



Columbus House Rabbit Society Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2004

First Year a Big Success for Columbus HRS Chapter

We've proudly put our first year as an official Chapter of the House Rabbit Society behind us. And 2003 proved to be a very successful year, making all our efforts and hard work well worthwhile.

Briefly, here are the final statistics for 2003:

- 50 rabbits total taken into CHRS foster care

- 27 rabbits taken into foster care from CAHS
- 39 rabbits placed in permanent homes
- 98 current CHRS members

Thank you to all the volunteers who willingly donate their time, money and other resources that enable our chapter to carry out our important mission. We couldn't do it without you! 🐰

Bladder Sludge: Sewage or Urine, Learn to Tell the Difference!

By Beth Logan, DVM

Rabbits are unique in many ways. Living with a rabbit myself, I have enjoyed the many quirks that are so special to rabbits - the amazing kick-the-heels-up-in-the-air acrobatics, their desire to chew electrical cords and carpet fibers (why, oh why?), and my personal favorite, the bunny pancake (what other species can lay so completely flat when relaxed?). Rabbits are also unique in the way they excrete extra dietary calcium. Most mammals (for example, dogs, cats, and humans) excrete calcium through their stool; rabbits, however, excrete calcium through their urine. This is not normally an issue, unless there is

such an excessive amount of calcium that the urine turns into a sludge-like substance resembling the consistency of sewage.

Most rabbit caretakers (HRS members anyway) are aware that rabbit urine can normally range in color from pale yellow to orange to deep red (often mistaken for blood). The color of the urine depends on the diet and which plant pigments are excreted. For example, broccoli, cabbage, and dandelions will create a red-colored urine. If there is any doubt, your vet can examine the urine with a dipstick to differentiate between plant and blood pigments. This should

CHRS Needs your Support!

- Donate gently used items for our annual garage sale
- Purchase Kroger and Giant Eagle gift certificates from CHRS
- Register your Meijer Card with our Organization Code 399973 at www.meijer.com/rewards
- Save your spare change in one of our Bunny Money Jars
- Shop at our Bunny General Store
- Sponsor a foster bun through our online Bun-to-Bun Sponsor program

not be confused with sludgy urine, which is an abnormal accumulation of calcium that builds up and develops into a thick, creamy, tooth-paste-like material that is tannish to white in color. There are many factors that contribute to this debilitating condition: long-term inadequate water intake, genetic predisposition, obesity, improper diet, vitamin or mineral supplementation, and urine retention (often caused by musculo-skeletal disorders that cause pain when urinating such as arthritis, fractures, etc.). Early detection of this disease can play a role in the prognosis; therefore,

(Continued on page 5)

Inside this issue:

When It's Not "Just" Stasis: Molly's Story <i>by Sue Mangold</i>	2
A Warm Fuzzy Feeling: Adoptable Bunnies	3
What is Your Rabbit Trying to Tell You? <i>by Karalee Curry</i>	5
Being Prepared for Anything: A Checklist <i>by Terri Davenport Cook</i>	6
Sharing the Bunny-love: CHRS Autumn/Winter Social Events!	7
Complete Petmart: Let Your Voice Be Heard!	8
Main Events: Public Speaking and Educational Presentations	9
Breakfast 101 <i>by Allyssa Noggle</i>	10
Fun in the Sun	10
Membership Form	11
Bunny General Store	12

Upcoming Events!

- **Annual Garage Sale!**
May 22, 2004
Start saving your gently used household items to contribute to our garage sale! Contact Karalee to arrange drop off.
- **Spring Picnic**
June 19, 2004
Antrim Shelter in Heritage Park, Westerville, OH
Food, games and bunny-fun for the whole family! Check the website for more information.
- **Bunny General Store Open House**
Our newly expanded Bunny General is open for business! We're planning an Open House later this summer to showcase our new items. Watch the website for details!

For more details, visit www.columbusrabbit.org

When It's Not "Just" Stasis: Molly's Story

By Sue Mangold

As anyone who has lived with rabbits knows, the most mundane situation can quickly become a life-threatening crisis. Molly's story began one morning when I put out the morning allocation of pellets and only Oreo, Molly's friend, showed up for the feast. Molly, an approximately seven-year-old mini lop, has a modest history of GI stasis and a pattern of quickly bouncing back after each occurrence. Therefore, I wasn't overly concerned and immediately initiated the standard procedure for managing the condition (see "Huh, Rabbits can get Gas?!" in issue 2, volume 1 of the Columbus House Rabbit Society Newsletter). As was typical for her, within a few hours, Molly began to nibble on some hay. Relieved that she appeared to be on the road to recovery, I went to work.

I came home that evening and my heart sank when only Oreo was there to greet me. I administered more simethicone but Molly's lack of resistance suggested that something else was going on. The first clue was a stain on the carpet which looked suspiciously like bladder sludge. The previous year, Molly had shown signs of straining during urination. Her vet at that time was Dr. Oglesbee, who was able to express about half a cup of thick sludge and recommended that Molly receive a vet check at least every six months. Molly's most recent vet check had been good: The sonogram showed only modest amounts of bladder sludge. The fact that six months later, Molly was in crisis came as a huge surprise.

The vet clinic was already closed and I did not want to risk taking her to a dog-and-cat emergency veterinary clinic, so I put her on a table and gently pressed her

abdomen. A pool of urine quickly formed with small spots of sludge. The diagnosis appeared to be confirmed.

The next morning, a Saturday, we were off to Norton Road Veterinary Clinic. I am a new client there, having had only one previous appointment, so I was pleased that Dr. Borders, whom I had previously met, was working that day. She quickly discovered that Molly's bladder was the size of a small softball, far larger than its normal plum size. The x-ray showed that the bladder was completely opaque, indicating that it was almost completely filled with sludge. Molly's prognosis was not good.



Molly's bladder x-ray showing a severe case of sludge; the excess calcium in the bladder causes it to be nearly as opaque as her bones.

Dr. Borders and Dr. Herrli (by telephone) prepared an aggressive plan for Molly. Over the next six days, Molly spent four days at the clinic where she received Baytril, an antibiotic, and Reglan, which jumpstarts the GI tract, in an attempt to get her eating again. She also received Medicam, for pain, and large quantities of subcutaneous fluids which help to soften the sludge and keep her well-hydrated. Regular bladder flushings were performed, including one under general anesthesia to allow aggressive removal of the sludge.

On the days when she didn't go to the clinic, Molly received subcutaneous fluids three times a day in order to meet the target 750 cc per day. She also continued with the Baytril, Reglan and Medicam. Because of the large quantities of fluid and her reluctance to move around much, Molly had difficulty controlling her urination. I made the tough decision to keep her confined in an exercise pen. I was concerned about the effect this would have on Molly's recovery but I was even more concerned with how Oreo would tolerate it. When Molly had been hospitalized for a few days several years ago, Oreo developed head tilt shortly afterwards. However, the barred walls of the pen enabled Molly and Oreo to see each other, and he accompanied her on her day trips to the clinic.

The biggest challenge proved to be getting Molly to eat again. She was force-fed for several days with Critical Care, which helped a lot but the biggest factor proved to be effective pain management. Although the treatment plan was aggressive, in retrospect, we did not do as good a job as we should have in treating her pain for the first couple of days. Rabbits are notorious for hiding their pain, but the grunts Molly made when trying to urinate, combined with her unwillingness to eat, were clear indicators that Medicam alone was not sufficient. Once Buprenex was added to her treatment regimen, Molly began to eat more consistently and her general demeanor improved tremendously. I cannot emphasize enough how important pain management is for a rabbit with serious bladder sludge.

Considering how very serious her condition was, Molly's recovery was breathtakingly rapid. After

(Continued on page 8)

A Warm Fuzzy Feeling: Adoptable Bunnies

Columbus HRS has many wonderful bunnies who are patiently waiting for loving homes. Take a look — maybe you'll find the perfect companion on these pages! See all of our adoptable rabbits at www.columbusrabbit.org.



He may be small, but he won't be pushed around! **Crackers** is independent and loves to explore new areas. He'll stand or sit on top of his box and survey

the lay of the land, and then go check out every nook and cranny. And once he gets his bearings, watch out! He does the best bunny-binkies, shaking his whole 3 lb. tiny body and then throwing it in reverse and doing it again! He'll slow down for a quick round of pets or a kiss, and then he's off and running! He enjoys munching his hay and quickly developed a taste for greens. Crackers is two years old. He is neutered and has excellent litterbox habits. Don't you want to share in the fun?



Trixie has the prettiest eyes that will melt your heart. This dear bun is shy but so very grateful to be living safely inside a home instead of near a major highway. We have learned

the key to Trixie's heart is food! She loves food! Trixie is spayed and just a bit under 5 lbs. She has terrific litterbox habits. We think Trixie would do well with a bunny friend.

Meet **Sir Charles**, known to his close friends as Charlie, and **Lady Hannah**. These lovebirds are the two most adorable lops in the world. Charlie, who is the gray Holland Lop, weighs in at just under 5 lbs, and Hannah, a mini-lop, beats him by a pound. You can guess who rules the roost. They are both under 3 years old and have been spayed and neutered. The two have the friendliest disposition! They are great hay eaters, a trick Hannah taught Charlie, and love a wide variety of fruits and veggies. When the two aren't snuggling, they love racing each other around the room and visiting you when you enter. Their favorite time of the day is meal time. Watch as they nudge and hop in front of each other to be the first to get to the grub. Come and meet this adorable pair and see why they are loved by all.



Harper is a beautiful big black bunny with a fabulous personality. She is very friendly and adores being petted and loved. Harper loves to run around and be right in the middle of activity. She is spayed, weighs about 8 1/2 lbs, and has terrific litterbox habits. She likes to jump on boxes and check out the view. Harper will jump into your lap for a nice long snuggle. When you open the refrigerator door expect to have Harper checking out the veggies and wanting to jump in! She's no dummy, she knows where good food is! Harper is such a cool rabbit.



Yep, **Sunshine's** face is striped! Isn't she a beauty? Sunshine is a nice rabbit who likes to be petted. She is spayed, litterbox trained, and just under 6 lbs. Sunshine enjoys her veggies and is a good hay eater too. She came to us from one of our local shelters and has not been in foster care long. Sunshine would love to brighten your day!



Paisley is a gorgeous chocolate and white mini-rex. Need your hair done? Paisley will help you! When you lie on the floor, she will comb it with her paws, trim it with her teeth, and then grab and tease it. Silly girl! She is a very active bun; always on the go to see what's up. Paisley is very friendly and has super litterbox habits. She is spayed and weighs 4 lbs. She has a hearty appetite; loves hay and gets excited about her meals. Paisley loves to push the ball with the bell inside around with her nose and likes to sit on top of her box when she's in her pen. Paisley is a small bun with a big personality!



A Warm Fuzzy Feeling: Adoptable Bunnies



Sadie is a spayed dwarf mix rabbit who weighs about five pounds. She is still a little chubby though has already lost one pound! Sadie loves attention and likes to be petted. She will stretch out beside you and stay for a long time if you pet her. Sadie has excellent litter box habits and loves her greens, hay and pellets. Sadie is looking for a home where she can get lots of attention and have lots of time to run around.

Daisy is a wonderfully sweet rabbit who is soaking up the pets. She is a friendly girl with a fun personality. Daisy is spayed and has excellent litterbox habits. She loves munching on hay and veggies and has such a great time playing with her toys. She enjoys hanging out on the bed with you in the evening (she currently lives in a bedroom). Daisy weighs about 6 lbs and is a doll.



Chloe is a real cutie. She is spayed and has super litterbox habits. Chloe is a very gentle rabbit and does well in a quiet environment, though she loves to be in the midst of kitchen activity. She enjoys being petted and will tooth purr in contentment. Chloe loves her tunnels and cardboard castle, and enjoys kicking out her legs for a good afternoon nap. She likes to jump on the kitchen chairs and occasionally expects to have her food brought to her! Can you say spoiled? She weighs 4 lbs and is very easy to handle. Chloe is a great hay eater and loves her veggies. She is such a sweet little girl and will make a wonderful addition to your home.

Alex is a neutered male, about 2.5 years old, weighing in at less than 4 pounds. He is a handsome bun with beautiful steel-gray fur and helicopter ears. Alex is an active little guy, and spends most of his time remodeling large cardboard boxes with new doors and windows. He is curious and outgoing, but needs some time to get to know you before he'll let you shower him with bunny love. We think Alex would love a friend. With his perfect litterbox habits, this tiny guy is sure to steal your heart!



Lacey & Lexie are sisters that adore each other. Weighing about 6.25 lbs each, they are spayed Californian mixes and are about 9 months old. Even though they were abandoned in the woods and then spent some time in the shelter, they are very sweet and laid back, easy to handle and look forward to getting out and exploring new play areas. Being very good hoppers, they will jump up on boxes and chairs to check things out. They have great litterbox habits and spend lots of time in their litterbox eating fresh hay. Now that Lacey & Lexie are in foster care they are so happy to have a variety of greens to eat. This bonded pair enjoys lying around together and grooming each other. They are looking forward to living in a loving home and putting their past behind them. Do you have a special spot in your heart and home for these two wonderful girls?



Cinnamon is a sweet 2 year old harlequin rabbit. After living most of her life in a cage in a barn, Cinnamon is now discovering what love and freedom are all about. She enjoys being petted and loves having her nose rubbed. Cinnamon weighs about 6 1/2 lbs and is spayed and litterbox trained. *Because of a dislocated hip, Cinnamon is a "special needs" bunny who requires a carpeted area to live and play in.*

Bladder Sludge

(Continued from page 1)

it is important to familiarize yourself with the clinical signs.

The average rabbit caretaker (or above average, since you're HRS members!) may notice a change in litter box habits (urinating in unusual places), straining to urinate, urine scalding (urine-soaked, inflamed skin around the back end and inner thighs), abdominal pain and decreased activity. Obviously, any of these symptoms warrants a visit to your veterinarian as quickly as possible.

During the physical examination, the veterinarian will assess hydration and the overall status of your rabbit. He/She will palpate the abdomen for a dough-like mass in the area of the bladder. The veterinarian may attempt to gently express the bladder to visualize the urine. Radiographs (x-rays) and a urinalysis will help to confirm the diagnosis. A CBC (complete blood count), blood profile and urine culture should be performed to assess kidney function and to determine if a bacterial infection could be contributing to the problem. This information will help the

veterinarian to devise a treatment protocol to help your rabbit.

In most cases, medical management is sufficient in treating these patients. Depending on the physical examination, IV (intravenous) or subcutaneous fluids will be recommended. This helps to flush the bladder by increasing urinations and by diluting the sludge itself. Expressing the bladder multiple times a day, pain management, nutritional supplementation and long-term antibiotics (depending on the urine culture results) are all important factors of treatment to encourage a favorable outcome. Due to the chance of recurrence, the veterinarian will recommend radiographs every six months. It is possible to decrease the likelihood of recurrences with certain preventative measures.

Dietary and weight management are extremely important. Limiting (if not excluding) pellets and offering free-choice timothy hay (not alfalfa) is the first step. Daily "salads" with a variety of fresh vegetables are needed to promote gastrointestinal and urinary tract health. Avoid veggies high in calcium such as kale, broccoli, turnips, watercress and Chinese cabbage. Fresh water changed

on a daily basis is another key to prevention. Always offer a newly acquired rabbit the choice of a water bottle or a water dish; most will have a strong preference for one or the other. (Rabbits have a tendency to drink more water from a bowl than from a water bottle.) The more water taken in, the less likely sludge will develop or lay stagnant in the bladder. Believe it or not, litter box cleanliness can also be a contributing factor. Some rabbits will develop a litter box aversion and may hold their urine for unhealthy periods of time if their "toilet" is not cleaned daily. (Think about it . . . most of us would rather explode than use a disgusting, hasn't-been-cleaned-in-a-week, public restroom!) Last but not least, exercise is helpful in preventing obesity and increasing water intake to keep the bladder well flushed.

Unfortunately, I cannot guarantee your rabbit will never suffer the consequences of bladder sludge, but do your best to follow the preventative measures and hopefully your bun can stay healthy, happy and sewage-free! 🐰

*Beth Logan, D.V.M.
Norton Road Veterinary Hospital
1111 Norton Road
Galloway, OH 43119*

What is Your Rabbit Trying to Tell You?

by Karalee Curry

Sue's experience with Molly demonstrates the importance of knowing your rabbit's routines and habits in order to detect the early signs of injury or illness. Because rabbits are prey animals, they instinctively try to hide any symptoms that indicate physical vulnerability. This can make detecting the presence of pain difficult even for a rabbit-savvy vet. In addition, pain medications often take time to begin working. It is up to you to help your vet make sure that your rabbit's pain is being effectively managed. Keep in mind that just because your rabbit has been given a pain

medication, the dosage may not be sufficient or the prescribed medication may not be adequate to fully control the pain. As in Molly's case, the early stages of an injury or illness may require stronger forms or larger amounts of medication.

So how do you know when your rabbit is in pain? Although the indications can be subtle, there are a few key behavioral clues: unwillingness to eat; grunting, moaning, or other sounds of pain; bulging eyes; teeth grinding; unusual chewing on objects, such as cardboard or the metal bars of

an exercise pen; flinching during handling; and hiding or similar behaviors. In Molly's case, loud grunts when attempting to urinate were a big red flag that she was experiencing significant pain. It is critical that you continually assess whether the medication is working. If you do not see an improvement in appetite, or the noise-making does not decrease significantly or terminate, you need to inform your vet that your rabbit is still in pain. **You are your rabbit's best advocate.** Do not, however, change the dosage without first contacting your vet.

(Continued on page 8)

Being Prepared for Anything: A Checklist

By Terri Davenport Cook

Here in Central Ohio, we don't often experience severe weather beyond the occasional springtime tornado or flash-flooding, so it's easy to become complacent about planning for a disaster. But disasters are not always weather-related. They can include such things as fires, chemical spills, or other extreme events—natural or manmade. And they sometimes require an emergency evacuation from your home. Having a plan of action for such situations can make the difference between life and death – for you and your companion animals! *Remember, if you are forced to evacuate your home during a disaster, **always** take your pets with you!*

The best time to prepare your emergency plan is before you need it. The Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS) offers excellent advice on disaster preparedness for animals on their website, www.uan.org/ears/tips.html. Using their information, we offer the following suggestions for incorporating your rabbits' needs into your disaster plan.

Transportation/Confinement: A small pet carrier will keep your bunny secure for transportation, but won't offer enough room for extended confinement. A small collapsible dog cage or exercise pen provides portable housing during emergencies. Include towels or fleece padding for cover on hard flooring. The carrier can be placed inside the pen or cage (if space allows) to provide a place for bunny to hide. A small cardboard box may also serve this purpose.

Temporary Housing: Keep in mind that the Red Cross and other service agencies are not equipped to house animals in their temporary shelters. Keep a list of hotels/motels that allow pets or friends/family members who would allow you and your pets to stay with them. Check in advance with vet clinics and kennels about temporary housing during disasters.

Pellet Food: Keeping a two week supply is recommended. Store in an airtight, watertight container. Rotate food regularly to ensure freshness. Include food and water bowls (or a water bottle) and a measuring cup in your supplies.

Water: Have at least a two week supply at all times. Store water in plastic containers and keep in a cool, dark place. Rotate water at least once every two months.

Hay: Keep a two week supply of hay; rotate hay at least once every three months to ensure freshness.

Litterbox: Keep a small litter box and a two-week supply of organic litter in your supplies. Have plastic trash bags for disposing of used litter.

Vegetable Baby Food: Fruit or vegetable baby foods (bananas/ carrots) are good for force feeding or mixing with medication. Critical Care can be used in place of baby food for force feeding.

Toys: Keep paper towel/toilet paper rolls and other small toys to entertain your bunny during times of confinement.

Cleaning Supplies: Keep a small spray bottle of white vinegar and water mixture, as well as a small container of dish soap for cleaning purposes. Have paper towels for drying dishes and other cleanup.

First Aid Kit: Make a basic first aid kit and keep with it a book on first aid for rabbits (such as *Rabbit Health in the 21st Century*).

14 CARROT TIP: GET CARRIED AWAY

Always know **exactly** where to find your pet carriers. The best way to ensure you can find them in an emergency is to **put them back in the same place** after each time you use them. Even better, store them in a location near your bun's living space so you can easily find both in a hurry.

Disaster Preparedness Checklist For Rabbits

- Carriers
- Temporary Housing
- Pens/Cages
- Pellet Food
- Water
- Hay
- Litterbox/Litter
- Baby Food (or Critical Care)
- Toys
- Cleaning Supplies
- Basic First Aid Kit
- Medications
- Photographs
- Warning Signs

Your first aid kit should include an infant rectal thermometer, wound disinfectant (such as Betadine), cotton or gauze pads, cotton swabs, antibiotic ointment, tweezers, scissors, simethicone tablets or drops for gas relief, syringes for medicating or force feeding, and Pedialyte for hydration.

Medications: If your rabbit is on long-term medication, keep a two week supply with your first aid kit in case your vet is not available right away. Check your vet's disaster plan or find a vet with an established plan so you can get medical care for your bunny in the event of injury during the disaster. Rabbit-knowledgeable vets are preferable, but in the event of a disaster or emergency, any reputable vet is better than no vet. Keep your bunny's medical records with your disaster supplies, as well as copies of the *House Rabbit Handbook*, *Rabbit Health in the 21st Century*, and other medical reference books you may have.

(Continued on page 7)

Sharing the Bunny-love: CHRS Autumn/Winter Social Events!

With the weather warming up outside, it seems like such a long time ago that we donned jackets and sweaters and sat around a warm fire sharing our bunny stories. But that's just what we did, and had a great time, too!

Bon Fire

October 11th was a beautiful Fall day—the air was crisp and fresh and the sky was clear and bright.



What better mix for an afternoon of games and bunny-fun? It was just perfect for roasting hot dogs and marshmallows and swapping warm, fuzzy, bunny stories.

Members took advantage of the great weather to toss a football or play “Cornhole” (made specially for this event by the talented

Chuck Curry). However, the heat was turned on for a competitive round of Croquet!



And no CHRS social event would be complete without a challenging game of Bunny-Bingo! Pencils flew as members hurriedly struggled to think of “famous bunnies” to include on their bingo sheets. The new twist seemed to stump even a few seasoned bingo players!



Cookie Exchange

Before we knew it, December rolled around with another chance to get together for some holiday cheer. Members brought some of their favorite cookies and treats to share along with their favorite bunny tales and topics. Everyone got to sample a nice selection of goodies and chat about their most beloved subject — bunnies! 🐰



We Want Your Stuff!

The CHRS Annual Garage Sale is coming up on May 22nd at Karalee's house! Donate your gently used household items and help bring in some big bucks for the foster buns! Visit our website for more information.

Disaster Planning

(Continued from page 6)

Photographs: Keep current pictures of each of your rabbits in case you are separated from them. Including yourself in photographs can provide documentation of guardianship.

Warning Signs: There are several warning signs that indicate a medical emergency. Learn how to assess your rabbit's condition and know what to do in the event of an emergency. In all cases, seek medical attention immediately.

- Take your bunny's pulse by placing a hand gently around your rabbit's chest or by placing a finger in the groin area. Remember that it may be difficult to detect a pulse in a rabbit that is in shock.
- Check the color of your rabbit's gums by lifting the lip or cheek. Gums should be pink; blue or pale gums indicate a severe circulatory problem.
- Take your rabbit's temperature using a rectal baby thermometer (apply a lubricant before insertion).

Normal rabbit temperature is 101-103°F.

- For shock or hypothermia, use a heating pad or hot water bottle wrapped in a towel (directly applying a heating element against your rabbit can cause burns)
- To reduce temperatures 106°F or greater, moisten cotton pads with cool water and swab down bunny's ears. Follow with cold towel wraps. 🐰

Make a Fashion Statement!

CHRS will soon be offering T-shirts featuring our logo! Watch the website for more details!

Molly's Story

(Continued from page 2)

four days of being poked with what must have seemed like unending needles, she nipped me one morning. My opinionated girl was back! Her frustration with being penned up also grew and I happily gave in. She was delighted to be free and able to move about, and to lie side by side with Oreo.

On the sixth day, Molly returned for a follow-up. To our surprise and delight, the x-ray showed that her bladder was almost completely clear of sludge. I am still amazed at how quickly Dr. Herrli and Dr. Borders were able to turn Molly around.

Thankfully, Molly recovered from her crisis. However, I have had to make permanent changes in her

lifestyle. Because she is at high risk for a recurrence, she now will have a vet checkup every two months. I also have continued her on subcutaneous fluids, giving her 250 cc three times a week. My full-figured girl is also on a diet, receiving only a few pellets twice daily. Overweight bunnies are more prone to bladder sludge because the additional fat affects the ability of the bladder to completely empty itself.



Molly's x-ray after treatment — the bladder is nearly indiscernible from the surrounding soft tissue.

Unfortunately, the cause of bladder sludge is not known. Some vets believe that sludge-prone rabbits are unable to appropriately handle calcium and, therefore, should not be fed high-calcium sources such as kale, spinach and parsley. Also unfortunate is that calcium-rich sources also tend to be the best sources of other nutrients, which makes it a challenge to provide a nutritional diet. Rather than removing all high-calcium greens from her diet, I have chosen to reduce the amount of high-calcium veggies she gets each day. Only time will tell whether this is the right call.

Thus far, Molly is doing well and Oreo has not suffered any health setbacks. But the next time one of my bunnies goes into stasis I am confident I will ask myself, "Is it 'just' stasis?" 🐰

Your Rabbit's Pain

(Continued from page 5)

You have heard me say this time and time again: It is your responsibility, as your rabbit's caretaker, to learn everything you can about rabbit care and behavior, and keep up-to-date with current medical information. This also means knowing your own rabbit's unique behavioral

patterns. When my foster rabbit, Annie, broke her leg a couple of years ago, she clearly was in pain. One of the signs the vet initially used to gauge Annie's pain was her tendency to lie with her head raised up with her nose in the air. Although this is a common sign of pain in rabbits, in Annie's case, this was normal. From the time we rescued her, this was her preferred way of holding her head while lying down. Without my

knowledge of this, the vet would have assumed she was in pain, when, in fact, the pain medication was working.

Remember, you know your own rabbit best, and you must make sure that you continually communicate relevant information to your vet throughout your rabbit's recovery. 🐰

Complete Petmart: Let Your Voice Be Heard!

As many of you already know, Complete Petmart began selling rabbits in their retail stores shortly before Easter. There are eight stores in the Central Ohio area. As you can imagine, we are outraged at this decision. We have started a letter-writing campaign to express our opposition to this practice.

If you would like to participate, please write a letter and politely tell them why they should not sell rabbits (that rabbits are the third most common pet surrendered to

shelters and rescue groups, overpopulation, neglect, etc.). Be sure to list the products you buy and NAME their competition! Tell them where you intend to shop and spend your money!

Contact them at:

Complete Petmart
1239G Lions Road
Dayton, OH 45458
ATTN: Jo Madewell

More information is available at www.columbusrabbit.org. 🐰

14 CARROT TIP: BUNNY BURRITO

Place Bun on the edge of an appropriately sized towel. Fold up one side, then the back, then the second side. Make sure his feet are tucked in side the wrap. To keep him quiet while you are wrapping, place a hand over his eyes. This keeps him secure and makes him easier to handle when you give him medicine, clean his ears, etc.



Main Events: Public Speaking and Educational Presentations

Representatives of CHRS have been keeping busy over the past few months to spread the word about our important work.

Midwest Veterinary Conference Feb. 26-29, 2004



Once again, CHRS was given the opportunity to have a booth at the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association's annual Midwest Veterinary Conference. While overall attendance at the conference was strong, traffic through the booth was a little disappointing. The veterinary professionals themselves lamented that they didn't have enough time to browse through the booths thoroughly enough.

Although slightly disappointing, the Conference remains our most effective tool for influencing the quality of health care for rabbits. By speaking directly with those responsible for providing care, we arm them with the knowledge and tools necessary to improve the quality of the care they provide.

Thank you to all of our members who volunteered to spend time staffing the booth and speaking with Conference attendees.

AWANA's Youth Group

Thanks to CHRS member Lisa Waller, Karalee was invited to speak to the First Baptist Church of Gahanna AWANA's group on March 28th about not buying rabbits for Easter. She took pictures of our foster rabbits and explained the reasons why these rabbits needed new homes. Lisa did a fantastic job making cards that resemble our Make Mine Chocolate! cards and attached chocolate rabbits for the kids to eat. In addition, we gave the kids a wonderful coloring book about having a rabbit in the house. The kids did a great job listening and had some very good questions.

Monroe Clever Clovers

Karalee and Terri were invited to give a presentation on house rabbits to the Monroe Clever Clovers 4-H group on April 12th. In response to a growing urbanized membership, 4-H is currently drafting a "Pet Rabbit Project" as a choice of projects to complete. We were asked to share our information and hope it can be incorporated in to the "Pet Rabbit" curriculum for the entire 4-H organization.

The presentation covered housing and living arrangements, litter training, diet and nutrition, rabbit-proofing, toys, and health care.

14 CARROT TIP: FRESHEN UP!

Here's a good rule of thumb on fresh veggies -- if you wouldn't put it in your own salad, just don't use it! Greens that don't look appealing to you probably won't be very appetizing to your bunny, either. And with their sensitive digestive systems, feeding less-than-fresh vegetables and fruits could be just asking for trouble!

The children ranged in age from 4 or 5 to 14 or 15 years old. They were very attentive and asked excellent questions about each area of discussion. Parents in attendance also participated and asked questions.

Each child received a packet of information, optional coloring book, and Make Mine Chocolate! chocolate rabbit (courtesy of Lisa Waller).

Pet Fest America



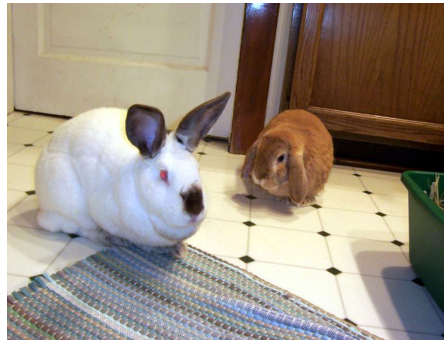
Karalee and Terri were at it again on April 17th at the Schottenstein Center for Pet Fest America sponsored by the Humane Society of the United States. While the main attraction was the Iams Superdogs in the arena, local animal rescue agencies were invited to set up booths in the concourse. This was another great opportunity to speak with the public about house rabbits. Especially coming right after the holiday, we hope that we were able to improve the lives of some of this year's Easter rabbits. And several people were specifically seeking information on spaying or neutering their rabbits! 🐰

Breakfast 101

By Allyssa Noggle

When Karalee asked me, "You wouldn't have an interest in Delaney would you?" in regard to finding a suitable girlfriend for my bun FooFoo, I couldn't help but giggle. The first time I met Delaney, her ten-pound rabbit physique was regally stretched out atop the small dinette table on Karalee's porch, and the plethora of napkins she had dethroned to obtain her position lay strewn about the floor. Immediately I recognized a confident bun with a healthy dose of personality, and thus developed a real fondness for the cute Californian. In the months that followed, I always checked for Delaney updates on the CHRS website and wondered if she had found the perfect home. Therefore, when Karalee presented the opportunity for FooFoo to go on a date with Delaney, not only was I surprised, but I anxiously said, "Let's give it a try!" And when on their first date Delaney binkied and groomed FooFoo, Karalee and I both admitted we could've cried.

It was on that very day, a Wednesday, that Delaney came to live with FooFoo and me in German Village, as well as our other house rabbit Fuddles, and the resident feline-lagomorph ambassador, Mouse. The house was buzzing with critter



excitement and everybody seemed thrilled to have Delaney as the newest member of our family.

That next Sunday, only three days after her arrival, I had the rare opportunity to sleep late. Around 10:30 a.m. I awoke to a scratching on the bedroom door. Presuming it was the cat trying to work her way into the bed for a morning snuggle, I sleepily ignored the annoyance another five minutes, and then grumpily staggered to the door to let her in. As I pulled the creaky door open, however, there was no cat. Just a big white rabbit with whiskers all a-wiggle! "Delaney!" I gasped, "What in the world are you doing up here?" With that, her brown tail flicked, her hind leg gave a little thump, and she proceeded to hop down the stairs and through the living room. In a stupor, I followed. As she hopped through what should have been alien territory, she didn't pause to sniff the cat's food, to nibble the newspaper on the coffee table, or even rub her chin on the stack of Fisher Price stacking blocks in the middle of the floor. I couldn't believe it! (I also couldn't believe that I had

apparently forgotten to latch her pen the night before!) Beginning to feel like Timmy on an episode of Lassie, I started thinking, "This bun is on a mission! I think she's trying to tell me something!" I continued to follow her through the dining room, into the kitchen, and down the basement stairs. There Delaney reached her destination and I learned a very important lesson. The determined bun parked her big white body by her food bowl and looked up at me with insistent pink eyes. I had slept through breakfast!



Quick as my hand could scoop, I delivered the breakfast pellets and patted an apology on her rear. She dove into the bowl and came up with a mouthful, looking both relieved and satisfied. Since then there has been an understanding between Delaney and me. She will allow me to bond her with FooFoo, she will allow me to love her, pet her on occasion, and even give her an acidophilus treat from my mouth, but never, under any circumstances, should breakfast be served after 8:00 a.m.! 🐰

Fun in the Sun!

Mark your calendars now and get ready for June 19, 2004 and the CHRS annual Spring Picnic at Heritage Park's Antrim Shelter in Westerville! Plan now to join Columbus HRS members, their families, friends, and rabbit-lovers of all ages for our annual Spring Picnic! You can count on

good food, fun games, terrific prizes, and a great selection of items from the Bunny General Store for all the wonderful rabbits in your life.

And while we can't guarantee the weather, we can promise a good time come rain or shine! 🐰

14 CARROT TIP: FIRST AID KIT

Tackle boxes and small craft totes make great first aid kits. The separate compartments easily store cotton balls, swabs, tweezers, syringes, etc. Keep your nail clippers and other bunny basics in the same place and you'll never have to go searching for them in an emergency!

Join the Columbus House Rabbit Society

Are you interested in helping rabbits? If so, please consider joining us.

What do you get for your membership? A lot! Just take a look:

- Two newsletters a year • Updates on Columbus HRS news & activities via e-mail every 6 weeks
- Advice on rabbit care and behavior • Local activities including annual spring & fall events and other activities throughout the year • The opportunity to get involved and help needy rabbits • Lots of new friends

It's easy to join. Just fill out the [membership form](#) and send it along with your check to:

Columbus House Rabbit Society
P.O. Box 29444
Columbus, OH 43229

Thank you and welcome!

National— Includes the *House Rabbit Journal*: **USA: \$18** _____

Columbus Chapter—Includes bi-annual Newsletter: **Columbus Chapter: \$12** _____ **JOIN BOTH: \$28** _____

Indicate Newsletter preference: PDF by email _____ Hard copy by US mail _____

NAME _____

STREET NO. _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Columbus House Rabbit Society

Karalee Curry
Chapter Manager/Treasurer
karalee@columbusrabbit.org

Terri Cook
Vice President/Newsletter Editor/
Designer
terri@columbusrabbit.org

Sue Mangold
Secretary
sue@columbusrabbit.org

Chuck Curry
Board Member
chuck@columbusrabbit.org

Cara Cox
HRS Fosterer/Graphic Designer
cara@columbusrabbit.org

Corrections, comments or
contributions can be sent to
terri@columbusrabbit.org

Our mailing list is private. We do not share it with any other organization.

Wish List

- Extra Large Litterboxes
- Litter:
Yesterday's News
Carefresh
Wood Stove Pellets Please
- Rabbit Pellets:
Oxbow Pellets Please
- Exercise Pens
- Office Supplies:
Copier paper
Postage stamps
Envelopes

Gift Certificate Programs!

Still a great way to support CHRS:
purchase Kroger and Giant Eagle
gift certificates.

We get a 5% return on all
gift certificates sold.

Feed your family and help the buns
at the same time! What a deal!

Sponsor Corner

The Columbus House Rabbit Society wishes to acknowledge the on-going support of the following businesses:

Atlas Color Imaging
374 West Spring Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614/224-5149

Dr. Meg Baho
Riverside Drive Animal Care Center
6924 Riverside Drive
Dublin, OH 43017
614/761-3232

Dr. Ann Crafton
8462 Nuthatch Way
Columbus, OH 43235
614/371-2273

Norton Road Veterinary Clinic
Drs. Susan Borders, Lani Herrli,
and Beth Logan
1111 Norton Road
Galloway, OH 43119
614/870-7008

Columbus House Rabbit Society

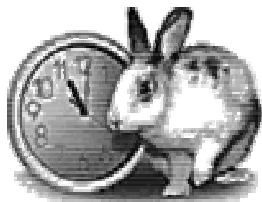
P.O. Box 29444
Columbus, Ohio 43229

Phone: 614-895-0004

Email:

karalee@columbusrabbit.org

Visit us on the Web!
www.columbusrabbit.org
www.rabbit.org



Buy a Bunny a Little Time!

Bunny General—Your One Stop Rabbit Shop!

Columbus HRS has expanded its line of rabbit care items and accessories. And all of the proceeds go toward helping our foster rabbits while they are in our care.

Supplies

- Oxbow products:
 - Hays: Alfalfa/Brome/Orchard Grass/Oat/Timothy Hay
 - Bunny Basics/T (timothy pellets)
 - Bunny Basics 15/23
 - Critter Carrots
- Fresh Local Timothy Hay:
 - Whole Bales or Half Bales
- Midwest exercise pens (3-4 ft.)
- Apple Twigs/Leaves (in season)
- Busy Bunny:
 - Grass Balls/Straw Mats
 - Chew Rings/Willow Bowls
 - Willow Tunnels/Tent Tunnels
 - Bunny Bungalows/Timbo Cubes

- Carefresh Litter/Litterboxes/
Grooming Supplies/Water Crocks
- Cottontail Cottages/Hay Hoppers

Emergency Decals

Let Firefighters and EMS crews know you have indoor rabbits to rescue.

An emergency decal on your door or window can save your pet's life!

**In Case of Emergency,
PLEASE Rescue My**

**Rabbits
Inside
Thank You!**



**In Case of
Emergency,
PLEASE Rescue
My Rabbits
Inside
Thank You!**

Contact Karalee:
phone: 614/895-0004
email: karalee@columbusrabbit.org

Stained Glass Rabbit Nightlights



These beautiful rabbit nightlights are handmade by Cincinnati artist Jeanne Grimes and are available in several different colors. We have a variety on hand at Karalee's for only \$25.00. A portion of each sale is generously donated to CHRS.

Contact Karalee:
phone: 614/895-0004
email: karalee@columbusrabbit.org

Contact Jeanne:
email: grimesj@fuse.net