

House Rabbit Network Volunteer Meeting
Billerica, MA
February 7, 2015

Attendance: Suzanne (board member-president, foster home, medical, interim lead on fundraising); Sarah T (intake, foster home and foster coordinator; board member), Jean (shelter volunteer, secretary for the board), Carol (transports, takes “dump” calls), David, Linda (technology), Jim (new volunteer), Laura (shelter volunteer), Diane (education events, board member), Deb (hotline, adoption interviews), Beth F (shelter volunteer)

2014 summary

188 adoptions- second highest number in org history
Number of adoptions steadily increasing
Took in 192 rabbits
Some deaths (some were euthanasia, due to terminal conditions and suffering)
We’ve been taking in more sick rabbits from other shelters and we try to treat them.
We also take in rabbits with behavioral issues.

Foster Volunteers/Foster Homes

There are 34 foster homes- most have one bunny. **We always need new foster homes.** One large foster home in NH wants to close down. There are also rabbits in VT, where we need to phase out, and those fosters need to come to MA. The larger foster homes also need help with socializing and cage cleaning.

We also need volunteers to serve on the foster committee with Sarah Titus and Franny. We especially need someone to serve as a liaison to the foster homes. Duties would include follow-up with rabbit status and loan out of equipment; reminding foster homes about procedures when potential adopters visit, especially filing adoption fees and contracts.

The foster committee also needs help with writing and editing rabbit profiles; telling FB admin of new foster rabbits; coordinating NH foster home phase down.

Shelter

Still needs a manager, or two people to share manager duties.
Shelter is doing well.
Cage space is stable, good turnover

Social Media

HRN Facebook page is doing well; 6600 likes
Dawn is the Petfinder and Adopt a Pet administrator.

Finances

2014 expenses were lower than previous year
Income is stable

Revenue comes from fundraisers (Flatbread benefit in the fall; comedy benefit in the spring); memberships, sponsorships, adoptions, bun-sitting.

We desperately need help with fundraisers.
HRN hasn’t done a yard sale in a long time.

Newsletter

In production, go out in two weeks
Ideas and articles welcome

Hotline

Sarah Robertson is the coordinator
Please acknowledge when you get an email from a hotline volunteer

Education Events

HRN has had information booths at various venues and events where HRN volunteers talk to visitors about rabbit rescue and adoptions, and rabbit care. When possible, we bring a foster rabbit along. New volunteers are paired with experienced volunteers. We do not do education events at pet stores that sell rabbits, cats, and dogs.

Bun-Sitting

Jenny Mullen is the coordinator. She sends requests on the HRNVol list.
Bunnies spend the time in volunteer's homes while bunnies' owners are away.

Website

Suzanne is looking to transition the website to a different platform.

Email Lists/ Yahoo Groups

- HRNVol for HRN volunteers and posts of volunteer opportunities (bun-sitting, ed events, stray rescue coordination, etc.)
- HRNChat: Primarily this group has been used for conversations about bunnies and bunny behavior, and to keep the HRNVol volume low. Lately this group has had low volume, most likely because people are using Facebook more.
- Restricted: HRNFoster, HRNHotline, HRNShelter
- Monthly email bulletin

Easter Campaign

We encourage volunteers to write op-ed pieces to newspapers to educate the public that rabbits are not disposable pets, especially around Easter time. Newspapers don't have the time and money to have a reporter research and write an article, so offer to write an article for the local paper or send a press release. It has been harder to get stories in the newspapers about HRN, but there is better luck with local news stories of HRN volunteers.

Rabbit Health Assessment Classes

Betsy is the instructor. Classes have been very helpful.