Every Easter my parents would take my brother and me to the mall where we would inevitably visit the pet store to see all the animals. This was in the late 60s when the malls still had pet stores. They sold dogs, cats, birds, fish, and bunnies. I never wanted to leave the store. All I wanted to do was to stay with the bunnies. But, for a seven-year-old, the next stop after the pet store was even more exciting. At Chapel Hill Mall across from JC Penny’s was a stuffed animal store filled with rabbit treasures. Over the years, several rabbits and bunnies found their way home with me: Pink Bunny, Brown Bunny, Hoppy Bunny (I actually had many versions of Hoppy Bunny) left the store to spend their lives with me in my bedroom. Eventually that fabulous store closed, but there was another toy store that opened in both Chapel Hill Mall and Summit Mall. My parents continued to buy me new stuffed bunnies every year.

So, imagine my bed! It was filled with a LOT of stuffed rabbits and bunnies. I loved them all. Then, something terrible happened. In the second grade we were shown a movie about what to do if your house caught on fire. It was enough to scare any little kid, but it was worse for me. I had responsibilities. Was I worried about getting my little brother out of a burning house? Sorry, Steve. I was worried about my stuffed animals. I’d sleep with them gathered in my arms so I’d be able to save them all as I jumped out the second-story window of our house. Thankfully, the house never caught fire.

As I got older, everyone knew that I LOVED RABBITS. From the time I was five years old, I’d been campaigning for a real rabbit. Finally, when I was ten, a camp counselor called my mom and asked if she could buy me a rabbit. I can still see that moment when she pulled up in our driveway.

Linda’s life has included bunnies from birth.
Special Thanks to:

Janet Schandorsky and the Ohio Veterans Home IT Department, for their generous donations in tribute to the late Jim Dailey.

David and Constance Truelsch, for contributing to the "Name Our Next Foster" program. In memory of Rebecca, a male bunny will be named Jellybean.

The following members, whose monetary and in-kind donations allow us to meet our ongoing fostering and educational goals: Rob Lovicz, Christa Billerman and Fayaz Bhanji, Jerome Steele, Kathryn Kallay, Irma Laszlo, Bob Piekarczyk, Barbara Galambos, Scott Edwards, Mark Covert, Colin Vielhaber, David Huffman, Karla Jackson, Christina Daron, Elisabeth Thomas-Matej, Renee Molzon, Karen Dailey, Judy O'Neil, Kai Horsley, Ann-Marie Polansky, Jim and Laura Brown, Tom and Mary Zimmerman, Pam Loch, Deborah Raddish, Liz Claytor, Jim and Laura Gills.

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.

Heartbreak

By Stephanie Lodge

Anyone involved with fostering animals knows it’s a tough job. If anything, it costs us not only financially, but emotionally as well. Earlier this year, a post on the House Rabbit Society Facebook page started showing up in my messages. Several people had seen domestic rabbits running loose in Chinatown on Cleveland’s east side. Of all the rescues I’ve done, this was the first one we planned three days in advance. We were able to tell the public about our plans to save the rabbits. As a result we had about a dozen people show up to help including Katie Liepold Kistler, Kristin Weiss, Gregg Pullano, Laurel Sahley, Kyra Kester, Stephanie Ash and her husband Tom, Elisabeth Thomas-Matej and Harold Matej, and some random guy walking down the street who stopped to help us. Sunday February 24th was a cold day, but we were able to catch all four rabbits.

Three rabbits ultimately went to the Cleveland APL (they have already been adopted)

Continued on page 5
Cuddles, a beautiful Dutch bunny. Cuddles got to live in the kitchen in a small cage at night, but she had the run of the kitchen when we were home.

After Cuddles died, the camp had two red-eyed white bunnies for the summer, Pierre and Herman. At the end of the summer, I got to bring Pierre home. One of my best friends took Herman home. Pierre died while I was in high school and I was without a bunny for several years. Finally, Noser The WonderBun came into my life. Some of you met Noser. She lived to be 13. She had the biggest dewlap I have ever seen in a Dutchie. She loved to eat. I mean, she LOVED to eat.

Noser had two husbuns. When she met her first, Buster, it was love at first sight. No bonding necessary. They just frolicked about from the moment they met. She was with Buster for five years and even though he was probably younger, he passed away first. She got her next husbn, Wendell, within just a few weeks, but then she passed away. Wendell was soon joined by Chloe. Then, out of the blue, our friends found the cutest little rabbit abandoned on the street. We named him Hugo. I called Kristen Doherty and planned to bring him over as a foster, when – oops! -- my husband, Mark, and I fell in love with him. He was with us for about three years and had an amazing personality. Today, we currently live with Harry, Hazel, and Hector.

I still love to draw and paint rabbits. And, I still sleep with several stuffed ones (and one Star Wars Porg). The New York Times had several articles indicating that I’m not alone. Because once you’ve shared your bed with bunnies, how could you ever sleep without them?
Gastrointestinal Stasis versus Obstruction in Rabbits

By Diana Dornbusch Cron, DVM

Gastrointestinal (GI) Stasis -- when the gastrointestinal tract slows and stops moving -- is a common occurrence in small mammals. It can be life-threatening if not identified quickly. The term “stasis” can refer to both ileus (a slowing of the GI tract) and a physical obstruction (a blocking of the GI tract). Both present with very similar symptoms, but treatment takes different paths.

Stasis can be triggered by the following:
- Stress due to changes in the environment or living situation
- Pain caused by an injury or other illness
- Rapid changes in diet
- Dental issues that inhibit chewing or discourage eating due to pain

Stasis can present with the following symptoms:
- Gradual decrease in appetite or food intake
- Infrequent, small, or misshapen feces that are irregular in shape. You may also see more "strings of pearls" -- poops connected with hair
- Signs of abdominal pain or discomfort, bloating, gas, teeth grinding, flatulence, or kicking at the abdomen
- Lethargy, hiding, hanging out in unusual places, heat- or cool-seeking behavior
- Lack of gut sounds
- Increased temperature

Obstructions are not usually due to the rabbit ingesting something he shouldn’t, but often, given the rabbit’s unique GI physiology, a larger than normal “felt” of hair and debris gets expelled from the cecum and can become lodged in the narrower portions of the GI tract. Obstructions can and do occur acutely, without warning signs of GI stasis preceding them. Obstructions typically are difficult to treat and have a poor prognosis. Decompression (a tube passed into the stomach to empty the contents under anesthesia), medications, and/or surgery are risky, because the rabbit is already in a state of physiological shock. Other conditions -- such as a liver lobe torsion, severe urinary sludge, or stones -- can cause an acute painful abdomen that can mimic a GI obstruction. You should always seek immediate emergency care for a rabbit with a distended, painful abdomen with a rapid onset. Determining the difference between GI stasis and early obstruction can be difficult, even for trained veterinarians, because they present very similarly. There are, however, tools and tips that can help you monitor from home:
- An inexpensive stethoscope can help you listen to your bunny’s gut sounds. Bunnies should always be digesting, so you should hear frequent gurgling and growling sounds. Absence of gut motility can be a sign that the GI system is slowing down.
- A digital rectal thermometer can identify deviations in normal temperature. Normal is between 100 and 103 degrees.
- Palpate (gently press) your rabbit’s abdomen. A normal belly is squishy. A hard, distended, or tight belly is a key indicator of an obstruction. This should be treated as an immediate emergency.
- Know what is normal for your bunny. If your bunny typically devours his pellets immediately, then something may be wrong if he no longer has an interest in food. If your bunny is typically relaxed and comfortable, then frequent moving or looking unable to get comfortable might be a warning sign.

The MOST important thing in reversing GI stasis is keeping fiber and fluid moving through the...
GI tract. A rabbit who is not eating or drinking becomes dehydrated and stomach contents become dry and hard. Rehydration consists of giving fluid, nutrients, and fiber orally (watery Critical Care) and subcutaneously (under the skin) and sometimes even intravenously. Motility-stimulation drugs, anti-inflammatories, and pain control are also crucial. Antibiotics should not be used unless a specific infection is suspected of causing the stasis (for example, tooth root abscesses or Clostridial overgrowth), as they can further alter the intestinal bacterial balance. Some people swear by the use of pediatric simethicone drops and probiotics to relieve gas, but there is disagreement in the veterinary community about whether the products currently on the market are effective.

Signs that GI Stasis is improving:
- Gradually increasing activity
- Rabbit starts eating, at first usually some favorite greens or pellets
- Stool quality slowly starts returning to normal quantity, size, shape, and consistency
- Gradual unwillingness or resistance to syringe feeding (because he/she is feeling better and doesn’t want to be restrained)
- Gradual return to normal gut sounds

Signs that GI Stasis is NOT improving and/or your rabbit has become obstructed and needs immediate medical attention:
- Lower than normal body temperature
- Increasing lethargy, glassy-eyed appearance, limp body posture, and/or unwillingness to move
- Unwillingness or inability to swallow oral medications
- Distended, firm, or taut abdomen that is painful on palpation
- Hypermotile gut sounds (more active than normal) without stool production

Take-home points:
1. Know what is normal for your rabbit – habits, volume and food preferences, stool and urine output, gut sounds and feel upon palpation – so you know what is abnormal.
2. Have tools on hand for determining normal vs abnormal -- thermometer, stethoscope, and your hands experienced with normal abdominal palpation
3. Keep syringe-feeding supplies on hand (Critical Care, a feeding syringe), and learn how to use them if you don’t already know.
4. Discuss emergency, after-hours, and weekend options with your veterinarian, so that you know who to call, where to go, what to do if problems occur outside normal business hours.

Dr. Diana Cron, veterinarian and Buckeye HRS educator, has been treating rabbits for 25 years. She practices at Glenway Animal Hospital in Cincinnati and currently lives with bunnies Reagan and Lenny.

and I kept one as my foster. I named my little guy Lambchop. Like most of the bunnies we save, Lambchop was terrified of people. The slightest touch made him recoil in nervous fright. Luckily Lambchop had friends to talk to – I penned him next door to another foster named Sarah. Sarah must have given me a good Yelp review because she helped him adjust. With patience and gentle pets, Lambchop figured out he was with good humans. For a tiny little bunny he was able to eat Sarah under the table and she outweighed him by at least 6 pounds! Lambchop was neutered and finally ready to be announced for adoption.

On March 23 something horrible happened. We took in another foster, Mr. Darby, who weighs in at 14 pounds. Despite having a sheet securely attached to the top of his pen, he escaped and jumped into Lambchop’s pen. I am not sure what Mr. Darby, an unneutered teenager, did to Lambchop. It’s possible that he humped Lambchop and that Lambchop kicked out in protest. His spinal cord was severed. This is not the type of injury from which a bunny can heal. The vet said the most humane thing to do was euthanasia. I am devastated that Lambchop’s life ended like this. I know he was a happy bunny who knew he was loved and safe prior to this accident, but it doesn’t change my heartache. No one could have predicted this outcome, but it reminds us how fragile bunnies are. If you have children and rabbits in the same household, please monitor them when they are together. Do not let kids pick up rabbits – one bad kick could be a death sentence. Lastly, please spay and neuter your pets. Mr. Darby will have been neutered by the time this article goes to print.

I wanted to write about Lambchop so the world would know what a wonderful rabbit he was – his adoption notice was never posted. I didn’t want his short life to be overlooked.
By Stephanie Lodge, with Linda Squire and Lexi Sauer

On Monday, June 18, 2018 I received a message, followed by a phone call from a Facebook friend who is studying at vet school in the Bahamas. She told me about several rabbits that urgently needed my help. I immediately threw several carriers, towels, lettuce, and exercise pens into my car and headed towards Ravenna, Ohio. I had a general idea of where I was going and figured I would get the details on the way. I was told there were three or four rabbits dumped in the woods and one or more were already dead. That day the temperature was 91 degrees and, as any bunny-lover knows, rabbits do not do well in the heat. During my one-hour drive to the site, I was able to contact several rabbit friends from the Akron area who would meet me there. I also spoke to the Good Samaritan who spotted the rabbits and a police officer who would also meet me.

The moment I arrived, I realized the situation was different than any other I had encountered. There were five rabbits running around. One was paralyzed and another we were too late to save. All of the rabbits were very large English lops and they were in very bad shape. They were dirty, thin, weak, and terrified of humans. Stephanie D. and I immediately started catching them. Lucky for us, the buns were mostly clustered together, so rounding them up took only a little over an hour. I left that day with five rabbits in my car, without a plan where to go next. I already had my own rabbits, four fosters, and was bunny sitting. Panicked, I called my rock Kristen Doherty and, as always, she came through.

Stephanie and I in our separate cars raced off to Aurora where Kristen was already setting up triage for six buns. After unloading all the rabbits into pens in Kristen’s cool basement, all buns were given sub q fluids, hay, water, pellets, litter boxes, and peace and quiet. My other rock, Margaret Garrett (Cleveland Animal Protective League), committed to taking two of the rabbits. That evening when I went home I took two of the healthiest rabbits with me with the intention of transferring them to the Cleveland APL. In the end, only one bun, Charlie Chaplin, went to the APL and he was adopted by my friend Linda Squire. Two bunnies, Hazelnut and Bigsby, were transferred to the Dayton Humane Society. The paralyzed bunny could not overcome her injuries and passed away only two days after the rescue. Cooperfield,
now Peanut Butter, was adopted by another friend, Kristie DePolo.

I ended up adopting Lopez. Anyone who follows me on Facebook or Instagram knows Lopez and I have a very special bond. I have never encountered a more loving, trusting, and affectionate rabbit. We had a few road bumps in the beginning with food aggression. Lopez had and still has sore hocks. She was very thin at first, so we waited about two months before getting her spayed. During that surgery we also had one of her abscessed sore hocks mended. Today, Lopez enjoys her days in her fleece-lined exercise pen, playing with toys and relaxing on her Ikea doll bed. Evenings we like to lounge on the sofa together. She exercises by digging like a crazy rabbit then flopping when she needs a break.

**Linda Squire and Chappy**

The English Lop Rescued Rabbit, Mr. Chaplin aka Chappy, found his forever home on June 27, 2018. He was a resident at the Cleveland Animal Protection League on Wiley Avenue. It was love at first sight and the instant connection has continued on an upward swing. Chappy needed to be neutered, so we settled for regularlyscheduled visitations for two weeks prior to his release. He was treated for a clear eye discharge and for dermatitis. He has remained in excellent health.

Chappy was originally meant to be bonded with Lily, my other rabbit. Her companion, Jeff, passed in May, 2018. They enjoy car rides, walks wearing leashes, and cuddling in housing with a divided grid wall, but separate schedules for running freely about our home are still the daily routine. Chappy loves exploring, jumping, and running about freely; however, his favorite toy is the tunnel. He likes scurrying and hiding in it. Digging in his cardboard box is another satisfying past time. It is not unusual to find him basking in sunshine in front of the window.

Chappy is not shy about communicating. He will sit in front of the refrigerator and knows which drawer holds their greens. He displays his gratitude with happy mid-air jumps. This twelve-pound bundle of joy is very affectionate with everyone. Cuddling is definitely one of his many positive attributes. This human is extremely grateful for his constant, unconditional display of love and contentment. Chappy is an amazing gentle giant.

**Lexi Sauer and Hazel**

I got Hazelnut when she was about a year and a half old. A fellow volunteer from the Humane Society of Greater Dayton and I took a road trip north to pick up two English lops along with
a French lop who already had a home and just needed to be transported. I had fostered many bunnies before and had an opening at my house for a new foster. The plan was for me to take the female and have her checked for possible pregnancy, while the male went to another fosterer in town.

For being so skinny and scared, Hazel was absolutely gorgeous! Her fur was dirty and yellow, but underneath she was a beautiful white and brown mix and her ears were definitely her star feature. She was underweight and super shy, but did well during her exam. Fortunately, she was not pregnant, which was a huge relief! It took her a while to settle in. She was nervous around the dogs and cats and would run and hide when she heard someone walking down the stairs. A few weeks passed and I had her checked again, just to be absolutely sure she was not expecting a litter; the vet still came up with nothing. I think you can probably see where this is going.

One night after I got home from work, I went down to feed and change her litter and nothing seemed out of the ordinary. She was starting to warm up to me at this point so I held her for a bit and then went back upstairs. Right before I went to bed, I had a gut feeling to go downstairs to say goodnight to her and that’s when I found six bright-pink kits scattered around her pen. She was trying to clean them and herself the best that she could, but it became very apparent that she was a first-time mom and had no idea what to do other than what her motherly instinct was telling her. We ended up losing a baby right off the bat. Hazel was attempting to pull her fur to make a nest, so I took an empty litter box and helped her out with a makeshift nest of hay and the fur I collected. She tried her best, but soon after she began to stop producing milk and we were beginning to lose the babies. We tried everything from bottle feeding to tube feeding at the very end, but the babies never stood a chance. I believe it was all poor timing. Malnourishment, stress from being moved around so much, and no previous experience all played a part and set her up for failure. All things considered, it was a fabulous learning experience for everyone involved and Hazel remained healthy and unfazed by the whole ordeal.

As time went on, her personality blossomed and I fell head over heels for her. She became confident in herself and around the other animals and quickly became friends with my youngest dog, Luna. Hazel is spunky and adventurous, but will stop whatever she is doing for a good nose rub and a slice of banana. Of course, she became a foster failure and now practically has the run of the house. She bosses the cats around, plays with the dogs, and is a master flopper. Hazel truly is one of a kind and I am so happy that I get to call her mine!
Buckeye Bunny Photo Contest!

Attention proud bunny parents turned amateur photographers! We are excited to announce the Buckeye Bunny Photo Contest – starting now! For a donation of $5 per photo, you may enter a pic of your bunny for a chance to win one of three fabulous prizes. Enter as many photos as you wish. Submissions will be posted to the Buckeye House Rabbit Society Facebook page photo album, “Buckeye Bunny Photo Contest.” Vote on your favorite photos by giving them a like! The owner of the winning photo will receive a set of four rabbit-themed glasses. First and second runners up will each win a Starbucks gift card and rabbit treats.

Enter your photo:
1. Take a high quality photo of your bunny!
2. Make a $5 donation per photo at www.ohare.org/wordpress
3. Email your photo/s to bhrs-shawnna@ohare.org
4. Submissions will be accepted through Friday, July 26, 2019.
5. Photo submissions will be posted to the album, “Buckeye Bunny Photo Contest,” on our Facebook Page.

Voting will begin as soon as the first photo is uploaded and will continue through August 3rd.

To Vote:
1. “Like” the Buckeye House Rabbit Society Facebook page.
2. “Like” your favorite photos to place your vote. You may vote for as many photos as you wish.
3. “Share” our contest on Facebook to help spread the word!
4. The winner will be notified via email and announced on Facebook and Twitter.

Photo Guidelines:
Photos must be in .jpg or .png format with a file size of no less than 300 KB; 1 MB or larger is preferred. Photos should be at least 1200 pixels on the longest side. Photos must be in focus and of good quality (specifically in terms of brightness and contrast) and must not appear grainy. We maintain the right to reject any photo for not following the guidelines. Entries must be submitted by the original photographer. Your submission of the photo/s is your guarantee that you are the author and copyright holder. Contestants retain the copyright to their photographs, however, with your submission you agree that Buckeye HRS may display your photo/s on our website, social media, and in our printed newsletter. Photo credit will be provided in the photo description.

Even if you do not choose to submit a photo, please participate in this contest by voting and sharing widely. Good luck!
Somebunny Needs YOU!

Poptart is a beautiful young lady both inside and out. She is petite, extremely friendly, and loves being held. If you’re looking for the perfect bunny, Poptart is your gal! Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.

Treasure and Sweet Dee Paisley are the sweetest couple. Their personalities, although very different, complement each other nicely. Treasure (white with black) is outgoing, friendly, and has lots to do, while Sweet Dee (black) is more laid back. They were previously adopted, but returned through no fault of their own. They are wonderful bunnies and must be adopted together. Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.

Handsome “cow” brothers Kinsey and Dok (previously adopted, but recently returned due to no fault of their own) are ready for their forever family. These rex boys are inseparable and love each other dearly. They’re coming up on their sixth birthday and are perfectly happy and healthy. Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.

There are sure to be many “hocus pocus” antics with these three sisters. Winifred, Sarah, and Mary have plenty of tricks for you. Each is available separately. Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.

Winifred is very social and enjoys kisses on her forehead. She loves her hay, but her favorite activity is tossing her cardboard box around.

Sarah loves her free time and is very adventurous.

Mary is extremely outgoing and friendly. She is our resident goof-ball and is quite entertaining.
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 (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.

Kate is a charming Harlequin mix with beautiful gray stripes in her white fur. She is social and likes to run around and explore. Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.

Sarah is a lovely Flemish mix with impeccable litterbox habits. Her sweet personality is sure to win over any potential adopter. Sarah weighs ten pounds so she needs room to roam. Thankfully, she is not a big chewer. Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.

Cherish Truelsch is a unique-looking Californian rabbit. Check out that dewlap! Found wandering the neighborhood in the scorching July heat, Cherish is a sweet girl who is looking for someone to snuggle with and show her that she is special. Cherish was named by David Truelsch in the Name Our Next Foster program (details on our website). Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.

Adopted!

Not only has Cyndi Lopper been adopted to a fabulous new mom, but also, unexpectedly, she has a boyfriend! When Tara fell in love with Cyndi, she had an idea – what about adopting Jefferson as well? Much to our surprise, Cyndi and Jefferson were already bonded! They had been having an affair through their pen walls. Congratulations, Tara, on adopting two of our most unique bunnies. Bonded bunnies are the best! ♥ Laney has been welcomed into her new forever family with Renee and Chris, and husbun Joe. While the bonding did take some time, they are all living together happily. It’s a dream come true! ♥ Oakley has found his forever family in Wooster. He even has a new Dutch girlfriend named Nibbler. Congratulations, Sarah and Ryan! Oakley and Nibbler are perfect together. ♥ Little but mighty Zeus (now Eeyore) has been adopted by David Sohn and family of Perrysburg. That’s mighty fine! ♥ Storm has won the adoption jackpot! Not only does she have a loving home with Cathryn, she has found her forever snuggle-buddy in handsome Ollie. ♥ We are excited to report that Maddie has a new happy home with Kelleen Ison of Marion OH. We couldn’t be more pleased for both of you! ♥ George and Ringo have found their fab forever home with the Bodo family in Columbia Station. They have plenty of room to play and plenty of humans to play with! ♥ Noelle – now Leilani – didn’t stay in foster care very long. Buckeye’s own Kristi and Bill Cole are happy to make her a part of their family. Leilani has adjusted beautifully.
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your $35.00 annual membership in the Buckeye HRS includes:

• Local membership ($15.00) and issues of Harelines

New Policy: National membership is now FREE with a local donation of $20 or more. You'll receive a code to sign up directly with national HRS.

☐ 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.