

**House Rabbit Network Volunteers' Meeting
January 29, 2012
Arlington Center for the Arts, Arlington MA**

In Attendance: Suzanne, Maysoon, Nancy, Jean, Beth, Diane, Terry, Cherryl, Tara, Shannon, Kathleen, Erica, Stephanie, Jill and Josh, Lindsey and Aaron, Bill, Linda, Justin, Melissa (plus 2 others).

Volunteers in attendance help with various tasks including bun-sitting, education days, calendar production, foster homes, newsletter production, hotline, transports. Several board members were also in attendance.

2011 HRN statistics

- 131 adoptions
- 219 intakes
- 32 transfers
- 11 sanctuary rabbits
- 12 returns (mostly for financial reasons; 1-2 for behavioral reasons)

There was a question about the number of stray captures. Melissa said she will look it up.

Bunny Boarding

Boarding fees are an important source of revenue for HRN. There can be high demand during holiday periods. Stephanie is the boarding coordinator and she explained the procedures and paperwork involved.

Volunteer Committee

The Volunteer Committee is working on a document that lists the various tasks that are done by volunteers. This list will include descriptions and desired skills. Some tasks are already being done while unfilled tasks need to be prioritized. The information will be posted on the website.

Libraries and vet offices are good places to post HRN Volunteer flyers.

The following open tasks were filled:

- Interview potential foster homes= Jill
- Assemble and mail foster home packets= Cherryl
- Coordinate storage unit= Josh
- HRN Facebook wall posts= Tara

Education

HRN held 25 education days in 2011. Ed days are usually 3-4 hours long and held at pet stores or festivals. Education coordinator Diane posts about Ed Days and volunteers needs on the HRN Yahoo Group lists.

HRN Yahoo Groups

There are several Yahoo Groups; each focuses on a specific area, such as HRNVol (news and information for volunteers); HRNFoster (for the foster homes); HRNHotline (for hotline volunteers); HRNChat (for informal discussions about anything rabbit-related). There is also a monthly email newsletter that serves as a marketing tool.

Medical Committee

The Medical Committee coordinates medical information and vet appointments. If a rabbit in foster care has an issue that requires urgent attention, please contact someone on the Med Committee first. The Med Committee also offers rabbit health assessment trainings.

Fundraising

Fundraising events in the past year included: sales of The Christmas Bunny CD and a screening of the movie in Vermont; Lowell Spinners Ball Drop; art auction on Facebook. The Fundraising Committee would like to revive the Flatbread night and auction. The committee also seeks help with grantwriting, as there are several grant programs that HRN could be eligible for.

Nail trimming can also be a revenue source. This requires a waiver that the owner has to sign.

Hotline

The hotline is full staffed at this time but turnover is high. The hotline volunteers record messages received on the voicemail and returns calls. Calls can be done at home.

Foster Homes

There were 32 foster homes in 2011. That number has increased to 45 due to the Lempster rescue. Foster homes are located in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

Information packets are sent to foster homes. the packet includes marketing tips, foster home waiver, and other helpful information.

Lempster NH Rescue

A total of 86 rabbits were caught (-check that this is the correct #). A majority of the Lempster buns are in HRN care; fourteen babies were born after the rescue. McGrath did 18 spays/neuters in a span of 10 days.

Marketing

- 95% of adoptions originate from Internet searches.
- Foster homes are encouraged to write and post on the HRN blog.
- Articles are needed for future HRN newsletters.

The Marketing Committee seeks volunteers to help with graphic design (for example, Quark and Photoshop skills).

Shelter Committee

A survey went out to HRN volunteers via the Yahoo Groups to gather information that would be helpful in locating potential shelter sites. The committee seeks input about equipment and will need a lot of help to prepare information to present to the Board.