellet dust from the bottom of the bag of food pellets to make the 'flour'. You can also save the hay dust from the bottom of the bunny's bag of hay and use that instead of pellet dust in these recipes. Keep unused pellet/hay 'flour' in a zip lock bag and soon you will have an ample supply for making these treats.

Frozen fruit (with NO added sugar/syrup) can be used, thaw it first. You can leave out the oats if you like; just add a little more dried herbs or Critical Care to get the right consistency.

Hint: Make a half recipe first and try it out on your bunny. What one bunny thinks is the best treat ever, another bunny will reject!

Critical Care Cookies

1/3 cup raspberries (or strawberries, blueberries, half a banana, etc.)



Mix the dry ingredients...



...and add fruit!

- 1/2 tbsp dried mint
- 2.5 tbsp hay 'dust' OR food pellet 'flour'
- 2.5 tbsp Critical Care
- 3 tbsp old-fashioned oats (NOT instant) – **optional**

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
 With a fork mash the fruit and dried mint together.
 In a separate bowl mix the pellet flour and Critical Care with the oats.
 Slowly add the dry mixture to the fruit and mix until well blended.
 Using a teaspoon (measuring spoon), place spoonfuls of the mixture onto a cookie sheet covered in parchment paper (parchment paper prevents sticking and doesn't add any grease). Author is lazy and rolls 'dough' out and cuts into squares. Rabbits have not complained.

Flatten cookies with a fork (or your finger) to about 1/4" thick.

Bake for 15-20 minutes or until brown on bottom. Let cool.

If you want a crunchier treat, turn off the oven and leave the cookies in there until the stove cools.

Note: These can also be dehydrated on parchment paper in a food dehydrator for 24 hours or so

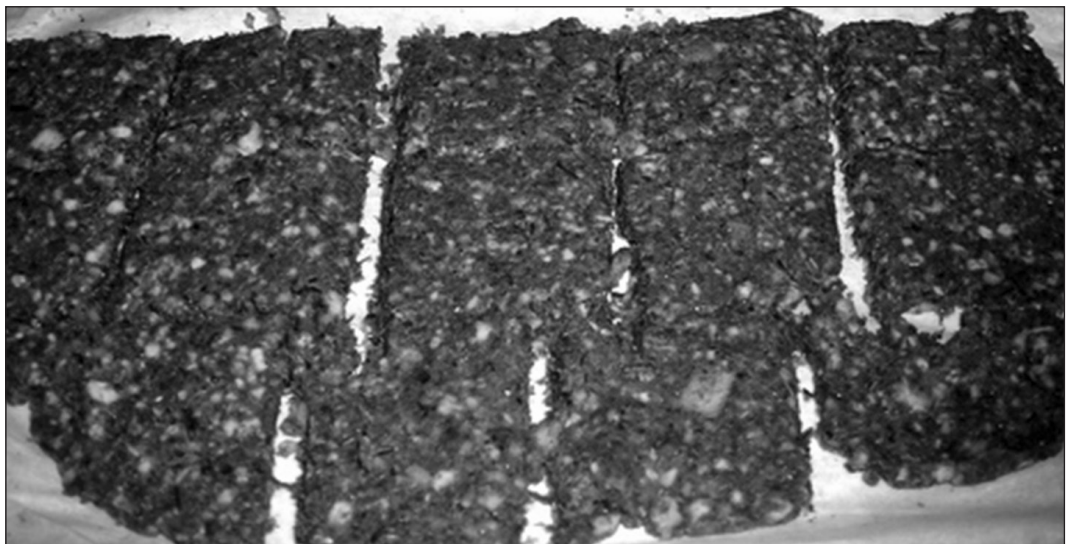
instead of baked in the oven.

Once the cookies have cooled, place them in the refrigerator to prevent spoiling (do not put in airtight container in fridge as treats may become mushy).

Remove any uneaten treats from your bunny's area after several hours.

Freeze any refrigerated treats not used within 24-36 hours.

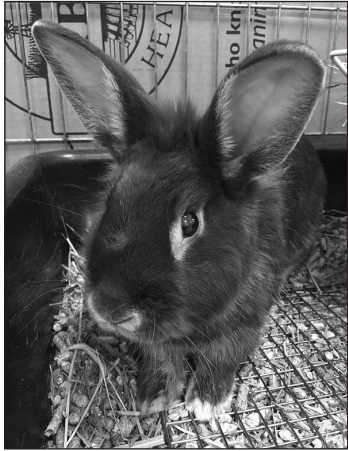
Additional note: Author's finicky rabbit has ongoing significant dental issues and prefers these delicacies unbaked. Author makes up a tiny amount of 'dough' daily for Lord Grantham's treats. Author has been told rabbit is spoiled, but thinks those people are just jealous.



Cookies ready for baking.



Somebunny Needs YOU!



Sherman is a lover bunny who is only 1.5 years old. He is as sweet as he is handsome. He loves pets and doesn't mind being picked up. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhers-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



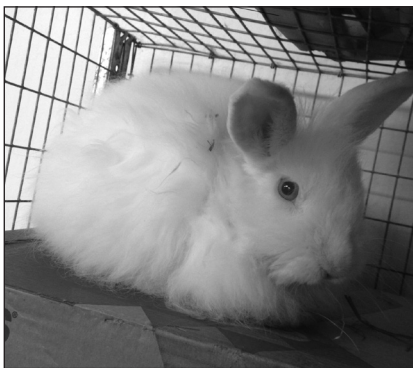
Precious and many are the moments you two can share. Meet **Precious Truelsch**. This friendly girl loves to be the center of attention. She likes to play with her toys and her favorite game is "put the ball in the food dish." Precious Truelsch was named by David Truelsch in the Name Our Next Foster Rabbit program. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhers-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

Sylvia is great with her litterbox, keeps her pen very tidy, and loves her three-story condo house. She is a cautious girl; you have to earn her trust. But once you do, she is a loyal and loving soul who will open your heart to new adventures. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhers-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



Fifi (black) and **DC** (white) are best friends. Both take their cardio workouts seriously and love to chase each other playing the Bunny 500. While both are affectionate, Fifi will let you pet her non-stop. Their appetite for food and life is

amazing. They have had only one owner until he fell sick recently. They must be adopted together. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhers-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



Bootsy, a male Angora, is a fluffy ball of

cotton. He is very sweet and patient for his grooming sessions. Angora rabbits require quite a bit of regular grooming to keep their coats smooth. He will make a great companion for the right person. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhers-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Willy is tiny but mighty. Although small in stature, Willy is big in heart. We don't know his story, but Little Will is missing one eye and had half of his ear chewed off. Despite his handicap, he never misses a beat. Willy is very friendly and cuddly. He would love to go home with you. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhers-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Samson is a young mini-rex male from the Sandusky County Dozen. He's active and friendly and likes to play with his cardboard box. Samson will make a perfect addition to your home. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Meet **George**, a beautiful cottontail look-alike. This over-the-top friendly rabbit loves free time to explore the world outside his pen. George is simply a great bun. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Three years old, little **Sierra** is as cute as a button. She is very lovey and keeps her pen neat and tidy. She doesn't mind being held for cuddles. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Goldie Hops has movie star looks, but don't let this blonde fool you! She is an enterprising and independent bun. She may seem shy and quiet but she will surprise you with her extreme high-jumping ability and clever moves. Some of her favorite things include empty Amazon boxes, empty tissues boxes, and empty shoe boxes. When she's not creating or destroying one of her many box hideouts,

you can find her striking an adorable and Instagram-worthy pose. She has even been known to cuddle up on the couch from time to time, always looking for the warmest, smallest space to squeeze into between you and the blanket. This little lady likes a quiet home that she can take charge of. She would prefer to be the only rabbit or the dominant rabbit in the household. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



Gus and Daisy are a 4 year-old bonded pair and **MUST** be adopted together. **Gus** is the friendliest bunny in the world. He loves people and craves pets and snuggles. He likes to hang around wherever you go. Gus adores his mate Daisy and grooms her often. Shyer than Gus, **Daisy** loves exploring and hanging out by Gus's side. She's a Jersey Wooly and does require regular brushing

and grooming which she doesn't mind at all. She can be quite snuggly. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Looking for a beautiful mini-rex? Well look no further. **Cyndi** is a stunning young gal waiting for her forever home. She is very neat with excellent litter box habits. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Hay!

By Maggie Reading

We all know rabbits need to eat a lot of hay. Any vet or rabbit lover will tell you it's the most important part of their diet. Several types of hay are available from a number of suppliers. I recently compared the different types of hay and suppliers in order to determine which options provided the most nutrition at the lowest cost. This research might be useful for other rabbit owners, so I wanted to pass it along.

All hay looks the same to me. I'm not a botanist or a farmer so that may be a gross generalization, but it can be pretty hard to discern the difference between a bag of alfalfa hay and a bag of timothy hay. It is recommended that adult rabbits stick to timothy, oat, orchard, and wheat hays. Alfalfa hay is not recommended for adult rabbits as it is very high in protein and calcium. Rabbits and small animals under the age of one are encouraged to eat alfalfa hay. Some suppliers will label their hay "first cut" or "second cut". First cut hay is higher in fiber, which is its most important nutrient. Some picky buns may turn their nose up at first cut hay and prefer the second cut, which is just fine. Some fiber is better than no fiber!

Purchasing hay is a lot easier when you know what you're looking for and what your bunny likes. If you're not lucky enough to live near a farm that can

| | Small Pet Select |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1st Cut Timothy | \$2.25/lbs |
| 2nd Cut Timothy | \$2.25/lbs |
| Oat | \$2.50/lbs |
| Orchard | \$2.50/lbs |
| Alfalfa | \$2.25/lbs |

supply hay for your rabbits, then you're at the mercy of pet supply stores and the internet. Amazon.com has a wide selection of some of the more popular brands and the convenience of free shipping. Many pet supply stores offer a similar selection to Amazon and some of their websites offer free shipping. Buying hay on the internet can be concerning as it does not have an infinite shelf life. Pet supply store inventories might have a quicker turnover rate. Please make sure the store you choose doesn't sell animals or you'll be supporting the very places that rescue organizations like the Buckeye HRS stand against. SmallPetSelect.com is a nice internet alternative offering a wide variety of options, free shipping, and guaranteed freshness. Plus, they donate a percentage of their sales to the Buckeye HRS. Many other retailers offer a subscribe-and-save discount as well.

Kaytee is one of the most popular brands on the market. Almost all of their timothy hay is second cutting and sourced from Colombia. Oxbow timothy hay is grown in the United States but they do not specify first or second cut. Some reviewers suggest

| | Pet Supplies Plus | Petco | PetSmart | Amazon |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Oxbow Timothy | \$3.55/lbs | N/A | \$1.40/lbs | \$3.90/lbs |
| Kaytee Timothy | \$3.00/lbs | \$2.13/lbs | \$3.00/lbs | \$2.04/lbs |
| Vitakraft Timothy | N/A | N/A | \$2.56/lbs | \$3.51/lbs |
| Oxbow Orchard | N/A | N/A | \$5.16/lbs | \$2.59/lbs |
| Kaytee Orchard | N/A | \$5.09/lbs | N/A | \$3.93/lbs |
| Vitakraft Orchard | N/A | N/A | \$2.85/lbs | \$2.85/lbs |
| Oxbow Alfalfa | \$6.38/lbs | N/A | \$7.46/lbs | \$4.12/lbs |
| Kaytee Alfalfa | \$5.99/lbs | \$2.93/lbs | N/A | \$2.93/lbs |

the Oxbow product can be an inconsistent mix of first and second cut hay. Vitakraft hay is available in most Petsmart stores but hard to find elsewhere. Their timothy hay is marketed as "spring cut" which usually means "first cut". Small Pet Select offers their own hay in the various cuts and types. For non-timothy hay selections, Oxbow and Small Pet Select offer the largest variety. Kaytee offers an orchard hay product as well as several premium timothy hay blends. Vitakraft offers spring cut orchard hay in addition to their

timothy offering.

The accompanying tables offer a price comparison between different types of hay and retailers. Beyond the listed prices, all of the retailers offer additional savings in the form of loyalty rewards or subscription services. Prices were determined based on the largest bulk option available at each retailer with the exception of Small Pet Select. The Small Pet Select prices were based on the 20-pound option, but they offer sizes up to 60 pounds.

Spotlight On ... Our Sanctuary Sponsors

By Stephanie Lodge

Continuing our Sanctuary Sponsor series, we would like to introduce another fabulous loving bunny couple. Prior to writing these spotlights, I did not know much about any of our sponsors. However, I did have the pleasure of meeting Rob Lovicz and his wife, Kim Johnson, back in September 2012 when they adopted handsome Rodger from me. When we met, I had only been fostering for about one year so I was still new. I was nervous about adoptions and afraid that I would not teach the adopters everything they needed to know. When Rob, a veteran adopter, contacted me about foster bunny Rodger, it was heaven. He and Kim probably knew more than I about rabbits!

According to Rob and Kim, "We wanted to get a pet, but our lifestyle and allergies made the traditional cat or dog not an option. Back in 1997, we found out about the Buckeye House Rabbit Society through the national HRS while searching on the internet. Shortly after, we adopted our first rescue bunny. Zoe had several known and unknown complications and, sadly, she was only with us for a few years. Then we met and adopted Otis through Kristen Doherty, who happens to live very close to us.



Kim Johnson and Rob Lovicz

After several visits, the conversation about Kristen's 'unadoptable' bunnies came up. That's when the Sanctuary Rabbit Sponsorship Program began. We were among the very first sanctuary sponsors and continued to help the Buckeye HRS as bunny helpers.

Our next unadoptable rabbit was an older bun named Siggy. He was happy to coexist with us on his terms, of course. He thought he was tough and would face me (Rob) like a bulldog and growl when it was time to go back to bed. He was hilarious and we wish we had more time with him.

After all these years, we are still supporting the program! Since 1997 we have adopted four rabbits through the Buckeye HRS. We have had only one bunny at a time, which works well for us since each rabbit has been very strong willed, rather crafty, and fiercely independent.

Other than our love of animals (we became pescatarians about four years ago), we enjoy trips to Pittsburgh to see football and hockey games, enjoy year-round hikes, and Kim loves to watch English Premier League soccer. Go Tottenham! Rob loves video games and politics."



Buckeye House Rabbit Society

P.O. Box 61

Vickery, Ohio 43464



Buy a bunny a little time...

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your \$35.00 annual membership in the Buckeye HRS includes:

- National membership (\$20.00) 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 61
Vickery, Ohio 43464
All donations are tax-deductible.