



HARELINES



Volume 24 Number 2 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY Spring/Summer 2020

Update: Sandusky County Rabbits

By Keith Zimmerman

In early March, the Buckeye HRS finally obtained custody of the nine rabbits we started caring for last August. You'll recall from our winter newsletter that several of the original nine were pregnant upon arrival into foster care and gave birth to 18 babies within two weeks. Some of the babies have been adopted or moved to other shelters. We were anxious to get the original nine spayed and neutered so that they could be available for adoption. Then came the pandemic. Ohio was quick to be proactive and impose social distancing rules that would still allow our vets

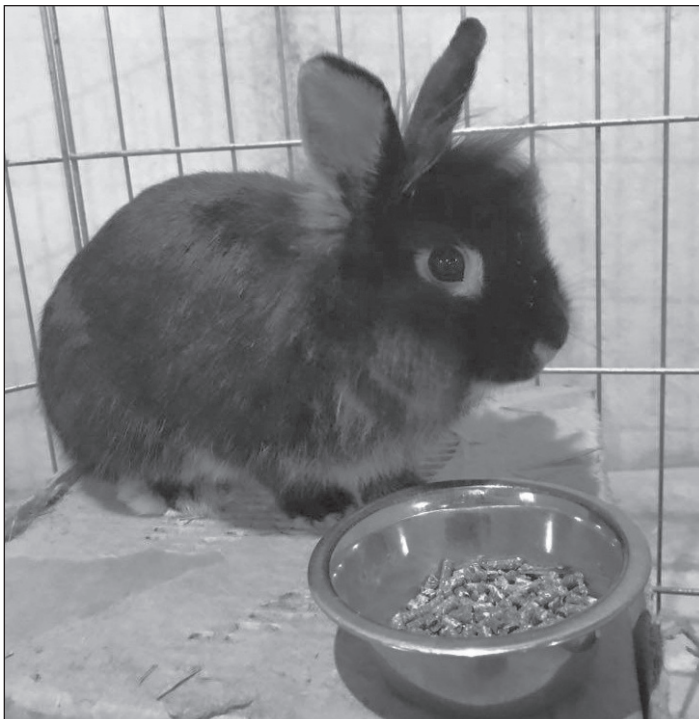
to operate with "drive-n-drop" service at their offices, but that was short-lived. Unfortunately, due to the shortage of surgical masks, gloves, and other PPE necessities, all vets were

instructed to discontinue elective surgeries, including spay/neuter. Therefore, as of early May, we are still dealing with nine buns who are all quite hormonally active, eager to scent-mark their territories and get together for hook-ups. At our foster home they have been a huge challenge, both from a cleaning and a separation standpoint. All rabbits are adept at

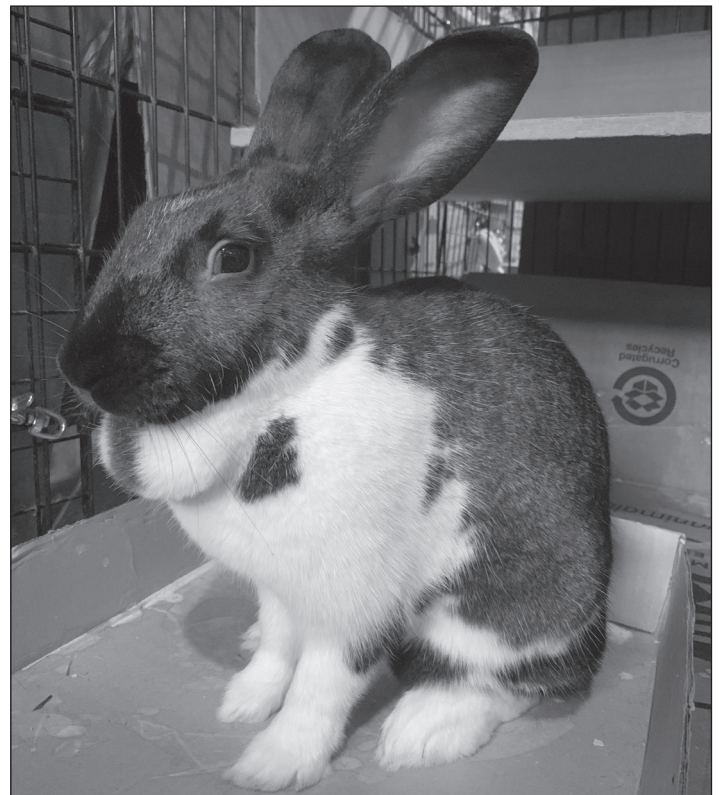
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Timmy, 1 year. Sweetness wrapped in a tiny package.



Tessa, 1.5 years. Big girl, mother of 8. Super loving and friendly.



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Visit the House Rabbit Society at <http://www.rabbit.org> and the Buckeye House Rabbit Society at

<http://www.ohare.org>

The Buckeye HRS Respects Your Privacy
We know our members value their privacy and that's why we never, ever, sell our mailing list or distribute it to any other party. All of our members' information is held in the strictest confidence.

Special Thanks to:

David Truelsch, for contributing to the "Name Our Next Foster" program. In memory of Rebecca, a female bunny will be named Anastasia.

Ann-Marie Polansky, for contributing to the "Name Our Next Foster" program. She has chosen Pookie Zimmerman for a female foster bunny and Samhain for a male.

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

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

Cathy Montiegel, Kathryn Kallay, David Truelsch, Judy O'Neil, Barbara Roberts, Bob Piekarczyk, Lisa and Jim Taras, Julie Donath, Liz and Nate Wenzel, Bob Leiweke, Liz Claytor, Dorothea Mayerchak, Debbie Britton, Jim and Laura Brown, Jude Smith-May, Irma Laszlo.

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.

Introducing Our New Treasurer, Rob Lovicz!

I am taking over as the new Buckeye House Rabbit Society Treasurer this year. I am sure you've read some of my articles in *Harelines*; there's even one in this issue! I have been around the Buckeye HRS since the early '90s, helping where I could, and was excited when asked to assume the responsibilities of treasurer. A little bit of my background – I live in Twinsburg and work at Heinen's Grocery as a fishmonger. I enjoy digital art and writing in my spare time. I look forward to being a close part of this wonderful organization and where we go in the future.



New Buckeye HRS Treasurer Rob Lovicz!

Liver Lobe Torsion

By Dr. Robert Nathan, DVM
Sharon Center Veterinary Hospital, Medina, Ohio

Rabbits that stop eating can have disorders besides gastrointestinal (GI) stasis or dental disease. Liver disease, specifically liver lobe torsion (twisting) is becoming more recognized as a cause of disease in rabbits.

Rabbits with liver lobe torsion present to the veterinarian for anorexia, lethargy, decreased fecal production, and abdominal pain. These signs are typical for GI stasis also. Rabbits between 1.5 and 9 years of age, with a median age of 5, were reported in one study. Both sexes have been found to be equally affected. Lops, particularly mini lops, are the breeds most commonly impacted by this disorder.

The cause of liver lobe torsion at this time is unknown. Some suspect that the supporting ligaments in these rabbits have been stretched out and relaxed from prior episodes of GI stasis with gastric dilation. In dogs that undergo liver torsion surgery it is recommended to do a prophylactic gastropexy (stomach tack) because of the relationship to stomach dilation, twisting, and subsequent liver lobe torsion. The supporting ligaments are similar in both species.

A combination of diagnostic tests may be necessary to diagnose liver lobe torsion. Anemia and increased liver enzymes are common on bloodwork. Radiographs (x-rays) may show liver enlargement, GI stasis, or a generalized lack of detail. Ultrasound can be very helpful for diagnosis as it may show a lack of blood flow to the affected liver lobe(s).

Rabbits may be treated with either supportive therapy or surgery. Rabbits treated with surgery to remove the affected liver lobe(s) have a significantly higher survival rate compared to rabbits that receive supportive care only. In addition, rabbits that are treated solely with



Dr. Robert Nathan, DVM

supportive care may have multiple episodes of GI stasis following the initial recovery episode. Likely, this is due to the association of gastric dilation and liver ligament laxity. If surgery is not an option, aggressive supportive therapy including fluids, gavage feeding, and appropriate analgesics is indicated.

Though liver lobe torsion is relatively uncommon, it does need to be considered when rabbits (particularly lops) present for anorexia, abdominal pain, or decreased stool production. Liver lobe torsion is treatable with prompt diagnosis and correction. However, this is a serious disease and can be fatal. Know that veterinarians are aware of this disorder and on the lookout for it in order to help keep your furry friends happy and healthy.



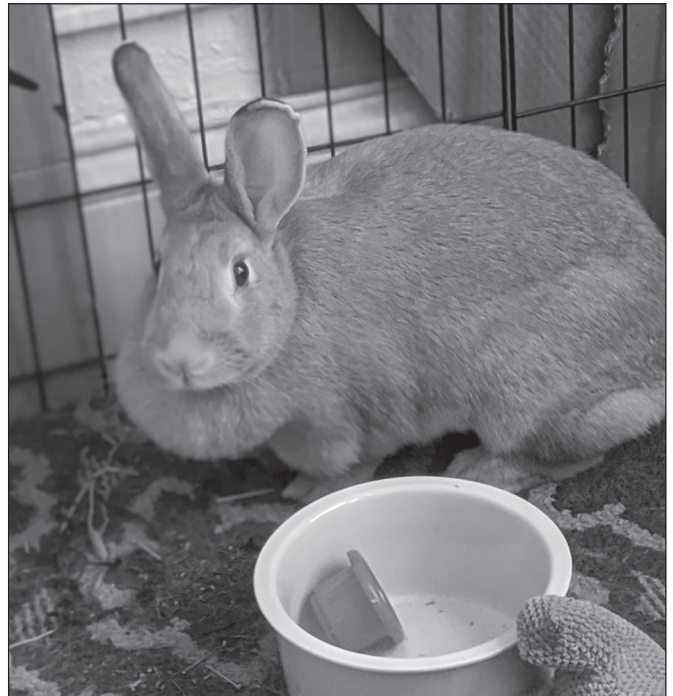
Graycie, 1 year. Nice gal who constantly shows off her binkies.



Dottie, 1 year. Fun, adventurous, and loving, with a little bit of crazy mixed in.



Tucker, 1.5 years. Stunning appearance, gorgeous brown eyes, and super friendly.

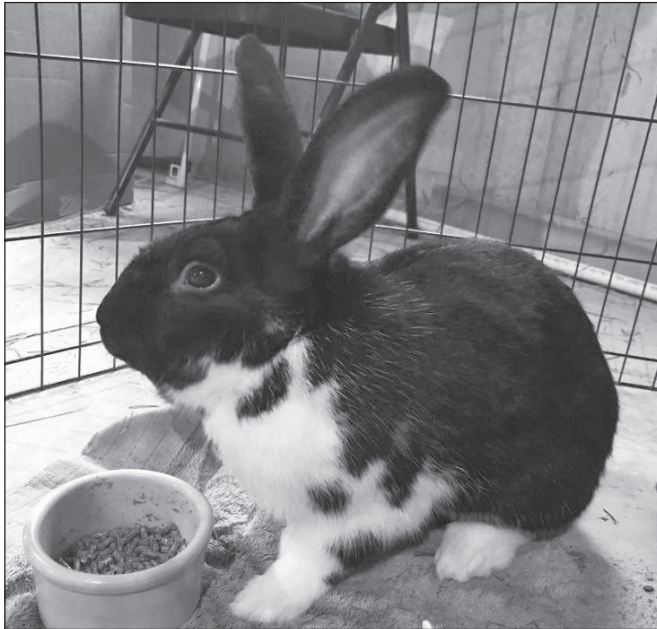


Molly ("Good golly, Ms. Molly, you had 9 babies!"), 1.5 years. A bit shy but sweet, she loves to run around.

escaping their pens and they can be very creative in their attempts, but intact buns are relentless. Leaping out of x-pens and even climbing up the sides to get out and socialize is common. These foster rabbits are all quite friendly and are definitely mixed breeds of all different colors, markings, and sizes. Even for our other fosters, who are already spayed/neutered, home visits have been suspended for everyone's safety. Once we are released from the stay-at-home order, we can get back to work adopting all of our foster rabbits into forever homes.

We are grateful to Small Pet Select, Oxbow Animal Health, and Chewy for their generous donations

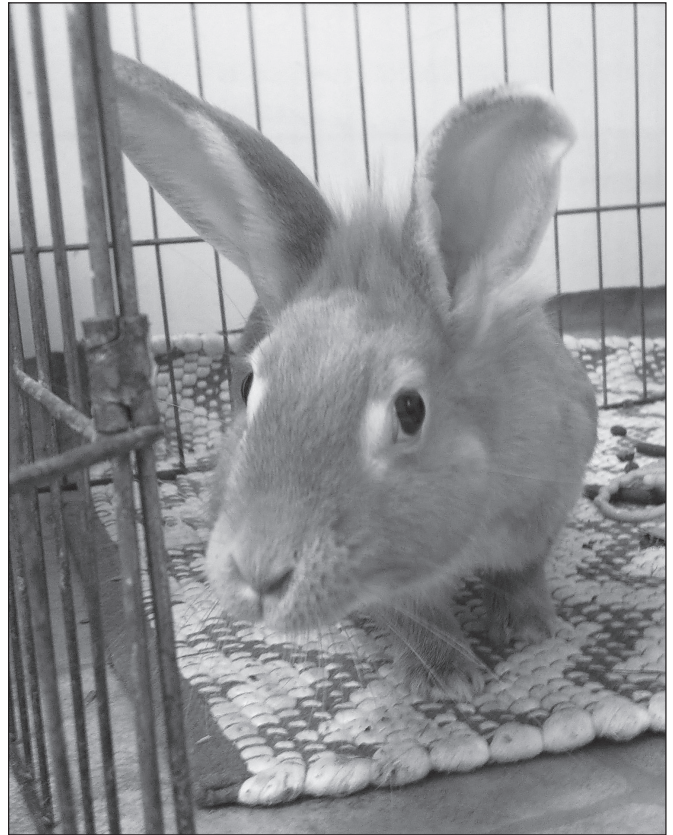
to aid us in caring for the massive increase in our rabbit population. Their contributions, plus the donations from our fantastic members, are what allows us to foster so many buns with so few foster homes. Additionally, our network of absolutely wonderful, hard-working fosterers and volunteers makes it possible for us to assist our local humane societies and rescues when they take in rabbits that they may not have the staff or the knowledge to properly care for. Our efforts



Toby, 1.5 years. Fun-loving boy who is always on the go. Look at the size of those ears!



Kasey, 1 year. Friendly girl who's always re-arranging her stuff.



Peaches, 1 year. Super active gal with a fun and entertaining personality.

over the past 20-plus years have led to a much better chance for abandoned rabbits to survive and find forever homes, and our superb team makes it happen. As always, we can never say "THANK YOU" enough!

Emmy Follow-Up

By Stephanie Lodge

I am so very sad to report that shortly after our last newsletter was released, Emmy ("The Million Dollar Rabbit" cover story) passed away. It happened suddenly on February 21st. Emmy stopped eating and he was rushed to the

hospital. Not long after his arrival, he had to be euthanized. Afterwards we learned that he had necrosis of the intestines and bladder. We think Emmy was genetically at a disadvantage. Fortunately, he had the greatest advantage in having Megan Metzger as his mother. To say Emmy will be missed is a huge understatement.

In tribute to Emmy, Megan felt it was only fitting to adopt another REW (red-eyed white) for the honor of being the "bedroom bunny". After spending her entire life in foster care, Rosa – now Gracie – has found her forever home with Megan. Gracie is named after Emmy's sister who passed away previously. Gracie is loving ALL the attention!

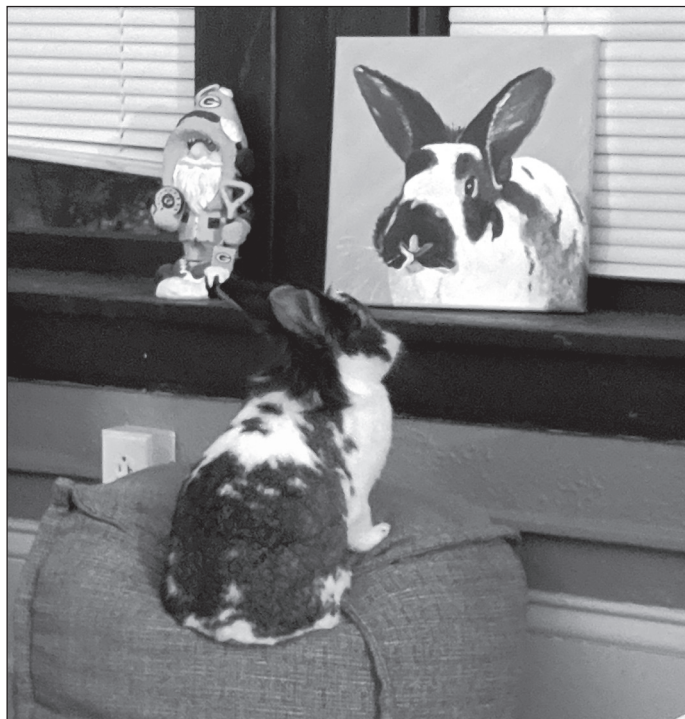


Coping with Covid

Self-isolation and physical distancing are a challenge for all of us. These special bunnies are helping our volunteers keep their spirits up!



Pumpkin with Amy: Sunshine is for the soul.



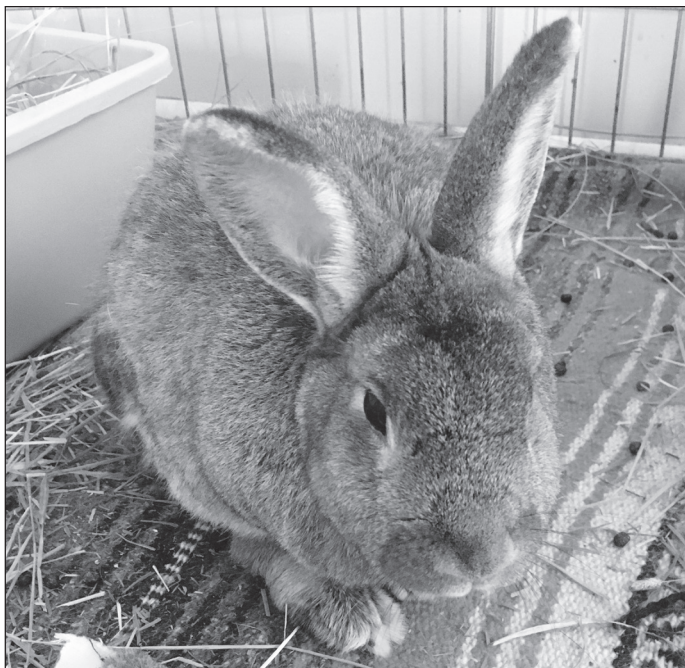
Franzia with Maggie: Everyone should look at themselves the way Franzia does.



*Hegel with Kristin: You said **what** about me?!*



Marshall with Steph: Rescued in April 2018, Marshall S. Mallow spends his days plotting to take over the world.



Scout (left) and Jackson (right) with Sue and Keith: These buns know that staying home saves lives.



Boo-Boo (left) and Hamsa (right) with Shawwna: Happiness is snuggling together in a paper nest.



*Duffle with David:
You're never alone
with a bunny.*



*Rousseau with Herta: Thanking my
front-line greensgrocer.*

Taking Care Of Your Bunny When You're Ill

By Robert Lovicz

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, I think it's appropriate to talk about caring for your bunny in cases where you may fall ill. I've divided the discussion into two parts. The first part asks: Can I get sick from my bunny or can I get my bunny sick? The second part focuses on tips for caring for your bunny when you are sick.

So can you give a bunny your illness? The answer is pretty much "no". I combed a multitude of reference materials on humans passing illnesses to their rabbits and vice versa and concluded that, no, you cannot give the flu or colds or any serious viral infections to your rabbits and neither can they give their illnesses to you. However, I did find that rabbits are susceptible to Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV), so when you have a cold sore, wash your hands well and don't kiss your bunny to ensure that you're not potentially infecting him.

As far as bacterial infections go, most scientists say they are at least 99% sure humans can't transfer a bacterial infection to rabbits. For safety's sake, be

cautious when touching your rabbit if you suffer from a bacterial affliction.

Now what do you do when you're ill? How do you care for your bunny? When you're not seriously ill, you take care of him or her the same way you usually would and wash your hands as a universal precaution.

In the case of a serious or life-threatening illness, designate an emergency contact outside the household to care for your rabbit. I would never have thought such horrors if not for this pandemic, but I think it's wise to be prepared. Set someone up who is familiar with the care and feeding of your rabbit in the event you should ever need their assistance.

Choose someone who is willing to take over complete responsibility for your bunny should you not be able to care for him in a medical emergency. Also, consider listing this individual in your will as the chosen caregiver. Make sure you discuss your request with the person beforehand and get his/her permission.

Another good idea is to create a document that anyone can pull from a specific filing place in your home. The document would outline your bunny's routine in simple terms for a neighbor or friend who has to cover for you in a pinch. List the daily feeding, grooming, and (if applicable) medicinal routine as well as the emergency phone number and address of your bunny's designated caregiver and veterinarian.

In closing, planning ahead is pro-active and cares for everyone in the house. Please consider taking the time to prepare for any major contingency for your family, including your rabbit.



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@BuckeyeHRS**

Introducing Our Newest Board Member, Stephanie Lodge!

I am excited to announce that on February 13, 2020, I was offered a seat on the Board of Directors for the Buckeye House Rabbit Society. Of course, I accepted with much enthusiasm!

For those of you who don't know me, let me tell you a little about myself. I adopted my first rabbit in September, 2007. Mirabella came from the Cleveland Animal Protective League (APL) shortly after I started volunteering in the Rabbit Room. Honestly, I didn't know much and did quite a few things wrong in the beginning. It didn't take long before I found the House Rabbit Society and adjusted my ways. Mirabella was a small Flemish Giant and because of her, I fell in love with rabbits immediately.

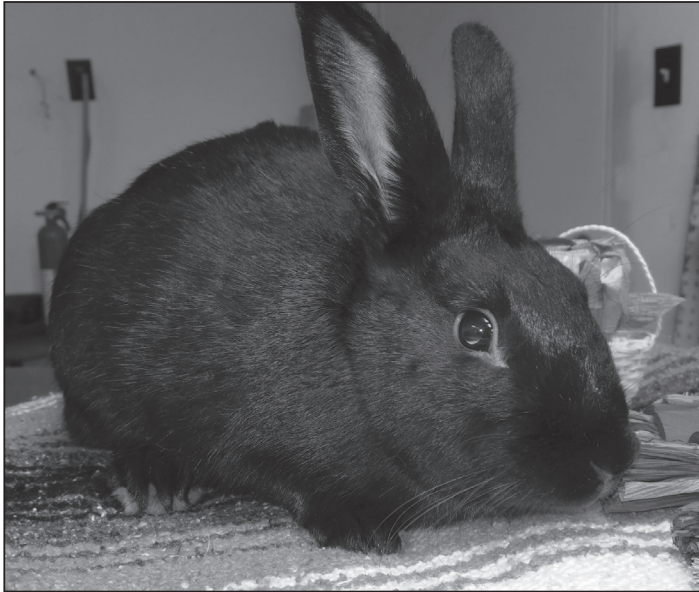
It wasn't long before we adopted Humphrey, a grumpy lop who lived well into his teens. Humphrey had a myriad of health issues throughout his life – he is the reason I can do most of the things I can do. Thanks to him and Kristen Doherty I learned so many things about rabbits. I pretty much forced Kristen to be my friend and learned everything I could from her. From here the progression towards everything rabbit was natural. Eventually I stopped volunteering at the Cleveland APL and began fostering for the Buckeye HRS. With time I became an official Fosterer and Educator. Currently, my husband Phil and I have four rabbits of our own – Lopez, Nelly Belly, Barry, and Zane – four foster bunnies, and one guinea pig named Hooper. When I'm not caring for our rabbits, I also pet-sit; rabbits are my specialty, but I also care for guinea pigs, chinchillas, birds, and an occasional degu. My house is always a zoo and I feel like I never stop cleaning, but I wouldn't have it any other way.



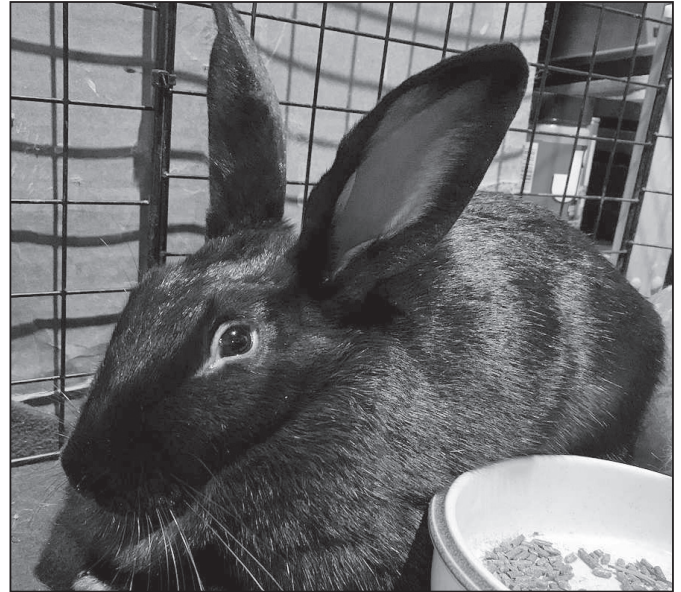
Stephanie snuggling up with Lopez.



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



Indigo, Missy's sister, is looking for a family to love and adore her. Born in September 2019, she can be slow to warm up but when she does, it's pure bunny magic. Indigo will even chatter after a few head pets. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



Echo is Indigo's brother and looks identical to her. He has sleek, shiny fur and a wild personality. He loves to do zoomies and shred cardboard. He's fun-loving, great with his potty, and will always take a break for head pets. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



Meet **Jayme**! Jayme was found as a stray on the streets. Just a few days after her arrival, she surprised us with a litter of three babies. Jayme is mom to Rosa, Iris, and Daffodil. She is only about one year old and would love to have a home to call her own. She is friendly and enjoys rearranging her things and playing with her cardboard box. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

Handsome "cow" brothers **Kinsey** and **Dok** (previously adopted, but recently returned due to no fault of their own) are ready for their forever family. These rex boys are inseparable and love each other dearly. They're coming up on their sixth birthday and are perfectly happy and healthy. **Please contact Maggie Reading (bhrs-maggie@ohare.org).**



Iris (sister to Rosa and daughter to Jayme) is finally available for adoption. She had an issue with her right eye so we delayed the possibility of adoption until we knew she was healthy. Like her family, Iris is a super-friendly marshmallow. She is very snuggly and she loves Timothy hay. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



Adopted!

One of the court case babies, **Zena** has found a great home with Austin Vargas and Lillie Bloemer of Port Clinton, OH. Zena is enjoying time with her new family in her new home by the lake. ♥ **Missy**, now named Rosie, has found her forever home. She has also found an entire family of humans to dote on her. Not only is her pen perfection, her extended area made her binky almost immediately. We couldn't be happier for Rosie, her mom Hannah, and all her new human family members! ♥ Precious little **Neal** has been adopted into the sweetest family. Jerry, Jenny, Tad, and Jocelyn are constantly being entertained with binkies. Neal is loving all the room to run around. Congratulations! ♥ After spending her entire life in foster care, **Rosa** – now Gracie – has found her forever home with Megan Metzger in Columbus. ♥ We are pleased to announce that not only has **Palmer** found his forever home, but he has also found his bunny soulmate. We aren't sure if Margie is his girlfriend or more of a mother figure, but in any case he loves getting groomed. His new parents, Sarah and Ben, adore him already!



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 or 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:

☐ 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
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**Buckeye
House Rabbit Society**

**P.O. Box 61
Vickery, Ohio 43464**

**All donations are
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