



HARELINES



Volume 22 Number 1 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

Winter 2018

Whispers from the Heart

By Amy Marshall

As the holidays and new year approached, we took some time to reflect on what we are thankful for. Our family and friends who support us, our jobs

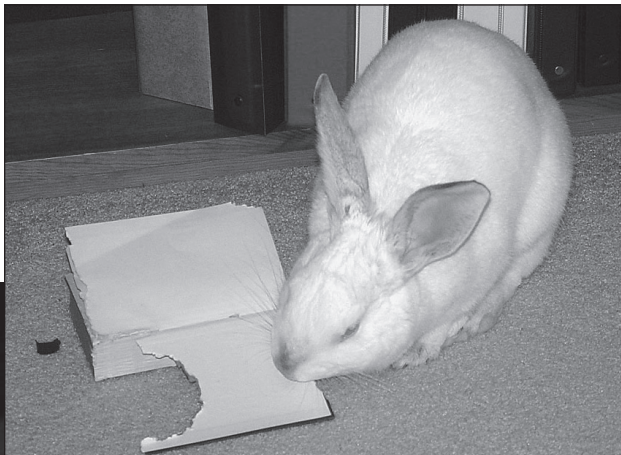
that provide stability, and our beloved pets who motivate us to be better people. We should embrace the challenges that make us stronger and the motivation to move forward with a positive attitude. Each day is a gift, with precious time and love to give our cherished pets.

Those of us with pet rabbits have a special commitment and compassion to make them feel safe, secure, and at peace. We should be thankful for the ability to care and provide for them and to have an open heart to welcome them into our home.

Our rabbits need us in ways that devoted owners will understand. They touch our heart in places no one has explored. They whisper secrets to us that reach deep within our souls. As we spend time caring for and bonding with our rabbits, we need to listen to them. What is it that makes them happy? We should listen to what they need and want and the silence they may communicate. They will thank us for the trust we give them and for

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Duffle enjoys some cuddle time, while Byron (above) hits the books.

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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:

Dorothea Mayerchak, for her generous donation in memory of her beloved Pumpkin Kitty.

Clay and Nancy Pasternack, for their thoughtful tribute to Prince and Doc.

Irene Levy, for her wonderful gift in memory of Pixie Levy.

Suzi Maynard of Pet Love Photography, for taking such charming photos of our foster rabbits! Her talent has already helped some find their forever homes. We're so fortunate to have a professional photographer donate her time and skills to help our foster bunnies.

Tanja Stich, author of *Rabbitude*, for donating a portion of her sales to the Buckeye HRS.

David Truelsch and family, for contributing to the "Name Our Next Foster" program. Our next female foster rabbit will be honored with the name **Cherish Truelsch!**

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.

Carrie Levicki and bunny Woodruff, for initiating a Facebook fundraiser. Instead of birthday gifts, Carrie's friends and family donated to the Buckeye HRS and, by press time, had raised several hundred dollars to help homeless rabbits. We are all deeply touched by this outpouring of kindness and generosity.

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

Irma Laszlo, Debbie Dowell, Barbara Roberts, Bob and Holly Piekarczyk, Janet Reed, Galina Ignatowski, Lori Fair and Mark Kotzbauer, Clay and Nancy Pasternack, Alix Rosenstein, Canisha and Rylan Hoffman, Matthew Lavigne, Andrew Kavanagh, Cathy Montiegel, Rob Fleming, Anna Hamel, Norma Jeanne Mudry, Jennifer DeStefanis and Thomas Colon, Paula Otter, Christa Billerman, Judy O'Neil, Claire Fenrich, Jim and Laura Gills, Mary Zimmerman, Carrie Levicki, Gay Marie Goden.

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.

our companionship and love. Our rabbits will be there for us when we need them and accept us when no one else will.

As we plan our future in this new year, each day will bring us opportunities to set time aside to give our rabbits the attention they deserve. They need us to show them they mean the world to us. By giving our rabbits our unconditional love and support, we will make the best friends we could ever have. By offering your rabbits your best, you will never be let down. They will hop right into your heart.



Rousseau checks out his willow wreath.

Adopted!

Sweet **Bella** has been adopted by Deb Britton where she is already bonded to bunny Grayson. ♥ **Kelly** has a new home with Emily Troiano and family. Not only does she have a new home, but she has lots of new kitty friends. ♥ Little **Aaron** (now Jasper) was adopted by Krissy Thomson and family. Jasper shares his home with bunny pal Clementine and a few feline friends. ♥ **Linus** (now Beans) and **Lucy** (Cheeky) have a new home in time for the New Year! Ari and her family are pleased with their new super-tiny additions. ♥ **Poppy** and **Marigold**, now Nebula and Gamora (Nebby and Mora for short), have found their forever home with Luke and Alaina. Congrats, ladies! ♥ **Butters** is best buds with her new husband – also named Butters (we think it's fate). Parents Sarah and Ben are thrilled with their new addition. ♥ **Lily**, sometimes referred to as a natural terror, is living happily with her human mom, Alicia, and her new bunny BFF, Annie. Lily's new hobbies include stealing and hiding utensils, waging war against house plants, and sticking her head in places it doesn't belong! ♥ **Adeline** (affectionately known as a T-Rex bunny) is in the process of being bonded to Louise Bailor, Buckeye HRS alum. Addy and Louise are still figuring out the relationship, but their mom, Kennedy, is on cloud nine! ♥ **Samson**, now Harvey (named after the movie, not the hurricane), has found his forever home with Sarah Rex – now he is a double Rex! Harvey is happily broadening his horizons with all the fresh herbs and veggies that Sarah grows in her garden.

Holiday Raffle Results

And the winner is ... **Gary Savage of Alliance, Ohio!**
 Congratulations to Gary and many thanks to all who supported the Buckeye HRS through the purchase of raffle tickets. Proceeds are allowing us to make 2018 brighter for more homeless bunnies in Ohio.

Lessons From My Sanctuary Rabbit

By Stephanie Ash

Humphrey hopped into our lives in August 2017 when Buckeye House Rabbit Society Educator and Fosterer, Stephanie Lodge, asked me if I would foster him. From the start, we knew Humphrey's case would be unusual because he came to us as a sanctuary rabbit. Little did we know that he would

be unusual in more ways than one! Living with and loving a sanctuary rabbit has shown us that it is important to rejoice in the little things, be present in the moment, and live each day to the fullest. We may not know how much longer we have with our friend Humphrey, but he has taught us that it is not the time you have, but how you use it, that matters most.

Humphrey was originally diagnosed with cancer in April 2017. A lump had formed on his side and a biopsy suggested cancer. However, without a very expensive MRI (requiring a vet to sedate Humphrey), there was no way to be sure – and even with an MRI, we might not get a definitive diagnosis. Over time, things have become even more confusing. For a little while, his lump got smaller, which left our vet confused – maybe he did not have cancer after all? But eventually his lump started getting larger again and we were left in the same situation: unsure of exactly what was happening or how much more time Humphrey had left, and trying to decide what to do. We decided to focus on giving Humphrey a great life for however long he has rather than putting him through stressful and expensive tests that might not help.

It would be easy to be sad about Humphrey's health



Humphrey on his super highway.



Playful Humphrey.

and some may think we are crazy for loving and fostering a rabbit with an unknown illness. But Humphrey does not know he is sick and the way he approaches life has made our months with him an immensely rewarding experience. Humphrey has reminded us of three important lessons that are easy to forget in our fast-paced lives.

First, Humphrey encourages us to rejoice in the little things each day that he greets with a binky. He loves breakfast time and when we come downstairs in the morning, he will often binky and zoom around his exercise pen to show how excited he is for his meal. Bunny binkies are the absolute best, but when you have a rabbit who is sick, a binky is a precious gift. Every time we see him binky as he greets us in the morning, we know that he is okay and are so thankful for another morning with him.

Besides rejoicing in the little things, Humphrey also encourages us to be present in the moment. It is so easy to become absorbed with everything going on in our own lives and ignore what is happening around us. When I am with him, I put down my cell phone, stop watching the television, and am there with him. To be fair, paying extra attention to Humphrey is required because he is very curious

and super rascally. One time, I was not practicing being present, and I walked by Humphrey's pen only to find him on top of his house with his head deep inside his pellet container gobbling pellets! I was sitting just in the other room and because I was not paying enough attention, he was able to cause some (adorable) mischief! As this lesson is one I struggle with practicing every day, Humphrey is very supportive in his energetic efforts to keep me on my toes.

Lastly, Humphrey has reminded us to live each day to its fullest because the next day is not promised. We do not know how much time Humphrey has left with us, so we try to make each day the best day of his life. Giving him lots of pets, tasty treats, and fun enrichment activities are all things we try to make special for him every day. One example of a special enrichment activity we made for Humphrey is his bunny "superhighway." Humphrey is unsure of the hardwood floors in our house and is scared to venture on them. In order to give him more space for exploration and exercise, we gathered all the rugs in our house and made him a path so he could explore outside his exercise pen. Humphrey loves his superhighway and does what we call "Bunny 500" zoomies every day. It gives us such joy to see him



so happy and we plan to continue indulging his fun-loving spirit as long as he is with us.

We are so happy to have Humphrey in our home and are so thankful for everything he has taught us in his short time with us. We do not know what the future holds for his health, but we do know that whatever happens, we will be sure to approach any challenge by remembering to rejoice in the little things, being present in the moment, and making each day the best day that we can.



**Helping
Rabbits
Since
1997!!**



Humphrey up to no good – he not only got on top of his house, but he took the lid off his pellet container!

Our Sanctuary Rabbit Program

The Buckeye House Rabbit Society believes that ALL rabbits are valuable as individuals, regardless of breed, temperament, state of health, or relationship to humans. A direct result of this philosophy is our Sanctuary Sponsorship Program, a lifelong commitment to those rabbits considered unadoptable due to long-term illnesses, personality problems, or high maintenance requirements. Like Humphrey, featured in this issue, they too deserve a good life. Without this program or the special donors who fund it, we would not be able to provide care for bunnies with special needs.

Stephanie Lodge, our Sanctuary Sponsorship coordinator, shares these insights:

"It is easy to say that with enough patience and time any bunny can be socialized, but unfortunately that is not always the case. Sanctuary bunny Bee is a perfect example. While she has become slightly less bitey over the years,

she still does not like people, except when they feed her. Bee lived with me for a while and I still see her weekly at Kristen Doherty's sanctuary home. Bee is not intentionally mean; she is who she is and years of love have not changed her.

Other bunnies come to us already in their twilight years or with serious medical issues and, as a result, are unadoptable. Precious Rocky, for instance, was covered in fleas and over ten years old when he arrived. Fortunately, thanks to our generous donors, Rocky was able to spend another year with us, loving his pampered life as a senior."

Every sanctuary rabbit arrives with his or her story, often heartbreaking, often due to human neglect or cruelty. We invite you to read about them all on our website, www.ohare.org. Please consider sponsoring one of these special individuals. We accept one-time donations as well as ongoing monthly contributions. Every dollar makes a difference to a unique soul who is priceless.



Where Are They Now?

We asked some of our adopters to give us updates on former Buckeye House Rabbit Society foster bunnies. Enjoy this latest installment in our occasional series!

Goldie Hops
By Samantha Kalanta & Nathan Newcombe

Goldie Hops was adopted in August 2017 and has come out of her shell so much since then! Her favorite times to be out of her pen are early in the morning and late at night. During these times, she will be found hopping up on the couches and sprinting around the living room. When she is more relaxed, we find her hiding under the couch or in her hut. She has made one trip home to Massachusetts and was a great traveler. She loved meeting her extended family and even let some of them hold her! Of all her toys, she most enjoys chewing up her willow balls. She has also become quite the hat model for her grandmother's homemade hats. Since adopting Goldie we have enjoyed spoiling her and watching her become her true self. We look forward to many more adventures with Goldie Hops.





Somebunny Needs YOU!



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

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



Gus and **Daisy** are a 4 year-old bonded pair and **MUST** be adopted together. Gus is the friendliest bunny in the world. He loves people and craves pets and snuggles. He likes to hang around wherever you go. Gus adores his mate Daisy and grooms her often. Shyer than Gus, Daisy loves exploring and hanging out by Gus's side. She's a Jersey Wooly and does require regular brushing and grooming which she doesn't mind at all. She can be quite snuggly. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



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 lot of regular grooming to keep their coats smooth. He will make a great companion for the right person. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

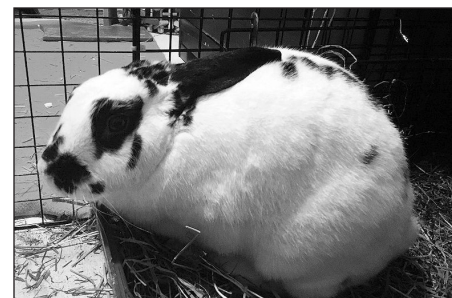


Looking for a beautiful mini-rex? Well look no further. **Cyndi** is a stunning young gal waiting for her forever home. She is very neat with excellent litter box habits. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



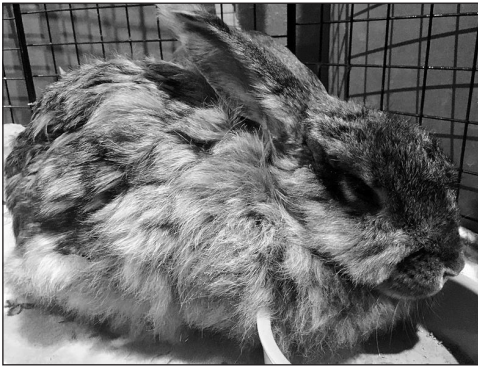
Dorie is a tiny delight. While she is not motivated by food, she is definitely motivated by love. She was surrendered by a homeless couple living in their car. Dorie loves LOVE and needs to be cuddled every day. She is also very free with

kisses. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



Oscar is not a grouch, but he WAS found in a garbage can. After someone thoughtlessly discarded him, he was saved by a

Good Samaritan. He has been known as Zipper and/or Haven. Oscar can be a little reserved around new people – that is, until you offer him a treat. Oscar is a big boy and very food-motivated. He LOVES cuddles and needs someone to dote on him. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



Harper is a gorgeous angora bunny with a lot of personality. Her interests include head pets and playing with and chewing cardboard boxes. Harper has a healthy appetite and wonderful litter box

habits. Please note that angora bunnies require daily maintenance due to their very long fur. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



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



Jasper, a four-year-old Lionhead mix, is a sweet boy who enjoys the occasional pet and cuddle. He comes from a home with dogs so he may be suited to spend time with other pets. His hairy face is extremely expressive. This little guy is sure to be a star one day – he's just waiting for the right forever home!

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



Naomi, along with a couple of other rabbits, was found living outside in Parma. Naomi came to us in bad shape, but she persevered like a champion! This super-neat bunny is 100% healthy and ready for a loving family. She loves downtime with plenty

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



Gabriella is adorable, sweet, and petite. She is great using her litter box and keeping her area nice and neat. She loves her hay and is a friendly girl once she gets to know you.

Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.



Meet **Madam Butterfly**! Butterfly loves her free time away from her x-pen and especially enjoys exploring new things and checking out the sites. She is very tidy and likes re-arranging her cardboard boxes. Butterfly is always up for an adventure. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Spotlight On ... Our Sanctuary Sponsors

By Stephanie Lodge

We're delighted to highlight longtime supporter and rabbit lover, Shirley Wood. In 1990, while looking to possibly purchase a house, Shirley had her first encounter with bunnies – an encounter that left a lasting impression. In a house she was viewing, the current tenant had two large beautiful bunnies in small cages. Shirley felt so sorry for them that it started her thinking about getting a rabbit for herself.

At that time, her now late husband, Dennis, was working many hours leaving Shirley alone much of the time. Not only were they experiencing a rough spot in their marriage, their kids had moved out and she was feeling the empty nest syndrome. When Shirley first mentioned getting a bunny, Dennis was resolutely against it. However, the idea of bringing home a rabbit inspired Shirley, and a few weeks later she told him she was going to get a bunny for herself despite his objections. Predictably, he got upset and told her he was absolutely NOT going to help take care of the bunny and it was NOT going to be his responsibility.

Shirley brought home a beautiful bunny from a pet store where he had been kept in a tiny cubicle. The bunny's long hair was tangled and covered in wood shavings. She brushed the tangles out and cleaned the wood shavings off him.

When Dennis came home from work and saw the newly-groomed bunny, his angry tone turned to curiosity, because really, who can resist a bunny? Within three days, Dennis and Shirley were both down on the floor together playing with him. Dennis became "Daddy" and together they started learning about bunnies. They could never agree on a name. Shirley wanted to call him "Sugar" because he was so sweet, but they eventually settled on "Little Boy". Little Boy was the first of four bunnies in their home. Each one lived only about five years, which broke their hearts, but their love for the bunnies with whom they shared their home started to bring them closer together as a couple. They spread the word among their friends that if a couple is going through a rough patch, do not spend money on lawyers and a potential divorce, just get a bunny!

These days, Shirley lives on a small hobby farm that grows apples, pears, grapes, and wild rabbits. She no longer has house rabbits but enjoys the wild ones outside. She understands the big commitment rabbits bring, so her only household pet is a senior kitty.

After Dennis's death, Shirley retired from full-time employment, but during the winter months she resumes work as a tax preparer. Shirley grew up in the South, enjoys writing stories about her childhood, and researching genealogy. Her stories have been published, and a book is in progress.



Dennis and "Little Boy" bonding.



Ten Things I'd Like My Rabbit To Know

By Phyllis O'Beollain

Rabbits are an intelligent lot, but there are still a few things that my bunnies do not seem clear on. I have compiled a list of important points I wish to review with them.

1. I know my house is small, but there are better places to rest than your litter box.
2. Chewing large holes in my blue jeans certainly did make them look trendy; my one good dress, not so much.
3. Rabbit hair is not a condiment.
4. The timothy hay is all the same; it is not necessary to drag every bit of it out of the hay holder and onto the carpeting and root through it.
5. Nipping the elderly dog's toes while she is sleeping is actually kind of mean.
6. Changing locales does not alter the taste of your salad; please refrain from dragging tomatoes onto my grandmother's handmade quilt to eat them.
7. I like the baseboard molding just the way it is.
8. Getting under my feet at breakfast time does not get you faster service, it only makes me fall down.
9. I like hardwood flooring too, but I hadn't actually planned on taking up the carpeting yet.
10. Would it be possible to schedule the loudest and most violent rearranging of your furniture during (my) waking hours?

Now if only I could get my rabbits to listen to me...

Did you say something?



Go ahead, I'm listening...



Half listening.



Keep talking...





Buckeye House Rabbit Society

P.O. Box 61

Vickery, Ohio 43464



Buy a bunny a little time...

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

- National membership (\$20.00) and 3-4 issues of the House Rabbit Journal
- Local membership (\$15.00) and issues of Harelines

If you are already a national member, your local fee is \$15.00

☐ I would like to donate \$_____ to help a foster rabbit (vet care, supplies)

☐ I would like to donate \$_____ in memory of _____.

The grieving family receives an acknowledgment of your gracious gesture.

I would like to volunteer to:

☐ Distribute information to vets

☐ Assist with mailing

☐ Help at Buckeye HRS booth at Pet Expos and fairs

☐ Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Bunnies' names and special dates _____

Please make checks
payable to:

**Buckeye
House Rabbit Society**

**P.O. Box 61
Vickery, Ohio 43464**

**All donations are
tax-deductible.**