



# HARELINES



Volume 24 Number 3 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

Fall 2020

## Our Latest Covergirl – Indigo!

By Renee Argento

This rabbit wants to be judged by the content of her character, not the color of her fur.

Indigo is a beautiful black rabbit born in September 2019 (Missy's sister) from the "Sandusky Court-Case Buns." Born in foster care, she's a shy flower waiting to bloom. Even though she's a bashful girl, Indigo likes the companionship of other rabbits once she gets to know them. Always the elegant lady, she's got great litterbox habits and is a voracious hay connoisseur. She would thrive with a patient caretaker who can give her the time, space, and attention she requires to shine in a loving home.

Whether it's from mythology or superstition, rescue workers have the same experience: obsidian creatures face difficulties in adoption. Like Indigo, they wait longer than their colorful peers to find their forever home.

In the age of Instagram and Snapchat, black animals can be more difficult to photograph. I, as a servant of an ebony rabbit queen myself, can provide some tips for capturing our inky friends.

- **Lighting.** Indirect sunlight is your friend. Daylight is by far the easiest way to take photographs; their glossy black coats shine brilliantly in natural light. Avoid using flash and direct sunlight. If you can't avoid it, diffuse it. You can use a sheet of white paper, a card, or a scarf over the flash to diffuse the bright light. Cellphone and even camera flashes can produce harsh effects. The LEDs can reflect poorly and cause red-eye; in addition, they can startle

your subject. Lamps and other types of lighting can be really helpful as well and provide a much softer solution than flash.

- **Go to them.**

The best photographs I've taken of my rabbits are when they are relaxed with their feet kicked out. Like a wildlife photographer, I go to their level and snap photos of them when they're adventuring or getting comfy. We know what our friends look like from above (a lot of pet photos get taken this way) so it's interesting to see the world as they view it.

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*Beautiful Indigo is a photogenic bunny!*



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We know our members value their privacy  
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## Special Thanks to:

**Lori Fair**, for her generous donation in memory of her beloved Pat.

**Carol Harvey**, for her kind gift in tribute to Bandit, Missy, and Sneaker.

**Ann-Marie Polansky**, for contributing to the "Name Our Next Foster" program. Meet Petunia on page 11!

**IBM Employee Services Center**, for their much-appreciated contributions.

**ABM Cares**, for their generous support of employee donations and volunteer work.

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

**Nate and Liz Wenzel, Patricia Wolanski, Judy O'Neil, Bob Piekarczyk, Elisabeth Thomas-Matej, Jill Robinson, Linda Gardner, Tanja Stich, Irma Laszlo, Deborah Raddish, Sue Milewski, Junko Rogers, Debbie Dowell, Claire Fenrich, Norma Jeanne Mudry, James and Nancy Reed.**

**Our new and continuing Sanctuary Rabbit Sponsors!** These special rabbits, who will spend the rest of their lives in foster care due to serious medical conditions, have you kind and generous people to thank!

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

**Find the Buckeye HRS on  
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Buckeye House  
Rabbit Society**



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- Avoid busy backgrounds if possible. Try something not too stark to contrast with your pet (white can sometimes be too harsh). A blanket that contrasts, a couch, a floor – see what works! Try to get tight shots. Focus in on bunny's nose or face, filling the frame more with your subject than the background. In addition, you can inch further away and go for a blurred background.
- Focus on the eyes. This gives a great focal point and produces some wonderfully expressive results.
- Take a lot of shots. The more you take the more opportunities you will have to get your favorite pics. From evening binkies to morning zoomies, some of the best shots of our friends are action shots. You'll improve the more you practice too!
- Edit. There are some great filters and photograph editing software available for free. This is a solid way to boost and improve your favorite shots.



*Indigo is ready for her closeup.*

Black rabbits are as rich in personality as they are in color. Having proudly served and shared my home with two amazing, beautiful, and smart raven-colored bunnies, I can attest to how enriched our time together has been. Besides, black goes with everything!

To meet Indigo, please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.



*Busy backgrounds are bad. Hay is good.*



*Take plenty of photos & you'll get a good one!*



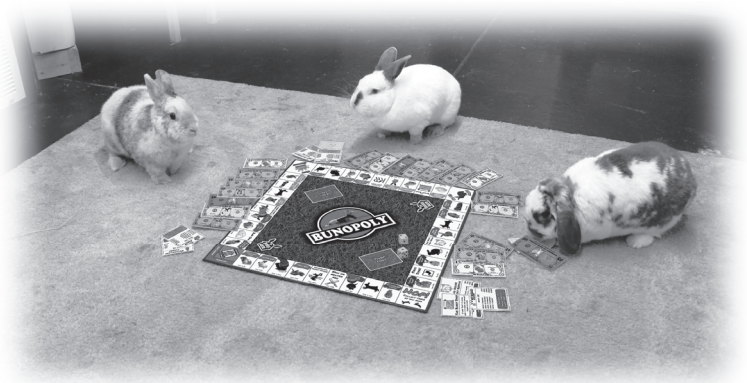
# Holiday Raffle to Benefit Buckeye HRS Foster Rabbits!

For our fifteenth annual holiday raffle, we proudly present the Bunopoly Classic Board Game, generously donated by The Bunny Barn (<https://the.bunnybarnmi.com>) AND a handmade porcelain rabbit charm necklace made and donated by Alicia Moreland.

- Bunopoly features 1 full-color printed box; 1 full-color, quad-fold game board measuring 18" x 18"; 6 colored player tokens; 12 large carrots; 32 nanners; 2 dice; 28 adoption cards; 18 binky cards, 16 thump cards; \$24,696 in bunny money (36 of each bill denomination); and 1 instruction manual. Some final assembly and cutting required.
- Game box measures 10" x 10" x 3".
- Charm necklace features a tarnish-resistant 24k gold-plated chain and findings and includes a crystal charm.
- The rabbit charm is hand-sculpted, hand-painted porcelain, finished in a crystal-clear glaze and a premium gold overglaze. It is hand crafted by Cleveland's own Alicia Moreland.
- The chain is 19" in length and includes a 2" extender chain for your convenience.



All proceeds will go directly to our foster program and will ensure that needy bunnies have a safe and happy holiday season while they await the ultimate gift, a permanent home.



Tickets cost \$1 each and you may buy as many as you wish. **All entries must be postmarked no later than December 7, 2020.** 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 61, Vickery, OH 43464. If you prefer, you may pay by credit card through our website – [www.ohare.org/wordpress/support/our-raffle](http://www.ohare.org/wordpress/support/our-raffle) – for ticket purchases of \$5 or more.

The lucky winner will be notified mid-December and will receive the prize in time for holiday gift-giving.

# The Rescued Lops – Life, Loss, and Love

By Stephanie Lodge

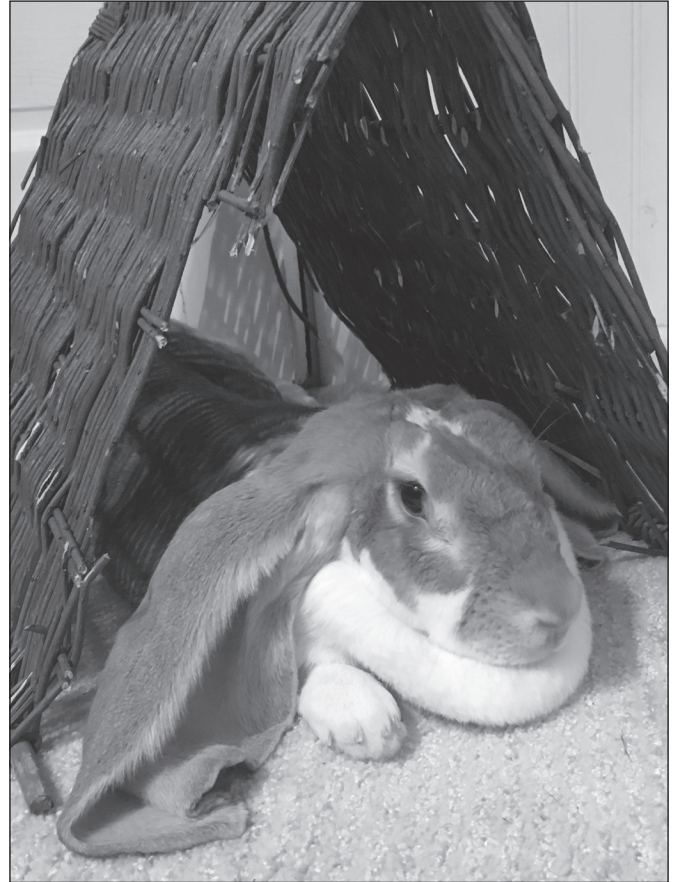
Everyone who knows me knows about Lopez and how wonderful she is. In a previous article I described the rescue that took place on June 18, 2018 in the woods in Ravenna, Ohio. Of the six rabbits we saved that day, only three are left.

I've been told that English Lops do not live as long as other rabbits due to their inbreeding. There is no doubt that the six we rescued were dumped by a breeder. Judging by their various states of illness, all the rabbits had been severely neglected, which probably affects their lifespan. Of the remaining buns, all except Bigsby have required surgery. Despite not needing surgery, Bigsby's mom, Molly Kash, said, "He acts like he's ancient. He struggles with his legs sometimes." Bigs is being treated for arthritis.

My Lopez developed large masses under her chin in January 2020 and had to undergo surgery to have them removed. All three lumps were abscesses. She also had an infection on her front paw that burst three months after taking her into our home.



*Each day with Lopez is a blessing.*



*Lopez is loving rescued life.*

Linda Squire's Chappy experienced similar abscesses under his chin; they had to be removed surgically.

Lexie Sauer's Hazelnut passed away on July 30, 2020. She was diagnosed by Dr. Oglesbee with a neurological disorder that causes a malfunction of the gut resulting in an enlarged colon and dysbiosis (inadequate bacteria in the gut). Hazel's body was shutting down and pneumonia set in. Sadly, her health was spiraling out of control and she had to be euthanized. Binky free sweet girl.

I'd like to give a huge, loving thank you to the others who helped rescue these special bunnies. Kristie Depolo was introduced to rabbits by Peanut Butter. He passed away on November 23, 2018 due to liver torsion.

I don't want to end on a sad note. I can say with confidence that Lopez, Chappy, and Bigsby are all loving life. Personally, I take each day with my Lopez as a blessing.





# My Rabbit Has What?

**By Renee Argento**

*With gratitude to Dr. Christie Taylor for her expertise and support with Zoe*

I adopted Zoe from Stephanie Lodge at the Buckeye HRS on October 26, 2014. Like many rescues, we knew little about Zoe's history. Approximately six years old, she was tiny, thin, but healthy enough to be spayed and put up for adoption. It was her instant one-in-a-million bond with Joe, my heart bunny, that made her part of our family.

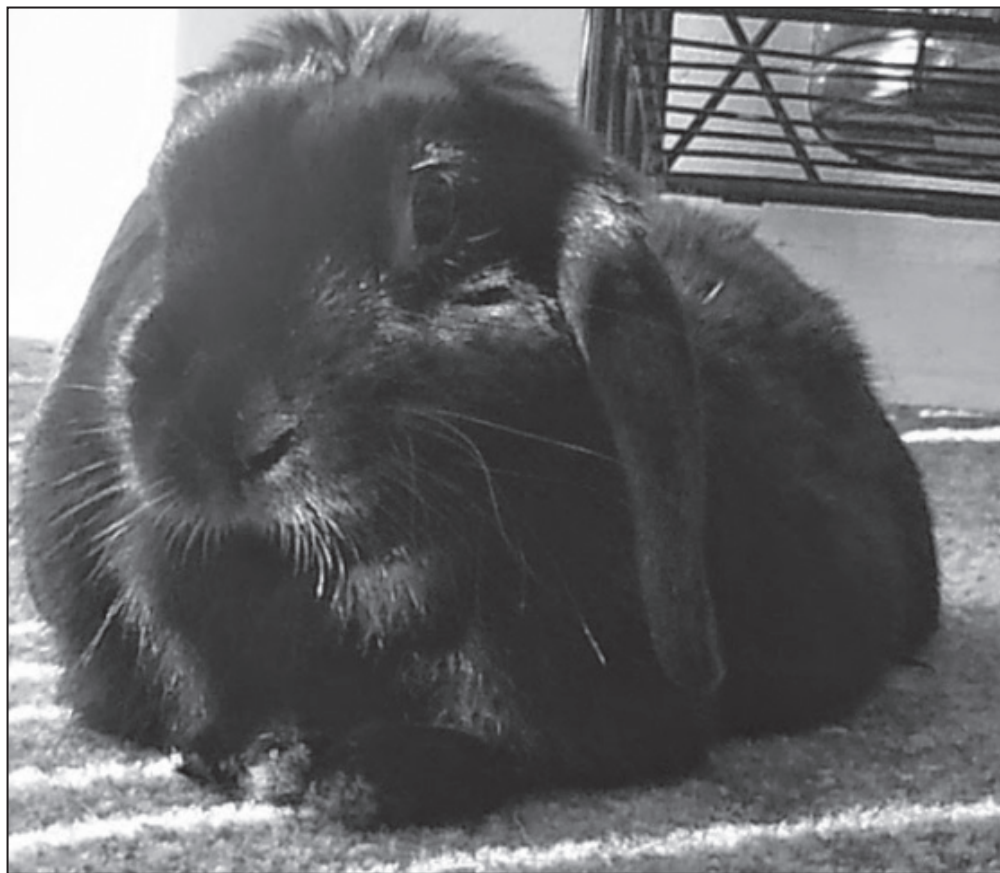
In December 2016, I noticed a scabby growth on the nose of my otherwise healthy girl. It looked as if Zoe was finally growing a horn like the unicorn

she was. I had already made my appointment with Dr. Riggs at the Barberton Veterinary Clinic and began reaching out to friends. My corner of the rabbit community is always learning and sharing information about rabbit care and experiences; we're like rabbit information sponges. So when I sent photos to my good friend Christie Taylor, I thought for sure that between the two of us we'd figure out what was going on. Did a piece of hay get lodged in Zoe's nostril? Had she and Joe had a fight? Did she zoomie too hard one night and injure herself?

At our appointment, Dr. Riggs took one look at Zoe and said, "We can run tests, but I am confident she has syphilis." Anyone who's experienced Dr. Riggs knows that he has quite the sense of humor. I replied "Excuse me? She has what?!" "Syphilis" he repeated. I responded "Like the STD?!" He elaborated: "Yes, it's actually fairly common and typically easily treated with penicillin shots. She likely got infected through her mother." I asked him if this is something that would spread to Beans, my chinchilla. "He may not want to associate with such ladies," he giggled, "but no, he'll be fine."

I took Zoe to three separate appointments for subcutaneous penicillin shots and within a few weeks the crusty growth on her nose disappeared. This experience had me wondering why I've heard so little about this apparently common disease. Here was my opportunity to dig into rabbit syphilis.

"Rabbit syphilis is caused by the venereally transmitted spirochaete *Treponema paraluis cuniculi*. Neonates may be infected at birth from infected mothers. Infection can cause genital and facial popular crusting



*Zoe has lived with Renee since October 2014.*



*Crusty growths on Zoe's chin have been dealt with.*

and, in some cases, ulcerative lesions which may involve the eyelids (treponemal blepharitis). Treatment involves weekly injections of high-dose Penicillin (40,000 IU), with caution to avoid gastrointestinal side effects, tetracycline or chloramphenicol." (BSAVA, 2014).

Years later, I revisited the issue with my friend, Dr. Christie Taylor, who holds a PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology: "My experience with syphilis is similar to yours. The symptoms can be cryptic in otherwise healthy animals. Bunnies who are getting a good diet and who are living in a tidy environment can mount an immune response to keep most, if not all, symptoms at bay. Instead of an obvious suite of symptoms, you'll see one or two that might be harder to interpret. Because of the subtle and usually non-life-threatening symptoms, most breeders either don't know or don't care if their animals are infected and most

animals inherit the disease from their mother. Animals can harbor the disease for years without showing signs of illness and might not show symptoms until later in life or until another health issue prevents their immune system from completely suppressing the disease."

Dr. Taylor detailed a similar experience with her bunny, Molotov, lovingly known as Molly. Molly was diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder in the fall of 2018. Treating the disease required an immunosuppressant; as the drug did its job healing the symptoms of the autoimmune disease, Molly's syphilis presented as swelling around her eyes. Upon closer inspection, Christie noticed that she had crusty lesions around her genitals as well. Like Zoe, Molly's symptoms responded to regular injections of penicillin. If not for Molly's autoimmune disease and the immunosuppressants to treat it, we may never have known that she had syphilis.



Zoe and Molly and other rabbits present syphilis symptoms in a variety of ways. Zoe's health was otherwise completely normal, nothing in previous vet check-ups indicated that she was a carrier. It was Molly's autoimmune disorder and subsequent treatment with immunosuppressants that revealed the syphilis. As long as breeding is prevalent, syphilis should be kept in mind when diagnosing various ailments in our house rabbits. Most

importantly, it is treatable and curable, which is the best news we have regarding syphilis.

Reference: BSAVA (*British Small Animal Veterinary Association*) *Manual of Rabbit Medicine 1st Edition*.

# When to Reconsider Re-Homing

By Shawwna Lemerise

While the Buckeye HRS does everything possible to discourage surrenders, there are reasons why people may sometimes need to find a new home for their rabbit. Circumstances in life change – illness, accident, financial hardship, or emotional upheaval can occur with little warning. Or, less dramatic, a person may find that his expectations of having a bunny are different from reality. It is up to you to make the best decision for your rabbit. If you absolutely must rehome your bunny, please keep your rabbit's best interest in mind and provide housing for him or her as long as it takes to find a good new home. If possible, find a friend or family member you trust completely to adopt your bunny so that you can visit and ensure s/he is well cared for.

There are, however, some reasons that warrant a second look before making a decision. Far too many unwanted rabbits end up in shelters which then struggle to find interested adopters because so many rabbits need homes. We strongly recommend that folks keep their pets; your bunny's best chance at a good life is most likely going to be with you. Whether you or someone you know has considered rehoming a rabbit, here are some of the most common reasons that deserve closer scrutiny.

## 1. I'm allergic to my rabbit

When new allergies develop, it can be very heartbreaking to discover that this could be caused by your furry friend. Allergies are a complex issue, so it is important to speak to your doctor to determine if your rabbit is truly the culprit. Human allergies to animals are often from the saliva left on the fur after the animal grooms himself. The saliva is transferred by touching the animal and

then touching your face, eyes, and nose (source: <https://rabbit.org/journal/3-12/allergies.html>). You can avoid this allergen by frequent hand washing, wearing gloves when cleaning your rabbit's space, vacuuming often, and giving your bunny his or her own room or area. In addition, some people are allergic to the hay rabbits eat, so they keep the hay secluded, wear gloves when handling it, or have another household member deal with the hay. It's also important to rule out other potential allergens in your home, such as dust mites or plant pollen. You can be tested for specific allergies or try the elimination method to see if removing other potential sources relieves your symptoms. Many rabbit owners find that even with an allergy, discovering the root cause and taking reasonable precautions allows them to live comfortably with their bunny.

## 2. Bad behavior

In many cases it is fixable with a little time, love, and patience! Some bad behaviors include aggression such as biting and scratching, urinating, and destruction. Destructive behavior such as chewing on furniture or tearing up carpet can be tamed by redirecting your bunny to safe rabbit toys. Please see our articles about toys on [ohare.org](http://ohare.org), including inexpensive and easy DIY toys for inspiration. Also consider better integrating your bunny into your living space, litter box training, and ensuring that s/he has room to hide, run, jump, and binky. Use treats to reward your rabbit when she exhibits good behavior and redirect her to a toy or another activity when she does something undesirable, such as dig up your carpet. Positive reinforcement is an effective method for curbing destructive behavior.

Not being spayed or neutered is the most common cause of aggression in rabbits. An unaltered rabbit has hormones that can make him or her more aggressive, urinate to mark areas of your home, and be destructive. A spayed/neutered rabbit is a calmer, happier companion. An altered bunny is also healthier and more easily litter-box trained. If your rabbit is still aggressive toward you after spay/neuter, consider using positive reinforcement and be patient. Sit quietly in a room with your rabbit instead of invading his space; let her explore around you, and offer her a treat if she comes to you without attacking.



Doing this often can help build trust and ease aggression toward you.

### 3. Not enough time for my rabbit

People often acquire a rabbit as a result of hearing the myth that a bunny is an easy starter pet (that is, easier than a cat or a dog). The reality is far from the case. Meeting all your rabbit's needs can feel overwhelming, but if you take the time, you will find yourself bonding with a truly wonderful pet. It may require a little change in your routine to make sure your bunny gets fresh greens and has a clean space, but it will not take up much more time than caring for any other pet. As for the daily cleaning of your rabbit's space, once s/he is litter trained, cleaning is much more manageable. Make a plan to spend a little time giving bunny's space a quick daily sweep and change the litter pan frequently. Give the area a thorough clean once a week, spot cleaning as needed. If you aim to keep

your rabbit's area tidy and work with him or her on training, then cleaning up will not feel like a lot of work.

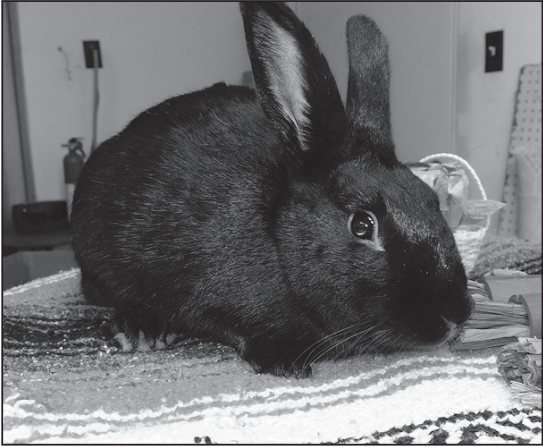
To meet physical and emotional needs, your rabbit requires space to explore as well as areas to hide. Whether that involves time outside her pen, a room to herself, or allowing her to roam your entire home, it is important that she not be left in a cage 24/7. By making your rabbit a part of your family, it will be easier for you to spend time with her. Rabbits are very social animals, and maybe a companion rabbit is a better option if your time is very limited. Lastly, feeding can be a breeze if you have a hay dispenser; just keep it full and be sure your rabbit has plenty of water with multiple bowls or bottles. Provide fresh greens daily, which you can stock up on once a week from the grocery store. Although it may take some planning, caring for a rabbit can fit into many busy schedules.



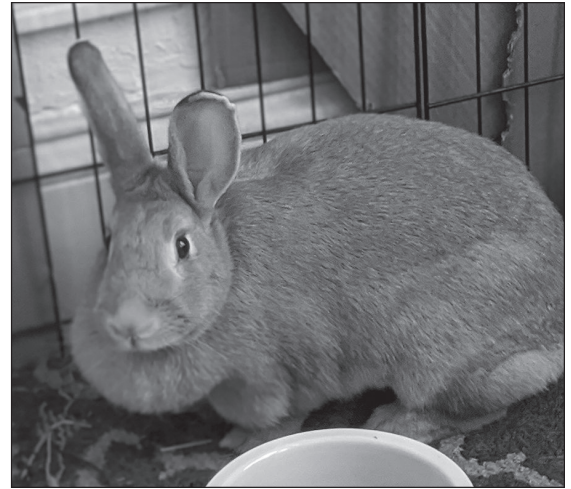
*Don't forget – rabbits are social animals.*



# Somebunny Needs YOU!



Meet **Flash**! The last of the 17 court case babies to remain in our foster home, he is a young and curious boy who likes to explore and hang out in his cardboard box. Flash would love to have a home of his very own. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



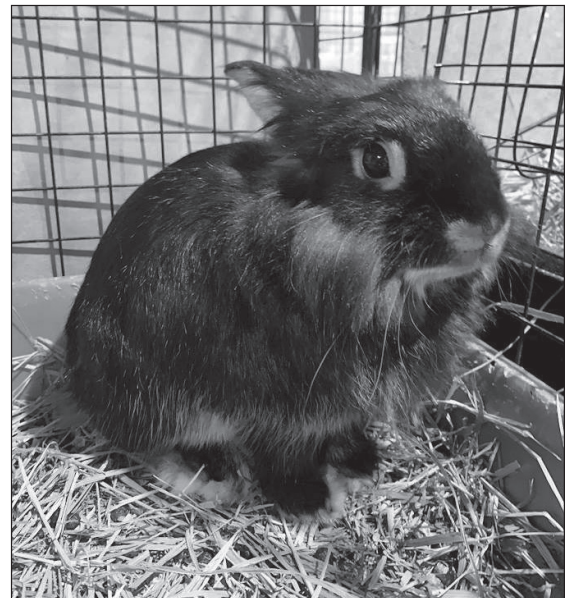
**Molly** is looking for a forever home where she can take long afternoon naps. An expert in bunstruction, Molly prefers to create her masterpieces from the inside of the cardboard box. She is a big bunny with great manners who makes sure to take treats carefully from your hand. One of the mother bunnies from the Wood County Humane Society case, Molly is very sweet and enjoys her quiet time. **Please contact Maggie Reading (bhrrs-maggie@ohare.org).**



**Hailey** was found as a stray on a country road and is now looking for her forever home. She is shy when you first meet her, but with time will warm up and is a charming little girl. Hailey will need a lot of room to run and play since she enjoys exploring and does not sit still for long. **Please contact Amy Marshall (bhrrs-amy@ohare.org).**

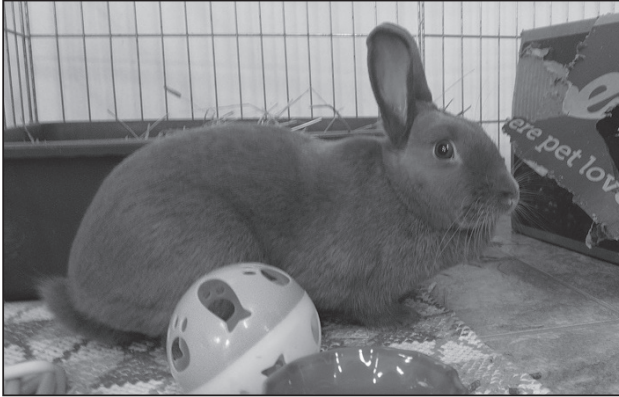


**Pancake** is a silly, playful bun who was rescued after living outside for at least several months considering how dirty her fur was when she was found. She loves playing with toys and is overall a sweet little bunny. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



**Timmy**, or Tiny Tim, is one of the many bunnies rescued from a neglect situation in Sandusky. What he lacks in size, he makes up for in good looks. Tiny Tim has excellent potty habits, is well behaved, and has the silkiest soft fur. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**





Meet **Kasey**! One of the Sandusky County court case bunnies from last year, Kasey's beautiful gray fur and eyes give her a stunning appearance. This adorable little princess boasts wonderful litter box habits. Kasey is anxiously awaiting a home to call her own. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

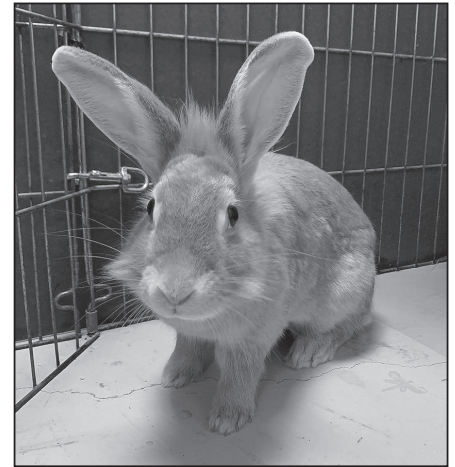


**Tucker** is a very inquisitive young fellow also from the seizure in Sandusky County. His friendly personality and tidy lifestyle make him a wonderful addition to any family. Plus his ears are simply the cutest! **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



**Petunia** may be Tucker's sister. She is slightly smaller than her big brother. While shy at first, once she warms up Petunia is a delight. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**

**Peaches** is a delightful young gal with a beautiful beige and gray lionhead fur coat. She's extremely friendly and will sit as long as you want just so she can



continue to receive pets. Peaches loves to do binkies and head shakes during her playtime out of her pen. She is 100% litterbox-trained. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**

## Adopted!

**Penelope** has found her forever home at long last – and a boyfriend named Paisley. Her new mom, Stephanie, is working on bonding the two and the match is going well. ♥ After living in foster care for over a year, sweet **Iris** has found her home-sweet-home in Cincinnati with some extremely experienced bunny people. Rachel Cook is currently working on bonding Iris with her Ollie and it's going well so far. Never has a bunny been so deserving of her wonderful new family! ♥ **Primrose**, now Willow, has been adopted by the Snow family and is happy to be in her forever home. It was love at first sight and Willow is now enjoying the attention she always deserved. ♥ **Echo** was adopted by a wonderful family in Huron. Echo now enjoys following his new mom, Liz, around the house. Everyone is so happy that he has joined the family! ♥ It didn't take long for **Duff** to find his forever home. He is the king of his domain with Kaleena and her family as his court. Everyone is excited to be living with royalty. ♥ **Gomez** didn't even get posted to our website before he found his happy-ever-after. Living outdoors in Cleveland Heights, he was relieved to be rescued. He now spends his days with his new loving family in Rocky River. His two new BFFs are Sienna and Ava Mae. ♥ **Toby** (renamed Tolby) didn't have to move far to find his forever home. Living in Lakewood with Jane and John, he is the king of the house and couldn't be happier as the center of their world. ♥ Precious little **Dottie** (just a baby when rescued in the Sandusky case) has found the perfect home. Bridget and her family (and the entire neighborhood) were truly excited when she finally arrived. ♥ After being a foster bunny since March 2019, **Jayme** (now Pearl) has found her forever home. Her new mom, Carly, prepared for Pearl's arrival for over a month and everything is perfect. ♥ Cindy and Carmella love Big Momma (formerly **Tessah**) and all her antics. Big Momma likes to arrange her pen "just so" and keep an eye on her domain by prairie doggin'. She has still much to explore!



**Buckeye House Rabbit Society**  
**P.O. Box 61**  
**Vickery, Ohio 43464**



*Buy a bunny a little time...*

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

### **Your \$35.00 annual membership in the Buckeye HRS includes:**

- Local membership (\$15.00) and issues of Harelines  
New Policy: National membership is now FREE with a local donation of \$20 more. You'll receive a code to sign up directly with national HRS.

☐ 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:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distribute information to vets                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with mailing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help at Buckeye HRS booth at Pet Expos and fairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____         |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Bunnies' names and special dates \_\_\_\_\_

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