



# HARELINES



Volume 9 Number 3

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

Fall 2005

## The Gift of Life

By Kristi Cole

One July morning I got a call from my long-time veterinarian Dr. Gary Riggs' office, asking if I would be willing to have one of my rabbits donate blood for a critically ill rabbit who needed a blood transfusion right away. My husband and I give blood regularly so we thought it was only natural to have our pets help save a life, too. I talked with the vet and we decided I would take two large rabbits since they have more blood volume than small rabbits. It was also a benefit having two donors available if more blood was needed than could safely be taken from a single rabbit. I gathered up our two largest rabbits—Sylvester, a giant chinchilla, and Louis, a checkered giant—and we headed to Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital (nicknamed Metro Vet) in Akron, where the ill rabbit was waiting.

When I dropped off my guys I asked Dr. Stewart, a colleague of Dr. Riggs, what was wrong with the ill rabbit. She said he only had 20% of his blood volume left, likely due to a laceration to the mouth, and was in critical condition. They had started him earlier on medication to build his volume of blood back



*Butterball and his pal Heather.*

up, but he needed additional blood as well, therefore a transfusion was the solution. As I drove home, I said a little prayer for the then-unknown rabbit who was to receive the blood.

Later that day, I got an e-mail from a lady named Marlayne, thanking me for recommending Metro Vet and Dr. Gary Riggs as an experienced rabbit vet. She said she saw my recommendation on a web site and had just driven an hour to take her rabbit Butterball there. They phoned her to say they had found a donor to help save her rabbit and the vet had told her the transfusion was happening right then. She had no idea I was the one who took my rabbits to Metro Vet as donors, she was simply writing to thank me for recommending this hospital. I wrote back, telling her my rabbits were the donors and we were all

honored to be able to help her bunny and I wished them the best. I asked her to keep in touch with me about his condition. It was fate that we were connected in this way, otherwise we would not have been able to contact each other. I was so glad to "meet" Marlayne. She and her family cared very much about Butterball.

That evening, I went to pick up my rabbits. Dr. Stewart had made up a nice little poster with Butterball's photo on the top and Louis and Sylvester's photos on the bottom, saying "Thank you for donating blood and saving a life". The guys got some extra fresh herb treats since they were good Samaritans. While waiting for them to come out to the waiting room, I asked how the blood recipient was doing

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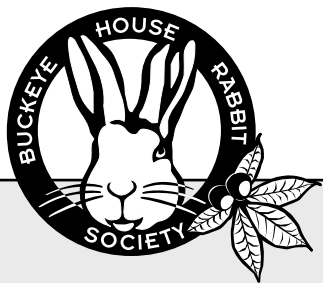
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*Harelines*, the Buckeye House Rabbit Society Newsletter, is published by the all-volunteer, non-profit Buckeye House Rabbit Society, Athens, OH.

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**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:

**Ann Zimmerman**, for her generous contribution in memory of Chester.

**Peter Monett**, for his much-appreciated donation in honor of Bugs.

**Sidelia Reyna** of rubberhedge.com, for her kind gift in tribute to Floppy.

**Melyssa Rohrs**, for graciously donating her artwork for our holiday raffle (see page 11 for details).

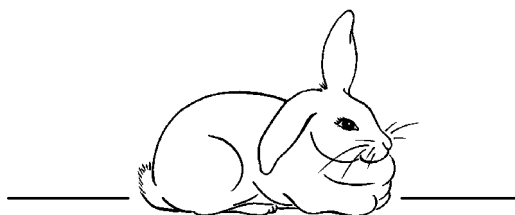
**Randy Weaver**, for making all those free copies of our handouts, and to Carol Danko, for putting us in touch with Randy.

The following members, whose monetary and in-kind contributions allow us to meet our ongoing fostering and educational goals: **Scott Peters, Kathy Kallay, Karyn Harshbarger, John and Mary Jo Mayfield, Carol Danko, Eva Bear, Patricia Wolanski, Patricia Brant, Nathalie Baldwin and Andrew Waltz.**

**Our new and continuing Sanctuary Rabbit Sponsors!** This program would not be possible without your generosity. A growing number of special rabbits, who must spend the rest of their lives in foster care due to serious medical conditions, have you to thank. We wish we could list each of you individually!

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

And, last but not never least, a colossal thank you to all our wonderfully dedicated **Buckeye HRS volunteers**. You organize picnics, you staff adoption days, you answer emails and phone calls, you mail info packets, you design our newsletter, you maintain mailing lists, you transport bunnies from shelters to foster homes and vet clinics, you hold garage sales, you sell our gift shop items, you send out sponsorship packets ... and the list goes on and on. You give your time, effort and expertise in so many different ways that "thank you" doesn't begin to acknowledge your selfless service to needy rabbits in Ohio. We wouldn't exist without you.



## Our Readers Write

Dear Buckeye HRS:

Paul and I adopted Forest back in 2000 or 2001 (it's been a few years) as a companion to our other rabbit, Maddie. Unfortunately, Maddie passed away of a severe sinus infection. It was not *Pasteurella* as we feared, but it was still fatal. She died suddenly after her last surgery. We all grieved Maddie's passing. Poor Forest laid on the floor of his playpen and put his head down. I petted him and he didn't shy away from me like he usually did. After that, Forest started becoming much more friendly with us humans.

He's still healthy as ever, and eats his hay and salads. His favorite place to hang out and take a nap is in Paul's office. He's a big floppy rag doll and lets us pick him up and hold him any way we want, but his favorite way to interact is on the floor. If I sit down, he'll come up and nudge me until I give him some attention. He definitely has his "favorite people" and avoids those who don't give him respect. He seems most in tune with me, and listens intently to every sound I make, especially when I "chirp" at him. I know exactly how to get one or both ears to stand straight up. A friend of mine watched me do this and said "Radio Forest is on the air". He comes when called, or whenever he hears the hay bag rustling.

He still has to sleep in his playpen when we're not at home, because he's notorious for getting into mischief and I don't want him to hurt himself. He's a climber and I've caught him skidding across the end tables, knocking remote controls and knick-knacks in all directions. But fortunately, Paul and I work staggered shifts so someone is usually here all day and he can run around and sprawl on the carpet, nibble my books, and steal the mail to his heart's content. He also knows when it's bedtime. He goes into his pen without being told and waits for me to say good night, pet him, and close the door. I think he likes his pen. It's a carpeted enclosure that takes up part of the living room. He'd probably like to sleep with us, but unfortunately I can't let him—he'd just be up

chewing the box spring all night. He can't resist cords, which resulted in us building elaborate bunny barriers and he still manages to get around them from time to time. He knows that there's something irresistible just on the other side. Paul and I are both quite handy with the soldering iron and electrical tape. Fortunately, unlike Maddie, Forest doesn't care much for getting stuck behind the dryer.

*Continued on page 4*



**2006 Calendars are now available on our website gift shop at [www.ohare.org](http://www.ohare.org)**

*Be sure* to visit the web site to see the calendars and descriptions. We have 2 styles available for 2006. One is a calendar with lovely photos of rescued rabbits. The other one is *Men with Buns*, a tasteful calendar showing various macho guys with their pet rabbits. Both are a must-see and the proceeds from both will benefit foster rabbits at the Buckeye chapter of the House Rabbit Society.



## Book Review

By Herta Rodina

Explore the charming, whimsical world of Runny Babbit!  
Learn his special language and delight in his antics!

“Runny fad a hamily –  
Matter of fact, he had  
A sother and two bristers,  
A dummy and a mad.

His mamma fed him marrot cilk  
And parrot cie and such,  
And all of them were happy  
In their cozy hunny butch.”



Written several years ago by renowned children’s author Shel Silverstein and now published posthumously, *Runny Babbit* will win the hearts of young and old. Aside from the playfully creative Runnyspeak—careful, after a few pages, you’ll start talking like him!—the illustrations in this work are nothing short of extraordinary. In true lagomorph fashion, this hero’s emotions are conveyed by his enormous ears. Proud, they drape his face like a regal veil; scared, they flatten against his back; fierce, they stand out to the side like airplane propellers. His ever-changing eyes and his fluffy little tail also provide visual clues to his moods and thoughts.

Of course, Runny has a series of adventures and he gets into all kinds of trouble. But, his friends and family, as well as his own brand of common sense, always come to the rescue and he learns some valuable life lessons along the way. Once you’ve met Runny, Flutterby, Ploppy Sig, Franny Fog, Wormy Squirm, and the rest of the Babbitland gang, you’ll reread this tale over and over and wish that the author were still with us to give us more.

SILVERSTEIN, SHEL. *RUNNY BABBIT: A BILLY SOOK*. HARPER COLLINS, 2005. Pp. 89. ISBN 0-06-025653-2, HARDCOVER. \$17.99.

### Our Readers Write, Cont'd.

It took some time for Forest to warm up to us, but you couldn’t ask for a better natured, more easygoing, playful bun. We’ve thought about getting another rabbit companion, but right now, as things stand, the three of us are happy together. We enjoy our “family time” for at least an hour or two every day, and he entertains us with BIG binkies when released in the mornings. I’ve never seen a rabbit jump as high as Forest can. I hope he’ll be around for many years to come.

Brenda Bennett & Paul DeJager  
Bunny parents of “Forest”,  
Florida White



*Left: A thankful Butterball.  
Above, and right:  
Donor bunnies  
Louis and Sylvester*



## The Gift of Life, Cont'd.

and they said he was stable at that time. The next day I got a message from Marlayne that Butterball had steadily improved during the night and was making good progress. The day after that, he got to go home!

It has been nice to be able to keep track of Butterball's progress as he continued to gain strength. Butterball is doing fine now and his family is happy to have him healthy again.

### Vet contact information:

#### Dr. Gary Riggs

#### Bird & Exotic Specialty Hospital

4873 Richland Avenue

Norton, OH 44203

330-825-2434 or 1-800-530-1637

[www.exoticpetvets.com](http://www.exoticpetvets.com)

#### Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital

1053 S. Cleveland-Massillon Rd

Akron, OH 44321

330-666-2976 or 330-253-2544

### RABBIT BLOOD FACTS

The average blood volume of most rabbits is 6-8% of the body weight in kilograms and it is safe to withdraw 6-10% of that blood volume in milliliters for blood testing.

The most common sites to withdraw blood from a rabbit are the veins on the side of the back leg (saphenous), the neck (jugular), or the front leg in larger rabbits (cephalic), and marginal ear veins (the least preferred). The area is swabbed with alcohol to disinfect and part the fur, the vein is held off, and a small needle is quickly inserted.

There is no reason to anesthetize the rabbit for this procedure; as long as it is performed gently and slowly, rabbits tolerate it well.

Rabbits do not have blood types like humans do. However, cross-matching can be done. The first time a rabbit gets a transfusion, no matching has to be done. If that rabbit needs a subsequent transfusion, then a sample of the donor's blood as well as a sample of the recipient's blood is combined to see if there is a clotting reaction. If not, the recipient is safe to receive from that donor.

For a transfusion, first the blood is drawn from the donor, then mixed with an anti-coagulant. Next it is run through a filter and then given to the rabbit in need of blood.





**CINCINNATI**

Left to Right: **FUNNIEST FACE** Joey, submitted by Andrea and Mike Markey. **BUNNIES A**

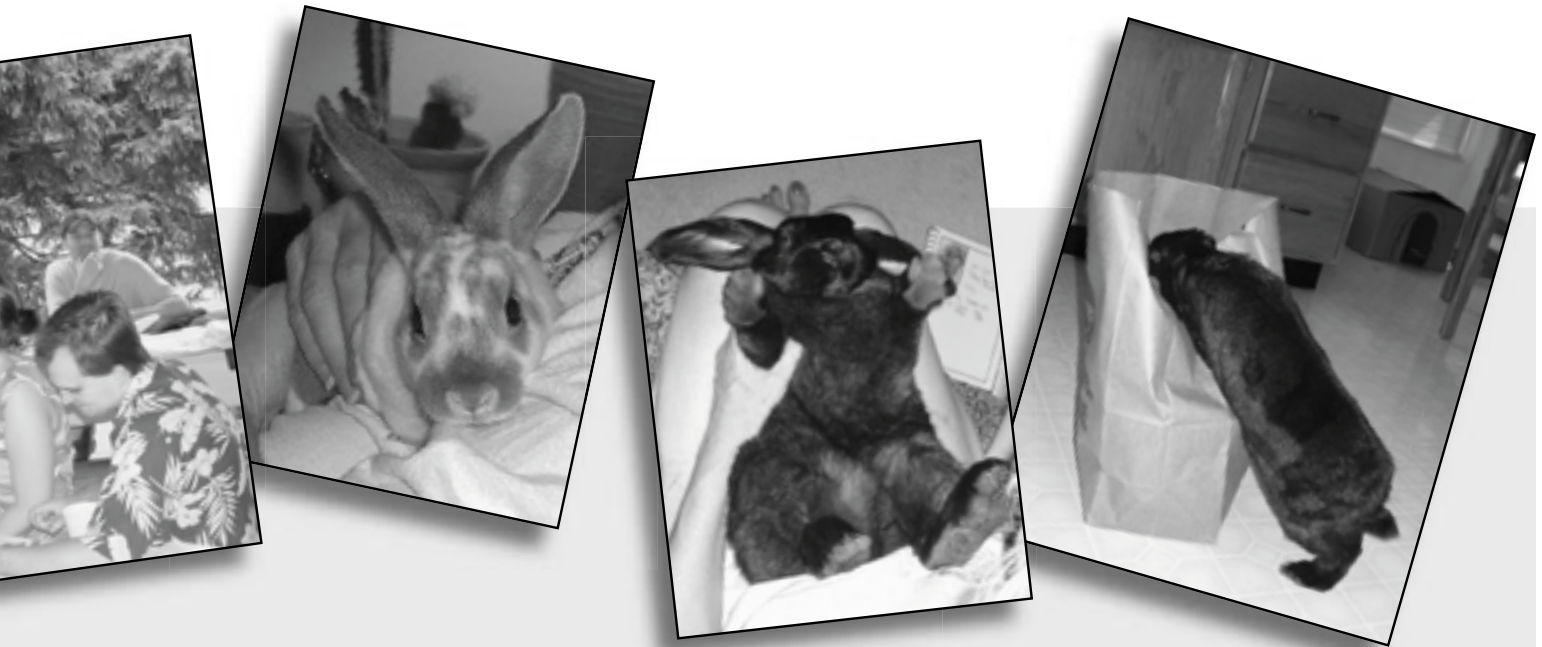
**CUTEST FACE** Misty, submitted by Keni Morris.

# PICNIC PIC

**NE OHIO**

**BUNNIES & FRIENDS** Jackal the dog with rabbit Slim Shady, submitted by Peter Joseph. **CUTEST F**



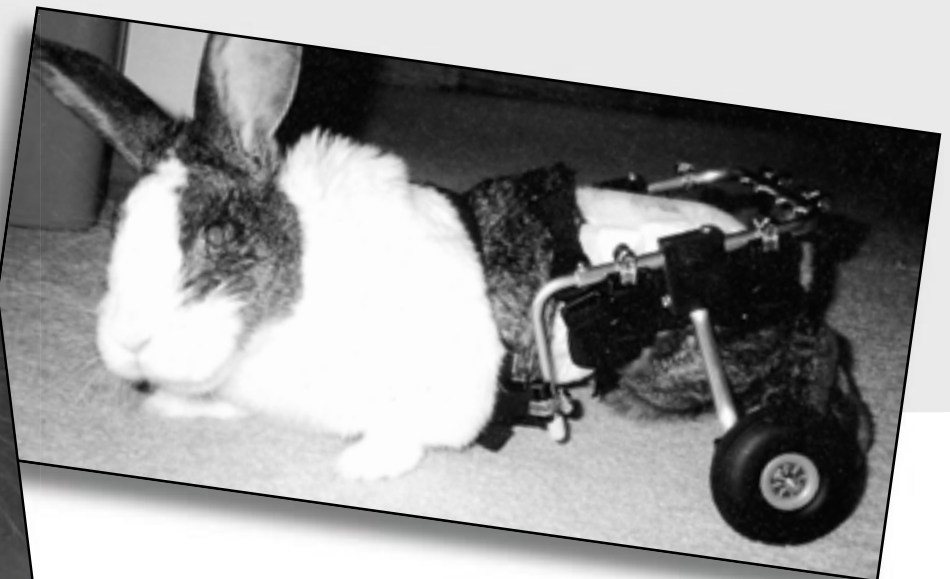


**ND FRIENDS** Munny and Madison; submitted by Suzanne and Kelly Wright. **MEMBERS ENJOYING THE AFTERNOON**

**BUNNIES IN ACTION AND HUNGRY BUNNY** Cinder; submitted by Tricia and Dave Graham.

# WINNERS!

**FACE AND FUNNIEST FACE** Ivy, submitted by Norman Henke. **BUNNIES IN ACTION** Snuggles, submitted by Katherine Toler.





## Somebunny Needs YOU!



**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.**



**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.**



**Binky Boy** is an adorable, lovable English Spot who is approximately 6 months old (as of Sept 05). He has six adorable brown spots in a vertical line on his back. He is a real adventurer who loves to explore. He is a little hesitant about being held, but his favorite game is to jump on his foster mom's back whether she is lying on the floor or sitting! Sometimes he even kisses her ears and buries his head in her hair. He also loves to jump in her lap and follow her around. He loves his veggies, and gets very excited when he hears the refrigerator door and the salad containers being opened! He also does a lot of binkies, hence his name. **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.**



**Puff** is a beautiful and friendly white rex, approx 6 lbs, with tan markings. If you sit on the floor, he will come and sit in your lap and he enjoys being petted. Puff is very tidy with his area and his litterbox, is a good eater, and also enjoys being around other animals—cats

in particular. He loves his willow tunnel and chewing on his apple tree twigs. Puff is a very gentle rabbit and would be very good with children. **Please contact Kristen Doherty 440-543-4959.**



**Sadie** is an adorable little Holland lop girl who is very spirited. She's active and loves to run around frantically to get her exercise, yet she is calm and cuddling when held. In fact, she loves to be held and will snuggle right into your arms to fall asleep. There is one caution about Sadie, however:

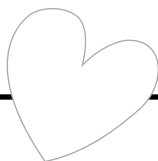
she sometimes bites unexpectedly and we're not sure why. It's mostly when we try to remove her bowls from her pen, so we use techniques such as distraction to grab them. For this reason, Sadie must go to a home in which the family members have a lot of patience and won't take her biting personally. Therefore, a household with kids probably wouldn't work. **If you think you can provide Sadie with this special kind of loving home, 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.**





**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.**



**Nelson** is a very friendly male rabbit who is good with kids and really enjoys his hay. He is about 9 months old (was an Easter bunny this year) and weighs about 6 lbs. He would make a great addition to any family. **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.**



Meet **Dolby**, a compact bundle of cuteness and affection. He's easy to pick up and loves to cuddle on a lap. This 4 lb. mini lop has beautifully variegated cinnamon and nutmeg colored fur and he's about 2 years old. Stellar litter habits, strong appetite, calm demeanor. **Please contact Herta Rodina (herta@ohare.org) 740-797-7616.**



**Munchkin** is an adorable little girl. Can you believe that she was actually fed to a snake? Lucky for her, the snake was not hungry that day and left her alone. Munch is very tiny and needs to find a home that is just right for her. She is partially blind and would do best in a home without children or other pets (she may do well with another bunny). Munchkin loves her toys and is very neat with her litter box. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



**Kelly** is an active but small little girl. She loves to play with her toys and cardboard boxes. She also loves free time and would do best with someone who can give her a lot of attention. Kelly has had a rough start to her 3-year life and needs somebody to love her. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

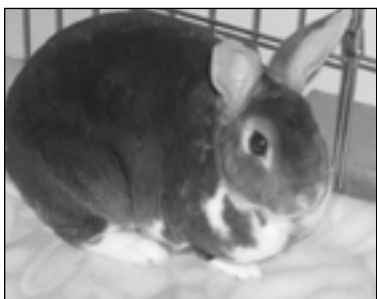


**Jack** is a handsome boy who has a lot of love to give. A mellow guy, he loves people, enjoys pets on his head, and loves to stretch out and relax. Jack hopes to have a permanent home with you! **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



**"Mrs. D"** is quite friendly and charming, with a pleasant demeanor and active personality. She enjoys playing with her cardboard tunnel and other bunny toys. She most loves having lots of room to run and play. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

## Somebunny Needs YOU! Cont'd.

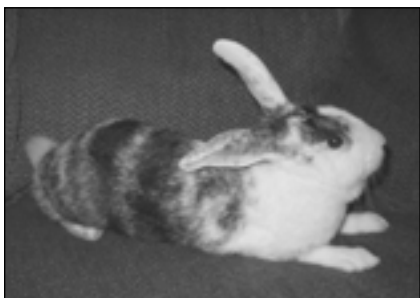


**Mocha** is a beautiful female Rex bunny. Cute and quiet are the words that best describe her personality. She enjoys playing with her cardboard box and likes to be petted on her head. Mocha is about a year and a half old. **Please contact Sue**

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



**Samantha** is a gorgeous, velvety soft, female Rex bunny. She is a very sweet girl and just look at those adorable ears! Samantha is about a year and a half old and would be happy to have a permanent loving home with you. **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.**



**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.**

## Adopted!

**Chelsea** is now living with Monica and doting on her new bunny pal, Boo. ♡ **Mabel** is now settled in her new home with Beth and some new kitty pals. ♡ Rugby, now **Bingley**, has fallen head over tail in love with beautiful Trixie and has stolen Megan's heart as well. What else could one expect from a bunny renamed in honor of a Jane Austen romantic lead? ♡ **Harlan** joins another Buckeye HRS bunny friend, Ivy, with Joyce and family in Mayfield Heights. ♡ **Merlin** has finally found his place with Jennifer and bunny friend in Lakewood. ♡ **Pierre** now enjoys rabbit companionship with Chuck, another former Buckeye HRS bunny, at the home of Christine and family in Wickliffe. ♡ **Maya** is trying out life with Joe and Eileen in Cleveland. ♡ **Bianca** and Frosty, adopted by Jammie of Cleveland, make a beautiful floppy-eared pair. ♡ **Powder** has been adopted into the loving home of Vickie Fritts and family.



Melyssa Rohrs does commissioned portraits of animals, pets, and people. For more information, contact her by phone at 330-421-5402, by email at [rohrrml@yahoo.com](mailto:rohrrml@yahoo.com) or visit her website, [www.melyssarohrs.com](http://www.melyssarohrs.com)



## Holiday Raffle to Benefit Buckeye HRS Foster Rabbits!

Ohio artist Melyssa Rohrs has generously donated this beautiful painting, entitled "Springtime Bunnies," for our first-ever holiday raffle. All proceeds will go directly to our foster program and will ensure that needy bunnies have a safe haven this winter and can look forward to a brighter spring. Of course, "Springtime Bunnies" is best viewed in color on our website at [www.ohare.org/gifts.htm#raffle](http://www.ohare.org/gifts.htm#raffle).

Tickets cost \$1 each and you may buy as many as you wish. All entries must be postmarked no later than December 1, 2005. Please include your phone number and email (if available) with your check or money order and indicate it's for the raffle. Mail your request to: Buckeye HRS, P.O. Box 5767, Athens, OH 45701. The lucky winner will be notified in early December and will receive the painting in time for holiday gift-giving.

### Artist's Statement

*"Springtime Bunnies" measures 12" by 12". The medium is acrylic on masonite. The inspiration for the painting came from photographs of two of my bunnies when they were just a few months old. The grayish bunny is Chilla (named because his fur reminded us of a chinchilla's) and the tan one is his brother, Dandelion (Dandy for short). We used to take them outside to play. They didn't have the ability yet to control their movements, so they would launch themselves like unguided missiles into each other. With the painting, I tried to capture the feeling of innocence and curiosity I remember when I think of them at that age.*



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## 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...*