



HARELINES



Volume 25, Number 2 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY Spring/Summer 2021

BFFs (Best Fur Friends)

By Kyra Kester

I have lived with many pets over the years and my household has always had cats and rabbits. Currently, I live with four tuxedo cats, one big bunny, and a Senegal parrot (never a dull moment here!). Usually, everyone tolerates each other, for the most part, and

sometimes they even seem to like one another. However, I have never known such a strong bond between animals of different species than that of my bunny Lolly and my cat Lexi.



Lolly, a bunny, is best friends with Lexi, a cat.

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Lolly has never been bonded to another rabbit, but she lived next to my bonded pair, Coco and Oliver. When old age crept in and took Coco, I hoped to bond Oliver and Lolly. Sadly, before I could bond them, Oliver passed away. He was twelve and had health issues. So, Lolly remained a single bun.

Lolly, a former BHRS foster, is a free roam bunny who has her own room, through which all the cats wander and hang out (and, oddly enough, munch on the hay!). Since Lolly is 12 pounds and a very mellow bunny, I have never worried about interactions with the cats. In fact, when she moved in, the cats were the ones to run away first when 'big girl Lolly' started hopping around!

Last year, I adopted a kitten named Lexi. She is one of the sweetest beings I have ever known. She just wants to love everyone ... and play! Now as I mentioned before, my pets mostly seem to like each other, but when Lexi discovered this big, soft, gentle bunny, it was an instant bond! I have never witnessed such love between animals (aside from my bonded rabbits over the years), but between a cat and a rabbit? Unheard of, right? I mean, in nature, cats are predators and rabbits are prey! This was amazing and truly beautiful to watch. Truthfully, I think Lexi is the more smitten of the two, but Lolly doesn't mind when Lexi grooms her or cuddles up to her ... in fact, I have heard Lolly 'purr', though not as loudly as Lexi!

This story may not be all that rare and you may have experienced something similar in your household. However, I just couldn't help sharing this heartwarming story since it brings a smile to my face every day!



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Chapter Manager: Keith Zimmerman
bhrs-keith@ohare.org

Educators & Fosterers:
Cleveland Stephanie Lodge
bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org
216-571-1088

Shawna Lemerise
440-309-8378
bhrs-shawna@ohare.org

Amy Marshall
bhrs-amy@ohare.org

Maggie Reading
bhrs-maggie@ohare.org

Fremont Sue Zimmerman
419-355-8433
bhrs-sue@ohare.org

Harelines Editor: Herta Rodina
bhrs-herta@ohare.org

Layout & Design: Matthew Hager
bhrs-matt@ohare.org
614-937-0883

Website Manager: Maggie Reading
bhrs-maggie@ohare.org

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

<http://www.ohare.org>

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held in the strictest confidence.

Special Thanks to:

Ann-Marie and Mike Polansky and Katie Kistler, for always helping to catch dumped domestic rabbits at the most inopportune times.

Everyone who has chosen the Buckeye HRS as the charity recipient on Amazon Smile! You're making a big difference in the lives of our foster rabbits.

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

Lori Fair, Tanja Stich, Jim and Laura Brown, Kathy Kallay, Liz and Nate Wenzel, Jess Simon, Jane Winik, Shelby Novick, Linda Beam, Bonnie Hagerman and the late Bugs, Susan Guy, Keith Gomez, Debbi Braunschweiger, Kyra Kester, Carrie Levicki, Vickie Kennedy, April Ritchie, Mark Covert, Deb Britton, Irma Laszlo, Judy O'Neil, Bob Piekarczyk, Shannon Proctor, Chie Sakakibara, Richard Marshall, Christopher Trinacy, Dorothea Mayerchak, Barbara Schenk, IBM Employees.

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 Facebook and Twitter!



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Rabbit Society***



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"Think Spring" Coloring Contest

This year, the Buckeye House Rabbit Society hosted its first-ever Kids Coloring Contest. The theme was "Think Spring." We had 12 contestants, aged 5-12 yrs. Everyone who submitted a piece of artwork was entered in a drawing to win one of two Amazon gift cards. All of the artwork was beautiful and unique, and it helped support our love for rabbits.

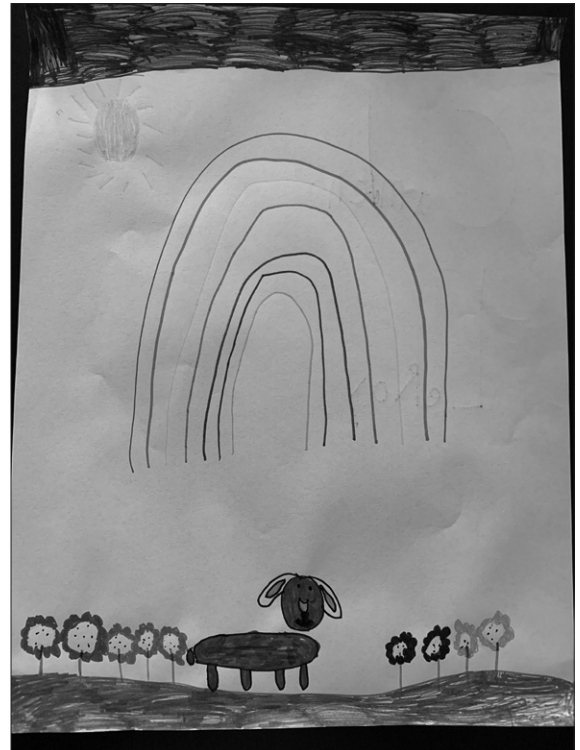
Here are some of the entries we received. (View them all in color on our website, under Events.)



Kaya, age 8



Ethan, age 12



Camden, Age 6

Gardening & Composting Ideas

By Kyra Kester

Spring is finally here! It's time to get outdoors and enjoy the sunshine and the sounds of nature coming back to life! For some of us, this means preparing our backyards for gardening. If you have never tried your hand at it, now is the perfect time!

Composting Bunny Litter

Living with a house rabbit is a plus for gardening, as you can compost your bunny's litter and add it to your garden soil. In fact, you don't even need to

compost it or let it age, as it is considered a 'cold' manure and will not burn your plants. It is far more nutrient-dense than other types of manure, as it is packed with trace minerals and is nitrogen-rich.¹ If you want to start a compost pile, it is a great way to dispose of the contents of your bunny's litterbox, as it's really just a mix of hay, droppings and litter (by the way, I highly recommend using hardwood pellets for pellet stoves as litter; they are safe and inexpensive!). If you don't have a composter, no worries! It can be as simple as a pile in the back corner of your yard. You could designate a spot and enclose it with shrubs or tall flowers to "hide" it, if you wish.

Planting Herbs for your Bunny

If you are not keen on composting or have no space to do this, you can still try planting some flavorful herbs for your bunny (and you) to enjoy. Of course, we can always find a variety of herbs at the grocery store to add to our bunny's salad mix, but it's very satisfying and wonderful to go to your backyard and harvest your own. This can even be a fun project for



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Photo Credit: Pintando-la-luz-WGZv8R05LS0-unsplash

Potassium. Good for digestive system, eyesight, and building strong bones. Enriches blood and good for urinary problems.⁶

Chamomile and Comfrey are also favorites of mine and are very beneficial to rabbits. Chamomile is calming and, made as a tea, can be cooled and used as an eyewash. Comfrey is great as an immune booster.

kids! Stating the obvious here, but as long as there have been no herbicides/pesticides sprayed in your backyard (and none wafting over from a neighbor's yard), you are ready to plant some delicious herbs for your bunny!

Below, you will find a short list of common herbs that most rabbits enjoy, along with the health benefits of each herb:

- 1) **Basil** - High in fiber, vitamins and minerals, anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial²
- 2) **Dill** - Packed with antioxidants and promotes intestinal health³
- 3) **Cilantro (Coriander)** - High in nutrients, can help improve digestion and prevent urinary infection⁴
- 4) **Mint (all types of mint, except for pennyroyal)** - Contains vitamins A, C and B complex, antioxidants and minerals. Good for digestion and calming⁵
- 5) **Parsley (in moderation ... contains high levels of oxalic acid)** - Nutrient-dense, contains Vitamins A, B, C and K and minerals Iron and

It's important to remember to start with a very small amount of any new herb or vegetable, as it could cause upset stomach or gas, and to feed in moderation. Rotate greens and herbs often, so as to ensure your bunny is getting maximum nutrients. Though greens and herbs are a significant part of a bunny's diet, hay should make up 75-80%.⁷

Planting an herb garden can be very rewarding, but if you don't have the space, time or inclination, you can still grow a few herbs in pots on your patio, porch, or even a sunny windowsill. Your bunny will thank you!



Sources

- 1 finegardening.com>>Rabbit Manure in the Garden
- 2 Hairston Creek Farm >>Info>>Can Rabbits Eat Basil? And Facts You Should Know!
- 3 rabbits.life>>Can Rabbits Eat Dill?
- 4 pawtasticpet.com>>Pets Mentor>>Can Rabbits Eat Cilantro or Coriander Including Seeds
- 5 rabbitcaretips.com>>Can You Give Mint to Rabbits? (Leaves, Stems + Flowers)
- 6 petkeen.com>>Can Rabbits Eat Parsley? What You Need to Know!
- 7 rabbit.org>>Feeding the Proper Diet



Where Are They Now?

By Stephanie Lodge

Back in August 2019, as you may recall from previous issues of *Harelines*, the Buckeye HRS spearheaded a mission to save nine rabbits confiscated from a negligent owner in Sandusky County. Not surprisingly, females were pregnant, and a few weeks later 9 rabbits turned into 26 rabbits. Meanwhile, the Humane Investigations case dragged on and on, as court cases often do. Months passed. And then came Covid, with delays in spay/neuter and lockdowns on adoptions. More time passed. Despite these setbacks, everyone involved worked hard to give these wonderful and deserving rabbits a happily-ever-after. Look where some of them are now!



Big Mama with Cindy Herrington



Molly with Chie Sakakibara



Palmer & wifebun Marge with Sarah & Ben Spangler



Neal with Jenny Salwan



Dottie with Bridget Haas



Timmy, now Llewyn, with Megan Fuchs



Tolby with Jane & John Viridin



Petunia & huskun Theo with Emilee & Adam Beal



Kaycie & her two husbuns with Cathy Daly

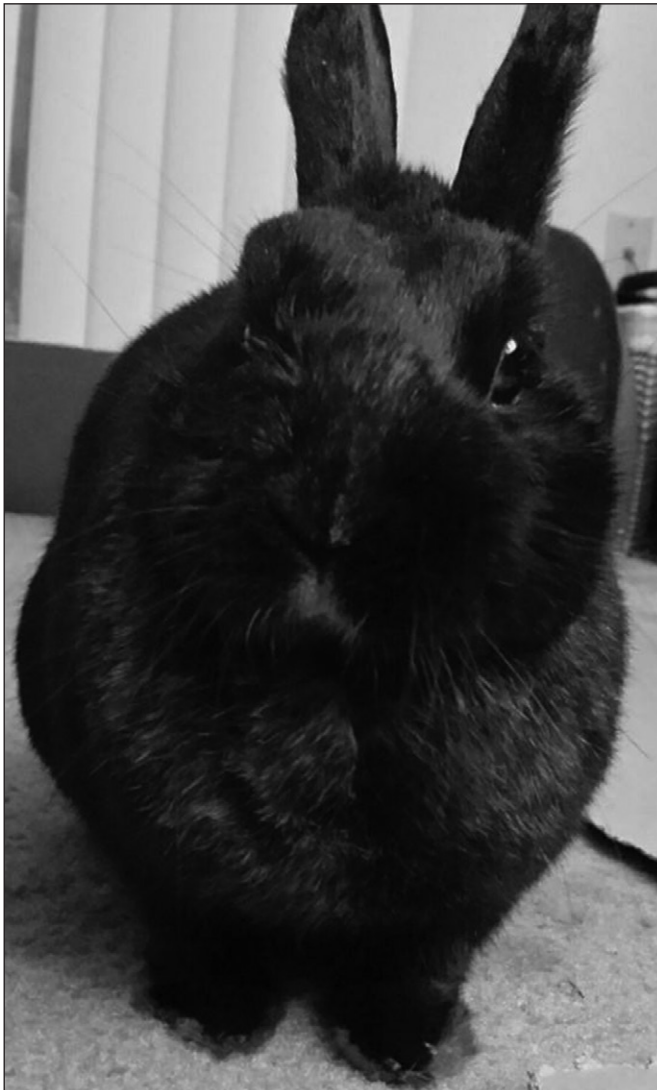


Echo with Deidre Heidl

Treat Some Bunny You Love

By Kristin Weis

As any bunny caretaker will tell you, rabbits LOVE treats. Unfortunately, many of the pre-packaged treats you can buy at pet stores aren't good for your bunny and, in some cases, can even be deadly.



Who doesn't want to spoil their rabbit?

They often contain added sugars like molasses, have artificial dyes or colors, contain nuts or seeds, or worse yet, are coated in yogurt! Thankfully, it's fairly easy to make homemade treats for your rabbits. They will be healthier, you'll know exactly what goes into them, and you can make them at a fraction of the cost you'd spend on pre-packaged treats at the pet store.

Dehydrated Fruit

There are many ways to dehydrate fruits: In the oven, in the microwave, or even in an air fryer. The most effective and easiest way, though, is to use a dehydrator. If your bunny loves dehydrated fruit and you're used to buying it at the grocery store, it can come with a pretty hefty price tag, often with added sugar and preservatives. If you don't have a dehydrator and have thought about buying one, it may be a good investment as it can produce dehydrated treats for your bunny at a fraction of the cost of store-bought, and your rabbit will love all the different fruits (and even veggies!) you can make in it.

Steps:

1. Wash and dry your fruit thoroughly.
2. Peel the fruit if the peel is inedible or as desired.
3. Slice fruit into $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " pieces. The smaller and thinner the pieces, the quicker they will dehydrate, so make sure that all your pieces are roughly the same thickness and size.
4. Spritz the fruit slices lightly with lemon juice to prevent browning (or, if you don't mind the discoloration, skip this step).
5. Spread slices in one layer on dehydrator racks, making sure that there's no overlap between pieces.
6. Set the temperature of your dehydrator between 125°F and 140°F. The higher temperature will quicken the process, but you won't get as evenly dehydrated a product like you would at a lower temperature.
7. Dehydrate for the recommended time based on the type of fruit you are dehydrating. Cook time will vary based on the thickness of your fruit, humidity, temperature, and desired doneness.
8. Remove fruit from dehydrator once fruit is at desired doneness and cool completely before giving to your rabbit.

Fruit	Dehydration Time (Hours)
Apples	12
Strawberries	8-10
Bananas	6-8
Apricots	10-12
Mango	12
Papaya	6-10

Banana Biscuits

Ingredients:

- ¼ c. pellets
- ¼ c. oats
- ½ a banana
- 1 carrot
- Water (as needed)

Steps:

1. Preheat your oven to 325°F.
2. Add pellets to a food processor or blender and pulse until ground. Set aside.
3. Grind up oats in food processor or blender

and add to ground pellets.

4. Mash banana.

5. Chop carrots and add to food processor or blender, blending until finely chopped.

6. Mix carrots with banana and stir until combined.

7. Add in carrot/banana mixture to pellet/oat mixture.

8. If needed, add in water, 1 tsp. at a time, until the dough just comes together. You don't want to add too much water or the treats won't bake properly, but too little will result in crumbly treats that don't hold their shape.

9. Flatten out dough on a clean surface and use cookie cutters or a knife to cut into desired shapes.

10. Place on tinfoil-lined baking sheet.

11. Bake for 20 minutes, and then turn off oven, leaving the treats in for another 30 minutes while the oven cools.

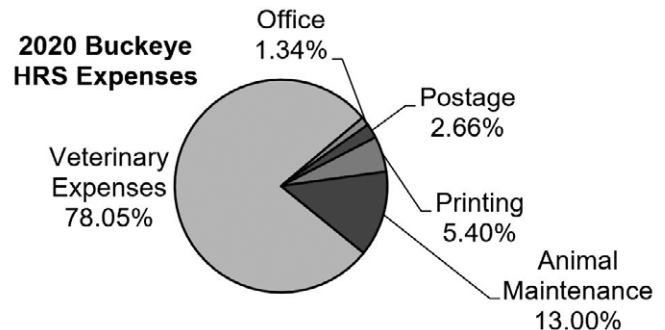
12. Remove treats from oven and cool completely.

Chapter Manager's Corner

By Keith Zimmerman

Welcome to 2021! This year, we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Buckeye House Rabbit Society! Here's what we accomplished in 2020.

Although the pandemic stymied much of our rabbit education efforts, our six foster homes were able to care for a total of 81 rabbits last year and completed 43 adoptions to forever homes. At the end of the year, we had 16 rabbits either still in foster care or lifetime residents in our Sanctuary Program. We assisted 11 humane societies and rescue groups by taking rabbits from them or providing rabbit care information. Our volunteers spent 4,018 hours on rabbit care and 654 hours on the phone or online helping adopters and rabbit owners with questions about rabbit care. All our volunteers (fosterers, educators, and assorted bunny helpers) devote many hours of their personal time to rabbit care and many dollars of their own money (totaling about \$18,000)



for supplies. Even after that, the Chapter's expenses were over \$10,000.

While we anticipate more challenges in 2021 (the flow of rabbits in need never stops!), our fantastic volunteers will keep fighting for the buns in need. As our group gains more and more public exposure as a respected source for expert rabbit care information, even more volunteer opportunities become available. We are always looking for new rabbit advocates to join us for both large and small projects. If you'd like to help in any way, please be sure to contact one of our fosterers for more information.

As always, we are so very grateful for the support of our volunteers and donors. THANK YOU!



Somebunny Needs YOU!



Hudson, a former stray, has become quite comfortable with indoor life. He is an inquisitive bunny who loves head pets. Hudson can be a tiny bit shy in the beginning, but at the end of the day he loves attention. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge** (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.

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** (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.



Pearl is a young female with a heart of gold. She was found outside in the blistering cold and even survived the February snow storm. Pearl needs love and patience as she is learning to trust humans. She may do well with another bunny friend or as a single bun where she is the center of attention. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman** (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.



Tiny **Murdock** is big on personality. He loves playing with his toys and jumping on top of visitors in his pen. Sometimes we wonder if he's capable of sitting still. This young fun-bun is interested in finding his forever home. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhhs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



This very playful young guy is **Merlin**. He is working his magic on cleaning up his discolored tootsies as he didn't come from the cleanest home. He has a sweet disposition and he's good with his litter box. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhhs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**

Adopted!

Twix didn't have to wait long to find his happily-ever-after. Todd and his mom love to dote on him and he readily soaks up all the attention. ♥ **Jack** is now the king of his domain with new dad, Zhe. Jack loves being the center of attention! ♥ **Briscoe**, now Chester Briscoe, is quite the lucky fellow. He found his forever home with Nonsi and her mom Gugu. Nonsi was moved to happy tears during the adoption. Chester will never be lacking in the love department. ♥ **Pooky Zimmerman**, now Cleo, has been adopted by the most amazing bunny family. Cleo now has a "husbun" named Pickles and humans who adore her even when she's naughty. Congratulations to Ann-Marie and Mike and thank you for opening your hearts and rescuing another Buckeye HRS foster. ♥ **Preston** has been adopted by the Hnatiak family. He is happy to share a bedroom with his human sister and is basking in all the attention. ♥ **Briley** found her forever home in record time. Her new dad is so happy about her arrival that her pen takes up half the living/dining room. Briley wasted no time getting comfortable and showing off some world-class binkies. Her new dad even created a portrait of Briley using cartoon vector art. Congratulations Matt! ♥ **Gilda**, now Lavender, went from unwanted to adored in a matter of weeks. Despite having a former home that didn't appreciate her, she is not holding it against all humans. Instead, she loves being held and cuddled, which we all know is a rarity in the rabbit world. Ava, Angie and the rest of the family are in love. ♥ **Major** was adopted by Cathy Daly where he is becoming friends with bunny pals, Kaycie and Rory. ♥ **Molly**, now Momo, has finally found her forever home with Chie, Paul, and their daughter Kaya! Momo was named after the Japanese word for peach. She is happily adjusting to her new home and her new family. ♥ **Wynter** has been adopted by Kelly and her son Adam. She is now the center of attention, getting all the love she has always wanted.



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



Buy a bunny a little time...

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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:

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☐ Assist with mailing

☐ Help at Buckeye HRS booth at Pet Expos and fairs

☐ Other _____

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City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____

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Bunnies' names and special dates _____

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