

HARELINES



Volume 6 Number 3

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

Fall 2002

Wood County Crisis Update

By Keith Zimmerman

In August of 2001, my wife Sue discovered the section of the ohare.org web site that described the rabbit overload at the Wood County Humane Society (WCHS). WCHS is a no-kill shelter and they work diligently to pursue cruelty and abuse cases in the Bowling Green area. The sudden bunny influx was the result of a seizure of over 40 rabbits in a cruelty case. Although we already had 3 house rabbits of our own (along with 2 dogs and a cat), we felt compelled to help out. Having been HRS members for years, Sue contacted a Buckeye HRS volunteer and asked how we could help.

Chapter volunteers had visited WCHS and knew that many of the rabbits were sick and in poor condition.



Calvin, now a sanctuary rabbit, was a Wood County rescue.

Several had to be euthanized immediately to end their suffering. Several more had died within the following two months of complications from their various illnesses. The ailments included respiratory infections, abscessed wounds and scars, and some cases of head-tilt (one of Kristen Doherty's sanctuary rabbits, Calvin, was a Wood County rescue). Additionally, many of the rabbits were not spayed or neutered. Because the Buckeye HRS had already taken more than 10 rabbits from WCHS into foster homes during the spring and summer of 2001, none of the fosterers had any spaces available. So, Sue dove into the effort head-first! She visited the shelter to inspect the conditions, food, and health of the remaining 28 rabbits. Her findings were not encouraging. Although the WCHS staff was trying valiantly to cope with the rescued rabbits, they were (like most shelters) severely overpopulated with abandoned animals. Unfortunately, they lacked both the human resources and the proper information to care for rabbits in a crisis situation. Luckily, they did have enough cages available to house the rescues, but many had to live with roommates. This of course contributed to the spread of disease among many of them. With so many rabbits on hand, even accurate record keeping was a problem.

In this issue

Rabbits, Diarrhea and Coccidia... Oh My! 3

Picnic Time Pics 6

Somebunny Needs You! . . . 8



A large proportion of the rabbits were Dutch bunnies who were very similar in appearance. When rabbits were allowed free time out of their cages, they were not always placed back into the proper cage.

Since some were altered and others not, more than one of the supposedly spayed/neutered bunnies we brought home turned out not to be! At least one litter of babies was born because of this. The rabbits were being fed strictly alfalfa pellets, which had been donated. No hay or veggies were being provided and several of the buns were overweight. On the positive side, the volunteers were very good about letting the rabbits out of their cages for free time as much as possible and they visually examined each one while putting in and taking out. Many problems were discovered in the early stages, because they were being handled often.

Continued on page 11



Harelines, the Buckeye House Rabbit Society Newsletter, is published by the all-volunteer, non-profit Buckeye House Rabbit Society, Athens, OH. The House Rabbit Society assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions.

Chapter Manager . . . Herta Rodina
herta@ohare.org
740-797-7616

Educators & Fosterers:

Canton Kristi Cole
330-484-8416
kristi@ohare.org

Cleveland East. Kristen Doherty
440-543-4959
kristen@ohare.org

Fremont . . . Keith & Sue Zimmerman
419-355-8433
sue@ohare.org,
keith@ohare.org

Cincinnati Jennifer Wolfe
513-474-5840
jennifer@ohare.org

Newsletter Editor . . . Herta Rodina

Layout and Design . . . Ellen B. Eder

Contributing Writers:

Dr. Kristen Turoczy,
Keith Zimmerman.

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:

Lin Beam, for her generous donation of supplies for our foster rabbits.

Pam and Ron Nutter, for their kind gift in tribute to their beloved Chloe.

Jennifer Wolfe's thoughtful and generous coworkers, for their contribution in memory of Bigwig.

Deb Thomas, for donating a percentage of sales from her business.

Community Check, for donating a percentage of their Ohio proceeds to us.

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

The following members, whose wonderful generosity is helping so many foster rabbits: **Carol Costa, Alison Gehri, Michele Roth Kerley, Irma Laszlo, Karyn Harshbarger, Woodrow and Gena Horton, Julie Schram, John and Mary Jo Mayfield, Holly Masterson.**

Our new Sanctuary Rabbit Sponsors: **Shirley and Dennis Wood, Mike and Rhonda Wadsworth, Georgia Willison, Debbie Raschke, Pamela Rees, Lois and Eric Raphael, JoAnn Green, Laura Loudon** (in honor of Humphrey, who celebrated one year with Laura and Ken on August 6), **Bob and Holly Piekarczyk** (who celebrated their wedding anniversary by sponsoring a sanctuary rabbit!), **Anne and Wilma Jagodnik, Mary Backherms.**

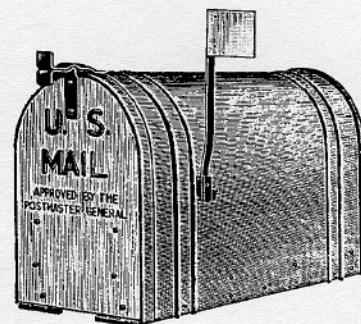
All of our ongoing and renewing Sanctuary Rabbit Sponsors. Our special-needs rabbits appreciate your continuing support!

And, last but not least, an extra-special thank you to the **Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust, a KeyBank Trust**, for selecting the Buckeye HRS to be the recipient of a generous start-up grant. Funds from this grant will help cover spay/neuter expenses for our new foster homes opening in the Toledo and Cincinnati areas. Many rabbits will receive care in Mr. Scott's name and we are most grateful for the Trust's support of our organization.

Help Wanted!

We are seeking 3 or 4 reliable volunteers to assemble and mail information packets on an ongoing basis. Volunteers must be able to respond to packet requests by mailing them within 72 hours.

Please notify Kristen Doherty
(kristen@ohare.org) or **Kristi Cole**
(kristi@ohare.org) if you are able to help us!





Rabbits, Diarrhea and Coccidia...Oh My!

*By Dr. Kristen Turoczy, DVM
Wickliffe Animal Hospital
30550 Euclid Avenue
Wickliffe, OH 44092
440-516-1000*

Those of us who own dogs and cats are likely very familiar with the parasites that may threaten their health. From their pet's first visit to the veterinarian, owners are informed about ways to prevent and treat parasites in their kittens and puppies. Rabbit owners may not know that their precious bunnies may also fall victim to parasites! Parasites, though not as common in rabbits as some other animals, can also occur and can make bunnies very sick! This article will focus on one such parasite — coccidia.

Coccidia is actually a microscopic one-celled protozoal parasite. It can infect the intestines and liver of rabbits and other animals. Coccidia is the only major parasitic or protozoal disease found in the domestic rabbit. The infective stage of the coccidian life cycle is called an oocyst. This is the form of coccidia that can be detected in rabbit feces. It is the oocyst that rabbits can ingest that will lead to infection. The coccidia that affect rabbits are among twelve species of *Eimeria*, although only two to three of the twelve species of *Eimeria* are usually the disease-causing culprits.

Coccidia is relatively common, and can affect rabbits of all ages without necessarily causing disease. The presence of oocysts in your rabbit's feces does not always mean that your rabbit will become sick. Coccidia usually causes clinical illness in young rabbits, usually less than eight weeks of age. Many rabbits can be exposed and fight off the infection. That rabbit will then develop an immunity to the strain to which he was exposed. There are times, however, when adults, too, may become sick from coccidia. A rabbit's age, diet, and environmental stress can affect the severity of illness.

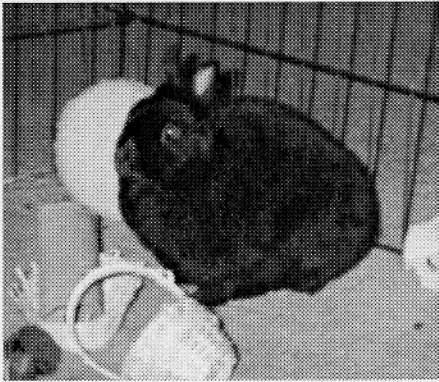
The clinical signs to watch for include, but are not limited to: lethargy, weight loss, hair loss, bloating, inappetance, and watery diarrhea, often containing mucous or blood. Severe diarrhea can lead to life-threatening dehydration and secondary bacterial infection. In a serious case of coccidia, the rabbit may develop intestinal intussusception, or a "telescoping" of part of an intestine into another. Severe diarrhea can even lead to prolapsing of the rectum. Left untreated, coccidia can lead to the death of your rabbit.

Although the above discussion focuses mainly on intestinal forms of coccidia, there is one strain, *Eimeria stiedae*, which affects the

rabbit liver. The signs of this infection can be similar to the intestinal form, but also include icterus, abdominal bloating, and can be more acutely fatal than the intestinal form.

There is an up side to this story! Coccidia, if caught early, can be quite treatable. It can also be prevented in most cases. Any new rabbit should be automatically taken to a veterinarian for a routine examination, which should include a fecal exam. Coccidia can be easily diagnosed on routine fecal flotation. Your veterinarian then can prescribe the proper medication, which often includes sulfa antibiotics.

As with any disease, prevention is key! Coccidia is often quite preventable with good hygiene. In a multi-rabbit environment, cages, food dishes and water dishes should be kept as clean as possible. Since coccidia is spread via the fecal-oral route, it is imperative that fecal material be removed regularly from cages. New rabbits should be screened and quarantined thirty days before introduction to other rabbits. Also, your rabbit should be taken to the vet at the first sign of illness. Providing a good clean environment and proper diet for your rabbit will help keep him safe from coccidia and help make his life long and healthy. 🐰



Kari Anna Raschke

Farewells

I recently lost a very dear bunny companion, Kari Anna Raschke, who shared my life for over 8 years. I am so devastated over her loss and wanted to do something very special in her memory. Sponsoring a sanctuary rabbit is the perfect thing to do. Please accept my sponsorship in loving memory of Kari.

-Debbie Raschke



Bigwig (10/20/98 – 5/15/02)

Dear Bigwig, we miss you everyday. I miss your bunny kisses on my nose, I miss your big, long, beautiful ears, I miss the way you came thundering up to greet me. I cherished every moment we spent together. From the day I met you when you were a baby and you sat up and put your paws on my ball cap, to the day I kissed your ears one last time before you slipped away. I loved you so much, Big. You were my first bunny. You amazed and inspired everyone who met you. You are the reason I am involved in rabbit rescue. Your legacy will live on in every rabbit I save. I miss you so much, Bigwig. You left us too soon, and there will always be a Big hole in my heart. I await the day when we can snuggle together again... save some bunny kisses for me.

-Jennifer Wolfe



SOLD!

Thanks to everyone who made our first annual garage sale a big success! It was held in May in Shaker Heights by our gracious hosts, the Hales. Many hours were spent by our wonderful volunteers sorting, pricing, setting up and cleaning up, in addition to working during the two days of the sale itself.

Thanks also to those who donated their goodies and those who came and shopped.

START SAVING UP YOUR ITEMS FOR NEXT YEAR'S SALE.



Adopted!

Reuben was adopted by Theresa and is now enjoying his new condo and his new pals. 🐰 **Macy** was adopted by Anita and has made herself right at home with all the family. 🐰 **Claire** was adopted by Jan and is becoming a buddy to Carlisle (also a former HRS foster rabbit). 🐰 **Freda** was adopted by Judy and is now a pal to a formerly lonely Dandelion. 🐰 **Hazel** is one lucky girl to have found a new pal named Lucky and the pair is living happily with Ken and Kathy. 🐰 **Max** is now living with Sandy and her family in Elyria and is enjoying his custom-built bunny abode and giving bunny kisses to his new family. 🐰 **Pearl (now called Fiona)** has found a new home with Lisa and her family and has a new guinea pig pal. 🐰 **Jasmine**, a foster for 16 months, has moved in with Lynn Creighton, her husband, two cats, and a dog. 🐰 **Curtis** has captured the hearts of Laura and Ken (as well as a spot on his favorite chair!). 🐰 **Magoo** was adopted by Jocylene Boes and husband of Toledo, and his new bunny pal is Noir. 🐰 **Sampson** was adopted by Brenda and Mike Stepniak of Erie, PA to keep their Emma company. 🐰 **Abigail** now shares her salads with Chloe, at the home of Ginny and Dale Maxhimer of Massillon. 🐰 **Rita** romps around with her new bunny friend Laurel at the home of Scott Edwards of Cleveland Heights. 🐰 **Fidget** gets tons of attention from the Gupp family of Pepper Pike, where he also has plenty of room to run around. 🐰 **Checkers** enjoys free run with Cynthia and Scott Hatfield, and cat friend Samantha, of Chagrin Falls. 🐰 **Hyacinth (now Cassie)**, adopted by Randy Davis and family of Warren, is the queen of miniature tunnels and gets lots of free run time. 🐰 **Odin** didn't have far to go to find a loving home. He's staying in Athens, where he's making friends with fellow lagomorph Tikki.

Resting, 2002

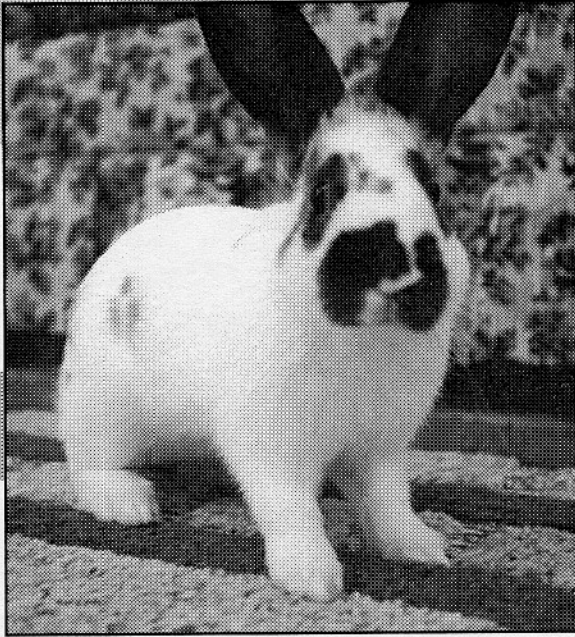
There is nothing like resting after a day of rabbit activities. So much to do! Rip up paper, chew a cardboard box, run around and perform binkies. The humans are home, so after dinner we watch TV together. Or the humans do human things, while the rabbits keep them company. At least that is what life is like at the Matias Warren.

"Resting 2002" is the last of the linocut prints. I want to retire this series before it becomes boring. Next year I plan to have a new series of art that will please both rabbit lover and art collector.



.....

New members who join for **\$33.00** both National and Buckeye HRS will receive the **Original Print** seen here, created by Ohio artist Eileen Matias especially for the Buckeye House Rabbit Society (while supplies last – this is a limited run of only 50 prints). If you are already a member, you too can enjoy this print with a special donation of **\$20.00** or more.



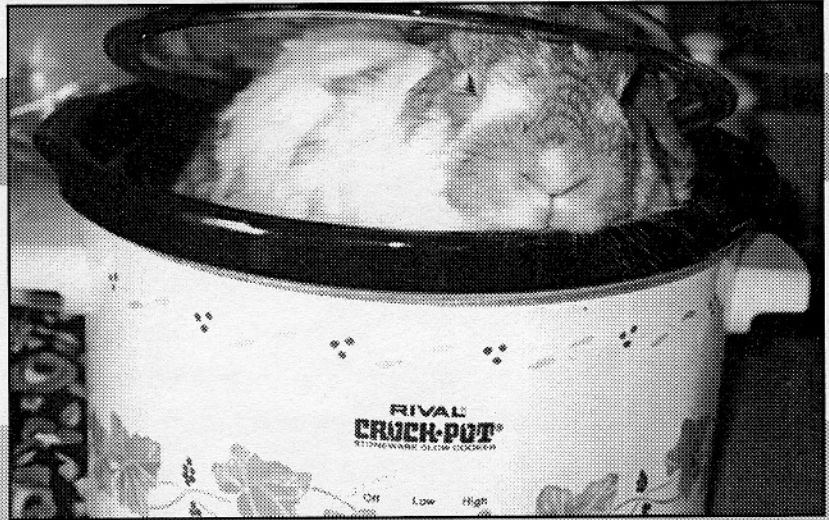
cutest face: **snooks**

Jean & Paul Eash

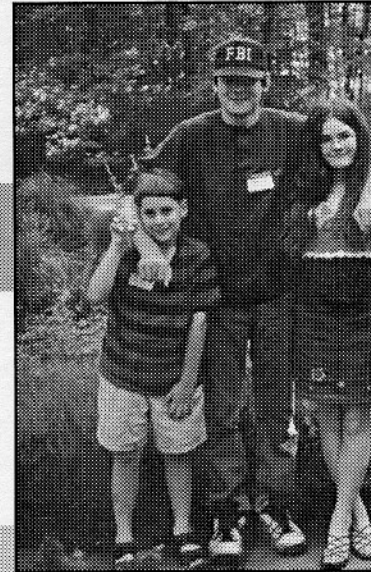
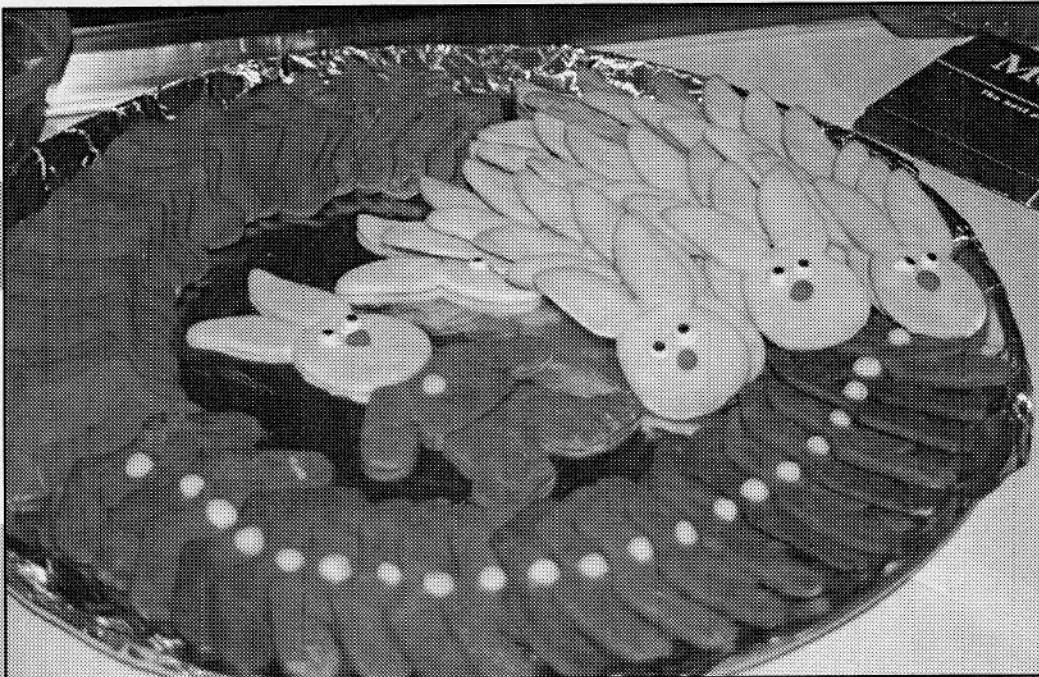
Picnic Time Pics!

funniest face: **butterseotch**

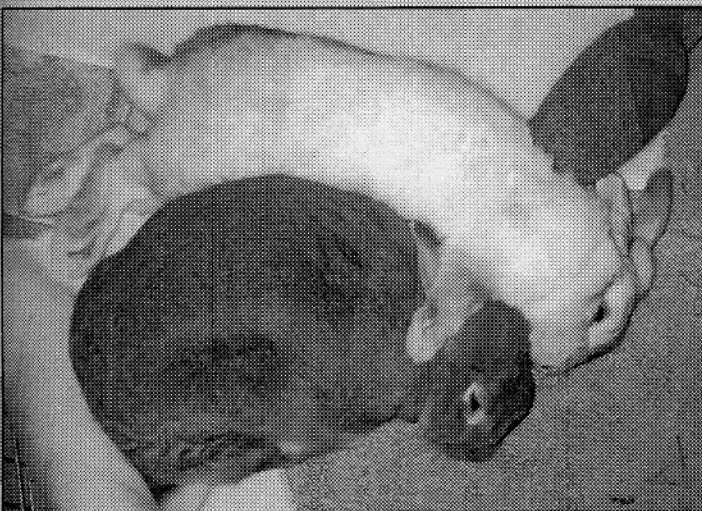
The Joseph Family



crunch **MUNCH** nibblenibblenibble sip sip sip ora



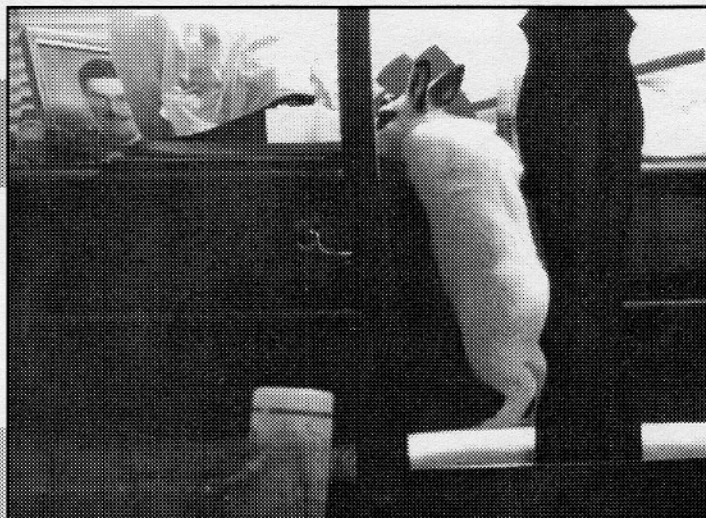
Human Winners: *The*
The



bunnies & friends: **sheldon + luey**
Georgia Willison

bunnies in action: **bugs**

Rich & Donna Brady

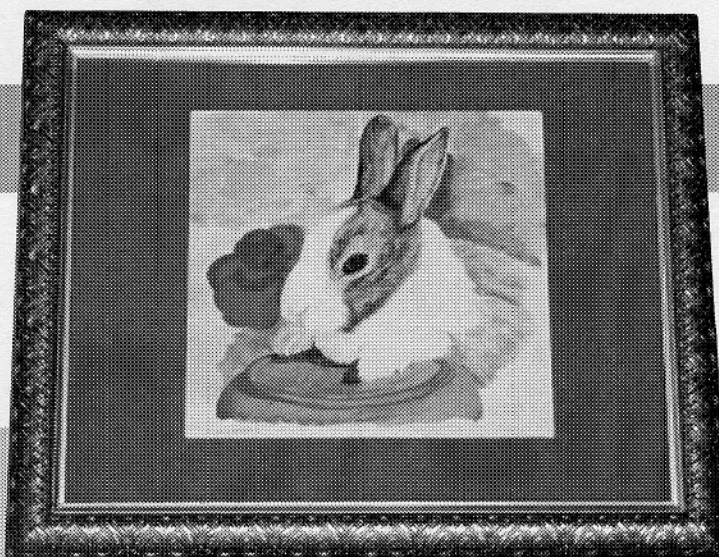


reGNAW nibblenibbleMUNCHcrunchcrunch

1st Prize in Raffle: Jill Baran won this painting
by Corinna Stephens



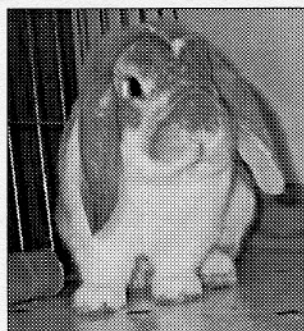
Joseph Siblings, The Bradys,
Fishes, not pictured—Georgia Willison



Somebunny Needs YOU!

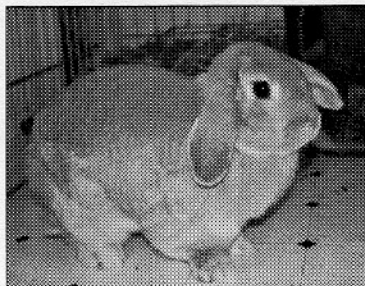


Weighing over ten pounds, **Josiah (Joey)** is an armload of bunny love. He craves companionship and knows how to use those expressive 'airplane ears' to win your heart. Abandoned at a YMCA camp, he came into foster care with matted fur, urine stains, and scratch wounds. He's in great shape now and ready for a permanent home. **Please contact Herta Rodina (herta@ohare.org) 740-797-7616.**



Dawson is a male mini-lop, who is about a year old.

He is very mellow, yet curious and likes to climb on people. He has excellent litter habits and keeps his area very clean. Why not invite this cutie into your home? **Please contact Kristi Cole (kristi@ohare.org) 330-484-8416.**

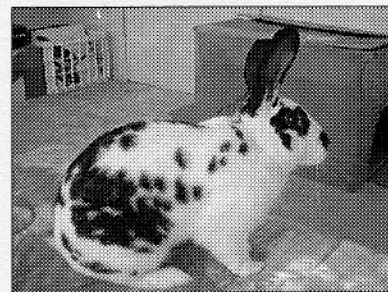


Joelle is a 6 lb lop who is just full of life. She loves to be out running around and exploring wherever you are. She will also smush down for a good petting session when you sit on the floor with her. She does need to lose a little weight, but proper diet and exercise will take care of that. She will do best in a home where she can be kept in a high traffic area or out running around for long periods of time. **Please contact Kristi Cole (kristi@ohare.org) 330-484-8416.**



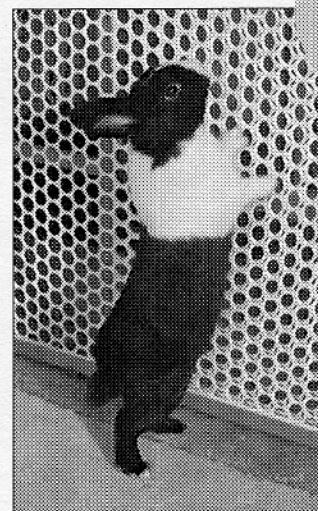
Camille is an energetic gal, who loves to dance around the room. She was found out-

doors right before a snowstorm and is approximately 9-12 months old. She has perfect litter habits and enjoys rearranging her toys to be "just so". She also really knows how to relax, sleeping soundly while lying nearly upside down. **Please contact Kristi Cole (kristi@ohare.org) 330-484-8416.**



Jax is an extremely affectionate older adult male (age unknown). He will delight you with his antics. Jax loves to eat his hay and has a unique way of letting you know when he is ready to eat. You will surely fall in love with this 9 lb English Spot.

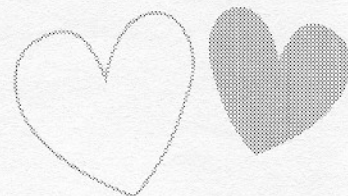
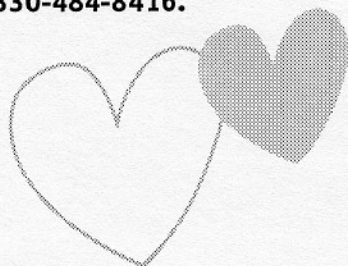
Please contact Sue Zimmerman (sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.

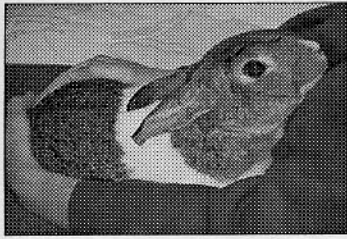


Rascal is an affectionate, dwarf size Dutch, who loves pretending to be a "big bunny".

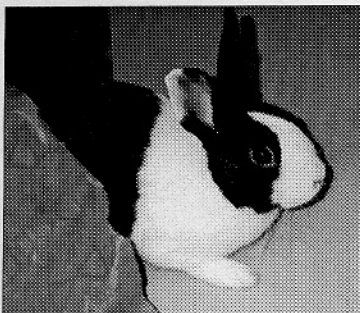
He enjoys being petted on the nose and being a part of whatever you are doing. Rascal is a 2-year-old male and weighs 3.5 pounds.

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

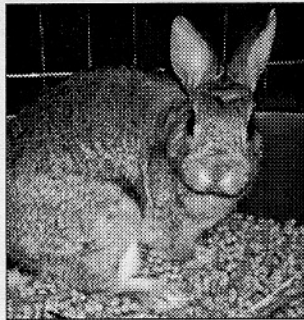




Shy **Ivy** arrived in foster care bonded with a more outgoing bunny, Holly. Sadly, Holly died suddenly, leaving Ivy on her own to interact with humans. She's gradually showing more trust, but Ivy is still a very timid, cautious bunny. She needs a quiet home with a patient, understanding family, and may possibly make friends with another rabbit. Ivy is less than one year old and weighs about five pounds. Both her appetite and litter habits are excellent. **Please contact Herta Rodina (herta@ohare.org) 740-797-7616.**



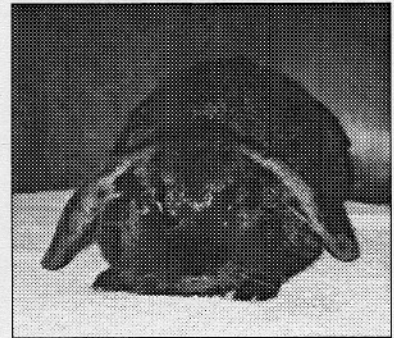
Hammett is a small adolescent black and white Dutch boy with an outgoing, friendly personality. He loves to be held and needs lots of attention. He weighs 4 lbs. **Please contact Kristen Doherty (kristen@ohare.org) 440-543-4959.**



Maurice is a tiny dwarf boy with gray agouti fur weighing in at 2.2 lbs. He is full-grown and very active with a funny personality. **Please contact Kristen Doherty (kristen@ohare.org) 440-543-4959.**



Wendall is a calico-colored Netherland dwarf with sweet personality. He was found strolling about in a residential neighborhood. He weighs 3.5 lbs and loves to survey the daily activities atop his cardboard box. **Please contact Kristen Doherty (kristen@ohare.org) 440-543-4959.**



This sweet 5.8 lb all-black lop was rescued with the help of the Wood County Humane Society. **Venus** loves to be petted, knows how to use her litterbox, and enjoys handfuls of fresh hay. **Please contact Kristen Doherty (kristen@ohare.org) 440-543-4959.**

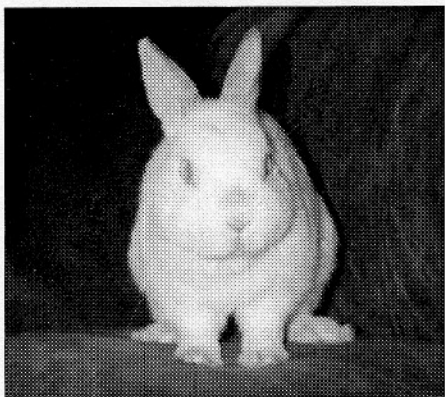


Brody is a caramel and white Dutch boy, approximately 6 lbs, who likes to do binkies in his pen! He's a sweet and friendly boy who loves pets. **Please contact Kristen Doherty (kristen@ohare.org) 440-543-4959.**

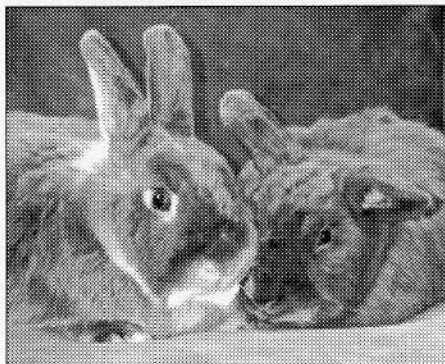
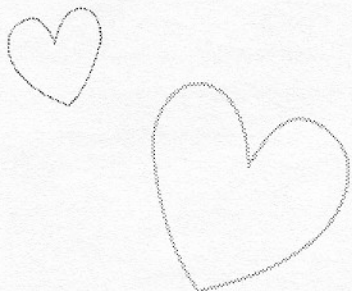


Somebunny Needs YOU!

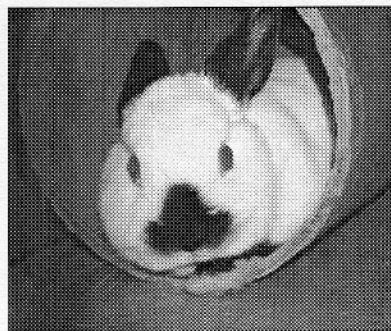
cont'd.



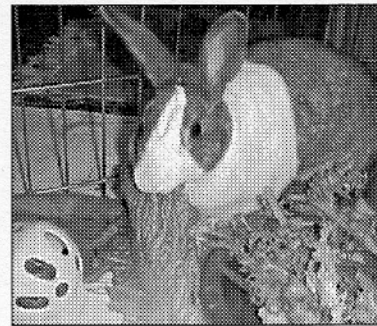
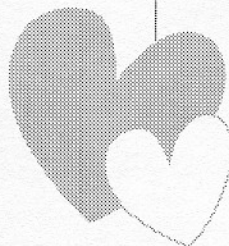
Kenji, all-white with light gray marking on his ears, nose, and tail, is a 2.6 lb dwarf who loves to snuggle and eat. He loves to be around people and has a calm demeanor. **Please contact Kristen Doherty (kristen@ohare.org) 440-543-4959.**



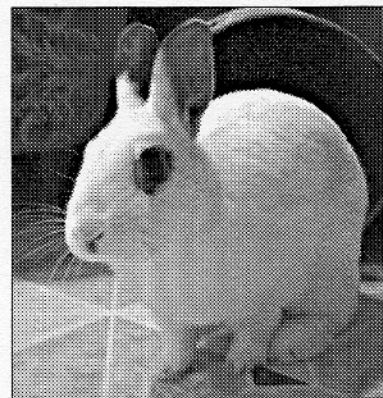
Lewis and Clark are a bonded pair, both males, both gray, roughly two years old. They are best buddies who explore their surroundings together, and also love to be petted by humans. **Please contact Kristen Doherty (kristen@ohare.org) 440-543-4959.**



PJ is a 2.5 lb Himalayan dwarf who is as friendly as she is cute. PJ has exemplary litterbox habits, and surprisingly, can pack a large quantity of hay into her tiny body. PJ loves to be stroked on the nose. She also likes to run through her miniature tube and cardboard box. **Please contact Kristen Doherty (kristen@ohare.org) 440-543-4959.**

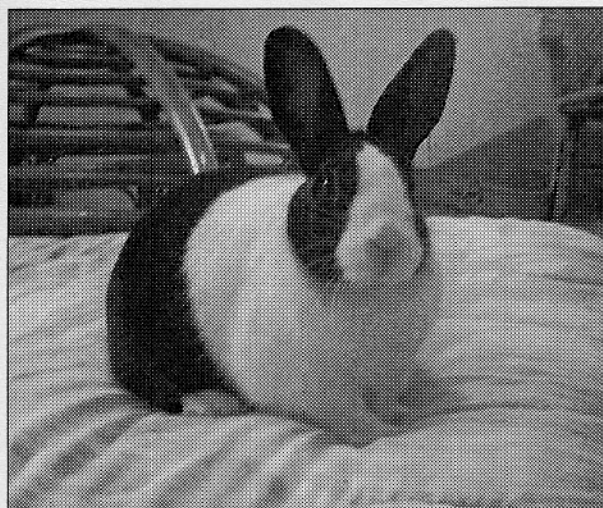


Martin loves playing with his bell-ball, rearranging his boxes, and eating his salads. He's a friendly gray and white Dutch bunny who weighs about 6 lbs and is roughly 2 years old. **Please contact Kristen Doherty (kristen@ohare.org) 440-543-4959.**

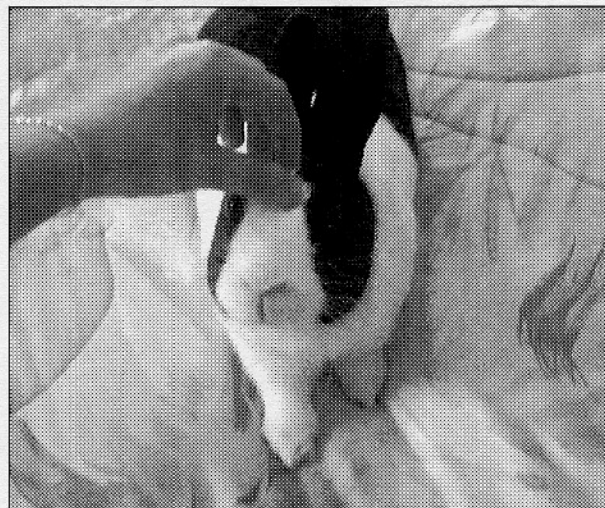


Compact two-pound **Whitby** is full of energy and affection. He's smart (mastered Litterbox 101 the first day) and very inquisitive, but will also settle on your lap for a good cuddle. Whitby is one year old. **Please contact Herta Rodina (herta@ohare.org) 740-797-7616.**





*These two portraits
are of Bobbi, who
was also a Wood
County rescue bun.*



Wood County Crisis Update, Cont'd.

As we so often find with HRS activities, perhaps the biggest challenge was the education of the staff and potential adopters in the ways of house rabbit care. We provided several copies of the *House Rabbit Handbook* to the shelter and, during each visit, we tried to work face-to-face with the caretakers on proper rabbit care. We took fresh veggies and bales of timothy hay during every visit. Nails were trimmed and bunnies were brushed. Additionally, we provided coupons for free copies of both the handbook and *Rabbit Health 101* to be given to adopters, so as to encourage them to treat their new pets as house rabbits.

The fosters we took in suffered from respiratory infections mostly, and all of them had to be spayed or neutered. Some of the infections proved to be quite difficult to treat and required some creative combinations of drugs. Jax, (a big, loveable spotted who can be seen on

the Buckeye HRS website, as well as in this edition of *Harelines*), was a particularly difficult case. The combination of drugs used to eradicate his infection was so strong that it kept him on the brink of GI stasis throughout his treatment. Abby (so named because her face was covered with abscessed fight wounds) was another difficult case, because she was so badly infected. Treating her wounds and her respiratory infection concurrently was especially tricky. She was very patient, however, throughout the lengthy and frequent sessions of



WCHS rescue bun Raisin (formerly Kipling) now lives in Brussels, Belgium with Jim and Laura Brown.

opening, flushing, and medicating the wounds. She has since been adopted by a loving family in Upper Sandusky. We're still working on an infection in Bobbi and trying to find a new home for our little guy by the name of Rascal.

Eventually, the population at WCHS started to drop to a more manageable number. At last count they were down to just two rabbits needing homes. Hopefully, the reference materials provided to the staff and volunteers there will help them better provide for the health and well being of any future bunnies they may take in. Those of us who love rabbits are grateful that they undertook the monumental task of rescuing and trying to save so many of them at one time.

Our thanks and gratitude are also extended to all of the members of the Buckeye HRS who selflessly donated time, supplies, and monetary support, so that we could offer assistance to the shelter and, of course, the bunnies! 🐰