



**House Rabbit Network**

P.O. Box 2602

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Dedicated to educating the public, to fostering and to the adoption of companion rabbits. 781-431-1211 or [www.rabbitnetwork.org](http://www.rabbitnetwork.org).

# RABBIT TRACKS

Fall 2008

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Plus: News, Memorials & More!

"Truffle" is our 2009 HRN Calendar cover bun and still available for adoption.



# Rescuing Rascally Rabbits

by Carol Youngclaus

This article is dedicated to Zorro, a beautiful black bunny who left an indelible impression on my right forearm. He's safe in foster care now, and I hope he finds his forever home very soon – he's such a sweetie!

Whoever said rabbits are dumb got it wrong. Way wrong! Anyone who has ever tried to capture a stray bunny will tell you that. But an abandoned or runaway bunny's chance of survival depends on successful human intervention. Depending on location and time of year, a stray domestic bunny faces attack by dogs, cats, raccoons, birds of prey, coyotes, even mites and maggots. And, unfortunately, you can't reason with a rabbit – s/he will think you're just another very large creature looking for a meal.

Chasing a rabbit is futile. Rabbits run very fast in unpredictable, constantly changing directions, and they can squeeze into seemingly impossible, impenetrable places. Even the rare uber-friendly bunny who will let you get close enough to touch will bolt if you try to pick him or her up, and then you'll have a spooked bunny who will be even harder to catch the next time.

So since you can't outrun a rabbit, you have to outwit it. And that's where a little experience helps a lot.

You might be tempted to try a Havahart® trap. This can sometimes be successful, but more often than not it results in a captured skunk or raccoon while the rabbit stands at the edge of the garden laughing at you. If you want to give it a try (or need to,

if you're trying a single-handed rescue), be sure to set the trap up in the early morning and/or evening and be prepared to monitor it closely. Do not set the trap and walk away expecting a live rabbit to be waiting for you in a few hours! Even assuming the trap works and the rabbit is captured, the poor bun will be terrified and at the mercy of any other animal that comes by. You may think the bun is safe inside the trap because other animals can't get at it, but rabbits have a tragic mental coping mechanism: when a predator comes close enough to terrify them, they can simply go into shock and die. (In fact, this is one of the strongest arguments against keeping rabbits in outdoor hutches or letting them play outside.)

So now that you know what not to do, here are some techniques that usually do work:

**Have a plan.** Know what to do for the rabbit once you capture it. Make sure you have a pet carrier or a very sturdy ventilated box readily at hand. Have fresh hay or greens (romaine lettuce, carrot tops, parsley, kale or dandelion greens are good choices

– avoid iceberg lettuce or anything from the cabbage family) along with fresh water in case the bun wants any of these things, but don't be surprised if s/he is too scared to take them.

**Get as many volunteers** as possible to help you, and then coach them ahead of time on the right and wrong techniques. Enlisting a posse can be the difference between success and frustration.

**Plan your rescue on "rabbit time".**

Since rabbits are most apt to emerge at dawn and dusk to feed, your best chance for success will be in the early morning and late afternoon/early evening.

**Think like a rabbit.** Try to determine its habits. Pay attention to where s/he comes and goes. Look for fresh droppings, chewed plants or gnawed bark, spots where the ground has been dug a little (domestic rabbits rarely dig deeply enough to burrow deep into the ground, but they often do start holes and depressions, especially in soft ground near the edges of open areas). If you see a small hole, check to see if it might be a rabbit escape



*This is during a stray capture – about 5 exercise pens were used to completely surround the rabbit, a tree, a fence and lots of garden area.*

route (see Joey's story at <http://www.wickedlocal.com/wilmington/news/x2043505582/Down-the-rabbit-hole>).

**Do some pre-work** long before the rabbit tends to emerge and feed. Try to block off escape routes, leaving only one or two ways out. The most effective way to do this is to use ex-pens, which are folding metal or plastic grates that can be linked together to form a corral. If ex-pens aren't available or you have only a limited number, almost anything will do as long as it is high enough to prevent an escape leap (*note: some rabbits are great jumpers, so three feet tall is apt to be inadequate!*),



*The stray rabbit is under the small pine tree here, but is completely surrounded by exercise pens, so there is a slim chance of her escaping capture by volunteers.*

sturdy enough to stop a barge-through/under, and safe enough to prevent injury to the humans and rabbit (no barbed wire, sharp edges or exposed nails).

**Prepare to wait.** And wait. And wait. Practice stillness. Practice silence. Make yourself invisible. Wait some more. At this point, the rabbit has the advantage and any hasty move on your part will most likely doom the effort to failure.

**When the rabbit finally does turn up,** wait some more. Make sure you can

close all escape routes before s/he can get to them. When the time is right, have all volunteers close off the open ends and reinforce any areas along the perimeter that might be breached. Then gradually bring the edges in toward the rabbit until s/he has no room to run. Only then should the most experienced, confident rabbit handler step into the enclosure and pick up the rabbit, holding it against his or her chest, with one hand securing the bunny's butt and the other hand securing its shoulders.

*Note: Don't be timid! Be willing to be kicked, scratched and bitten without letting go or allowing the rabbit to kick hard enough to break its back!*

Try to hold firmly and try not to injure the rabbit. This is obviously a judgment call: If the potential injury would likely be grave, just let the bunny go; you can try again later that day or the next. At the other extreme, if the rabbit is in immediate peril

(e.g., from known predators, lack of safe cover, extreme weather or the rabbit's own poor physical condition), try hard to capture him or her. You'll need to find the fine line between excessive force and firm determination. Remember that while you must try not to hurt the rabbit, he or she will be given veterinary care right away, and there are therapies for unavoidable small problems.

What if you know where the rabbit hides but you can't reach him or her? There's a plan for that, too:

**If the enclosure is small,** such as under a shed, block off all but one side against the building. At the open end, widen your enclosure so that the bunny will have some run room (at least 8–10 feet if possible) once s/he emerges. Then use a long stick such as a flagpole to "persuade" the bunny to leave the hideout. Once the rabbit is in the open, wait until you can reach the hole and close it off before the bunny can get back to it. If you pounce too soon, your opportunity will be lost.

**If the enclosure is large,** such as under a garage or the crawl space of a house, you'll have to wait (sometimes for a very long time) for the bunny to emerge on his or her own. After that, the procedure is the same – make sure you can reach the escape hole before the bunny can.

In both cases, and depending on the actual territory, you might want to give the bunny a lot of run room within your enclosure. This will ensure that the bunny won't have time to go back underneath the building. Then, as with an open capture, slowly bring the edges of the barrier together until the rabbit has nowhere to go and then send in your most confident, experienced wrangler to pick him or her up.

#### **What to wear and what to bring:**

**1.** Make sure you're dressed for insects in summer (check for ticks afterwards, too!), for cold in winter and in waterproof rain gear in inclement weather. You'll be standing stock-still for long periods, so cold will feel much colder and wet will feel much wetter! One trick that works particularly well in cold weather is to wear a portable thermal pad inside your coat and hand and foot warmers inside your gloves and shoes; hats, of course, are essential.



***This stray rabbit was caught within the confines of the ex-pens by an HRN volunteer. This particular capture took almost 2 days of waiting and many volunteers.***

2. You'll need to bring flashlights. Even in daylight, there will be dim bunny hideouts, and many bunnies stay out until well after dark.
3. A long stick or flagpole can be very helpful for "persuading" a bunny to leave its hideout under a building, bush or shed.
4. A treat such as a small piece of banana might tempt a reluctant bunny to emerge from its hiding place. It can't hurt to stick one in your pocket.
5. Communicate with your posse via cell phone, not voice

or unobtrusive hand signals – there's nothing like an excited shout to spook a rabbit! Make sure team members have each other's phone numbers.

6. Don't forget to bring a carrier for each bunny you're trying to capture.

Don't expect this to be quick or easy, and don't give up too soon. Most rescues take at least two hours, not counting travel time. It isn't quick or easy to catch a runaway rabbit, but the satisfaction of saving that little life is indescribable!



## How to Find a Rabbit Vet

by Astrid M. Kruse, DVM

When your rabbit is sick and needs urgent care, it's an inopportune time to start looking for a vet. Whether you have moved away from your previous vet, adopted a new bunny or want to switch vets for whatever reason, the best approach is to research and find a vet you think you might like and then schedule a routine physical. Any medical issues, current or potential, can be identified and a medical treatment plan made if necessary. Also, having your bunny as an established patient at a clinic facilitates getting an appointment if any issues requiring immediate attention arise – a vet can be more amenable to wreaking havoc on their appointment and personal schedule for someone who is not a demanding stranger. Make sure you have the right veterinary match lined up for you and your bunny before an emergency strikes.

Finding a vet who is knowledgeable about rabbits and who can counsel you in making appropriate decisions for routine preventative care, as well as advanced medical and surgical therapy in the case of a potential health crisis, is very important. You need a vet you can trust and with whom you can communicate. However, while bedside manner is important, medical and surgical skills can be more critical (ideally, you'll be able to find both personal warmth and professional excellence in the same person). A good resource to start with is a list of rabbit-savvy vets provided by a local rabbit rescue group; many breeders, unfortunately, don't believe in bringing even a sick rabbit to a vet and can be a poor resource. Often there are only one or two vets at a particular hospital who have a special interest in rabbits, so go by doctor name and not hospital name. You can also call a

number of local vets and ask to whom they refer rabbits, and see if the same name is mentioned repeatedly – often it will be a general practitioner with a strong interest in rabbits, or sometimes a specialty hospital with an exotics department.

A general practitioner with a commitment to rabbits may be a good option for more routine care. In the U.S., after earning an undergraduate degree and making it through a rigorous and highly competitive veterinary school acceptance process, veterinary students spend four years learning about several core species, usually dog, cat, cow, and horse, with a smidgen of pig/goat/sheep/llama thrown in. They are then licensed to treat all species except humans, although most will restrict their practice to only certain species. Some vet schools teach an overview of lab animal medicine, which bears about as much relation to pet rabbit

medicine as it does to car mechanics (in my opinion). Most veterinary students gain rabbit experience only if they actively seek it out through externships with “exotics” vets, conferences, professional journals and forums, and textbooks.

While there is no such thing as a specific rabbit “specialist,” there are some vets – who may or may not be part of an exotics or special species department at a large referral vet hospital – who do have additional formalized residency training in exotic species (yes, your rabbit is exotic and lumped in with birds, sugar gliders and iguanas). Appointments and care are often expensive, but any advanced care your rabbit might need, be it MRI or CT or radiation therapy, can be performed. Currently the only board certification is “Diplomate American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP), Avian Practice” for a bird vet who has often done a two-year residency covering all exotics species; although work is in progress for an exotic small mammal ABVP board (which will still lump your rabbit in with hedgehogs, degus, prairie dogs and their ilk). Specialists may be hard to find in your particular area



*Here, a recent stray that came into the rescue is being examined by a “rabbit savvy” veterinarian.*

and tend to be more expensive than a general practitioner, but they’re probably well worth it for difficult problems.

Hopefully an empathetic and competent support staff will come along with a vet who is willing and able to see rabbits. Most likely the nurses or technicians will be taking blood and X-rays, monitoring anesthesia and providing treatment care, as well as filling medications and answering your questions. The staff’s level of dedication to rabbits is almost as important as the vet’s, since they are on the front lines and possibly handling your bunny more than the vet. Make sure that you get the sense that your rabbit is just as valued as a cat or dog, and never “just a rabbit”!

I recommend setting up a routine physical exam appointment to meet the vet and to have him or her meet your bunny. Be ready with a list of questions, in case you have any doubts. Some possibilities: How many rabbits do you see in an average week? How many rabbits do you spay/neuter in the average month? How many rabbit dentistry do you do in the average month? Should rabbits be spayed (absolutely “yes”)? Do you recommend that rabbits be kept indoors (“yes”)? How important is

hay (“as important as air and water”)? Do you fast rabbits before anesthesia (“no”)? How often do you treat gastrointestinal stasis successfully in rabbits? Do you use penicillin (answer should be “yes, injectable only”)? How important are pain medications (“very”)?

With a bit of effort, you will hopefully find a vet with whom you and your bunny have a good rapport and can develop a long-term relationship. If you’re lucky, you might see your vet only once or twice a year. If your bunny faces health challenges, you both may get to know your vet more closely through frequent visits. Having a trusting relationship with a caring and knowledgeable professional is invaluable.



**Bunny Bash Awards!!!** Despite the passing summer showers, this summer’s Annual Bunny Bash was attended by many volunteers and friends of HRN. During the Bash, the Annual Awards were presented to fellow volunteers:

**Rabbit Wrangler Award**- Derrick and Carol, for all their help rescuing the Plymouth rabbits ~ **Educator of the Year**- Bill, for all his help and hard work with ed days ~ **Volunteers of the Year**- Tricia and Tommy, for all their work taking pics, the blog, the calendar, Yankee Candle and Flatbread. HRN has been successful because of all the great work from our volunteers.

# Marlo's Thymoma

by Corrina Prueschoff  
(reviewed by Astrid M. Kruse,  
DVM, Marlo's veterinarian)

I adopted Marlo in November 2006 from the House Rabbit Network as company for Oliver after Tapsi, my nine-year-old girl bunny, left for the Bridge. Tapsi moved with me from Germany to the United States when I took a job here in 2005. I adopted Oliver (the lop) from the House Rabbit Network shortly after that.

When I adopted Marlo, she didn't seem to have any health problems except that she was sneezing and coughing every time she got upset: "Mom, my treat needs to be here faster!" or "Oliver, you have to get out of the way." She is a feisty little bunny girl with lots of rabbitude.

In November 2007, she suddenly started losing weight and got a lot quieter. She also ate less and coughed more.

I took her to the vet and several x-rays and ultrasounds were taken. The ultrasounds revealed a large cystic mass in her chest that was filled with fluid. She was in serious respiratory distress and my vet decided to drain the cyst in order to take pressure off her lungs and heart. Shortly after, I had to go on a business trip to Europe and Marlo and Oliver stayed in an HRN foster home. When I came back, she was still alive but her respiratory distress became worse day by day. Even if the pathologist's report was inconclusive, my vet was sure it was a thymoma or, even worse, lymphoma. In the following four weeks, the cyst was drained

three times. After the cyst was drained the last time, she almost left for the Bridge. She didn't eat for a week, was very weak and I was about to take her on her last trip to the vet when she suddenly started munching kale (I won't forget that moment).

Having seen how badly she coped with anesthesia, I was sure that neither surgery nor radiation therapy would be



*Marlo enjoying greens!*

an option for Marlo. My vet researched medical treatments but there wasn't much out there. At the beginning of February 2008 – she had just started eating again – I started her on Metacam, Lasix and Reglan, expecting that she had only a few weeks left.

Then the miracle happened. Marlo suddenly was her feisty old self and her breathing was almost back to normal. I took her in for an ultrasound at the end of February 2008 and the cystic mass had disappeared.

However, my vet always suspected a solid tumor within the cystic mass,

and there it was. At least it's very small and who knows how long it will take to grow. The only explanation my vet had was that the Metacam did something good. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, of which Metacam is an example, may help with certain types of cancers (only piroxicam has been specifically proven to help with canine transitional cell carcinomas). Nobody will ever know why the fluid disappeared from the cyst or where it actually went.

Since then, Marlo's health has gone up and down. She has good weeks and not so good weeks. Recently, her heart rate suddenly and rapidly increased, and she lost her appetite. But believe it or not, she recovered again. I suspect that the cyst had filled up and then the fluid disappeared again. I now also inject her with Sandostatin once daily. I haven't been taking her to the vet during these summer months because it would probably do her no good, especially when the outside temperatures are very high. Also, it wouldn't change anything in terms of her treatment. I know when I take her, it's likely to be her last trip. It's all about quality of life now and she still has plenty of this.

At this time, Marlo is on only Metacam, Lasix, Reglan and Sandostatin. No surgery, no radiation. Marlo is a fighter!





## Foster Homes: The Heart of HRN

HRN couldn't rescue the rabbits that we do if it weren't for the dedication, commitment and love of our foster homes. Large or small, all of our foster homes contribute and make a difference in the lives of the rabbits we rescue from "death row" in shelters, strays in the woods or backyard breeders who are closing down and don't care what happens to the rabbits. If you've got a little extra space in your home and a little extra love in your heart, please consider becoming a foster home. Even if it's for just one or two rabbits, every little bit helps us out.

### *For Foster Homes Everywhere*

*~Author Unknown*

My round eyes look up at you,  
who reads the words created by the tap..tap..tap....

I lay beside my mommy, on the tile where it is cool,  
and I will wait for however long she wishes to stay down here,  
and tap tap on her laptop.

Sometimes when I listen to her familiar sounds,  
a memory-wind brings to me sadness,  
of days when I was not permitted amongst those who walk on twos.  
Of days when drink and food were the only interactions we had.  
Of times when my litter after litter were given off to unfamiliar humans,  
never to be seen again.

On cold and rainy days, of snowy frosty days,  
of days so hot in my hutch, my coat felt like a prison out in the sun.  
All those memories surface when that memory-breeze slides in...  
and that is why I look up at you.

Had it not been for you, with the kindness of your bottomless heart,  
in your arms that held me when I came, matted and feces infected,  
in your house amongst your own litter, I would not be here today,  
laying with my mommy, listening to those sacred familiar sounds  
in a home that I know is mine,  
away from elements of wind and cold--MINE.

I am adopted.

Had it not been for you, my foster home, I would not have known how to act inside,  
nor trusted this good woman's touch,  
nor trusted the attention I receive consistently and tenderly.

I think of you when that memory-breeze comes by, for now you are associated with it,  
as my bridge from there to here. You sacrificed your own heart to allow me to find love amongst your kind.

I will forever be grateful for this.

When I was out alone in the cold and wet, the world was such an ugly place to belong.  
I never thought of wanting to be anywhere else but there, for I did not know there was anywhere else except there.

You proved me wrong.

I still remember your smells and the movements of your day.  
It was your touch that awakened me.

You thought you were just removing mats from me.

All the while you were taking away the smallness of my world.

Do you think of me at times, as I do you? I could smell the many bunnies that have been in your dwelling.  
For me, you were my only bridge. For you, there were many that came to you and left again. Were there so many that I am not one to be remembered?



***Buggy, a stray rabbit that came into HRN foster care with a broken leg. She is still in foster care while her leg heals. Due to the multiple surgeries Buggy has had, "Buggy's Fund" has been set up to help offset the cost of her veterinary care. If you can help her, please do so here: <http://babybaileyfund.chipin.com/buggy-fund>***

My eyes flit back and forth as I think of this, and my mommy instinctively drops her hand from her tap tap of her laptop and softly strokes me. It is her touch that assures me that you do remember me.

You chose her for me. If you loved me enough to give her to me, then I know you remember me. Thank you.

::::a soft sigh::::

My mommy looks over at me and smiles. She tells me we will be having company. There is a bunny who will come to stay with us a short while, until he gets to go to his forever home.

My mommy cups my bunny nose in her hands and reminds me we must give back what we are given.

I know my mommy's heart.

It will break her heart every time a bunny will leave.

My heart races. Surely she needs me to get through this.

It is what I am here for.

To love her when she needs to be loved.

I rise and nudge her chin with my head.

I remember your eyes and realize the new bunny will always remember my mommy's eyes. Her touch.

It is wonderful to have an adopted home but our foster homes are just as important, even if we are only there for just a short while.

My mommy turns to tap tap again, and I lay my head back upon the tile. I settle into the wondrous familiarity of my home and begin to count the breaths until our foster bunny arrives...

# HRN News

## 3rd Annual Flatbread Benefit Night

Flatbread is a unique restaurant that promotes organic farming and the community. Tuesday nights are Benefit Nights where Flatbread donates \$3.50 from every large flatbread and \$1.75 from a small flatbread to a local charity. HRN is honored to be the chosen charity for October 21st from 4 PM to 9 PM.

Please keep the date open and



come join your friends for dinner that night at Flatbread! HRN members will be there the entire night. Hang out, eat and chat with your fellow rabbit friends. We will have a Chinese Auction with prizes too! Check this link for Pick a Prize Auction Prizes: <http://www.rabbitnetwork.org/flatbread.shtml>.

Ticket Prices:

- \* 1 ticket for \$1
- \* 7 tickets for \$5
- \* 30 tickets for \$20

Auction will be held at 8:30 PM! You do not need to be present to win; however, you will need to pick up any prizes within 30 days from the Wilmington-Woburn-Bedford area. If your schedule is tight, you can also purchase a flatbread to go and HRN will still benefit!

Flatbread is located at 213 Burlington Road, at the corner of Rte. 62 and Network Drive, on the Bedford/Burlington line, easily accessible from both routes 3 and 128/95. It is across the street from Mitre and about a mile from the Burlington Mall.

## 2009 HRN Calendar \$10.00

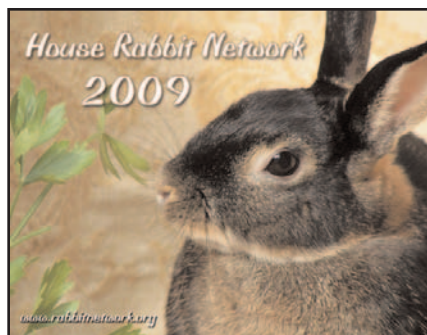
Watch our rabbits all year long with your own copy of the 2009 HRN calendar!

Professional printing at a low price. Buy one for yourself and your friends and family too! Pick one up in person

at an HRN event or order online (preview here too): <http://www.rabbitnetwork.org/newshop.shtml#cal>.

Shipping cost: \$3 first calendar, each additional add another 50 cents.

Order now! For orders larger than 5 calendars, please email us at [info@rabbitnetwork.org](mailto:info@rabbitnetwork.org).



## The Bunny Store & More's 3rd Annual Holiday Fundraiser Helps HRN

During the holiday season, we often reflect and give thanks for the blessings in our lives. Most "animal people" will say the greatest love of all is sharing your home with furry companions.

Unfortunately, many rescues and shelters are filled with homeless pets who do not have a



place to call their own. The Bunny Store & More is deeply committed

to supporting rescues and shelters who work hard each day to find loving homes for their charges. Their Holiday Fundraiser began in 2006 and was

such a success, they decided to make it an annual tradition. For every holiday ornament sold, they will donate 10% of the ornament price to the rescue/shelter of your choice. Upon checkout, please

indicate the *House Rabbit Network* in the "Annual Holiday Fundraiser" text box. They are priced at \$14.99 each and can be customized (as long as time isn't an issue). There are also some ornaments from their last artist and they are priced at \$6.99. HRN gets 10% of the price of all holiday ornaments sold (not just species-specific).

<http://www.thebunnystore.com/bunny-ornaments.htm>

## Do You Shop Online?

During this holiday season you can shop and earn money for HRN! We are registered with both IGIVE and HeartOf. If you purchase through IGIVE or HeartOf, a portion of your sales price will be donated to us! Just register as a user, choose the *House Rabbit Network* as your charity, and shop at the Gap, Barnes & Noble, Hickory Farms, Drugstore.com and many more of your favorite online stores.

<http://www.igive.com/intro.cfm>  
<http://www.heartof.com/>

## Shaw's Receipts – Keep 'em Coming

HRN is calling on everyone who shops at Shaw's or Star Market to hang on to all their register receipts!



We are still participating in a fundraiser whereby Shaw's will donate to HRN one percent of the total value of receipts collected. So, for the foreseeable future, please ask your friends, colleagues, and family to pass on their receipts. They should be mailed to:

**House Rabbit Network**

**P.O. Box 2602**

**Woburn, MA 01888-1102**

Funds raised will go toward the medical expenses of HRN's foster bunnies.

## Upcoming Ed Events

We hold education events at various locations in Eastern Massachusetts. All dates and locations are on our web site at [www.rabbitnetwork.org](http://www.rabbitnetwork.org). Please stop by to visit, and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have about rabbits and their care. Information about adoption, along with a listing of rabbits currently up for adoption, will also be available. We do not adopt out on-site.

- Nov. 1, Boston Vegetarian Food Festival, Reggie Lewis Center, Boston, 10 AM–6 PM  
<http://bostonveg.org/foodfest/>
- Nov. 22, Especially For Pets, Wayland, 12 PM–3 PM

## Can You Help?

Are you an accountant? If so, would you consider helping us during tax time? We are looking for an accountant to donate his or her time to help us with our taxes. If you can help, please contact us at [info@rabbitnetwork.org](mailto:info@rabbitnetwork.org).

We also need help spreading the word about HRN. Our larger foster homes can always use people to help clean cages and socialize the

buns, as well as donations of pellets, litter and hay. Help is also needed with fundraising ideas, such as walkathons, bake sales, etc. If this is you, email us! Donations such as stamps, envelopes, gift cards for stores and, of course, monetary donations are always appreciated. Can you help transport rabbits from shelters or from foster home to foster home? Let us know if you can! If you have a large vehicle such as a truck, hay runs would help us transport bales of hay to foster homes. Basically, volunteers are always needed and HRN is run solely on the time and dedication of our volunteers. Please consider helping us and the bunnies!

## Memorials

*Those of us who choose to love such delicate creatures as rabbits take the risk of having to say good-bye before we are ready. When this happens, the following brief poem may help us remember to treasure what we had, loved, and must let go:*

*"He who binds for himself a joy  
Must the winged life destroy.*

*He who kisses the joy as it flies  
Lives in 'Eternity's sunrise."*

*~William Blake*

## Clover

3/07 ~ 7/26/08

As rare as a four-leaf clover in a field of green, so was this dainty little girl. A tiny, young, chin-chilla-colored dwarf with big, dark eyes and beautiful lashes. Just a little pip-squeak of a thing. She was part of a seizure case up in VT where the man who owned them quickly became overwhelmed with four-legged furries.



Clover, along with some of her other friends, eventually ended up in the care of the HRN. Unfortunately, the inside of Clover's little body was riddled with lesions, which was not something that she could overcome, even with the best veterinary care. Clover's quiet spirit will live on as she passes The Bridge into the fields of green. She will be missed.

*Rest in peace, Little One*

## Ruby & Ky

2/01 ~ 8/08 and 2/01 ~ 8/08

Ky, what a strong soul you were. You fell ill two years ago and we thought we would be lucky to "buy you a month." You clearly had a lot more to accomplish here on earth and were



unwilling to leave so quickly. It never bothered you that you were ill.

You would run, play and remind your friends that you were the boss. No one understood how you could still be alive – it was all sheer determination and your powerful spirit. Sadly, one day, even your will was no match for your weak body. Snuggling with your pals Shookie and Ruby was a favorite pastime.

Ruby, you waited a long time to have friends. Unsure at first, you quickly



grew to love them and snuggle with them. All three of you would pile together into one furball! Your first years may have been difficult and you were rough around the edges, but with the love of your pals your softer side came out. You passed as anyone would wish, peacefully and surrounded by your loved ones.

# Join HRN...or...Please Renew Your Membership

House Rabbit Network is now in its 9th year – and we continue to grow. Through our network of dedicated volunteers and members, we are making amazing strides to improve the welfare of house rabbits everywhere. Your support can only further our goals, so become a member and get involved.

**Visit our web site to find out how to help: [www.rabbitnetwork.org](http://www.rabbitnetwork.org).**

***If you are not already a member, please join HRN!***

*Your membership dollars will go toward rescue and rehabilitation, community outreach and education, and veterinary expenses.*

***Help make a difference in a rabbit's life. They're counting on you!***

**Contact House Rabbit Network at [info@rabbitnetwork.org](mailto:info@rabbitnetwork.org) or (781) 431-1211.**



## House Rabbit Network Membership and Ordering Form

Your membership donation is tax-deductible and will be used for medical costs (spays/neuters, vet bills) and education expenses. All members will receive a copy of our newsletter, *Rabbit Tracks*, when it is published. Currently, we are publishing three issues per year.

Memberships run from April 1 to March 31 (donations received January–March will be credited for the following year). To join, fill out this page and mail it with your check (payable to **House Rabbit Network**) to:

**House Rabbit Network  
P.O. Box 2602  
Woburn, MA 01888-1102**

- Choose your membership level:*
- Dwarf . . . . . \$ 15.00
  - Mini Lop . . . . . \$ 25.00
  - New Zealand . . . . . \$ 50.00
  - Flemish Giant . . . . . \$ 100.00
  - Mix (other) . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Choose your newsletter delivery preference:*
- PDF format via email (significant savings for HRN)
  - Hard copy via U.S. Mail

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of *Rabbit Health in the 21st Century* 2nd Edition  
 at \$20.00 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Membership: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_