



Columbus House Rabbit Society Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1

Autumn 2007

Rabbit Arthritis

By Kirsten Love, DVM

As our knowledge and care of rabbits improves, they are living longer and better lives. As most animals get older, they start to develop chronic aging changes in the body, of which the most common is arthritis. With early recognition and care, arthritis is a controllable disease and many bunnies can still lead full, normal lives.

Arthritis is a word made of two parts: *arthro-* meaning joint and *-itis* meaning inflammation. Usually inflammation or swelling of a joint is started by a traumatic episode in the past, which may have gone unnoticed by even the

most astute caretaker. A missed jump, falling off the couch, weak ligaments or muscles from inactivity, twisting in mid-air, etc. can result in a strain on a joint and the bones rubbing against each other instead of gliding over top of each other. This causes the cartilage to erode away and results in bone grinding on bone. As the body heals, it may not be able to make the joint as perfect as it was before, but it keeps trying. This results in chronic pain, swelling, stiffness, and even bone fusion as the body tries different options to stabilize the joint. Rabbits, due to the

leaps and twists we love to watch, specifically are prone to back and knee injuries. Over time, the wear on the back creates chronic damage leading to arthritis and bone growth in the back as the body tries to fuse the disk region. The stiff region creates more stress on the nearby disk joints as they try to make up for the loss of movement and they also start to form bony arthritis. When the inflammation is in the knees (stifles), they can also swell and become stiff, preventing the rabbit from fully bending or extending the leg.

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Chapter News: Committees Forming

By Karalee Curry, Chapter Manager

Since its formation, our Chapter has continued to grow steadily and now has over 130 members! More people than ever request information, visit my home to learn about behavior and rabbit proofing, and buy supplies from Bunny General. While thrilling, this also means more work. Our officers and leaders are committed to our mission, but simply put: we need help!

Have you often wanted to be involved but weren't sure where to start? Has the Chapter helped you become a better bunny parent? Have you been looking for a way to give something back to the Chapter after adopting that delightful bun? We have the answer to how you can help!

We now have committees to address each area of need within our chapter:

- **Social events**
Help organize and plan social functions such as the Picnic and the Bonfire
- **Educational events**
Do you enjoy talking about rabbit care? Consider helping at our information table during community events or at our booth at the Vet Conference.

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Upcoming Events!

- ♦ **Annual Fall Bonfire**
October 13, 2007
 - ♦ **Holiday Party**
December 15, 2007
4:00pm — ??
Cedar Ridge Lodge at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park
 - ♦ **Midwest Veterinary Conference**
February 21-24, 2008
- For more details, visit**
www.columbusrabbit.org

Callie Jane: Caring for a Chronically Ill Bunny

By Marae Martin & Gretchen Steinkamp

Callie Jane is a big, beautiful bun with tons of personality who loves life, but it wasn't always this way. Callie was rescued from an outdoor cage. Her owner had her for about 6 months, when she and her boyfriend purchased a large dog. Need I say more? Marae walked up to the door and asked the people if they wanted to find a home for their bun. To our surprise, they said yes! Callie has been in our hearts ever since.

About a year after taking her in, Callie (then about 3 years old) developed an abscess in her jaw just under her eye. Her vet at the time removed what he could and placed antibiotic beads in the pocket of the abscessed area. This worked for a short time, but the abscess soon returned. Karalee Curry hooked us up with Dr. Lani Herrli in Columbus. We lived in Cincinnati at the time, so that was quite a drive. Dr. Herrli's expertise was well worth the trip. She did a CT scan and other tests to determine the problem.

Surgery #2 occurred. Much necrotic tissue was removed and Callie was sent home with tons of post care instructions. We had to write a schedule of care and check off each element as we did it: fluids, antibiotics, tummy meds, Critical Care formula, pain meds. Some meds were injectable, some oral. We crushed and mixed meds, poked and prodded the poor bun. Her eye drooped a bit after surgery due to some minor nerve damage and her tear duct remains clogged to this day (the clog was not a result of the surgery). Daily warm water compresses help keep the eye clean.

Marae spent the first two nights on the floor, sleeping sporadically, next to Callie Jane. She was given



Metacam for pain several times a day, but remained uncomfortable and undoubtedly frightened. Despite that, she seemed to relish the constant human company. We understand not all buns do, but Callie loves her pets even when ill! She had to have sub-q fluids three times a day immediately after surgery. Marae quickly became efficient with this practice, hanging the bag on lamps, bungee cords hooked to the bookshelf, or whatever Callie was laying near.

In spite of our best efforts, the tooth abscesses kept occurring. Dr. Herrli said this is common and that Callie's teeth were especially "gnarly". We took some vacation days after each of Callie's four abscess surgeries to care for her. It was intense. Most of Callie's meds had to be crushed and put in banana so she would take them. This worked for a minute. Smart bun! We soon had to resort to other modes of administration. Oral medications were specially mixed and dispensed through Hills Pharmacy in Milford, Ohio (they send it out by mail). Expensive, but worth it! We've since learned that we can crush most medications and put the powder in 100% carrot juice (in the produce dept.). Check with your vet to make sure this is ok first. A 3cc syringe (no needle, obviously) will accommodate that nicely. We use a shot glass, pour in some carrot juice, draw the syringe about $\frac{3}{4}$ full of juice. Pour

the remaining juice from the shot glass back into the bottle. Shoot the syringe full of juice back into the shot glass with the powder, mix and put back in the syringe. For feeding, we've found it works best to fit the syringe into the side of bun's mouth. Callie likes the juice, so she tolerates the syringe.

When Callie's fever spiked post-op, we used an ice pack wrapped in a towel placed under her chest to bring it down, per our vet's direction. Critical care formula was given to her every two hours by mouth through a large syringe to keep her gut moving. She didn't like that. We found that placing her bunny behind between our knees as we knelt on the floor, then leaning over, was the best way to do this. That way she was safely contained while we looked for her mouth!

We also learned how to take Callie's temperature. What fun! She didn't like that either, but tolerated our violation of her bunny bum. Your vet can show you how to administer fluids, give injections, and take your bunny's temperature without hurting her.



Some medications did have to be given by injection. We were told that you have to be careful doing this. Dr. Herrli showed us how to pull back on the plunger after we penetrate the skin and prior to injecting the meds so that we're

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Stars of the Silver Screen: Adoptable Bunnies

Like action and adventure? Prefer animation? Romantic comedies? Watch a new show every night when you add a bun (or two) to your home! Create your own movie magic with these dazzling stars, and catch all the up and coming rabbit talent at www.columbusrabbit.org.



Special Feature – Starring Roxy & Thumper!

Roxy and Thumper are a wonderful bonded pair of 2 year old buns. They each weigh 6-7 pounds, are litter box trained, and have been spayed and neutered. Roxy is a gray lop with the most wonderful, soft fur. She is sassy, pushy and has lots of attitude. Roxy enjoys being petted and hates being left out! She's a dainty little eater, but don't let that fool you-she can really put away the food! She enjoys her daily salad, especially when it includes broccoli, and loves an occasional treat of banana. Roxy spends her day doing the Bunny 500 through the family room and following Thumper wherever he goes. Roxy is very curious (some might say nosy!) and has to explore anything new within her reach. Thumper is solid white, and is the mellow half of this duo. He is very laid-back with a calm, friendly personality. He spends most of the day lounging and trying not to let Roxy's antics disturb him! He loves pets but loves food more. Thumper has never met a fruit or veggie he didn't like. He will dance in anticipation when he hears you preparing their salad. Both buns will do fine with older children. These buns are in a private home and CHRS is helping to find them a new home.



Nellie is a super sweet Lionhead rabbit who is about a year old. She is spayed and litterbox trained, and weighs about 2.5 lbs. Nellie is very gentle and adores being petted. She loves her cottontail cottage and other cardboard boxes to play and hang out in. Nellie loves her hay and veggies and can do some fabulous binkies! Nellie is friendly and will surely win your heart as she has ours!



Riccochet (Ricci) is a very soft, 5 lb., spayed female. She is litter trained and likes to eat greens and an occasional piece of fresh fruit for a treat. Ricci loves to be petted for long periods of time and also enjoys being brushed.

Jessie gives LOTS of kisses and her sweet temperament will steal your heart!

Jessie loves to be petted and will tooth purr to signal her appreciation. She has a very playful side as well, and loves to play hide and seek. She'll even wag her tail when she is "found!" Jessie is spayed and has excellent litterbox habits.



We need foster homes!

Want to make a difference in the life of a bunny? We recently lost several of our most dependable fosterers, and we desperately need volunteers to care for abandoned and unwanted bunnies while they await placement in permanent, loving homes.

All you need is a little extra room in your house and your heart. CHRS can help with the rest—vet care, housing, supplies, litter boxes, food, toys (fosterers pay for hay and greens).

Want to try it first before committing? Want to help but can't commit full time? Even signing up to be an emergency or temporary foster home is a big help. Temporary shelter can mean the difference between life and death for a rabbit in critical need.

Contact Karalee Curry at 614.895.0004 or karalee@columbusrabbit.org

Stars of the Silver Screen: Adoptable Bunnies



Molly is a big and beautiful 12 lb New Zealand White looking to take over your heart and home! She started life at a daycare confined to a very small cage where she could not even stretch out, but she's making up for it! Molly loves to stretch out on the rug and she can often be found flopped on her side,

front paws in the air, sound asleep! Molly comes running to her name, will almost trip you for her pellets and salads, and just soaks up all the petting and kisses she can get! She is spayed and is litterbox trained. Molly is **fabulous**, dahling!



You will want to pinch **Wally's** cute chubby cheeks! His unique black and silver fur is very lush. Wally hangs out in his foster mom's office and loves his hopper hideaway.

He races from his pen to the hideaway and back in sheer delight! Wally loves being petted once he feels comfortable with you. Wally is a very gentle bun, easy to handle, and very sweet. He will do best in a home without young children. Wally is neutered, litterbox trained, and weighs about 7 lbs.

Sadie is a very sweet rabbit who just loves attention. She'll stay by your side or lay her head at your feet, just waiting for you to pet her. This little cutie comes racing over for her pellets, and dances around for her hay. It's hard not to fall in love with her beautiful eyes and adorable personality. If you are looking for affectionate rabbit to add to your home, Sadie is your girl.



Here's another **Thumper!**

This girl is a spayed, velvety-soft Rex rabbit about 4-1/2 years old. She had two previous homes before coming into foster care and is tired of moving!

She is very sweet and loves to be petted and pampered. Thumper is being fostered in Dayton but transportation to Columbus can be arranged.



Wedding Bells and Bunny Bliss!

*In lieu of celebration favors
a generous donation has been made to
The Columbus House Rabbit Rescue
Please visit our memory table for more information on this charity*

When Kristin Halladay and Ross Collins tied the knot earlier this summer, they included the bunnies of the Columbus House Rabbit Society in their celebration. Instead of purchasing favors for each guest, they put their money toward a generous donation to CHRS. They also invited their guests to learn more about CHRS by including our mission statement on their memory table.

CHRS would like to thank Kristin and Ross for their kindness. We wish them a lifetime of happiness with each other and with their bunnies.



Simple Accommodations for Geriatric Bunnies

By Terri Davenport Cook

None of us wants to think about getting older. Maybe that's why it's easy to forget that, as we age, so do our pets. Or maybe they just do it more gracefully than we do. They certainly do it more quietly.

After losing two of our bunnies to illnesses, our beloved Benjamin slid into old age replete with its accompanying ailments. At eight years old, he developed cataracts in both eyes, limiting his eyesight. At nine, his back legs began to weaken, so much so that he could no longer hold himself upright. He wasn't exactly paralyzed; his legs simply couldn't bear the weight of his body. He learned to get around by scooting. During this time, he also became incontinent and was eventually diagnosed with kidney failure. Through it all, he never lost his gentle spirit, even when it was time to cross the bridge.

Benjamin's decline created new challenges for us, not the least of which was figuring out how to meet his needs without turning our own lives inside out. We began this process without even realizing it. First, we added a rug to help with traction and mobility. Then we used a pen to limit his range and supervised his play time, whereas he and his mate had always had free roam of our second floor.

We also cut the side out of a litter box to encourage its continued use. Even after he was no longer using the box to relieve himself,



he would still munch the fresh hay he found there. We placed washable incontinence pads in his pen to keep him (and the flooring) as clean as possible. At first, I found myself doing laundry twice a day to keep his bedding fresh. Purchasing additional padding allowed me to reduce laundering to once a day.



I groomed him daily to avoid the skin irritation caused by scooting. We did this as part of his nightly routine of subcutaneous fluids (for kidney function), and he seemed to enjoy the extra love and attention it brought.

As his blindness progressed, the placement of things became more important so he'd know where to find them: his hiding box, his litter box, his food and water bowls. After his mate died, we moved his pen to another room. It was set up in exactly the same configuration, so essentially, his world remained unchanged. His new location offered limited interaction with our other buns.

By gradually making changes to his living arrangements, we were able to both provide him with a safe and clean environment and minimize the disruption in our own lives brought on by his care. Because of this, we were able to enjoy his company into his eleventh year. 🐰

Eileen Vorst and Lee Anne Gilliam contributed to this article.

14 CARROT TIPS: GERIATRIC CARE

To help geriatric bunnies maintain their weight, mix together 1/8 cup of Oxbow Timothy Hay pellets, one Tablespoon of Critical Care, and one teaspoon of dry oatmeal. Add water until it is a thick consistency.

For measuring and giving liquids or Critical Care, the Ezy Dose baby care kit (available at drug stores) works great. It includes a spoon-dropper, 2 tsp. medicine spoon calibrated in ml. and tsp., a 1 tsp oral syringe with dosage cork that "won't stick even after repeated uses." It comes in a clear soft plastic case with a snap-down flap.

Drug stores have packages of clear plastic 1 oz. size medicine cups, which are great for mixing, measuring and holding liquids for drawing up into a feeding syringe. They have oz., tsp. and ml. measurements on them.

Clean messy bunnies with cornstarch and a flea comb. Dust the area with cornstarch and comb through. The dry powder will cause the mess to clump together and comb out easily.

Original A&D Ointment on bald spots protects sensitive bunny skin from urine burn.

Cloth incontinence pads wick moisture away from buns with limited mobility. Find them in the "older dog" section of the pet supply stores.

To keep multiple medications organized, make a chart and check off when they are given.

QUINCY EYE DROP SCHEDULE 6/19/07		
Lubrital - 2-3x/day	= ev. 8 hr (tube) - lubricator	
Voltaren - 1 x/day	= ev. 24hr (sm. bottle) - treats swelling/pain	
Trusopt - 3x/day	= ev. 8hr (big bottle) - treats pressure	
7AM - 8AM	6-7PM	11p-12a
✓ Voltaren		Trusopt
✓ Trusopt	✓ Trusopt	Trusopt
✓ Lubrital	✓ Lubrital	Lubrital
* Wait 10-15 min. between drops		
		Current date: 6/22/07

Rabbit Arthritis

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Clinical signs can vary because rabbits have adapted to hide their symptoms, even from their families. Signs can include: unwillingness to play as long or as hard; twitching in the back while petting; matting hair and fecal build up along the back from undergrooming caused by not being able to reach; inability to posture correctly for urination/defecation; shifting weight back and forth frequently and inability to get comfortable; consistently holding one leg out more from the body; and even teeth grinding. A physical exam will look for stiffness in the joints, and often an x-ray is used to determine the stage of arthritis in order to determine the best treatment.

Treatment options are designed to slow arthritis formation, protect the joints, and control pain. There is nothing currently available to reverse or completely stop the progression of arthritis. Controlled exercise keeps the joint mobility high - the body will not use energy to maintain a joint it isn't using. Gently massaging and moving the limbs at home is a great bonding exercise and helps protect the joints. Keeping the weight in a healthy range reduces wear-and-tear on the joints. For example, if you twist your knee and back, the last thing you want to do is try to carry an extra 20-60 lbs (10-30% extra weight on the average 200 lb

adult). Overweight rabbits don't move around as well, resulting in reduced joint mobility, and have additional weight wearing cartilage down faster.

Glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate are cartilage building blocks often used to support the remaining joint surface. Duralactin is a milk-based protein that decreases the reactive state of the body and joints. Both come in a variety of formulations and brands; however, nutritional supports are not well regulated by the government for quality and actual contents. Even within the same company, different bottles may vary in their actual concentrations in spite of the listing on the bottle. It is recommended to start with the brands made by companies performing quality control studies (available at veterinarians) for 2 months and then compare the response with other brands. Omega 3 fatty acids are also used to reduce the reactive state of the joints, though they are very rich and may increase weight.

Anti-inflammatory and pain medication may be needed at the time of diagnosis or as arthritis progresses. Many vets start with a medication which reduces the swelling and reaction at the joints, while controlling the pain and stiffness. Some common choices include: Metacam (meloxicam) and Rimadyl (carprofen). Every bunny responds differently to different

medications and if one isn't giving adequate control, another may work better. There are also straight pain medications which do not stop the inflammation, but control the pain and discomfort of arthritis. Tramadol is growing in popularity in rabbits along with buprenex (buprenorphine) for pain control. These can be used with any of the other medications as indicated, but do not have the anti-inflammatory component as Metacam and Rimadyl do.

Alternative and adjunctive therapies also are available in some areas. Hydrotherapy (see Vol. 4, Issue 2) takes the body's weight off the joints and encourages full range of motion. This is not a safe treatment option for high stress or water phobic rabbits. Acupuncture stimulates the body's existing nerve and energy pathways (meridians) to control the pain and signs of arthritis. Frequent visits are needed at the beginning for control, so having a certified acupuncturist nearby will be easier.

Even though arthritis is a common condition in our older rabbits, it is controllable and with treatment, they can still lead full, active lives. If you have any questions about arthritis or alternative treatments, contact your rabbit veterinarian. 🐰

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

Committees Forming

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- **Shelter Socialization**

It's always fun to play with bunnies! In just a few hours a month, you can help shelter rabbits find loving homes by simply spending time with them, allowing them to show their wonderful personalities.

- **Make Mine Chocolate!**

This international campaign—run solely by CHRS—began as a local effort to discourage giving live rabbits at Easter. Its message has been embraced by organizations worldwide. Our local effort needs to keep pace with our supporters. The most vital activity is spreading the word that rabbits are not disposable pets. Volunteers

are needed locally to pass out flyers, host information tables, attend events, etc.

- **Get involved!**

A fill-in volunteer form will soon be available on our website at www.columbusrabbit.org. Or contact Karalee Curry at 614.895.0004 or karalee@columbusrabbit.org.

Come Rain or Shine: CHRS Social Events

By Terri Davenport Cook and Eileen Vorst

CHRS members have kept things lively, swapping bunny stories, sharing food, fun and laughter, and having a great time together.

Cookie Exchange

Last December, Emma Fete and Nick Schaefer hosted the annual cookie exchange at their home in north Columbus. It was a terrific mix of new faces and old friends. We also got to meet their bunnies, who didn't seem to mind all the fuss. As always, there were lots of delicious treats, lively discussions and hearty laughter to go around.

Spring Picnic

June 2, 2007 began and ended with the sun shining on CHRS members, their families, friends, one dog, and one turtle who attended the CHRS summer picnic potluck at Westerville's Heritage Park. Not even a down-pour half-way through the day could dampen our spirits!



The event began with people mingling and swapping "bunny" stories, renewing old friendships, and making new friends. With food added to the fun, delicious favorites were enjoyed by all! Following the meal, we sat back and relaxed as winners of the raffle prizes and door prizes were announced. In addition, three awards to recognize outstanding volunteers were presented to:

1. Teresa Martini - The Gus B. Curry Meritorious Service Award for providing foster care, website assistance, and post-operative care for Capital Area Humane Society (CAHS) rabbits;
2. Judy de Roche - The Annie M. Curry Volunteer Service Award for her exceptional dedication to the rabbits under CHRS care including fostering in her home and devotion to the CHRS/CAHS shelter program;
3. Chuck Curry - Certificate of merit for his years of work in building the CHRS chapter and Make Mine Chocolate! Campaign.

Following the awards, Bunny Bingo began! As usual, this game was a big hit and kept coordinator Julie Schram (picnic coordinator) "hopping" back and forth with all kinds of bingo prizes. For the more energetic types, there were also outdoor games including Cornhole. Something for everyone!

Winners of our photo contest were Laine Kathary's Wilson (Bun In Action), Megan Metzger's troupe (Buns and Friends), and Kristen Lassiter's Cupcake (Cutest Face).

But it was Chapter Manager Karalee Curry who got the biggest surprise of the day: a birthday cake! She was amazed that our



group was able to sneak a cake in and have everyone sign her card right under her nose. All in all, it was a good day!

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

On June 22nd and August 10th, CHRS members, families, and friends watched the Columbus Clippers play baseball at Cooper Stadium with ZOOperstars as the entertainment. Each night, John and Heather Dean, coordinators for this event, met us at the front gate and ushered us to our seats. By game time, we were all sitting on the third base side in the General Admission seats eagerly anticipating the game's beginning.



To add to the excitement of the evening, John was dressed as a Clippers player and had clipboard in hand to record runs batted in and other statistics!

The weather was game-perfect for our evenings out. And what's a game without hot dogs and cracker jacks?

At each game, the ZOOperstars provided entertainment. They are huge inflatable animal characters based on famous athletes. If you've never seen them, they are a riot!

A big thanks to John and Heather Dean for coordinating these events. And thank you to all the members who came to join in the festivities!



Callie Jane

(Continued from page 2)

sure we haven't hit a vein. If you see blood in the syringe, pick a different spot. Who knew? We also had to change injection sites frequently to avoid the formation of HUGE scabs on her skin. The scabs that did form came off in time with a warm water compress, iodine, and gentle pulling. Dr. Herrli said it's best to get them off the skin as soon as they loosen rather than leaving them to come off in their own time.

We fed her alfalfa hay and "bunny junk food" AKA: Fiesta (no seeds) bun food from the pet store to get her to start eating on her own again. As we did this, we slowly decreased the critical care and fluids, per Dr. Herrli's instruction. We watch Callie Jane for behavior changes daily. If she stops eating her pellets or is less active for a few days, she needs to see Dr. Cron (our Cincinnati bun vet). Dr. Cron is a wonderful vet who said she is "still learning" about tooth care and is not afraid to refer to someone with more experience in a given area. She's wonderful and knowledgeable about the buns in every way, and we take all 4 of ours to her on a regular basis.



My kind of doctor! Drs Cron and Herrli have worked very closely together to coordinate Callie's care.

Here we are 4 years later. Callie is 7 years old. She had her last abscess surgery 9 months ago. Dr. Herrli removed a lot of necrotic tissue from her neck (the latest abscess site). We thought we would lose her that day, but didn't. She's a fighter. Recently, Callie developed a nasty sinus infection. She is on Zenequin, a very heavy duty, expensive (\$200 per month) antibiotic. When it stops working, there will be no other treatment available. We've decided that she won't go through any more surgery. She will live out her little bunny life in our living room with all the pets and kisses we have time to give her.

We've spent about \$3,000 and countless hours caring for Callie Jane. As a result of her intensive care, she has gone from a shy, frightened bunny in a cage to the most loving, trusting bun we've seen to date. If we had to do it all over again, we'd invest the cash and time. The love she's given us has been more than worth it.

Sadly, Callie was euthanized on Monday, July 30, 2007. The abscess ... came back with a vengeance, causing her pain and difficulty eating. We swore 10 months ago - no more heroic measures. We kept that promise to ourselves, but most importantly to Callie. She tooth purred ... as she was lying on Dr. Dornbusch's table being euthanized and petted. I held her close as she went over the rainbow bridge.

She may have lost the war, but she fought every battle with dignity to the end. We miss her intensely. 🐾

14 CARROT TIP: 'POPSICLE' TREAT

A frozen blueberry or raspberry can provide delicious entertainment for bun. She'll 'worry' it, rolling it around and licking it as it thaws. Do this in her pen or area that won't pick up berry stains.

Say NO! to PetSmart Selling Rabbits!

PetSmart has announced plans to begin selling rabbits in their stores. We need to convince them to stop before they start. Rabbit activists are already making an impression. Their original plan to sell rabbits in 40 stores has been reduced to 25 stores. Keep the pressure on them to scrap this bad plan altogether.

- **Sign the Petition:** Sign Best Friends Animal Society's "Selling Rabbits is Selling Out" Petition. Their goal is to reach 30,000 signatures. Visit their

website at <http://network.bestfriends.org/truth/news/17169.html> to read more and sign the petition.

- **Read what HRS says:** Read the House Rabbit Society's position and their Open Letter to PetSmart at ww.rabbit.org/hrs-info/petsmart_letter.html.
- **Write your own letter:** Politely voice your concerns to PetSmart that selling rabbits in their stores only adds to the problem of overpopulation and

abandonment. Encourage them to pursue working with rescue groups to offer rabbit adoptions in their stores. You might also remind them that their decision will influence where you spend your money to buy your pet supplies.

Direct your letter to:
PetSmart, Inc.
19601 North 27th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027
or
corpcommunications@ssg.petsmart.com

Opportunities to Teach and Learn Events, Exhibits and Presentations

Again in 2007, the Columbus House Rabbit Society's volunteers attended several events to educate the public about house rabbits. We also had the opportunity to meet with a representative from Oxbow, the company that makes many of the high quality products we use for our rabbits.

2007 Vet Conference



CHRS again had a booth at the Midwest Veterinary Conference in February. The highlights this year were two of our foster buns, Max and Elaina. They did their best to entice people to our booth and let them see for themselves how delightful rabbits can be. They gave us great opportunities to speak with visitors about proper rabbit care.

The 2008 Midwest Veterinary Conference will be held February 21-24, 2008. Volunteers can fold brochures prior to the event. Or if you would like to help staff the booth, please contact Karalee Curry. We'll pair newcomers with experienced volunteers for help and support.

Busy Bunnies at Easter

Easter 2007 was a busy time for CHRS members and the "Make Mine Chocolate!" campaign. This year saw one of MMC's biggest developments yet—a partnership with the National Confectioners Association, a professional trade

organization for candy makers. They conducted a "Battle of the Bunnies" survey that showed Americans prefer chocolate to real bunnies at Easter 20 to 1. Terri Cook represented "Make Mine Chocolate!" as a special guest on the Best Friends Animal Society's "No More Homeless Pets" forum. "Make Mine Chocolate!" was also featured in the Humane Society of the United States' "Kind News" kids' magazine and Catalyst magazine, in countless articles and letters to the editors of newspapers from Oregon and California to New York and North Carolina, as well as in college newspapers at Virginia Tech and New York University. In addition, Karalee Curry was once again a guest on the Louie Free Radio Show on April 3rd on WASN 1500 AM in Youngstown, Ohio. As a rabbit parent himself, host Louie Free is a strong supporter of "Make Mine Chocolate!"

Visit with Oxbow Rep



Members of CHRS met with Dawn Hromanik, Director of Education for the Oxbow Hay Company on April 12, 2007. Dawn showed a DVD and spoke on the history and culture of Oxbow. She answered questions on where their hay is grown and the process they use. The evening was topped off with a delicious and adorable bunny cake, compliments of Terri Cook.

Pet Promise Rescue Run



Volunteers Julie Schram and Laine Kathary hosted an information table at the Pet Promise Rescue Run on May 26, 2007 in the Arena District. Proceeds from the event benefit homeless pets in Central Ohio. Thanks, too, to Jeremy Cook for helping to set up the canopy.

Pickerington Pet Fest

Volunteers Kim Banks and Danielle Patterson hosted an information table at the annual Pickerington Pet Fest on Friday, September 7th, in downtown Pickerington. They set up a pen and passed out rabbit care information. 🐰

CHRS Members at CAHS

CHRS members who volunteer at the Capital Area Humane Society were involved in many CAHS events this year:

- **Paws on the Catwalk**—CAHS' premier fundraiser.
- **2006 Holiday party**—an evening of fun with other CAHS volunteers.
- **Celebrity Chef**—a fundraiser featuring some of the best gourmet food in Columbus.
- **Farewell party for Dr. Whitlock**—staff and volunteers said goodbye to the head veterinarian at CAHS.
- **Girl Scout Programs**—Brownie and Girl Scout troops work on animal care badges at the shelter.

Looking for Some Action? Find it at CAHS!

By Danielle Patterson

If you're wondering where the buns are, wonder no more! They can be found at Capital Area Humane Society (CAHS) located at 3015 Scioto-Darby Executive Court, Hilliard, OH 43026. CAHS was founded in 1883 and is dedicated to protecting animals, preventing cruelties and bringing empathy to society through teaching and advocating kindness for all.

Back in early 2003, a group of 11 Columbus House Rabbit Society members took on an initiative of branching out and volunteering at CAHS. While half of our founding volunteers are still active with CAHS, after 4 years we have only managed to add 6 additional volunteers to increase our total to 17. We are in desperate need of more volunteers in order to keep up with the inflow of rabbits.

Since I started volunteering in 2003, the flow of rabbits into CAHS has been constant. There has NEVER been a single day where we didn't have enough rabbits to fill our 13 cages on the adoption floor. Nor has there been a day when we didn't have at least 1 rabbit, if not 9 or more, waiting to leave the holding room and make an appearance on the adoption floor.

We have done amazing things in our brief 4 year collaboration with CAHS. All rabbits now receive timothy hay daily with their Purina Rabbit Chow pellets. All



rabbits are spayed or neutered before leaving the shelter and most are fixed before they even reach the adoption floor. Rabbits drink out of heavy water crocks instead of bottles. They are given treats, greens and chew toys. We have an exercise pen on display to show people what a rabbit's home should look like. CAHS sells important rabbit supplies right out of their store in the adoptions room. All rabbit adopters receive a copy of the HRS Handbook.

The number of rabbits adopted out of CAHS is phenomenal and it continues to rise. By my rough estimates, which are far from precise numbers, at least 50 rabbits were adopted in 2003, 91 in 2004, 83 in 2005, 114 in 2006 and half way through 2007 we are projected to top our 2006 adoption number.



CAHS rabbit care volunteer Kathy Bondra sweeping between cages

One of the main reasons CAHS is so successful at finding loving homes for rabbits is due to all the dedicated volunteers who work with and socialize the rabbits, clean the lobby cages, take rabbits to offsite adoption events, photograph adoptable rabbits and post their pictures and descriptions on the website, answer questions and concerns from potential adopters, make follow-up phone calls after a rabbit is adopted to ensure the



Kathy Bondra with CAHS lobby resident Allison

rabbit has adjusted well to his new home, create educational displays to teach people about house rabbits, etc.

Volunteering at CAHS is so simple, and the rewards are endless! You can pick and choose the day and time to volunteer that fits best with your schedule. Volunteering one time a month is all it takes to have a huge impact on the health and happiness of the shelter rabbits. If you think one person won't make a difference, you are gravely mistaken! Volunteering at CAHS is one of the best things I have ever done.

Being a member of Columbus House Rabbit Society needs to be more than just writing a check once a year to pay your annual dues. We need more people to be actively involved with the chapter and this is one of the ways! We all lead very busy lives, but setting aside a few hours to volunteer every month isn't asking a whole lot. CHRS has over 130 members and all it would take is for each member to volunteer 1 day a month and Capital Area Humane Society would be transformed to Heaven on Earth for rabbits.

For questions or more information contact Danielle Patterson at 614. 392.0154 or danielle@columbusrabbit.org. 🐰

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!

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 can be sent to terri@columbusrabbit.org

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

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- Extra Large Litterboxes
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Yesterday's News
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- Rabbit Pellets:
Oxbow Pellets Please
- Exercise Pens
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CHRS receives a 5% return on all Kroger
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 Simply add money to your Kroger
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Register your Meijer credit card at
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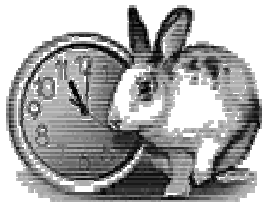
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Visit us on the Web!
www.columbusrabbit.org
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Shop Columbus HRS' Bunny General for rabbit care items and accessories. Proceeds go toward the care and housing of our foster rabbits.

- Oxbow products:
 - Hays: Timothy/Alfalfa/
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- ♦ **Save your spare change in a Bunny Money Jar**
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