



# Columbus House Rabbit Society Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2

Autumn 2006

## Renal Failure: A Cause of GI Stasis

By Kirsten Love, DVM

As more testing becomes available for our rabbits, we can find more causes for illnesses. Knowing these potential causes improves our ability to diagnose and cure illness. Gastrointestinal (GI) stasis is a very common disease in our house rabbits and many good articles have been written in books and this newsletter about some of the signs and some treatments. With improved bloodwork and diagnostics, a new cause of GI stasis has been described in rabbits. At the 2006 International Exotic Conference in Florida, Dr. Marla Lichtenberger presented "Acute Renal Failure in

Rabbits" as a cause of GI stasis. This article will describe this condition, its relation to GI stasis, and treatment options currently available.

### What is acute renal failure?

Renal failure is the loss of a significant portion or all kidney function in an animal. "Acute" means the sudden onset (like a fracture), in contrast to a disease that develops over time like incisor/molar overgrowth. For example, people may experience an acute heart attack—where they were fine and then over the course of several minutes to hours, the heart starts to fail and

causes the pain and collapse of a heart attack. This is much different from a chronic thickening of the vessels around the heart that can lead to an acute heart attack. The occlusion of vessels with atherosclerotic plaques can take years to form and often results from poor diet. If found early, these plaques can be surgically removed before causing an acute heart attack.

The kidneys control a large number of functions in the body as seen in figure 1. As the kidney loses its abilities, medicine will help

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Inside this issue:

Matchmaker, Make me a Match: Adoptable Bunnies	3
Babies and Bunnies: The First Year <i>By Kate Hastings</i>	5
Easter 2007: "Make Mine Chocolate!" Continues	6
Bunny Fun: CHRS Social Events	7
Buddy the Floating Bunny <i>By Dr. Kirsten Love</i>	8
Persistence Pays Off for Strays	8
Focused on Education: Exhibits and Presentation	9
News from the Shelters Update on Happenings at our Local Shelters	10
The Year of the "Barn" Bunnies	10
Membership Form	11
Bunny General Store	12

## Clifford, the No-Longer-Lonely Bunny

By Diana Dornbusch Cron, DVM

By the time you received the last CHRS newsletter containing the article about "how not to adopt rabbits," I had taken the plunge and adopted another girlfriend for Clifford. I had been contemplating it for a long time, and when I heard that two of my clients were headed to Karalee's for their males to meet eligible girls, Clifford and I decided to tag along.

Of course, on dating day, the weather was *horrible* and I debated about the sensibility of (a) getting another rabbit and (b) driving through a blizzard to do so (my relatives wondered aloud "aren't there rabbits in Cincinnati Clifford could meet?"). But we loaded up two bunnies and two people into Christine Voegel's car and headed north. Since Cliff and I were "add-ons" to the

adopt-o-rama, we went last. I was most pleased to hear that Oliver (the rabbit my husband and I captured from a parking lot) bonded immediately with Butterscotch. Mr. Pumpkin-Bunny, Christine's Lionhead, took to a cute lop named Peanut. And Clifford liked several of the girls, but ultimately we decided to take Nadia, Butterscotch's daughter,

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Upcoming Events!

- ♦ **Cookie Exchange  
December 15, 2006  
6:30pm — ??  
Join us for an evening filled with good cheer and sweet treats!**
  - ♦ **Midwest Veterinary Conference  
Feb 22-25, 2007  
Want to help promote proper rabbit care to veterinary professionals from across the US?  
Ask us how!**
- For more details, visit  
[www.columbusrabbit.org](http://www.columbusrabbit.org)**

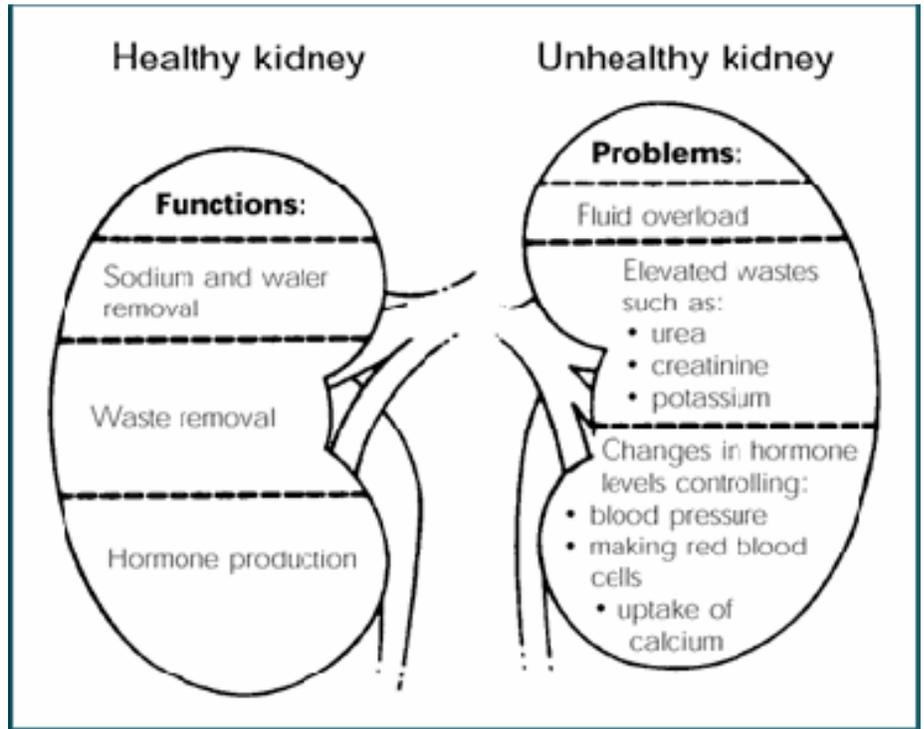
## Renal Failure

(Continued from page 1)

replace some of the functions, but not all of them. Only a kidney transplant can provide full restoration and this procedure is only routinely performed in cats and humans. Eventually, if the damage and failure progresses, the medical care will not be enough and it becomes necessary to euthanize due to poor quality of life.

### How does this cause GI stasis?

We'll start with the first function lost in renal disease – the ability to control water output. When an animal starts to lose more water than it is taking in, the kidneys try to conserve it by concentrating the urine. If they cannot do this, rapid dehydration occurs. The intestines also dry out and this changes the movement of the fiber and food through the intestines as they dry. This drying allows the growth of anaerobic bacteria which grow well in the stagnant environment and produce enterotoxins. Rabbits are very sensitive to these toxins absorbed from the intestines which are suspect in most GI stasis deaths. These toxins may also damage the kidneys and further worsen the already failing kidney. Kidneys also control the salt balance of the body by removing sodium and keeping potassium. These require a very strict ratio to allow the nerves to function normally. As they start to become abnormal from the kidneys failing, the body becomes weak and the intestines don't move adequately. This also allows food to stagnate in the intestines resulting in further enterotoxin production. Also compounding the problem is the build up of normal metabolic wastes in the bloodstream due to decreased clearance from the kidneys. These are a result of normal processes of life and the most abundant ones are the nitrogenous wastes from using nitrogen. These cause the "urine"



smell and some animals in renal failure have "uremic breath" due to the high levels of toxins in the bloodstream and lungs. This also causes the rabbit to feel sick and not want to eat or drink; which adds to her dehydration problems. These uremic toxins also cause ulcers in the intestines. In other species, renal failure is often first seen as vomiting and lethargy. Since our rabbits don't vomit the same way, the disease often progresses before it is recognized. The kidneys also control two hormones: calcitriol and erythropoietin. Calcitriol controls the balance of calcium and phosphorus in the body. Recent studies do not show a major benefit to supplementation, though this may change as more is learned. Erythropoietin controls

the red blood cells and prevents anemia. When old red cells are removed from circulation, the kidneys convert erythropoietin to increase bone marrow production. Without this signal, the body allows the red cells to become low, resulting in anemia. This takes time to develop and is currently seen more often in cats.

### How do we treat renal failure?

Rapid diagnosis is key. Bloodwork is drawn to assess the severity of the kidney failure and determine prognosis. Often, bloodwork is repeated to gauge the response to therapy. Since this disease is more common than initially thought; there are no numbers on how many cases are simple stasis and how many are renal failure. Fluids are given IV or under the skin to correct dehydration. Severe cases require several days to flush uremic toxins and to replace the fluids the kidneys are losing. Electrolytes or electrolyte binders are given to restore balance. Medications are given to protect the stomach and intestines including: antacids (famotidine, cimetidine,

(Continued on page 6)

#### 14 CARROT TIP: SUB-Q FLUIDS

Your vet may recommend subcutaneous fluids as part of your rabbit's home care. For tips on how to do this, visit

[www.vetmed.wsu.edu/ClientED/cat\\_fluids.asp](http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/ClientED/cat_fluids.asp)

Note: the website illustrations feature a cat, but the same procedure applies to rabbits.

## Matchmaker, Make Me a Match: Adoptable Bunnies

Looking for *your* perfect bunny match? Or would you rather play matchmaker for your *rabbit*? Maybe you'd like a *pair* whose match was already made? Match up with all of our adoptable rabbits at [www.columbusrabbit.org](http://www.columbusrabbit.org).



Maggie is a beautiful, energetic 4lb. black and white holland lop. She loves to run and will binky with delight when she's out of her pen.

She'll nudge you to say hi and do her happy bunny dance when you come in the room. Maggie has been spayed and has excellent litter habits.

Also known as Curious George, Kramer loves to explore. He is gentle but prefers climbing on his box to being petted. He also loves to hang out underfoot! He'd like his new home to offer lots of opportunity to explore and participate in family activities. Can you open your home to this sweet bunny?



Josh is 3 yrs old, neutered, with an easygoing personality. He loves to snuggle and will give you kisses when you pet him. Josh does well with cats

and dogs and loves kids that are gentle. Just look into these big beautiful eyes. Who could resist?



Roxy & Thumper are 2 yrs. old. Roxy, the lop, is sassy with lots of attitude. She also enjoys being petted and hates being left out!

Thumper is very laid-back with a calm, friendly personality. He loves pets but loves foods more! Both buns do fine with older children.



4 mo. old Nellie is a super sweet Lionhead rabbit. She weighs about

2.2 lbs though she will still grow a tad bit more. She is very gentle, adores being petted, and delights in all the attention she can get! Nellie is friendly and will surely win your heart!



Zoe Marie is a very busy little bunny. She loves to run, play, eat hay and veggies. Most of all, she likes her pets and will chase you to get more love! She gets along fine with cats, but small children aren't for her. Zoe Marie weighs about 3 lbs, is litterbox trained, and will be spayed soon.



After months at the shelter, Helen was adopted but returned with a serious eye problem that required prompt surgery.

Already a huge favorite for her gentle disposition, she endeared herself to the doctors and medical staff for being such a trooper—always good natured, cooperative, and easy to medicate. She's fully recovered and in foster care, awaiting an adopter who will love her as she is. Helen is in great health, but she will need the pressure in her remaining eye checked twice a year by a rabbit-savvy veterinarian. "She's well worth the extra effort." Can you open your heart and home to this one-eyed darling?

Benjamin is a 4lb. mini-lop with quite a personality. He loves to soak up attention! In his foster home, he has feline and canine friends. This lucky bun was found with a sign tied around his neck saying "Please find me a good home". Is it yours?



Velvety-soft Thumper is about 4-1/2 yrs old. She had two previous homes before entering foster care and is tired of moving around! She is a very sweet girl who loves to be petted and pampered. She is spayed and litterbox trained.



Lauren, a dainty little hotot, is less than a year old and weighs 3.5lbs. She is very well behaved and her litter box habits are impeccable. She's a sweet bun who will run up to the side of her pen to greet you.



# Matchmaker, Make Me a Match: Adoptable Bunnies



Pepe is just the perfect size! This friendly bun knows his name and will come to you for pets and kisses. Pepe has a lot of energy and loves to binky. Can you open your door and your heart to this handsome guy?

Izzy is a young, outgoing rabbit who is curious and loves to play. She loves her cottontail cottage and other toys and will easily jump on things to investigate! Izzy has a very sweet and gentle personality. She weighs about 3lbs and is spayed and litterbox trained.



Cleopatra is a very distinctive mini-rex with tufts of fur around her head that suggest she's part Lionhead. This beauty has a great personality and likes being around people. She has a grand time sprinting around her foster parents' living room. Cleopatra weighs about 6 lb and is spayed.



Moonshine was found on the side of a road! He weighs 7lbs and growing, as he is less than a year old. This sweet guy is very friendly and always glad to have company. Moonshine loves to have his head and ears rubbed and will purr in contentment. He has lots of energy and will need plenty of room to run. He'd do well with a friend, or with someone who can give him lots of love and attention.



Someone left this sweet girl outdoors to fend for herself, but Darcy made herself right at home in foster care. She enjoys playing under and on top of her box, and will run to the side of her pen to greet you. Darcy is a joy to have around and sure to put a smile on your face!



Bandit may be small but has a big personality! He is spunky and will amaze you when he is happily sailing across the room at play! Bandit gets along with cats but not other rabbits. He's presently the boss of 3 cats in his foster home! This little guy was a stray and is happy to be safe. He'll make you laugh at his antics!



Meet Brooks.

This 3.5lb boy is a darling rabbit with an amazing talent to bunny flop...everywhere! With one lop ear over his head and his whiskers quivering in bunny dreamland. Brooks loves to run around and binky and play with his toys. Most rabbits do the Bunny 500, but Brooks does the Bunny 750! He loves being among people and will usually try to show off his bunny flops.



Andy is a cute bun who's about 1 yr old. He loves to socialize with 5 kitties and one dog at his foster home. He enjoys kicking up his heels whenever he is out of his pen. Andy was a stray who was just waiting to be rescued--he just sat in place and let his rescuer pick him up! Andy has a very sweet personality and is looking for a place to call home.



Elise is a fluffy bunny with a lot of heart. She's happy to sit and let you pet her. Elise likes to rearrange her pen, race around, and just chill out. Elise is sure to fit in well anywhere she can get the love she deserves!



There's a LOT to love about Ozzy. She is a sweet mini-rex who loves capturing your attention. Her snuggling habits and loveable personality would make her a great companion to another bunny. She enjoys a good snooze, but will come running to greet you. She has a lot of heart and hopes to find a place in yours.



Jules is a lively 5.9lb bun. She's less than 1 yr old and loves to run and play. She has mastered the bunny 500 and can do great binkies! She likes being around people, loves to be petted, and will give kisses in appreciation.

# Babies and Bunnies: The First Year

By Kate Hastings

A year has passed since our son, Colin, joined the family. Cosmo and Cleo have adapted beautifully to our newest family member, and we've had many adventures!

Our bunnies have grown to appreciate Colin, especially since the introduction of solid foods. Every morning, they swarm around Colin's high chair like hungry sharks. Lucky bunnies occasionally dine on delicacies like banana or apple, and sometimes manage to nab a bite of cookie or Cheerio before I can get it off the floor.

Likewise, Colin has dined on Oxbow Bunny Basics T. Not that we condone it—but he has managed to dip into their bowl more times than we'd like to admit. The bunnies move over and make room for him. He's just one more rabbit at the trough.

Giving the bunnies their own space has been a challenge. Their pen, once housed in our dining room, became an inconvenience as Colin became mobile. He was constantly fishing for hay and scraps of cardboard and the pen itself was not sturdy enough to support his weight.

We also had gates up so the bunnies couldn't get into the nursery or the master bedroom, which hindered Colin from crawling around the house. So we took the plunge—we bunny-



proofed the entire house. We got rid of the pen (now that Cosmo and Cleo are over 2 years-old they've settled down) and put their linoleum flooring and litter boxes in the guest room closet. Now all we have to do is close the buns up in the back bedroom at night or when Colin's on the loose. If guests come, we just crack the closet door to hide the mess.

The key to having a toddler and bunnies is making sure bunnies can escape. We still have bunny-only areas that we've carved out in our family room where Cosmo and Cleo can lounge and shred paper away from baby hands. As a result, I never worry about Colin hurting the rabbits. I know they can get away.



We are very fortunate that the bunnies have never chewed on Colin's toys. They like to play with them, throwing blocks around and knocking into battery-operated musical toys. There have been a couple of board-book chewings—but I am uncertain if Colin or the bunnies were the culprit!

Surprisingly, our buns like to be around Colin. Cleo is in it just for the handouts, but our usually timid Cosmo likes to play. He hops a few steps in front of Colin and binkies, turning his head to see if Colin is following. When Colin catches up, they repeat the process. It's so much fun to watch.



Cleo, our dominant bun, is still trying to teach Colin who's boss. She presents herself for pats and we are teaching Colin to be gentle, though his uncoordinated motor skills are unable to rub her the right way. When Colin lays on the floor, it looks like he is presenting himself for pats—and our offended princess flicks at him with her back paws and runs away. Colin is oblivious to this insult.

Having a baby and bunnies has been such a rewarding experience. Watching them adapt to each other has been a joy, and I am happy knowing that our son will grow up loving our furry friends. 🐰

## 14 CARROT TIP: REFERENCE CHECK

**There are many resources available on the internet that offer advice and guidance on caring for the medical needs of your rabbit.**

**Two websites offering detailed explanations of medical terminology, diseases, procedures and treatments are:**

**Medirabbit**  
[www.medirabbit.com/](http://www.medirabbit.com/)

**Rabbit References**  
[www.morfz.com/rabrefs.html](http://www.morfz.com/rabrefs.html)

**Always discuss your research with your rabbit-savvy veterinarian to determine the best course of treatment for your rabbit.**

## Renal Failure

(Continued from page 2)

omeprazole); motility enhancers: metoclopramide (reglan); coating agents to protect ulcers: sucralfate (carafate). Repeat bloodwork is needed to confirm that treatment is working and the kidneys are responding. As we diagnose renal failure earlier and have more rabbits on long term therapy, hormone therapy with erythropoietin will be evaluated for its therapeutic value in rabbits.

### How well does treatment work?

Currently, most rabbits in renal failure are critically ill and their kidneys and intestines have degraded too rapidly to save with treatment. Euthanasia is the kindest option in these cases. As awareness grows, we will better appreciate how common renal failure is and provide earlier intervention before too much kidney function is lost. 🐰

*Dr. Kirsten Love is in private practice at Animal Hospital of Polaris in Lewis Center, Ohio.*

## Clifford Update

(Continued from page 1)

home with us. I now have a (human) niece and a rabbit named Nadia – my family finds this most amusing.



*Clifford and Nadia Cron relaxing on their sun porch*

Bonding Cliffy and Nadia went the way it's supposed to go: no aggression, lots of interest in each other; we took things slowly, but it progressed nicely. I squelched any "what have I done?" thoughts from my brain, convinced that this time it would work. The day I finally let Nadia into Clifford's pen (he was quite territorial during the last bonding attempt), I held my breath

as he ran up to her... When they started grooming each other, I broke out into tears (of joy, of course!). I finally wasn't a bonding failure, and Cliffy finally had his girl.

Clifford and Nadia make a handsome pair and reside on a converted all-season sunporch attached to our family room. They can usually be found snuggling together or running around in the sunshine. Definitely a happy ending to the original bonding nightmare! 🐰

*Diana Dornbusch Cron, DVM is in private practice at Glenway Animal Hospital in Cincinnati, OH.*

### Annie M. Curry Volunteer Service Award

#### Award Nomination

Is there a CHRS Volunteer who always does a little extra? Nominate them for our Volunteer Service Award. Submit their name and a brief statement telling why they deserve recognition to [terri@columbusrabbit.org](mailto:terri@columbusrabbit.org).

All entries will be considered by the Board with the certificate to be awarded at the Spring Picnic.

## Easter 2007: "Make Mine Chocolate!" Continues

Fall is here, leaves are falling, the days are shorter. We're starting to look forward to... Easter? That's right, we're already planning the 2007 "Make Mine Chocolate!" campaign. MMC is being streamlined to increase its effectiveness. Some of the updates we're working on include:

- **Raffle:** The hottest item of last year's campaign returns: the very talented Joseph Larkin has offered to provide another original painting to be raffled for \$1 per ticket.



- **Web Design:** We're enhancing our website to make it easier to share campaign activities and creative ideas.
- **The Interactive Bun:** Our newest game will allow the player to build a safe living area for a rabbit. With artwork by Joseph Larkin, this interactive space lets the player choose all the items that go into housing the well-appointed rabbit.
- **Merchandise:** We still have plenty of our signature "Make Mine Chocolate!" pins and magnets.

- **Clothing:** In order to clear our current stock, we'll offer special pricing on our sweatshirts.
- **Cafepress:** The biggest news for 2007 is that we will be offering MMC logo merchandise through Cafepress. Watch for an announcement on the MMC website as our store is finalized.
- **Spread the Word:** Be a part of this exciting campaign by posting flyers, postcards and more. Simply print them from [www.makeminechocolate.org](http://www.makeminechocolate.org) and hang them in your office, dorm, grocery store, etc. (Be sure to get permission first.)



## Bunny Fun: CHRS Social Events

No matter the weather, whenever the members of the Columbus House Rabbit Society get together, it's guaranteed to be a good time!

### Spring Picnic

Spring felt more like Fall as our Picnic began on June 10, 2006.

But the gloomy and overcast

morning, with its steady drizzle, could not dampen the spirits of our revelers. With more than 50 in attendance, it was the best turnout ever. The food was better than ever, too. We had a great selection of appetizers, main and side dishes, and a plethora of delicious desserts. And with the mercury topping out in the 50's, the biggest hits of the day were those warm dishes in crock pots!



We had terrific raffle prizes that included original artworks by professional artists/ CHRS members Joseph Larkin and Grace Willard. Ruth Nunes was the lucky winner of the "grand prize"—having her rabbit's portrait drawn by Joseph. Terri Cook was fortunate to win a photo album hand-crafted by Grace from scraps of hay, processed into paper and bound with twine.



Our games were a lot of fun and some of us were lucky enough to win great prizes, too. Bunny Bingo was the big hit under the roof, but others ventured into the wet grass to battle it out through Cornhole. With such clever categories in the Photo Contest—"Buns in Strange Places," "Favorite Picture," and "Cutest Mouth"—it was tough to choose just one favorite in each



division. The buns voted most photogenic were foster bunny Murphy in the hay feeder, sweet Georgie sleeping, and fuzzy little Scout, respectively. It was easy to see how much we love our buns!

Karen Winstead received the Annie M. Curry Volunteer Service Award in appreciation of her dedication to CHRS' mission and her work with the Capital Area Humane Society. Sue and Megan Metzger shared the Gus B. Curry



Meritorious Service Award in recognition for years of fostering and Megan's additional help

in other areas. Terri Cook received a "Volunteer of the Decade" award for 10 years of commitment and service to CHRS. From folding brochures to becoming a licensed fosterer and educator, Terri has always been involved and committed to our mission.



### A Decade of House Rabbits

"Volunteer of the Decade." You're probably thinking "I could never commit that much time!" Upon hearing it myself, I thought "Has it really been ten years?" Mathematically, yes, it has. I just didn't realize it. So how is it possible to commit ten years to something and not even know it?

Here's the secret: it crept up quietly one or two hours at a time. Seriously. Folding brochures: two hours. Staffing the booth: three hours. Stapling information packets: two hours. See how it works? Just a few hours at a time makes a big difference!

Start now and see for yourself how quickly time flies!

### Fall Bonfire

October 14, 2006 was a perfect fall day, with the sun gleaming through the leaves and the crisp air carrying the scent of the crackling fire.

Things were toned down a little this year as we relied on the fire and our friends to provide much of the evening's entertainment. We still had door prizes, our non-traditional apple bobbing contest and Cornhole to appease the gamers among us.



And John Dean again delighted and amazed us with his fire juggling talent. Jeremy Cook proved his skill with fire, as well, working a small pit fire to keep the Cornhole players warm, and erecting and maintaining the main bonfire that was the centerpiece of the event.

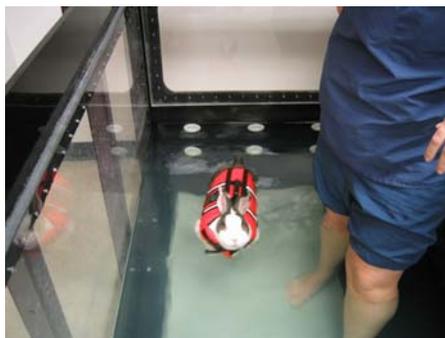


Hot dogs roasted over the fire, chili and macaroni and cheese, salads, baked goods and warm beverages sustained us while we chatted the evening away. It was a great mix of old friends and new acquaintances with whom to share our tales of life with our rabbits. 🐰

## Buddy the Floating Bunny

By Dr. Kirsten Love

I first met Buddy in the company of two older women. He was a beautiful, pampered bunny, adored by his family, which also resulted in my first act as his veterinarian – starting him on a diet. Buddy next proceeded to injure his back by gracefully falling off the couch. Thankfully, he didn't fracture his back, but he did have some difficulty. We started him on anti-inflammatory medicine, increased the dieting, and initiated physical therapy massages at home. To improve his activity and muscle mass, each woman would sit a few feet apart and gently encourage Buddy to walk between them. Given Buddy's incredibly laid back nature, we decided to add an unconventional aspect to his regime: hydrotherapy.



Hydrotherapy benefits are well known to anyone who has used a hot tub. However, the chemicals used in hot tubs are too harsh for animals, so specially designed tubs are available which include a treadmill to allow for increased exercise. High stress animals and those afraid of water don't do well. Buddy was neither. He would patiently wait to be strapped into his life jacket and placed into the warm water. Then, he would defy our initial efforts to get him swimming by relaxing and dangling in his life jacket, only kicking enough to slowly bob over to his floating lettuce (note the bored look in the photos).

Eventually we encouraged him to move his legs in a full range of motion to improve his back with

the water jets. With this therapy, in addition to diet and massages, he recovered well.

Unfortunately, Buddy was found deceased one morning—from what appeared to be acute GI stasis. I will always miss the sweetest, gentlest, most-loved rabbit to ever try hydrotherapy! 🐰



## Persistence Pays Off for Strays

A big thanks to the volunteers who went out on numerous occasions to rescue two stray rabbits at a mobile home park off of Sullivant Avenue. It took at least five trips to catch the male and female Dutch mix rabbits. They were hanging out under an apple tree, close to a lot of brush, which made them difficult to catch. They were caught on different days; the male was finally caught on Sunday, August 13th. The female went to the Capital Area Humane Society. She was ill and pregnant, and, sadly,

had to be euthanized. The male went into foster care with Martha Byczynski. Named Bentley, he took up permanent residence with the Byczynski family and is now bonded to their rabbit Reba.

The group of volunteers who helped capture the buns were Karen and Carl Winstead, Julie Schram, Danielle Patterson, Kelly Olpinski, Laine Kathary, John and Heather Dean, Cara Cox, and Martha Byczynski. 🐰

**Happy Hunting!**  
Use Goodsearch to help CHRS

CHRS can now make money when you search the web! Visit their website and select House Rabbit Society-Columbus as your charity of choice. CHRS receives a penny for each search performed.

“Make Mine Chocolate!” will be the Charity of the Day on April 3, 2007.

[www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)

## Focused on Education Exhibits and Presentations

The volunteers of the Columbus House Rabbit Society are always busy helping the Chapter raise awareness about house rabbits. From speaking with veterinary professionals to hosting tables at local events, here's what they've been doing in 2006:

### 2006 Vet Conference



Our year began with the annual Midwest Veterinary Conference in February. The average attendance is 6,000 veterinary and animal care professionals, many of whom look specifically for our booth. Our main attraction is our pen—we set up a pen to demonstrate our preferred living arrangement for house rabbits. Our booth also features a display of different types of hay and litter, a “food pyramid” showing the components of a proper rabbit diet, and a DVD player showing short videos on living space, daily routines, and exercise.

The 2007 Midwest Veterinary Conference will be held February 22-25, 2007. Prior to the event, we'll need volunteers to assemble information packets and fold brochures. If you are comfortable speaking to a variety of people and would like to help staff the booth, please contact Karalee Curry. We always encourage newcomers to join us, so we'll pair the less experienced with a seasoned volunteer.

### Easter Media Coverage

Foster bun Elaina made her television debut during Easter when she appeared on local news stations to educate viewers on the needs and proper care of house rabbits and to promote the “Make Mine Chocolate!” campaign. On April 11th, she appeared with TV personality Peg Kaplan on the WSYX Channel 6 news at noon. She also appeared with Karalee Curry on WCMH Channel 4 on April 17th. Each time, Elaina demonstrated how intelligent and social rabbits can be, much to the amazement and delight of the news staff. One news anchor said, “Wow! She seems really smart! Is she smart?” Karalee said, “YES! Rabbits are very smart!” But no one had to tell us that; we already knew! Further, on April 13th, Karalee was interviewed by the Louie Free Radio Show on WASN 1500 AM in Youngstown, Ohio. The host, Louie Free, is a rabbit parent and a vocal supporter of “Make Mine Chocolate!”



### RASCAL Unit

On July 8, 2006, the RASCAL (Roaming Animal Sterilization Clinic at Low Cost) mobile unit sponsored a day for rabbit spays and neuters. CAHS was kind enough to provide space for the mobile unit in their parking lot, with an area for CHRS volunteers to host an information table. The vet team performed 28 surgeries, and Karalee Curry, Terri Cook,

Laine Kathary and Julie Schram spoke with the rabbits' families about appropriate rabbit care.

### Pickerington Pet Fest

Judy deRoche and Danielle Patterson hosted an information table at the annual Pickerington Pet Fest, held Friday, September 1st, in downtown Pickerington. They set up a pen and passed out rabbit care information.

### Santa in September

CHRS volunteers John Dean, Laine Kathary, Lorrie Listebarger, and Julie Schram took shifts staffing our information table at Ohio Pug Rescue's 4th Annual Santa in September. The event was held on September 9, 2006 at Whitehall Community Park.

### Library Letters

One of the primary goals of the House Rabbit Society has always been educating the public, so this summer we considered ways to increase our effectiveness in this area. Because people often look to libraries first when searching for information, it was decided that we would donate a copy of the House Rabbit Handbook—free of charge—to every library in Ohio. We sent a letter explaining our objective to each library with instructions on how to obtain their free book. With the help of Kristin Halladay and Kate Hastings, we contacted 240 libraries. To date, we've had 91 libraries request books, with some asking for additional copies for their branches and bookmobiles. In total, we've mailed 137 books. Another library asked if we would give a presentation on house rabbits. Response has been very positive, including one librarian who said she had never heard of rabbits in the house and was glad to get the book. 🐰

# News from the Shelters

## Update on Happenings at our Local Shelters

**Capital Area Humane Society**  
CHRS members were busy this year helping the Capital Area Humane Society with animal care and special events. Read on for details on some of these exciting activities.

### CAHS Foster Care and Special Adoptables

The Capital Area Humane Society recently began a new foster care program. Six rabbits went into foster care in September and are doing splendidly (two are now adopted). Two gave birth while in foster care around September 20th. The foster families were great sports in dealing with the unexpected extras! The seven babies came back on October 28th, and all but one were adopted that very weekend—amazing success! The remaining bunny went home on November 10th. Two bunnies are also in the CAHS Special Adoptables program: Helen, who had eye removal surgery, and Leslie, a big white New Zealand who was not doing well at the shelter.

### Celebrity Chef

On March 23rd, Laine Kathary, Danielle Patterson and foster bun Elaina attended CAHS' Celebrity Chef event held at the Huntington Suite in Ohio Stadium. The event featured a silent auction, live music and lots of delicious food. The biggest star of the night was, by far, Elaina. She charmed everyone she met! Mark your calendar for next year's Celebrity Chef event—it will be Thursday, March 22nd. Watch for details as the date approaches.

### Adoption Day at Petsmart

On Saturday, September 16th, Julie Schram, Rosemary Weagle and Wendy Weagle attended an adoption event held at the Sawmill

Road Petsmart. Handsome bun Charles, a white New Zealand from CAHS, went with them. He was happy to give them a hand by lounging in the pen they set up to display proper rabbit housing.

### Want Quality Bun Time?

Do you have a spare 2-3 hours one day per month? That's all it takes to make a difference to the rabbits at the shelter. If you are interested in volunteering at the Capital Area Humane Society, please contact Danielle Patterson at [danielle@columbusrabbit.org](mailto:danielle@columbusrabbit.org).

### Humane Society of Delaware County

Both Danielle Patterson and Julie Schram of CHRS serve on the Board of Directors at the Humane Society of Delaware County. The Delaware shelter currently has an open board position available. If you are interested in learning more about being a board member, please contact Danielle Patterson at [danielle@columbusrabbit.org](mailto:danielle@columbusrabbit.org).

## The Year of the "Barn" Bunnies

Christmas 2005 brought a very special gift to some 17 adorable Holland lops in Cardington, Ohio. Their owner had abandoned them in a barn during the cold winter. A local cat/dog rescuer stepped in to provide temporary care, but was not able to provide safe shelter for such a large number of bunnies. Then, just before Christmas, Karalee Curry received the plea for assistance. She immediately sent a request to the members of CHRS and the response was overwhelming. Whether it was the generosity of the season or the desperation of their plight, our members opened their hearts and homes to all these bunnies. Some who could not foster offered monetary donations to help cover veterinary expenses. The bunnies were brought to Columbus in two groups—the first five came on December 30, 2005; the remaining twelve followed on New Year's Day 2006. We rushed to get them spayed and neutered and placed into their foster homes. Four of these cuties were adopted within days of arriving in foster care. Then, one by one, in the following months, they were placed in permanent, loving homes. Now, nearly a year later, only two remain in foster care. Wouldn't it be wonderful if they could all spend the coming holidays with their new families, being the sweet, spoiled house rabbits they deserve to be?



Maggie—see p3



Brooks—see p4



# 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 • Blog updates on Columbus HRS news & activities
- 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

Danielle Patterson—Capital Area  
 Humane Society Program Liaison  
 danielle@columbusrabbit.org

Karen Winstead—Educator/Fosterer  
 karen@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 Card Programs

Use your Kroger rechargeable gift card to donate to CHRS. Just add money to your card before you shop. Giant Eagle gift cards are available in denominations of \$50 & \$100. CHRS receives a 5% return on all Kroger and Giant Eagle gift cards sold. Or register your Meijer card at [www.meijer.com/rewards](http://www.meijer.com/rewards) with organization code 399973 and CHRS will get a percentage of your monthly total when you spend \$100 or more.

## Sponsor Corner

The Columbus House Rabbit Society wishes to acknowledge the ongoing support of the following businesses:

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

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

Dr. Diana Dornbusch Cron  
 Glenway Animal Hospital  
 6272 Glenway Avenue  
 Cincinnati, OH 45211  
 513/662-0224

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](http://www.columbusrabbit.org)  
[www.rabbit.org](http://www.rabbit.org)



*Buy a Bunny a Little Time!*

## Bunny General for All Your Rabbit Needs!

Shop Columbus HRS' Bunny General for rabbit care items and accessories. Proceeds go toward the care and housing of our foster rabbits.

- Oxbow products:
  - Hays: Timothy/Alfalfa/  
Oat/OrchardGrass/Brome
  - Bunny Basics/T
  - Bunny Basics 15/23
  - Critter Berries and  
Critter Carrot treats
- Exercise pens (3-4 ft.)
- Busy Bunny products
- Carefresh Litter/Litterboxes/  
Grooming Supplies/Water  
Crocks
- Cottontail Cottages



- Emergency Decals to alert emergency crews to your indoor rabbits.
- And much more!

To make an appointment to shop at Bunny General, please contact Karalee Curry:  
phone: 614/895-0004  
email:  
karalee@columbusrabbit.org

Great Ways to  
Support CHRS!

- ♦ *Purchase grocery gift cards from us or register your Meijer Card with our Organization Code (see page 11 for details)*
- ♦ *Save your spare change in a Bunny Money Jar*
- ♦ *Shop at Bunny General*
- ♦ *Sponsor a foster bun through our online Bun-to-Bun Sponsor program*
- ♦ *Sign up for Buck-a-Bun donation program*
- ♦ *Use [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)*
- ♦ *Volunteer your time!*