The House Rabbit Society is celebrating twenty years of rabbit rescue and education in 2008! How amazing! What started with a few people in California saying ‘yes’ to four shelter rabbits in 1986 resulted in a movement that spurred HRS chapters, HRS Allies, and independent rabbit rescue groups to form all over the United States and even in other parts of the world. To date, more than 20,000 rabbits have been rescued by the House Rabbit Society!

HRS has hundreds of licensed educators and fosterers in forty states as well as in Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Italy. National HRS has over nine thousand members—people who, like you, live with and love their long-eared family members.

It All Started with a Single Phone Call

“It all started with a single phone call,” says founder Marinell Harriman. “In 1986, a local animal advocate called to inform me that four rabbits were going to be euthanized at the SPCA the following day. I immediately called Bob at work. He said, ‘We can’t let that happen, can we?’” The Harrimans realized that rabbits were being euthanized around the country, but they also realized that rescuers could take those rabbits from shelters and adopt them out on their own. Their first four foster rabbits led to four more, until the Harrimans were rescuing at least ten rabbits per month. After incorporating as a nonprofit in 1988, the Harrimans began publishing the House Rabbit Journal, which led to volunteers emerging first locally, in the San Francisco Bay area, and then from other areas of the country. These volunteers established the first chapters of the House Rabbit Society. Today, HRS volunteers collectively produce the House Rabbit Journal and the encyclopedic, award-winning www.rabbit.org website. Since 1988, our volunteers have saved the lives of over 20,000 rabbits.

In addition, the organization is responsible for educating tens of thousands of people, including present and prospective rabbit caretakers, veterinary and shelter staff workers, members of other rescue organizations, and members of the general public. In 2000, HRS opened the first public rabbit-only shelter in the country, in Richmond, California, which serves as a model for animal shelters around the world. HRS volunteers are internationally recognized for their expertise in rabbit behavior and care, and are regularly called upon to give educational seminars at venues worldwide.

Our Local Chapter Is Founded

Our own local MD/DC/NoVA chapter began in 1994 when Kathleen Wilsbach and her husband moved with their rabbits from California to Maryland. Kathleen had volunteered with an HRS chapter in Los Angeles, where she was introduced to HRS and rabbit rescue, continued on page 2
fostering, and education. She learned the ropes from a seasoned chapter manager, Holly O’Meara. “Volunteering for HRS in Los Angeles, I had learned how to discern good potential adopters, how to introduce rabbits to new friends, how to run a public event, and more. I had also learned how much work, time, money, and commitment it took to run a chapter,” says the MD/DC/NoVA chapter founder.

After her move, Kathleen knew a chapter was needed in our area and was eager to continue the good work she did in L.A., but she also knew it was not all heroic rescues and happy adoptions. It was phone calls and emails day and night from people who no longer wanted their rabbits. It was an adopted rabbit being returned from what you thought was a really good permanent home. It was coordinating volunteer help that was not always reliable. It was tedious but necessary paperwork to be submitted to the national office. It was emptying your own pockets to pay big veterinarian bills, caring for sick rabbits, and grieving for ones who didn’t survive. It was an enormous responsibility. Was she ready? She wasn’t sure.

Starting Small

“I decided I would start with three foster rabbits, since the number of rabbits I housed did not matter as much as how quickly I could find good homes,” remembers Kathleen. The first step was to find a good local exotics veterinarian, hopefully one who would be willing to offer a spay/neuter discount to a rabbit rescue group. Luck was with her. She found a very experienced vet, Dr. Keith Gold, who already provided low-cost spay/neuter for the local ferret rescue group.

The next step was phoning the local shelters to assess the situation. After several disappointing calls to shelters, a call to the Humane Society of Baltimore County was more encouraging. They were eager to work with the House Rabbit Society. The Humane Society had six rabbits. Choosing was difficult, but the first three rescues were Sylvia, a bold and outgoing ten-pound Chinchilla girl; Jet, a small energetic black dwarf mix boy; and Phoebe, a terrified, overweight black-and-white spot rabbit. Wilbsch knew Phoebe was a good omen, because she looked like Herman, the Harrimans’ rabbit who started it all, as well as like Freckles, the rabbit on the HRS eleventh-hour clock logo. One by one, with much hard work and patience, Kathleen was able to adopt each of them out to forever homes. One rabbit at a time, she was making a difference.

Expanding Support

Kathleen Wilbsch had a lot of lucky breaks in setting up the chapter’s first foster home. She had the enormous benefit of volunteering with an experienced fosterer before striking out on her own. Early on, she found a good veterinarian and a cooperative local shelter. The national office sent a couple of willing volunteers her way, and things have grown in leaps and bounds over the last fourteen years.

As of the start of 2008, the MD/DC/NoVA chapter of the HRS has rescued over 950 rabbits. Kathleen’s single foster home has increased to eighteen foster and sanctuary homes housing a total of approximately forty-five rabbits. Each family takes in unwanted rabbits, socializing and caring for them until they have new homes. Our mailing list has grown to over one thousand, with new members joining daily. To become a member, fill out the membership card in this newsletter or online at our local Web site, www.rabbitsinthehouse.org.

We are always looking for volunteers to help in all areas: fostering a rabbit whose time is running out at a shelter; helping plan and run adoption days, chapter events, fundraisers, and education tables; producing the newsletter; screening prospective adopters and answering emails and phone calls; helping change and update the Web site and Petfinder; handling financial duties, necessary paper work, and taxes; cleaning litter boxes in a foster home. If you love rabbits and want to help rescued rabbits, we can find something that suits your talents and wishes. To become a volunteer, fill out the volunteer card in this newsletter or online at our local Web site, www.rabbitsinthehouse.org.

Our chapter’s anniversary celebration will be a time for bunny fans to gather, share stories, and reflect on twenty years of advocacy for rabbits. There will be special presentations by veterinarians Dr. Keith Gold, Dr. David Handel, and Dr. David Crum; a delicious vegetarian buffet; guest appearances by foster bunnies; fun photo slide shows; cool give-aways; great stuff for sale and auction; and chances to win wonderful raffle prizes! We can’t wait to celebrate with you all on October 12!

As a parting quote, Kathleen Wilbsch says, “I have learned much from the shared experiences of other HRS fosterers that helped me establish a rescue/adoption program. However, only by actually doing it have I come to understand that running an HRS chapter is more time, work, and joy than I ever imagined.”

Marinell Harriman and Holly O’Meara at the National HRS’s 20th Anniversary Leap for Joy.

Kathleen Wilbsach and Holly O’Meara at the National HRS’s 20th Anniversary Leap for Joy.
Help Me Make It Through the Night

by Laurie Kuhn, with veterinary input by Keith Gold, D.V.M.

You’ve had dinner, finished your chores for the evening. After winding down, you decide to say good night to your beloved rabbit before you go to bed. You notice she has not eaten her dinner salad. You try to give her a papaya tablet or her favorite treat and she turns her face away. Or worse, you find her quiet and unresponsive in obvious discomfort. First, you feel a giant pit in your stomach and then you wonder, “What do I do?” You think “Oh no, the vet is closed!”

You wonder if the emergency vet is experienced in rabbit medical care. You wonder if it is too late to call your favorite rabbit rescuer for advice. Unfortunately, anyone who lives with rabbits long enough has had (or will probably have) this stressful experience.

Rabbits, as prey animals, are by nature “symptom hiders.” This means rabbits hide their symptoms of illness until they are so sick that they can’t hide them anymore. This is a survival instinct. Their ancestors (wild European rabbits) live in large communities called warrens. In a warren environment, showing illness is a sign of weakness. Any rabbit acting ill is kicked out of the warren so as not to expose the warren to predators. Being kicked out of the warren means certain death. This explains why sometimes, when you have multiple rabbits and one is sick, the others will pick on her. The healthy rabbits often sense the sickness before you know about it. Hiding symptoms has some effectiveness for an individual rabbit in a wild environment. We only wish rabbits would adjust their behavior in our homes, letting us know early when they don’t feel well—but instinct is a strong thing. Now you can understand why rabbits naturally hide their symptoms. You see why your rabbit “seemed fine” a few hours ago and is now very sick.

If you are lucky enough to have an emergency vet hospital close to you that has a vet on duty who is experienced in treating rabbits, the best thing to do is to get your rabbit there as soon as possible.

If you are not so lucky, the next best thing you can do is to give your rabbit medical care at home to help her make it through the night until an experienced rabbit vet opens in the morning. Doing so will greatly increase her chance of survival. Since one of the first signs of any illness in a rabbit is that she stops eating, it is impossible for the average person to know what is wrong. It could be as simple as gas or it could be as complicated as GI stasis, urinary tract problems, teeth problems, ear infections, cancer, etc.

Make no mistake—a rabbit who is not eating is ALWAYS an emergency, so even if your rabbit seems better the next day, it is imperative that you take her to be examined by an experienced rabbit vet as soon as possible. Most vets who are experienced in rabbit care know that a sick rabbit needs immediate care and will allow you to bring your sick bun in for an exam right away. This is why it is also very important to establish a relationship with an experienced rabbit vet before your rabbit gets sick by taking your rabbit for an initial healthy rabbit examination when you first adopt her and for a yearly healthy rabbit exam thereafter.

It is best to anticipate that an after-hours emergency may happen sometime during the life of your rabbit and have the emergency supplies listed below ready for use when you need them.

**Supplies Purchased or Obtained from Your Vet**
- Oxbow Critical Care, American Pet Diner Critter Be Better, or similar powdered rabbit food to be fed through a syringe (available for sale through our HRS chapter and your vet)
- One 1-cc syringe
- Two monoject 10-cc oral syringes or two monoject curved-tip syringes
- Bag of Lactated Ringer Solution (LRS)
- IV drip set
- 18 or 20-gauge needles
- Gut motility drug, Propulsid (generic name, cisapride) or Reglan (generic name, metoclopramide)
- Pain medicine, Metacam
- Antibiotic, Baytril 10 milligrams (mg.) per milliliter (ml.) concentration or SMZ TMP 48 milligrams (mg.) per milliliter (ml.) concentration

**Supplies Purchased Over the Counter (OTC)**
- OTC Anti-gas medicine, (Maalox Multi or simethicone infant gas drops)
- Pedalyte or Gatorade (you can use water if you don’t have these)
- V8 Juice
- Snuggle Safe, microwaveable warmer, purchased at pet supply stores or online
- Clean towels

If you have determined that your rabbit is sick and you have no professional help until the morning, following the four major steps below can help her make it through the night until you can get to your vet in the morning.

**STEP 1: FLUIDS AND MEDICINE.** To start your rabbit on the road to recovery as quickly as possible, it is best to start by giving sub-Q (under the skin) fluids and drugs. You will be administering the Lactated Ringers Solution (LRS) fluids under the skin and the drugs by mouth. It is best to obtain individualized dosages for the LRS fluids and the drugs listed below for your rabbit.

Emergency supplies to have on hand include anti-gas medicine, Snuggle Safe warming disc, and feeding syringes.

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Chapter Update

Fostering and Adoption News

As always, fostering and adoption are a huge part of what the MD/DC/NoVA chapter of HRS does for the rabbits and people in this community. Without people willing to foster rabbits and work on adoption tasks, no rabbits would be rescued. HRS would like to once again give a BIG THANK YOU to the HRS fosterers and adoption volunteers for all their hard work.

Fosterers and adoption volunteers are the backbone of HRS, and HRS simply could not save rabbits without them. Fosterers and adoption volunteers take time out of their busy lives to pick up rabbits from area shelters, have them spayed/neutered, and then provide a loving home for them until they are adopted. In addition, many of our fosterers and adoption volunteers screen and educate prospective adopters, bond rabbits, deliver rabbits to their new homes, take rabbits to and from adoption days, make home visits for new adopters, and do many, many other things.

Much appreciation goes out to the current fosterers and adoption volunteers: Connie Tjoumas, Judi Lainer, Kathleen Wilsbach, Laurie Kuhn, Wendy Spey, Cameron McCurry, Iyna Adams, Kelly Fitzpatrick, Debbie Guidry, Erica Hanna, Lisa Mock, Jennifer Pirrone, Natalie Prizel, Ginger Roberts, Selene Scherr, Helen Goetz, Carla Pickett, Jodi Robertson, Jim and Terilee Edwards-Hewitt, Nicky Roberts, Diana Rekos, and Jim Hartsoe. We'd also like to thank those volunteers who come and help clean at the Baltimore foster home: Faye Levine, Jennifer Pirrone, Alison Mitchell, Selene Scherr, Chana Lazaroff (and her two boys Itzy and Mendi), Michelle Colburn, Ming Ye, and Robin Patalon.

A special THANK YOU goes out to Diane Reich and her family for continuing to allow HRS to use the conference room of their business, Biocoustics Instruments, Inc., for adoption days so many times. The location of Biocoustics Instruments (near BWI) is right in the middle of our territory, so it is a perfect place to hold adoption days. Reich family, we really appreciate what you do! We also occasionally have had adoption days at the homes of Becky Piercy and Connie Tjoumas.

Thank yous to both of them for opening their homes to us.

Laurie Kuhn has been our fostering director eight years. She has the huge responsibility of keeping track of adoption applications, answering adoption e-mails and phone calls, e-mailing adopters with adoption process information, assigning volunteers to screen and educate the prospective adopters, and following up to see which adopters to invite to the adoption days. She also plans the adoption days every month and makes sure that volunteers bring supplies needed to run an adoption day and that adopters and volunteers have directions to the event and are assigned an HRS volunteer to work with them. In addition, she works with local area shelters to rescue rabbits and helps the fosterers and adoption volunteers with any issues they may have. Whew, what a big job!

In 2007, we adopted out thirty-seven rabbits. We were able to take in sixty-four rabbits. Of the sixty-four, sixty-two were taken in from animal shelters throughout Maryland, Washington DC, and Northern Virginia, and the other two were a returned rabbit who was adopted out by HRS earlier and the mate who was not adopted from HRS.

In the first nine months of 2008, we have found homes for forty rabbits. We have been able to take in twenty-nine rabbits. Of the twenty-nine, twenty were taken in from animal shelters throughout Maryland, Washington DC, and Northern Virginia, and nine were returned rabbits who were adopted out by HRS earlier and their mates who were not adopted from HRS.

It has been an unusual adoption year so far with a very high returns rate at the same time that several fosterers are having big events (such as weddings and babies) in their lives, causing them to have to scale back their volunteering. We are hoping to be back on track with our rescued shelter rabbit numbers rising very soon, but we need

Frederick County Humane Society Spay/Neuter Grant

This year we are honored to receive a grant of $2,000 from the Frederick County Humane Society (FCHS) to help with the cost of spaying and neutering our foster rabbits. This money is especially appreciated in these times of rising veterinary costs. FCHS has an active foster care program for dogs and cats that includes spay/neuter before adoption. Although they do not have the foster homes or expertise in dealing with rabbits to offer a well-rounded program, they recognize that spaying and neutering of homeless rabbits is just as critical to successful adoption and long-term overpopulation prevention. They have decided to partner with our chapter of the House Rabbit Society to provide affordable spay/neuter services for rabbits.
your help. If you have been thinking about fostering an adoptable or sanctuary rabbit or are interested in helping with adoptions in other ways, now is the time. The shelter rabbits are waiting for you! If you would like more information on the fostering process, please e-mail Laurie Kuhn at rabbitrabbit-info@rabbitsinthehouse.org.

HRS is currently able to provide financial support for the daily care and vet bills of both adoptable rabbits and sanctuary rabbits, but we need financial donations in order to ensure that this support to fosterers and sanctuary homes continues to be possible. So, if you would like to help a rabbit but cannot help with providing a foster home or with giving your time, please consider sponsoring a foster or sanctuary rabbit or making a monetary donation.

Sanctuary Rabbits

HRS will always be committed to taking back and providing lifelong care to any rabbit whom we originally rescued and adopted out. When rabbits are returned and are still adoptable, the goal is to find a new loving home for them, a permanent one this time! However, rabbits are often returned when they are older and have health problems, making it hard to find someone willing and able to take that on. Sometimes HRS is able to find loving souls who want to help a special needs rabbit but, more often than not, older rabbits with health problems remain in HRS care for the rest of their lives. When this happens, we rely on generous people to donate money for their care or sponsor them. Often these rabbits live the remainder of their lives in an experienced foster home. Our hope for them if they cannot be adopted is that they get to live in a real home where they can get a lot of individual attention, rather than a larger foster home. HRS will continue pay for their care for the rest of their lives. It can be difficult to find sanctuary homes because sanctuary rabbits usually have health problems that require the care of a person experienced in geriatric rabbit care or someone who is willing to work closely with an experienced rabbit person to learn geriatric rabbit care.

*Currently, Kathleen Wilsbach is fostering Kira and Luke. Luke is twelve years old and still going strong but is missing most of his teeth. Kira has a chronic, resistant upper respiratory infection that is treated with Zithromax, a rather expensive antibiotic. Kathleen is also fostering Agatha, who is ten, has a chronic upper respiratory infection. Her partner, Lance, also ten, is currently in good health. They live with Son, who was originally taken into foster care in 1996. She was returned eight years ago and is now twelve years old. She has a mass in her chest being treated with Prednisone and a bone cyst in one of her back legs. *Judi Lainer is fostering Guinevere and Fergus, who are both nine years old. *Jodi Robertson is fostering Jacques, who has a chronic upper respiratory infection, and Panda, who is ten and having mobility problems. *Merlin, fostered by Jim Harts, is ten years old and has started to have spinal problems making his legs splay out. *Last (but not least) Mopsey, who has chronic bladder sludge, is being fostered by Laurie Kuhn. We recently lost Merlin’s mate, Roscoe (age 10.5 years) and Holly whom we had for 5 years.

Web Site

Jodi Robertson has been the HRS Webmaster for eight years now. Wow! Many thanks to Jodi for her dedication in maintaining the HRS site for so long! Our Web site is the most important way that we promote the rabbits we have for adoption and stay in touch with members. Check out the Web site at www.rabbitsinthehouse.org. Although the current Web site has served us well, we realize that it is in need of an overhaul in order to change with the times. Kelly Fitzpatrick, Natalie Prizel, Erica Hanna, and Jodi Robertson have worked very hard to create a new Web site that even has video and blogging capabilities. We hope to be able to premier the new site very soon. If you don’t receive e-mail updates from the chapter, please send your current e-mail to rabbitinfo@rabbitsinthehouse.org.

PetFinder

Chris Luehman does a wonderful job of keeping the HRS foster rabbits up to date on PetFinder.org. Thanks, Chris, for all your hard work! Erica Hanna has been creating videos of foster rabbits and adding those videos to PetFinder. What a great enhancement!

BunSpace.com and Craigslist

Erica Hanna has also started placing ads for the local chapter on Craigslist. She also created and updates a BunSpace.com page for the chapter. Great job, Erica! The rabbits thank you! Check out the BunSpace page at the following address: http://bunspace.com/view_bunny?bunid=5401.

Fall Festival

Brenda and Paul Coran welcomed us to their home for our chapter’s past Fall Festival. The afternoon was spent sharing stories with other bunny fans and viewing the cute pictures of everyone’s furry family members. Wendy Spey ran the Bunny Boutique, where many took the opportunity to buy items for themselves and get a head start on holiday purchases. There were also many gifts and supplies for the four-legged kids. Foster rabbit Squiggy made an appearance and met many potential adopters. He enjoyed all the ear rubs. Thanks to the Corans for letting us use their beautiful home. Thanks also go to those who brought and prepared the food we all enjoyed.

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World of Pets Expo

In January 2007 and 2008, we once again had the opportunity to staff a booth at the World of Pets Expo. This is always a fun event. It is a two-day event that allows many opportunities to tell pet owners about life with a house rabbit. We provided rabbit care information to many of those who attended the event. We shared bunny stories with rabbit owners and members who stopped by the booth to say hello. This was also an opportunity for attendees to stock up on rabbit supplies and buy gifts for themselves. Our foster rabbits who helped to staff the booth were a big hit, causing many people to stop and ask questions about house rabbits. We even received several adoption applications from interested persons. Kathleen Wilsbach gave a talk on house rabbit introductions and bondings. Thanks go out to Jackie Hill, Patricia Flynn, Faye Levine, Laurie Kuhn, Jennifer Pirrone, Iris Chai, Deborah Stein, Jodi Robertson, Chana Lazaroff, Selene Scherr, Andy Harrison, Kim Anderson, Debbie Guirdy, Becky Piercy, Kathleen Dunleavy, and Lisa Mock for helping to make this event a success every year. Thanks also to the foster rabbits who put on a wonderful show. We hope you’ll consider joining us on January 23, 24, and 25 in 2009 for the next World of Pets Expo.

Easter Talks

Easter time is an especially hard time for rabbit rescues. This is the time of year that many baby bunnies are spontaneously purchased for small children. To spread the word that rabbits and children do not always mix, Kay Bannon set up education tables and gave talks on rabbit care. In March, she talked to a group of youths at the Frederick County Humane Society Kindness Club. In April, Kay set up a education table at Meadowside Nature Center in Montgomery County. The Chapter participated in the Make Mine Chocolate campaign again this year. Be sure to purchase your Make Mine Chocolate pins and magnets. Thanks again to Karen Tran for handling our Easter press releases and media appearances.

Speaking of Chocolate - Again this year, Amber Elburn spearheaded our Log Cabin Easter Sale. Thanks to Amber and to Robin Patalon, Linda Senez, Kristina Soderquist, Con- nie Tjoumas, Barbara Storck, Jodi Lainer, Jodi Robertson, Lisa Randle, Lisa Mock, Kathy Winter, Jennifer Pirrone, Nicole Lindskog, and Michelle Colburn for their participation. We raised $1,500. The Fall Cookie and Candle sale was also organized by Amber Elburn. Thanks to her and to Debbie Guirdy, Darlene Saudarg, Jim and Terilee Edwards-He- witt, Kristina Soderquist, and Kathy Winter for their participation. We raised $500. Participation in the sales has dropped a little. We sure could use your help and participation for the next one. Contact rabbitinfo@rabbitsinthehouse.org.

CVC East Veterinary Conference

In April, we were invited to attend the CVC East Veterinary Conference in Baltimore. This was the third year that HRS was asked to provide rabbit care information to the conference attendees. It is a great experience for the booth volunteers, the veterinarian, and the vet technicians. There is plenty of time to talk about rabbit experiences and rabbit care. It is great to hear how many veterinary hospitals are gaining the expertise to provide care for our long-eared family members. Thanks to Laurie Kuhn, Jodi Lainer, Wendy Spey, Diane Reich, Jodi Robertson, Patty Flynn, Kathleen Wilsbach, Becky Piercy, and Amber and Drew Elburn for their assistance in making this event a success in 2007 and 2008.

Busy Months of May

May found the HRS volunteers out in full force to educate the public about rabbit care, something that is second nature to most of us. Kay Bannon and Chris Brann- don set up an education table for the Open House at Frederick County Animal Control Center. May 18, Kay Bannon, Debbie Kenny, and Deanna Williston showcased how environmentally friendly house rabbits can be at Earth-2 Eldersburg Educational Awareness Day. May 31, Brian McNeill and Debbie Kenny staffed a booth at the Frederick Walk-N-Wag. These volunteers shared their knowledge and helped rabbits in the western area of our chapter. Last year, Roger Fedders and Jodi Robertson were in Greenbelt attending the Greenbelt Pet Expo. Mario, our foster rabbit, had fun that day meeting many new people, which Mario translated into more nose rubs. This year, HRS was represented by Kathleen Wilsbach and Blinky, Pinky, and Clyde and by special guests Pistachio and Pi- gnioli. May 3 saw our return to the Fort Meade Pet Expo, when they once again offered nonprofits a complimentary booth. Faye Levine and Jodi Robertson staffed this event.

To the south, Carla Pickett and Judi Lainer were in Ashburn, Virginia. They provided rabbit care information at the Stream Valley Veterinary Hospital Open House. Rebecca Kingery and Christina Myers braved the rain to staff a booth May 10 at the Arling-
The two volunteers we are featuring in this issue of the Clover Leaf have recently expanded their families to include a human baby. We have called on them from time to time to educate some panicked new mothers or pregnant women who have contacted HRS to find a new home for their rabbit. Often pregnant women and new mothers are so overwhelmed with the prospect or the reality of the enormous changes a baby brings to their lives that they can't imagine their lives returning to normal. But in time their lives will go back to normal but their rabbits will get less attention until that time comes.

Babies and bunnies can work if you approach the situation with the right attitude, the attitude that your rabbits are part of the family. These volunteers are especially to be admired because not only did they never consider giving up their rabbits, they have continued to find time to contribute to our chapter while raising a new baby. Both these volunteers have said that they were inspired to volunteer by their relationships with their rabbits. Amber Elburn was an early member and adopter who increased her involvement after years of being a member. Wendy Spey joined more recently and jumped into volunteering with both feet. We hope their stories will inspire both old and new members to join us in doing what we do best . . . Help rabbits.

Amber Elburn

Amber Elburn helps the rabbits of HRS enormously by taking on the hard task of managing our two main fundraisers each year (The Log Cabin Candy Sale at Easter and The Uncle Ralph's Cookie Sale in the fall). Amber first contacted the House Rabbit Society when she was looking for help grooming her angora rabbit, Chance. She had rescued Chance at the state fair where other rabbits were being offered as prizes in a ring toss game. He was horribly matted, had coccidia, mites and other health problems but Amber nursed him back to health. I saw Amber from time to time when she brought Chance to my apartment for my famous long-haired rabbit bad haircuts. In 1997 Amber adopted Naria, a little black silver martens girl to be a friend for Chance. During the next several years, Amber's primary participation in the chapter was to be the frequent high seller in our Uncle Ralph's Cookie Sale and our Log Cabin Easter Candy Sale. I was always amazed at the amount she was able to sell and grateful for the money she raised in those early days when the chapter was struggling to grow.

When Chance died in 2001, Amber was heartbroken but also inspired by the relationship she had shared with him and grateful for the help she had received from HRS in that time. Amber remarked, "I am trying to turn all of what has happened around and make it into something brighter. I will say this is the hardest thing I have ever been through; Chance was my special little baby. I really do feel like he was sent by God for the two of us to heal each other. My goal now is to make sure Naria is well and happy and to give something back to the organization. A while back you had mentioned that Kay no longer had the time to do the Uncle Ralph's cookie fundraising and asked if I would like to. I would like to do this starting this Fall."

And so for the last seven years, with a brief break (covered by Lisa Mock) to give birth to her daughter Peyton in the Spring of 2006, Amber has run our two fundraising sales, expanding the Fall sale to include scented candles, increasing sales among the calorie conscious.

Amber has a heart of gold and real soft spot for rabbits who really need her. In 2001 Amber adopted Cocoa, a sweet rabbit who had been returned to HRS at the age of five and a half years right after her partner, Duncan, had died. Amber's heart went out to the poor little girl who had lost her mate and home. Luckily Naria agreed with her and the two girls became fast friends.

Amber now shares her home with buns, Sammy (Adopted through HRS), and Huey (rescued off the streets from neglect), her two-year-old daughter Peyton and her supportive husband Drew. We are so grateful to Amber for all the hard work she does to raise much needed money for the rabbits.

Wendy Spey

Wendy Spey is HRS's all around can do person. Wendy adopted her first rabbit Emanon in 2004 from the Anne Arundel County SPCA. I met her when she applied to adopt a friend for him from
The New Orleans Nine—Where Are They Now?

by Laura-Lynn Renner

An update on the rabbits that the MD/DC/NoVA chapter of HRS took in after Hurricane Katrina.

“So where are they now?” It sounds like an episode about child stars on the Hollywood entertainment channel! But really, what makes us wonder or care about where the New Orleans Nine are now? Is it our hope for a happy ending? Just plain curiosity? Or maybe we just need closure?

For me, it is the pure desire to hear someone’s or some creature’s story or a snippet of their story—their “life story,” if you will. Okay, now I sound like the Lifetime Television Channel. But, in truth, I enjoy learning about experiences of others and hearing about where they are on their path in life. How are they doing? Are they happy? And, in this case, how HRS and its volunteers made a difference in their “life stories.” It keeps me connected to the universe and the world around me. It reminds me that each and every life on earth is important and has a story.

The following is an update on each of the nine Katrina refugee rabbits who made their way from Slidell, Louisiana in November 2005 to our Chapter’s foster care program and how they found peace and calm after the storm.

Hope. Barbara Storck, her fosterer and eventual adopter, described Hope as a “1.45-pound powerhouse.” Aply put in my opinion. I called her Ms. Hope, she seemed to command respect. When he went to spay her, the vet in Louisiana discovered a cancerous lump, which he removed. She bounced right back after her surgery and June Booth, an HRS Louisiana local who was working at the shelter in Slidell, asked if we could make room for one more on our northbound bunny train to Maryland. After a quick phone call to Laurie Kuhn, the MD/DC/NoVA fostering director, we got the okay to welcome Hope aboard. Hope was adopted by Barbara as a mate for Joey, and they became two happy peas in a pod. Unfortunately, the cancer returned and Hope passed away in March 2007. Her last year and a half of life was spent in the loving, safe home of Barbara with her adoring bunny mate, Joey.

Della (formerly Slidella). Adopted by Jenny Otto. Della was very shy during her stay at the Katrina shelter, but she has blossomed into a sweet girl who loves to play hide and seek with Jenny’s Siamese cat. She is “living large” in her two-story condo and enjoys the occasional apple treat—Gala and Honey Crisps only, no Cameos or Staymans for this bunny girl. She went from the outhouse to the penthouse!

Tyler. Adopted by Maureen O’Prey. In Slidell, LA, Tyler was a comical little fellow, and it seems that his antics have continued. He is now bonded to Snowball and spends 80 percent of his day snugging and grooming his new girlfriend. Never one to be left out or afraid, Tyler loves to zoom through the house and explore his new territory...including sniffing a friendly visiting dog. He has even trained his humans to move out of his way on command (a nose nudge works every time) and to offer up kale when he puts on his funny little sad face. Tyler is dearly loved and knows how to keep his Snowball and his humans happy. Well done, Tyler!

K.D. and Guinness (formerly Louise and Louis). Fostered and adopted by Steve Nearman. I knew when I met these two buns that they would be the first to be adopted. They both are amazingly affectionate. K.D., a big white bun who is very social and friendly, has her own room with a screen door so that she can keep up with the action of the cats, humans, and rabbits up and down the hallway. She has even been known to groom Steve from head to toe in exchange for a body massage. Sounds like spa living to me! Guinness, a little black bun with perky ears, is a real snuggler and rooms with his good bud, Sierra. He enjoys getting cozy on the couch and follows Steve around the house. No surprise to me, these two were destined to live happy lives.

Anna. Fostered by Lisa Mock. Sweet Anna passed away in foster care shortly after she made her long trip from the South.

The thing I remember most about her was her velvety smooth coat and the way she would stretch out long with her feet behind her, relaxed and calm. At the shelter, her cage was next to Guinness’s (formerly Louis), and he was such a tiny, young bun. They would lean up against each other through the cage wires. She would sometimes groom him through the cage as if to comfort him. Sweet, soft Anna. At least her final days were spent being well cared for and loved.

Junebug. Adopted by Claire Willis. continued on page 16
Rabbit Supplies Sold by Our Chapter

These items are available only by pickup. Prices include sales tax. Not all items are sold at all locations; please ask ahead of time about availability.

**Hay**
- Oxbow Timothy/Orchard hay 2.5 lb bag.............................. $7
- Oxbow Timothy/Orchard hay 9 lb box................................... $20
- Oxbow Timothy/Orchard hay 25 lb box................................. $35
- Oxbow Timothy/Orchard hay 50 lb box................................... $45

**Pellets**
- Oxbow Bunny Basics/ Timothy Pellets 5 lbs................................. $5/bag
- Oxbow Bunny Basics/ Timothy Pellets 10 lbs............................ $10/bag
- Oxbow Cavy Cuisine................................................................. $10/bag
- Harlan High Fiber Pellets 33 lbs ........................................... $20/bag

**Special Oxbow Products**
- Papaya Tablets 200 ................................................................. $8
- Papaya Tablets 500 ................................................................. $12
- Critical Care (for syringe feeding) ........................................... $8

**Feeding Supplies**
- Crock-lok Bowl ................................................................. $6
- Ceramic Crock ................................................................. $6
- Water Bottle ........................................................................ $6
- Mini bottle ........................................................................ $4.50

**Exercise Pens**
- 24 inch tall ........................................................................... $55
- 30 inch tall ........................................................................... $65

**Grooming Supplies**
- Slicker Brush ....................................................................... $7
- Metal loop Brush ................................................................... $6
- Detangler Combs ................................................................... $5
- Scissors ................................................................................. $10
- Nail Clippers .......................................................................... $7
- Brushes ................................................................................ $7

**Litter**
- CareFresh Litter (50 quart bag) ............................................. $15
- Harlan Tek Chips (paper pellets) ........................................... $20
- Oxbow Eco-Straw (20lbs) ...................................................... $12

**Litter Pans**
- Small .................................................................................. $6
- Medium ................................................................................ $7
- Large ................................................................................... $8

**Toys**
- Grass mats XL (Busy Bunny) ................................................ $7
- Grass mats (Busy Bunny) ........................................................ $4
- Grass mats Small (Busy Bunny) ............................................. $3
- Chew Rings (Busy Bunny) ..................................................... $3
- Willow Bowls (Busy Bunny) ................................................... $3
- Basket of Sticks (Busy Bunny) .............................................. $5
- Basket with Handles (Busy Bunny) ....................................... $6
- Regular Basket (Busy Bunny) ................................................. $6
- Deluxe Basket (Busy Bunny) ................................................. $11
- Grass Balls (Busy Bunny) ...................................................... $7
- Willow Cube (Busy Bunny) .................................................... $7
- Willow Ball Large (Busy Bunny) ........................................... $7
- Willow Ball Medium (Busy Bunny) ....................................... $4
- Willow Ball Small (Busy Bunny) ........................................... $3
- Willow Tunnel (Busy Bunny) .................................................. $17
- Willow Tent (Busy Bunny) ..................................................... $18
- Critter Castle (Busy Bunny) ................................................... $25
- Tunnel of Love (Busy Bunny) ................................................ $10
- Cottontail Cottage (Busy Bunny) ......................................... $18
- Hang and Chew (Funny Bunny) ........................................... $10
- Rattle Rollers (Funny Bunny) ............................................... $8
- Little Rattles (Funny Bunny) ................................................ $4
- Fancy large rattles (Funny Bunny) ........................................ $7
- Wooden Ball (Funny Bunny) ................................................ $5

**Exercise Pens**
- 24 inch (Funny Bunny) ......................................................... $55
- 30 inch high (Funny Bunny) ................................................ $65

We are grateful to the people who have joined iGive.com and donated to the Chapter through their online purchases. Our Chapter has already earned more than $700 through iGive! For more information on iGive, see page 20.

Thank you for supporting HRS by buying rabbit supplies from us. You will find our prices quite reasonable, and the profits go to help rabbits. Supplies are available to Chapter members from the following supply volunteers:

**Virginia**
- **Annandale:** Barbara Storck shekeinah@yahoo.com

**Maryland**
- **Annapolis:** Cheryl Gregory urgregory@comcast.net
- **Baltimore:** Kathleen Wilsbach kathleen@rabbit.org
- **Bel Air:** Jodi Robertson lapinblanc@comcast.net
- **Ellicott City:** Connie Tioumas connie.tioumas@verizon.net
- **Reisterstown:** Chantel Rupert chantelrupert25@hotmail.com
- **Rockville:** Marcus Silvestro rockvilleshed@hotmail.com

**Maryland/PA Border**
- **Hanover, PA:** Lisa Mock lemock@suscom.net

We would still like to establish additional supply locations—especially near Arlington, and Frederick—please contact Kathleen Wilsbach at Kathleen@rabbit.org to discuss details.
Rabbits for Adoption!!!

All rabbits are to be adopted as HOUSE RABBITS only—no exceptions! $60 donation per rabbit or $100 for a pair, plus $18 HRS membership for non-members. Your other rabbits must be spayed or neutered. Pictures of all our foster rabbits can be viewed at our Web site and at www.petfinder.org.

**Single Boys**

**Bob (aka Bob Big Boy)** is the largest of the group we affectionately call the big babies. Bob weighs in at about twelve pounds. He is a gorgeous gray and white Harlequin rabbit. His mom was pregnant when she was surrendered to an animal shelter and she had eleven babies on February 22, 2007!! Yes, I said eleven. Our fostering director thought she should have her head examined when she agree to take in a mother rabbit and eleven two-week-old babies but she did it anyway. It was great fun and a great challenge fostering a group of that size. A once in a lifetime experience. Here Bob is squeezing himself into an Oxbow Bunny Bungalow. The mother rabbit and all but four of the big babies have been adopted. Bob and the remaining four are patiently waiting for a permanent home hopefully as a friend for another rabbit(s).

**Hugh** is a friendly mini-rex rabbit who loves to be petted and like all mini-rexes, his fur feels just like velvet. He was adopted from the Humane Society of Baltimore County two years ago and can't understand why he came back. He came back to the shelter a good bit fatter than he left. When he was returned he weighed 4.5 lb but with a healthy diet and exercise program he is back to his fighting weight. Hugh has excellent litter box habits and house manners.

Hi, my name is **Russell** and I am really good with my litter box. I came to the shelter with three other bunnies, but we were all kept separate from each other. I wasn't used to being touched at all, so I was pretty scared at first, but despite that, I did bunny dances my first day out of the shelter. I couldn't believe how much room I had at my foster home after being stuck in a little cage. Within a week, my foster mom could pet me. I'm a very nice, sweet boy, still a little shy, but certainly not skittish anymore. And I don't mean to be conceited, but I am gorgeous. I was born May 2007, so I'm a young eligible bachelor. Maybe I could meet your girl bunny who's looking for somebun to cuddle?

**Single Girls**

**Angela (A.K.A Jelly)** is a beautiful sweet girl. She is a color called lilac which means she is gray with a white underside and has light red mixed in making her almost look light purple hence lilac. She is a small dwarf mix girl who is very curious and loves to explore. Her little nose is always twitching with anticipation, and she will stand up high on her back feet to reach for a treat. She is so cute that her foster mom calls her Jelly for her little jelly belly. Angela was surrendered to a local shelter with her bonded mate. The shelter adopted out her mate without her, leaving a very lonely Angela. Since she misses him, it would be great if she could have a new bunny man in her life.

**Tulip**, a two-and-a-half-pound Netherland Dwarf bunny, is curious and feisty. It's hard to believe all that energy is bundled into such a tiny rabbit. She's recovered well from a case of head tilt and is back to her old self. Tulip loves to explore and tear up boxes and is not afraid of anything. She's much cuter in person and will make you laugh at her silliness. Please come and meet Tulip at our next adoption meet.
Sanctuary Rabbits

KIRA AND LUKE—Kira, a wonderful brown and white fuzzy lop girl, was adopted to be a friend for Luke back in 2000. She was returned with Luke to HRS because her adopter’s grandchildren were allergic to rabbits. She is an older rabbit who has had a few recurring bouts with upper respiratory infection. Luke is a brown and white mini-lop boy. He is also an older rabbit. Several years ago he had surgery for a jaw abscess and lost a large part of his lower jaw to the infection. Luckily he has Kira to keep his spirits up and give him lots of head licks. We seem to have finally gotten rid of the infection, but Luke will continue to need molar trims and soft foods. As their vet bills can be quite expensive, sponsorship for each of them would also be most welcome.

Happy Adoption Letters

The girls and Ben are enjoying their new condo together. They all had dinner together and Charlotte and Trixxie got to experience bedtime, which they both loved. Everyone’s snuggled in bed for the night. I’m sending some photos of their new Home Sweet Home. The one photo is Benjamin lying in between the condo and wall (he loves to find crevices to hide in). Thank you for sending us such wonderful girls. They will receive plenty of love from Benjamin and us.—Cyndi and Tim Anderson

Just wanted to give you an exciting update on Diego. He is WONDERFUL with our daughter, Mackenzie. We had kind of left him alone to get used to the change. There were a few days when walking into the room would automatically send him fleeing into his castle. Soon we were able to get a bit closer without him turning to run. Next thing I knew, I was able to catch some occasional pettings before he would hop quickly into his hiding place. The most amazing thing is last night we took him out to run around a bit and visit with us. He was absolutely wonderful with Mackenzie. She would bend to give him a kiss and he would look up at her to receive the kiss on his face. He would kiss her back too. She would start to pet him and he would sit for as long as she would pet him, he even accepted it when she hugged him. If she stopped to talk to Lynn or me, he would nudge her to get her attention back. How awesome is that!! He has definitely won our hearts and is a keeper!! : )—Diane Reich

I now have all three buns—Lucky, Broden, and Copper—and they are doing just great! They are a bit spoiled, but I love them and they are having fun. They have a big room and play areas (6x9 with a 24x48 Bunny Adobe). They have a fresh salad every day with parsley, collards, apples, and carrots. Each morning and evening, they get a papaya tablet. They have lots of chew toys and a hut. I am a good bunny Mom who now understands the buns. Since Lucky has been spayed, she has been perfect...no more grunting and she is sooooooooo sweet and loveable. I am glad I kept her and glad to have Copper and Broden too! Wish I could have gotten more, but I think three is enough with my two cats. I can’t thank you enough and your team of professionals for all that you do for the buns.—Sharon Remeikis

I adopted Jannu from the MD/DC/NoVA HRS a few months back. I’m happy to say that she and LG are doing just fine and are getting along really well. Thanks for all of your help!—Monica Lee

I thought you would be interested to know that LaFeet and Athena (formerly Ashes!) are getting along famously now with my boyfriend Reggie’s long-haired cat, Calypso. They all like to lounge around together. The buns haven’t started grooming Calypso yet, but I can sense that it’s coming. Athena (or THEENA, as I usually say) is a very enthusiastic groomer of LaFeet. LaFeet reciprocates every now and then but, as he has so much more hair, I think she invests more styling time in him. :)—Jenn Stofferahn

Our fosterers and educators appreciate and enjoy all the letters and photos that adopters submit. We regret that we cannot fit all the feedback into the Clover Leaf, but please don’t let that stop you from telling us how your adopted rabbits are doing.

We can now accept on-line donations and membership renewals with PayPal through our Web site www.rabbitsinthehouse.org.
rabbit ahead of time from your vet; however, approximate dosages (based on the weight of the rabbit) calculated by very experienced rabbit vet Dr. Keith Gold are provided below for use in the event you don’t have individualized dosages ahead of time.

First, administer the LRS fluids. (You will need a bag of Lactated Ringer solution, an IV drip set and 18 or 20 gauge needles.) It is important to have a trained professional at your vet’s office show you how to perform this procedure ahead of time. To administer the LRS fluids, place your rabbit on your lap, wrapped snugly in a towel to restrain her while you administer the fluids. Hang the bag of fluids (with the IV drip set attached to the bag of LRS fluids and the needle attached to the end of the IV drip set) from something much higher than you. (I like to sit on the bathroom floor with the IV drip set hanging from a door hook or shower curtain rod.) Pull up the skin on your rabbit’s shoulder area to create a “tent” of skin; insert the needle at a 45 degree angle into the tent of skin (being careful not to poke the needle through the other side of the tent of skin); roll open the release valve on the IV drip set (which will allow the fluids to flow) and watch the 100-cc markers on the bag of LRS fluids to determine when the appropriate amount of fluids has been administered. Once the appropriate amount of fluid has been administered, roll the release valve closed and remove the needle from the rabbit’s skin.

• Lactated Ringer solution (LRS) sub-Q (usually in the shoulder area) if you have it and know how to administer it. Give 100 cc of LRS for rabbits weighing up to ten pounds; 150 cc for rabbits weighing over ten pounds.

Next, administer the appropriate drugs. (You will need a 1-cc syringe and the drugs listed below.) To administer the drugs, place your rabbit on your lap, wrapped snugly in a towel to restrain her while you administer the drugs. Gently insert the syringe in the side of the rabbit’s mouth. Slowly syringe a small amount of medicine into her mouth. Always give her time to swallow before giving her more. Do not give more than the recommended amounts. If your rabbit is not swallowing the medicine, STOP giving the oral medication and proceed to Step 3.

• Maalox Multi to help break up gas. **Dosage:** 0.4 cc for all size rabbits.
• Metacam for pain. **Dosage:** 0.05 cc for rabbits weighing up to five pounds and 0.1 cc for rabbits over five pounds.
• A gut motility drug to get her gastrointestinal system moving, Propulsid (generic name, cisapride) or Reglan (generic name, metoclopramide). **Dosage:** 0.1 ml/cc per pound of body weight.
• Antibiotic to start to control possible infection, either Baytril 0.1 ml/cc per pound of body weight or SMZ TMP 0.25 ml/cc per pound of body weight. You can use either antibiotic but do not use both.

**STEP 2: FOOD AND ORAL LIQUID.**

(You will need two monocomponent 10-cc oral syringes or two monocomponent curved-tip syringes and the liquid and food listed below.)

Since rabbits need food and liquid moving through their system to stay healthy, give her the food and liquid listed below. If you are using the monocomponent curved-tip syringes, cut the end off one syringe, leaving a small nub to insert into her mouth to use with the Critical Care. Then cut just a snip off the end of the other syringe to administer the Pedialyte, Gatorade or water. (A set of animal nail clippers works well to cut the monocomponent curved tip syringes.)

Place your rabbit on your lap, wrapped snugly in a towel to restrain her while you administer the Critical Care and the liquids. Alternate giving Critical Care (or V8 juice) and liquids (Pedialyte, Gatorade, or water). Gently insert the syringe in the side of the rabbit’s mouth. Slowly syringe a small amount of food or liquid into her mouth. Always give her time to chew and swallow before giving her more. Do not give more than the recommended amount. If your rabbit is not swallowing the food or liquid, STOP syringe feeding and proceed to Step 3.

• Pedialyte, Gatorade, or water to moisten her stomach contents and help things move through her system. **Dosage:** 5 ml/cc for rabbits weighing up to two pounds; 10 ml/cc for rabbits weighing between two and five pounds; and 15 ml/cc for rabbits weighing over five pounds.
• Critical Care, food to be syringe fed. Mix according to the directions on the package; you will probably have to add more liquid to make a slurry that can be drawn into the syringe. Give around 15 ml/cc (V8 Juice, 15ml/cc, can be used if Critical Care is unavailable).

**STEP 3: COMFORT.** Once you have given her the sub-Q fluids, medicine, food, and oral liquids, it is time to put her in her cage where she feels comfortable and safe. It is important that the cage and litter box be clean so you can tell whether or not she is pooping and peeing. If your rabbit has a partner, some vets suggest separating a rabbit from her partner briefly, to determine if the ill rabbit is pooping and peeing or not. Separating must be done with caution because separating bonded rabbits often causes additional stress. It should be done so that they can still see and touch each other through a divider. If possible, obtain that same information through careful observation without separating the rabbits.

Warm a Snuggle Safe disk in the microwave, wrap it in a clean towel (so she won’t be burned by it), and place it near her to allow her to snuggle up to it to get warm. Warming instructions come with the disk. Do not overheat the disk. Although it is very hard to do, it is very important to leave her alone and not hover over her too much. Howering will make her worry and hinder her recovery. Now it is time for you to relax as much as possible, get some sleep, and pray to whatever you believe in for her recovery.

**STEP 4: VETERINARY CARE.** Last and most important take her to an experienced rabbit vet AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! If your rabbit is bonded to other rabbits, it is important to take the other rabbit(s) along on the trip to the vet. The sick rabbit will be comforted having her partner(s) with her and often rabbits who are separated during a trip to the vet fight when they are put back together. If your rabbit requires hospitalization, it is important to leave her partner(s) with her during the hospital stay for the same reasons. 🐰

This article is intended for use as advice in an emergency situation only. It is not a substitute for professional veterinary care.
the Humane Society of Baltimore County. Most people would have been pretty disappointed when the first rabbit they adopted spent most of his time hiding under the furniture and wouldn’t let anyone touch him. I was impressed because Wendy’s main concern was to somehow make Emanon feel safe and secure so he could start to enjoy life and stop worrying. Bailey was the only bunny that didn’t try to dominate Emanon and she was specifically looking for a bunny to boost his low self esteem.

When I met Wendy, I was very impressed with her. She (with help from her husband, John) completely renovated a house from top to bottom, learning as they went along. When she started volunteering shortly after adopting Bailey, she brought the same attitude toward volunteering. I have volunteers come to my home to help with cleaning the area where my foster and sanctuary rabbits live. Most volunteers come once a month but Wendy came several weekends a month. Her reason: I really seemed to need the help. Wendy said, “I loved learning more about bunnies when I talked to you while we cleaned litter boxes. I also learned about the miracles of vinegar and the importance of washable rugs.”

Her frequent exposure to the sanctuary rabbits led her to fall in love with Easter (one of the sweetest rabbits of all time) and her bossy partner Aristotle. Wendy offered to foster the pair of sanctuary rabbits if they could be bonded to her rabbits. The bonding between Easter and Aristotle and Wendy’s rabbits was a snap. Aristotle announced in no uncertain terms that he was the king and no one argued. Case closed. Foursome formed. After Easter passed away, Wendy decided to adopt Aristotle.

For employment reasons, the Speys relocated from Baltimore, MD to Takoma Park, MD, but Wendy continued coming to help clean almost as often.

Wendy was inspired to start fostering adoptable rabbits when our chapter rescued the nine Hurricane Katrina bunnies. Her first foster rabbit was tiny Junebug. Fostering Junebug inspired Wendy to start fostering adoptable rabbits for the Chapter.

Shortly after giving birth to her son Nathan last spring, Wendy jumped back in to help with the take-down of our booth at the CVC vet conference. Nathan supervised us from his car seat/carrier. Wendy also built our PVC pipe display board which we now use at almost all our big educational events. Although she had to give up helping at the Baltimore foster home on a regular basis, Wendy continues fostering and often makes her van available to pick up and transport things for the Chapter in conjunction with her frequent trips back to Baltimore. Thanks Wendy, for the many ways you help HRS and the rabbits!

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**Remembering Rosalyn**

Rosalyn had beautiful eyes and her coat was as soft as a rose if you held her close to your face her fur would tickle your nose

Her whole life revolved around Jim and also, Thumper, her mate she always thought she was Queen but it wasn’t an off-putting trait

Sometimes on very cold evenings Jim would wake with delight to find himself snuggled with bunnies those were his two-rabbit nights

Rosalyn had a wonderful life she was loved by two excellent men we will miss her and think of her sometimes and wish we could tickle her chin again

by Carol Martin

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Rosalyn and Roscoe.
ton Animal Rescue League’s Walk for the Animals.

In the middle of the chapter area were Kathleen Wilsbach and Jennifer Pirrone. They attended the Maryland ASPCA Adoption Day in Baltimore. Although there were not many rabbits there, they were able to discuss life with a house rabbit.

May 16-18, Oxbow Animal Health (formerly Oxbow Hay) had a booth at the H.H. Backer Pet Industry Trade Show at the Baltimore Convention Center. Oxbow asked our chapter to provide some spokesbunnies; Kathleen Wilsbach and Laurie Kuhn acted as their chap-erones. Again, Jersey Woolies Blinky, Pinky, and Clyde were a big fluffy hit with the crowd, and Bob Big Boy had fun demonstra-ting how even a large rabbit can fit in the new Oxbow Bunny Bungalow.

American Humane Association
Our chapter was asked to represent the House Rabbit Society at the American Humane Association Conference in Alexandria, Virginia. Our volunteers stepped up to the task and staffed a booth at this conference for animal shelter professionals. This was a wonderful opportunity to reach out to shelter professionals and provide them with information to improve the care of shelter rabbits and increase the adoption of rabbits. Thanks to Jim Edwards Hewitt, Karen Gurneck, Carol Koplik, Rebecca Kingery, Jim Hartsoe, Kathleen Wilsbach, Laurie Kuhn, and Christina Myers.

More Fun
Although May was a busy month, we had other events throughout the year. Kathy Brooks and Wendy Spey spent the day at Paws in the Park in Montgomery County. Our rabbits did not walk but they did start a lot of good stories from the humans. There was plenty of good fun for everyone. Judi Lainer and Iyna Adams spent a warm summer night in Brunswick, Virginia, at the Pet-A-Palooza. Many families with their pets walked along Potomac Street.

Upcoming Events
Beside the fabulous anniversary party, we have more events in store for this fall. We have been asked to staff a booth at Carroll County Humane Society Open House and at the Humane Society of Baltimore County’s DogFest on October 4 and the Barktoberfest on October 18. If you are interested in helping us talk to people about house rabbits, please contact volunteers@rabbitsinthehouse.org.

Interesting Rabbit Facts
Did you know?

• Rabbits are not rodents, they are lagomorphs.
• Rabbits have 28 teeth.
• A rabbit’s teeth never stop growing.
• Rabbits need hay to keep their digestive system healthy.
• Rabbit food with seeds and treats is junk food for bunnies.
• Rabbits need a healthy vegetable salad everyday.

What Vegetables Do Rabbits Like to Eat?

See if you can find a rabbit’s favorite foods.
The House Rabbit Society’s MD/DC/NoVA Chapter Celebrates

Sunday, October 12, 2008
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
American Legion Hall
2 Main Street
Laurel, MD 20707

Please JOIN US for this fun-filled event with fellow rabbit lovers as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the House Rabbit Society and the rescue of 20,000 rabbits! There will be a delicious vegetarian lunch, raffle prizes, silent auction, items for sale, giveaways, special guest speakers, rabbits for adoption and more!

Special Presentations By:
Dr. Keith Gold, Chadwell Animal Hospital, “20 Years of Advances in Rabbit Medicine”
Dr. David Handel, Kentlands Veterinary Hospital, “Acupuncture and Spinal Adjustments for Rabbits”
Dr. David Crum, Stahl Exotic Animal Veterinary Services, “Geriatric Rabbit Medical Concerns”

Tickets
*Members: $25 Non-Members: $30 Children: $10

To register for this event or for more information please visit
www.rabbitsinthehouse.org

*HRS Membership applies to all family members

HRS: 20 Years
...and Counting!
Junebug is too cute for words with the personality to match. Although she was timid when she first arrived in her new home, she soon warmed up to her new mate, Vern. Her afternoons are spent side by side with Vern in their basket burrow... just napping and grooming and napping some more. Their mornings and evenings are spent going wild in their playroom, where Junebug impresses everyone with her gymnastic moves. Appreciative of her new home, Junebug will give Claire’s hand a lick or two of thanks after a petting session. She knows she is finally home.

Marti Gras. Adopted by Melissa Allman. Marti Gras...his name says it all. Marti was found in a parking lot in Louisiana. Mr. Personality hopped right up to his rescuer as if to say, “Okay, here I am, let’s get going.” This handsome, big white bun has charmed his way into being a full-fledged family member. Like many of the other Katrina buns, it took him a little time to come out of his shell, but Melissa and Alex’s patience has paid off. He now freely shows he is happy and loved. They especially appreciate the tidy litter box habits! An avid digger of his favorite yellow phonebook, Marti has already flown through the J’s!

Missy. Fostered and adopted by Laura-Lynn and Phil Renner. We hadn’t intended to foster or adopt, but Missy knew better. My famous last words to my husband as I boarded the plane to Louisiana to help with the Katrina rescue were “Don’t worry, since I am flying, I won’t be able to bring home any animals.” Of course, the universe had other plans for me, and when Laurie Kuhn said HRS was planning on offering to take in some bunny refugees, I couldn’t say no to such an adventure. I didn’t fly back, but rented a car and packed it full with nine bunnies, hay, playpens, and supplies. My husband flew into Alabama to join me on the rest of the drive home. After two days on the road, we dropped all nine bunnies off at Jodi Robertson’s home to receive vet visits and some pampering before they were off to their foster homes. Phil and I had offered temporary care to any bunny that required medical attention and Missy, a Siamese lop, had a severe infection in each ear, so she was soon back in our care. One ear cleared up quickly, but the other took several months and surgery to heal. By then she was one of the family. During her recovery, Missy would hop up on her personal cushioned chair to watch television with us. She would sit there looking all cute and fuzzy and helpless. We had “sucker” written all over us. Once we officially adopted her, Missy’s personality began to shine and her ear healed quickly. Hmm. Somehow, I think it was all a part of her plan. Missy is a different bunny than when she first came to live with us. Now she loves head rubs and binkies for her papaya treats, and she stretches out with happy feet. Missy came from a Mississippi humane society shelter that was destroyed in Hurricane Katrina. Some of the animals survived and some were not so fortunate. During her first months with us, she would thump every few seconds in the middle of the night during a thunderstorm. Flashbacks, I guess. I would go in her room and lie on the floor with her for a while and then go back to bed. She would be fine after that.

I think she just needed to be reassured that we were in the next room and that she was safe, loved, and at home...her forever home. Isn’t that what we all really want... to be safe and loved with a forever home? Fortunately, many people came together to help these nine lucky rabbits find just that. It reminds us that each life is precious and each story is important. As radio personality Paul Harvey used to say, “And now you know the rest of the story.”

I appreciate the adopters taking the time to send me emails to update me on the lives of their new family members. Special thanks as well to the fosterers who welcomed these bunnies into their homes: Lisa Mock, Barbara Storch, Diana Rekos, Monnica Felix, Wendy Spey, Jodi Robertson, Steve Nearman, and Laura-Lynn and Phil Renner.

Have you received an unsolicited mailing from another rabbit organization recently?

It is not the policy of HRS to share its mailing list with any other organizations. We would like to apologize for any inconvenience or confusion and to assure you that any use of our mailing list by other organizations is completely unauthorized.

DONATIONS IN HONOR OR MEMORY

CAROL ANN KOPLIK
In memory of Bingo Miller

DOMINIC AND CLAIRE MILANDO
In memory of Frankie

ANNE IMBODEN
In memory of Grace Kidd

AMY AND JEFF SCHENBERGER
In honor of Happy

MARGARET FUCHS
In Honor of Anne Imboden

CAROL ANN KOPLIK
In Memory of Fluff

ANNE IMBODEN
In Honor of Kathleen Wilbschak

PATRICIA TRENNER
In Memory of Kip, 1996-2006

LAURA LYNN & PHIL RENNER
In Memory of Contessa

BARBARA FUECHSEL
& JERRY BERNSTEIN
In Memory of Annie, Thomas & Edmund

ANNE IMBODEN
In Memory of Manon Robertson

SARAH LISTER
In Memory of John and in Honor of Anne Imboden

CHARLES F. SMITH
In Honor of Jennifer Hicks and in Memory of Baxter

LISA TITMAN
In Honor of Ginger Roberts

BARBARA PASTERNAK
In Memory of Sage Kempter, Great Falls Animal Hospital

BONNIE KOREL
In Loving Memory of Chloe & Zoe
Bunny Greetings!

It’s not too early to start thinking about holiday shopping, and we hope the Rabbit Catalog will help. The items on these pages include some that are familiar and others that are new. Drollery Press, the publisher of the House Rabbit Handbook, is offering new video CDs, and we have license plate holders from the Wisconsin chapter. National HRS is not producing a calendar with Browntrout this year (the publisher doesn't like to use the same photographer more than two years in a row), but we offer a calendar assembled by the Missouri chapter and sold exclusively by HRS. All purchases from the Rabbit Catalog will help our chapter to continue rescuing and rehabilitating shelter rabbits and placing them into carefully screened homes. All proceeds will directly impact the lives of rabbits in need.

Won’t you show your pride in your companion rabbit by ordering today? Simply fill out the order form and mail it in with your check or money order. You can expect shipment within three weeks. Then you’ll have the satisfaction of knowing that you’re helping rabbits. And, oh yes: it’s also a good time to renew your membership and to join our Volunteer Network.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Kathleen Wilsbach, Chapter Manager

Encouraging Your Rabbit to Exercise Activities That Promote A Bunny’s Fitness
By Marinell Harriman
Beginning with choices of an exercise area, this video explores ways of bringing out rabbits’ natural play behaviors and improving their health through exercise. Video CD; run-time: 10 minutes.
CDs playable on most DVDs $14

Planning Your Bunny’s Assisted Living Ways to Give Special Care to Special-Needs Bunnies
By Marinell Harriman
How to ensure ease of care and quality of life to rabbits with conditions such as a slight limp, sprays legs, head tilt, recumbency, limb weakness, paraplegia, etc. on a day-to-day basis. Video CD; run-time: 10 minutes.
CDs playable on most DVDs $14

Shaping Your Rabbit’s Space: THE FINE ART OF INTEGRATING LIFESTYLES
Indicate Video, Video CD, or CD for Mac, 10 min $14

Knowing Your Rabbit’s Routines: WHAT TO EXPECT AND WHEN TO WORRY
Indicate Video, Video CD, or CD for Mac, 10 min $14

★NEW★ INTRODUCING RABBITS
For The Matchmaking Rabbit Person
By Marinell Harriman
Updated and expanded
DVD & booklet, 45 minutes $25

Stories Rabbits Tell: A Natural and Cultural History of a Misunderstood Creature
A comprehensive look at the rabbit as a wild animal, ancient symbol, pop culture icon, commercial “product” and domesticated pet. By Susan E. Davis and Margo DeMello. $23

House Rabbit Handbook
by Marinell Harriman
4th Edition. Understanding, appreciating, and caring for rabbits: health care, litter box training, diet, exercise, toys, and behavior. $10

Make Mine Chocolate Pin $6
Make Mine Chocolate Magnet $6

★NEW!★ 2009 Calendar
Rabbit Rescue 2009
Produced by the Missouri HRS Chapter $12

HRS Maryland/Washington DC/Northern Virginia Chapter 17
**NEW** HRS 20th Anniversary T-shirt
HRS national logo on front, green ink on butter shirt, available in both regular and French cut.
Available in S, M, L, and XL........$10

A Rabbit's Place is in the House T-shirt
Artwork by Lara Byers, MD/DC/NoVA HRS. Forest Green.
T-shirt: 100% cotton.
Available in S, M, L XL 2X 3X..........................$10

Bunny in the Moon T-shirt
Artwork by Carolyn Long, WI HRS, illustrates the Asian folk tale of the rabbit in the moon. White with blue sky around moon.
Available in S M L XL 2X.............................$15

Owned by a Rabbit Picture-Frame Magnet ............. $3

Buy a Bunny a Little Time
Bumper Sticker ............... $1

A Rabbit's Place is in the House Magnet ............ $2

Poster 1’ x 3’ ............ $10

Order Form

If you are not currently a member of HRS, we invite you to join!
See Membership Area below.

Would You Like to Become a Member of HRS?
Is Your Membership Current? Has Your Address Changed?

Is it your TIME TO RENEW? Check the expiration date on your mailing label. If your membership has expired, please renew by filling out the form below:

I’d like to become a member of HRS! / Please change my mailing address to:

Name ____________________________ Address ____________________________
City __________________ State ______ ZIP __________

☑ Local and National HRS membership...................$26
☑ National HRS membership.............................$18

Members receive the House Rabbit Journal.

Total Remittance for Rabbit Catalog and Membership $
Make check or money order payable to House Rabbit Society

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**Shipping**

If your subtotal is Add
up to $9.99 ...............$3
$10 – $19.99 .......... $5

If your subtotal is Add
$20 – $29.99 ............. $6
$30 – $49.99 ............ $7

$50 or more .............. $8

Prices include sales tax.

Subtotal $ Shipping $
Rabbit Catalog Total $
Thanks to the following **Special Friends** who donated $24 or more to help the rabbits:

Adrienne Bambach
Kit Bonson
Frank Branchini
Cat Brooks
Carol Caruso & Lisa Swinehart
Jeannette Certano
Wendy Chen & Alvin Wong
Colleen Coughlin
John Daus
Ellen & Joe Diorio
Carol Durbin
Jim & Terilee Edwards
Amber & Drew Elburn
Ann Esposito
Barbara Fuechsel & Jerry Bernstein
Sid Groeneman
Pamela Hagen
Jim & Catherine Genthner
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Nancy & Alfred King
Bonnie Korel
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Emily Lam
Christopher Limon & Maureen O’Prey
Third Grade Class of Nicole Lindskog
Gerrit S. Marks
Brian McNeill & Kathy McKenzie
Susan & Sid Meier
Tonya Penkrot
Becky Piercy
Laura Lynn & Phil Renner
Deutsche Bank Matching Gift
Ginger & Roger Roberts
Selene Schere & Helen Goetz
Citigroup Volunteer Incentive Program
Alexis Selama
Marian I. Siegel VMD
Mary Sullivan
Christopher Squier
Patricia Trenner
Karen Vatz
Robert & Nancy Wersto
Lilian Winter

Special thanks to the following veterinarians who provided discount services, making it possible for us to rescue many needy rabbits:

- Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates
- Brookeville Animal Hospital
- Chadwell Animal Hospital
- Kentlands Veterinary Hospital
- Wheaton Animal Hospital

We also thank the chapter members who bunnysat for other members and, instead of payment, requested that they donate to the chapter.

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**Hop to It!**

You can become more active in the House Rabbit Society by joining our chapter’s Volunteer Network. As a member of the Volunteer Network you will learn more about House Rabbit Society goals and activities by working with chapter veterans. Volunteer duties include assisting with foster rabbit care, fundraising, community outreach, newsletter production, and other chapter activities. To join the Network, go to our Web site [www.rabbitsinthehouse.org](http://www.rabbitsinthehouse.org) and fill out the online volunteer form, or fill out the form below and mail it to House Rabbit Society, P.O. Box 50311, Baltimore, MD 21211. If you have questions about volunteering, please call 410-889-4104.

If you would like to volunteer, check all that apply:

- Pet Expo/public events
- Driving rabbits between MD, DC and NoVA
- Hosting rabbit matches
- Fundraising
- Bunny-sitting
- Fostering
- Bonding rabbits
- Mailing
- Hosting & organizing social events
- Graphic design projects
- Newsletter
- Distributing literature
- Classes and/or seminars
- Working with shelters
- Assisting fosterers with rabbit care
- Counseling

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**Mail to:**

HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 50311, BALTIMORE, MD 21211
How can your holiday everyday shopping benefit the House Rabbit Society?

Who hasn’t uttered the words “I wish there was something I could do to help”? Now you can help. Start shopping! At www.iGive.com/HRS-MDDCVA, you can buy your holiday gifts or everyday items and help rabbits at the same time.

Joining iGive is FREE—no invisible costs or tricky obligations. Shop at the more than 550 stores at the Mall at iGive—such as Barnes & Noble, Eddie Bauer, Lands’ End, Brookstone, Adidas, and Expedia.com—and a percentage of each purchase is donated to our HRS chapter.

With so many choices at iGive, there is something for everyone!

Join now at www.iGive.com/HRS-MDDCVA

Information is subject to change. Visit www.iGive.com for current details.

iGive.com™
Change online shopping for good.

INSIDE

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