



# HARELINES



Volume 23 Number 1 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

Winter 2019

## Introducing Our Newest Volunteer!

My name is Amy Marshall and I am a volunteer who has recently become an Educator-in-Training with the Buckeye House Rabbit Society. This is a very exciting opportunity for me and I am happy to be involved with a group of supportive volunteers who share a similar interest in loving and helping rabbits of all kinds. I have rescue rabbits of my own and I enjoy spending time with them every day. They each have unique personalities which makes them extra special to me. Taking care of my rabbits requires a lot of time

and effort but it is worth every minute. I want them to have the best life with me, knowing I will always be there to support them.

This past year I have had some enjoyable volunteer experiences – and a few were very adventurous. My most memorable experiences were rescuing domestic rabbits dumped in local neighborhoods. My first attempt was a rescue of three rabbits who had been living outside for at least a month. The second time was a stray rabbit found hopping around my mother's house. Both events were a team effort, as rabbits are not always easy to catch. It

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is sad to see and hear of so many homeless rabbits who have been dumped. I hope I do not have to encounter many more incidents like these, but I am always ready to help save an innocent life.

Since I am an Educator-in-Training now, I am hoping to spend the next year gaining more experience working with rabbits and learning more about them to help educate others. Most of all I am thankful I have found a rescue group to work with that has volunteers in all directions of Ohio working together. Everyone has some amazing talents and support skills that make Buckeye House Rabbit Society a success.



*Amy Marshall, new Educator-in-Training with Buckeye House Rabbit Society.*



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Visit the House Rabbit Society  
at <http://www.rabbit.org> and the  
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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:

**Karen Kindel** and **Morelli Upholstery**, for their generous gifts in memory of Frank Kushner. We are all saddened to learn of Frank's passing.

**Everyone who contributed to November's "Giving Tuesday."** Your donations raised \$550, all of which helped with spay/neuter and other medical expenses for our foster rabbits. A special shout-out to Buckeye HRS educator **Shawna Lemerise**, who took the initiative to organize the fundraiser on our Facebook page.

**Jim and Nancy Reed**, for their generous tribute to their dear Harry, who passed away at age 12. How fortunate Harry was to be part of this loving home!

**Jim and Laura Gills and bunny Tabby**, for their Christmas donation of Oxbow hay and pellets to the Fremont foster bunnies.

**Jody Slain and Jackie Nolan**. This dynamic duo has been very dedicated in socializing Cleveland foster rabbits. Their level of attentive care is off the charts!

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

**Irma Laszlo, Debbie Dowell, Kathleen Uszak, Bob Piekarczyk, Cathy Montiegel, Orlaine Jorgenson, Barbara Roberts, Holly Lewis, Cynthia Slezak, Barbara Schenk, Diane Roberts, Lisa Mallory, Bethany Hatch, Renee Falcone, Di Covey, Anna Hamel, Norma Jeanne Mudry, Erica Triggs, Debi Britton, Jim and Laura Gills, Tanja Stich, Gregory Pressler, Sue Bakula, Irene Levy, Gregory Streacker.**

**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.

## Holiday Raffle Results!

And the winner is ... **Hope Smith of Toledo, Ohio!**  
Congratulations to Hope and many thanks to all who supported the Buckeye HRS through the purchase of raffle tickets. Proceeds are allowing us to make 2019 brighter for more homeless bunnies in Ohio.



# Bunanza 2018

By Stephanie Lodge

As many of you know, the first occurrence of the RHD2 virus (rabbit hemorrhagic disease variant two) was found in Medina County this past September. Since not much is known about the virus, Ohio House Rabbit Rescue decided it was best to cancel the annual Midwest BunFest. Unfortunately many bunny lovers had already planned to travel to Columbus at the end of October for BunFest. Luckily Columbus House Rabbit Society was able to put together a much smaller event for humans only. This event was planned, of course, after getting the green light from the veterinarians at the Department of Agriculture. Columbus HRS, along with some local vendors and rescues like Buckeye HRS, Frisky Ferrets, Fuzzies and Feathered Friends Rescue and Sanctuary, Fun4Bunnies Toys, The Paw Pad, and a few others gathered for BUNanza. It was a fun day for all who participated!



*Our table was a Bunanza success!*



*Stephanie Lodge, Amy Marshall and Keith Zimmerman (above) eager to meet other bunny folk.*



# One Bond, Two Buns

By Sarah Hanlon

I wasn't thinking about adopting any new bunnies. I already had my two, Claire and Buddy, and I had just cared for my first foster for four months and was moving him to Stephanie Lodge's. That's what brought me to her home, the home full of bunnies. She introduced me to all the bunnies in her care. Fluffy ones, loppy ones, many different kinds. Then I saw them. These two large bunnies, together in their pen. One black, one white, male and female, bonded together. I found myself getting in to see them. I was drawn to them. It was only a few weeks earlier that in a conversation with my friend, I mentioned that if I ever adopted another bunny, it would be a large one. I instantly wanted to adopt them. However, I knew I can be an impulsive person and decided not to be rash. But after leaving, I kept thinking about them. I reached out and asked to come see them again. I was very excited and I truthfully looked forward to it all week. And then there I was, sitting in the pen with these large bunnies. Fiona (formerly FiFi) kept checking me out, coming over for some sniffs and then back to what she was doing. Deon (formerly DC) was shy and hid under his box. But he was also curious and stuck his nose out just enough to sniff my knee.

I asked about their story. They had been in foster care since February 2017. They previously lived with their dad, where they had a sun room and hutch to explore. But sadly their dad died from cancer. They had been in foster care ever since, almost two years. They are a bonded pair, and adding on their size, adoption was difficult. I knew right then that I had to have them come live with me, and Stephanie and I scheduled a time the next weekend for Fi

and De to come to my place. I planned and waited the entire week for them to come, building their pen, their new home. Finally the day arrived.

It has been a joy getting to know Fi and De. The bonding process with me is going at its own pace. De is a very shy boy. He feels safe under his cardboard boxes, and has perfected the slide/dive into his box when he feels startled. Fi is sure that the configuration of the cage needs to be altered and so she pull-pull-pulls on the pen to move it where she wants. If I happen to readjust and move things, she will be sure to correct it. Fi loves her toys, loves to chew on them and toss them. They both love their hay box and cuddle there together. They love treats and will run over to meet me for them. Kale is a favorite. Fi and De are letting me pet them more and more. Fi is becoming more comfortable and even likes her cheeks being petted. De will hide his face under Fi at times, but other times will allow a few pets on his nose. After losing their dad and spending almost two years in foster care, I am glad to say that Fi and De are settling in nicely in their new home. A happy end to a sad story.

For anyone looking for a bunny, many are seeking a happy home. I am so glad I adopted and I encourage others to as well. It is truly rewarding.



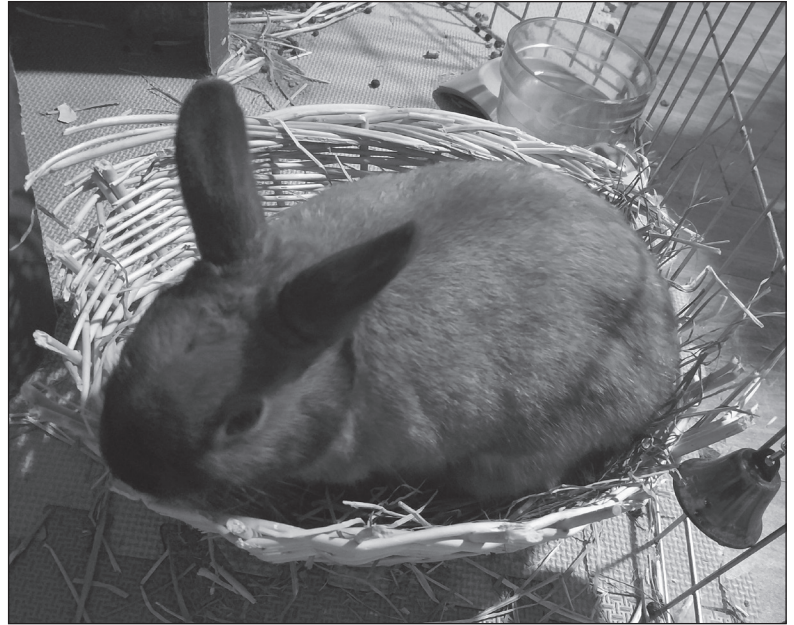
*Best friends – Fiona & Deon*



# Rabbit Life Hacks, Part 2

By Shawna Lemerise

**Thrift Store Baskets:** Most rabbits will love to tear apart a nice woven basket. However, new decorative baskets in home goods stores can be expensive. I can barely justify purchasing one for my living room, let alone one to get destroyed in a few days (and if I'm being honest, I sacrificed all my baskets to the rabbits long ago). You can buy used baskets at the thrift shop for under a dollar (my store sells them for a quarter!). Look for baskets that are made from natural, untreated wood, and that do not have a glossy finish or paint. Give it a good rinse and you have the cheapest toy since the toilet paper roll that will provide hours of activity for your bun.



*Thrift store baskets are a fun, inexpensive toy!*

**Wood Stove Pellets:** Using wood stove pellets as litter is one of the best tricks of the trade. It's cheap,

absorbent, and masks the smell of urine. It can be purchased at Home Depot or Lowe's (but is often only sold during winter months) or at any time of the year at Tractor Supply. You can get a 40lb bag for about \$4-\$6. According to rabbit.org, the compressed wood

pellets are not toxic (like wood shavings) because the phenolic compounds are removed by heat during their manufacture. You can also use equine horse bedding, which is also compressed wood pellets. These pellets are hard and may be uncomfortable for some rabbits, especially for an elder bun to stand on. If this is the case, you can add hay or shredded paper bedding on top, but may need to change the top layer more frequently.



*Wood stove pellets can be used as litter.*



# Where Are They Now?

By Maggie Reading

As fosterers at Buckeye House Rabbit Society, we just love getting updates on our babies after we see them off to their forever homes. Here's another wonderful story!

Figaro, a very small bunny, came to us in April. Fostered by Stephanie Lodge and myself, he was slow to warm up. Luckily Figaro, now Radagast, found his forever home with Kristen and Dan of North Royalton. First-time rabbit owners, Dan and Kristen were looking forward to building a relationship with their new rabbit and making him comfortable in his own home. After taking fondly to his Cottontail Cottage in his foster home, they were quick to set up cardboard tunnels and hiding spots for enrichment. After just a few weeks in his new home he learned to tolerate grooming and nail clipping and eventually moved on to exploring the couch with his new family. Radagast is now enjoying his family quite a bit and even seeks out head pets and snuggles. When he has his fill of snuggling, he enjoys sprinting through the living room and showing off his skills in his cardboard

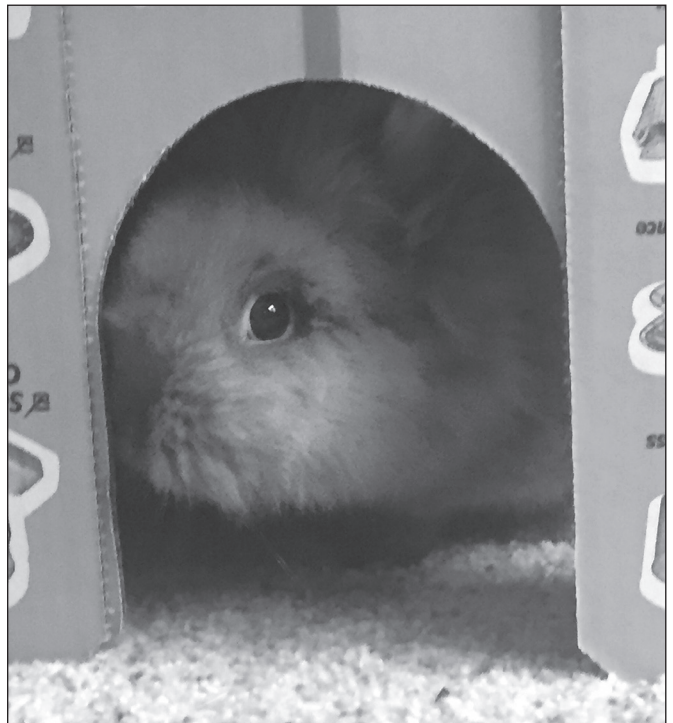


*Radagast, formerly Figaro, loves his new home – and his Christmas tree!*

tunnel trails. This timid and shy rabbit has found a forever home where he is comfortable and thriving.



*This formerly shy bun is happy as the center of attention for owners Kristen & Dan.*



*Peek A Boo! It's Radagast!*

# Hay Is For...

By Amy Marshall

When you spend time with your pet rabbits, they sometimes remind you of another animal. Some people may ask you if are they like dogs or cats? One of my rabbits, a French lop, reminded me of a puppy at times. She would run up to me, excited to see me. She was very playful and enjoyed the affection I gave her. I cannot say that about my other rabbits. They definitely have their own rabbit traits, especially my dwarf breeds.

An animal that reminds me of a rabbit in a very strange and unique way is a horse. Before having rabbits, I had spent many years riding, owning, and leasing horses. There are quite a few things a rabbit and a horse have in common. As grazing animals, they share a similar diet and are always munching on food throughout the day. They are both vegetarian focusing on hay as the main portion of their diet. They require hay for digestion and also to help wear down their teeth. Horse and rabbit teeth are always growing. Both animals need their teeth checked routinely by a vet to make sure there are no sharp edges or overgrowths. They both also love treats like apples and carrots. If you have seen a rabbit get excited over these treats, imagine a horse getting excited. You don't want them to bite your fingers off!

Both horses and rabbits have sensitive digestive systems. Horses can get colic, which can be a blockage or gas build up in their colon. Rabbits can get GI stasis, where their digestive system slows down or stops completely. Although both can result from different causes, these are life-threatening illnesses that require veterinary attention.

Like rabbits, horses are prey animals. In the wild, they are a target for predators on the hunt. Both domesticated horses and rabbits will flee and spook easily when startled or if they see something that scares them. This is a flight response that happens when they feel they are in danger. Their eyes are placed on the side of their heads, with an almost 360-degree field of vision, so they can see in many directions.

Another characteristic common to both rabbits and horses is a "binky." When rabbits get excited they will run, jump, and twist in the air. Horses also do a larger version of a "binky" when they are happy. When turned out into a pasture, they get excited by running and bucking, sometimes jumping in the air, showing their excitement for freedom.

Territoriality is a challenging behavior that these two animals also have in common. A horse territorial of his stall can be very dangerous, as he can immediately turn his behind to you and kick, not letting you get near. This can become a bad habit hard to break, but usually results when a horse does not have enough pasture time, exercise, or lacks trust in people. Rabbits can also be very territorial. They love to have their pen and exercise areas all to themselves. They sometimes do not like their humans handling them while they are in their cage, or even touching their food dish or litter box. Make sure your rabbit gets plenty of play time outside his pen. Bunnies love to get out and explore and need to get their exercise. Sometimes all it takes for a person to bond with a territorial horse or rabbit is trust built steadily over time.

Although pet rabbits are small and cute, they can sure be mighty and have a big personality. They offer amazing companionship just like many of our larger pets and they enjoy the love and affection we give them. I always found a special bond with the horses I worked with, but now I have a special bond with my rabbits. Instead of having a barn full of horses, I now have a house full of bunnies. I wouldn't have it any other way.



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# Ten More Things I Would Like My Rabbit To Know

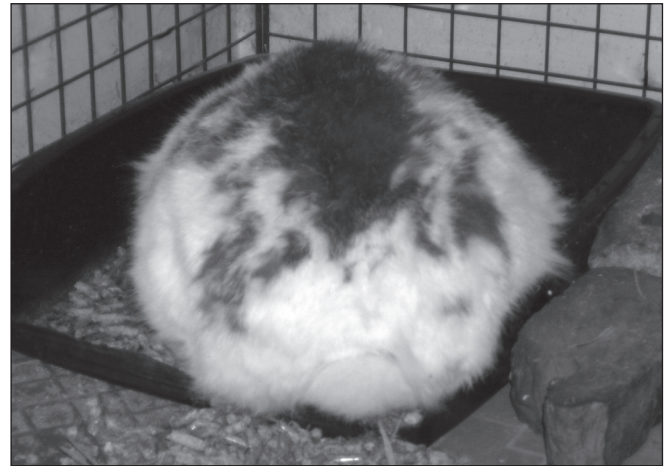
By Phyllis O'Beollain

Last winter *Harelines* published a list of important items that I wished to review with my house rabbits. Nonetheless, there are still a few things that my bunnies do not seem clear on. I have compiled a new list of key points I wish to discuss with them.

1. The litter box is not a magic portal into the vegetable garden; please stop digging.
2. No matter how much you frown at the Swiss chard, it will never turn into slices of banana.
3. I appreciate your attempts at helping me put away your toys, but your litter box is not your toy box.
4. Gathering up all the toys and sitting on them will not make them hatch into more toys.
5. Pizza boxes are not instruments of the devil;

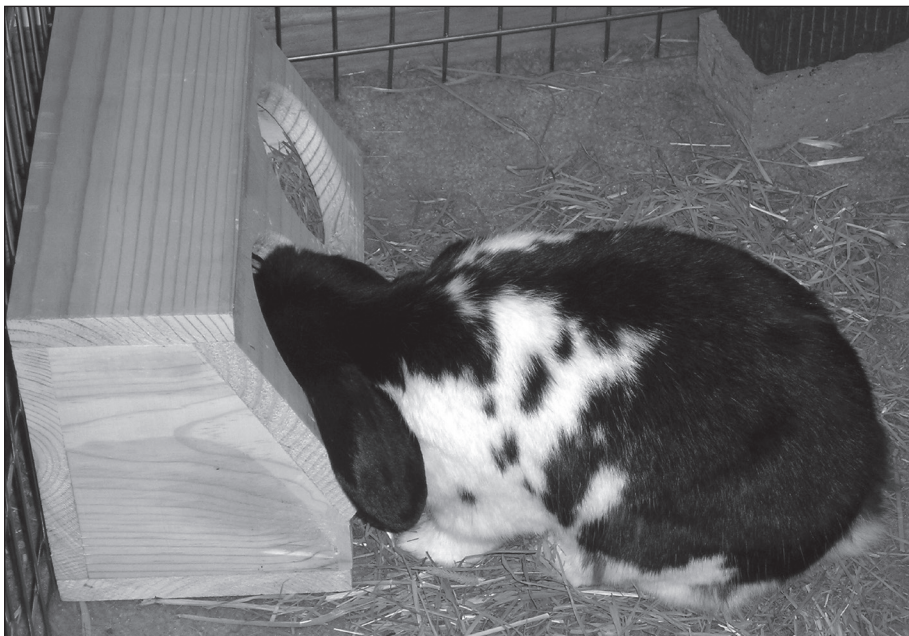


*Sorry. Not all food is banana.*

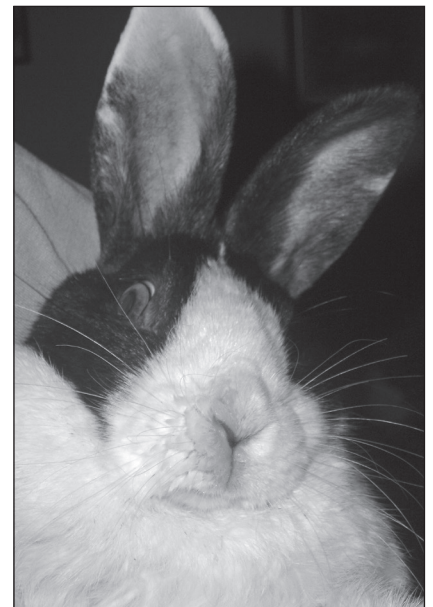


*Dig all you want. Your litterbox isn't a portal! fleeing in terror is unnecessary.*

6. I am too old to be trendy; please stop chewing



*This is a good place to hide from the pizza box!*



*Don't give me that look! Sit in your food, you get a bath.*

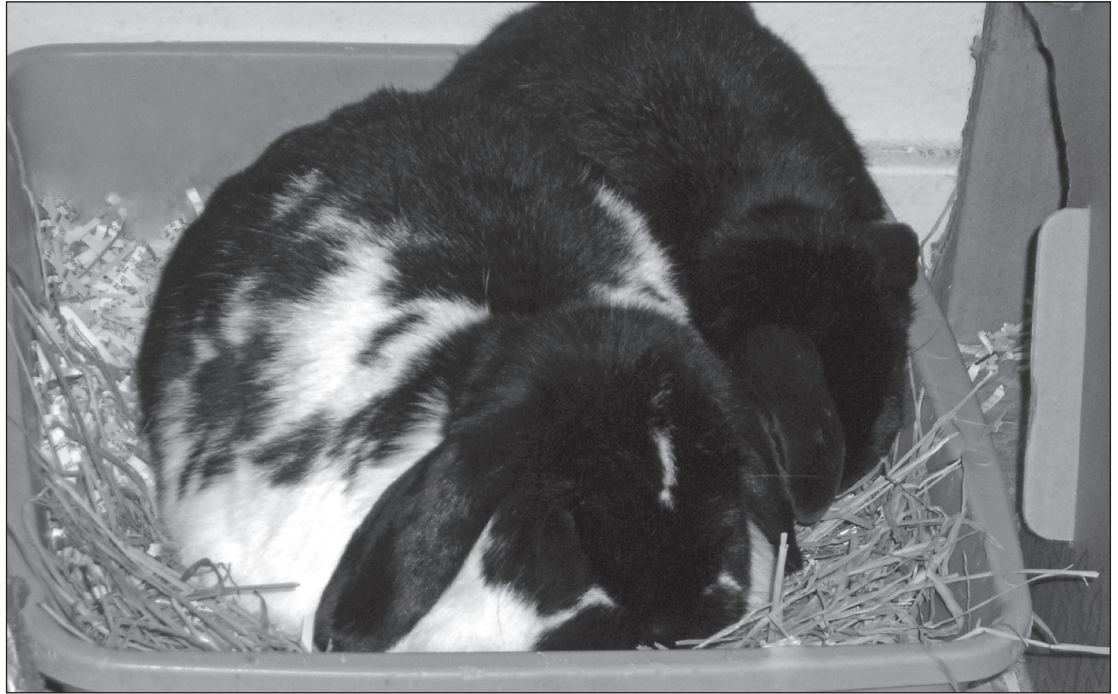


holes in my blue jeans.

7. Non-rabbit people do not believe me when I tell them that is just a display of dominance; please stop embarrassing me.

8. Very few strange bunnies come through our living room, you need not chin everything repeatedly.

9. Must you always wait for me to clean the litter pan before you (immediately) use it again?



*Happiness is a clean litter pan.*

10. If you persist in sitting in your mashed banana treat, I will persist in giving you personal baths.

## A Make-Believe (excerpt)

All is welcome to my crunching,  
 Finding, grinding,  
 Milling, munching,  
 Gobbling, lunching,  
 Fore-toothed, three-lipped mouth –  
 Eating side way, round way, flat way,  
 Eating this way, eating that way,  
 Every way at once!

George MacDonald, Scottish poet, 1824-1905

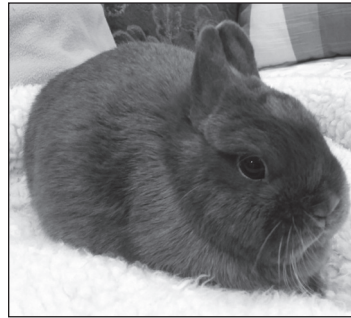


# Somebunny Needs YOU!



**Jefferson** (named after the song "White Rabbit" by Jefferson Airplane) was found living behind a dumpster at a tire shop in downtown Cleveland. This young guy has great litterbox habits and he is as friendly as they come. Plus, he is a legendary flopper. Anyone would be lucky to adopt him! **Please contact**

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



**Tiny Storm** is a spirited three-year-old dwarf who had a rough start to life. Before her first owner could to turn her loose in the woods (the fate of so many Easter bunnies), a good Samaritan rescued her. Shuttled from one temporary home to another, she came to us in December 2018. Mistrusting at first, she

warmed up after two weeks and now hops right over for pets and enjoys cuddles on a lap. She has excellent litterbox habits and a dependable appetite for hay and greens. Storm would do best in a quiet home where she can be the center of attention. **Please contact Herta Rodina (bhrs-herta@ohare.org).**

**Oakley** is an energetic young fellow and he can jump! He is very affectionate and trusting. Do you have a forever home that he can explore? **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**

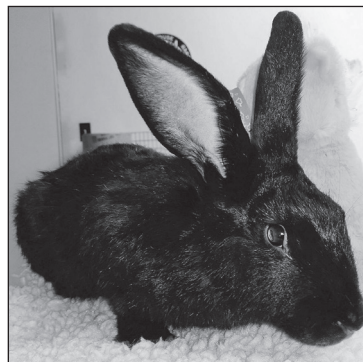


**Cherish Truelsch** is a unique-looking Californian rabbit. Check out that dewlap! Found wandering the neighborhood in the scorching July heat, Cherish is a sweet girl who is looking for someone to snuggle with and show her that she is special. Cherish was named by David Truelsch in the Name Our Next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

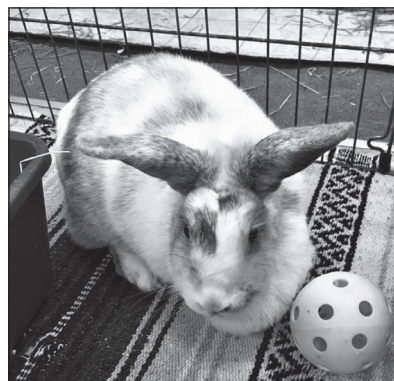


If you are looking for a bunny who will flatten out for pets at a moment's notice, this is your girl. **Cyndi**

**Lopper**, or just **Lopper**, has only a right eye but she doesn't let that get her down. She's wonderful with her litter box and isn't opposed to meeting new bunnies. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



**Maddie** is our first-ever bunny to be rescued in the middle of the night, arriving at our foster home just after 3:00 am. If you are looking for a BIG bunny, Maddie is your girl. This Flemish Giant has a good temperament, a big heart, and is loads of fun to have around. **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.**





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 (bhhs-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.

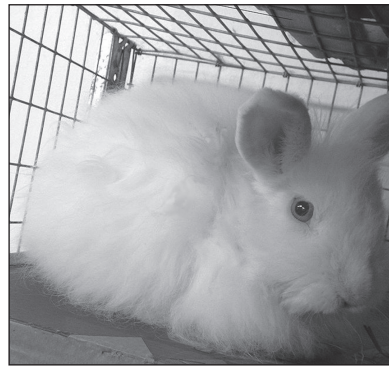
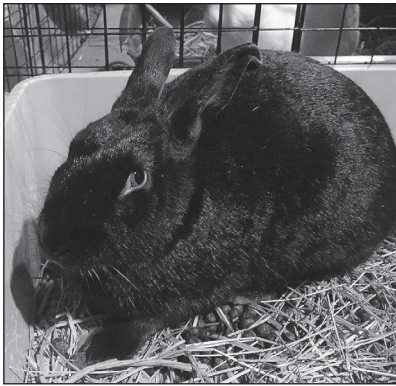


**Sarah** loves her free time and is very adventurous.



**Mary** is extremely outgoing and friendly. She is our resident goof-ball and is quite entertaining.

**Laney** was found in Mansfield when she was almost run over by a car. Fortunately, a good Samaritan saved her. Laney has wonderful litterbox habits, shiny fur, beautiful eyes, and a perfect disposition. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhhs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



**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 (bhhs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

## Adopted!

**Olaf** hopped his way into the home of Andrea Missler. The family couldn't be happier with their new addition. ♥ We are delighted to announce that sweet boy **Mario** has found a home with Bailey and Logan Ammanniti. Congratulations, Mario! ♥ After nearly two years in foster care, bonded pair **Fifi and DC** have been adopted. It's no secret that most adopters prefer a small rabbit. Luckily, Fi and DC met rabbit lover Sarah and she has a soft spot for BIG bunnies. Now Fi and DC are loving life, chilling in their new digs! ♥ We are happy to announce that **Evelyn** found a husband and forever home in record time. Susan, Robert, and Mr. Beggers have all happily accepted the newest family member. ♥ **Savannah** didn't have to wait long to find her new family. Angie, Kevin, and their chinchilla, Danni, are all tickled pink with their new girl. ♥ **Zander's** good looks and sweet personality got him adopted immediately! His new family – Rayne, Blair, and Annabelle (bunny girlfriend) – are all happy with their decision. ♥ **Ruby** has found her tribe! That tribe includes people and no other rabbits, just the way Ruby likes it! Congratulations to Rachel and Sean! ♥ **Figaro** has found his forever home! He is already impressing his family with his ability to sneak into small places. ♥ **Marshall** has made himself at home with Buckeye's own Stephanie Ash. Marshall's biggest fan is Salsa the dog! ♥ **Dorie** has found her happily-ever-after with the Thomas family in Westlake. Humans and animals alike are quite pleased with their new addition. ♥ **Fred** has found his forever home with new mom Katie Straka and his girlfriend, Meeka. Fred enjoys nothing more than doting on Meeka. It's the sweetest thing! ♥ **Lancelot** has been adopted by Emma, a pre-med student in Toledo. He is warming up to his new home just in time for the new year. Best wishes to Emma and Lancelot! ♥ **Peppermint Patty**, now Penny, has found a wonderful home with Katie, Tony, and little sister Corinne. Within twelve hours of the adoption, Penny was doing binkies and flops! ♥ It didn't take **Bridget**, now Mabel, much time at all to find her forever home. Not only does she have a loving mom and dad, but she also gained a doting husbun named Wild Bill!



**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.**