

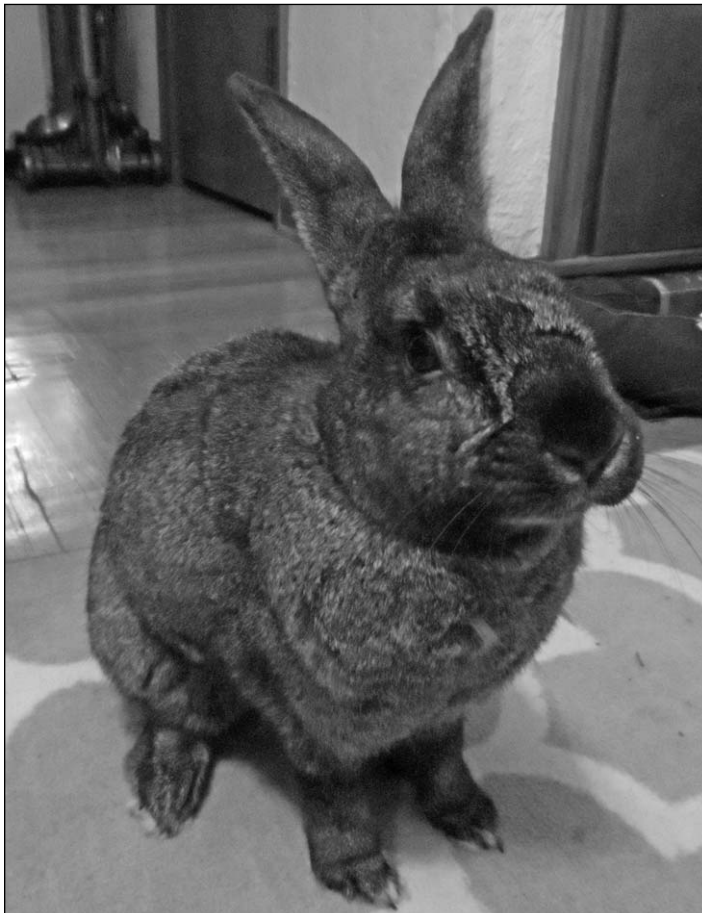


HARELINES



Volume 18 Number 1 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

Winter 2014



Life With Prince W

By Carrie Levicki

"It's time."

My husband, Bill, had heard me talk about a rabbit for years but the timing had never been right. We weren't home enough, we rented apartments that didn't allow pets, the expenses may be too much for us to afford. Finally, the timing was right. Bill pointed out that we had become homebodies, we owned a nice little home and we could afford the time and costs to really care for a rabbit.

I started researching online about rabbit care and looking at rescued rabbits in Ohio. After some time, I found Woodruff. All I could think was how handsome he was, a really gorgeous little man. I read that he had great litter habits and had been dumped in Cincinnati along with

some other rabbits including his sister, Carmen. He was being fostered in Athens and I emailed Herta, his foster mom, in hope that he was still available.

After a LOT of prep work, Woodruff came to live with us on April 5th, 2013. I couldn't believe he was finally here!

The first nine months have been all about learning for us. Bill learned how to come into the house a bit more quietly so Woodruff wouldn't go running. Woodruff learned that he might receive a bit of cilantro or mint if he came running into the kitchen when someone opens the fridge. We discovered that traditional toys from a pet store may not hold Woodruff's interest and we had to get creative. I started constructing mini-forts out of deck furniture cushions and he loves knocking them down. After the collapse, he will stand on top of the flattened heap, looking quite triumphant. He gained the nickname Prince W from my sister, since we have frequently walked into a room and found him sitting on a chair or couch, surveying his home, looking very regal.

I also discovered having a "camp-out" with a bun is a great way to spend a weekend night. I throw down cushions and pillows and his favorite blanket and we lay together for a movie. He flops down and gets comfy and enjoys a lot of petting.

We learned it is not all fun and games. Woodruff was due for a check-up in July and I had noticed a runny eye. The vet suggested eye drops and warm compresses twice a day for one week. Needless to say, Prince W did not enjoy these treatments and the dreaded "bunny burrito" had to come out. After three days, I came toward him with the towel and he gave his first (and only) bunny growl. He wanted nothing to do with me or my towel. Bill came in to find me sitting on the floor, having a good ole cry. I was afraid we had lost all the ground we

Continued on page 4

In this issue

My Eleven Rabbits	3
Farewell to Cinder	5
When a Bunny Needs a Nanny .	6
Somebunny Needs YOU! . .	8
BunFest 2013!	10
My Rabbit is Peeing Red! . .	11





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<http://www.ohare.org>

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We know our members value their privacy
and that's why we never, ever, sell our
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held in the strictest confidence.

Special Thanks to:

BunnyBytes.com, for their generous donation to our foster program.

The Ninth Division Ladies CTA, for their thoughtful gift in honor of **Donna Coffey**.

Gary and Paula Savage, for their wonderful hay donation.

Laurie and Billy at Small Pet Select, for donating 10% of your timothy hay purchases to the Buckeye HRS. See our website for details (under Rabbit 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:

Leslie Mapes, June Gates, Michele Geyer, Gay Marie Goden, Bonnie Hagerman, Jim and Laura Brown, Linda Gardner, Marla and Erik Mohr, Norma Jeanne Mudry, Renee Falcone, Gary Savage, David Truelsch, Carrie Goglin and Michael Lipinski, Mary Zimmerman, Jim and Laura Gills, Irene Levy, Cathy Montiegel, Carrie Levicki, Janet Reed, Christa Billerman and Fayaz Bhanji, Lori Fair, Bob Piekarczyk, the Laroon family, Marilyn Morris, Sue Milewski, Shirley Wood, Ginette Brumbaugh, Ryan Lozar and Juan Carlos Heredia.

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.

We apologize...

... for not crediting David Sharpe for his contribution to our Fall 2013 newsletter. The photo "Happiness is a warm bun" is part of an occasional series entitled "rabBITs" – look for the next installment in an upcoming issue!

My Eleven Rabbits

By Janet Schandorsky

I have eleven rabbits. Or so I like to say. I volunteer for the Buckeye House Rabbit Society foster home in Fremont.

I first visited Sue and Keith Zimmerman in March 2009 with the intention of adopting my first rabbit (or two). I will admit that I knew little to nothing about rabbits. I had always kept birds as pets and, in 2006, I lost the love of my life, a little blue parakeet named Olivia. She was funny, she was cuddly, she was social, and in the end she lost the battle to what we found in necropsy to be a large ovarian tumor. Olivia loved life and my life without her was empty. I searched a long time to "replace" my Olivia, but it was not to be. One day I attended an adoption event and kept company with a small black rabbit. On his carrier written in a child's script was a note that said "doesn't get along". A couple and their daughter became so enamored with the rabbit, who sat so long and patiently on my lap while I petted and talked to him, that they adopted him. I was elated. And I was hooked. I had to know more about these gentle, silent creatures.

After visiting with Sue, Keith, and the rabbits that they had in foster care as well as in sanctuary, I knew that a rabbit was in my future. However, I wanted to educate myself first and asked if I might volunteer to help them. It was the best decision because I live alone, work two jobs (one whose hours had just increased), and did not feel as though I would have enough quality

time for a companion rabbit. It has been four and a half years since they kindly accepted my volunteer request, and every Sunday I go to spend time with however many of these furry little personalities we have. Right now, as you may have guessed, we have eleven.

Sunday mornings are the highlight of my week. I feed, groom, play, and spend time with each bun; there have been many over the years. We have had strays, rescues from hoarding cases, babies, middle-agers, and seniors, all with their own uniqueness. I like to think I have a role in teaching these bunnies how to be house rabbits, but truly they are my teachers.

To my delight, I find that my interaction with rabbits has provided a myriad of opportunities to converse with and educate people about their lives, habitats, diets, and mannerisms. Who doesn't like to talk about rabbits? Questions like - can they be litter box trained? how much space do they need? will they sit on your lap and watch TV? do they play with toys? can they live outside? - are all good questions. One that I am frequently asked is: "How many rabbits do you have?" This too is an educational opportunity, as I explain to them what I have shared with you.

My experience is proof that one does not have to own or foster rabbits to be a part of their life. There are many organizations, humane societies, shelters, and rescue groups that offer an opportunity to get involved - to make a real difference in the lives of the animals for which they provide safe haven. My reward is the time spent with each of these precious little lives in the stop they make on their journey to their forever home.

Holiday Raffle Results

And the winner is ... Renee Falcone of Navarre, OH! Congratulations to Renee 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.



sweet, loving bun, but I had to realize that it was going to take some time for him to become comfortable with us. At first I was afraid he may just always be skittish, that he may prefer lying on the floor and watching us from afar rather than be close to us. I had to force myself to be patient, give him his space and time to get to know us and our routines. I wouldn't allow him to become isolated, but I had to hold myself back from always wanting to be near him since he was a new and adorable addition to our family.

In just the past month or two, Woodruff will hop onto the couch with me. He rolls over on his side next to me and loves having his cheek rubbed. He closes his eyes and snoozes next to me, the ultimate show of trust. These

had covered in the first three months. Two weeks and a round of oral medicine later, we found out it is simply a chronically runny eye. Now, every day or two, we sit on the couch together and I clean his face with a warm cloth. He's not crazy about it but he certainly tolerates it.

are my favorite times. After a long day of work and whatever else we may have going on, there is nothing that makes you let go of your day like seeing a sweet little creature who depends on you and is content just to be near you. I look forward to Woodruff having the happy, healthy, and loving life he deserves and I feel so lucky to be the one to give it to him.

Herta had told me that Woodruff has always been a

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Exciting news! Amazon Smile will donate a percentage of everything you buy at amazon.com to the Buckeye HRS! Identify us as your chosen non-profit by copying this link – <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1571204> – into your browser. Anytime you begin your Amazon shopping, go to smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com. Everything in your amazon visit is the same as usual, BUT Amazon donates 0.5% of each order directly to us to support our foster rabbits!

Farewell to Cinder

By Tricia Graham

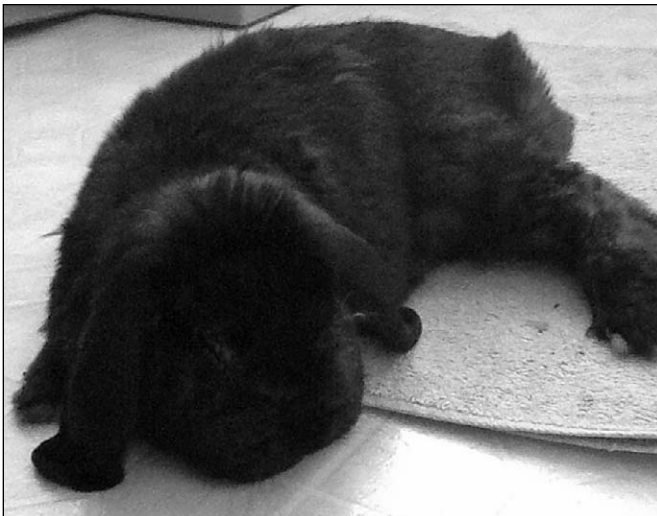
Cinder bunny arrived with attitude. After chasing her around furniture, under tables, and from under-bed hideouts, I finally cornered her in the guest bathroom. And learned my first bunny mom lesson: Do not corner a scared animal.

We had dogs and other pets throughout our married life, but now retired, we wanted to be free to travel. We adopted a black lop named Cinder from Buckeye House Rabbit Society and she proved to be a wonderful companion (and traveler).

Cinder remained a bit bossy, but loved beyond measure. She was spoiled with lots of nose rubs, cuddles, great salads, and grandchildren. She could often be heard stripping and decorating her cardboard house or chasing newspaper scraps inside a brown paper bag.

That was nine and a half years ago. In June 2013, she was beside me on the bed sound asleep. Suddenly she became restless and was frantically moving in all directions. I managed to grab her just as she was about to catapult over the edge. I held her close trying to soothe her as she squirmed and struggled for control, ending up with her right front paw at a strange angle and her back left paw pulled up against her small frame.

We were totally devastated when the vet told us she would most likely remain partially paralyzed.



The thought of her not being able to scamper across the floor was depressing. She would never again hear the sound of the refrigerator door open and make the wild dash to her cage in anticipation of her nightly carrot treat.

For the next three months we slowed outside activities and rushed home often to keep her company. She endured lots of bum baths and we went through many puddle pads. The care was constant. Her appetite never waned and she enjoyed snuggling, playing on the bed, and late-afternoon naps. She developed the habit of scooting up close with her nose touching mine before falling into a light snore. Gone was the attitude, just a palpable gratefulness, knowing she was loved and loving us for keeping her as comfortable as possible.

Mid-September she experienced another incident. We knew it was time to let go, but it wasn't easy. We will always miss her and her funny antics, but are so glad for the sweet bunny life we were able to share.



When a Bunny Needs a Nanny

By Stephanie Lodge

While going out of town can be stressful, it can be even more so when you are leaving your fur children at home. Who will take care of them? What if something happens and they get sick? Finding a cat or dog sitter can be significantly easier than finding an experienced rabbit sitter. Here are a few places to look:

- 🐰 Bunny sitters listed on www.ohare.org
- 🐰 Ask your vet if he or she has someone to recommend
- 🐰 Search through a trusted site like Pet Sitters International (www.petsit.com)

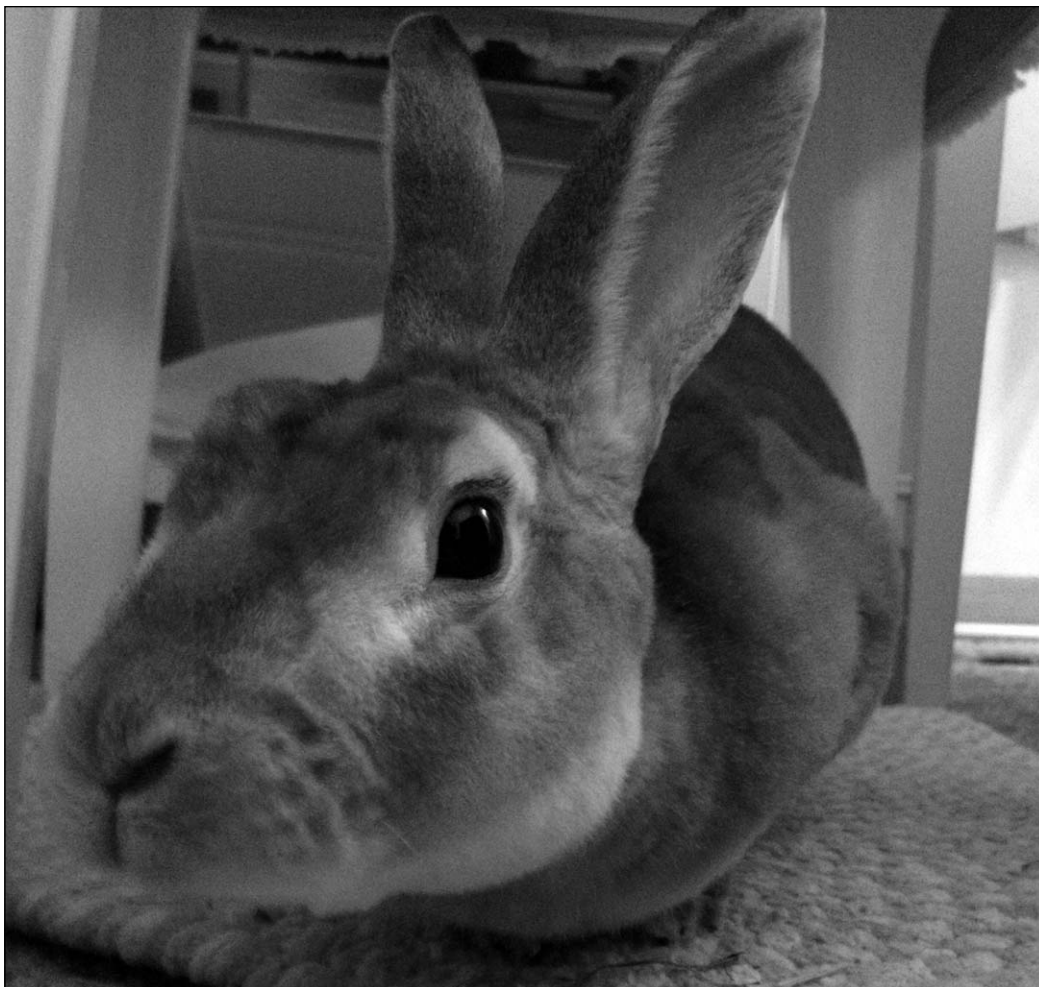
Once you have found a few people or organizations that can help, it's time to talk specifics. Emailing can be a good way to start the conversation, but you should always speak to the potential sitter via telephone before moving forward. Just listening to someone talk about him or herself as a pet sitter can help you judge character. After covering the basics, here are some essential questions to ask:

- 🐰 Are you available for the dates needed?
- 🐰 Are you insured as a pet sitter?
- 🐰 How long have you been a pet sitter?
- 🐰 Do you have regular rabbit-sitting clients? (Ask for 1 or 2 references; however, this may not be a deal-breaker if the sitter is just starting out)

- 🐰 Do you have rabbits of your own?
- 🐰 How comfortable are you in caring for rabbits?

Above all, you need to have confidence in your pet sitter and be perfectly comfortable with his or her abilities to handle day-to-day care, as well as any emergency. Make sure you and your rabbit meet the pet sitter before you go out of town. Also ask yourself: is the cost of the service fair? If something feels not-quite-right, go with your gut and try another sitter.

While there are benefits to your pet staying at home and a pet sitter coming to your house, there are also disadvantages. With someone coming only once a day to spend maybe 45 minutes with your pet, he or she might not notice immediately if something is going wrong. If your rabbit isn't feeling well and stops eating, it could be 24 hours before this is even noticed. This is when having an experienced pet sitter is the most important. One of my regular guests, Bugs, an adorable mini-rex, stopped eating his regular amount of food. Many people might not think

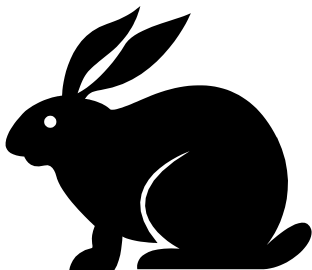




twice about this, but I was concerned immediately. Also, I noticed that Bugs wasn't acting his normally hoppy self and his input and output had both decreased. Luckily, his mom came home the next day and he bounced back quickly with some easy remedies, but this situation could have gone from bad to worse without immediate response.

If your rabbit will be staying at the pet sitter's home, it's important to see the setup before you bring bunny. Make sure your rabbit will be comfortable and well-tended when you're away. Will your rabbit have any interactions with other pets? Generally it's a good idea to bring your rabbit's own litter box and/or other items he or she is accustomed to having in day-to-day life. Being in a new environment with different sounds and smells, a rabbit can be a bit uneasy at first. However, in the hands of a trusted pet sitter, your bunny will enjoy his or her time at "camp."

Taking these precautions and advice should help ease your stress so that you can enjoy your trip.



Adopted!

Daphne is now the queen of her new castle in Athens – she has a big rabbit brother named Gucci and two daddies! Congratulations, Chris and Greg! We hope you are enjoying Daphne's Bunny 500. ♥ Daphne's babies, **Linny** and **Moe Cheeks**, are now residing in their fur-ever home with the Larsons. Eldest son Jacob couldn't be happier about the new additions to the family. ♥ **Scout** did not have to go far to find her forever home. She was adopted by her foster parents, Sue and Keith Zimmerman. ♥ **Rikki** has a wonderful new home with new bunny mom Naomi Parker. ♥ **Maxxi** (now Bean) has settled into the hearts and home of the Jessica Karas family. ♥ **Heidi** (now Abby) is happy and hopping in the Suzanne Allen household. ♥ **Sinnamon** was adopted by James Strabler and is settling into her new home. ♥ **Gus** has found his forever home with longtime Buckeye HRS supporter Renee Falcone. ♥ **Izzy-Belle** is getting acquainted with new bunpal Harley at the already-hopping home of Robin, Mark, and Dustin Covert. ♥ **Rusty** has found his forever home with Kayla Geyer. ♥ Sister bunnies **Luna** and **Matilda** have finally found their fur-ever home with Dale Grubb and family.



Somebunny Needs YOU!



We are excited to announce that **Figaro Cooke** has finally arrived! He received his name from a generous donor through our Name Our Next Foster Rabbit program. Figaro is a 1-year old adorable male lion head. He came to us recently from another large hoarding case in Indiana involving over 200 rabbits. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Meet **Raven**, she is a big, beautiful and sweet rabbit with shiny black fur. Although shy at first, she is curious and playful. If Poe had met this Raven, he would have rewritten his poem for her ... Quoth the Raven, "my forever home". **Please contact Michele Roth (bhrs-michele@ohare.org) 859-261-0556.**



This **Sawyer** is ready for his next adventure to find his new forever home. He is as sweet as he is cute and he loves to be held and petted. He is highly excited by treats. This mini lop's cuteness is patent pending! **Please contact Michele Roth (bhrs-michele@ohare.org) 859-261-0556.**

Daphne's Babies: These two sweeties have been spayed/neutered and are now available for adoption. They are very social and are accustomed to being held, petted, and talked to throughout the day. They thrive on the attention!



Kinsie, although slightly smaller than Dok, has an equally fun-loving personality. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**

Dokken (Dok) is largest of his brothers and sister. He's adventurous and super sweet. His hindquarters have more black than his brothers.



Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.



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 (bhrs-herta@ohare.org) 740-797-3085.**



9



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.**



Nutmeg is a young and curious little bun. She loves free time and checking out everything in her environment. She also knows to follow you around and likes to be involved in whatever you are doing. She is a very good bunny and is great around dogs. **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.**



Tavi, a small Mini Rex, is full of love and energy. She enjoys exploring her surroundings and doesn't mind being held for a good cuddle. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



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 (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



The Buckeye HRS at BunFest 2013!

BunFest was once again a huge success and a whole lot of fun! Here we are on Saturday, Nov. 2 in the Whitehall Community Center in Columbus. We had a great time talking bunnies with old and new friends. Come join us next time!



Stephanie, Sue, Keith, and Jann staffing our table.



Sue, Janet, and Shawna helping sell Buckeye HRS merchandise.



Uh Oh! My Rabbit is Peeing Red!

By Dr. Carmine Bausone, DVM, Acacia Animal Hospital

This article first appeared in San Diego Rabbit News, Fall 2002. Reprinted with permission.

Many of us who regularly care for rabbits have noticed that occasionally their urine will change colors. What is the cause of this and is it something that should concern us? Normally a rabbit's urine is a clear to straw-yellow color. It should not contain any particulate matter, clumps, or granular debris ("sand"). Commonly, a rabbit will be brought to a veterinarian because his urine has turned red, and the caretaker feels that there is blood in the urine (hematuria). Another common worry is a creamy brown or white color to the urine. Occasionally, the caretaker will also note a fine granular consistency to their rabbit's urine. These are all very different problems and can be caused by many factors.

Red urine can be caused by true hematuria or by pigments secreted into the urine. If hematuria is suspected, have the bunny examined by your rabbit veterinarian as soon as possible. The blood can either come from the genital system (ovaries, uterus or testicles) or the urinary system (kidneys or bladder).

Key questions to ask yourself when you see red urine are: "How's my rabbit doing? Is he eating and drinking normally? Is he urinating normal amounts and frequency? Is he behaving normally? Does it seem painful when he urinates?" Any of these symptoms can indicate bladder, kidney or uterine problems and should prompt a visit to your rabbit veterinarian. Your rabbit veterinarian will collect a complete history, including a dietary history, perform a physical exam, and obtain a urine sample. He or she may even suggest a blood sample or a radiograph based upon their level of concern. If your rabbit is acting normally, it may be that he is secreting a pigment called porphyrins into the urine. The reason why this happens is thought to be dietary in nature. Some plant pigments, when broken down by the digestive system, will impart a red or even orange color to the urine. Certain food color additives

and even antibiotics may also cause this same reaction. Ingestion of pine needles, such as from a Christmas tree, has long been known to cause red urine in rabbits. Try to examine what your rabbit is consuming and see if the color is similar to any particular food item. If the red color is just porphyrins-colored urine then the color should dissipate in two to three days. However, if this is true hematuria, waiting two to three days could have dire consequences. A telephone call to your rabbit veterinarian with any questions or concerns can determine if you should bring your rabbit in for an exam.

Another common urine color is white or creamy brown. This color is usually imparted to the urine from excessive calcium in the diet. Rabbits are unique in many ways and one of them has to do with the way in which they handle excess calcium. Most mammals excrete less than 5 percent of calcium via the urinary system, while rabbits excrete well over 50 percent! So the calcium content of a rabbit's diet is critically important. Foods rich in calcium, such as alfalfa, kale or collard greens, should be limited or completely avoided. Additionally, most rabbit pellets are excessively supplemented in many vitamins and minerals, and for some rabbits handling these excesses can be problematic. There is likely both a dietary and physiologic reason why some rabbits have a problem with dietary calcium and others do not. This excess calcium can cause significant problems to our bunnies. It can precipitate into urinary stones (either in the kidneys, bladder, or ureters) or cause a syndrome commonly called "sludgy bladder." Sludgy bladder occurs when calcium precipitates into a paste-like consistency in the bladder. This can cause difficulties and pain while urinating. There are multiple ways to treat these problems depending on the severity of the condition. Your rabbit veterinarian will determine the treatment based on the history, clinical signs, urinalysis, and radiographs. Like most problems with our pet rabbits, the key to successful treatment of urinary problems is often based on the caretaker's vigilance and astuteness to abnormalities in their individual pets. Treated early, these problems may be minor. Treated late, they may be very difficult or even impossible to resolve. Being aware of the variety of urine colors in rabbits, and any abnormal signs is the first step to identifying and treating hematuria, sludgy bladder, or other urinary tract problems that may occur.



12

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 _____

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E-mail address _____

Bunnies' names and special dates _____

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