

House Rabbit Network

P.O. Box 2602

Woburn, MA 01888-1102



Dedicated to educating the public, to fostering and to the adoption of companion rabbits. 781-431-1211 or www.rabbitnetwork.org.

RABBIT TRACKS

Winter 2009

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Magellan is our cover bun. He is a sweet, curious bunny, always at the edge of his cage. He really enjoys attention!

Bladder Sludge in Rabbits

by Victoria A. Papscoe, DVM

Bladder sludge is a condition that affects all ages and breeds of rabbits. It is fairly common but, unfortunately, is difficult to cure. This article will discuss the clinical signs and diagnosis of bladder sludge as well as steps you can take to prevent or manage the condition. Urinary calculi (stones) are a different condition (although likely related) and are treated surgically. Calculi are not discussed in detail in this article.

Causes of Bladder Sludge

It is not entirely clear as to what causes this disorder in rabbits but it is suspected to be related to their unique way of metabolizing calcium. Most animals will absorb from their diets only as much calcium as they currently need; the rest is eliminated through the digestive tract. Rabbits, however, will absorb calcium in proportion to the amount in their diet, regardless of what their body currently requires. They then excrete the excess through the kidneys. It is eliminated in the urine as calcium carbonate crystals, which make normal rabbit urine cloudy. Some rabbits have a syndrome called hypercalcinuria (“bladder sludge”) – they have an overabundance of crystals in their urine. A diet too high in calcium may predispose a rabbit to sludgy urine but it is not the only factor involved. Studies have been performed in which rabbits were fed enormous amounts of calcium long-term and bladder sludge was not induced. Other contributing factors may be genetics, decreased water intake, underlying urinary tract conditions, and less frequent urination.

Anything that prevents a rabbit from posturing normally to urinate will likely result in longer retention of urine and larger amounts of crystal buildup. Arthritis in the spine or hips, sore hocks, and obesity are some such conditions.

Signs of Bladder Sludge

Often the first sign noted in a rabbit affected with bladder sludge is abnormal urine. The color of normal urine can range from very light yellow to rust colored, which is caused by normal pigments called porphyrins. It can appear almost sandy when dry. In a



This is an X-ray of a rabbit with bladder sludge. The bladder appears as white as bone due to the large amount of calcium.

rabbit with bladder sludge, the urine is extremely thick and pasty and tends to accumulate on the fur (unlike normal urine). As it dries, a very large amount of gray-white chalky material will be left behind. Because the urine is so thick and difficult to pass, rabbits will often strain while urinating and may only be able to pass a small amount. They may have a poor appetite, grind their teeth, or sit in a hunched posture as a result of pain. Urination may

occur more frequently than usual or in inappropriate areas outside the litter box. Sometimes rabbits will even involuntarily dribble urine. The skin on the inner thighs and belly can become reddened and sore from constant contact with urine (urine scald). If the bladder is infected or severely inflamed, blood can be present in the urine. Since normal urine can be reddish in color, it is important to differentiate this from actual blood. This can be done with a urine dipstick or by microscopic examination of the urine sediment.

Diagnosis

Sometimes the description of the signs and a physical examination are all that is needed to diagnosis bladder sludge. Nevertheless, radiographs (X-rays) are almost always performed to confirm the condition and evaluate the size of the bladder and amount of sludge remaining. Radiographs will also reveal if there are any calculi within the urinary tract and can show additional abnormalities in the chest, abdomen, and skeleton. Urinalysis is essential to determine if there is an infection and to search for any abnormal cells in the urine. A culture and sensitivity may be indicated to identify the type of bacteria causing the infection. If a culture is done, a sterile sample needs to be obtained directly from the bladder, usually via cystocentesis, to avoid any contamination from the urethra or the litter box. This is done by gently grasping the bladder through the abdomen and inserting a small needle attached to a syringe through the skin into the bladder.

Suction is applied and the urine is collected in the syringe. Cystocentesis is a very quick procedure and can be performed while the rabbit is awake with little discomfort to the rabbit. If an infection is present, it is usually secondary to the sludge problem and not the cause of the condition. Bloodwork may be performed to check the calcium level as well as look for signs of infection. It is always a good idea to check the kidney and liver enzymes to see if there are any underlying conditions that could have contributed to the development of bladder sludge. If treatment requires anesthesia, existing health problems that may complicate anesthesia should also be identified.

Immediate Treatment

Since rabbits are rarely able to empty a bladder full of sludgy urine on their own and are often in pain, they are usually anesthetized for treatment. The bladder may be emptied manually with gentle pressure or may be emptied through a urinary catheter. A soft rubber catheter is placed through the urethra into the bladder and saline is flushed through to dilute and thin out the sludge. The material is suctioned out with a syringe and the process repeated until the urine runs clear. A urine sample can be collected at this time if it hasn't

been done already. Once the bladder has been flushed, it is important to keep the urine dilute after the rabbit wakes up. If the rabbit is very dehydrated, an IV catheter can be placed for fluid therapy while hospitalized. Fluids can also be given subcutaneously (under the skin) either at the hospital or by the owner at home. Pain/anti-inflammatory medication is crucial, especially post-catheterization since the bladder will be sore after manipulation. If there is a bacterial infection, antibiotics will be prescribed.

Treatment/Prevention

Once at home, the rabbit's water intake should be increased by offering plenty of fresh leafy greens or by flavoring the drinking water with a small amount of natural fruit juice (with no sugar added). The diet should be modified to contain less calcium. Alfalfa hay and alfalfa-based pellets should be discontinued and replaced with grass hay such as timothy. Pelleted diets should be fed in limited amounts, if at all. Vegetables are an important part of a rabbit's diet since they are nutritious and contain a large percentage of water. However, the frequency and amount of high-calcium vegetables such as kale, turnip greens, and parsley should be decreased and replaced with those lower in calcium

such as carrot tops, endive, and collard greens. Dandelion greens are one exception; they have a high amount of calcium but also may act as a diuretic thus increasing urine production. No additional mineral supplements should be given. Cranberry and vitamin C supplements are thought to aid in healing of the urinary tract and, in humans, prevent bacteria from adhering to the bladder lining. There has not yet been any research on these supplements in rabbits but they may help. Again, avoid juices or tablets with added sugar. Exercise should be encouraged to stir up the bladder sludge and keep it from settling. Rabbits that move around more will also consume more water and therefore urinate more frequently, giving the sludge less time to accumulate.

Frequent examinations are recommended to monitor response to treatment and resolution of any skin/urinary tract infections. Sludge will often recur even if all the recommended steps are taken. The main goals are to keep your rabbit happy and comfortable and to try to manage the condition as well as possible. Hopefully, as more research is done, we will learn more about this syndrome and how best to manage it.



Capt. Mooncake Rode the Bunderground Railroad

by Emily Leung, HRN Fostermom

Did you know that there is something called the Bunderground Railroad? It's a concept very similar to the network of drivers who transport rescued puppy-mill pups to safety. I'm a member of the Rabbitwise Bunderground Railroad. Getting bunnies transported over long distances is very complicated. Essentially, the bunnies are relayed

between drivers at coordinated locations and times. Most of the communication between volunteers comes from a flurry of emails. There is a person designated as coordinator and this person breaks the long trip into "legs." Ideally, each leg is under two hours. A request for filling legs goes out to the Railroad's mailing list. It may take weeks to get everyone's schedule to match up, and then the transport is ready to go. There



Loading up the car in preparation for Leg #6 of the rescue from NY to MA.

were well over a hundred emails sent to organize Captain Mooncake's transport (Casey, Hoppel, and Miko also came on this same transport). That's how much work it took to transport just five bunnies (one went to House Rabbit Connection) from Buffalo to Boston.

So, Captain Mooncake's story: I was poking around on the Internet and somehow I ended up on the upstate New York House Rabbit Society's web site. Up at the top of the main page, there was a very sad picture of a bunny in horrendous condition and a link to the full story. There was an animal abuse case outside of Buffalo where 46 rabbits (and other animals – like birds) were rescued, and legal charges were pressed against the woman. The bunnies were living on top of each other, and feces and urine dropped from the upper bunnies to the bottom bunnies. Ears were infected, one leg was broken, two dead bunnies were found, and food dishes were also filled with feces and urine. This is all a sad reality in the world of animal abuse cases. It broke my heart.

I emailed the Rabbitwise Bunderground to see if they knew about the situation. They did, and organization of the transport had already been started. House Rabbit Network was taking in 4 of the bunnies. Deb Young of House Rabbit Connection was in charge of filling the legs. I had the leg from Springfield to Boston. In the days before the transport, we all received the trip itinerary. Here's my leg from the itinerary:

**Leg #6: Springfield to Metro-Boston/
House Rabbit Network (4 rabbits —
Florida White male, 3 Dutch males)**

Departure: 5:30 p.m.

Driver: Emily

Indigo Toyota Matrix

Plate: (MA) M10036

Cell: 617-555-5555

ETA: Metro-Boston 6:45 p.m.

There were seven legs in all.

When I got back to Boston with our 4 bunnies, I dropped off the Dutch boys at another foster home and I brought Captain Mooncake to my apartment. I really didn't know what to expect from him. I thought for sure that he'd be timid and emotionally troubled after all he'd been through in his first nine months (estimated) of life.

Would I have to do a ton of socialization to make him adoptable? I let him out into my living room and his happiness absolutely blew my

mind. The three Dutch boys are also very happy and grateful.

Captain Mooncake is in fostercare at my house. He was a "bottom bun" – in the place he was rescued from he was kept at the bottom of that stack of bunnies. The poor little boy was urine stained as a result. In spite of his sad beginnings, he is one of the happiest, most grateful bunnies I have ever known. On his first day home, he ran around my living room doing the most joyous binkies. After all he had been through, he was still able to make this tremendous expression of pure bunny bliss. My husband had been annoyed that I went all the way to Springfield to pick up "yet another bunny." My husband is not a fan of the bunnies. Well, mostly it's that he's not a fan of the fact that he loses time with me to bunnies. My husband was watching this poor urine-stained bunny jump around with hap-

piness, and he actually was brought to tears. He said, "You did a very good thing." :) It really is impossible to look at Captain without being filled with joy.

Months later, he's still in my home, in fostercare. He's an absolute love. He has his playtime at night when I get home from school. As mid-afternoon rolls around, I start to think of the



Captain Mooncake resting in his foster home.

Captain. I can't wait to get home to him. He's used to this routine, and he's always poking his nose through the cage when I walk in the door.

Captain Mooncake would like to live in a home where he can run around like a maniac. He will make sure you are never sad, and he will fill your heart with joy and love. His attitude toward life is contagious.

Call 781-431-1211 to adopt sweet Mooncake. See Captain Mooncake having fun and doing binkies in his video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sF-y-JU7tbA>

Captain's blog entries:

<http://blog.rabbitnetwork.org/?cat=271>

For more information on the The NY SPCA case: <http://tinyurl.com/4uhcph>

Rabbitwise Bunderground Railroad: <http://bundergroundrailroad.org>



Choosing a Carrier for Transport

by Suzanne Trayhan

While rabbits do enjoy staying around their homes, sometimes it's necessary to take them to the veterinarian or to travel away from home with them. It's important that rabbits be transported



Traditional hard plastic carrier with front door opening and removable top.

safely, and the best way to do this is by using a carrier, also known as a pet taxi. There are many different types of carriers and choosing the right one can make your life easier!

There are three main features to consider when choosing a carrier: composition, how it opens and size.

Composition is what the carrier is made of. A traditional carrier is made of hard plastic and has metal bars for ventilation. These are sturdy and travel well. There are also soft-sided carriers made out of fabric material. They usually have screens instead of metal bars for ventilation. Most people prefer the hard-sided plastic. Some rabbits will chew through the soft-sided carriers, especially if they're in there for an extended period of time. However, the soft-sided carriers are ideal if you are in a situation where you don't want it to be obvious that you're transporting a pet. They look more like a gym bag. Loosely drape a towel over the carrier and you can easily hide that you have a pet. Soft-sided carriers can also be more decorative and fashionable.

Plastic carriers open several different ways. A basic, standard plastic carrier is rectangular and has a metal door that opens at one of the narrower ends. It's pretty easy to get a rabbit inside these carriers; however, bunnies quickly master how to wedge their feet against the sides, making it difficult to take them out. For this reason, many people prefer a carrier that has a second opening on the top, where you can simply lift your rabbit out. An added advantage to this type is that you can open the top door to reach in and pet your rabbit while in the waiting area of a hospital. This model is the easiest to use, but you must also be careful about latching the top door. There have been many cases where the doors weren't latched properly and when the carrier was picked up, it flipped sideways and opened up. There are also models that allow you to unlock and remove the entire top half of the carrier. These are usually fairly secure but can be a little more hassle than the top-door-open carriers and your bun is more exposed when the top half is off. Choosing between the three types of hard-plastic carriers is mostly a matter of personal preference.

Most soft-sided carriers have large zippered openings – just make sure the openings work for you.

Many people look at large carriers for their buns. If you're going on shorter trips, generally under an hour, then a smaller carrier is preferable. Rabbits feel

more secure in a smaller, tighter space, so you really don't need much extra space around your bunny. You may want to go slightly larger if you think you might get a friend for your rabbit in the future. If you're traveling on a longer trip, longer than two hours, you will want a larger carrier. You will need a way to either set up a small litter box and still have space for your rabbit to stretch out, or if you don't use a litter box, you will need super-absorbent bedding to soak up any urine.

If you have a bonded pair, they should travel together in the same carrier – they will snuggle together for support. There are other things you can do to make the carrier more comfortable for your bun. You can cut a piece of fleece to fit the dimensions of your carrier and place it on the floor. Another option is to fold up a towel. This works fine for some buns but others will scrunch the towel and push it to the side. You can also take newspaper and lay it on the bottom of the carrier. Placing hay in the carrier will give your rabbit something to munch on. Shorter trips (under an hour) don't require any water or additional food. For a longer trip, you should have a supply of veggies and pellets, and a

small water bottle to attach to the door. I would not use a water bowl as they spill too easily.

When you place the carrier in the car, make sure it's secure on the seat or floor. You can place the seat belt through the carrier handle to



Another option for a hard plastic carrier is one with a front opening and top opening door.



Soft-sided carrier. Depending on your rabbit, this may or may not be a good choice for you.

help secure the carrier in place.

In the pet store, you will see leashes for sale. As a general rule, they are not recommended for rabbits. A leash will not secure your rabbit in the car. You don't want a rabbit jumping on your lap or trying to hop around your feet as you are stepping on the brakes. They offer no protection or security against other animals in a waiting room. Even if you aren't going for a drive and

you just want to take your rabbit out on your lawn, you need to be very careful. If you are going to use a leash, make sure you use a harness around the body, not a simple neck collar. You also need to make sure that it's snug. Too many rabbits have slipped out of their harnesses because they were not on securely.

Choosing the right carrier can make vet visits and other transports easier!



Long-Term Foster Bunnies...

We Need Homes Too!

While we have placed many rabbits with families, sadly some rabbits seem to have trouble finding their forever home. We firmly believe that all of our rabbits need homes and are hoping to find loving families for these wonderful rabbits in the near future. Long-term foster bun Jamie recently found her forever home! Do you have a home for Zorro, Gisele, Anise, Dahlia, Mazaradee, Tanya, pairs Shiloh & Paige, or Zia & Taloolah? They have all been with HRN for over a year and are desperately searching for their own, forever homes.

Zorro was captured during our ongoing rescue efforts in Plymouth. To date we have pulled in over 20 rabbits, with another 12 that went to another rescue. Zorro received his name because



Zorro - 8 lbs, DOB 5-07, Mix

when he was captured, his nails left some serious scratches on one of our volunteers! Despite his first encounters with us humans, he is a really sweet bun. Open the cage door and he immediately puts his head down for pats. He is gentle and now is fine with being handled. Zorro is a large bun, weighing in at 8-9 pounds! That just means there is more of him to love. He has sleek black fur and excellent litter box habits. After living the wild life, he is now looking for a home where he can be spoiled rotten.

Mazaradee a.k.a. The Divine Miss M, or simply "Mazi". I love to explore the room I'm in, and the toys and places to play are great. And I don't really fear too much. I could care less about that thing that sucks up all the hay off the floor and makes a lot of noise. I LOVE to be pet and can't get enough



**Mazaradee -
8 lbs, DOB 3-07, Satin**

of it. I'm always at the door of the cage waiting for my foster mom to pet me and take me out. I smush right down, close my peepers and soak in the love. I am super sociable and love human interaction. I do think an exercise pen or even being free-roam in a room would be wonderful for me, and I don't chew on anything I'm not supposed to, plus my litter box habits are really good. Being in a home with older children would probably be best for me, and since I'm so social, I might just be a good bonding candidate for your girl or boy bun.



Dahlia - 9 lbs, DOB 8-07, Mix

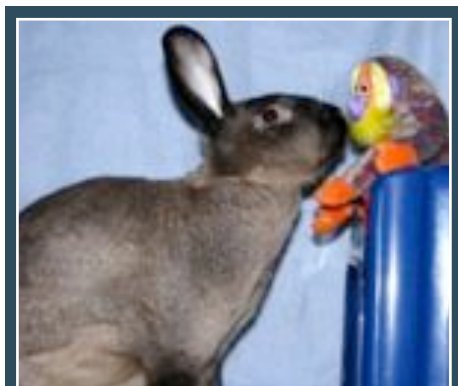
Dahlia is an inquisitive bun who warms up quickly to new people and enjoys attention. She likes being pet and is ok being handled. She is rather calm and laid back and loves to sprawl out and take a nap in a patch of sunshine. She likes to keep her cage very clean and organized and she has excellent litter box habits.



Annie - 5.5 lbs, DOB 2-07, Mix

Anise, a.k.a. Annie, is a shy, gentle bunny. She would do well in a quiet home that can shower her with love and bring out the bunny in her. Anise is one of the Fitchburg bunnies.

Gisele has settled in nicely at her new foster home. Lucky girl, has a triple-decker in which to stretch out in and redecorate. She is on the creative side: rearranging her cage



Gisele - 8 lbs, DOB 12-06, Mix

is a favorite pastime and she likes to toss around her toys. She also loves to beg for treats, especially raisins! Her foster mom says she is a "love bug", and is fine being petted. She has a gorgeous brown coat with soft brown on her back and deep brown ears, nose, and tail. She is getting more comfortable in her new play area and less tentative with strangers. She is a good litterboxer. Gisele is one of the beautiful Fitchburg girl buns who would love to have a home of her own!

Tanya was a stray and is a little shy on the shy side, but she is learning that to be petted is nice, especially when accompanied by a snack or free time playing. She likes to jump, enjoys the view from higher places while still on her own paws. She is an excellent litterboxer and very sweet.



Tanya - 6 lbs, DOB 9-05, Dutch Mix

Zia & Taloolah are two sisters who are very devoted to one another, taking turns grooming and snuggling together. Taloolah is becoming more snuggly

when you approach her and she grooms herself as you pet her - so cute! Zia is very gentle and loves her running time. While at play, they love to run in and out of the



Zia & Taloolah

- 7 lbs, DOB 3-04. Mini-lops

cardboard tube, climb over and under everything that catches their fancy, and interact with their toys. Both come easily for treats. An adorable pair who will fill your home with love and happiness!

Paige is a pretty white bunny who is devoted to her pal **Shiloh**. Shiloh is very sweet and really enjoys attention. Shiloh and Paige are Fitchburg bunnies and

are really hoping for their very own forever home.

If you would like to adopt any of these bunnies, please contact us at 781.431.1211 or info@rabbitnetwork.org.



Paige & Shiloh - 5 lbs, DOB 10-06, Dutch and 6 lbs., DOB 11-06, Florida White

HRN News

2008 Flatbread a Success!

On October 21, 2008, HRN raised \$3224 from our 3rd Annual Flatbread Benefit Night. Many thanks to our sponsors and Flatbread Company, who contributed to making this night a whopping success:

Laura Anamateros • Vicki Bilafer • Boston Derby Dames • Boston Red Sox • Boston Treats • Busy Bunny • Shannon Cail • Davis Farmland • Dodge Grain • Earth and Sage Medical Spa • Ecotarium • Especially For Pets • Essex River Cruises & Charters • Civita Fahey • Flatbread Company • Barbara Foye • Giles Liquors • Carol Goodman • Green Mountain Coffee • Lesa Hall • House of Seven Gables • Huntington Theatre Company • Legal Seafoods • Leith Petwerks • Lindt • Littleton Animal Hospital • Lori Martinez • Middleton Golf Course • Mohegan Sun • Museum of Science • New England Aquarium • North Shore Music Theater • Not Your Average Joes • Liz Orenstein • Peabody Essex Museum • Rubicat Design & Photography • Salem Witch Museum • Starbucks • Stearns and Hill's Bistro • Story Land • Tanner Tavern • Trader Joe's • Gary Trayhan • Suzanne Trayhan • Triple Crescent Herbals • Trustees of Reservations • Wachusett Mountain • Yankee Candle • Yankee Whale Watching & Deep Sea Fishing • Carol Youngclaus

HRN Wins Shelter Challenge

We'd like to thank everyone who "clicked" their way to helping HRN win the \$1,000 grant that was awarded by The Animal Rescue Site in partnership with petfinder.com. By spreading the word about the work we are doing, you've made a difference in the lives of rescued rabbits in HRN care. Thank you!



Every Little Bit Helps!

The Bunny Store & More raised \$7.69 for HRN through their 2008 Annual Holiday Fundraiser. Thank you to those who bought ornaments to help the buns.

2009 Spring Yankee Candle Fundraiser

House Rabbit Network is pleased to announce our participation in the Yankee Candle Spring Fundraiser, once again. For every product sold, HRN receives 40% profit! The sales generated will help to support HRN's mission of finding forever-loving homes for the abandoned and rescued bunnies in its care.



Recently, HRN volunteers participated in a rescue that took place in Norfolk, MA. On a frigid winter's day, volunteers corralled 13 rabbits from the back yard of a Good Samaritan's home where there are still more bunnies yet to be rounded up. All these bunnies needed to be placed in foster homes, spayed/neutered, litter trained, socialized, and then put up for adoption. Supporting this fundraiser enables these life saving efforts to continue!

Yankee Candle offers a myriad of lovely products for sale: candles with

Illuma-Lid toppers; hand painted Butterfly Crackle glass candle accessories; a variety of attractive gift sets; vegetable & garden seed mats; odor eliminating room sprays, reed diffusers; car fresheners and much more. View these items and more in the Spring 2009 Fundraising brochure: <http://www.yankee fundraising.com/html/includes/catalogs/SpringCatalogs.html>.

Sale ends March 13th. For more information or to order, please email info@rabbitnetwork.org.

Save the Date!

On Thursday, April 30, 2009 at 7:30 PM, House Rabbit Network will be hosting a Comedy Night at Giggles in Prince Pizza on Route 1, Saugus. Tickets are \$20/each, which includes admission into the comedy show and must be purchased in advance from HRN by going online here: www.rabbitnetwork.org/giggles.shtml. Only 150 tickets will be sold. Come for the show! Come for dinner! Share a ton of laughs! All while supporting a great cause.



HRN Buns on Youtube!

The House Rabbit Network now has videos of our adoptable rabbits on Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/rabbitnetwork> and on our website: <http://www.rabbitnetwork.org/adoption/video.shtml>

Check out the bunnies playing, running, binky-ing and having a great time! More videos added all the time.

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. 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.

The following Education Days are scheduled from 12 PM - 3 PM:

- Mar 7, Especially For Pets, Medway
- Mar 8, Especially For Pets, Newton
- Mar 14, Especially For Pets, Acton
- Mar 15, Especially For Pets, Wayland
- Mar 21, Especially For Pets, Westboro
- Mar 22, Especially For Pets, Sudbury
- Mar 28, Animal Spirit,
2348 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge
- May 30, Animal Spirit,
2348 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge

Also visit us:

- Apr 11, Mass School of Law, Andover

Shaw's Program Changing

Shaws is changing the receipt collection program. Currently, we must mail in all receipts. With the new program, instead of mailing in receipts, they are now linking organizations to your Shaws rewards card. The bad news is that only purchases on Tues, Wed and Thurs will count. Other days of the week won't. (Shop in the middle of the week!)

To sign up for the new program, go to www.shaws.com/neighborhoodrewards. Click on the link for Shoppers, enter your rewards card number and phone number. Next, click on My Account, then Add an Organization, enter HRN's number 49001018209.

If you don't have our number handy, you can click on "Find an Organization". Just enter MA for the state, they have Woburn misspelled, so if you enter the city it won't find us. (We are trying to fix this). Click Add, and then click on My Account to verify that you see HRN listed.

If you have any questions, please contact us at info@rabbitnetwork.org. Thank you for your support!

Memorials

Every time I lose a rabbit he takes a piece of my heart with him. And every new rabbit who comes into my life, gifts me with a piece of his heart. If I live long enough, all the components of my heart will be rabbit, and I will become as generous and loving as they are.
~Author Unknown

Sweet Pea

Oh, my little Pea. You bit me the first time I met you, and then fell asleep on the car ride home. At one and a half pounds, you went through life thinking you were 8 ft tall. And, that's why we loved you.

After you came home, you bit me on my nose, my hand, and both ankles. Sometimes I think that you knew you weren't going to be here long, and you wanted to leave something to remember you by. But for all of your "rabbitude", you would cuddle with me for hours. Laying your head on my knee for pets, playing tag around the living room, or giving me bunny kisses. I remember you would stand and glare at me for sitting on the couch, which you couldn't reach, and I had to come and sit next to you on the floor.

After overcoming everything your previous life threw at you, you came here to be spoiled, pampered and loved. For six months you had everything a bunny could ask for.



Then one November morning, you died in my arms on the way to the hospital. All the way to the end, you never lost your attitude. We miss you, Pea.

~ Jillian & Tom

Snugs

Snuggles was a gift. She gave me the gift of life,



love and hope. Snugs taught me how to live life in the moment. She appreciated the simplest things. The basics: food, water, a warm home, freedom to move, medical attention and most of all, love.

I showed Snugs a different life than the one she was living. Rescuing Snugs from the outdoor hutch gave her second chance. Snugs was no longer confined to the small quarters of the hutch, nor exposed to the harsh elements of New England weather.

Bringing Snugs into my home enabled her to be protected. Snugs was safe from predators and no longer left alone. She now had the freedom to move her body; to stretch, hop, and walk. She received medical attention that enabled her to live a life longer than expected. Despite all her hardships and surgeries she still managed to give me kisses.

Snugs passed away on Friday, Dec. 12, 2008 with a long battle of chronic infection. Her teeth, gums and jawbone were diseased. The most difficult choice I had to make was to euthanize Snuggles. During the procedure, I held her in my arms patting and kissing her and praying to God that someday He would bring her back to me.

I, too, gave Snugs the gift of life, love and hope. I was blessed to have such a wonderful rabbit come into my life and touch my heart the way that she did. Snuggles was loved and always will be loved. I will miss her dearly.

My "Little Peanut"

Rescue Date:

February 13, 2007 ~December 12, 2008

~ Sadly missed by Barbara Foye

Please Renew Your Membership

House Rabbit Network is now in its 10th 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.

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 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:

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