



HARELINES



Volume 9 Number 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

Spring/Summer 2005

Lounging Their Way to Love

By Leslie Mapes

Lounge. To spend time in idleness; a room equipped with comfortable furniture for lounging.

In the case of Fiona (formerly D.Q.) and Emily Shiley, you could add to that definition: A place to find true love.

It all began on August 14, 2004.

The passionate participants of the web site/chat room Lagomorph Lounge (<http://lagomorphlounge.proboards2.com>) had traveled from far and wide to meet in Ohio and celebrate bunny and human friendships.

Finn, a multiple handicapped Buckeye HRS bun, had been featured on the Lagomorph Lounge's web site as a bunny-in-need and Angie Brandt had answered her call. Angie, who lives in New York, was there to pick Finn up and take her home.

Angie's fellow Lounge friends had chosen to come and meet each other, having been great "cyber friends" but never having seen each other face-to-face.



Fiona.

Love at First Sight

Buckeye HRS fosterer and educator, Kristen Doherty, who had cared for Finn through many surgeries and health issues, brought Finn to the gathering along with other foster buns. That's when Emily Shiley, who had journeyed from Columbia, South Carolina saw Fiona.

To make the circle even more complete, Fiona was Finn's sister.

Though they didn't come to Kristen's house together, the likeness between the two sisters was remarkable and Fiona's hind leg was deformed in the same way as both of Finn's hind legs.

Emily fell in love with Fiona. "She was sweet, wild at heart and had such an appreciation for life," said Emily. At the same time, her handicap and potential special needs worried Emily.

In this issue

- Adopted! 2
- The Rabbit Urinary System . 4
- The Blissful Bunny:
Basic Massage for Happy
House Rabbits 6
- Somebunny Needs You! . . . 8



But what's a love story without a little angst?

At the end of the celebration, the Lagomorph Lounge friends said their goodbyes and Angie drove Finn back to her new home.



Fiona giving Jon bunny kisses.

Back at Home

Waiting for Emily's return were her husband, Jon, and their house

Continued on page 10



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

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 Michele Roth Kerley
859-261-0556
michele@ohare.org

Brandy Fields
513-300-4687
brandy@ohare.org

Newsletter Editor Herta Rodina
Layout and Design Ellen B. Eder

Contributing Writers: Leslie Mapes,
Dr. Beth Arnold, Kristi Cole,
Jodi McLaughlin

**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:

Lori Bernhardt, for her thoughtful donation in memory of Sniffles.

Brett Grenesko, for his kind gift in tribute to Bunny.

Amy Pecsok, for her generous contribution in memory of Siggy and Prize.

Ann Zimmerman, for her wonderful donation in Gwyn's honor.

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

Jim and Laura Brown, Marjorie Aleva, Dorothea Mayerchak, Pam Loch, Karyn Marciniak, Oraline Jorgenson, Akos Santa, June Gates, Michelle Bender, Loretta Henderson, Linda Beam.

Our most generous Sanctuary Rabbit Sponsors! Your steadfast support continues to make an enormous difference to those rabbits who, due to serious medical conditions, cannot be adopted and must spend the rest of their lives in foster care. We wish we could acknowledge each of you individually!

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

Adopted!

Sylvia has been adopted by Janelle and is settled into her new home.

♥ Handsome **Tahoe** is now enjoying life in his new home with Melissa.

♥ **Harriet** is now living with Kathie and has a new pal, Walter. ♥ **Sara** is now living with Karen and making her customized wicker creations in a new home. ♥ **Melody** (now **Ivy**) is enjoying the affections of Joyce and family in Mayfield Heights. ♥ **Sprite** (now **Coco**) has found companionship with Bun, her new bunny friend who's smaller than she is! They are the center of attention at Nicole's home in Orrville. ♥ **Martina** is now enjoying freedom in her new home with Lori. ♥ **Francisco** has made a new friend, Butch, and lives with Janet in Mayfield Heights. ♥ **Misty** has found a wonderful new home with Regina & Steven and family in Thompson. ♥ **Cinder**, no longer shy and timid, is exploring her new home with Tricia and Dave and is basking in all the cuddles and attention. ♥ Michelle Bender welcomes **Pebbles** into her home where she will get lots of love and companionship. ♥ Jim and Stacey Nicholson proudly welcome **Dusty** into their Toledo, OH home. ♥ **Bizzy** has a new friend and lots of room to be "busy" in the home of Kate Sass.

♥ Adopting two bunnies from Buckeye HRS is twice as nice! Jon and Linda Garamone are the proud and happy parents of **Poggi** and **Banfi** (formerly **Romper** and **Bam Bam**).



SAVE THE DATE!

**SATURDAY, JULY 16TH
12 P.M. TO 4 P.M.**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 26TH
11 A.M. TO 6 P.M.**

**PETFEST 2005
at Boone Woods**

*(Off of Burlington Pike,
Burlington, KY)*

Cincinnati-Area Volunteers will have a display set up, including a rabbit to pet, and Buckeye HRS merchandise to purchase!

PLEASE COME BY AND SEE US!

Have questions or need directions?
Call Brandy at (513) 300-4687 or
email brandy@ohare.org

**BUCKEYE HOUSE
RABBIT SOCIETY'S
CINCINNATI-AREA
SUMMER PICNIC**

*Please join us at JULIE'S PARK
8249 Clough Pike
Cincinnati, OH 45244
(Same location as 2004 Picnic)*

Don't forget to bring your bunny pictures for a photo contest!
If you have any gently-used items that you would like to donate for our garage sale on July 23rd, please bring them to the picnic.

Questions? Call Brandy at
(513) 300-4687 or email
brandy@ohare.org

**SATURDAY, JULY 23RD
9:00 A.M. TO 2:30P.M.**

**CINCINNATI-AREA
GARAGE SALE
to Benefit
Buckeye HRS!**

*Please stop by to shop at:
2248 Wideview Drive
Covington, KY 41011*

If you have any gently-used items or clothing that you would like to donate, please bring them to the picnic on July 16th, or contact Brandy at (513) 300-4687 or email brandy@ohare.org.

REMINDER TO OUR NORTHEAST OHIO MEMBERS:

Our annual picnic will be held in Aurora on Saturday June 18.

Save your flyer for details and directions.

We're looking forward to seeing you all there!

SEE YOU THERE!



The Rabbit Urinary System

By Dr. Beth Arnold, DVM

Only bunny owners and their veterinarians know how special and different bunnies are from any other pet. Not only are their personalities and needs different, but so are the way their bodies are anatomically and metabolically designed. This is why bunnies have special needs; husbandry and specifically diet are a major concern. The focus of this article is the urinary system: how it works, problems commonly encountered by owners and how to prevent and/or remedy them.

One of the most common problems we see in bunnies is increased calcium excreted in the urine, otherwise known as hypercalciuria. Oftentimes, owners come to us with the complaint that there is a white substance in the urine and when it dries, it is the consistency of chalk. The chalk-like substance is actually calcium crystals. To understand how this can happen, we have to look at the special way bunnies are designed. For most animals, calcium absorption in the gut is based on not only the amount of calcium ingested, but also the availability of Vitamin D3 (found in sunlight). With bunnies, the absorption is independent of Vitamin D3. Therefore, the only way to regulate the amount of calcium absorption is to reduce the quantity in the diet. Secondly, most animals excrete only 2% of calcium through the kidneys, whereas bunnies excrete anywhere from 45-60% of their calcium intake through their kidneys.

So, if a bunny eats a lot of calcium, much of it is excreted through the kidneys and ends up in the bladder. But how does it get to be so chalky if urine is a liquid? When the water component of the urine evaporates, the calcium particles are left. Also, if there are more particles of calcium than what can be held in suspension in the urine, they “fall out” of the solution, otherwise known as precipitation.

This leads us to the next problem often encountered — bladder stones. A bladder stone is the result of too many particles (often calcium particles) in the urine.

Instead of being suspended within the water portion of the urine, they fall out of suspension as previously discussed. This time, however, the particles stick to each other and when enough of them stick together, a stone is formed. Stones are problematic not only because they can cause damage to the inside of the bladder, but also because they can get lodged in the urethra (especially in males) and obstruct the urinary tract causing a medical emergency.

Prevention of sludge and stones is most successful when we reduce the amount of calcium in the bunny’s diet. Unfortunately, alfalfa hay and pellets are full of calcium. That is why we now recommend using timothy-based hay and pellets. Kale and spinach are also rich in calcium and should only be fed occasionally. Also increasing the water in your bunny’s diet by offering lots of fresh greens helps to keep the urine more dilute.



An example of urine scald.

Urine scald is seen in both young and old rabbits and is caused by prolonged contact of urine with the skin. Some bunnies like to hang out in their litter boxes, some have arthritic changes or spinal disease or are obese and have difficulty moving away from the urine or urinate directly on themselves, some are incontinent and do not realize they have urinated.

Treatment revolves around keeping the bunny clean by removing urine soaked fur and gently washing the skin



and keeping it dry. Sometimes topical antibiotics are required to help clear up local skin infections.

Urinary incontinence is also seen in rabbits. This can be caused by spinal injury from vertebral or pelvic fractures or lesions resulting from an *e. cuniculi* infection (a parasite that often invades the spinal cord), ectopic ureters, urinary tract infections or neoplasia (cancer). Also, it can be hormonally responsive and spayed female bunnies are at risk. Treatment depends on the cause.

Red urine has been a concern of many bunny owners. Red urine may be caused from blood coming from anywhere in the urinary or reproductive tract or more commonly, it is a result of porphyrin pigments from the diet. Certain

plant pigments or antibiotics can cause a change in urine color. The diagnosis of whether the bunny has true hematuria (blood in the urine) can be proven with a urinalysis.

Finally, cancer of the bladder and kidneys in rabbits has been documented but is not as common as the previously-listed problems associated with the urinary tract.

Hopefully this article will help you to assess your bunny's urinary tract health. Please do not hesitate to call or visit your veterinarian if you have any concerns or questions. 🐰

Caring for a Bunny with Bladder Problems

By Kristi Cole

If you have an incontinent rabbit, you will want to make sure his area stays dry not only to prevent odor, but to prevent urine-soaked feet and possibly sore hocks (the bottoms of the feet) in addition to his bladder problems.

A good way to do this is to put down a layer of thick towels or other absorbent material and then cover that entire layer with a layer of fake sheepskin or fleece. The towels will wick the moisture away from the rabbit's underside, allowing the softer fleece material to stay dry against the rabbit's body. I have found that by using this design and changing it daily, the rabbit stays dry and the odor is very minimal.

If your rabbit is dealing with urine scald, he will have fur loss and/or red, irritated skin in the genital region, hindquarters and inner thighs from prolonged contact with the urine. The towel and fleece setup described above is helpful, but you will need to treat the rabbit's skin as well. Keep the area as dry as possible, blotting it with a paper towel or other absorbent material. Sometimes the vet will even shave the area for you so you can have better access to the skin for treatment. If the irritation is mild, clean the area with warm water, blot dry and then apply calendula cream to the area. This helps heal and moisturize the skin. If it is more serious, you can apply Neosporin or ask your vet for something stronger if the infection is severe.

You can also try a "dry bath" with baby-grade cornstarch powder (do not use other kinds of baby powders with talc) or a product called

McKillips Dusting Powder (made for horses). Massage a little bit of either product into the wet fur until the moisture is absorbed and then gently comb it out. 🐰

Questions to ask your vet:

Does my rabbit need fluid supplementation at home to keep the bladder flushed out? This can be extra oral fluids through a syringe or fluids given under the skin to give the rabbit extra hydration.

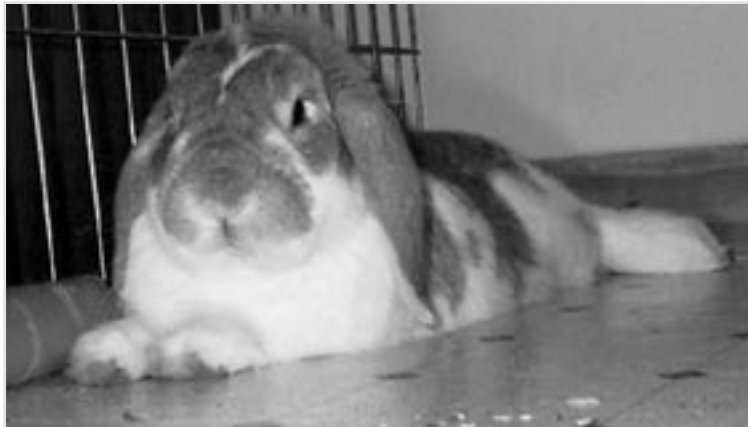
Does my rabbit have arthritis or another medical condition preventing urine from projecting away from the rabbit? Can this be helped by medicine to give bunny more mobility?

Does my rabbit need a prescription cream such as silvadene to help heal urine-scalded areas?



The Blissful Bunny: Basic Massage for Happy House Rabbits

By Jodi McLaughlin, A.M.P.
Reprinted with permission from
[http://www.catsandrabbits
andmore.com](http://www.catsandrabbitsandmore.com)



bunny
smiles +



Animal massage is emerging as an effective complement to veterinary healthcare. Along with regular veterinary, acupuncture, and chiropractic care, massage offers many benefits for your companion animals, including stress relief, stimulation of the digestive, circulatory and nervous systems, increased flexibility, and strengthening of the human-animal bond.

No animal is more suited for massage than your house rabbit. Bunnies are prone to stress-related illness and can be difficult to handle during grooming sessions and veterinary visits. Their innate fear of being lifted and confined can be lessened with regular massages. Here are some quiet-time touch tips to help you turn a devilishly grumpy Thumper into Thumper the purring lil' Angel.

First consider your bunnies' natural activity schedule. Most rabbits are more alert and thus more receptive to massage advances in the morning or evening hours. Wait at least 30 minutes after your rabbit's main

meal and, because rabbits are very sensitive to smells, thoroughly wash your hands with fragrance free soap. Experiment until you find the most comforting place for the massage session. I find that for the unaccustomed bunny a tabletop with a towel placed over a non-slip mat works best. You may prefer a rug on the floor. More than likely, "Bunny with Rabbitude" will choose the spot for you. Tune into your rabbit's unique body language. Relax your arms and shoulders, calm your mind, and breathe! Massage should be fun for both of you. Mutual trust develops slowly. Your bunny WILL notice the difference between intentioned touch and simple petting. Start with a few minutes and work up to longer massages.

Have everything you need handy, perhaps a cushion for you to sit on and classical music playing. Keep an absorbent hand towel nearby as the massage may stimulate your rabbit's bladder. Fill a small spritz bottle with water for the end of the massage.

Begin by pointing bunny's face away from you and sweep your hands down bunny's entire body, face to rump. Sweep 3-4 times. Note any sensitive areas. Always stroke the fur in the direction of hair growth and try to keep one hand on bunny at all times. Rabbits need to feel grounded, so resting a hand on the shoulder area will settle bunny and make her feel secure.

Next, stroke gently between the nose, around the eyes and down the back of the head. Softly stroke the ears from the base to the tips holding the ear very lightly between your thumb and index finger. Spend some time on the face and ears. There are many acupressure points located here and you will be doing a preventative health exam at the same time. Notice any swelling, dampness or crusting. Make notes for your vet.

Once bunny has settled in, begin making dime-sized circles down the left side of the spine. Use your thumb to create clockwise circles in the soft area just beside the spine.



tooth
purrs...

Work gradually from shoulder to hip being careful to use light pressure only. Never massage directly on the spinal bones. After you complete the left side continue down the right side. This may be enough massage for the first few sessions. Close each massage with 3-4 full hand sweeps, again from face to rump.

If Bun-Bun is enjoying your touch time, progress to light stroking around and down the legs, across each side of the chest, and farther back on the hip area. Once your bunny becomes addicted to short massages you can venture into the trust-worthiest areas, including stroking between the toes, around and down the tail and finally, soft side-to-side sweeps under the lower belly. Many rabbits also enjoy the rock n' roll rhythm of both your hands on their shoulders as you alternate rolling the skin from left to right.

The ultimate goal is for bunny to accept your gentle hands creating large clockwise circles over her

entire belly area. Massage the belly with bunny in a "cat stretch" standing position or cradled "baby style" in your arms. You and your veterinarian may be thankful for this technique when Thumper has a bout with gastrointestinal stasis, or gut slowdown. Digestive disorders in rabbits often cause pain from gas buildup and a light tummy massage may relieve this pain until a vet can administer relief with fluids etc. Words of caution — NEVER massage a rabbit's stomach if it is distended and hard! SEE YOUR VET ASAP WHENEVER YOU SUSPECT G.I.STASIS.

End the massage with a mist of water to your hands, then a complete sweep over Bun-Bun's loosened fur from head to rump. Your damp hands will remove the halo of hair left behind from the massage. Rub your hands together and voilà; the fur is contained. You don't want Bun-Bun ingesting this hair! As much as the little furball loves you, it is his fastidious nature to groom obsessively until he smells like a respectable lagomorph.

Finally, hydration is very important. Always offer dampened fresh greens to your rabbit following a massage.

Explore the world of purposeful touch with your animal companions. You will benefit in so many ways by finding increased awareness of your rabbit's health and body condition, better ease in handling Thumper at the vet's office, and stress-free grooming sessions. Most importantly, you will create a closer bond with your house rabbit through a sense of love, trust and well-being. 🐰

Recommended Reading:

The Relaxed Rabbit,
Chandra Moira Beal

Acu-Cat,
Nancy Zidonis and Amy Snow

The Tellington Touch,
Linda Tellington-Jones

JODI McLAUGHLIN IS AN ANIMAL MASSAGE PROVIDER CURRENTLY WORKING WITH DOGS AND HOUSE RABBITS.



Somebunny Needs YOU!



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) 330-484-8416.**



Sebastian is an adorable male Dutch rabbit who is a year and a half old. He likes to sit on top of a cardboard box and check out his surroundings when he's not busy standing on his tiptoes at the edge of his pen looking for affection. He is healthy with excellent litterbox habits and enjoys his daily veggies. Wouldn't you like this cutie as part of your family? **Please contact**

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



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.**



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.**



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 litterbox, and eats a ton of hay for such a little guy. He also loves cruising through his miniature tunnels and boxes. **Please**

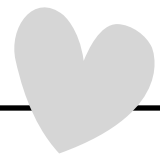
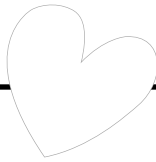
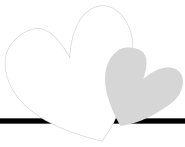
contact Kristen Doherty 440-543-4959.



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 440-543-4959.**



Harlan is a beautiful reddish brown mini rex, approximately 6 months old, who is very friendly but may need a little time to warm up to his new family. He was found with Melody wandering around in the cold in a Bedford neighborhood at 3 months of age. Harlan would make a wonderful companion if you are thinking about getting a friend for your female bunny! **Please contact Kristen Doherty 440-543-4959.**



Pierre is a true snuggle bunny, always looking for a hand to reach out to pet him. He's a champion hay eater and perfect with his litterbox. Pierre is an excellent choice for kids -- he's affectionate and patient and will provide much companionship and

joy to a loving family. Pierre weighs approximately 5 lbs and has beautiful white fur with dark brown ears, paws, nose and tail. **Please contact Kristen Doherty 440-543-4959.**



Fuzzle will charm you instantly with his affection and clown-like personality, keeping you entertained every day with his antics. Like when he waves his small dish in the air until all the pellets fly out, then hops around his pen with the empty dish still his mouth, waving it up and down. When people are around, he's always doing something to grab

your attention so you'll come over and pet or play with him. He's extremely outgoing and would be a top candidate for families with children. Fuzzle is excellent with his litterbox and keeps his area very neat. He has a smooth shiny black coat with dark eyes and weighs roughly five pounds. Fuzzle was born at a local shelter in October of 2004. **Please contact Kristen Doherty 440-543-4959.**



Midas sometimes goes by another name — Sweet Boy — because of his sweet and gentle nature. He's easygoing and calm and adapts well to new environments. Midas doesn't have any interest in chewing except for nibbling on his timothy hay. He likes to lie in his litterbox, so make sure you provide him with a large one! His fur is silvery-gray with a

white spot on his chest, one white paw, and a white spot on the tip of his nose. Midas weighs roughly four pounds, was born sometime in the fall of 2004, and would be a very good choice for children. **Please contact Kristen Doherty 440-543-4959.**



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.**



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.**



Sally is a pretty little girl. She is very active, friendly, and playful. And just look at her beautiful stripes; not to mention her gorgeous gray eyes! Sally is also a snuggler who does not mind being held. Make an appointment to

meet her. She is sure to capture your heart. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Lounging Their Way to Love, Cont'd.

rabbit, Bennett. But Emily “couldn’t get Fiona out of [her] mind.” So she turned to her friends at the Lagomorph Lounge.

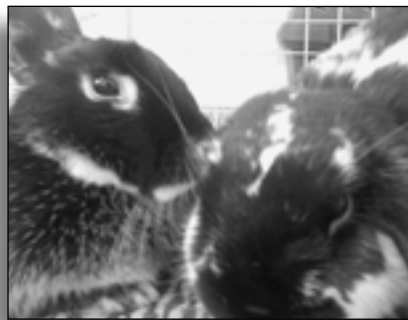
They came through with the support and advice she needed, along with help from Kristen, on how she could successfully care for a handicapped bunny. The Shiley household prepared for Fiona’s arrival.

Lop-eared Bennett made his first trip on an airplane (in a carrier under Emily’s seat) to have a first date with Fiona, which went very well.

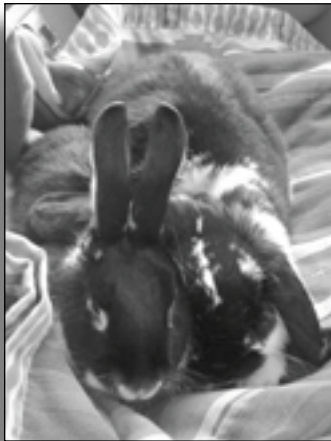
Then, early this year, arrangements were made for Jon and Emily to meet Fiona halfway between Ohio and South Carolina. Bennett came too. With Emily sitting in the backseat, Bennett and Fiona met and snuggled during the seven-hour car ride home. It only took about three more days at home until they were completely bonded.

A Lagomorph’s Life

Fiona has worked her magic on every Shiley family member.



Above: Fiona and Bennett telling secrets.
Below: A pair of BFF’s (Bun Friends Forever)



She and Bennett are inseparable, always snuggling and playing (with Fiona leading the binky antics). By day, they have their own bunny room equipped with different levels, toys and litter boxes. When Emily and Jon get home from work the buns have the run of the house.

Emily and Jon even take the rabbits on overnights to Emily’s parents’ house with just a litter box and food in tow. “They’re so good, they don’t even need a cage at their house,” explained Emily.

As for special needs, Emily cleans Fiona’s right ear a few times a week (Bennett helps too) with a lighted ear tool because it’s hard for Fiona to do that with her deformed right leg.

Other than that, you’d never know Fiona had a handicap — she’s the first one to be jumping on couches and beds or tearing through the house. And just recently she tenderly cared for Bennett when he was ill.

Thanks to Emily, Jon and Bennett Shiley for giving Fiona a chance to show them how very special she is. 🐰

Thanks to all the folks in NE Ohio who saved and sent ACME grocery store receipts for the ACME Community Cash Back Program. This is the best year we’ve had and we couldn’t do it without you. The check from ACME went into our veterinary fund for the rescued foster rabbits. The next receipt collection season starts in September 2005. Watch for more information in Harelines and also on our web page at www.ohare.org



Farewells

Farewell to Snuggles 1992-2005

From the very first time I saw you, it was love at first sight. Those beautiful blue eyes and black and white fur. You were so tiny. It was the spring of 1992. When I couldn't win you at the carnival, I finally asked if I could purchase



you. Luckily, I was able to. From that day forward, you changed our lives. I remember I brought you home and introduced you to Snoopy, our other rabbit. Immediately, he snuggled up right next to you and lay by your side. That is how you got your name Snuggles, and you really lived up to it. ♥ Once you became older, you and Snoopy had seven beautiful babies. We all had fun together. For many years we were all a family. We have so many great memories and pictures. Then the day came when Snoopy passed away in my arms. It was that same day I noticed you were bleeding. So off to the vet we went, where I discovered you had uterine cancer. I didn't know then that about 80% of female rabbits have a risk of getting this. I let them perform surgery on you and remember being so worried, especially after just losing Snoopy at seven years. Amazingly, not only did you make it through surgery, but the chances were good that every cancerous cell was removed. ♥ A few more years went by and you continued to

do well; we all went through the loss of your bunnies to many different medical conditions. You even outlived all of your babies. At ten years old, we added a few more rabbits to keep you company. You all did fine together. I remember often wondering how many more wonderful years I would have left with you before you would get too old and how I would care for you. I never had an elderly rabbit before. I would read stories from the House Rabbit Society and internet. Finally at about the age of twelve, I noticed that you were not able to hop very well. Off again to the vet. Luckily nothing was broken, but you were diagnosed with arthritis. Unfortunately I was familiar with this condition and again was worried. We ordered you a mobile cart so you could get some exercise. This lasted two weeks, because your front paws began to lose their strength. I made the necessary changes for you by first happily moving you into our bedroom, where I could watch you day and night. Anything you needed I could provide. I slept better this way too. I even saved you from drowning in your water dish, which I quickly removed and replaced with a water bottle. Plenty of towels were provided, fresh veggies, hay, and pellets as well. We made all the necessary changes and you thanked me with your sweet bunny kisses right on the face every night. You loved to snuggle and would sometimes fall asleep in my arms. ♥ About seven more months went by with you still eating, drinking and wanting to cuddle. You had just turned an amazing thirteen years old in the early spring of 2005. Suddenly, on May 3rd 2005, I came home to find that you had peacefully just slipped away. I am glad you didn't suffer, but I do cry a lot since you've been gone. You will be missed so much by all of us. ♥ It's amazing just how much you can love a rabbit. We will never forget you, Snuggles. We love and miss you deeply.



Love,
John, Kathy and Brandy Toler



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...