



HARELINES



Volume 17 Number 1 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

Winter 2013

The Musketeers

By Kristen Doherty

After many years of caring for disabled and unadoptable rabbits, I've realized that sometimes the best medicine is to put them together in the same living quarters and see what happens. I have several sanctuary bunnies in my care at the moment, three in particular who have disabilities and benefit from being together. Meet the three musketeers!

Puff was adopted to a family as a normal healthy bunny, but was then returned to us in 2007, only two years after his adoption. When he came back to our foster home, I noticed a slight unsteadiness in his gait. This was never really diagnosed nor attributable to any specific disease. Was he dropped? Did he have some kind of underlying parasitic or bacterial infection? We tried various treatments, but nothing seemed to eradicate the uneven gait. Not knowing the exact cause, we decided to hold him back from adoption unless we encountered one of those very special people willing to take in a special needs rabbit. Puff was always a reserved rabbit and not especially fond of humans, but I knew what a wonderful nurse rabbit he was when he cared for Calvin, our head tilt sanctuary bunny, in the last few years of Calvin's life.

Wobble is a beautiful wild-looking agouti rabbit who was rescued from the outdoors. When she arrived roughly four years ago she had weakness in her hind quarters. She

was tested, but we were never able to figure out the source of the problem. We tried multiple treatment options but nothing worked, so we attributed the weakness to e-cuniculi.

Roughly two years ago, whenever

we touched any area of her body she went into what appeared to be convulsions. I would watch as she twitched and twisted, and I tried to understand what was going on. When she had these fits, her body would literally go into contortions that were scary until we understood what was happening. Later we learned that she was simply trying to clean herself, and since her back legs couldn't do what she wanted them to do, she became frustrated and that's when the fits would start.

Wobble needed bathing every few days because she was always laying on one side. Stephanie (Buckeye HRS fosterer) would bathe her every weekend and spend a lot of time holding and grooming her. At first Wobble resisted any human touch, leaving us to wonder whether she was not a domestic rabbit but instead a wild rabbit. As Stephanie continued to work with her, Wobble started giving in. She began accepting pets and the convulsions became fewer and fewer. However, as her back legs

got weaker, she was able to move around less and less and seemed to become increasingly depressed. That was when I knew I had to introduce her to Puff.

Tazwell, roughly seven years old now, is the remaining unadopted rescue from the Elyria crisis back in 2005-2007. Prior to bonding him with Puff and Wobble, Tazwell was so shy we never actually saw him. In fact,

In this issue

When Harry Met Daisy . . . 3

Spring Raffle! 5

Midwest BunFest 2012 . . . 6

Somebunny Needs YOU . 8

On the Clock 11



Wobble, Tazwell, and Puff

Continued on page 4



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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:

Jim and Laura Gills, for their kind donation in memory of Sadie.

Dr. Terri McCarty, of Howell Avenue Pet Hospital in Cincinnati, for most generously giving her time, surgical expertise, and veterinary supplies to spay/neuter 6 stray rabbits. In addition, **Dr. McCarty**, along with **Dr. Diana Cron** and **Linda Sterling**, helped make arrangements to get these bunnies to their foster homes across Ohio. Lucky Rocko has already found a loving family, but Carmen, Igor, Izziabelle, Leo, and Woodruff still patiently await adoption. Read about these sweeties on page 8 and consider making yours their forever home.

Cindi Glinski of Cottontail Quilts, for generously donating a custom quilt for our Spring Raffle. See page 5 for raffle details!

The following members, whose monetary and in-kind donations allow us to meet our ongoing fostering and educational goals:

Ginette Brumbaugh, Linda Gardner, Janet Reed, Barbara Roberts, Gary Savage, Norma Jeanne Mudry, Margaret Haas, Kim Burtsfield, Carmella Coia, Shannon Bailor, Theresa Nagy, Dave Weaver, Erica Dunn, Jennifer Eli, Anne Merrill, Phyllis O'Beollain, Doris and Adrianna Mastroguiseppe, Rob Lovicz and Kim Johnson, Lisa Butler-Mallory, Dennis and Shirley Wood, Carrie Goglin, Cathy and Alan Montiegel, Rubberhedgehog.com, Christa Billerman and Fayaz Bhanji, Etsy Buntique, Rabbitude.com, and Irene Levy.

Our new and continuing Sanctuary Rabbit Sponsors! This program would not be possible without your compassion and generosity. We wish we could acknowledge each of you individually!

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

Holiday Raffle Results

And the winner is ... **Kim Burtsfield** of Elkhart, Ind.! She will be sharing her prizes with lucky lagomorphs Dixie and Jackson. Congratulations to Kim and many thanks to all who supported the Buckeye HRS through the purchase of raffle tickets. Proceeds will allow us to make the future brighter for more homeless bunnies in Ohio.



When Harry Met Daisy

By **Debbi Braunschweiger**

We've all heard the saying "there's an exception to every rule," right? Well, early last year I met a real-life exception to the rule in the form of a lovely twelve-year-old by the name of Abby White.

A staff member at our local shelter called me one day saying that a girl had been there earlier looking for a companion for her bunny, Daisy. When they told me how young she was, I reacted like a lot of us working with rescues would. I was very skeptical and my voice showed it. The shelter volunteer went on to tell me that they were all so impressed with her maturity and knowledge that they felt I needed to meet her before drawing any conclusions.

The next morning I called Abby and, after I identified myself, she said "Thank you for calling, Miss Debbi" in the most charming, sweet voice you ever heard. As we continued to talk, I realized that this young person was truly mature beyond her years. She told me all about her bunny, Daisy, and then acknowledged that we would have to wait to schedule a bonding date because Daisy was not yet spayed. She explained that they'd made an appointment with our mobile unit, but the first opening wasn't for another six weeks. Well, we were able to give Daisy one of our openings the next week and Miss Daisy was spayed.

Fast forward to two months later and we are finally able to have the bonding date we'd been planning for so long. The foster rabbit that Abby felt would be a great match for Daisy was a sweet boy named Harry. As luck would have it, Harry was still available for adoption and eager to meet his potential new friend.

Our bonding date came and I finally met Abby in person. She arrived with her father, walked right up to me and held out her hand to shake mine, greeting me with "Hi, Miss Debbi, I'm Abby White." I was so taken by her that I couldn't stop smiling. How wonderful to meet someone so young with such poise and respect. When the bunny introductions began, I felt compelled to warn the Whites about the social and sexual behaviors that rabbits exhibit when getting



to know each other. Before I could finish my sentence, Abby stepped in and proceeded to explain to her father how rabbits will mount and present to each other to determine the dominant and submissive roles in their relationship. She went on to explain how the whole bonding process worked and I never had to interrupt or correct her. You see, Abby wants to be a veterinarian and is like a sponge soaking up all the information she can on all her pets or any other animal she's curious about. In the end, Harry and Daisy were a match and have become forever friends.

In the following weeks, I continued to get lovely messages from Abby about their progress and their love for Harry. Every time I hear her voice, it puts a big smile on my face and makes me grateful for not dismissing her as a suitable adopter just because of her age.

Thank you, Abby White, for being the exception to the rule. How lucky we'll be if you choose to make small animals your specialty.



seeing him outside of his hide box was as rare as a Bigfoot sighting. He hid in his box and didn't want to associate with any rabbit or human. We assume that his fear has something to do with being attacked as a youngster, since he has a large tear in his ears, his unique battle scar. Taz has always been a good, well-behaved rabbit, but we sensed he was lonely. He didn't connect with humans, but we never tried introducing him to other bunnies.

One day we noticed a large white spot in one of Tazwell's eyes that was clouding his vision. The vet discovered that Tazwell likely had 0% vision in that eye. Then he developed cloudiness in the other eye, likely 30% vision in that eye. He was going to need some help getting around.

First we put Puff and Wobble together. Instant friendship. Then we added Tazwell to the mix and to our surprise, they all started leaning on and helping each other.

They've all been together now for about nine months. They take care of one another. When Wobble needs to lean on someone, that's where the Puffy pillow comes in. Now Puff is the pillow for Wobble and he is also Tazwell's protector and his eyes.

Don't think that this trio doesn't provide comedy every now and then, like at feeding time. That's when their disabilities disappear and the shenanigans begin. Pellet distribution prevents none of them from seeking out and pilfering each other's stash, a situation that leads



to frequent policing and is always funny, with Puff running across the pen and knocking over anyone in his way, Tazwell not knowing where to go until he finds Puff to stand next to, and Wobble flailing and dragging herself several feet until she knows her bowl is right in front of her. And when she's finished with hers, she will sniff out the closest dish of pellets, drag herself to it, dump the contents and claim the pellets as her own.

There is one other character in this scene. Magnus is a dwarf who lives next door to this trio and, although he's not a sanctuary bunny, he so wants to be part of this group. We can't let him live with them permanently yet – he has some odd habits like over-aggressive grooming and picking fights with Tazwell, but he is content for the time being living next door.

The satisfaction in knowing we made the right decision to put these Musketeers together comes when I get home at the end of the day and see them all snuggled together, with Magnus snuggled up beside them.



Spring Raffle to Benefit Buckeye HRS Foster Rabbits!

How would you like something spectacular, instead of just a photo, to show off your beloved bunny? The Buckeye House Rabbit Society proudly presents one of our best Spring Raffles EVER! The talented Cindi Glinski with Cottontail Quilts has generously agreed to make a custom quilt for our raffle winner. All she needs to get started is a photo (two bunnies maximum, please).



The quilt, measuring 25 inches wide by 20 inches tall, will be a custom portrait inspired by your favorite photograph.

The image below shows various quilting techniques. For instance, the rag rug was hand-pieced and hand-embroidered in jelly bean colors. Bunnies Hudson and Honey were created by hand in a needle-turn appliqué. The background was quilted in a stippling pattern. The inner border is black to mimic a mat, while the outer border is a stripe and was quilted with a freehand vine pattern.

Let Cindi bring your pet to life in fabric! For more of Cindi's work please visit CottontailQuilts, her www.etsy.com store.

All proceeds will go directly to our foster program and will ensure that needy bunnies have a safe haven until they find the happiness of a permanent home. Tickets cost \$1 each and you may buy as many as you wish. **All entries must be postmarked no later than March 25, 2013.** Please include your phone number and email (if available) with your check or money order and indicate it's for the raffle. Mail your request to: Buckeye HRS, P.O. Box 5767, Athens, OH 45701. If you prefer, you may use the PayPal link on our website for ticket purchases of \$5 or more. The lucky winner will be notified before Easter.



Of course, our raffle prize is best viewed in color on our website at www.ohare.org/gifts-raffle.htm



The Buckeye HRS at Midwest BunFest 2012!

BunFest was a blast! There we were on Saturday, October 27 in the Whitehall Community Center in Columbus. It was great see some familiar faces and meet new ones. If you couldn't join us, look at what you missed!



Debbi, Jann, and Herta at our table.



Sue chats with visitors at our display.



Stephanie's busy selling raffle tickets.



The Buckeye HRS at Midwest BunFest 2012!



Stephanie promotes our unique mugs.



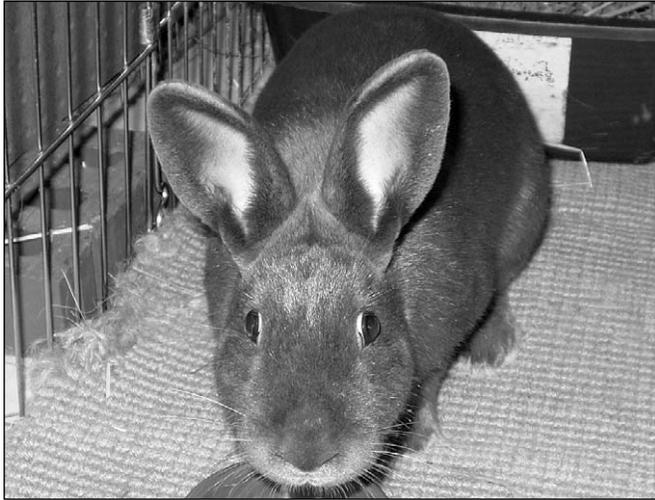
Amy Shears is the lucky winner of our raffle basket.



Debbi, Keith, and Stephanie at the end of a fantastic day.



Somebunny Needs YOU!



This is **Pumpkin!** She is a very sweet young lady. Just look at her awesome blue/gray fur! What a beautiful bunny! Pumpkin enjoys playing with her toys and she especially loves to chomp on hay. Wouldn't you love to make Pumpkin a member of your family? **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhhs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



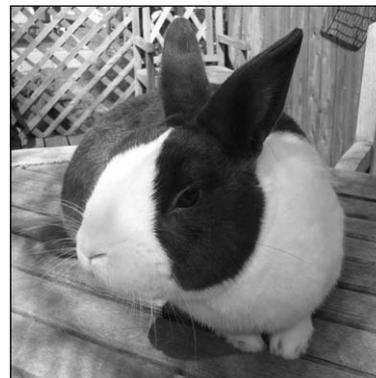
Meet sisters **Luna** and **Matilda ("Mattie")**. They look a lot like little Siamese kittens. They are very, very curious and anxious to explore their surroundings. Both are friendly and good at being held. They've been spayed and are now ready for adoption. We prefer that they be adopted together. Make an appointment to meet these cuties today! **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhhs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Have you ever wanted back into a time of innocence, when rabbits could be big and white and magic? This young lovely, born in spring '09, will take you there. Open your door to her, and come home to the land of **Honalee**. **Please contact Herta Rodina (bhhs-herta@ohare.org) 740-797-3085.**



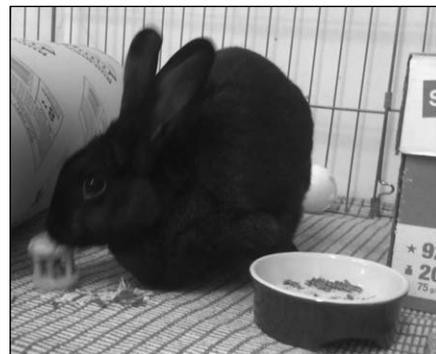
Leo is a handsome, curious young fellow who enjoys the company of humans and likes to be held. He is very neat with his litter box and keeps his house nice and clean. Leo is an all-around good bunny. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhhs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



"Izzy" cute and adorable or what? Yes, he is! Meet **Izzy**; this four-pound gray Dutch bunny is as sweet as he is cute and adorable. He has excellent litterbox habits too. "Izzy" going to be a part of your family? **Please contact Michele Roth Kerley (bhhs-michele@ohare.org) 859-261-0556.**



Meet **Barley** and **Hops**, aka "The Beer Babies". Barley and Hops are a pair of super friendly "BWBs" (Big White Buns). They are six months old. Barley is a sweet boy and likes to be involved in whatever you are doing. Hops is a cute and curious little girl. We would like them to stay together. BWBs grow to be larger than average bunnies, but they have the sweetest temperaments. They are mostly laid back and easy going. BWBs are good for families with younger children. Come see for yourselves how wonderful these guys really are. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Winnie was found running loose in a neighborhood and hiding under a camper. She's about 3 years old and has a gorgeous black coat with some brown speckles. She's a "full-sized" girl with a giant dewlap that she snuggles her chin

into during sleepy time. At her age, she's not a hyper youngster although she does enjoy casually exploring her surroundings and being petted. Winnie is a good choice for someone who wants to spend lots of time just relaxing with a bun. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

Addison is a young and playful little girl who is always busy. She enjoys head pets, giving kisses, hopping through tunnels, and running the "Bunny 500." Her adventurous personality makes a large pen a necessity. Addison is a perfect example that small bunnies can have BIG personalities. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



Rusty came into foster care as a stray who had been very poorly cared for. He had urine burns on all 4 legs and was malnourished. For some reason, his entire coat was colored red. Since then, he has recovered fantastically! All of his fur is growing back and we've discovered that he actually has a white belly! Rusty has a great personality and he's loving life now.

He's about 5 years old, but acts like a youngster; he hates having to go back to his pen after play time. We think Rusty would be an excellent rabbit for just about any household. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



This is **Igor**, a friendly guy who enjoys pets on his head. Igor is a Dutch mix with a unique brindled coat. Not only is he friendly and doesn't mind being held, he gets along well with dogs and other animals. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

Adopted!

Rocko is happy and hopping in his new home with Sally and Rick Stine. ♥ **Malley** is enjoying life with her new bunny Mom, Margo Coniam. ♥ **Chiqa** was adopted by the Rancour family. ♥ **Hershey** is hopping around in her new home with Scott Hazelwood and family. ♥ **Roger** was taken in by long time Buckeye HRS supporters and adopters Kim Johnson and Rob Lovicz. It took Roger all of about five minutes to settle into his new home!



Somebunny Needs YOU!



Carmen was found in Cincinnati with Woodruff and other bunnies loose in a neighborhood. She absolutely thrives on human interaction and gets excited each time she sees someone. She is younger, under 2 years and a perfectly healthy happy bunny. Her interests include body pets and chunky pieces of Timothy hay. Just

seeing her silly head shakes will bring a smile to your face. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhers-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



This brave little fellow was rescued along with Carmen and other rabbits abandoned in a Cincinnati neighborhood this summer. A bit shy at first, **Woodruff** quickly warmed up to being around people and now hops right over for pets, often flattening full out in sheer bliss. Gentle and easy to pick up, Woodruff has lots of cuddle potential. Despite

a rough start to life, this five-pound bundle is in excellent health and has a solid appetite. Woodruff's hoping for a relatively quiet household where he can be lavished with ridiculous amounts of attention. **Please contact Herta Rodina (bhers-herta@ohare.org) 740-797-3085.**

Butch and **Zora** are two fun-loving and inquisitive young buns. They came to us together and have been bonded their whole lives. Zora is the bolder of the two, she likes to explore and investigate everything! Butch is also inquisitive, but prefers to let Zora check things out first. Butch likes to be carried like a baby, with one back leg sticking out; he is also a kisser! Zora is a bit more aloof and tolerates being picked up and held, but she would rather be out and exploring! They are both used to older children (younger ones with supervision), other buns, and cats. This cute and loving pair would make a GREAT addition to a bunny-ready forever family! **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhers-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



Scout is an adorable Mini Rex mix rabbit. About one and a half years old, she is on the smaller side and is very friendly. She enjoys playing in her box and being held. Scout is very good with her litter-box habits. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhers-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Meet the beautiful **Miss Izzy-Belle** with her gorgeous blend of gray and brown fur and an agouti belly. She is friendly and neat – and tidy with her bunny house. She enjoys snuggling and being held. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhers-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



On the Clock

By David Sharpe

My rabbit, like yours, is a time machine. Feed your rabbit at five in the afternoon for one day, then a second day – and then try to NOT feed your rabbit at five in the afternoon. Duffle, my rabbit, bites the bars of his pen; yours may have another attention-grabber. If they had a factory whistle, they would blow it.

Feed a half-hour early, and the clock is reset. Feed a half-hour late and the clock resists, but do that more than once, and the expectations recalibrate.

This is not a response to a food drawer being opened or the rustle of a bag. Instead, an internal timepiece whirs by itself with an unexpected precision. When he was writing *Alice in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll tapped into a rabbit's psyche when he equipped his White Rabbit with a pocket watch. At meal time, house rabbit companions everywhere are hearing "Oh dear! Oh dear! My food shall be too late!"

Why would rabbits have this talent to tell time? What use could time-telling have served in the genetic pool that led over millennia to my Duffle?

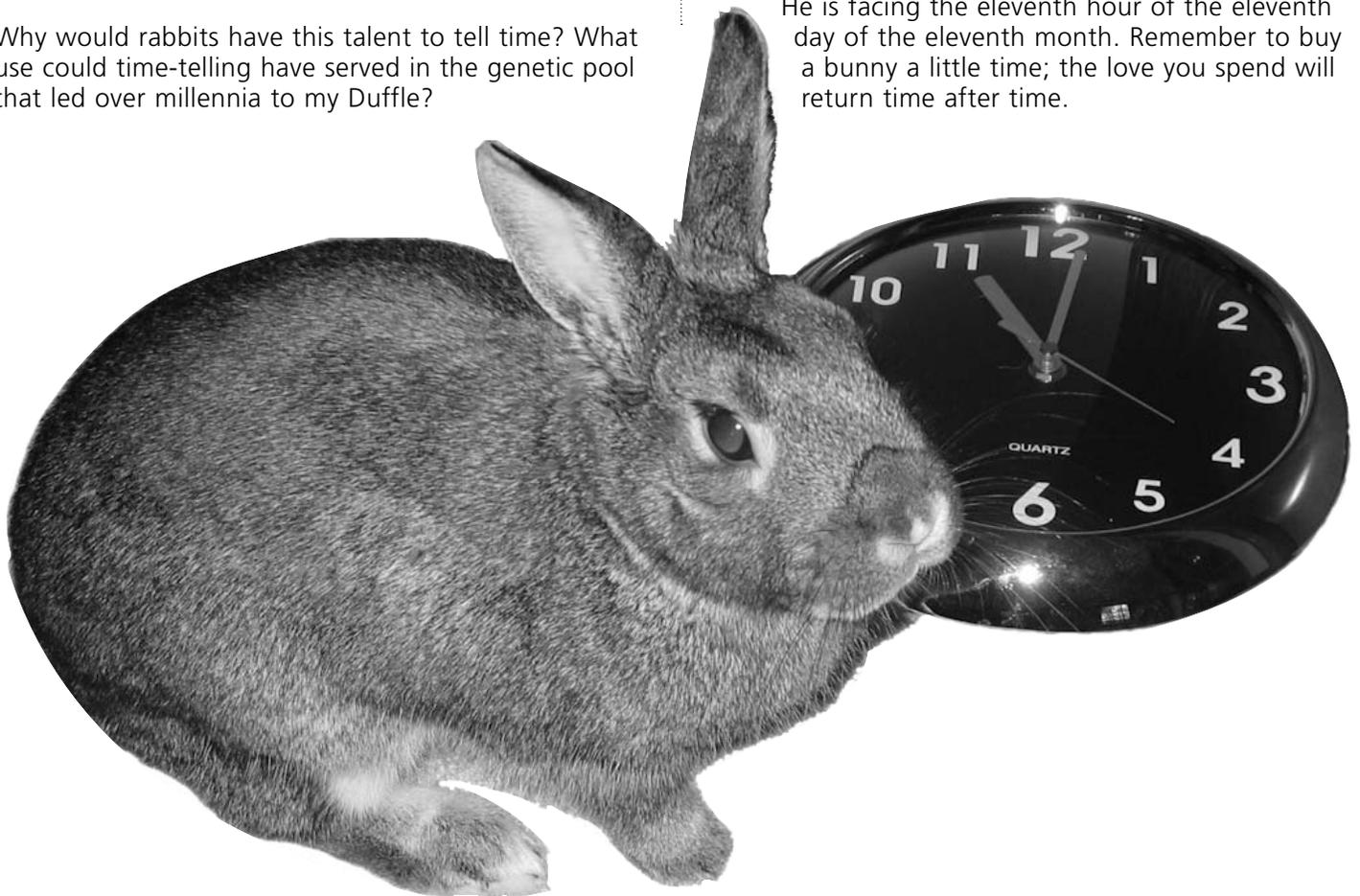
I can only imagine that life in burrows is the origin; burrows, where the forebears of our modern domestic rabbits lived, are continuing to run the rabbit. In the deep darkness of a burrow, with not a shred of difference between night and day, rabbits had a choice -- continually surface to check on the time of day – or rely on an internal counter. That counter can't be set to dawn or dusk, since in the land of seasons, those times are always changing. The only unchanging benchmark that a rabbit could have, the only one that recurs without fail, is the seemingly abstract passing of 24 hours. The 24 may be abstract (and pointless to a creature who, some say, can't count past four), but the cycle itself is not. Noon is always noon. And once the passage of 24 hours can be detected, uncounted or not, any event can become a benchmark. Like supper.

We may not know how their talent comes and why, but we should consider one more iconic rabbit – besides Carroll's White Rabbit -- with an eye on the clock.

All our yet-to-be-adopted rabbits have a timer -- one that is running out. How fast the span of a life passes when you're four-footed and long-eared and without a home! For good reason, the banner for the House

Rabbit Society features Freckles, looking at a clock.

He is facing the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Remember to buy a bunny a little time; the love you spend will return time after time.





MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your \$33.00 annual membership in the Buckeye HRS includes:

- National membership (\$18.00) 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 _____

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Buy a bunny a little time...