



# HARELINES



Volume 8 Number 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

Spring/Summer 2004

**T**his issue of Harelines is dedicated to the memory of Georgia Willison, volunteer, friend, and rabbit advocate.



We bid a sad farewell to Georgia Willison who lost her valiant battle with cancer this spring. Georgia was a supporter of the Buckeye HRS for many years and was a volunteer, an adopter, and an overall rabbit advocate. She adopted and tended to the disabled rabbits with great love and care, in addition to her other rabbits. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

## Love, Loss, Grief, and Survival

By Kathy Smith

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### Love

In the past 20 years I have shared my home with 16 "family" rabbits and a number of fosters and I have given each a safe and loving home. When I first became involved in the "rabbit world" almost 10 years ago, I got the idea that it was "wrong" to find oneself drawn to one rabbit more than another. I honestly believed I was a terrible person when I realized that I did have a

"favorite." A couple of years ago I was talking to a rescuer and risked admitting that I had a deeper bond with His Royal Highness King Murray than with the other rabbits in my home. Instead of lashing out at me as I expected, she said, "That just means you are human."

There are many reasons we develop an especially deep bond with a particular rabbit. It is very common to form an intensely deep bond with a rabbit with medical problems requiring a lot of handling and attention. You may develop a deep bond with a rabbit who comes into your life during an extremely difficult or stressful time. For those

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of us willing to listen and learn, rabbits can be great teachers and we may be drawn to an individual rabbit because we have something important to learn from him or her. I met Murray less than a month after losing my beloved Smokey to cancer and was immediately drawn to him. When I adopted him and his companions, I was not aware of his many health problems or the fact that he was a wise soul who had much to teach me. I only knew in my heart that he belonged with me, and so our journey began.

Not everyone will experience a relationship like mine with Murray. To experience this, you have to be able to listen to your heart instead of your head. If, one day, you are lucky enough to feel especially drawn to a certain rabbit, I urge you to listen to your heart!

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*Harelines*, the Buckeye House Rabbit Society Newsletter, is published by the all-volunteer, non-profit Buckeye House Rabbit Society, Athens, OH.

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All of our members' information is held  
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## Special Thanks to:

**The estate of Georgia Willison.** This most generous gift will provide a lasting tribute to a wonderfully kind woman and will help many rabbits for many years to come.

The thoughtful and caring members of the **Lagomorph Lounge**, for making Finn the first **Needy Bun Fund** recipient. Their contributions toward Finn's surgery were a heartfelt attempt to make a difference in helping her lead a more normal life. **See [www.ohare.org](http://www.ohare.org) for an update on Finn's progress and check out the sweet get-well card from the Lagomorph Lounge.**

**Tony and Vicki Ricci**, of PIP Printing in Youngstown, who donated 3,000 copies of our brochure "*Living with a House Rabbit*" in memory of their beloved Bobo.

**The Kuntavanish family**, whose birthday gift to Jann was a generous gift to the Buckeye HRS.

**Jamie Shaffer's friends** who, for her birthday, also donated to the Buckeye HRS instead of buying a gift.

The following members, who made special donations to help with Finn's surgery and with the extra costs incurred from the Portage County crisis:

**Paula Brill, Carmella Coia, Donna Waldorf, Leslie Mapes, Jessica Renwick, Laura Gills, Ann Landon, Melodye Traupel, June Gates, Stevi Flowers, Jeffrey and Kristen Wood, Linda Beam, Doris and Adrian Mastroguiseppe, Irma Laszlo, Sara Gambrell, Dennis and Shirley Wood, the Piekarczyks, Terri Carter, Pam Loch (in memory of Sassy), the Pasternacks (in memory of Pepper), Tina Smith, Sally Triggs, Robyn Graham, the Nicols, Jessica Hindman, Loretta Henderson, Barb Mirlenbrink (in honor of her late mother), Gay Marie Goden, the Hockenberrys, Laura and Jim Brown, Cindy Goldizen, Jean Dixon, Angela Michael and Joe West, Scott and Cynthia Hatfield, Angela Brandt, Debbie and Joe Musso.**

Our many new and ongoing **Sanctuary Rabbit Sponsors**, whose loyal support and steady generosity is making such a difference to those rabbits who, due to serious medical conditions, cannot be adopted and must spend the rest of their lives in foster care.

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





## Farewells



**Harrison**

Harrison, we miss you so much. The 5 years we had with you as part of our family taught us so much. Not only about various medical conditions and treatments, but moreso about patience, unconditional love, and a persistence to overcome adversity. You rose above your past of being abandoned outdoors, having battle wounds from an unknown predator, losing an eye and being half-starved, to crave affection from any human who would rub your nose. Affection from us was more important to you than eating; you just soaked it up again and again. After you got healthy, we had some wonderful years with you before you finally succumbed to the brain infection that you fought valiantly for so long. We miss your gentle kisses and your thrusting your head under our hands or feet, requesting to be petted. No matter how much you went through, you were always loving and never complained—a lesson we all can learn from. When you left us, you took a part of our hearts with you and you will never be forgotten. *We love you, Bill and Kristi.*

## It's Picnic Time!

*Come join the members of the Buckeye House Rabbit Society as we get together to share food, fun, and our love for rabbits. It's a great opportunity to meet and socialize with other rabbit people in your area. Foster rabbits (and the sanctuary rabbits in NE Ohio) will be available for you to meet, and books, shirts, totes and other goodies will be available to purchase.*

*We also have fun and prizes with the photo contest and raffle.*

*Mark your calendars now so you don't miss out. Then watch our website and your mailbox for a flyer and a map about a month in advance of the picnic in your area.*

June 19 is the date of the northeast Ohio picnic held in Aurora.

July 24 is the date of the southern Ohio picnic held in Cincinnati.

*We're looking forward to seeing you!*

## Adopted!

**Allie** was immediately welcomed into the Pasternack home by Omar in a love-at-first-sight bonding. ♡ **Luna** was eagerly accepted by the Powell family in Streetsboro. ♡ **Carl** has now joined with Natalya and they are enjoying getting settled into a new apartment. ♡ **Chuck** went to his new home with Christine where he is getting lots of love and attention.

♡ **Daisy** is now living with Hal & Angela and has Hal wrapped around her adorable little paw. ♡ **Gunnar** (now called **Pangpang**) is well loved at his new home with Wei and Jerry and is making progress with being a pal to current rabbit, Tutu. ♡ **Hercules** is now living with Jammie, having cuddle time on the couch and having lots of fun in his new home. ♡ **Malachi** and **Jonah** have joined the Wadsworth family and are happily settling in to their new home. ♡ **Mini Cinni** (now called **Cinnamon**) has been adopted by Lorelei and Jonas and is getting spoiled

and becoming pals with former HRS foster bunny Bailey.

♡ **Cassie** has a brand-new home with Jennifer Granchi of Cleveland. ♡ **Sheba** (now **Beba**) has a wonderful new home with Erin and Bear Johnson of Akron. She is enjoying the company of her new animal "siblings"—dog, Hunter, and kittens, Fred and George. ♡ **Wez** has been adopted by Cookie Dobro of Cleveland.

## Love, Loss, Grief, and Survival, Cont'd.

### Loss

On Wednesday, April 9, 2003, Murray's heart stopped, and when he died he took a piece of my heart with him. We knew he was ill, had been treating him for heart disease (in addition to his other chronic ailments) for 10 months, and knew the heart disease was progressing. However, he had a decent check-up with his vet on Monday. He was definitely "off" Tuesday evening, turning his nose up at his beloved cranberries (but nibbling on greens). But ups and downs were not unusual with him at this point. I consulted his vet, we agreed to just keep an eye on him, and Wednesday morning he seemed to feel a bit better when I left for work. I came home and found him stretched out peacefully on his special rug that I gave him for Christmas ... not breathing.

This was my first experience with finding one of my bunnies dead. His body was still warm and I immediately called Dr. Allan. I told her how bad I felt that I had not been there with him. She said, "Kathy, he wanted it this way." I had watched both Frankie and Stormy die, gasping for breath with me unable to do anything to help them. I would have hated to witness that with Murray. In my heart, I honestly believe he simply

fell asleep and never woke up—otherwise I don't think he would have looked as peaceful and content when I found him. I realized his choice to go just before I got home was his final gift to me.



*Long live his Royal Highness,  
King Murray!*

### Grief

I knew I had to hold myself together. I laid Murray's body in the front seat of my car on the Brave Bunny Blanket that always went with him to the vet. Dr. Allan met us at the clinic and sat and cried with me as we said goodbye. When I got home I called a few friends ... those I knew would help pass the word at my office and to my friends in the bunny world. I

received several phone calls that evening and the following day. Everyone remarked at how well I was holding up. Yes, I was crying, but I was able to see the positives: he went quickly, he didn't suffer, he had a good life with me, he knew he was

loved, I had no regrets about anything. I'm sure I was in shock at that point. Looking back, I'd say I was in shock until the point that I started feeling worse than the day before. That was when I believe the grieving process actually started.

I knew the "firsts" would be the hardest for me: The first morning I woke up at 4:30 and had no Murray to give meds to; the first time I made salads without making his; the first time I came home and he wasn't there to greet me; the first trip for greens when I didn't buy the special things than only Murray ate. It helps if you can anticipate the times that will be hardest for you and brace yourself for them. It also helps to have a circle of friends that you know you can call if you need to ... even at 4:30a.m.!

### Survival

Everyone deals with grief in her own way. Some things that may help you work through your grief:

- Give yourself permission to cry. If you're comfortable with tears, they can be quite healing.



- Take your time going through your rabbit's things. Decide carefully what to toss, what to leave where it is, what to pack away, and what to use for other rabbits or donate to a rescue. For now, a corner of his kitchen has Murray's personalized bowl, the rug he died on and one of his King Murray towels. The shirt I last held him in is packed away with special toys and dishes. If in doubt about something, keep it for now—you can always toss it later!

- When you're feeling really down, phone a friend who will let you express all your emotions. Don't try to go through this alone!
- Write down your memories or go through your pictures. You may cry while you are doing it, but it will help you remember the good times. And down the road you will be glad you did.
- Do something special for yourself in memory of your rabbit: buy a special picture frame, have a portrait or laser charm made, plant a tree—whatever works for you.
- Do something special for others as a tribute to your rabbit: write an article or story; draw or paint a picture; volunteer with a rescue group, shelter, or other organization; offer your love to another rabbit when you are ready.

### *Things you can do to help a grieving friend:*

- Keep in touch. You don't need to call the first day; calls made on day three and beyond are often most appreciated. The rest of the world probably thinks she should be over it by then.
- If your lifestyle permits, be one of the people she can call whenever she needs to—even in the middle of the night!

- Send a card. If you have a special memory of the rabbit, take time to write about it ... this will mean a lot to your friend. If you happen to be artistic, a sketch or drawing of her rabbit will be a cherished keepsake.
- If you can afford to, make a donation to her favorite charity in memory of her rabbit. Ask the organization to send her a card, acknowledging the donation in her rabbit's memory. 🐰

Jacki loves people! Jacki is a beautiful shiny black female mini-lop and is 1 year old. She craves human attention, nuzzling your feet trying to get you to pet her. As soon as you start to pet her head, she lays down to soak it in, hoping you'll pet her whole body. She also is a playful character, running through her beloved tunnel, jumping on cardboard boxes, tossing her slinky, standing up on her tiptoes to get her head as close to a human hand as she can. If you are looking for a friendly, people-loving rabbit, Jacki is for you. **Contact Kristi Cole at [kristi@ohare.org](mailto:kristi@ohare.org) or 330-484-8416.**

### **Spotlight on Jacki**



### **Thank You!**

Thank you to all who helped with the NE Ohio garage sale in May. Many folks donated items to sell and other volunteers helped in some capacity of sorting, pricing, setting up and working the sale. We're grateful for everyone's help to make the 3rd annual garage sale a success and appreciate the Hales family for opening their home and garage to us to host this event.

## Somebunny Needs YOU!



**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** ([kristen@ohare.org](mailto:kristen@ohare.org)) 440-543-4959.



**Merlin** is a young, reddish-brown boy who is quiet and gentle. He enjoys being petted, but like many bunnies, not held. He especially loves being around children and is comfortable with dogs. Merlin does great with his litterbox, is a hearty eater, and weighs roughly 5-6 lbs. Please contact **Kristen Doherty** ([kristen@ohare.org](mailto:kristen@ohare.org)) 440-543-4959.



**Alfonso**, a little mini-rex, gets so excited for his meals that he runs round and round frantically until he is fed. If you pick him up however, he melts in your arms and nuzzles his face under your chin. He weighs about 3.5 lbs, is perfect with his litter-box, and eats a ton of hay for such a little guy. He also loves cruising through his miniature tunnels and boxes. Please contact **Kristen Doherty** ([kristen@ohare.org](mailto:kristen@ohare.org)) 440-543-4959.



**Marisol** dances around her exercise pen as if it were a stage. She loves to put on little performances for us when we come around to see her, hoping that we will stop what we're doing to come and give her pets. Marisol is a snuggler and would

be perfect for a first-time bunny person or a family with kids. She weighs roughly 7 lbs, eats a lot of hay, and never misses with her litterbox. Please contact **Kristen Doherty** ([kristen@ohare.org](mailto:kristen@ohare.org)) 440-543-4959.



**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** ([kristen@ohare.org](mailto:kristen@ohare.org)) 440-543-4959.



**Schroeder**, approximately 5 lbs, is an outgoing brown and white Dutch who runs up to people for pets. You can't resist his adorable face when he comes asking for attention! Please contact **Kristen Doherty** ([kristen@ohare.org](mailto:kristen@ohare.org)) 440-543-4959.



**Soleil** (French for Sun) was rescued from a house fire where over 200 rabbits were found living in squalor, but this sweet bunny didn't let it get her down. She is pure sunshine! Full of sweetness and silliness, she will dance around to amuse you, then will lay at your feet for hours.

Once you touch her head, she mushes down for a long pet! Soleil is perfect with her litter box, and she loves to eat her salad and hay. Please contact **Kristen Doherty** ([kristen@ohare.org](mailto:kristen@ohare.org)) 440-543-4959.



**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** ([kristen@ohare.org](mailto:kristen@ohare.org)) 440-543-4959.



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](mailto: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](mailto:herta@ohare.org)) 740-797-7616.**



**Harriet** came into HRS foster care from a shelter with her six newborns in early February. She was a very nurturing mother and did a great job raising her babies into healthy "teens". Now it's time for Harriet to have her own permanent, loving home where she can be doted on. She weighs 4.5 lbs., is very laid back and likes human attention. She is about a year old and loves

her salads. **Please contact Kristi Cole ([kristi@ohare.org](mailto:kristi@ohare.org)) 330-484-8416.**



**Gonzo** is part of a litter of six bunnies born in a shelter and then brought into HRS foster care when they were four days old in early February. Gonzo is a male and has handsome cinnamon coloring. He enjoys nibbling wicker baskets and

doing big jumps in the air to make you laugh. When full grown, he will be between 4-5 lbs. These babies have been a joy to watch grow and they are now ready for loving, permanent homes. **Please contact Kristi Cole ([kristi@ohare.org](mailto:kristi@ohare.org)) 330-484-8416.**



**Mabel** means lovable and this girl has sure proven that. Mabel came from the Portage County rescue with her three little babies. This poor girl had horrible bites on her ears and she was underweight. Mabel has now been given a clean bill of health by the vet. She is spayed, healthy, and ready to go to a new home where she can get the

love and attention she deserves. Mabel has excellent litterbox habits, is very non-destructive, and she likes to hang out with the cats in her foster home. How can you resist those airplane ears! **Please contact Kristi Cole ([kristi@ohare.org](mailto:kristi@ohare.org)) 330-484-8416.**



**Etana** means strong and this girl sure is. She is one of the Portage County rescues. Etana had bite wounds all over her body and was very underweight. With love, good nutrition,

and a clean place to live, she has since put on weight and is now spayed, healthy, and ready for a new permanent home. Her personality has really come out. She loves to run around and explore and then sit next to you for long petting sessions.

**Please contact Kristi Cole ([kristi@ohare.org](mailto:kristi@ohare.org)) 330-484-8416.**



**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](mailto:kristi@ohare.org)) 330-484-8416.**



**Lila** is a dutch-mix female with unique gray and white markings on her back and gorgeous blue eyes. She loves to play in cardboard boxes and tunnels. Lila is about a year

old and weighs 5 lbs. **Please contact Kristi Cole ([kristi@ohare.org](mailto:kristi@ohare.org)) 330-484-8416.**



Who's **Ringo**? Ringo's your best mate, always ready to play, watch TV from the sofa, or curiously investigate that piece of furniture over in the corner. If there's anything that can be done to bring

a smile to your face, then Ringo will do his best to bring you the biggest of smiles. This 4 lb bunny is full of youthful energy and ready to spend it all on you. Wouldn't you like to do the same for him? **Please contact Michele Kerley ([michele@ohare.org](mailto:michele@ohare.org)) 859-261-0556.**



## Somebunny Needs YOU! Cont'd.



What's sweet, yummy, and something you never can get enough of? You got it—**Cookies!** If you love to snack, then you'll really love this cookie. She's a darling Dutch with a sweet, gentle demeanor. She had a bit of a weight problem when we first got her, but she's lightened up dramatically and is showing off her new figure with plenty of runs, hops, and joyous binks! So skip Atkins and toss the Miami Beach menu out the window, cause you gotta have this Cookie! **Please contact Michele Kerley (michele@ohare.org) 859-261-0556.**



**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.**



**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.**



**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.**



**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.**



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.**



Meet **Jackson**. He's big, he's bold, and weighing in at nearly 10 pounds, he's huBUNgus! This big boy loves getting scratched on his big head between his enormous ears.

Approximately 2 years old, Jackson'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.**



**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.**



## From Our Members



Dear Buckeye HRS,

Several years ago (back in April of 2001), you all helped us to adopt a lovely brown mini-lop bunny named Giselle, who was part of a rescue where you found far too many rabbits living together in a cramped environment. At the time, we had an elderly male bunny named Merry for whom we were hoping to find a companion for his later years. You met us in Mansfield to give Giselle to us on Easter Day. I felt that I should update you all on Giselle's life with us here in Highland Heights, KY and to tell you how thankful we are that we were a part of her rescue.

Giselle was well house-trained and had excellent behaviors (no chewing, but eating well!) when she came to us, although she was prone to growling at us when we would try to get on the floor and visit with her. She spent the first several months avoiding us by hiding out under the desk in the room where she was living and rarely letting us touch her. We gradually increased her run area to include her room, a hallway, and the bathroom. She could peek through baby gates at our bunny Merry, and they sniffed and licked at each other until it was time to try and be together more permanently.

It took a long time for us to get Giselle and Merry to bond properly. Merry, at age 9 when we got Giselle, had been used to being top bun for many years. But we knew that after his brother Pippin's and sister Mitzi's deaths, finding him a companion was important for him. Although I am sad to report that Merry passed away at age 11 in early 2003, he did so with Giselle taking care of and supporting him. She would bathe Merry's eyes and ears and sit next to him to prop him up after he lost the use of his hind legs and could no longer walk or balance himself well. She would run around the room, and Merry would watch with bright eyes, perhaps wishing he could join her or perhaps just happy that she was there. We miss Merry very much (he was an amazing rabbit) but Giselle's companionship near the end of his life was, I know, a blessing to him, just as hers is for us today.

Giselle misses Merry, of that I am sure. We all do. But since his death, she has been determined to take over his role as sweetest bunny ever. She is an attention hound now, always wanting some loving, hopping up on the couch to explore, hogging all the heat from the air duct in the winter, sitting on "her chair" next to mine. She loves to be petted, loves children, and loves our cats. She routinely races all around the downstairs on her mad bunny laps; she bunny dances down the hallway, and climbs up the stairs. (Thank goodness we live in a world of brown shag carpet!!) The only downside is that Giselle blends into the carpet and sometimes you don't see her! :-)

I would never have thought during those first few weeks of her life with us that she would be the loving and amazing bunny she is today. She seemed to hate us, constantly growling and batting at us with her feet. I felt that we would never make any progress. I know that we helped her out of her shell of being untrusting. But I also know that Merry passed along much of his grace and wisdom to her, letting her know that we were the good guys, that we loved her.

I've enclosed a photo of Giselle so you can see how happy she is today. I think a lot about finding her a companion (she's going to be four this year). I am so thankful for all the work you all do each day to save these special creatures. Getting to know rabbits has been one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my life. You all should be commended for each and every bunny life you've saved. And I'm glad that one of those lives was Giselle's.

All the best,  
*Kathleen M. Quinn*

## It All Began...

By Sue Zimmerman

People often ask us; "How did you get involved in rabbit rescue?"

I can't speak for everyone, but I believe that most of us have had a special pet rabbit

who was a major influence in our rescue work. For me it was my very first house rabbit, Jessica. We brought Jessie into our lives in December of 1998. Little did

we know that this baby mini lop was going to change our lives in a very special way.

Jessie was about 10 weeks old when we got her. We were told that she was a reject from a nearby breeder. I fell in love with her at first sight. My husband, Keith, was not so sure about bringing a rabbit into our home. He still had bitter memories of losing his last house rabbit to a chronic illness. Keith tried telling me how much work a house rabbit is and how hard it is to lose one when they get sick. After a little begging and pleading with my husband, we brought baby Jessica home with us.

Keith gave me his copy of *The House Rabbit Handbook: How to Live with an Urban Rabbit* by Marinell Harriman. He insisted that I read it from cover to cover. The book helped me get a good

understanding of all that would be involved in caring for my first house rabbit. I watched this amazing little bunny grow each day and I was determined to learn all that I could about her world.

Keith and I wanted Jessie to live a long and happy life with us. We did everything that we could to educate ourselves on house rabbit care. We became members of the House Rabbit Society (Buckeye and national),

read books and surfed the Internet for information. We learned many things including the fact that Jessie might be happier with a companion rabbit. That was about the time that mini lop Roger came into our lives.

We learned how to bond two rabbits and Jessica and Roger became best friends. Not long after that we adopted a third rabbit, a little Dutch girl named Knickers. With three rabbits now in our family we felt that we had a pretty good understanding of the lagomorph's world. We enjoyed taking care of our bunnies and watching them interact with us and each other. We began discussing the possibility of doing

more and perhaps taking in some foster rabbits. The rest is history.

I never felt like Keith and I "chose" to get involved in rabbit rescue; it was more like this mission chose us. I always feel that things happen for a reason and that when they are meant to be, everything just falls into place. One day we received our copy of *Harelines* in the mail. The newsletter told all about a crisis for nearly 50 rabbits at Wood County Humane Society in Bowling Green, Ohio. The Humane Society is not far from our home, so I began volunteering with the rabbits there.

Keith and I discussed taking two very ill bunnies into our home from the shelter so that they could get proper medical care. Jax and Abby were our very first foster rabbits. I also adopted our fourth rabbit, Casey, from Wood County to help them with their crisis. The Erlin Rabbit Rescue, our own independent bunny rescue group, had officially started in August of 2001. During this time I had also been working with Kristen Doherty

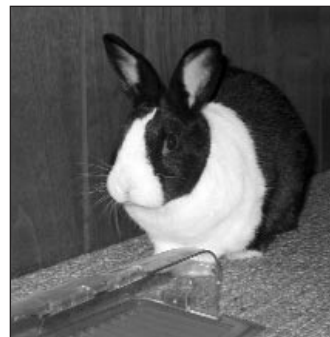
of the Buckeye House Rabbit Society.

I would give her updates on the Wood County rabbits and also help Buckeye HRS with transports when needed.

One day, Kristen asked if Keith and I would be interested in



Jessie the real rabbit along with her friends Stuffed Jessie and Stuffed Roger.



Knickie likes to play with the air vent deflector.

fostering rabbits for the Buckeye House Rabbit Society. We talked with the chapter manager, Herta Rodina, and liked what the organization had to offer. We officially came on board with Buckeye in March of 2002.



*Roger is rarely seen without his one true love, Jessie..*

Today Jessie is a happy five year old who can always be seen with Roger by her side. She was the first rabbit in our home and my inspiration for getting involved in rescuing rabbits. Fostering rabbits is a lot of work but it has truly been a rewarding experience for me. I would like to thank all of our pet bunnies—Jessica, Roger, Knickie and Casey for their influence and for sharing their home, so that many foster rabbits' lives can be saved. 🐰

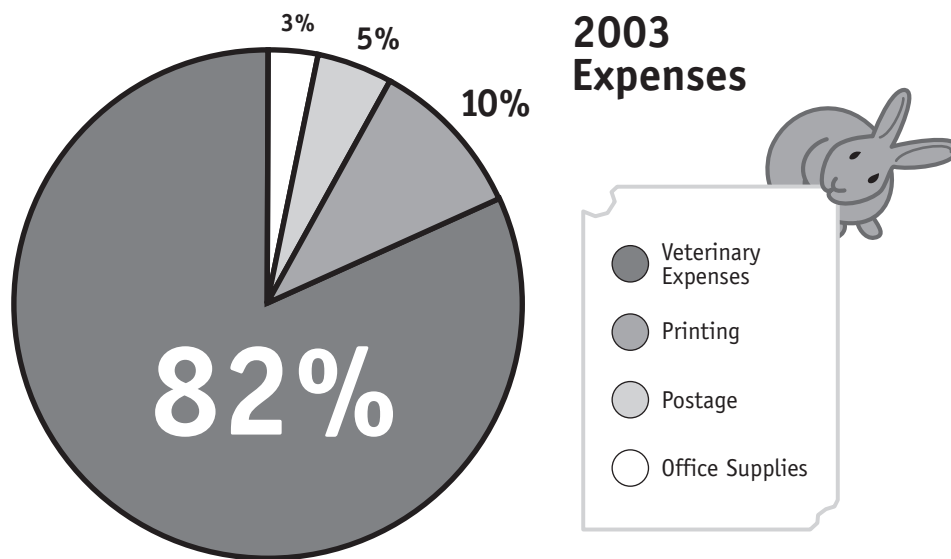


*Casey, the "grey monster," plans her next attack on her humans' feet.*

## 2003 Buckeye HRS Summary

We are proud to report to our members that we had a very successful year helping rabbits and educating the public in 2003. Our volunteers fostered a total of 110 rabbits last year. We adopted 73 rabbits into permanent, loving homes in 2003 as well.

The chart shows how the donations, sponsorships, and membership fees were used during the calendar year of 2003. Contributions to Buckeye HRS are tax-deductible by law.



**As you can see, the largest portion of our budget (82%) was used for veterinary expenses.** This includes spays and neuters as well as other medical procedures, prescriptions, and the ongoing care for our sanctuary rabbits.

**Ten percent of our annual budget went to printing.** This includes our newsletter, *Harelines*, which you're enjoying now. It also includes information packets for potential adopters, as well as information handed out at public events, given to shelters and to new rabbit owners.

**Postage made up 5% of our budget.** *Harelines* is mailed to all of our members and the postage category also includes information packet mailing, invitations to events, etc.

**Three percent of the budget is office and miscellaneous expense.** Some items in this category include bank fees, rental for picnic areas and supplies, and booth rental at events.

Note: The statistics in the chart include all chapter-paid expenses from contributions made directly to Buckeye HRS, Inc. All other fostering expenses, like hay, pellets, greens, litter, litterboxes, exercise pens, toys, etc. are paid for by individual fosterers, with some donated items going directly to the foster homes.





## MEMBERSHIP FORM

### 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 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 5767

Athens, OH 45701

All donations are  
tax-deductible.



**Buckeye House Rabbit Society**

P.O. Box 5767

Athens, OH 45701



*Buy a bunny a little time...*