

HAREL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT

SOCIETY

Winter 2004

The Other Woman

By Michele Roth Kerley

I didn't realize how much I would love him. When we decided to let her move in I didn't know she would become so possessive. I've caught them a few times and I see the surprise on her

face. He doesn't mind being showered with all the affection. He goes from me to her constantly looking for who will kiss and caress him when he feels the need without considering what conflicts it may be stirring up. It may sound like a romance novel or a soap opera but it's actually the relationship between my two rabbits and me.

Sweetpea came to me from my sister who kept him in a cage downstairs. Like so many others she didn't understand or know the wonderful creature she had captive in her basement. I asked her if I could have him since the kids were no longer interested in spending much time with him and she agreed. My husband had a house rabbit before we ever met and he was always telling me these wonderful stories. I was excited at the



I didn't realize how much I would love him.

prospect of giving him more of a life than the one that he had so far.

We started off by bringing him upstairs when we were home and he was so good that we decided to get a new cage so he could stay upstairs all the time. Then he was so good that we bunny proofed the room and he earned his freedom. He's now loose in the living room 24/7. He was such a wonderful rabbit that after a year we decided he should have a companion.

Lily was a rescue. Our initial meeting went well even though she wasn't fond of hands. I thought that Lily would make a wonderful companion for my Sweetpea. She was about the same size as him with big beautiful blue eyes.

I brought her home on my 2nd

wedding anniversary. After she was spayed we decided to start the bonding process.

My husband carried Lily into the bathroom and I carried Sweetpea. We placed them both on the floor and Sweetpea took one look at her and jumped up to my chest. As his protector I held him and comforted him just long enough to calm him down and let him get a better look at Lily. After he decided that she wasn't an alien they had a short courtship that quickly turned into love.

As Sweetpea's first love I was afraid that he would not have enough love to give to both of us. Boy was I wrong—he became even more affectionate which didn't bode well with Lily. Every time I walked in the



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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:

Sarah Grison, for her gift in honor of her mother, Georgia Willison.

Diana Jancura, for her donation in memory of Esther, a former Easter photography prop.

Jon and Linda Garramone, for contributing towards Amy's eye surgery.

To everyone who contributed to Dewey's surgery, and especially to Ken Kramer, Ann Landon, Linda Beam, and Carmella Coia.

All of our new and continuing Sanctuary Rabbit sponsors. This program would not exist without your loyal support and much-appreciated generosity.

Pam Loch and her wonderfully thoughtful 5th grade class at Sharon **Elementary.** Many students chose to give their teacher a holiday gift by donating to the Buckeye HRS in her honor!

The following members, whose generous donations help us meet our ongoing fostering and educational goals:

Jann and Mark Kuntavanish, Bob Piekarczyk, Sidelia Reyna, Karen Salvagno, Laura and Jim Gills, Marcia Baker, Irma Laszlo, Melodie Sommers, Joyce Weaver, Joan Cerne, Pam Wilson, Peggy Gup, Annette Chase, Cathy Montiegel, Carol Leffler, Michella Karapondo, Terri Carter, Deb Thomas, Kathy Smith, Anita Watson, Gary and Sue Embree, Ann Landon, Vincent and Sarah Weimer.

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





Drive in Style ...

... with our new design license plate frame. Promote rabbits as pets while you drive and point folks to the best source of rabbit

information on the internet. Made from high quality plastic with navy blue lettering, this frame fits nicely over your license plate. Cost is \$6.00 each plus \$1.00 shipping. To order, see our gift shop at www.ohare.org

Spotlight On ... Finn





If you are interested in adopting Finn, please call Kristen Doherty (Cleveland) at 440-543-4959.



One day in July, an animal control officer noticed that a tiny gray and white baby bunny had been following him around outside during one of his calls, so he brought the little bunny back to the kennel. One of the workers at the kennel then called the Buckeye House Rabbit Society and asked if we could take her. We named her Finn, and from her first day in foster care she loved to snuggle and give kisses.

As Finn began growing into an adolescent, something didn't look quite right with her back legs. Because of a deformity at her right kneecap (like Malcolm), it became increasingly difficult for her to use that leg to stand up. The deformed kneecap caused the leg to grow more twisted as she developed. Since this has forced her to bend the other leg too, Finn looks as though she is always "sitting down". She gets around by scooting herself using the strength of her front paws and her one back leg.

Finn keeps herself very clean and therefore requires little maintenance. Her sweet and docile personality will make her a wonderful companion for anyone considering adopting her. She is very affectionate and constantly seeks human interaction.

Before she goes to a new home, however, her vet would like to perform a special surgery that would attempt to straighten the leg. This would involve a 4-6 week recovery period, as well as require extra funds to cover the cost of the surgery. If you would like to send a donation to help Finn, please mail a check directly to the Buckeye House Rabbit Society, P.O. Box 5767, Athens OH 45701 (check payable to "Buckeye House Rabbit Society"). Please mark your donation: "Finn's surgery". All donations are tax-deductible.

Out and About in Cincinnati

Cincinnati Buckeye HRS volunteers had their first Petsmart adoption day on November 8! Big thanks to Andrea Markey for organizing the event, creating a fantastic display, and taking pictures. Also many thanks to Brandy Fields and Karen Kratzer for setting up, tending the booth, and cleaning up. Jennifer Wolfe brought fosters Maisy & Willow who were calm and cute despite the other animals and noisy crowds.



Somebunny Needs YOU!

Curl up on cold nights with a nice warm Bailevs. But wait!



There's a hare in my drink! All kidding aside, if you're looking for something warm, smooth, and intoxicating, then this sweet 4 lb. beauty is right for you. She is loving and sits still for pets, especially when burrowed underneath a blanket. She's smart, curious, excellent with her litter box, and is full of boundless energy, showing off with lots of hops and binks. So enjoy Bailey this winter...and every season following. Please contact Michele Kerley (michele@ohare.org) 859-261-0556.



Elsie is a sweet young girl, white with black spots, weighing

roughly 4 lbs. She's happy and calm, and easy to please by giving her lots of nose pets. She doesn't mind being held; in fact, she loves to snuggle. **Please contact Kristen Doherty** 440-543-4959.

Louise is a little black and white girl, about the size of



a 3-lb. dwarf. Although a little shy, she is very active and loves to eat her hay. Please contact Kristen Doherty 440-543-4959.

Allie is a friendly and active black and white Dutch who adores her hav and her



timothy hay cakes. She's full-grown at roughly 5 lbs. Please contact Kristen Doherty 440-543-4959.

Maya is a sweet black Havanna. born in August 2002. She came to



us with her babies—Sonny, Blue and Verde—who are now all grown. Maya weighs roughly 5.5 lbs, is great with her litterbox, and loves to eat her salads.

Please contact Kristen Doherty 440-543-4959.



Luna has a

beautiful coat of all-white fur. She's a young girl of about 5 lbs., very friendly, and great with her litterbox. Please contact Kristen Doherty 440-543-4959.

Verde is a 5.5 lb black Havanna who likes to sleep on top of



her box. Verde was born in November 2002. She's very tidy with her litterbox and loves to run through her cardboard tunnel. She's an excellent hay eater, too!

Please contact Kristen Doherty 440-543-4959.



Scarlet is one of Maya's daughters with sleek

black fur and a pleasant demeanor. She is now full-grown. She likes to be petted and to lay stretched out in her litterbox. Scarlet weighs about 5 lbs. Please contact Kristen Doherty 440-543-4959.



Carl is a friendly male Dutch rabbit, under a year old. He loves to be petted and to explore and climb on people. He weighs 4 lbs. and is a real sweetheart.

Please contact Kristi Cole (kristi@ohare.org) 330-484-8416.



Soft, fluffy, and very sweet, Marshall (sitting) and Mellow (lounging) are a calm, comfortable couple. Like so many large white bunnies with red eyes, their attractive disposition and gentle ways more than compensate for their unremarkable physical appearance. Marshall weighs about 8 lbs., Mellow about 6 lbs. They're healthy and happy and must be adopted together.

Please contact Herta Rodina (herta@ohare.org) 740-797-7616.



Introducing bright-eyed, bouncy **Buckles!** This friendly, inquisitive cutie will charm his way into your heart in seconds. He delights in playing with his toys and almost always prefers being petted to tucking into his dinner. Excellent litter habits. Weighs about 4 lbs. Please contact Herta Rodina (herta@ohare.org) 740-797-7616.

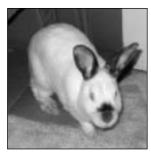


Marge was being kept in a tiny cage in Toledo before she was rescued. If she were to stretch out. her feet would have touched the ends of the cage. Marge now enjoys the freedom of her new exercise pen where she likes doing binkies and running around. She has a good temperament and a pleasant personality. Marge is a beautiful female with shiny black fur. She weighs 4 lbs, 3 oz. Please contact **Keith Zimmerman** (keith@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.



Belle is a real cutie! She loves to be petted on her little nose. Belle

also enjoys digging in her hay box and napping in her cardboard tunnel. She is a bit on the shy side but is really coming around. Can you welcome Belle into your home? **Please contact Sue Zimmerman** (sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.



Sheba is a beautiful Californian mix who would make a wonderful

addition to your family. She is super-friendly and loves attention from you. Sheba loves playing with her toys and munching on hay. Please contact Sue Zimmerman (sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.

Bonnie is a curious and friendly 5.5 lb girl who gobbles all of



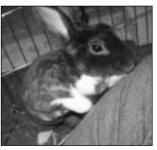
her hay and comes running for pets. **Please contact Kristen Doherty** 440-543-4959.



Somebunny Needs YOU! Cont'd.

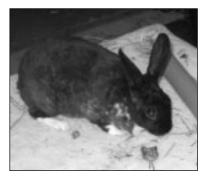


Annie is a female rex rabbit who was rescued in August. Long ago she suffered a broken leg that was never properly set, so her left foot turns inward. She has no trouble getting around and it doesn't bother her one bit! She will do best in a quiet home with someone who can help her regain her trust in humans. Annie is 5 years old and weighs about 4 lbs. Please contact Sue Zimmerman (sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.



Amy is a very friendly, female rex who loves

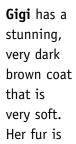
nose kisses. She has recovered completely from successful eye surgery to repair a birth defect. Now she's a very happy bunny who loves to interact with her humans. Amy is 3 years old and weighs about 5 lbs. Please contact Sue Zimmerman (sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.



Carrot is a shy, female rex bunny who enjoys the quiet life. Although she is a little hesitant around strangers, she is inquisitive and curious. Carrot has beautiful, soft reddish fur and she loves to be brushed. Carrot is 3 years old and weighs about 5 lbs. Please contact Sue Zimmerman (sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.



Granny is the grandma of the Rex girls who were rescued in August. A little more mellow than the younger buns, she is friendly and likes the company and attention of her humans! Granny is a very healthy 6-year old and weighs a little over 3 lbs. Please contact Sue Zimmerman (sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.





so dark that, at first glance, it looks black. She is a very curious and outgoing rabbit who is always trying to get your attention. Gigi is 5 years old, weighs around 5 lbs., and has excellent litterbox habits. Please contact Sue Zimmerman (sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.



Pretty Patty is a unique-looking rabbit with beautiful short brown fur and extremely long, black eyelashes. She is quite seductive! Although a little shy, she warms up quickly once she gets to know you. Patty is a 4-year old with excellent litterbox habits and weighs around 5 lbs. Please contact Sue Zimmerman (sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.





Sara is a quiet girl who keeps her area very tidy. She is a Dutch



rabbit about a year old, weighing 5 lbs. She would benefit from a home that has time to spend petting her and helping the more adventurous side of her personality come through. Please contact Kristi Cole (kristi@ohare.org) 330-484-8416.



Meet Jackson. He's big, he's bold, and weighing in at over 10 lbs, he's huBUNgus! This big boy loves getting scratched on his big head between his enormous ears. Jackson is approximately 2 years old. He's very energetic and needs a home with plenty of room to roam. Could it be yours? Please contact Jennifer Wolfe (jennifer@ohare.org)

513-474-5840



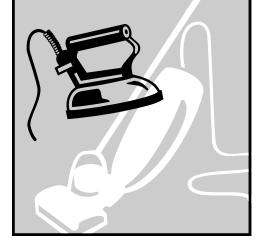
Wee Wez was abandoned in a parking lot where he was rescued by a good samaritan and brought to Buckeye HRS. Wez is less than 3 lbs, but packs a lot of energy and love into a little package. He is very sweet and loves getting pets. Did we mention that he likes to give bunny kisses, too? Welcome Wez into your home and he will delight you with his antics and affection. Please contact Jennifer Wolfe (jennifer@ohare.org) 513-474-5840



Lila is a dutch-mix female with unique gray and white markings on her back and gorgeous blue eyes. She loves to play in cardbaord boxes and tunnels. Lila is about a year old and weighs 5 lbs. Please contact Kristi Cole (kristi@ohare.org) 330-484-8416.



in mind when you do your spring cleaning this year. We will be having our third annual garage sale fund raiser in NE Ohio at the end of spring and we need your gently-used items to sell. Contact Kristi Cole at kristi@ohare.org for more information and watch vour mailbox and our website www.ohare.org for details on the date and time.





Arthritis/Spondylosis

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Arthritis is an inflammatory condition of the joints characterized by pain and swelling. In animals, as in humans, the amount of discomfort and disability varies from day to day and can be affected by a combination of factors including temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, and recent activity levels.

Spondylosis is a degenerative condition of the spine. In early stages of the disease, the vertebrae in the back gradually develop "spurs" which may rub against each other causing pain. As the disease progresses, these spurs eventually bridge together, fusing the vertebrae and decreasing the spine's flexibility. As they degenerate, the vertebra may also pinch nerves causing pain and/or musculoskeletal weakness. Spondylosis is fairly common in rabbits over four years of age and is most common in medium- to large-breed females, especially the obese. As with arthritis, the symptoms vary from day to day and are affected by weather and activity levels.

Both arthritis and spondylosis can be diagnosed with x-rays. They have been grouped together because symptomatic treatments, physical therapy techniques, and supportive care requirements are similar for the two diseases.

Symptomatic Treatment

For both arthritis and spondylosis, the primary goal is to control pain and keep the bunny mobile without creating GI problems. When considering the GI risks of pain medications and steroids, it is important to also remember that immobility itself can trigger an attack of GI stasis.

Finding the right medication and dosage for your rabbit will probably require some trial and error. As with humans, each individual rabbit has a different tolerance for pain and a different response to each drug. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS) decrease swelling and inflammation in addition to reducing pain. NSAIDS that are frequently used to treat the pain of arthritis or spondylosis include:

- Aspirin
- Ibuprofen
- Rimadyl® (carprofen)
- Metacam® (meloxicam)

Although the first two are available without a prescription, you should work closely with your veterinarian to determine the best dosage for your rabbit and to monitor side effects.

In some cases, your veterinarian may suggest treating the arthritis or spondylosis with a steroid such as dexamethasone or prednisone instead of an NSAID. Many NSAIDs should not be used along with steroids because both may cause GI upset. Be sure your veterinarian is aware of all medications, prescription and non-prescription, that your rabbit is taking.

Veterinarians have used both Adequan® (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan) injections and Cosequin® tablets (glucosamine with chondroiten) to help manage symptoms of many degenerative joint conditions in rabbits. While glucosamine/chondroiten is available without a prescription, be sure to consult your veterinarian before using this product.

Acupuncture has also been effective in relieving pain in rabbits with arthritis and spondylosis. If pain medication doesn't seem to be working-or if you are more comfortable trying holistic treatments for pain—see if there is a veterinary acupuncturist in your area who is knowledgeable about rabbits or is willing to learn about them.

Regularly applying heat or giving a gentle massage to the muscles around the painful area can help your rabbit relax. If your rabbit enjoys it, massage can be a wonderful way to communicate love and support while giving physical comfort. Heat lamps or radiant space heaters can also help with pain relief. Be sure these are out of your rabbit's reach and remember to bunny-proof the electrical cords.

Finally, if your rabbit is obese, reducing his weight will help reduce the load on the back and joints. This alone can significantly reduce the pain associated with arthritis or spondylosis.



Physical Therapy

You should do everything you can to encourage your rabbit to exercise. If he has trouble moving and/or supporting his weight, you may need to use some creativity to help him remain mobile. If your rabbit is making an effort to move but is having trouble standing or using his legs, try making a sling out of a narrow towel and use this to hold him upright. In many cases, this gentle support will encourage your rabbit to move his legs. You may be amazed at how well he is able to move around with some support (both physical and moral) from you.

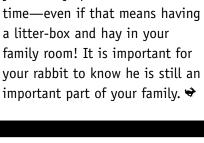
If you are resourceful (and handy), you may want to try building a scooter or cart to help your rabbit get around without as much help from you. You can also order custom-built carts from the companies listed under "Special Needs Supplies" in the Resources section at the end of Rabbit Health in the 21st Century. By keeping your rabbit mobile, you improve his outlook on life, keep his muscles toned, and keep the GI moving!

Supportive Care

Supportive care consists of observing your rabbit's daily activities, identifying things that are becoming difficult for him, and finding a way to make them easier or do them for him. In some cases it may also mean making adjustments in your life so he can still feel like a part of the family. Some examples include:

- If your rabbit has trouble hopping into the litter-box, make one side lower so he can easily step in.
- If your rabbit is having trouble hopping into his cage or up on his favorite "perch" (table, chair, window seat, etc.), build him a ramp. Start with a piece of wood long enough so the ramp isn't too steep. Cover it with carpet so your bunny's feet don't slip, and fasten it securely to the cage or favorite "perch."
- If you have a multi-level home and your bunny can no longer go up and down stairs, you could always move to a one-level house! Too drastic? Then try moving all of your bunny's things to one floor—preferably the one where you and your family spend the most time—and take care to restrict his access to stairs.
- If your rabbit has weakness in the hind limbs, he may not be able to keep his ears clean. Check his ears at least weekly for excess wax accumulation, and clean them for him if necessary.
- If your rabbit has trouble sitting up on his own, foam rubber pieces of various shapes and sizes can be arranged to prop him up comfortably.
- If your rabbit can only move within a small area, you will need to move all of his things litter-box, food, water, hay, toys, etc.—to one place. This should be the part of your house where

your family spends the most a litter-box and hay in your family room! It is important for important part of your family.





Buying or Selling a Home?

Thinking of buying or selling a home? Buckeye House Rabbit Society member, Dennis Zelesnik, is a realtor who can provide expertise with the transaction and help foster rabbits, too.

When Buckeye HRS is mentioned when you contact Dennis to buy or sell a home, he will make a donation to Buckeye HRS in your name once the transaction closes. For details, contact Dennis Zelesnik at dzelesnik@cutlergmac.com, 330-706-2084. or visit his website at www.cutlergmac.com/dzelesnik





Above: He doesn't mind being showered with all the affection. Left: I didn't know she would become so possessive.

The Other Woman, Cont'd.

room, she made me feel like I was intruding on their space. I was only allowed to love on my little guy for short periods of time and if I was petting him for what she felt was too long, she would quickly come over to reclaim her man by nipping him on his backside. After she gave him her warning, he would quickly put some space between us to allow her the opportunity to groom him and let me know whose quy he is.

Part of the problem was that Lily never bonded to me. Her dislike of hands didn't allow me the chance to show her affection in the way I was accustomed to. I started to get on the floor with both of them

when he came to me for pets. I wouldn't pet him right away; instead I would let her get more comfortable being on the floor as a threesome. She started to jump on my back and I found that if I were on my side she would even sit there. After Lily became more comfortable with me on the floor with the two of them. she started to let me show Sweetpea affection without getting aggravated. As time went on, I found I was even able to give her more affection like rubbing my nose on her head. She would let me do this for short periods of time as long as I wouldn't use my hands.

Since working on my relationship with Lily, I don't feel like I'm

intruding on her whenever I walk in my living room. I think that we have found a mutual respect for each other and she has even started to enjoy my company. Lily and I do not have the same relationship that Sweetpea and I have and we probably never will but that's OK. Like people, rabbits each have their own personalities, likes and dislikes. I think that Lily and I have come to an understanding that we both love Sweetpea and there is plenty of him in his 2lb 4oz frame for both of us to love.

Adopted!

Cody has a new home with Laura and Jim Gills of Mentor. → Maisy & Willow (now Chrysm & Vaysh) have been adopted by the Gambrell family. • Gus is now the star of the Hagedorn household where his fan club members, Dawn and Danielle, shower him with attention. → Once again Houdini has pulled a disappearing act. This time he has disappeared from his foster home and is now with his new family, the Josephs. We hope they have a magical life together. → Maureen O'Neil's home is even sweeter now that Cupcake has **Rootie** as a new companion. → Since adopting Houdini, the Joseph's have decided to expand their family once again by adopting **Lucy** as his companion. → The Crawford Family is "all shook up" in a good way with the addition of **Felix** (now **Elvis**) to their family. → **Buddy** is now happily living with the Kozy family. → Cooper settled into his new home with Nick and Sara just in time for the Christmas holidays. → Daniel is now happy at his home with the Gallaghers and is making friends with his new rabbit pal, Sugar. → Stevie is happily living with the Coverts and trying to win over Lola as his new pal. * Genevieve is now part of the Buettner family and has become great friends with fellow lop, Max. → Venus accepted an invitation to share the home of Christeen and David Huelsman of Mentor-on-the-Lake. > Thelma and Dewey have recently finalized their bonding with Karen Schroedel and family of Broadview Heights. > Fiona and Bruiser were adopted by Janet Silverman of Mayfield Heights and have a very large new area to explore. → Crystal enjoys much attention with Cheryl Lichtler and family of Westlake. → Sebastian bonded immediately with his new girl friend at the home of Karen Salvagno in Litchfield. → Monkey is working on becoming pals with Cita at Kai Horsley's house in Cleveland Heights. → Julian and Coco share their home with Michelle and Frank Maloney and dogs in Mantua. • Carrots shares her room with Katharine DeLorean and Barbie dolls in Westlake.

Portage County Crisis

By Kristi Cole

In early January, a situation unfolded in Portage County, Ohio, where after a house fire, hundreds of animals were found hoarded in a lady's home. According to Portage County's humane officer, there were about 170 rabbits and a dozen cockatiels in the home's basement, plus another 40 to 50 rabbits in the dining room. He said more than 100 ducks and chickens are housed in the attached garage and four dogs in the house.

A load of nearly 50 rabbits from this home was taken to the Portage County Animal Protective League in Ravenna. The volunteers at the Buckeye House Rabbit Society were alerted and thanks to our members, we gathered up food, hay and supplies and took some loads to the Portage APL to stock them up. We also provided education to the shelter staff and volunteers regarding

rabbit care and literature for them and to hand out to potential adopters. Several shelter helpers took rabbits home with them and a few more were adopted by the public.

We've had several hands-on workdays at the shelter to assess the bunnies, help with medical care, groom them, and help clean cages. As of this writing in mid-January, Buckeye HRS has taken the 12 most needy rabbits out of the Portage APL shelter and into our foster care program. This is a large number for us to take in all at one time. We also plan on taking more in as adoptions free up space in our foster homes. We will be incurring some significant medical expenses with these rabbits in addition to the spay and neuter costs that will occur a bit later. Please consider making a donation to the Buckeye HRS to help with the veterinary expenses for these rabbits. Also, if you have been considering adopting another rabbit into your household, now would be a great time so we can make room for more rabbits from the shelter.

MEMBERSHIP FORM —

Please make checks payable to:

Buckeye

House Rabbit Society

P.O. Box 5767

Athens, 0H 45701

All donations are

tax-deductible.

Your \$33.00 annual membership in the Buckeye HRS includes:

- National membership (\$18.00) and 3-4 issues of the House Rabbit Journal
- Local membership (\$15.00) and issues of *Harelines*If you are already a national member, your local fee is \$15.00

I would like to donate \$	to help	a fos	ster ı	rabbit	(vet	care,	suppli	es)

☐ 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
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☐ 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 _____



P.O. Box 5767 Athens, OH 45701



