



HARELINES



Volume 14 Number 2 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY Spring/Summer 2010

Raising Miss Daisy

By Kristen Beck

*Wildlife Rehabilitation Specialist
Stark County Park District,
Sanders Wildlife Rehabilitation
Center*

For nearly a decade, I have had the privilege of nurturing thousands of injured and orphaned wildlife of various species. There are no words to adequately describe the fulfillment that wildlife rehabilitation has brought into my life. Even with the many day-to-day challenges and sorrows, my desire to help defenseless

animals has never faded. The joy of a successful reintroduction of an animal back into its natural habitat makes all of the efforts worthwhile. No matter how many times I work with a particular species, each case is distinctive, just as humans or pets are. One of the many things I love about my job is that every day is different and full of the unexpected. One such day was in November 2009, when a lady walked into our wildlife center carrying three newborn domestic rabbits.

Being an Ohio Division of Wildlife permitted wildlife rehabilitation center, our policy is to accept only injured and orphaned native Ohio wildlife. We are not a domestic rescue of any kind, nor

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do our permits allow us to contain domestic animals at our facility. However, the few but mighty rehabilitation specialists on staff, known for their distinguished professionalism, are oftentimes fondly referred to as “suckers” whenever a domestic animal appears in our reception area or park premises. Currently, all of our homes overflow with homeless cats, dogs, domestic rabbits, chicks, domestic ducks, birds, ferrets, and even mice.

Our spouses and families have started a support group.

Even though each member of our staff at the wildlife center works with every species admitted for treatment, we each specialize in one or two areas. I have always cared for the mammals, particularly raccoons, skunks, and eastern cottontail rabbits. It was only natural for the phone call to come on that November day asking if I would consider taking the two remaining



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

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:

Jan and Michael Blazer, for their generous donation in memory of their beloved **Claire**, who passed away on 20 February 2010.

Clay and Nancy Pasternack, for their thoughtful contribution in honor of their late **Ginger**.

Tamera Herrod, for donating water bottles and toys for our foster rabbits.

Heather Evert and Doris Wishner, for their most generous donations toward foster rabbit **Richland's** care. We're delighted to report that he has found his forever home!

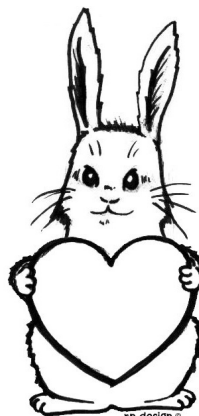
The kind folks at Rabbittude, an online store for rabbit-themed jewelry, accessories, artwork, and supplies. Rabbittude is donating 10% of items sold to the Buckeye HRS. Visit www.rabbittude.etsy.com and take a look at the little treasures offered. Remember to mention the Buckeye HRS in the "comments to seller" at checkout.

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

Marjorie Aleva, Jann and Mark Kuntavanish, Scott Edwards, Liz Claytor, Dorothea Mayerchak, Leslie Mapes, Judy O'Neil, Tim and Kristin Pollard, June Gates, Karyn Harshbarger, Pam Loch.

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.





Spotlight On Dixie



Dixie is a small, white rabbit, with gorgeous ruby eyes. She's a Florida White and I call her my Florida snowflake!

Dix came to us in June 2009 from a shelter in Michigan that does not handle rabbits (like most small shelters), but they wanted to get the rabbits altered before giving them to us. She and her bonded mate were already more than two years old and, unfortunately, **Dixie's** mate did not survive the surgery.

Luckily, **Dix** did not become too distressed and she has adjusted well to single life. **Dixie's** still an active rabbit, although not as wild as a juvie, and enjoys interacting with humans on her own terms. Shy with strangers at first, **Dixie's**

curiosity takes over and she's off exploring when she gets her free time. Surprisingly, she doesn't visit the other fosters during her free time; **Dixie** prefers exploring under tables and the hay pile, eventually finding time to explore ME if I sit on the floor with her. She takes great pride in the "nest" she's created from shredded cardboard boxes and newspapers, so I let her keep it during cleaning days.

While she's probably not the best match for a family with young children, I think she would be a great rabbit for a new, single owner or a couple, and could possibly be a good mate for a middle-aged boy bunny! Since she was previously bonded, she'll most likely become very attached to a human or rabbit companion. **To adopt Dixie, please contact Keith Zimmerman (bhrs-keith@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

Adopted!



Lop-eared **Louie** has found a terrific forever family with the Teeters of Pickerington. We are proud to report that he is very happy and well loved in his new home. ♥ **Avery**, now **Buckeye**, is enjoying his exciting new home with the McNultys. He's basking in loads of attention and is slowly getting acquainted with canine pal, Tressel. ♥ **Maxwell** is the newest member of Eileen and Joe's growing family in Westlake, where he joins Buckeye HRS Alum, **Maya**. ♥ Joanne and family of Chesterland have welcomed **Adalie** into their home, where she gets plenty of exercise and lots of snuggling. ♥ **Richland** has captured the hearts of Craig and Kim Cohen of Mayfield Heights.



*Raising Miss Daisy
Cont'd.*

neonates (one had already passed away). After raising over 2,000 cottontails, I thought "How difficult can this be?", so my response was a confident yes, I would take them.

As with all species entrusted to my care, my first day with the 40 gram domestics was spent diligently researching. I knew enough to know that even though these little ones were lagomorphs, there were significant differences between them and their cottontail cousins. Naturally, I scoured the House Rabbit Society web pages and contacted everyone I knew who was affiliated with them, for I also knew enough to know that information found on the internet was not always quality information. I was pleased to find out that my cottontail formula and protocol for weaning would suffice for the domestics. What I did learn was how different the rate of growth was for the domestics. Their timetable for the stages of development was much later than that of the cottontail, but I certainly did not complain. It just gave me more time to enjoy each stage.

Sadly, the weakest kit of the two did not survive. I found that she had passed on Christmas Eve, leaving the remaining sibling all alone. I rarely have this dilemma when rehabilitating the cottontails because there is always another single or group coming into the center. This baby was truly alone, and at one of the most



adorable stages of development. Needless to say, loneliness never became an issue. I just decided that I, as the mother, had to compensate for the loss and coddle her more often! To this day, Daisy expects to be held every time we see each other, and I absolutely love it!

Since our family already shares our home with four dogs, six cats, a mouse, revolving wildlife, and two other domestic rabbits (one of them Benji, a Buckeye

HRS rescue adopted in 2007!), my husband naturally asked if I was going to find a home for this unexpected guest. I assured him that Daisy already had a home, and that we needed to provide her with a companion to spend her days with, because rabbits are social creatures. Weighing only a pound, I found it difficult to locate a suitable candidate for Daisy, but after nearly two months of searching, I, along with my beloved husband, drove to the Animal Rescue League of Western Pennsylvania and adopted an abandoned one-and-a-half pound Polish Dwarf named Isaiah. They love to play Binkies together, but Daisy still comes to me for reassurance. What a joy it is to now have four domestic rabbits!!



Bunny Progress in Dayton, OH

By Jann Kuntavanish

Eighteen months ago, I became one of a small group volunteering every weekend, holiday, and some vacation days at the Humane Society of Greater Dayton (HSGD) with the rabbits waiting for adoption. When I first volunteered in November 2008, the rabbits were housed in small cages



in the lobby, sharing space with birds and the people waiting for assistance. In July 2009, the rabbits were finally given a room at the shelter, which was promptly painted brightly and decorated with a "Foster Care" board showing the more adoptable bunnies. Additionally, three of the tri-level Leith Petwerks bunny abode condos were purchased (half the money donated and the HSGD paying the rest) to accommodate nine bunnies waiting for new homes. Classical music is piped into the bunny room. Several volunteers serve as adoption counselors to match rabbit and family. The biggest effect of the little volunteer group is that from April 2009 to April 2010, no rabbit has been adopted unaltered. Also, the adoption fee has increased from \$15 to \$45 for rabbits. We provide daily greens, premium pellets, and wood stove pellets for litter. Rabbits in need of medical care are taken to an



exotics vet in the Dayton area, then home for foster care. Our latest project is a monthly Adoptathon at a local Petsmart, where we can provide information and education, as well as showcase adoptable rabbits.

On a personal note, my former foster rabbit, Moose, spent four months with the Kuntavanish family to have lifesaving tooth root surgery and then recuperate before joining his bunny dad, Matt, in Austin, TX. Moose went home to Texas on 11 April 2010, and Matt and I are both thrilled at his recovery.



Follow Us!

The Buckeye HRS has hopped into the age of Twitter! You'll see a button now on our homepage – www.ohare.org -- that lets our visitors follow us. We've been tweeting the "What's New" updates and have also put up some casual posts about our rabbits and our activities.

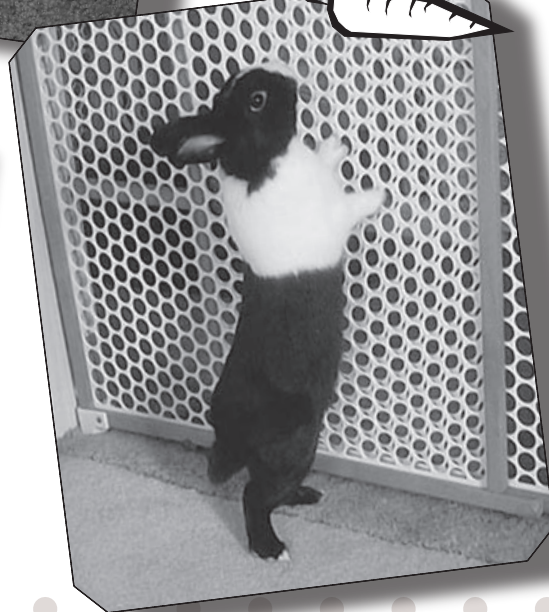
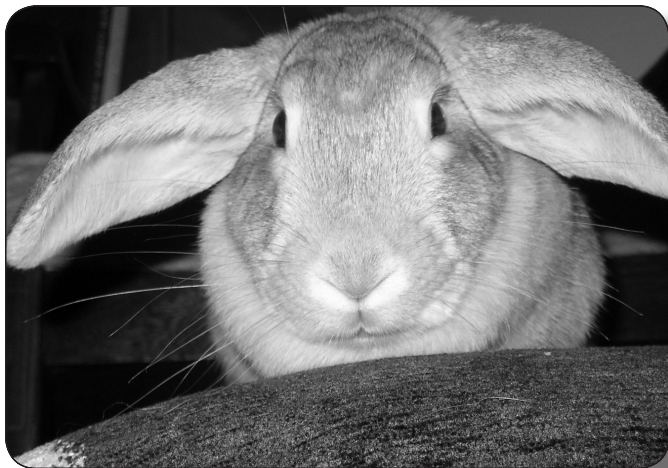
Come follow us at www.twitter.com/BuckeyeHRS!

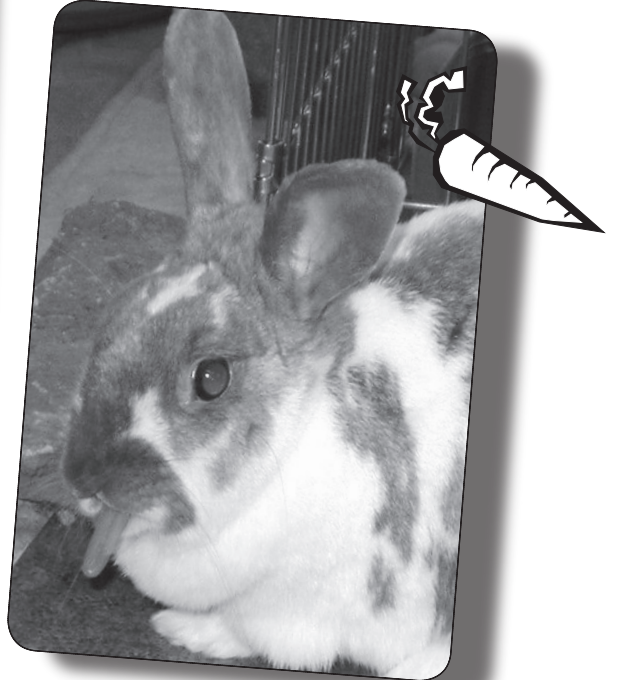




Just for Fun!

Favorite Pics from Our Volunteers







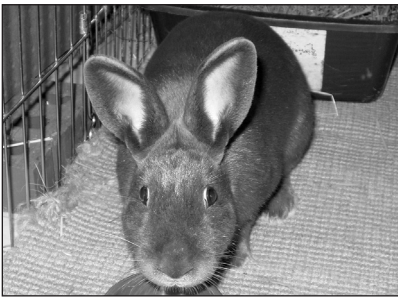
Somebunny Needs YOU!



Sylvester is quite a unique looking bunny with his stripes and two-toned face! He LOVES his free time and pellets. This handsome guy would make a great addition to your home. He has lots of love to give. Why not make an appointment to meet him? **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-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 (bhrs-herta@ohare.org) 740-797-7616.**



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



Tazwell is one of the bunnies who was rescued from the Elyria overcrowding situation. He's from one of the last litters to be born there (Jan – Apr 2006). Taz is a little shy, he will need time with you to warm up and develop trust. He's on the small side, weighing

roughly 4.0 lbs, his full-grown weight. He loves his bamboo paper plate holders for chewing and is perfect with his litter box. **Please contact Kristen Doherty (bhrs-kristen@ohare.org) 440-543-4959.**



Speedy was found wandering the streets. He is a friendly little guy with unique brownish-colored spots. And just look at those adorable ears! **Speedy** has an exceptional personality and loves people. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

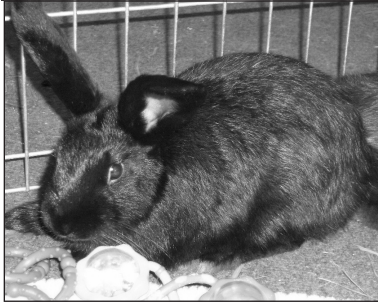


Every season will be a winning season with this Bengal striped bunny. **Henry** (named for the late Chris Henry) has excellent litter box habits and knows how to make the play. Make **Henry** a member of your team today. Whodey! **Please contact Michele Roth**

Kerley (bhrs-michele@ohare.org) 859-261-0556.

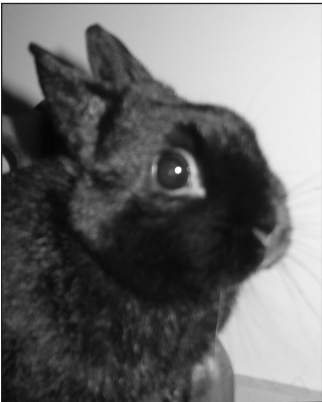


Chili and Chiqua came all the way to Ohio from a large rescue in New Mexico. **Chili** has dark chocolate-brown fur and a spicy personality. She also has one ear that lops down and the other that stands straight up. **Chiqua** is all black with velvety-soft fur and lots of curiosity. Make an appointment to meet them today! **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhhs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



If you are looking for a rabbit with a fun personality, **Dewey** is your guy! From his tail to the white tip on his nose, this friendly bunny is a bundle of energy. **Dewey** is sure to delight you with his antics. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhhs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

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



You'll have a whale of a good time with this dwarf bunny. Many tales will be told of **Moby's** sweet nature and great litter box habits. At two pounds he's the catch of the day and will make an excellent addition to your family. **Please contact Michele Roth Kerley (bhhs-michele@ohare.org) 859-261-0556.**



Kitty Kat is a dwarf-like bunny who is a little on the quiet side, although very friendly. She likes to be petted and sometimes doesn't mind being picked up. She packs a lot of hay and salad into her tiny, three-and-half-pound body, with rich chocolate-brown fur and one white paw. This little girl also wins a prize for being the best with her litterbox. **Please contact Kristen Doherty (bhhs-kristen@ohare.org) 440-543-4959.**

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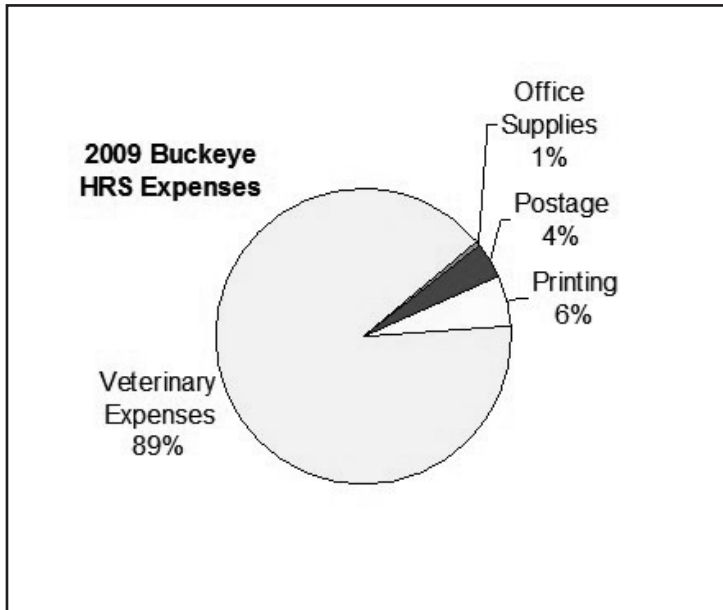
Alma (Alma Sedges Tidy Beets), a beautiful blue-gray mini lop, and **Ellsworth**, a 4 lb. gray and white Dutch who acts as her chief protector and bodyguard, have a unique bond unlike anything we've seen. Most times you will

find them snuggling and grooming each other sweetly, though occasionally **Ellsworth** will give a loud grunt if he thinks you will harm **Alma** in any way. They are very funny to watch. They are roughly 4-5 years old, in very good health, and must be adopted as a pair. **Please contact Kristen Doherty (bhhs-kristen@ohare.org) 440-543-4959.**



Hi everybody, I am **Huey!** I was rescued from a high-kill shelter along with my two brothers, **Dewey** and **Louie**. I like to be around people and being a part of the fun. I am young, playful

and very active. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhhs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



We wish to thank all of our Buckeye HRS members and everyone else who made donations in 2009. Be assured of our appreciation as well as our conservative use of donated funds. The graph shows how our money was spent last year.

As you can see, the vast majority of our funds (89%) was spent on veterinary care. That included spays, neuters and medical care for foster rabbits as well as ongoing medical care and supplies for our sanctuary rabbits.

The 6% for printing and 4% for postage was spent to get our newsletter out to members and other educational materials out to the public.

OUR WINNERS

We have a winner for our second annual spring raffle -- Mary Bujak of New Jersey! Our five runners-up, each winning a \$10 voucher towards anything in artist Annette Tait's store are: Randy Roberts (New Mexico), Gary Savage (Ohio), Jason and Jill Szabo (Australia!), Nicole Planchon (California), Suzanne Lamberg (New York).

We raised \$382.00! The money will go a long way in helping our foster rabbits. The generosity of our members and website visitors is directly improving the health and quality of life of individual foster rabbits and putting them one hop closer to their forever home.

Congratulations to all and an extra-warm thank you to Annette Tait for making our raffle such a success! Annette has adopted us not just by donating the handbag, but by fiercely promoting our raffle and our cause on her blog and for that we're most grateful.

Happy Spring to all!



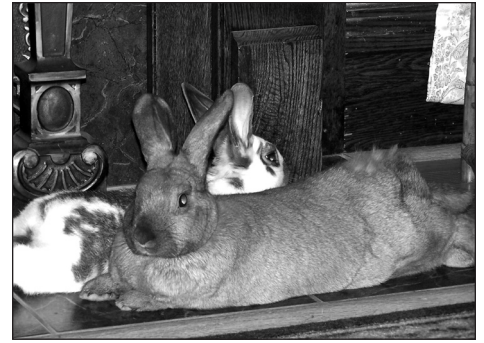
The Big Brown Bunny No One Wanted

By Sherri Killen

Even though I run a parrot rescue, I've always wanted a house bunny. When I had time to peruse the internet, I would go to Petfinder and look at all the bunnies for adoption. I knew a fair amount about caring for them, as I had become very familiar with the House Rabbit Society website, rabbit.org. I eventually found my way to the Buckeye HRS. At the time, they had two bunnies for adoption, an adorable little black-and-white guy and a big brown bunny named Diva. I contacted Herta Rodina and she gave me the background on both bunnies. Of course I was drawn to the little guy who was too cute for words. I showed both pictures to my husband and we talked about it. He ask me why I was adopting a bunny; I said "to give

one a home" He replied that if that was the case, then wouldn't the Big Brown Bunny who had been in foster care for a year and a half be the one we should bring home? I thought about it for a couple of days and called Herta with the news that we would love to have Diva join our family of craziness. Diva has been with us almost a year now and has been joined by another rescue we call Little Bunny Foo Foo, who was dumped at the local humane society. He and Diva have bonded and are inseparable.

We are a multi species household in that I am a parrot rescue; in addition to the ten parrots currently residing here, we also have four rescued dogs. We just lost our kitty of twenty years last Labor Day. Every morning, my kitchen is Grand Central Station -- I have the four dogs who get along just fine with the buns, usually at least two parrots on perches, and Diva and Foo Foo all begging to be either let out, let in, or giving me



the "feed-me-I'm-starving" look. I am greeted every morning with bunnies doing binkies up and down the hall. After breakfast, they lay around a bit while I prepare parrot breakfast. At that point I feel Diva tugging on my pants leg for her treats! They run around my feet until they get their carrot and apple treats, then it's off down the hall to their own room to take a nice long nap.

Diva has become a wonderful addition to our family and we love her very much. It is unfortunate that so many people overlooked her because she was just a "Big Brown Bunny". I think she was waiting for us.

Please don't pass over the big brown ones, or the all-white ones. I believe their personalities are amazing and, let's face it, they are bunnies and they're all beautiful and have so much love to give! Don't think you can't have a house bunny because you have a dog or another pet. When you introduce them, do it slowly and under close supervision. Watch for signs that the bun might be afraid, or that the dog or cat is too curious. With time, they all accept each other and sometimes become great friends!

Thank you Buckeye House Rabbit Society for our little Diva!



