

Quarterly News from the
Sacramento House Rabbit Society

All Ears in Sacramento

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A Trip to Bunnyfest in San Diego

In late September, four members of the Sacramento HRS took a weekend trip that was a bunny lover's fondest dream – a trek to Bunnyfest, the annual rabbit festival sponsored by the San Diego HRS.

This is actually the second year in a row that HRS volunteers Glenda Muschetto, Kim Wheatfill and Jill Johnson have made the pilgrimage. This year they were joined by a fourth, Jan Gasber.

According to Glenda, Kim gets all the credit for planning the trip this year. She found a wonderful Victorian bed and breakfast, the Heritage Park Inn, which was just a short walk from Heritage Park, where Bunnyfest was held. The foursome flew to San Diego on Friday, September 26, and spent Saturday doing "touristy" things and having a fun weekend away from home.

they embarked on this journey. As Glenda describes it, Bunnyfest seems like an endless stream of bunny-related goods and services. There are vendors set up throughout the park, selling both novelty items (jewelry, t-shirts, mugs, dishes, blankets, etc., all with "rabbit themes") and actual rabbit supplies (KW Cages had a booth, and other vendors sold dried fruit, litterpans and food dishes, toys for rabbits, etc.). There were also food vendors, and a silent auction that ran throughout the day. The festival lasted from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and, Glenda says, "You can easily spend the whole day there."

The most interesting thing about the Bunnyfest? It wasn't the goods, Glenda says – it was the fact that quite a few attendees actually brought their bunnies! "I would guess about 500 people came and went throughout the

Frequently Asked Questions About Nail Trimming

Nail Trims

The Sacramento HRS offers nail trims to our members for a small donation of \$5 per rabbit. Check the newsletter (or our web site) to find out the location – our events are always on the second Saturday of the month at a different PetCo location in the Sacramento area. We have recently extended our hours – the events will now run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – but we do ask that you call us a day or two before the event, if possible, so we'll be sure to have someone free to trim your bunny's nails at the time that you stop by.

Please bring your rabbit in a secure carrier, and bring your own clippers. (This is another recent change we've instituted, in the interest of promoting good bunny health and cleanliness.)

Got any questions? We're "All Ears"!



Guillotine clippers



Snub-nosed scissors

The Sacramento HRS offers rabbit nail trims for a small donation at every adoption day. We thought it would be helpful to put together a brief primer for those who may not be able to wait until an event, or who might want to learn how to do it at home.

Q: *Do I really need to trim my rabbit's nails regularly? Won't they just wear down on their own, from the bunny hopping around?*

A: No, they won't wear down on their own – and if they go unchecked, they'll grow to the point of being a hindrance for your bunny. He can catch a nail in a carpet loop or on his cage and tear it off – we've seen infections start this way. In extreme cases, an uncut toenail can also curl around and poke back into the skin, causing great discomfort (and again, an infection) for the rabbit.

Q: *How often do they need to be trimmed?*

A: You should check them and trim them, if needed, every 6-8 weeks.

Q: *How do I know if they're too long?*

A: If they have sharp tips on them or extend more than about 5/8 inch from the toe (where you can see skin), then they can be clipped.

Q: *What kind of scissors should I use?*

A: Use clippers made for a dog or cat, but never just standard household scissors (which can splinter the nail) or human nail clippers (which will cut the nail on a poor angle). The two most common types are the "guillotine" type of clipper and the snub-nosed scissor type. It's a matter of personal

preference; you can come to an adoption event to see the different types and determine which is best for you and your bunny.

Q: *How do I position the bunny for a nail trim?*

A: Some bunnies don't mind being "hypnotized" on their backs for nail trims. Other more squirmy rabbits may have to be wrapped in a towel and their feet coaxed out one at a time (these rabbits should be tucked under your arm, still wrapped tightly, and not turned upside-down). You can bring your bunny to an adoption event and we'll show you how to do it.

Q: *Okay, I've got my bunny positioned and my trimmers in hand. How do I know how far down to cut the nail?*

A: If the bunny has light-colored nails, you can easily see where the blood vessels end. You can just snip off the white nail. If your bunny has dark (or dirty) nails, it's going to be a little harder. You can use a tiny pen light to illuminate the nail from the back side – the light will shine through the nail, but not the blood vessels, so you can see how far down you can safely trim.

Q: *Uh-oh, I nicked my rabbit and he's bleeding! What now?*

A: You can dab on a bit of Kwik-Stop (available at any pet store), or a bit of flour (which works just as well). Once the bleeding stops, you can dab on a bit of hydrogen peroxide on a cotton ball ... it wipes off the blood and disinfects at the same time, without stinging. Fortunately, most rabbits forgive and forget pretty quickly.

Q: *I tried to do this on my own, but I just am not comfortable with it. What are my other options?*

A: Most vets will do nail trims for you, or you can bring your bunny to an Adoption Day and we'll do it for you. Please call us ahead

Rabbits Available for Adoption



Cream is 2 year old a Florida White boy. He is very mellow and likes sitting on laps.



Vickie is a big, beautiful bunny who has excellent litterbox skills and is being leash trained.



Gracie is a busy adult girl who enjoys the company of humans and other animals.



Pierre is an energetic and curious young male.



Darby is a young sweet girl.



Elvin is a sweet, friendly boy.



Elderberry is a boy who enjoys exploring his surroundings and being petted.



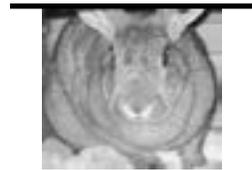
Bigwig is a laid back boy. He is very playful and affectionate and has perfect litterbox habits.



Hoppy Gilmore is a young, active, playful boy.



Licorice is an active adult Rex boy. He is playful, social, affectionate and curious.



Mopsy is 3 year old girl. She is a mellow and quiet rabbit who likes to be petted.



Meg is an energetic young girl looking for a good home.



Fiona, Felicia & Finnegan (2 girls and 1 boy) are friendly, playful siblings. They want to be adopted as a trio.



Henry is 1 year old boy who is very curious and energetic.

All Ears in Sacramento is published quarterly by the Sacramento House Rabbit Society, an all-volunteer, non-profit organization.

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of time, if possible, so we know when you're coming and we have someone available to work with you! There's also a nail trimming video available from Rabbit Rescue and Rehab, a rabbit rescue group in New York. This 38-minute video covers it all. For more information, see www.rabbitcare.org/nail.html, or send a check for \$23.85 to Rabbit Rescue and Rehab, 56 West Pondfield Rd. - 5C, Bronxville, NY 10708. (Please make the check out to Rabbit Rescue and Rehab, and be sure to write "nail video" in the memo field of the check.)

Q: *Is there anything else I can do to minimize how often we have to do this?*

A: On the National HRS web site, there's a short article about a woman who attached a square of sandpaper to a block of wood and put it near her rabbit's food dish, so he'd "sand down" his toenails while eating dinner. We haven't actually tried this, but the notion is pretty funny (and clever!). As long as your rabbit doesn't try to eat the sandpaper - heck, it couldn't hurt to try! Good luck - and remember that we're here if you have questions or need help.

- Kirsten Macintyre

An Artist's Inspiration: *A Clever House Rabbit Becomes the Family's Muse*

My husband Dave and I inherited our house rabbit about a year and a half ago, when my father died at the age of 93. The little bunny, named "Black 'n Tan," provided a lot of fun for my family while we were caring for my Dad during his last year. At my folks' house, Black 'n Tan would tear around the living room, jump on the couch, attack newspapers, shred magazines, and look for other ways to get into trouble. His good side occasionally surfaced when he perched on the top of the couch, giving bunny kisses to whoever decided to sit in front of him. It was with some trepidation that we finally brought him home.

The first night we kept him in his cage in our sunroom. At about 1 a.m., we were suddenly awakened by a loud banging noise coming from somewhere in the house. Scared to death, we crept cautiously down the hall to the sunroom, where we found his cage empty, with the lid and door firmly closed. Another loud bang led us to Black n' Tan, who was in the living room, hiding under the heater and thumping loudly. I was sure I had locked him up before going to bed.

The next night it was the same scenario – awakened at 1 a.m. to find a closed cage and a loose bunny. The next evening, I wired his cage shut. The problem was solved.

"Houdini," as our bunny is now called, proved to have perfect litter box habits, so we gave him the run of the sunroom, which has a rough concrete aggregate floor for good traction. Being an artist, I have many square wooden pedestals on which my sculptures are displayed. One day, I noticed that the square corners of some of the pedestals had been rounded. I soon discovered that even though Houdini has his own bits of wood and other toys to chew on, he likes to add personal design touches to our furniture. I think he wants to turn Mission style into Early American.

On most mornings, Houdini will sit next to me on the couch while I have a cup of tea. Although he's not a lap bunny, he is a sponge for petting. If I don't pet him long enough, he will start to bite little holes in the couch cover. People say he has me well-trained. In the evening as soon as my husband starts playing the piano, Houdini races from his sunroom into the living room. He stretches out full-length on the rug in front of the piano, looking very decorative and seeming to enjoy every note. He is especially attentive when Dave plays "Somebody (Bunny) Loves Me."

– Laura Harling



Laura's portrait of Houdini.
To view Laura's art or find out about how to commission a portrait of your bunny, visit her website at www.lauraharling.com.



Win Kings Tickets!

Enter to win two tickets to the Kings vs. Grizzlies!

(December 23rd - lower level seats)

Other prizes include:

2 vouchers for a Mondavi Center Performance

(you choose the performance; a \$90 value)

Professional Massage by Greg Kennedy, NCMT 1996 Olympic Games Therapist

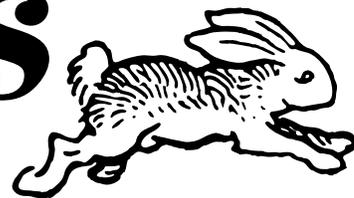
\$25 Petco Gift Certificate

See details on opposite page.

SPECIAL EVENT DECEMBER 6 IN FOLSOM



Radkos for Rabbits



Thanks to a generous donation from one of our members, we have more than 100 Christopher Radko and Slavic Treasure collectable Christmas ornaments we will be selling this December.

If you are an ornament collector, or just want to spruce up your holiday decor, this is an event not to be missed. Many of the ornaments available are retired styles that are hard to find. All profits go to SHRS to help bunnies in need in the Sacramento area.

December 6

8:00 AM — 4:00 PM

36th Annual Christmas Fair
Historic Sutter Street, Folsom

Take a sneak peek!

Visit www.allearsac.org/Ornaments1.html
to see all the ornaments available



Kings Raffle

Be sure to stop by our booth for a chance to win tickets to the **December 23rd Kings vs. Grizzlies** game! Drawing will be held at 4:00 pm on December 6th. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5, with all proceeds helping rabbits in need in the Sacramento area. Winners will be notified by phone and listed on our website, www.allearsac.org. You need not be present to win.

Bunnyfest continued from page 1

day, and it's amazing how many of them were walking around with their rabbits on leashes,



or draped over their shoulders," she said. "Everyone was taking pictures of the rabbits ... and I was, too! There was one brown bunny that was sitting up on a lady's shoulder as she walked around and looked at the vendors. This rabbit had the most beautiful blue eyes you ever saw!"

(The San Diego HRS also thoughtfully set up a bunny sitting area, where people could leave their rabbits for a half-hour at a time so they could go peruse the vendor stands.)

All four of our ladies came home with lots of pictures and souvenirs from their weekend in San Diego. They look forward to going again next year, and perhaps even doing a similar event in Sacramento in the future. "(The San Diego BunnyFest) is so well-organized ... the manager of the San Diego HRS does a really good job of putting it together and getting vendors to participate," explained Glenda. "They try not to duplicate vendors, so there aren't too many of the same thing and there's a lot of variety. The event is really impressive!"

— Kirsten Macintyre



Various captured moments from Bunnyfest 2003. This is becoming an annual pilgrimage for some SHRS volunteers.





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Win Kings Tickets!
Details Inside

membership
 expiration date



Not a Member?

Sacramento House Rabbit Society depends on donations to keep running. Please fill out the form below to keep receiving *All Ears in Sacramento*, and to support local rabbits in need!

Keep in Touch!

Time to renew your membership? New to the House Rabbit Society? The annual membership to the House Rabbit Society is \$18. This includes a subscription to the quarterly *House Rabbit Journal*. The annual membership fee for the Sacramento Chapter, which includes the quarterly *All Ears in Sacramento*, is \$15. The House Rabbit Society is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization. All membership fees are tax-deductible and go towards care expenses for the rabbits and for providing educational materials, such as these newsletters.

- Please sign me up for the National Membership, \$18
- Please sign me up for the Sacramento Membership, \$15
- Please sign me up for both for \$30
- I have enclosed an additional donation of \$_____
- I would like to volunteer with SHRS (see choices to the right)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

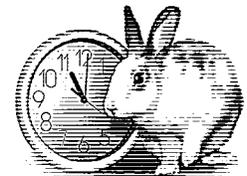
email address: _____

*Return with check payable to House Rabbit Society to:
 Sacramento House Rabbit Society, P.O. Box 19850, Sacramento, CA 95819-0850*

Volunteer!

Would you like to help local rabbits and bunny-lovers? We could use volunteers in the following areas:

- Public Events (staffing education tables)
- Fundraising Events
- Distributing Literature
- Working with Shelters
- Transporting shelter rabbits to local adoption days
- Fostering



HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY