

All Ears in Sacramento



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Inside this Issue:

Befriending a Classroom Rabbit1
Free "Mouth Check" is Back!.....2
Rabbits Available for Adoption3
Recent Adoptions.....3
Bunny 911: Preparing for an Emergency.....4
Are Cold Sores Dangerous for Rabbits?...5
Cecil B. d'Bunny and Elvira.....6
Upcoming Events7
Bunny-Sitters7
Keep in Touch!8
Volunteer Opportunities8



HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

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Befriending a Classroom Rabbit: *Midnight's Story*

My name is Katie Macintyre. I am eight years old and in third grade. This is a story about a rabbit at my school. His name is Midnight and he is a little black bunny with light brown eyes. He lives at 4th R, which is the after school day care center.

When I first met Midnight at the start of the school year, I was happy to find out there was a rabbit at school. My mom and dad really like to take care of rabbits, and I have one at home. But when I first met Midnight, I thought he was a hamster because he lived in a really small cage on the counter and he had hamster toys to play with. He wasn't allowed to get out of his cage unless someone was holding him. He was also pretty stinky so no one really wanted to hold him. I felt sorry for him.

One day we brought him a new cage that was bigger and had room for him to play in and be relaxed. He likes this one better. It even has a place where he can hide from the kids when they are noisy, and he can sleep in peace and quiet. He can kick his feet out behind him now when he lies down.

My mom said he'd be healthier and nicer and not so stinky if he got fixed at the vet. So she talked to the teachers at 4th R and we got to take Midnight home for a while. The first day we took him, he stunk up the whole house! Our rabbit also was not happy about Midnight staying with us.

We had to wait a whole week before the vet had time to see him! When she gave him an exam, she said that he was healthy but needed more greens. The next day we took him back to get neutered. When we went to pick him up,

continued on page 2



*Katie and little bro Alex
with Midnight*

Befriending a Classroom Rabbit

continued from page 1

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the people at the vet's office said Midnight had ripped out his stitches and would have to spend the night. I felt sorry for him because he probably felt exhausted.

The next day my mom picked him up when I was at school. He came to our house and he had to get medicine two times a day and he wasn't so thrilled with that. One medicine was to make sure he didn't get sick after ripping out the stitches and the other medicine was to make him want to eat. Sometimes he bit my mom when she tried to give him the medicine. He probably didn't feel good.

We had him for another two weeks and my mom and dad said that I could keep him in my room. At night I had to shut the door so our rabbit would stay away from him. When I first let him out of the cage, he never wanted to go back in and he would run away from me. But since he had his surgery, I noticed that he is more friendly. I found out that if I laid down on the ground, he would come and start crawling all over me. Once I was reading a book on the floor and he jumped up on

my back! He is a very nice rabbit now and he always wants to play.

Our rabbit did not like Midnight before he was neutered. They still are not best friends but they stopped going up to each other's cages and picking fights. Also he uses his litterbox now! He used to poop all over his cage, even where he slept. It was really gross. But he's a very good rabbit now.

This week we took him back to 4th R. I will still see him every day except for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. When I go to the classroom after school, I go right to his cage to see how he's doing. I gave him a toy with a bell and sometimes he is playing with that and throwing it around his cage. When my mom comes to pick me up sometimes, she will bring parsley and stuff for Midnight. He also really likes bananas, just like our other bunny. He was the perfect little guy for us to babysit! It might take him a while to get used to the kids again because he was at our house for three weeks. But I think he will have a good time now that he's back home. The end.

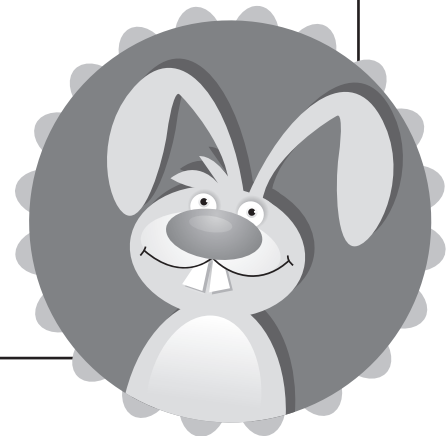
— *Katie Macintyre*

Free "Mouth Check" is Back!

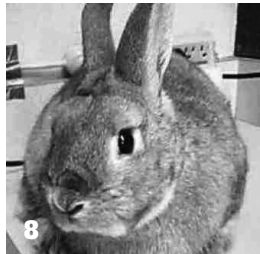
Did you know that your bunny should have his teeth checked at least annually by a rabbit-savvy vet? Because rabbits are prey animals, they rarely show outward signs of pain, which means a tooth abscess or other oral problem can go undetected. SHRS is delighted to announce that the Roseville Bird and Pet Clinic is again offering their "Rabbit Mouth Check" clinic in January. This clinic is free and you do not need an appointment...just bring your bunny!

Saturday, January 9, 2010
3pm – 5pm
Bird & Pet Clinic of Roseville
3985 Foothills Blvd, Roseville, CA 95747
(916) 773-6049

Veterinary technicians will also be available to do nail trims upon request (\$15).



Rabbits Available for Adoption



1,2. Jasper is a great mother to her **8 babies**, born mid-September. She is friendly, loves treats and has great litter box habits. The babies are friendly, adorable and learning to use their litter box.

3. Eliza has excellent litter box habits and loves to explore. Her favorite hobby is deconstructing wicker baskets.

4. Misty needs a caring home due to an existing health challenge. She is a very sweet girl who loves to be held.

5. Sophie was one of a bonded pair, until she decided she wanted all the attention for herself! She is a very sweet and curious girl.

6. Our names (left to right) are **Mimi, Rosie, Smudge, Pudge, Oscar, Napoleon, and Peanut**. Five girls and two boys. We were rescued from the same location and have grown up as a family herd. We can be adopted out as pairs or more to very special homes.

7. Eleu is a male mini-rex who loves to play with toys.

8. Rhett Bunnler is an active male. He enjoys digging and shredding the yellow pages. He likes to be held and petted, after he's had a chance to race around and get his exercise.

9. Isabella enjoys gentle handling, occasional lap sits, and exploring! She gets along with dogs, cats and bunnies.

10. Mickey and Willow are a wonderful bonded pair for an experienced bunny home. Mickey is a beautiful blue-eyed white bunny, and Willow is a Jersey-Wooly mix.

Recent Adoptions

Elvira was adopted by the Anderson family as a companion to Cecil (see story page 6)

Frankie was adopted by Dana Behnam and her daughters

Cameron was adopted by William Barrett and Selma Lindrud as a companion for Missi

Gamma was adopted by Lacie Woodward as a friend for Sugar and Pepper

Lady Bug was adopted by Tiffany Anderson

Maybelline was adopted by Nicole Pierce

Muffin and **Ziggy** were adopted by Scott Fletcher for his daughter Samantha

Dakota was adopted by Sara Shelley as a friend for her rabbit Izzy

Carmen was adopted by Pat Kirby as a friend for Flopsy

Rabbit Redford (now known as Beau Bunny) was adopted by Virginia Graf

Sylvie was adopted by Rose Zahnn as a companion for Honey Bunny



Top photo: Lucky Frankie!

Bottom photo: Missi and Cameron are a match made in heaven.

Bunny 911:

Preparing for an Emergency

Do you know what you'd do if your bunny developed a severe limp? Or received a shock from a chewed-through electrical cord? Or munched on a poisonous houseplant? You'd probably call your regular vet and make an appointment. But what if a true emergency happened late at night, or over a long holiday weekend? What if your bunny couldn't wait to be seen by a veterinarian? Would you know what to do?

Taking a few moments to plan for an emergency far in advance can make all the difference in a crisis situation. By doing just a little bit of homework in advance, you can save precious moments in an emergency – lowering your own stress level, and making a positive outcome far more likely for your rabbit.

Step One: Advance Planning

If you have a regular vet, that's the best place to start your emergency planning project. Write down the vet's regular hours, and find out if they recommend a particular 24-hour emergency hospital that works with rabbits. Take a drive to the emergency clinic so you

know exactly where it is and how long it takes you to get there. Keep this information near your phone, where you can easily find it.

If you should find yourself in a situation where you simply can't find a rabbit vet, don't hesitate to take your bunny to the nearest clinic anyway. Basic emergency treatment can be provided at any veterinary hospital.

Keep the website address for the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center handy: www.asPCA.org. You'll find a list of poisonous plants there, as well as other helpful information. There is also a 24-hour poison control hotline, at (888) 426-4435 (a \$60 consultation fee may be applied to your credit card for this service).

Recruit a family member or a friend to be your "designated driver," should you need one. You may be too upset to drive, or you may need to hold the rabbit in your arms (to apply pressure to a wound, prevent thrashing during seizures, etc.) on the way to the clinic.

Recognizing an Emergency

Generally, there are three categories of emergencies of which you should be aware:

Life-threatening emergencies include coma or stupor; seizures; severe bleeding; hypothermia; and heat stroke.

Serious emergencies include any animal attack; maggots; possible poisoning; sudden head tilt; and "minor" electrocution or drowning (by this we mean a bunny who's had a shock from a frayed cord, or fallen into water. Although the rabbit may appear to "shake it off," he should still be checked by a vet for burns to the mouth or pulmonary edema (fluid in the lungs).

Possible emergencies include respiratory problems; discharge from the eyes or nose; diarrhea; and constipation. In all of these cases, keep a very close eye on the rabbit.



Monitor how long the symptoms have been present, and (of course) the discomfort level of the rabbit. A newly discovered runny nose or a loose stool can probably wait until regular business hours to be addressed. But if your rabbit is acting abnormally, looking lethargic or refusing food for any length of time, grab your car keys and don't take any chances.

Rabbit First Aid

In an emergency situation, you may need to make a quick assessment of your rabbit's condition to provide to the clinic over the phone or to the staff when you arrive.

If you think your rabbit has hypo- or hyperthermia, you should quickly take its temperature with a baby thermometer. Apply some lubricant and hold it in the rabbit's rectum for one minute. (Ask your vet to show you how to do this during your rabbit's next routine checkup.) A rabbit's normal temperature range is about 101 to 103 degrees.

A rabbit that is suffering from heat stroke will have a temperature above 106 degrees. Give the bunny a quick alcohol bath and wrap him in a cold towel before you rush him to the clinic. A rabbit who is suffering from hypothermia should be wrapped in a towel before being placed next to a heating pad or hot water bottle during transport to the veterinary hospital (never apply heat directly to the rabbit, as it can cause a burn).

A wound that is bleeding should be covered with a cotton pad and then wrapped with gauze. You should make sure there's pressure on the wound help stop the flow, but don't ever use a tourniquet (this could cause severe nerve damage).

At the Clinic, and Afterwards

As with any emergency clinic, keep in mind that the patients are triaged and sometimes seen out of order, depending on the severity of the situation. You will not be allowed to stay with your bunny during emergency treatment – an emergency room is a hectic place, and the doctors need to minimize distractions in order to focus on helping your rabbit. The staff will give you regular updates and you will be involved in any important decisions regarding your rabbit's treatment. If your rabbit needs to stay overnight, take comfort in knowing he's in good hands and is receiving loving care.

Finally, remember that your bunny should be re-examined by his regular doctor following any emergency care, to ensure that he's recovering as expected and that his files are updated to reflect the latest developments. Bring a copy of the bunny's emergency room paperwork so it can be added to your file. And congratulate yourself for being bunny-savvy enough to have acted quickly and calmly in the face of an emergency!

– Kirsten Macintyre

Are Cold Sores Dangerous for Rabbits?

This past July, the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association published a paper that presented evidence that human cold sores can be transmitted to domestic rabbits – and the resulting infection can be fatal to the bunny. Here are some excerpts from the abstract:

An 8-month-old sexually intact male rabbit was examined because of a 2-day history of [inappetance], [watering] of the left eye, [tooth grinding], [drooling], and [dizziness].

Despite aggressive diagnostics and treatments, the rabbit could not be saved. His condition deteriorated, and after seven days of treatment he was put to sleep. The cause of death was unknown until an autopsy was performed.

Histologic evaluation of brain tissue revealed [multiple irregularities]. The DNA of human herpes virus-1 was detected in [nerve cells]...The rabbit's owner, who reported having had a severe labial and facial herpes virus-1 infection five days before the onset of clinical signs in the rabbit, was suspected to be the origin of the infection for the rabbit.

(J Am Vet Med Assoc 2009;235:66–69)

In other words, the rabbit's owner suffered from a severe cold sore (human herpes virus- 1 is the cold sore virus; herpes virus-2 causes genital herpes). During the outbreak, it appears that the rabbit contracted the virus and subsequently suffered a fatal neurological infection.

Human herpes virus-1 is very common. The vast majority of people in the world are infected, and a small portion of these folks suffer from intermittent cold sores. If you own a rabbit and suffer from cold sores, be aware that your pet may be at risk during your outbreaks.

– Many thanks to Dr. Eric Barchas, DVM, who provided this information on his "VetBlog" at www.dogster.com.

Cecil B. d'Bunny and Elvira, Mistress of Our Hearts

It was a usual Thursday afternoon at the office, which happens to be in our living room, when someone knocked at the front door. It was a man holding a nervous-looking, mostly white rabbit that he'd found near the river (we live in Freeport) after someone had dumped the poor bunny there. This man explained that he was homeless and has a dog and would be unable to look for a home for the bunny.

Since I had given the rabbit society a couple of injured rabbits I'd found in our backyard once before, I didn't think twice about taking him. But come to find out, the rabbit society I had dealt with was actually the Wildlife Foundation. They would not take this rabbit, who obviously was not wild. Uh oh, now what?

Because we had an 18-year-old collie and were fostering three cats for a friend, keeping the little rabbit didn't really occur to us. But it was late spring, when all the Easter "gifts" were growing out of the baby stage, so many shelters were full, and those that did have space could not guarantee he would make it out alive.

We had shared our lives with cats and dogs for many years, but had never cared for a

rabbit. Friends were on the lookout for us; a few possibilities arose but then

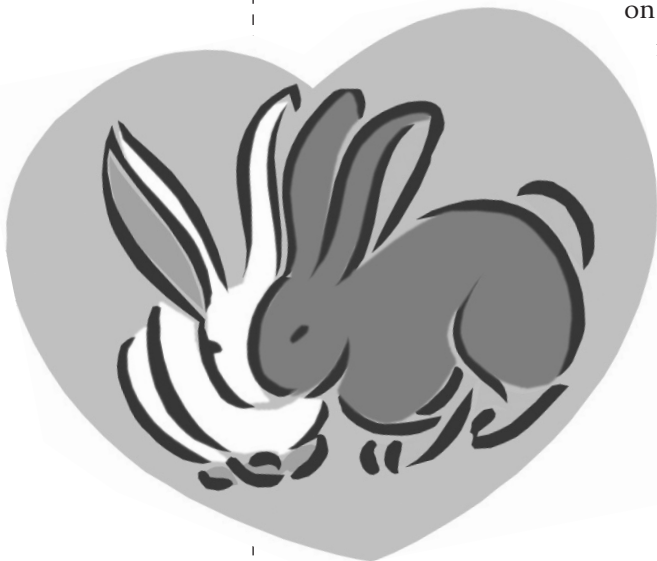
faded away. A few months went by and the furry guy started kissing Franz on the nose whenever Franz held him to his chest. Then Franz named the little con artist Cecil B. d'Bunny, and he officially joined our household. When we called our vet, we discovered she had two rabbits of her own and specialized in rabbit care. Dr. Gosink (at Mueller Animal Hospital on Freeport Blvd.) is a wonderful resource whose love of rabbits is infectious.

The cats eventually returned to our friend and our beloved collie passed away. While we were adapting to these changes, the bunny's space in the house grew. Because Cecil had always gotten along with the other animals (though the cats weren't as excited about their roommate as Cecil was), we decided to find him a lady friend.

Twice we made an appointment with Dr. Gosink to have Cecil neutered. Twice he started eating masking tape, painted wood, and all manner of nasty things and got his digestive tract too unbalanced for surgery. In July, the deed was successfully accomplished, and three weeks later we went to an SHRS Adoption Day. There, Cecil met Elvira, a beautiful all-black bunny with silver strands of fur sprinkled across her torso. Elvira is twice Cecil's size (10+ lbs. vs. 5 lbs.), but no matter. For Cecil it was lusty love right away. Elvira wasn't thrilled, but she didn't aggressively push him away either. A shopping cart ride and a few hours later, Elvira came home with us.

Cecil has been a very happy bunny since, Elvira has adapted well to her new home, and we have been granted honorary bunny status by these affectionate little love bugs. There are still adjustments to make; on day two Elvira decided she wasn't going to use her litter box anymore. However, we will be patient and let things take their natural course, because Cecil is happy and Elvira has become the mistress of our hearts.

– Rachel and Franz Anderson



Upcoming Events

Adoption and Information Clinics

Are you thinking about adding a bunny to your household? Or are you just looking to learn more about the one you've already got? Regardless of whether you've had a rabbit for years or if you're new to the joys of rabbit companionship, you'll have a great time at our monthly Adoption and Information Clinics. Come ask us questions about bunny behavior, care, grooming, nutrition, or anything else you can think of. We have free printed information on a variety of topics, and, of course, we also have our fabulous fosters on hand, waiting for just the right family to come along! The adoption donation is \$50 (\$75 for two), and includes a copy of *The House Rabbit Handbook*.

If you already have a bunny, you're welcome to bring him or her to the Clinic in a secure carrier. We do offer nail trims for a \$5 donation, but please call our hotline at least 48 hours in advance to set an appointment time (so we'll be sure to have someone available for you!). Please also bring your own, sterilized clippers. Grooming and de-matting services are also available outside of Clinic hours, but by appointment only. Call our hotline for more information.

December 12

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Arden Petco
1878 Arden Way

January 9

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fair Oaks Petco
8840 Madison Avenue

February 13

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Citrus Heights Petco
6067 Greenback Lane

March 13

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Arden Petco
1878 Arden Way

**SAVE
THE DATE!**

Heading Out of Town for the Holidays?

If you're planning to be away from home for the holidays, and (alas) your bunny has no plans to accompany you, then you may want to get a jump on making care arrangements for your long-eared friend while you are gone. Although it's easy to find petsitters or boarding kennels for cats and dogs, it's a little harder to find rabbit-savvy sitters. Here are a few local options we know of (call early to make sure there's room!):

Boarding Kennels & Veterinary Clinics

Animal Den
4060 Power Inn Road
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 456-4720

Bird and Pet Clinic of Roseville
3985 Foothills Blvd.
Roseville, CA
(916) 773-6049

Fulton Avenue Pet Resort
2173 Fulton Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 972-9498

In-Home Petsitting (Your home)

Always TLC Petsitting (Sacramento)
(916) 947-7389

Rebecca Archambeault (Davis)
(530) 304-3382
Babepower1@aol.com

Countess Critters
(Sacramento and Placer counties)
(916) 768-9858

Anne Cunningham
(midtown Sacramento)
(916) 447-3680
annetcp8@yahoo.com

Lea Landry (Rancho Cordova)
(916) 638-1141
llandry@softcom.net

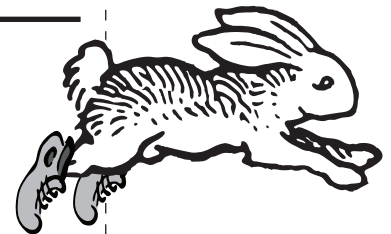
Lori Olvera (Woodland)
Bobby Sox & Princess Petsitting
(530) 867-4350
lolvera@sbcglobal.net

Emily Jacobson (Davis/Woodland)
(909) 964-9162
eajacobson@ucdavis.edu

In-Home Boarding (Their home)

Anne Cunningham
(midtown Sacramento)
(916) 447-3680
annetcp8@yahoo.com

Kirsten and Corey Macintyre
(South Natomas)
(916) 564-4170
alexmac@surewest.net



4th Annual
**Run for
the Buns**

Saturday,
April 3, 2010



Sacramento House Rabbit Society
 P.O. Box 19850
 Sacramento, CA 95819-0850

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! *SHRS does not sell or share our member's information with any other organizations or companies.*

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 \$20. 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, \$20
- Please sign me up for both for \$35
- I have enclosed an additional donation of \$_____
- My employer _____ will match my donation to SHRS

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

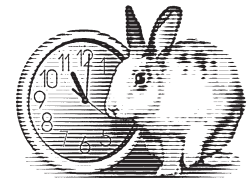
email address: _____

*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



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