Katrina Rabbits

by Laurie Kuhn and Laura-Lynn Renner

During the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, everyone lucky enough to be in a place that was safe and sound was wondering what he/she could do to help. Being a rabbit rescue organization, we all naturally thought of helping by offering to foster and find new homes for rabbits rescued from hurricane areas.

Like most efforts after disasters, the assistance was not completely organized. Several organizations and individuals asked for our help placing hurricane rabbits, but these requests didn’t pan out.

Laura-Lynn Renner (a House Rabbit Society member and supporter) decided to take vacation time from work and, at her own expense, fly down to Louisiana to volunteer for Noah’s Wish (www.noahswish.org), an animal welfare organization dedicated exclusively to rescuing and sheltering animals in disaster areas throughout the United States and Canada. When Laura-Lynn heard that HRS was willing to foster and re-home a few rabbits left homeless by the hurricanes, she decided to drive these rabbits back to Maryland herself.

Jodi Robertson and her husband, Kevin Tisdale, generously offered to house the rabbits for a short while until they could be vetted and distributed to foster homes.

Dr. Keith Gold* of Chadwell Animal Hospital graciously offered to help with the medical care of these rabbits. On Monday, November 14, he performed medical examinations, did spaying or neutering, and provided whatever other medical care they needed. Once the hurricane rabbits were spayed/neutered, they were sent to be fostered throughout the Washington metropolitan area. Because many of you do a tremendous amount of volunteer work helping local humane societies, we did not want rescuing hurricane rabbits to interfere in any way with the work you do to help abandoned local rabbits find their way to new homes. So, special care was taken to find new foster volunteers who wanted to help exclusively with rabbits that were survivors of hurricanes Katrina and Rita in addition to the foster homes we already have designated for local homeless rabbits.

These new foster homes are provided by Steve Nearman, Lisa Mock, Diana Rekos, Wendy Spey, Mara Hill, Barbara Storck, Monica Felix, Linda Senez and Laura-Lynn Renner. The hurricane rabbits are being cared for and loved until permanent, loving, indoor homes can be found.

All of the rabbits being offered for adoption are immediately available. Either they are from animal shelters that were evacuated due to the hurricanes or they were surrendered by their owners who could no longer care for them.—Laurie Kuhn

Laura-Lynn Renner continues: As the plane touched down in New Orleans, I took

Phil and Laura-Lynn arrive at Jodi Robertson’s with the rabbits.
a deep breath and prayed for the strength to handle what I was about to see. The devastation in Louisiana and Mississippi was unbelievable, but there was a lot of hope and compassion in the communities for both the people and the animals.

The day after Katrina hit, I signed up with Noah's Wish. They had called to ask if I could spend a week at their temporary shelter in Slidell, Louisiana, helping to care for rescued animals. My response was a resounding, Yes!

In preparation for my trip, I called my friend Kathleen Wilsbach (Chapter Manager of MD/DC/VA House Rabbit Society) to let her know I was going and she mentioned that Laurie Kuhn, the chapter’s Fostering Director, had already been in touch with June Booth, the local HRS educator in Slidell, Louisiana, to see how the chapter could help her. As it turned out, June was already working with Noah’s Wish!

Noah's Wish focuses on the animals and their owners. The following statistics may have changed, but last I heard over 1,800 animals had gone through the temporary shelter, and they had an over 35 percent (and rising) owner reuniting rate, which is extraordinary considering that another shelter in the area had a 0.05 percent reunion rate.

Also, all Noah’s Wish animals that do not leave the temporary shelter with their owners go to local fosterers who care for the animals until their owners have new homes or the animals go to rescue groups. None will go to a shelter, which means none will be euthanized, and they will not displace animals in overburdened humane shelters that are already doing a great job in various states with their local animals.

I was touched by so many of the people that I met while I was in Louisiana. One such person was June Booth, whose home was damaged. While tending to her own problems, she also went to the temporary shelter each day to check on the rabbits. Several other HRS members volunteered with Noah’s Wish and passed through the shelter as caretakers over the last ten weeks. Cheers to them as well! June was there from the beginning and did an outstanding job and endeared the HRS to Noah’s Wish. They were grateful to have people with rabbit expertise on site.

Noah's Wish pledged $1 million to build a new shelter in Slidell that will be situated on higher ground and in a safer area. As a result of June Booth’s unfaltering dedication to the rabbit victims of Katrina, there will be a rabbit room in the new shelter! The Slidell Animal Control people did an excellent job of supporting June and Noah’s Wish, and they are dedicated to caring for the animals of Slidell.

There were several other locals who had been affected by the storm, but, instead of dwelling on the negative, they came and walked dogs, cleaned cages, and helped in various ways. Rita, an 82-year-old local, came every day to walk dogs; a man who had lost all his possessions came each day to spend time with the animals and volunteers. Another local lady made us brownies and cookies... and the list goes on.

My stay in Slidell was difficult and dirty, but extremely rewarding. I missed my husband and the basic comforts of home, but I had rabbits counting on me for daily care and rotation of the frozen water bottles to keep them cool. And there were lots and lots of dogs that needed walking and cat cages that needed cleaning, so I toughened up.

In all, 45 rabbits passed through Noah’s Wish, and all 45 either have gone home with their owners or are being fostered with rescue groups like HRS to be put up for adoption. Some of the rabbits came from a shelter in Mississippi that was completely destroyed, and some were owner surrendered. A 60-day waiting period was in place for the rabbits that were found on the street. While in Slidell, I cared for eighteen rabbits, and all weathered the stress remarkably well. Thanks to the efforts of June Booth, Laurie Kuhn, Kathleen Wilsbach, Jodi Robertson, Dr. Gold, and several Noah’s Wish volunteers, I was able to care for and place all eighteen rabbits with owners or fosterers before I shut down the rabbit portion of the Noah’s Wish shelter.

The new fosterers in the MD/DC/VA chapter gave me the opportunity to bring joy to nine lucky buns (The New Orleans Nine). This support made it a lot easier for me to leave Slidell knowing that I had bunnies...
on board headed for new homes.

Although the conditions in Louisiana continually changed, there were some constants: the sweltering heat, the biting mosquitoes, the barking dogs, and lots of caring people. The stars just kept lining up for me, and I feel blessed to have been a part of it. When I flew into New Orleans airport, I planned to fly back the following Saturday. I had no idea then that I would end up renting an SUV to give some bunnies an eighteen-hour ride to safety. My husband flew into Birmingham, Alabama, and drove us the rest of the way back to Maryland. What an adventure! Although it is not always the case, this time, fortunately, no bun was left behind.

The nine rabbits that I brought back for the HRS foster program are all gems! Great personalities, affectionate, and playful. They are all extremely gentle and easy to handle. I have never seen a better group of buns. We have a cancer survivor, Hope; a rabbit that ran up to its rescuer when it was found behind a dumpster at Petsmart, Marty Gras; and a charming little boy that was found cowering in a backyard as dogs roamed the streets, Louis.

Hope, a siamese colored dwarf girl, is the smallest of the bunch and has the biggest heart. The way she prances around her pen, you would never know that she had a large cancerous tumor removed. She received her name because June Booth was “hoping” I had room in the rescue SUV for her. I was “hoping” Kathleen would agree to having her come back with me, and we were all “hoping” her surgery would go well. And it did! Dr. Gold gave her a clean bill of health.

Marty Gras, a himalayan marked boy, was rescued in a PetsMart parking lot. He ran up to a little girl whose family was there to pick up food for their dog. He is a party in and of himself. He loves people, giving bunny kisses, attention, and dancing. He has the perfect name for a fun-loving bunny!

Louise, a large himalayan marked girl, is affectionate and very, very social. She enjoys cuddle time and pushes her nose through the pen to be petted. She is beautiful and loves nothing more than being the center of attention. I imagine that, if she could, she would hold little tea parties every day to just sit, chat, and catch up on your latest news.

Anna, a black and white mini-Rex girl, is a sophisticated beauty who loves long, relaxing body massages. Her delicate features and dainty paws should not deceive you, however. A good romp around the house is at the top of her list.

Slidella, an all black medium size girl, has the most soulful eyes. She is quiet and thoughtful, but the second she has room to roam, it’s playtime! She is wonderfully easy to hold and loves to nuzzle up under your chin.

Junebug, a white with agouti spotted dwarf mix girl, is as cute as a button with a personality to match. One minute she is lounging with happy, outstretched feet, and the next she is zipping around checking things out. Junebug looks like she is always humming a happy tune in her head.

All nine of these rabbits deserve a loving permanent home. Please contact us to arrange to meet them.

Dr. Keith Gold, Chadwell Animal Hospital, 3004 Emmorton Road, Abingdon, Maryland, 443-512-8338.

Anna.

Tyler.

Junebug.
Chapter Update

We have some new writing and editing assistance for the Clover Leaf from Laura-Lynn Renner and Patricia Morris. We can still use additional help, so if you have the desire to lend us your talents in the areas of writing articles or editing the newsletter, please contact Kathleen Wilsbach at kathleen@rabbit.org.

Fostering and Adoption

Fostering and adoption is a huge part of what the MD/DC/NoVA chapter of HRS does for the rabbits and for the community. Without people willing to foster, no rabbits would be rescued. So HRS would like to once again give a GIGANTIC THANK YOU to our fosterers for all their hard work. Our fosterers are the backbone of HRS and we couldn’t save rabbits without them. Fosterers 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 screen and educate prospective adopters, bond rabbits, deliver rabbits to their new homes, and do many, many other things for HRS. Our appreciation goes to our long-time fosterers Chris Brannon, Kay Bannon, Carla Pickett, Jodi Robertson, Kathy Brooks, Jim Edwards-Hewitt, Jennifer Hicks, Nicky Roberts, Connie Tjoumas, Judi Lainer, Mary Ganikos, Kathleen Wilsbach, and Laurie Kuhn.

Fosterers come and go, depending on what is going on in their lives at the time. Unfortunately we lost very valued fosterers Rita and Ralph Shaw-Hold, Matt and Tracy Hill, Cameron McCurry and Christopher Wise.

However we have gained quite a few new fosterers: Linda Senez, Becky Piercy, Connie Tjoumas, Christine and Mike Gawel have all joined us to foster rabbits since the last newsletter went out. Wendy Spey took over the care of two sanctuary rabbits, Easter and Aristotel who are now bonded to her own two rabbits. A big HRS welcome to them. And of course a huge welcome goes out to all the new people who signed on to foster Hurricane Rabbits: Wendy Spey, Monnica Felix, Mara Hurwitt, Lisa Mock, Steve Nearman, Diana Rekos, Laura-Lynn Renner, and Barbara Storck. We also want to thank Allen Vought, editor of The Aegis, a Harford County Newspaper, for publishing an article on our rescue of the Gulf Coast rabbits. A very special thanks to Laura-Lynn and Phil Renner for bringing the rabbits back to us from Slidell, LA.

Thanks to Debbie Guidry for doing home visits in the Annapolis area and to Betty Lee, Marcus Silvestro, Debbie Guidry and Cameron McCurry for helping out at adoption days and with home visits as well.

Thanks to Alisa Gravitz and Joe Garman, who, while stashing a litter of three baby bunnies for us, fell in love and decided to adopt all three as well as Jayne, one of our Against the Odds babies (see page 12).

We also thank the people who volunteered to temporarily house our sanctuary rabbits, many of whom require medication and other extra care, so that Kathleen Wilsbach could go on vacation with her husband. A big thank you to Rachel Rotenberg, Amber and Drew Elburn, Laura-
taken in from animal shelters throughout Maryland, Washington, DC and Northern Virginia, seven are returned rabbits who were adopted out by HRS earlier, and their mates (not adopted from HRS), one was taken from an animal cruelty case rescue in Tennessee and nine are rabbits rescued from the Gulf Coast after hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Since HRS volunteers do a tremendous amount of volunteer work helping local humane societies, we did not want rescuing the hurricane rabbits or the Tennessee rabbit to interfere in any way with the work our volunteers do to help abandoned local rabbits find new homes. So special care was taken to find new fosterers who wanted to exclusively help with rabbits that were survivors of hurricanes Katrina and Rita in addition to the foster homes they already have designated for local homeless rabbits.

We are always looking for new foster homes for adoptable rabbits as well as sanctuary homes for some of the older, unadoptable pairs who have been returned. If you think you might be interested in fostering an adoptable rabbit or taking in a sanctuary rabbit, please e-mail Laurie Kuhn at laurie_kuhn@yahoo.com. HRS is currently able to provide financial support for the care 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.

Shelters

We often refer adopters to the shelters if they want to adopt more quickly than we are able to accommodate them. The list of shelters that we currently work with to foster rabbits includes the Washington Humane Society, DC Animal Control, the Humane Society of Baltimore County, Frederick Animal Control, the Humane Society of Harford County, the Fairfax County Shelter, Howard County Animal Control, the Humane Society of Carroll County, and the Animal Welfare League of Arlington. We have not taken any rabbits from the Montgomery County Humane Society, the SPCA of Anne Arundel County or the Tri-County Animal Shelter in Southern, MD, in quite a while because we currently don’t have any fosterers in those areas or volunteers to keep us updated on current residents and to transport rabbits to foster homes. If you would be interested in doing that at one of those two shelters, please let us know. Special thanks go to:

- Chris Brannon for working very closely with Frederick Animal Control
- Jodi Robertson, Michelle Thomas, Kit Hudgins, Lisa and Nevin Randle and Laurie Kuhn for working very closely with the Humane Society of Harford County
- Kathleen Wilsbach, Pam Hagen, and Diana Rekos for working very closely with the Humane Society of Baltimore County
- Rebecca Kingery, Nicole Roberts and Kit Hudgins for working very closely with the Animal Welfare League of Arlington
- Judi Lainer for being our contact with DC Animal Control and the Fairfax County Shelter, and
- Kathy Brooks for being our contact with the Washington Humane Society

HRS volunteers who are willing to work closely with their local shelter enable a more active relationship between the shelter and HRS. If you are interested in working with or being a contact for your local shelter, please contact laurie_kuhn@yahoo.com.

Education

HRS had an educational and fund-raising booth at the World of Pets Expo in Timonium, MD, in February, organized by Kathleen Wilsbach. The event was a great way to get the word out about house rabbits and raise some funds too. The booth itself is free, but we do pay $5 for each volunteer badge over an initial five. We grossed $900, which netted $580. Thanks to the following volunteers who help educate the public and raise money: Laurie Kuhn, Jackie Hill, Susan Meier, Patty Flynn, Debbie Guidry, Holly Arnold, Jodi Robertson, Lisa Mock, Debbie Kenny, Kathleen Wilsbach, Robin and Bill Patalon, Becky Piercy, Anne Imboden, Brian McNeill, Wendy Spey and Faye Levine. And thanks to Diana Rekos for organizing the volunteer schedule for this event.

The first weekend of April was the Super Pet Expo at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly. This event was organized by Liz DiNorma. To do this event in 2006, we are going to need a new point volunteer. Our HRS booth was there, staffed by volunteers Judi Lainer, Kathleen Wilsbach, Rita and Ralph Shaw-Hold, Natalie Medina, Liz DiNorma, Courtney Lawson, Christina Myers, Mara Hurwitt and Sam Cox, Jenifer Hicks, Barbara Storck, Shannon Robinson, Katrina Wagner, Christina Hostetter, Lisa Mock, and Danielle Conroy. While this event is never a big

continued on page 6
money-maker for us, it is always a great opportunity for education. And we also had several booth visitors submit adoption applications!

May was a very busy month for events. Kathleen Wilsbach and Rebecca Piercy represented HRS at the Annual Greenbelt Pet Expo at the Greenbelt Community Center. The rabbits met and helped some young student film makers with a class project. Also in May, Laurie Kuhn and Kit Hudgins had a table at the Bel Air Petsmart adoption day. Carla Pickett represented HRS in May at Blue Ridge Vet Hospital’s Purcellville Days. Liz DiNorma ran the HRS booth at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington’s annual Walk for the Animals in Bluemont Park in Arlington and the next week had a table at an Open House at Stream Valley Vet in Ashburn, VA.

Jodi Robertson and Laurie Kuhn joined with the Humane Society of Harford County to staff a booth at The Mill in Bel Air, MD for their June fourth Amazing Animals Event. Brian McNeill staffed our booth (with a little set-up help from Kay Bannon) at the Frederick Humane Society’s Walk ‘N Wag in Baker Park in June.

In July, we had an education booth at the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) Taking Action for Animals where we were able to share information about rabbits with many other humane organizations. Special thanks to Karen Gurneck who moved here from San Diego where she also volunteered with HRS. She provided overnight accommodations so Kathleen wouldn’t have to get up before the crack of dawn to set up the booth. And thanks to all who made the booth a success, Rebecca Kingery, Barbara Storck, and Mara Hurwitt, Jennifer Sears who volunteers for Sweet Binks Rabbit Rescue in Rhode Island and is an HRS educator was a conference attendee. She took time out of her schedule to help break down and pack up the booth. Later in the month, Liz DiNorma did rabbit presentation for the kids attending the Animal Welfare League’s summer camp program.

Dr. Rebecca Verna of Healthy Paws Medical Center presented a talk on alternative veterinary medical treatment on Sunday, July 24, 2005. She is certified in Animal Chiropractic, Veterinary Acupuncture, Veterinary Chinese Herbolgy, Applied Kinesiology, N.A.E.T. for pet allergy, Traditional Chinese Medicine, Chinese Herbolgy, and Reiki II.

In October, HRS rabbits were joined by Chris Brannon, Kay Bannon, Carla Pickett and Chris’s dog, Furby at the Frederick Humane Society’s Strutt Your Mutt event held in Baker Park. Debbie Guidry gave a rabbit education talk for a second grade class at Grace Christian School. Rita and Ralph Shaw-Hold were invited back to Parklawn Elementary School by Jean Huntley for their second Fur, Fins & Feathers fifth grade class program.

Website
Jodi Robertson has been the HRS webmaster for four years now. Thanks, Jodi, for maintaining our site! Check in and look at our recent redesign. We hope soon to be able to accept online financial donations.

Christine Leuhman does a wonderful job of keeping the HRS foster rabbits up-to-date on Petfinder.org one of the most important places for featuring our adoptable rabbits.

Easter Campaign
Many thanks to Karen Tran, who ran our Easter Media Campaign this year. Karen did another super job with our local press release “The Plight of the Easter Rabbit.” We got very good TV coverage in the Baltimore area. Kathleen Wilsbach appeared on the WJZ Channel 13 CBS Sunday morning news for the Humane Society of Baltimore County, on the Fox 45 Baltimore morning news. Thanks go to Laurie Kuhn for bringing the “rabbits and Easter don’t mix” message to commuters during their morning drive to work. Laurie persuaded Steve Rouse of WQSR and Kenny Campbell of Mix 106.5 to read our HRS Easter press release on their respective morning radio shows. Laurie Kuhn also wrote a letter to the editor of the Harford County newspaper The Aegis, which was published the week before Easter. The Humane Society of Harford County published a very informative article about rabbits featuring an interview with Fostering Director Laurie Kuhn in their spring newsletter.

Kay Bannon and Chris Brannon staffed a booth at the Meadowside Nature Center’s Easter event on March 25th. While the staff at the nature center educated the public about the nature of the wild cottontails who are native to this area, Kay and Chris informed them about our domestic rabbits and how they are different from their wild distant cousins.

In March 2005 Rita and Ralph Shaw-Hold were invited by Jean
We held our eighth annual HRS Easter candy sale! Every year we sell high-quality Log Cabin chocolates to raise money for the rabbits. Last year the sale raised $830 and this year we had a big increase, selling $1235 for the chapter. Thanks go to Amber Elburn for organizing the candy sale again this year and to Nicole Roberts, Connie Tjoumas, and Jodi Robertson for allowing their homes to be dropoff/pickup sites and to our candy sellers: Holly Arnold, Liz DiNorma, Amber Elburn, Dave Golden, Lally Heffner, Tracy Hill, Janelle and Bryan Jones, Christine Leuhman, Lisa Mock, Johanna Neuhaus, Jennifer Pirrone, Diana Rekos, Jodi Robertson, Darlene Saudarg, Kristina Soderquist, Connie Tjoumas, Deanna Williston, Kathleen Wilsbach, and Kathy Winter. We had more candy sellers this year and as a result raised a lot more money. Thanks to all who came back and participated again in 2005 as well as all those who participated for the first time. We hope to have your efforts again in 2006. Special recognition goes to Lisa Mock who participated for the first time this year and raised a record $405.

In March we tried something new—a rabbit photo shoot fundraiser, where Kelly Fitzpatrick of Fitzpatrick Photography donated her time and skills to provide some of our members with professional photos of their bunnies. It was a big success, raising almost $600 and we’re hoping to have another one.

Many thanks to Baltimore artist Katie Rickman for creating beautiful original painted Christmas ornaments of our pets or favorite animals and donating 15 percent of her ornament sales to our chapter. You can view Katie’s ornaments and find out more about ordering them on her website at www.kgrickman.com/ornaments/.

Although it may not sound like the most exciting or glamorous volunteer job, someone needs to keep track of the money we raise for the rabbits and how it is spent. We are extremely indebted to our volunteer financial team. Our treasurer, Jenifer Hicks, meticulously enters every check we receive into our Quickbooks program so we can keep track of where every dollar comes from so she can help us answer the questions we get about memberships, donations and items sold. She also generates the report we need to calculate and pay our quarterly sales tax. We are very grateful to CPA Robin Patalon who assisted us this year by preparing our federal tax return. We are also thankful to our former treasurer, Jamie Sargent, who has continued to help us with our many questions in our transition to our new volunteer financial team.

Cat Door Danger

Most humane organizations recommend that cats be kept strictly indoors for their safety and the safety of wild life. One of our members learned a very horrible lesson about another danger to having a cat door. While she was away on vacation and her pets were being cared for by a pet sitter, a raccoon used her cat door to enter her home and kill her rabbits. Raccoons can be surprisingly bold. Although this raccoon was not infected, Maryland has seen an increase in raccoons with rabies, which makes their behavior more unpredictable and dangerous. Keep your home secure and keep your animal companions safe.
“Thanks for the Fun!”

WORLD OF PETS EXPO

The last weekend in January, our chapter participated in the annual World of Pets Expo at the state fairgrounds in Timonium, MD. Working in shifts, our volunteers set up our HRS booth on Friday, staffed it Saturday and Sunday, and then dismantled and removed it Sunday evening. Snowy roads forced some volunteers to cancel, but fortunately others were able to extend their shifts and help out longer.

Tedious drudgery? Hardly! Our volunteers fielded questions about house rabbits, explained items on display, sold our sweatshirts and other items to benefit the chapter, and exchanged rabbit stories and tips with each other. One of the volunteers reported “I actually had more fun working at our booth than when I went around to see the rest of the Expo!” And another wrote “Thanks for the fun!”

The volunteers who have worked at several expos over the years say they are noticing a trend: fewer of the people who visit our booth house their rabbits outdoors, and more house their rabbits indoors, than in earlier years. And the people with indoor rabbits are hungry for information on care and behavior, so we finished the weekend with a sense of having made a good contribution to the welfare of rabbits.

On Sunday afternoon, Kathleen Wilsbach gave one of the scheduled events of the Expo, a slide presentation humorously titled “There’s a Rabbit in the House!” which covered the basics of living with a rabbit in the house, including litterbox training, diet, and bunnyproofing. Lots of time was allotted for answering questions from the public.

We earned some money for the chapter, too. Putting up a booth is free, but we pay $5 for every volunteer badge over an initial five. Our sale of supplies and Rabbit Catalog items netted some $580 for the chapter.

Thanks to all who heeded the “Hop to It!” invitation and worked at this important expo: Debbie Kenny, Robin and Bill Patalon, Becky Piercy, Anne Imboden, Brian McNeill, Faye Levine, Wendy Spey, Patty Flynn, Lally Heffner, Lisa Mock, Debbie Guidry, Jodi Robertson, Laurie Kuhn, and Kathleen Wilsbach.

It was a lot of fun to talk to people about rabbits as house pets. I also enjoyed meeting other HRS members. This was my first time volunteering at the Pet Expo and I’d definitely do it again!—Debbie Guidry

This was my first expo. I had a blast! I enjoy talking to people who share the same interests, and we can always pick up tips along the way. I’m ready to do more expos.—Lisa Mock

The expo was my first, and I had a great time! It was a wonderful experience to work with people who are so dedicated to helping rabbits. I plan on becoming more involved with HRS in the future.—Lally Heffner

This was my second time helping at the Expo. I had a great time and was glad I could share my love for rabbits!—Holly Arnold
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**
- Local Timothy bales $20
- Oxbow Timothy, Orchard, 2.5 lb $6
- Oxbow Timothy, Orchard & Oat hay, 9 lb box $18
- Oxbow Timothy and Orchard hay, 25 lb box $30
- Oxbow Timothy hay, 50 lb box $40

**Pellets**
- Oxbow Bunny Basics/Timothy Pellets, (5 lbs.) $5/bag
- Oxbow Bunny Basics/Timothy Pellets, (10 lbs.) $8/bag
- Harlan high fiber pellets, (33 lbs) $15/bag

**Special Oxbow Products**
- Papaya Tablets 200 $8
- Papaya Tablets 500 $12
- Critter Carrots (sugarfree snack) $4
- Critical Care (for syringe-feeding) $7

**Feeding Supplies**
- Crock-Loc Bowl $6
- Ceramic Crock $6
- Water Bottle $6
- Mini Bottle $4.50

**Exercise Pens**
- 24 inches tall $55
- 30 inches tall $65

**Grooming Supplies**
- Slicker Brush $7
- Metal Loop Brush $6
- Detangler Comb $5
- Scissors $10
- Nail Clippers $7
- Brush $7

**Litter**
- CareFresh, 50 quarts $14
- Eco-Straw (wheat-based), 20 lb $12
- Tek-Chip (pelleted paper), 40 lb $19

**Litter Pans**
- Small $5
- Medium $6
- Large $7

**Toys**
- Grass mats $4
- Chew Rings $3
- Mini chew rings $1
- Willow bows $3
- Willow balls small $3
- Willow balls large $7
- Basket of Sticks $5
- Basket with Handles $6
- Regular Basket $6
- Deluxe Basket $9
- Grass Balls $7
- Willow Tent $16
- Cottontail cottage $16
- Critter Castle (Bunny Luv) $25
- Tunnel of Luv (Bunny Luv) $10

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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 $300 through iGive! For more information on iGive, see page 20.

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**OUR CHAPTER’S SUPPLY VOLUNTEERS**

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**

- **CENTREVILLE**: BARBARA MILLER
  barbamill4@aol.com
- **ANNANDALE**: BARBARA STORCK
  shekeinah@yahoo.com
- **ALEXANDRIA**: KAREN JONES
  ksmjones@yahoo.com

**Maryland**

- **ROCKVILLE**: MARCUS SILVESTRO
  rockvilleshed@hotmail.com
- **ELLIOTT CITY**: CONNIE TOUMAS
  farland2000@sunsy.net
- **BALTIMORE**: KATHLEEN WILSBACH
  Kathleen@rabbit.org
- **PIKESVILLE**: SARAH FITZMAURICE
  eek.SWB@verizon.net
- **BEL AIR**: JODI ROBERTSON
  lapinBlanc@comcast.net

**Maryland/PA Border**

- **HANOVER, PA**: LISA MOCK
  lemock@suscom.net

We would still like to establish additional supply locations—especially near Arlington, Annapolis, 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 Website www.rabbitsinthehouse.org and at www.petfinder.org.

Families/ Bonded Pairs

**JADA and GRAY WILLOW**—Jada is a gorgeous dark brown and white spotted mini-rex girl. She is very busy and friendly. Gray Willow, her daughter, is a sweet grey, silver marten mini-rex. We would like to see them adopted together or as a friend for another rabbit.

**HAILEY and ANDREW**—Hailey is a gorgeous dark red girl with a white belly and Andrew is a handsome siamese-colored boy. They are larger rabbits and have that certain “big rabbit charm.” They were discarded as baby rabbits at an animal shelter after being won as carnival prizes. They are both very sweet.

**TOMMY and MARIA** are a very handsome lop pair. Maria is blind in one eye but that does not slow her down. She is a generous larger white lop and Tommy is a beautiful steel grey. While Maria is shy, Tommy loves to be petted and a treat or two is always welcome.

**Bramble** is a very cute boy who was rescued from the “brambles” by a good Samaritan who realized when she saw him that a domestic rabbit cannot survive in the wild. He is a sweet, english spot/lop mix boy who is very happy to get a second chance at a good life.

**Fietsie** is a young, energetic dutch boy who loves to run around demanding food and treats, pulling hay out of his litterbox and decorating with it, and dumping toys into his water dish.

**Lazlo** is a shy bunny but once he is sure of his surroundings and everything looks safe, he is quite the explorer. He may have been around cats because he does not run when a cat walks by his play area. Lazlo has great litter box habits and would love a home with a bunny friend to show him how great living with a family can be.

**Louis** is an all black boy, is very affectionate. He is a surprisingly relaxed little fellow considering he was rescued from a back yard, where he was found cowering under a debris pile to avoid the wandering dogs. He loves to zoom around at playtime and then looks back at you to see if you are watching.

**Marty Gras**, a white himalayan boy, was rescued in a Petsmart parking lot. He is a party in and of himself. Marty loves people, giving bunny kisses, attention and dancing. What a perfect name for a fun loving bunny!

**Orion** sure could use some stability. He grew up at the shelter and thrived by his play area. Lazlo has great litter box habits and would love a home with a bunny friend to show him how great living with a family can be.

**Peavey** is a very sweet and mellow grey minirol. She is quiet and most rabbits, she is a little nervous about being off the ground but loves to sit beside you. She needs to find a person that will love and take care of her.

**Hope**, a small siamese dwarf girl, is small but she has a big heart. She received her name because June Booth was “hoping” I had room in the rescue SUV for her, I was “hoping” Kathleen would agree to having her come back with me.

**Junebug**, a white with gray spot hotot, is as cute as a button with a personality to match. One minute she is lounging with happy outstretched feet and the next she is zipping around, checking things out. Junebug looks like she is always humming a happy tune in her head.

**Katrina** is a very sweet and mellow grey minilop who was surrendered to the shelter. She is quite tolerant of gentle handling. She would be a good choice for a family with gentle children.

**Louise**, a large himalayan girl, is affectionate and very, very social. She enjoys cuddle time and pushes her nose through the pen for pets. She loves nothing more than being the center of attention.

**Mocha** is one of our Katrina rabbits. You can read all about her in the article, *Beating the Odds* on page 12.

**Peavey** is a smalllop-eared bundle of energy. Her ears did not fall all the way down, so as she runs around the room, her ears stick straight out and she looks like she is ready to take off. She likes to play hide and seek and running in and out of her play boxes, twitching her tail to get you to play along.

**Pebbles** is a small bunny girl with a beautiful chinchilla coat. She lived with people before but a couple of months ago they brought her into an animal shelter. She is still a little on the shy side but does love to be petted. Her litter box habits are good.

**Pixie** is a siamese-looking bunny who came into the shelter pregnant, but she lost her babies. She is still a bit shy but really loves to be petted, and she has the loudest bunny purr! She has excellent litterbox habits. Because of her small size she would not be a good choice for families with small children.

**Seneca** is an adorable cinnamon colored holland lop girl. She is a little on the large side for a holland lop (maybe four pounds).

**Slidella**, an all black girl, has the most soulful eyes. She is quiet and thoughtful, but the second she has room to roam, it’s playtime! Slidell is wonderfully easy to hold and loves to nuzzle up under your chin.

**Pebbles** is a beautiful steel grey, silver marten mini-rex girl. She is very busy and friendly. Gray Willow, her daughter, is a sweet grey, silver marten mini-rex. We would like to see them adopted together or as a friend for another rabbit.

**Marty Gras**, a white himalayan boy, was rescued in a Petsmart parking lot. He is a party in and of himself. Marty loves people, giving bunny kisses, attention and dancing. What a perfect name for a fun loving bunny!

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**Maria and Tommy**
Classroom Letters to Bunnies

by Rita Shaw-Hold

In October of 2004, we went to the Fur, Fins & Feathers Fifth Grade Class of Mrs. Jean Huntley and Mrs. Kathy Freeman of Parklawn Elementary School in Alexandria, VA. We took Viola, Ted and Elliott to meet the children and to talk about rabbits and their care. The children absolutely loved watching these three bunnies play and interact with each other. The little bunny family enjoyed the spring mix, carrots and other greens, a healthy treat the children brought for them. The children learned a lot about rabbits and realized that they are more of a responsibility than they had originally thought. Mrs. Huntley, who is involved with dog rescue, helped us to explain about why you should adopt a pet rather than go to a pet store or a breeder.

In March of 2005, Mrs. Huntley called upon us again, and this time we took Joey, a very friendly and lovable rabbit in foster care. The children loved Joey and he was very interested in them also. The children brought green treats to feed Joey, which he most certainly enjoyed. Joey enjoyed his outing and the green treats that the kids brought to feed him. It was shortly thereafter that his foster mom, Barbara decided to adopt him.

After both visits, the children sent us thank you letters, which we really enjoyed. Several of them you can see here. The teacher not only taught them about pets but also about thanking people for taking the time to bring the pets to the school.
Beating the Odds

by Laurie Kuhn

This is a story that is a nightmare to anyone familiar with rabbit rescue, "domestic rabbits abandoned and left to fend for themselves in the wild." Rescuers struggle emotionally and physically to save the frightened creatures, only to witness a hawk swoop in with different plans.

In an unseasonably cold October, emails from concerned citizens and animal rescuers started circulating amongst the local rabbit and guinea pig rescue community. Someone had dumped approximately 25 baby rabbits and 70 plus guinea pigs in state game land park (a hunting park stocked with animals for hunters to kill). Good Samaritans and local rescuers were able to round up more than 40 guinea pigs, but as you can imagine the swift-footed rabbits were harder to capture although people did manage to grab a few.

HRS member Dorie Smith, who made many trips to the park to try to save as many rabbits and guinea pigs as she could, alerted Laurie Kuhn, local HRS Fostering Director, to the situation with the following plea for help. "The reason I am emailing you is that there were several dozen young rabbits and over 70 guinea pigs dumped at a nearby game lands park. It was all over the papers around here.

That day Dorie finally found her little charge, who was very weak and covered in fleas, ticks and maggots, but her bright, alert eyes were encouraging. She carried her off to the local dog and cat vet (Dr. Lukacs). He gave the little girl an exam and a fecal test (which was positive for coccidia) and said, "her lungs sound good," but he had to shave maggots off of her butt and gave her medicine to treat her coccidia. After much love and TLC, she is healthy and has a new place to call home with Dorie and her husband.

Haunted by thoughts of remaining rabbits and guinea pigs coupled with the knowledge that hunting season was beginning in several days, Laurie and Dorie again ventured out to the area on a rescue attempt with no plan of what to do with any that they caught. Laurie reported, "As soon as we got there we saw a flash of what looked like a rabbit run up the bank and then immediately saw a baby chocolate brown and white Dutch rabbit (Mocha). It inspired us to look very hard. It was cold and drizzling. We searched for about three or four hours through wet brush and stickers and steep banks that had many hidden ankle-twisting groundhog holes and muddy marshes that sucked our shoes off."

They never did find the rabbit they saw run up the bank. Unfortunately they found the eaten remains of a baby black and white bunny that Dorie had seen earlier in the week and was hoping to catch that day. Although saddened by the setback, they pressed on to help any domestic animals that they could find alive. A hawk trolling the area for an easy meal made them feel rushed to capture any buns and pigs that they could before they became its meal.

Quite a few hunters and one park ranger stopped to see what Dorie and Laurie were up to on their way to the shooting range at the end of the road. Every one of them said it was a shame that someone dumped
them there.

The brown and white Dutch rabbit (Mocha) that they saw early on was very hungry and began to eat pellets that they put down; they set up an x-pen with pellets inside and closed it when she entered. She panicked when closed in by the x-pen so they threw a blanket over her and scooped her up and put her into a carrier. Sadly while in the process of catching Mocha, they found a beautiful black and yellow striped guinea pig who had lost his life to the cold.

After searching for several hours, just before they had given up finding any more rabbits and guinea pigs alive, Dorie spotted a cinnamon colored baby rabbit (Jayne) down an embankment hiding in some stickers. Laurie slowly went down to her through all the stickers and mud and offered her some pellets. Laurie commented “While she was eating the pellets, I was able to get my hand about an inch from her. I thought, it is now or never and I grabbed her by the scruff of the neck and picked her up. Needless to say she screamed and gyrated like you wouldn’t believe. Dorie ran over with the carrier and, voilà, we had two. My adrenaline was pumping so hard that I was shaking like a leaf. Then we discussed what happened amongst ourselves. I felt like I was on an episode of Cops after they caught the criminal.”

Dorie and Laurie didn’t see anymore rabbits or guinea pigs and it was getting dark. They were very upset by the fact that small game season opened that weekend. This meant any animals left there did not have much of a chance. Dorie returned to the park several more times with no luck to try and find any rabbits or guinea pigs who might still have a chance at rescue.

After a very long emotional day, Laurie and Dorie parted ways and Laurie drove up to Chadwell Animal Hospital in Abingdon, MD to solicit medical help for the babies from veteran rabbit vet, Dr. Keith Gold. Laurie walked into Dr. Gold's animal hospital all wet and covered in mud and asked him if he could provide care for and board the tiny sick rabbits until she could figure out a plan. He agreed and examined them. Dr. Gold concluded that they were loaded with fleas, ticks and coccidia but were otherwise fine and were, of course, adorable and surprisingly friendly.

Once at home, Laurie sent out a plea in the form of an email to known rabbit lovers and the local rescue community in hopes of finding foster homes to nurse the two precious baby girls back to health and to love them until permanent homes could be found.

Her plea and prayers were answered by Christine and Mike Gawel who offered to foster the little girls. The Gawel’s were up for the challenge and what a challenge it was! Mocha was very sick from her ordeal plus as an added challenge she didn’t tolerate the medication well that was necessary to rid her of the parasites. She struggled and almost didn’t make it. Thanks to the excellent medical care provided by Dr. Gold and the great nursing care provided by the Gawel’s, she survived and is now very healthy and happy. Jayne was stronger and had no problems recovering but was perhaps too strong. Jayne is a jumper and managed to break her leg not once but twice jumping out of the x-pen she called home. The Gawel’s did an amazing job loving, socializing and nursing them back to health!

Alisa Gravitz and Joe Garman came across Jayne in a chance meeting when they were visiting a foster home in hopes of adopting other rabbits housed in that foster home. After meeting all the rabbits, they noticed baby Jayne who was housed in a small cage so that she couldn’t move around a lot to allow her broken leg to heal. This was truly a chance meeting because Jayne was only there being pet sat while the Gawel’s were on vacation. Alisa and Joe met all the other foster rabbits and were made aware that Jayne was not available because she was not spayed yet and had a broken leg. The couple was left alone with the rabbits to make a family descion as to which rabbit(s) they wanted to take home to become part of their family. Alisa and Joe sheepishly said to the fosterer, “We were wondering if there is anyway we could adopt Jayne?” They said “All the other rabbits are very nice but we are smitten with her.” They waited patiently until Jayne’s leg healed and she was spayed and healthy enough for adoption. Then they excitedly welcomed her into their home. The extra bonus is that Alisa and Joe kept in touch with Chris and Mike during Jayne’s recovery and the two couples have become friends!

The SPCA in the area where the game lands park is located tried very hard to find information on the person or persons who dumped the rabbits and guinea pigs at the park so that they could press charges with no avail. Fortunately, this story ended with a couple of lucky bunnies beating the odds thanks to the combined efforts of several compassionate people.

Mocha is still with her foster parents waiting for her own forever home. Check www.rabbitbitsinthehouse.org for her picture and details.
Nicky Roberts

by Liz DiNorma

When you visit Nicky Robert’s condo, one of the first things you might notice is that her electronic equipment is caged, and her rabbits aren’t. For me, that simple observation pretty much sums it up—Nicky’s life and home revolve around helping rabbits.

Nicky volunteers for the House Rabbit Society as a fosterer, helps at educational events, and also volunteers at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA), working with the rabbits and other small animals there twice a week.

Her love of rabbits started early. She got her first rabbit in 1976 when she was in second grade. “Our neighbors’ two-year-old daughter had won a rabbit in an Easter egg hunt. They had no idea what to do with a real rabbit, so they were going to set him ‘free’ in a nearby park. Fortunately, my parents heard about their plans, realized a domestic rabbit couldn’t survive in the wild, and brought him home. My sweet Hoppy lived to be fourteen years old despite our incredible lack of bunny knowledge.”

Several years later Nicky got her next bunny companion, Georgie. At that time she still hadn’t heard about HRS and got Georgie from a 4-H breeding project. However, it is because of Georgie that she learned about HRS while surfing the web looking for info on rabbit care and finding a friend for Georgie. I met Nicky when she attended a nail trimming class in 1998. Soon after, Nicky and Georgie adopted their first HRS rabbit, the beautiful Sunshine.

It didn’t take Nicky long to move from attending an event, to adopting, to volunteering. She started volunteering with HRS in 1999. She had enjoyed volunteering with different organizations while growing up, but took a break when she started college. Once she was on her own and had some free time, she wanted to start volunteering again. Nicky completed the volunteer application on the HRS website and soon was helping out at different educational events.

About a year later, she also started volunteering her time at AWLA. “I had been thinking about volunteering at a shelter for about a year, but was afraid I wouldn’t be able to handle it emotionally. Then one day I got the HRS newsletter and not only was there an article encouraging HRS members to volunteer at their local shelters, but there was also a mention of Rebecca Kingery, a HRS member who was already volunteering at the Arlington shelter. I took this as a sign, contacted Rebecca, and starting at AWLA in January of 2000.” Nicky works at the shelter Tuesday nights and all day Saturdays, helping to socialize the rabbits and guinea pigs, cleaning cages, and educating people about what is involved in living with small animal companions.

A recent addition to Nicky’s volunteer activities is being a foster mom for HRS. In the past the pet restrictions of her apartment building limited her ability to foster, but once she bought her own place, she was eager to start fostering. “I was originally only going to be a back-up fosterer—taking in AWLA babies when we desperately needed to get them out of the shelter, but there was no room with other fosterers. Of course, that didn’t last long because there is such a great need for fosterers. And that is just as well; I love fostering. It is such a joy to see one of your foster buns go to their loving forever home.”

Oh, one more thing you might notice about Nicky’s new condo—it’s walking distance from the shelter. Somehow I think that’s not a coincidence.

Many thanks to Nicky for all of her work with HRS and AWLA helping homeless rabbits.

Rita Shaw-Hold
“Short Term” Fosterer and Dedicated Volunteer

by Judi Lainer

Rita Shaw-Hold is the sort of volunteer that every rescue organization would be ecstatic to have around. She’s been a House Rabbit Society member since 1995 and a very active volunteer with the MD/DC/NoVA HRS chapter for almost three years. Like many of us, Rita was inspired to become an HRS volunteer by a very special rabbit. On October 29, 2002 she and her husband Ralph’s beloved bunny, Washcloth, passed away. He was the joy of their lives and they shared nine plus beautiful years together. Because they were planning to move to Florida in a little over a year, rather than adopt a new rabbit and put him/her through the stress of moving (although plenty of us have done that), they thought that short-term fostering was perfect for their situation. They could fill the bunny void in their household by
helping homeless rabbits.

First came Princess and Dutchess, followed by eleven other foster rabbits. Rita tirelessly and eagerly took on another task, answering the Virginia HRS phone line, responding to every call. Along with her husband Ralph, Rita has talked about rabbit education to children and adults at schools and pet expos. In fact, every chance she gets, Rita will educate other rabbit lovers she comes in contact with and often interview them to see if they have what it takes to be a fosterer or volunteer. She offers suggestions when we think there are none left to think of. She asks questions about everything rabbit in her desire to learn more and more. She leaves no stone unturned in her search for people to help us and for her own quest to become as educated as possible about rabbits. Rita truly loves working to help our foster rabbits find forever homes.

In early 2004, one of Rita’s foster rabbits was Viola, a very young bunny who gave birth to two adorable bunnies soon after she arrived at the Shaw home. Naturally, this was a big surprise to everyone, so Rita worked to become immediately educated on how to help Viola take care of her baby bunnies. Rita named them Ted and Elliot, and they were eventually adopted out with their mama Viola as a trio. Along with this bunny group, every one of Rita’s foster rabbits was treated with exceptional care, from free romp of the living room, dining room, and kitchen to multiple daily doses of greens, kisses, and playtime. Every foster pen was loaded with a multitude of chewable toys to keep each rabbit busy and happy. It is obvious what the center of attention is in the Shaw-Hold home.

Unfortunately, Rita will soon be giving up her volunteer work with our chapter. She and Ralph are finally moving to their retirement home in Florida. What are we going to do without her? WE DON’T KNOW!!! Our heads are down as we sadly consider this imminent departure, but our paws are crossed and our ears are up as we give Rita bunny nose rubs to wish her much love in her new southern home.

The Story of Tigger

by Luke Salins

Tigger: Hi. My name is Tigger. I am a very handsome, light brown, lop-eared bunny. I live with a very big bunny named Luke. Luke hops on two feet instead of four and sleeps in a bed above me. He is very nice and scratches and grooms me. I don’t like it when he stops paying attention to me, so I grunt and nip his feet. Luke always leaves me to go on adventures. I am lonely. I wish I could get another companion that would be with me all the time.

Luke: Hi. My name is Luke. I am a very handsome, eleven-year-old boy. I have a bunny named Tigger. He is a light brown, fat, lop-eared male bunny. I adopted him from the animal shelter. I love him very much. He likes when I scratch his head but hates when I stop and attacks me. I think maybe he is lonely and needs somebunny to love. I am going to look for a companion for Tigger.

Tigger: Today I met a very beautiful female bunny. I sniffed her through the wire that separated us. I really wanted to groom her and get to know her better. I like the way she smells! I hope I get to see her again soon.

Luke: Today we got Tigger a companion named Emma. She is a white and black-spotted female lop bunny. She was a stray that we adopted from the animal shelter. I am hoping that Tigger and Emma will like each other and will bond together. That way Tigger will have a companion and won’t be sad when I’m away. Today we introduced them to each other. We put them in separate pens right next to each other. This helps them get used to the smell of each other.

Tigger: Today Emma and I got together in the same wire thing. I chased her all around the wire thing, and I think I might have annoyed her a little bit. I was trying to tell her how much I liked her. We stayed together all day, but at night I got moved back up to my own wire thing.

Luke: Today we put Emma and Tigger together in the same pen. Tigger chased Emma all around the pen. I’m not sure he realizes that this is annoying her. I think Emma likes Tigger but wants him to settle down a bit.

Tigger: I got to spend the day with Emma again. I really like her. I realized that I should not chase her around so much. Instead, I licked her head and cleaned her fur for her. She seemed to like that.

Luke: Tigger and Emma are start-
Tigger: Emma is really mad at me. Now she is chasing me around the wire thing. I don’t understand what happened. I was really nice and tried to do all the things I knew to tell her that I liked her. Someone put a wire thing between us. Why did they do that? Now I can only see her but not lick her.

Luke: Well the night did not go well. My Mom is tired and grumpy. Tigger was chasing Emma all around the pen. So my Mom separated them. This is normal for bonding bunnies. They have to learn to be nice. Emma is getting really annoyed. So we are going to separate them whenever they fight. Hopefully they will stop fighting and learn to play together.

Tigger: I figured out that whenever Emma gets mad that Luke and the other big, two-legged bunny separate us. I guess they do not want us chasing each other around the wire thing. So I have stopped chasing her and I just clean her fur instead. Emma has started to clean my fur and that feels very good.

Luke: Emma and Tigger are getting along really well now. So we are moving them back up to my room in a few days.

Tigger: Today Luke took Emma and me up to my old wire thing. All of our stuff was there. We had two litterboxes, all of our toys, and our tube. Emma went with me to my favorite spot on top of the white tower. Luke keeps my food in the white tower. I like it there because I can smell the food, and I can see everything that is going on. Emma liked it there too.

Luke: We moved Emma and Tigger up to my room. We moved all their old stuff up there. They are getting along really well, and their favorite spot is on top of the white drawers.

Tigger: I am so happy living with Emma. Sometimes she still gets mad at me. But I try to be nice and clean her fur. I’m not lonely anymore. I still have my big bunny friend Luke, and now I have Emma, too.

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
- Old Farm Veterinary Hospital
- Ridge Lake Animal Hospital
- Wheaton Animal Hospital

We were thrilled with your very generous response to the article in the previous newsletter Our Sanctuary Rabbits Need Your Support. Sanctuary Rabbit Sponsors:

- Anne & John Imboden
- William Barr
- Napier Family
- Susan & Edward Basile
- Patrick & Danielle Conroy
- Ruth D. Hundertmark
- Jennifer Stofferahn

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

It’s time to start thinking of 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

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<td>Calendar Rabbit Rescue 2006</td>
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<td>Encouraging Your Rabbit to Exercise Activities That Promote A Bunny’s Fitness</td>
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<td>Planning Your Bunny’s Assisted Living Ways To Give Special Care To Special-Needs Bunnies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shaping Your Rabbit’s Space: THE FINE ART OF INTEGRATING LIFESTYLES Indicate Video, Video CD, or CD for Mac, 10 min.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introducing Rabbits Introducing pairs, adding to a group, and how-to’s for friendships with cats, dogs, and guinea pigs. VHS Video by Marinell Harriman, 30 min.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nail-Trimming and Handling A gentle technique, simple and straightforward, without trancing or restraining. VHS Video by NYC HRS, 38 min.</td>
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<td>Knowing Your Rabbit’s Routines: WHAT TO EXPECT AND WHEN TO WORRY. Indicate Video, Video CD, or CD for Mac, 10 min.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your First House Rabbit A vital resource for immediate and continuing reference. VHS Video by Marinell Harriman, 40 min.</td>
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<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>$23</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Rabbit’s Place is in the House Artwork by Lara Byers, MD/DC/NoVA HRS. Forest Green. T-shirt: 100% cotton, available in L XL 2X 3X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweatshirt: 90% cotton/10% poly, available in L XL</td>
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<td>License Plate Frame</td>
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<td><strong>NEW!</strong> Stories Rabbits Tell: A Natural and Cultural History of a Misunderstood Creature</td>
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Buy a Bunny a Little Time
Bumper Sticker ............... $1

A Rabbit's Place Is in the House
Bumper Sticker ............... $1

Rabbit Activist T-shirt
Artwork by Laura-Lynn Renner, MD/DC/NoVA HRS. Small HRS national logo on front. Text on back introduces HRS and gives 10 facts about rabbits. Designed to be read by a person standing in back of you. White. Available in L and XL ........ $15

Bunny in the Moon T-shirt
Artwork by Carolyn Long, WI HRS, illustrates the Eastern 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

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

Make Mine Chocolate Pin .... $6

Poster 1' x 3' ........... $10

★NEW!★

Order Form

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

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Shipping

| If your subtotal is up to $9.99 ........ $2 | If your subtotal is $10.00 – $19.99...... $4 |
| Add                                      | Add  |
| If your subtotal is $20.00 – $29.99 ...... $5 | If your subtotal is $30.00 – $49.99 ...... $6 |
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Frederick Letters to the Editor: Animals Should Not Be Carnival Prizes

This past August, a baby fuzzy lop, estimated at about five weeks old, was found in a mailbox with the daily mail and then turned in to Frederick animal control. This little fuzzy lop must have been in that box in the heat for a while. He was not in the best shape but after a haircut, water and plenty of food, he showed his appreciation by dancing all over the cage.

A week and a half prior to that, another baby infested with a bot-fly larva (warble), was picked up as a stray. Carnival time seems to be one of the few times of the year when we see significant numbers of stray baby rabbits arriving in local shelters. Chris Brannon knew something like this was coming. When an article extolling the fun and games at the local carnival appeared back in July in the Gazette, which publishes 35 weekly community newspapers serving Montgomery, Frederick, Prince George’s and Carroll counties in Maryland, Chris Brannon wrote to the editor, to enlighten the public about the sad outcomes rabbits face after participating in our carnivals. Below is her article to the Gazette:

The article, “Carnival attracts hundreds” (The Gazette, July 21), depicts a common plight for animals that are given out as prizes. Most of these animals are ill equipped for a heat wave, suffer terribly from the heat and die from it. Young bunnies that have been taken away from their moms too early are the prizes. Often they are kept in filthy conditions.

Due to the conditions that these bunnies are kept in and their young age, they are stressed and their health is usually compromised. One fortunate baby bunny was brought to the shelter by its new owner to ask for help and information. This bunny was at most three weeks old.

The bunnies that survive the initial ill-treatment at the carnival find themselves in homes that are not prepared for a new addition to the family. There is no education about the care involved.

Children can win these animals without consent of their parents. Most of these bunnies find their way into the wild after being let go or to the local shelter. During and after carnival season, stray baby bunnies are being brought into the shelter in greater numbers than during the rest of the year.

These bunnies are ill-equipped to handle living in the outdoors and usually do not survive for long, especially fancy breeds like Rexes or long-eared lop bunnies. Stray bunnies are susceptible to, among other things, warble infestation, ear and fur mites, and fleas and ticks. Just last September, we took about twenty warbles out of one stray bunny in the shelter.

Adding a companion animal to your family should be a well-considered decision that includes education about the needs of the future family member, the cost of housing and spaying or neutering the rabbit, as well as the consideration of how much time you have to give to this social animal.

—Chris Brannon, Middletown, a rabbit education and adoption volunteer with Frederick County Animal Control.

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 community outreach, newsletter production, and other unteer Coordinator Nicole Koller at bunerabbit@www.rabbitsinthehouse.org and fill out the online mail it to House Rabbit Society, P.O. Box 50311.

If you would like to volunteer, check all that apply:
- Pet Expos/public events
- Driving rabbits between MD, DC and NoVA
- Hosting rabbit matches
- Fundraising
- Bunnysitting
- Fostering
- Bonding rabbits
- Mailing
- Hosting and organizing social events
- Graphic design projects
- Newsletter
- Counseling
- Distributing literature
- Classes and/or seminars
- Working with shelters
- Assisting fosterers with rabbit care

THANKS!

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INSIDE
Katrina Rabbits Need Your Support
World of Pets Expo
Rabbits for Adoption
Classroom Letters to Bunnies
Volunteer Spotlight: Nicky Roberts, Rita Shaw-Hold
Rabbit Catalog