



HARELINES



Volume 20 Number 2 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY Spring/Summer 2016

NO means ... Oww!

By Debbi Braunschweiger

One weekend shortly after we adopted Sydney as a BFF for our bunny Scooby, my husband Craig decided to eat his lunch in the living room where the bunnies were playing. After he sits down and starts to eat, this encounter began:

Syd – "Oh boy, did I just hear the treat bag? I did and my new dad is holding it."



Sydney

Craig – "Hi Syd, you need to get down from the couch while I eat my lunch."

Syd – "You have my treat. Give me a treat NOW!"

Craig – "Syd, these are pretzels. Bunnies don't eat

pretzels. Please get down."

Syd – "I will NOT be denied. I won't leave you alone until you give me a treat."

Craig – "NO, Syd. Get down. Go play."

Syd – "You were warned, human. Vengeance will be swift and sweet."

Craig – "I sure wish I knew why you wanted to sit with me so bad."

Craig finishes his lunch, rolls up the pretzel bag, and starts to head back to the kitchen when this happens:

Syd – "It wasn't you I wanted, stupid human, it was MY treat," she says as she launches herself in the air to grab the back of his lounge pant leg.

Craig – "WHAT THE HECK?!" he says as he hears the sound of fabric tearing and watches Syd bounce off to play with her BFF Scooby.

Syd – "Bet you'll give me one next time, won't you?"

It was both hysterical and horrifying at the same time as my heart sank and I was afraid my husband would say she had to go. Instead he loved her spunky attitude and she won his heart.

So whenever someone asks me if rabbits can really think or understand, I share that story. Pretty much sums up the mindset of a rabbit.

Editor's Note: Sadly, Sydney passed away suddenly while this issue of Harelines was in production. Her family misses her dearly. We hope it's comforting for them to know that her memory lives on whenever someone reads about one of her many antics.

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Buckeye House Rabbit Society at
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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:

Harold Chittum and Tracy Soltesz, for their generous gift in memory of their beloved Ester Bunny.

Small Pet Select, for donating a percentage of hay purchases to the Buckeye HRS. 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:

Jacob Larson, Sheryl Kolar, Lisa Sondles, Liz Claytor, Lisa Taras, Alison Giese, Bob Piekarczyk, Shirley Wood, Dorothea Mayerchak, Kathy Kallay, Nicole Romero, Pam Loch, Judy O'Neil, June Gates, Marjorie Aleva, Polly Reiheld, the Covert Family, Jim and Laura Gills, Michael Stanley, Jann Kuntavanish, David Marshall.

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.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Come join us for Midwest BunFest
on Saturday September 17, 2016!
Northland Performing Arts Center,
4411 Tamarack Blvd., Columbus,
OH 43229. Doors open at 9:30
so make a day of it. We're looking
forward to seeing a lot of old
and new faces! More details at
midwestbunfest.org

Where Are They Now?

By Sue Zimmerman

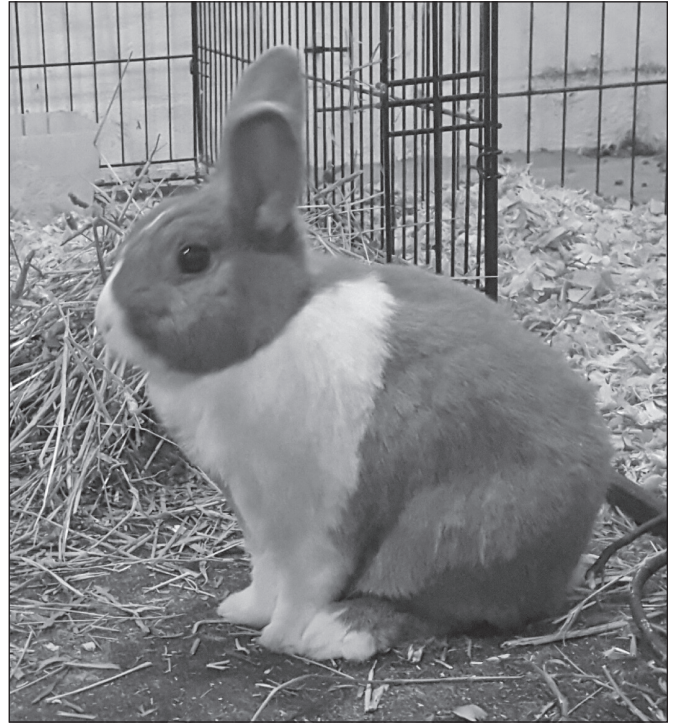
As fosterers at Buckeye House Rabbit Society, we just love getting updates on our "babies" after we see them off to their forever homes. So we asked folks who adopted from us to send stories about their bunnies. Here's the first installment.

Rupert – By Katie Liepold:

I adopted Rupert, a grey Dutch bunny, in December 2005 while I was in college. He was born in one of the last litters from the Elyria Crisis and he was about four months old. There were two things that attracted me most to him. First was his unusual fur -- mostly grey with a little bit of brown throughout creating an almost lavender color (my favorite). The second thing was his temperament. When I picked him up and held him he didn't kick or struggle. He just settled into my arms and I carried him around even while looking at the other rabbits available. I stopped to look at younger bunnies and older bunnies but there was something about Rupert that made him special.

Rupert is a strange rabbit with odd little quirks. He prefers his pen floor clear and will push all the bedding, hay, or whatever to the sides like he's sweeping. He keeps himself and everything around him very clean and tidy. Another quirk is that despite our respect for each other, he is a very independent rabbit and would prefer not to be held and petted, but he will tolerate it and lets me handle him with no trouble at all. His last quirk is the one heck of a time I had bonding him to another rabbit. I tried probably a dozen different rabbits but no one caught Rupert's eye. In the end, he bonded all by himself.

Flash forward to 2013. I must not have secured the gates to his cage and the cage to my other bonded pair (Benny and Flo) and when I went down the next day Rupert was in their pen, snuggled right up against them. I had no issues at all, no fighting, no dominance,



Rupert

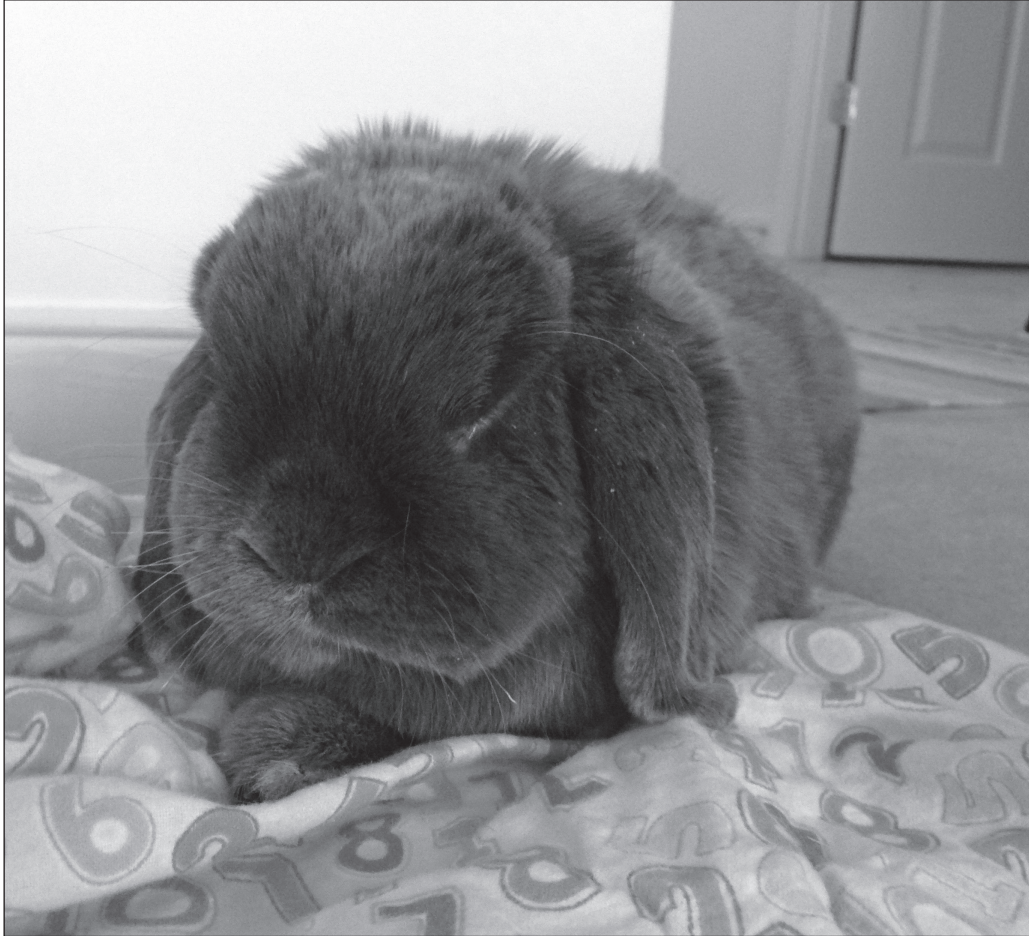
nothing. It's like he decided that he was done living alone and moved right into Benny and Flo's cage where he was welcomed with open paws. Flo, also a Buckeye HRS rescue rabbit, was among the 19 bunnies seized in Willoughby in spring 2009. She unfortunately passed away suddenly in the winter of 2014.

Currently Rupert is 11 years old and going strong. He shares a pen with his buddy Benny, a nine-year-old albino, and Remy, a two-year-old blue Flemish giant. He is happy with his little group, still has a great appetite, and loves exploring my basement. I'm so glad I've gotten to share my life with him for as long as I have.

BooBoo – By Catherine Cartwright:

I fell in love with BooBoo when I first laid eyes on his rescue photo. There was something about this fuzzy, loppy, grey bun sitting in a garden – I just knew we were meant to find each other. The last seven and a half years have only further convinced me that we belong together and I cannot even imagine what my life would have been like without him.

Continued on page 4



BooBoo

We've both had our ups and downs. I moved to a new city, where I didn't know anyone, to attend graduate school while dealing with chronic health issues. BooBoo is developing a genetic skin condition, cataracts, molar spurs, and arthritis.

Through it all we have been there for each other, even celebrating some big milestones in our human-bunny relationship. I will never forget when I was finally able to rub his back for the first time, which was several months after I brought him home. Now he lets me rub his cheeks when he's flopped! He will even come and loaf right next to my leg when I sit on the floor and he'll stay there until I stop

rubbing his head.

Just a few moments nose to nose with BooBoo is worth the grey fuzz and hay all over the floor, the multiple loads of bunny laundry a week, and being woken up at 3a.m. to the sound of him digging in his crinkle tunnel.

A special thank you to Katie, Rob, and Catherine for their heartwarming stories. Stay tuned for updates on Norm, Clover, Rodger, and Truffle in future editions of *Harelines*.

If you would like to share your stories and photos (high-

resolution please) of a bunny you adopted from us, please email Sue Zimmerman – bhrs-sue@ohare.org.



A sleepy BooBoo.

Spotlight On ... Our Sanctuary Sponsors

By Stephanie Lodge

As part of our Sanctuary Sponsor series, it is our pleasure to tell you about another one of our longtime sponsors. In case you missed the article about Gary and Paula Savage in our previous issue, you should know that without these generous sponsors, our sanctuary rabbits wouldn't be the happy, healthy bunnies they are today.

Adriana and Doris Mastroguiseppe are two of our amazing sanctuary backers. As a fluke, Adriana and her mother brought home their first rabbit in the early 80's, a little dwarf from a pet store in Southern California. Although new to rabbits, they knew immediately that these incredible creatures were special. From then on, they decided they would help other people re-home their unwanted rabbits by giving them a forever home. In the early 90's Adriana and her mom went to a feed store to get hay for their rabbits and – lo



Adriana with Samantha



Buster (AKA Coach)

and behold – they also brought home a baby Dutch bunny. It was at the time when Buster Douglas beat Mike Tyson, so Adriana's father came up with the name Buster. He was one of their favorite rabbits. Buster would watch the games with them and ended up with the nickname "Coach." When they moved to Ohio by car in 1995, Buster proved be a great little traveler. They also had dogs and stayed at Motel 6 since it accepted pets. The dogs got along well with the rabbits. Buster was almost 11 years old when he crossed the rainbow bridge.

Adriana and Doris's last two bunnies came from people who needed to find a good home for them. Both were lop-eared rabbits and they lived to be 10 years old.

Thank you Adriana and Doris for your continued support!



Mythical Rabbits (Part 1 of a 3-part series)

By Michele Roth

Around the world stories of mythical rabbits were created and over time turned into folk lore. Here are a few highlights surrounding these mythical creatures and their tall tales.

Al-mi'raj

Like the unicorn, the rabbit Al-Mir'aj has a horn coming from his forehead. According to Arabic poetry, he lives on an island called Jezîrat al-Tennyn located in the Indian Ocean. His unthreatening appearance is deceptive, however, since he has an extreme appetite for large animals and humans which he subdues effortlessly with a few jabs of his long horn. For



Cabbit

this reason animals stayed clear of this predator and people sought out the help of witches to protect them and their livestock. If the witch had true powers she could tame the Miraj rendering him harmless. He could then be removed along with the fear this ferocious predator inspired. Al-mi'raj's origins possibly came about from someone spotting a rabbit afflicted with the Papillomatosis virus. The virus develops hard, hornlike tumors that are also very painful and can make the rabbit appear aggressive due to the pain.



Al-mi'raj

Cabbit

The Cabbit is a fictional hybrid of a cat and a rabbit; it is unclear whether this mythical creature was actually a rabbit mistaken for a cat or vice versa. Cabbits have been included in stories from various parts of the world including Japan and Scotland. In Japan cross breeding of a cat and rabbit is believed to have given birth to the Cabbit legend, but it is most likely that a Manx cat was mistaken to be a Cabbit. Cats with a bobbed tail like the Manx have a mutation that can cause skeletal defects.



These defects affect movement and could result in the cat having a rabbit-like, hopping gait. In Scotland it was originally believed that the Cabbit was the offspring of a male rabbit and a female cat, but since it is genetically impossible to cross breed these animals it was clearly a hoax. The Lionhead rabbit, with puffs of fur around the head similar to the mane of a lion, has been mistaken for a Cabbit as well.

Jackalope

A mythical creature of North American folklore, the Jackalope is a rabbit (actually a hare) with large antelope horns with which it tries to impale humans. Some of the tales give the critters the ability to imitate human voices and others

report that Jackalopes can only mate during lightning storms, thereby making it more difficult for them to reproduce because their antlers act as lightning rods. If you want to catch a Jackalope, it can be enticed with its favorite beverage, whiskey. It is again possible that the legend is the result of a wild rabbit with the Papillomatosis virus. However, there is another account of two teenage brothers in Wyoming being responsible for the tall tale. One studied



Jackalope

taxidermy and, after a hunting trip, he added the horns of a deer to a jackrabbit carcass. They then sold the Jackalope to a hotel for \$10 and it became a popular local attraction. Wyoming continues unsuccessfully to get the Jackalope to become the state's official mythical creature, but so far it has only become the mascot for the state lottery.

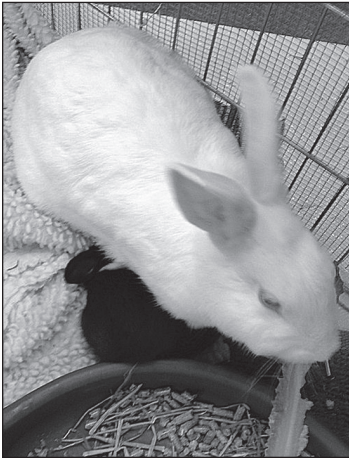
Reference: *Wikipedia the free encyclopedia*

Adopted!

Congratulations to Blair Broderick for giving **Raven** her forever home. May the two of them stay happy and healthy and lonely nevermore. ♥ **Bonnie**, now **Beatrix**, has found her forever home with fellow rabbit owners Will, Kathleen and their two bunnies **Attila** and **Napoleon**. Congratulations! ♥ **Duchess** is the queen of the house with her new family. She loves racing around her fun play areas. Congratulations Elliana on your new baby! ♥ **Treasure** has been welcomed with open hearts and arms by his new family. Jamie, Chris, Cole, and Ella are ecstatic to have a new furry friend. ♥ **Oliver** was adopted by Faith Houser and is enjoying the company of his new bunny BFF, **Luna**.



Somebunny Needs YOU!

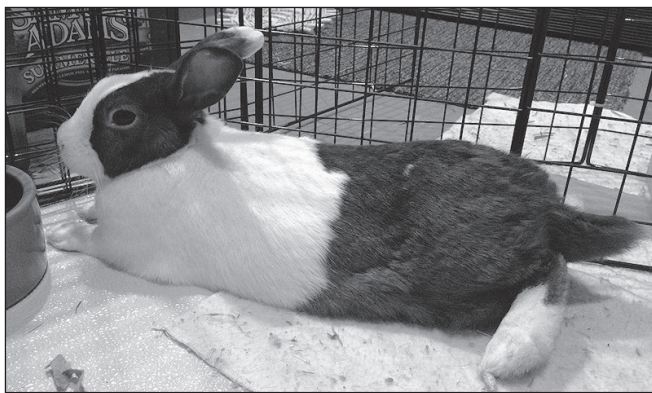


Meet **Lacey**! The mother of the Indiana babies, Lacey was dumped on the porch of a cotton-tail rehabber only to give birth to eleven kits the next day. (She raised the seven babies who survived right here in our foster home.) Lacey is looking for her fur-ever home. She loves baby carrots, cardboard boxes, hay munching (and long walks on the beach – just

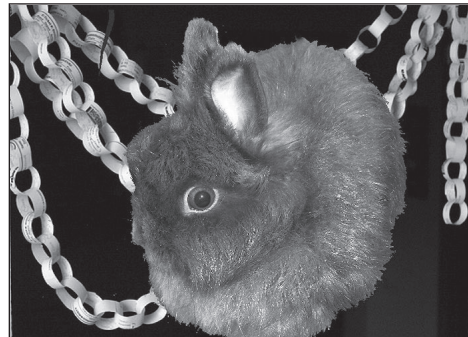
kidding). **White bunnies with pink eyes are the hardest for us to adopt out.** Please give her a chance at a life she deserves and show her that she is anything but disposable. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Caramel (Cara) is an adorable chocolate brown bunny. She has the coloring of a cute chocolate lab puppy. Cara is young and active – just give her a cardboard box to play with and she will be your friend for life. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrrs-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 (bhrrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



I'm **GrayC** and I'm here to say I'm up for adoption starting today. I'm just over a year and lots of fun, I've got great potty habits and my rap's almost done. I'm cute, I'm sweet, I don't need bling so

if you want to adopt me give my foster mom a ring. **Please contact Michele Roth (bhrrs-michele@ohare.org) 859-261-0556.**



Gracie is a young, energetic little girl who still has a little more growing to do. She is just about her full adult size. She and her brother Emmy came from a bad situation, abandoned in a wooded area near Youngstown, Ohio, but they are now thriving as foster bunnies. Gracie's interests include binkies and running the "Bunny 500". **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



Guinness is the color of the beverage and has the spunk of a wee Irishman. About one year old, he is adorable and, although very small, he has the personality of a giant. He is sure to delight you with his charm. This great escape artist loves people and food

and will do anything that he can to find either. Guinness will require lots of free range time and attention. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Somebunny Needs YOU!

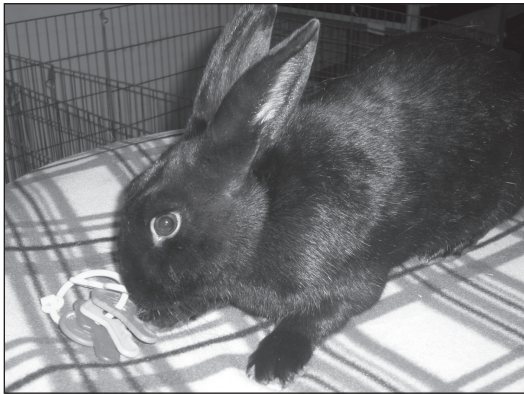


Em – Emerson – is a teenage New Zealand white with an outgoing personality. He and his sister Gracie came from a bad situation, abandoned in a wooded area near Youngstown, Ohio, but they are now thriving as foster bunnies. Emmy is looking forward to growing into his ears! **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



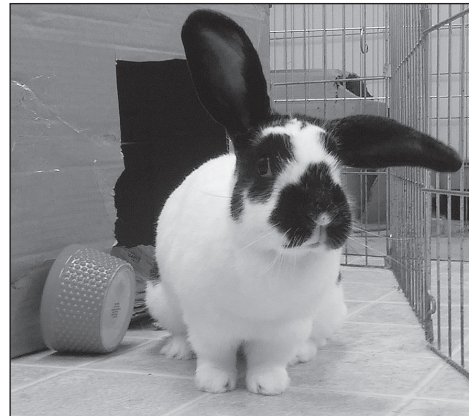
Malibu is an adorable young Californian with beautiful gray markings. She is very friendly and likes kisses on her

nose. Malibu is a bit on the small side for a Cali girl. Malibu enjoys surfing, long walks on the beach, and listening to the Beach Boys. Just kidding, of course, but she would love making Pet Sounds forever with you! **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



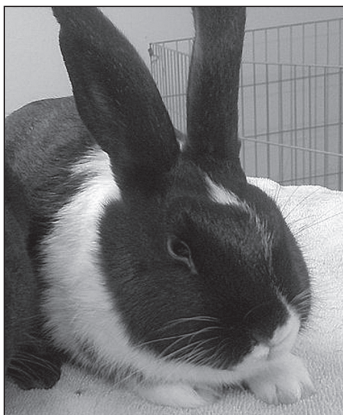
Humphrey is a very busy boy. He is only about one year old and loves free time away from his pen. He doesn't care for being held (because

that takes time away from his freedom to explore, you see). He does love attention and is very people-friendly. Humphrey enjoys shredding up newspaper inside his cardboard box. This little goof ball is sure to make you laugh. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Spot is a cute girl with helicopter ears (one up, one down). She

is about one to two years old, friendly, and charming. She is great at doing binkies and being a goof ball. Rescued from a hoarding situation, she deserves a great, loving, forever home. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Nikki is a Dutch/English Spot mix with unique black and white markings on her fur. The most adventurous of all the Indiana babies, she is friendly and will be your best friend (for the low, low price of one baby carrot). **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

Shop to Stop Testing on Rabbits

By Shawna Lemerise

Although safer, more scientifically accurate methods have been developed for testing the ingredients that go into household consumer products and cosmetics, many companies still practice animal testing. Not only is there no regulation by the FDA or the Consumer Product Safety Commission that requires companies to test their products on animals, there is also no law banning this practice. Testing is done all kinds of products from makeup, lotion, shampoo, soap, to dishwashing liquid, drain cleaner, and laundry detergent.

Rabbits are the second most common animal used for laboratory testing (the first being guinea pigs). According to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), over 170,000 rabbits are mistreated in labs in the U.S. each year, and according to the Animal Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS), 205,482 rabbits were held in laboratories in 2012. The types of tests used on rabbits are usually the Draize eye irritancy test, which drops the chemical in rabbits' eyes, and the skin corrosion test, in which corrosive chemicals are applied to the animal's raw skin.

For more information on the Draize test, see Monica Engbretson's article in the Huffington Post, "Seventy Years Is Enough: It's Time to Put the Draize Test Out of Its Misery."

Using rabbits for testing is ultimately a consumer issue and the solution lies in the hands of consumers. The more consumers demand humane and cruelty-free products, the more companies will abandon animal testing and employ more ethical methods. The best way to voice your opinion



as a consumer is with your money! You can make a statement by refusing to buy products tested on animals; instead, buy from companies that do not.

To find out whether or not the product you are purchasing is tested on animals, just read the label! There are many different logos companies can use, but there are three in particular that are verified by third-party organizations. Companies must not only be certified, but pay for a license to use these logos. The good news is that spotting these logos is as easy as looking for the bunny! All three of the following logos feature a bunny and are verified to appear only on products not tested on animals:

1. Products that feature the Leaping Bunny logo indicate that the company and their ingredient suppliers do not conduct or commission animal testing of their products. The Leaping Bunny program is comprised of multiple animal welfare organizations and requires that companies using the logo be audited by an independent assessor. They even have a free app for Android and Apple called "Cruelty Free" to help you search companies while you're shopping.

2. Another logo to look for is PETA's cruelty-free logo. Companies who use this logo are verified by PETA that they and their ingredient suppliers do not conduct, commission, or pay for any tests on animals for ingredients, formulations, or finished products and that their products do not contain





any animal ingredients. However, it is important to note that PETA does not monitor or test the products themselves, so the verification depends on the honesty and accuracy of the company.

3. The third logo to stay on the lookout for is Choose Cruelty Free's (CCF) "Not Tested on Animals" bunny logo. This logo ensures that none of the company's products and ingredients have ever been tested on animals by the company itself, by anyone on its behalf, by its suppliers or anyone on their behalf. Additionally, these products must not contain any ingredients derived from killing an animal or provided as a by-product from killed animals. These companies

use the logos mentioned above. As a consumer, it is ultimately up to you to make the best decisions about the types of products you want to use and the companies that you support.

For more information on rabbits used in animal testing and shopping for cruelty-free products, visit:

rabbit.org/activist-corner
aavs.org
leapingbunny.org
peta.org
choosecrueltyfree.org

have to be re-accredited regularly, and parent and subsidiary companies must also be accredited by CCF in order to use this logo.

It is important to note that any company can print "not tested on animals" on their label. If you are concerned about a specific product that does not use one of the logos, but uses this statement, consider contacting the company to find out more about their ingredients. Just because they print this statement does not mean that they are not legitimate, because companies must purchase the license to

National Dues Increase

The national HRS has increased its annual membership fee to \$20. If you pay your national dues when you renew your Buckeye HRS membership, please remember to add the extra amount. We haven't increased our chapter's fees – still a bargain at \$15 – so national and Buckeye combined is \$35. We're all volunteers, so every cent of every membership helps rabbits!



Buckeye House Rabbit Society

P.O. Box 5767

Athens, OH 45701



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 5767

Athens, OH 45701

**All donations are
tax-deductible.**