



Bunnyzine

August 2019

Vol. 5
Issue 10



Your FREE Monthly Digital Rabbit Magazine

Giveaway?!?!

Sorry about my quiet July. I was swamped with work and things. I'll put more focus on BZ now though :)

We have a giveaway for you!

Check out page 25 on how you can enter to win one of three copies of the Wee Bunny Book audiobook.

We're coming up soon to our 5th year anniversary and I am excited preparing for it.

Going to keep this short because I want to be sure this issue gets out to you today (yep, it's Aug

1st right now)

Enjoy the issue :)

Vol. 5 Ed. #9 (Nate's Hexadic Fluffle)

Downloads: 873

Love and kisses to your bunnies!

Binkies and Flops

-Dustin

officialbunnyzine@gmail.com



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Because Facebook doesn't always show you our posts

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Offers, discounts, and prices listed in the advertisements of Bunnyzine are only valid during the month of publication unless otherwise stated in the advertisement.

Bunnyzine Volume 5 Issue 10

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Harrison and Penny

Iris Klimczuk

Sue O'Reilly

Penny Collins

Kansas The Bunny

Monica Yoknis

Debby Widolf

Daisy

Yolanda Boag

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Everyone who submitted to our Blissful Life pictorials.
And, of course, you. Our Bunnyzine readers!



The artwork of award-winning Illustrator

Penny Collins

www.ragingbunnies.net



Harrison and Penny

My good friend stopped into Petacular pet supplies shop where he met and told me about the wonderful Harrison and Penny, both of whom have found their forever home with Danielle Adam. They accompany her to work and provide joy, entertainment, and education on rabbit care to all whom visit them. Both of them know a few tricks that will put a smile on your face and I'm super pleased to introduce you to Harrison and Penny.

Cover photo by Woodgate Photography

Bunnyzine: Can you tell us what you know about their lives prior to meeting you?

Danielle: Harrison's had a good life before me. Penny needed to be rescued. Her previous family wasn't able to care for her and she was in ill health.

Bunnyzine: Can you tell us about when you first discovered them up to them officially getting their forever home with you?

Danielle:

Harrison:

My coworker, Kaitlyn, showed me a picture of a bunch of baby bunnies that needed homes and I fell in love. Harrison's mom "Prada" was a 20 lb Flemish giant. She was living a decent life in a large pen in a barn. Unfortunately, she was never spayed and a bunch of dwarf bunnies escaped from their pen and decided to mate with her. When Kaitlyn found her, she was faced with a sad sight. Unfortunately, Prada had had a litter and the bunnies didn't make it. Kaitlyn took Prada to her home to give her more attention and to prevent further pregnancies. 30 days later, she gave birth to 11 babies and Harrison was one of them. Did I mention Prada was a stock photo bunny? Some of her pictures have been used on advertisements for pet products.

Penny:

Her previous owners contacted me and were desperate to find her a home. I

couldn't resist and said yes! She was badly matted with sore hocks and a pound underweight.

Since I have a grooming salon at my work, I knew that we could help her. We shaved her down and got her cleaned up. Putting weight on her was no problem as she was ravenous! When she was spayed they found a tumor in her uterus. It's a good thing we got her fixed or she might not still be with us!

Bunnyzine: How long have they been with you?

Harrison is 3 and I've had him since he was 6 months old. Penny is around 3 as well and I've had her a year.

Bunnyzine: Harrison can perform a wide variety of tricks, using the basketball one for example, how do you get him to associate the two parts(picking up the ball and putting it in the net) as a complete task?

Danielle: He's such a smart bunny! I could





write many pages on how I trained him, but the key is treats and repetition. I got lucky with him as he seems to understand both hand gestures and verbal cues. His basketball trick was inspired by Bini the bunny (Guinness record holder for most slam dunks by a rabbit) I taught him the trick in two parts. For the ball part, I use his cue "go get your ball". I can point at an item or say "Go get" as his cue to pick something up. The "slam dunk" part took a lot longer. Once he picked up the ball I would put the hoop under it and say "slam dunk". Once he understood both parts, I put it together into one trick.

Bunnyzine: Was it love at first sight for Penny and Harrison?

Danielle: No. When it was time for their first date, Harry would look at her, lunge and grunt. Penny would run away if he even looked at her the wrong way. Their bond wasn't official until Canada Day. They were camping out in the living room and when the fireworks started they went to each other for comfort and have been bonded ever since.

Bunnyzine: What are some of the things that Harrison does that make him uniquely Harrison and Penny uniquely Penny? Which

of the two is more cuddly with you?

Danielle: Harrison is the boss and owns everything (even me). He hates cuddles and hates being picked up, but will demand to be petted constantly. Sometimes he will jump on my lap... but it's usually just to steal my food or kick me off the couch haha. He's always opening containers and running away with things. Once he stole my mail!

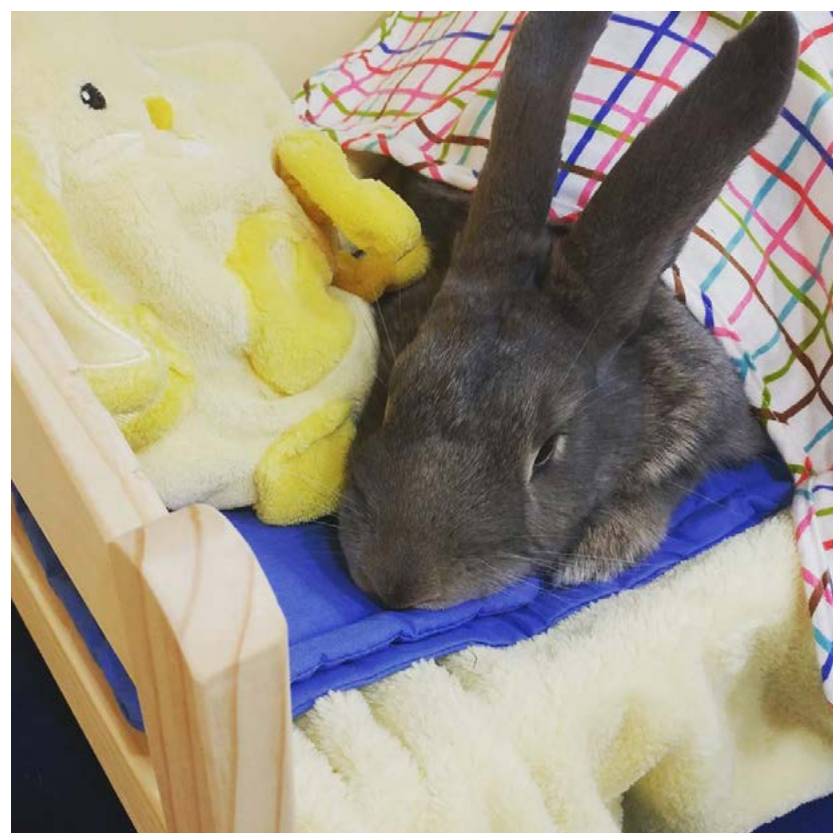
Penny is my cuddly puppy. She will sit with me and never bites. She is obsessed with dog food and has ripped open a few bags at work. She has even stolen dog cookies!

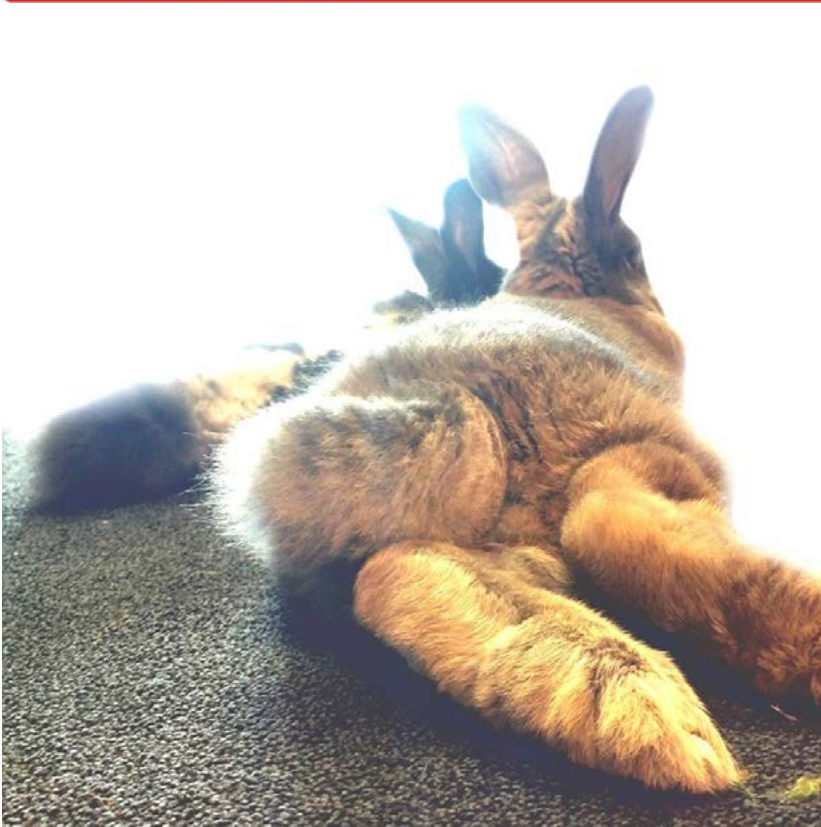
Bunnyzine: Harrison seems to really enjoy his fame, does he ever get tired of it?

Danielle: He would love to be more famous! Even if he doesn't want to do tricks, he will ask for pets and pose for a picture. It's rare for him to not want some form of attention.

Bunnyzine: Can you tell us about the charities Harrison and Penny support and their fundraising initiatives?

Danielle: Since we started collecting, we have raised over \$2000 in money and supplies



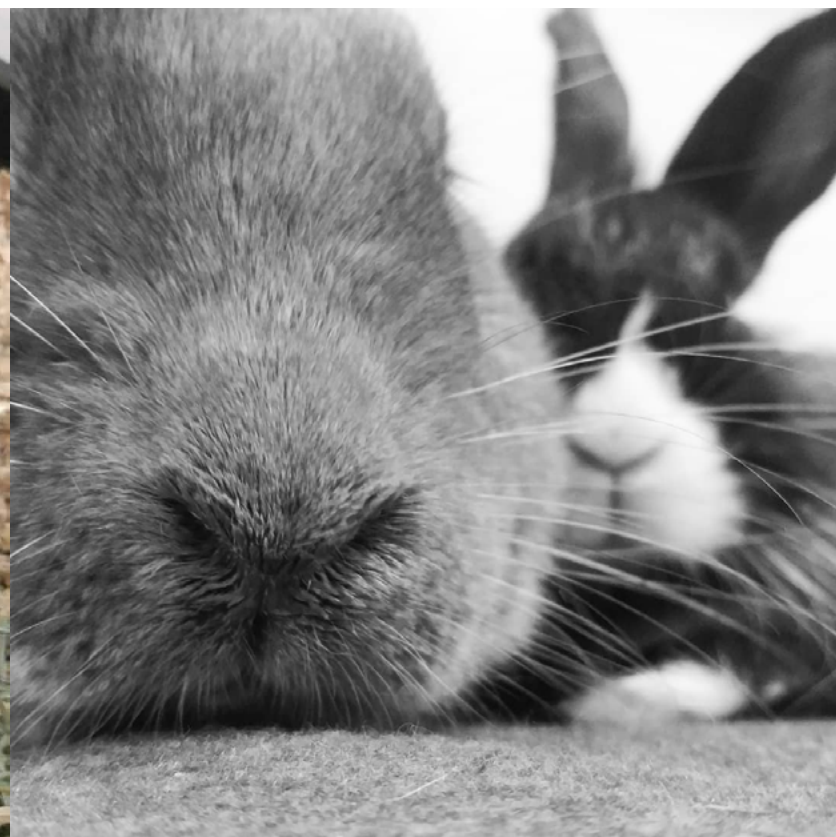


for local rabbit charities such as Hoppy Hearts (no longer running), Sweeties Rescue, Humane Society and Rabbit Rescue Inc.

Along with always taking donations at the till, we also have annual charity events such as our Christmas gift basket draw and Harrison's "Epic Bunny Birthday Party" - a week long event in October with games and prizes.

In the future, we'd like to set up a charity specifically to help spay and neuter bunnies.

Bunnyzine: The colouring sheets are brilliant and they give Harrison and Penny's fans a chance to express themselves and connect more with Harrison and Penny. How else are fans connecting with them?





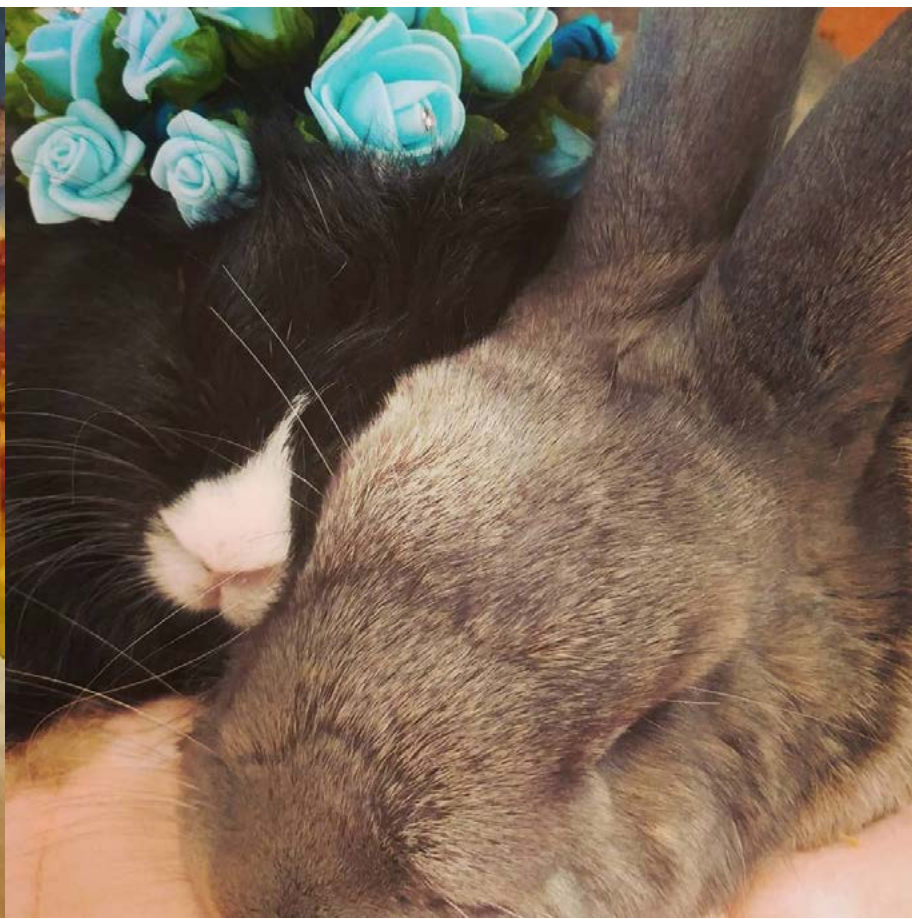
Danielle: Through his facebook and Instagram @harrisonthebunny

We are working on a website which will be available soon www.harrisonthebunny.com

The bunnies also love fanmail and fans can send him letters!

Petacular 57 York Street, London, Ontario N6A-1A6

Bunnyzine: With you being knowledgeable in rabbit care, how much has the attention Harrison and Penny draw in been impacting people's knowledge, education in rabbit





Danielle: The amazement on people's faces when they see a bunny performing tricks and asking for attention speaks volumes.

Harrison has inspired other rabbit owners to get more involved with their bunnies care and wellbeing. Teaching an animal that wants to

updating their nutrition ,results in happiness and good health. A happy, healthy bunny is a calmer more trusting bunny. Seeing my bunnies and learning about them has also helped people in their decision on whether or not to get a bunny. I love bunnies, but they







are not for everyone and are definitely not a good first time pet for kids. We have taught many people the pros and cons of bunny ownership. There are more adults that come in to visit the bunnies than kids. Whenever someone asks about getting a bunny I tell them to come meet mine. I show them the pros and cons of having a bunny.

Bunnyzine: Is there anything you'd like to tell us about them that we haven't covered?

Danielle: "Harrison Ford" is an eight pound Flemish giant / dwarf cross. He got his name because I told my mom he was gray and handsome. My mom jokingly said "like Harrison Ford!"

Penny's full name is "Princess Penelope Fluffybottoms" and is a four pound, Vienna marked French Angora. My seven year old niece, Camryn, named her.

I never imagined how much a bunny could

impact people's lives. Some customers come to the store just for "bunny therapy". Harrison is always willing to let someone who's had a bad day pet him for hours.

Once a customer came into the store and was looking really sad. He said that he was asking a girl he liked on a date for Valentine's Day and had a really special day planned. The girl turned him down and instead of staying home and being sad, all he could think of was going to see Harrison to feel better.

Bunnyzine: That's a super sweet story! I know Harrison can be the perfect pick-me-up to anyone's day. He is absolutely adorable.

Thank you so much for sharing Harrison and Penny with us and I hope those who are in the London Ontario area are able to stop by Petacular and visit Harrison and Penny.

**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Harrisonthebunny/>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/harrisonthebunny/>
Website: www.harrisonthebunny.com (coming soon)**

Rabbitude: A memoir by Romeo, Author and Diva
Available in paperback



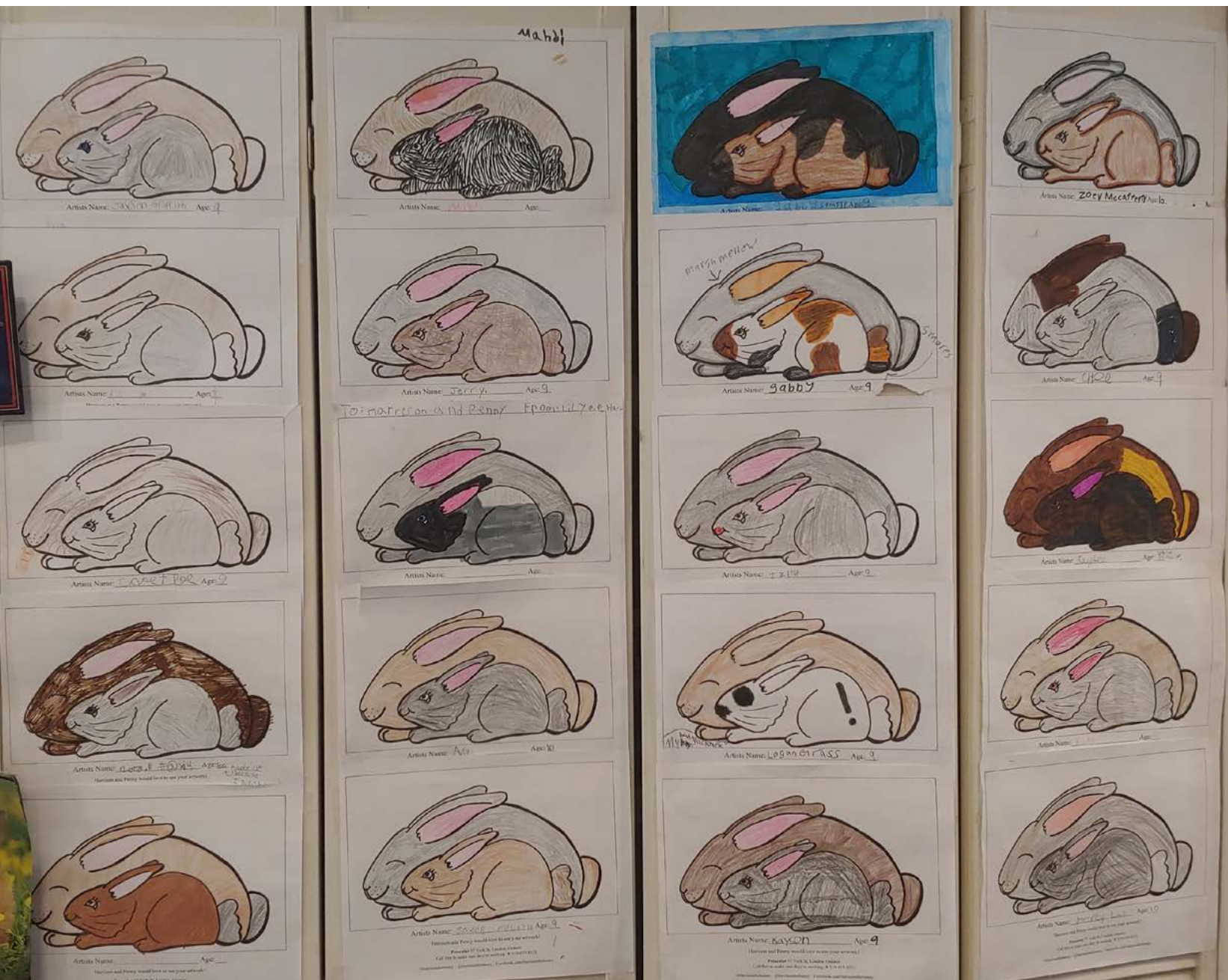
Rabbitude

Tanja D. Stich

Romeo -
Diva with Rabbitude
...a memoir written
by a bunny: her life,
being mischievous,
her adventures, and
her character as only
a Diva can

romeorabbitude.com
amazon.com/dp/1494993007

Bunnyzine Colouring Art

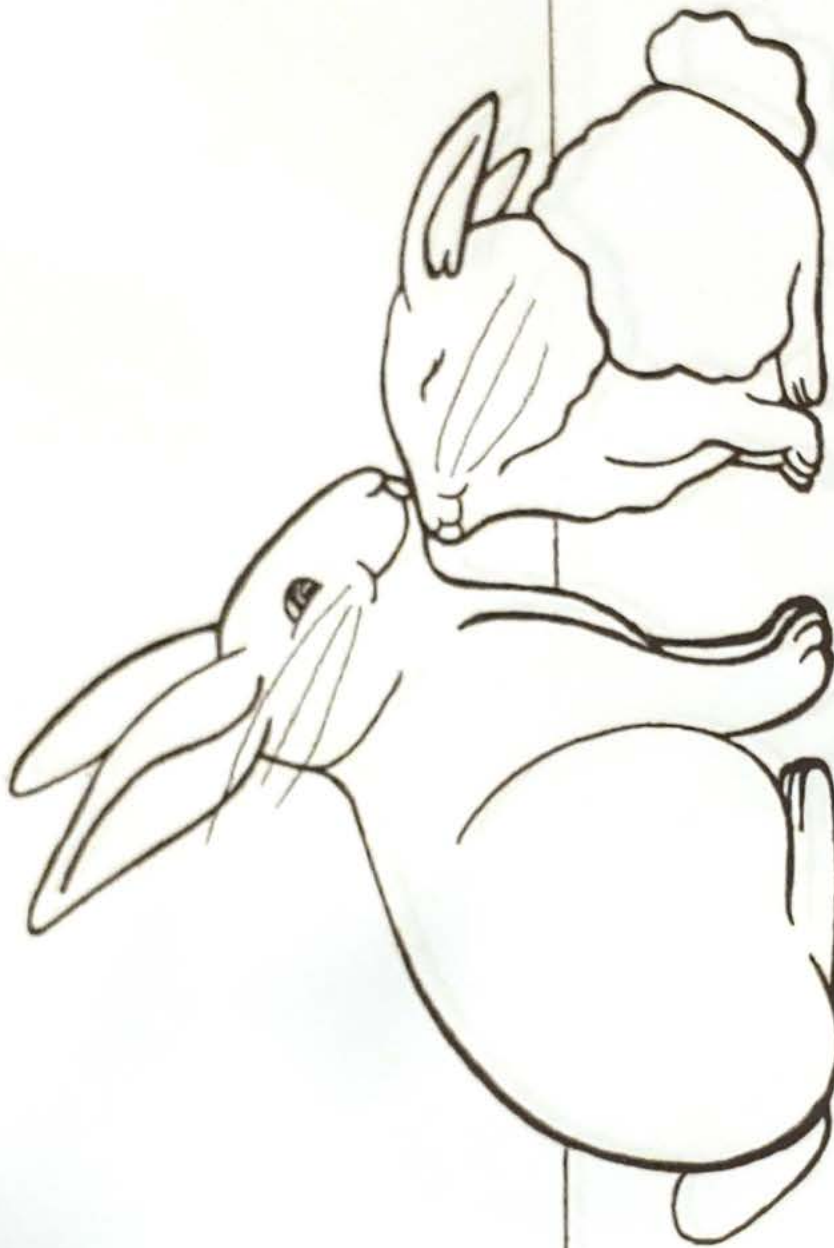


One of the fun reasons to visit our fatured bunnies, Harrison and Penny, is having your art on their colouring wall. Drawn by Danielle Adam, people can stop in Petacular to pick up a colouring sheet and submit it when they are done.

This month, Bunnyzine brings you one of Danielle's artwork of Harrison and Penny.

Feel free to colour it in and email it to Bunnyzine (officialbunnyzine@gmail.com) to be published in a future issue, and/or, you can mail it to Harrison and Penny (address is listed on the colouring sheet on the next page) to join their wall of art.

Special thanks to Danielle, Harrison, and Penny for providing this month's colouring art.



Artists Name: _____ Age: _____

Harrison and Penny would love to see your artwork!

Petacular 57 York St. London, Ontario

Call first to make sure they're working → 519-439-8333

#Harrisonthebunny @harrisonthebunny Facebook.com/harrisonthebunny

REGARDIN THE SECRET LIFE OF RABBITS

REGARDING THE SECRET LIFE OF RABBITS:
INSIDE HIS CONSCIENCE



THE EXTENT OF MY RABBIT'S CONSCIENCE

REGARDINGCOMIC.TUMBLR.COM

Cartoons courtesy
of Penny Collins

ragingbunnies.net
regardingcomic.com

The poetry of Kansas

www.fb.com/pages/Kansas-The-Bunny/110736675648022



(Bunnyzine note: we are skipping the poetry for a bit to bring you this awesome pic

Bunnylicious Australia

I am a mum to 3 beautiful human children & 4 gorgeous rescue bunnies. My passion is to create delicious hand-made treats for all bunnies and guinea pigs, using the freshest organic produce available. Bunnylicious Australia also uses Oxbow Timothy Hay and Oxbow Pellets which, in our opinion, are the best quality available. We do NOT use any binders or fillers, so our treats will be crunchy, but your beloved fur-babies will leave no crumbs behind!

Being oat-free, our treats are the perfect guilt-free treat or reward for your bunnies, piggies and their friends or reward for your pets.



ADOPT DON'T SHOP

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram -
Bunnylicious_Australia

Facebook - Bunnylicious
Australia

CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE STORE

<https://store16551290.ecwid.com/>

OUR STOCKIST

Adelaide Bird & Exotics Vet
Centre

129 Richmond Rd,
Richmond, SA, 5033

Discarded Rabbits

by Iris Klimczuk

*Bunnyzine speaks with rabbit rescuer Debby Widolf about the book, **Discarded Rabbits: The Growing Crisis of Abandoned Rabbits and How We can Help**, written by Lucile Moore and herself.*

Bio: Debby Widolf is a well-known rabbit advocate who was Manager of Best Friends Animal Society's Rabbit Department from 2004 to 2012. Founder of dontdumprabbits.org website, Debby has also been a speaker at National Educator Conferences for the House Rabbit Society where she has been a licensed Educator since 1998.

Bunnyzine: Is 'Discarded Rabbits' a 'how-to' written for experienced rabbit rescuers or more for those new to the plight of dumped rabbits?

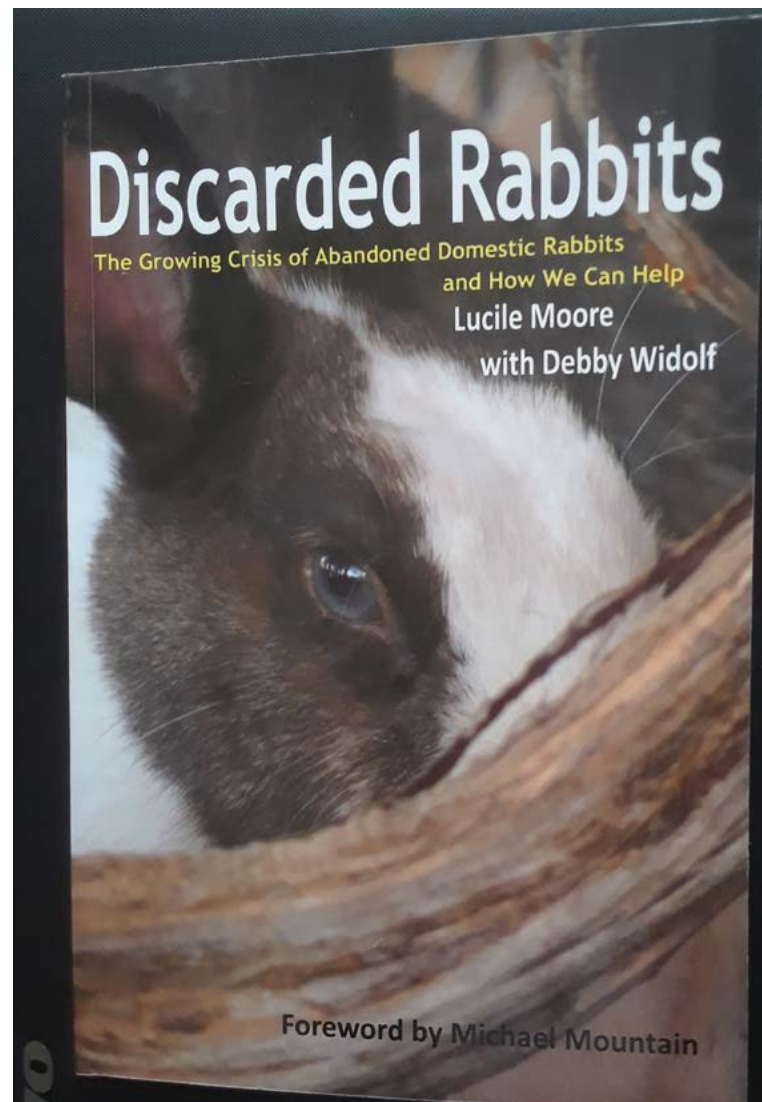
Debby W: Even a person who knows nothing about rabbits and has never rescued one can learn "how-to" in *Discarded Rabbits*! The book was written to cover many aspects of rabbit care and rescue for both seasoned, experienced rescuers working with groups and individuals working alone to rescue dumped rabbits in their vicinity. *Discarded Rabbits* also includes many entertaining, touching and courageous stories from people that love rabbits. It is worth the read just for these compelling stories!

Bunnyzine: You've been involved in rabbit rescue for many years, including the phenomenal Great Reno Rabbit Rescue of 1250 rabbits in 2006, and 9 years as Rabbit Manager at Best Friends Animal Society. Why do you think there are so many discarded rabbits and who is responsible for dumping them?

Debby W.: The reasons people dump or 'discard' their rabbits has been looked at by various organizations and rescues. Studies, statistics, and reports from the U.S. and UK in recent years list owners losing interest, a move, and behavior problems as common reasons.

The top reason reported in one UK study was a child losing interest in the rabbit. A study in the U.S. suggests that most rabbits were given up because owners no longer wanted to take care of them. A researcher in Sweden found that the three reasons given for surrendering rabbits were: lack of time, owners moving, and allergies.

Researchers found that younger rabbits tend to be given away, dumped, or surrendered because of rabbit-related reasons and older rabbits for human-related reasons. Smaller rabbits are also less likely than the up-eared, large rabbits to be surrendered or abandoned. In the U.S. and UK, the majority of surrendered rabbits were unaltered adults.



Debby Widolf posing with a New Zealand White from the Colorado House Rabbit Society.

A number of factors contribute to the problem. Domestic rabbits have become increasingly popular as pets, particularly in the last 25 to 30 years, after many decades of being backyard hutch animals. People became more attuned to the delights of rabbits, encouraged to make them a part of the family as an indoor pet, and veterinarians became more knowledgeable about rabbit medicine, but the downside has been increased abandonment.

The whys are multifold and rabbits have been let down on many levels. There was, and continues to be, a misperception that rabbits are good 'starter pets', requiring minimal care, that are easily handled and enjoy cuddling. Often, the education is not thorough, and many adopters

This information clearly points to the causes of rabbit abandonment and where we need to focus our efforts: more thorough education of adopters, current rabbit owners, the general public, and shelters, as well as to bring into existence enforceable city/state laws that protect domestic rabbits and prevent abandonment.

Bunnyzine: Has the problem of discarded rabbits gotten worse over the years, in your opinion? If so, why?

Debby W.: Yes, I don't believe that there is any disagreement that the problem of discarded, abandoned rabbits has only increased as the popularity of pet rabbits has risen. Rabbits are the third most popular mammalian pet in several countries, including the United States, with estimated at 6.2 million pet rabbits, and the UK, with an estimated 1 million. The rise in popularity of pet rabbits unfortunately directly correlates with the increase in abandonment.

wrongly expect that having a house rabbit is similar to having a dog or cat in the house.

Some breeders, pet stores, and hobbyists have sold rabbits with little or no education about rabbit care passed along to buyers. Even some humane societies and rescues did not give potential adopters a truly realistic idea of what it is like to have a house rabbit, glossing over some typical rabbit behaviors, such as the dislike many rabbits have of being held and cuddled, and a rabbit's destructive potential. When the rabbit turned out to be different than the adopter expected, many were abandoned.

Another factor: there was little or no legal protection for rabbits. Shelters, city animal control were reluctant to take in rabbits and the general policy was not to spay or neuter before adoption. The numbers of rabbits turned in to shelters did not reflect the growing numbers of relinquishment or abandonment as

statistics on rabbits were often grouped into the "other" category, leading to the perception that a real problem did not exist.

Again, even among shelters, there was little knowledge of rabbit care, resulting in poor education given to adopters. Rabbits also fell into hoarding situations as their popularity rose, sharing this horrible fate with 250,000 animals a year in the U.S.

Collectively, we have made some incredible progress on behalf of the rabbits we love, but there is much more to be done. Education needs to be a priority, involvement in animal protection laws is absolutely necessary, we need to keep statistics and make them known, advocate for across-species spay/neuter, and diversify our options for safe sanctuary for discarded rabbits.

Bunnyzine: Some natural rabbit behaviors like digging/chewing/markings/spraying can lead to destruction of personal possessions and home decor. Is it possible the philosophy of indoor living for rabbits may have contributed to unrealistic owner expectations and increased abandonment of rabbits in urban areas?

Debby W: The true nature of a rabbit is to be curious, to dig, chew, explore their environment; chewing on it, digging, marking with their droppings, finding places to hide and stay safe, sometimes resulting in destroyed furniture, clothing, electrical wires or devices. This is all "normal" rabbit behavior. Rabbits need to be presented to the adopter and general public as a "prey species" and that their behavior will always reflect this, even though rabbits have long been domesticated.

Sadly, I think that some aspects of rescue philosophy can contribute to unrealistic expectations of the people that bring a rabbit into their homes, because rescuers often focus on the endearing qualities of rabbits and may not fully inform potential adopters of destructive behaviors. Rescuers also sometimes have quite stringent requirements for adopters, such as adopting only to those who meet certain financial parameters and will house rabbits in x-pens. I believe that there are a variety of safe, caring homes that should not be overlooked, considering the increasing numbers of rabbits needing placement.

Rabbit Abandonment is Against the Law.

Widolf crowd-funded 'Don't Dump Rabbits' campaign billboards that went up in Las Vegas in March 2016 and were seen for a year and a half.

dontdumprabbits.org





Debby Widolf with the mosaic she created in honor of the 1600 rabbits rescued in Reno, Nevada in 2006. It stands at Angel's Rest at Best Friends Animal Society in Kanab, Utah.

Bunnyzine: How did you and Lucile Moore determine which discarded rabbit stories to include in the book? A few other large feral rabbit rescue attempts after Reno in 2006 come to mind: Long Beach Community College in California; the University of Victoria campus and Richmond Auto Mall in British Columbia; and recent efforts in Las Vegas. Are these mentioned in *Discarded Rabbits*?

Debby W: Over 100 questionnaires were sent to rabbit rescues, individuals with pet rabbits, veterinary staff, multi-species shelters and those generally interested in rabbits. We also reached out to request personal stories from individuals or groups about their own companion rabbits or work with rescues and shelters.

We included all stories we received specifically

written for the book. Other information about rescues was summarized from public websites. The University of Victoria and the Richmond Auto Mall were both included, and I wrote of my own experiences with the Reno, Long Beach Community College and Las Vegas rescues.

Bunnyzine: Rescue can be emotionally and physically exhausting work. What keeps you going?

Debby W.: I could write another book about what I am so grateful for, what brings me joy, and continues to "hold me together" in the movement of animal welfare, especially involving rabbits. I have met and cared for the incredible rabbit, witnessed their intelligence, warrior and tender side, curiosity and tenacity, earned individuals' trust and affection. I have learned that my heart will continue to love, despite loss. The animal-human loving, and "rabbit people" that have crossed my path, have been and are extraordinary. They have given me the optimism that we will continue together for the rabbits and all animals.

Bunnyzine: What have been your greatest challenges in dealing with dumped rabbits and are they addressed in *Discarded Rabbits*?

I have struggled with developing strategies and how to be heard to have rabbits get the same care and integration as a family companion as dogs and cats. I have been disappointed that larger organizations do not share their mission and funding to help abandoned rabbits and other small pets with more equal measure.

I would like to see more cooperation and acceptance of a mutual vision of how to expand the options and definition of sanctuary, especially for community- abandoned-feral rabbits and for the rabbit that languishes alone or in a cage for years. Lastly, I feel the pain of rescues, shelter staff, those that struggle to keep going and how to stay strong in our work with rabbits and people. These topics are all covered in the book.

'Rescuers' Final Walk of Honor'
 painted by Debby Widolf.



Bunnyzine: Community rabbits, or large colonies of abandoned domesticated rabbits living together outdoors, are a special passion of yours. As a licensed Educator with the House Rabbit Society for many years, have you found the organization supportive of alternative rescue models like colony-style or sanctuary rabbit rescue for feral community rabbits?

Debby W.: You are right, for many years I have had a special passion for community rabbit colonies. The short answer to your question is that I believe HRS is beginning to look at alternative rescue models, but has not yet fully embraced them. As a House Rabbit Society Educator, I do advocate for a rabbit living indoors with a caring family.

However, my years of experience working at Best Friends Animal Society as Manager of their Rabbit Department exposed me to large scale rescue of domestic rabbits living together in colonies and rabbits in hoarding situations. I witnessed many facets of the rabbit, such as: group dynamics and behavior, degree of varied interactions with people, and what seemed to bring the rabbits joy and a sense of safety and well-being.

I saw that a percentage of feral rabbits were fearful of human contact for many years or even throughout their lives. While in the company of a group, they lived contentedly and relied on each other for comfort and play. I learned that rabbits need each other first. I broadened

my views of housing options for these rabbits. I also experienced other rabbit temperaments - including those that were people-friendly - who lived happily in large groups.

I do not think there is only one type of adoptive home. Outdoor living has its hazards; however, with very good education of adopters/public on protection against predators and disease, rabbits without an option for an indoor home can live a good life. I also believe that rabbits suited to happy life in a home with a friend can still be adopted from the group.

As more abandoned rabbits are reported, I am hoping that organizations such as the House Rabbit Society will consider optional housing or sanctuary for large groups of rabbits living together when there are little or no options left for them due to over-full rescues and shelters. I do believe that HRS is beginning to look at this model seriously and so appreciate their dedication to saving rabbits.

Bunnyzine: What specific policy changes do you feel are needed to tackle community rabbit rescue and are these addressed in Discarded Rabbits? Are you in favor of mandatory spay/neuter for rabbits acquired as pets?

Debby W. : I think that mandatory spay-neuter is critical to addressing the crisis in abandonment of domestic rabbits. Laws against abandoned rabbits must be embraced and enforced by local, county and state.

On a grass roots level, neighborhoods with community rabbits must be educated. I am an advocate for posting signs, passing out brochures, attending community meetings regarding abandonment laws and whom to

contact if stray domestic rabbits are seen.

We need to engage and educate at a higher level than we have previously done. How to effect policy changes and how to help colonies of rabbits are covered in several chapters of the book.

Bunnyzine: Do you think the new California law effective January 1, 2019 requiring rabbits in pet stores be sourced from rescues and shelters will have any impact on discarded rabbit numbers entering animal shelters/rescues or dumped outdoors? What could be done about online rabbit sales?

Debby W. : I think the new laws in California are a great beginning and hope all states will follow suit. However, we must remember that to truly make an impact on the number of rabbits that are relinquished or dumped, we must reduce the number of people who give up their rabbits. Potential adopters need to receive thorough and realistic information on living with a rabbit BEFORE they adopt, and massive and informative education campaigns aimed at the general public are needed to make a greater impact! This is our best defense and social strategy against rabbits being sold online.

Bunnyzine: To close, anything else you would like to add about Discarded Rabbits?

Debby W.: The book was written to bring resources, experiences and stories together to bring about a time when all discarded rabbits will find safe sanctuary. DISCARDED RABBITS: the Growing Crisis of Abandoned Domestic Rabbits and How We Can Help is for sale at many online book stores.

Visit Don't Dump Rabbits:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/dontdumprabbits.org

Website: <http://dontdumprabbits.org>



Hopperation B.I.N.K.Y.

(Bunnies In Need helped by Kindly You)

For EACH book you order from me, you will receive:

- Personalized signing of the book
- One FREE handmade bookmark
- Assurance that \$1 will go to help rescued bunnies find their forever homes

Visit www.monicayoknis.com/earsofluffin/

The Wee Bunny (Audio)Book Giveaway

by *DustinCampbell*

Have I got a treat for you!

Elaine May Smith, author of The Wee Bunny Book has produced an audiobook version and, with her consent, we are giving away three copies of the book!

That's right! You can win one of three copies of the Audiobook (just under 15 megabytes in size) of The Wee Bunny Book.

I've listened to it already and I'm impressed. A group of talented voice actors give this story instant appeal. I already loved the story when I read it, and it's even better hearing the accents and intonations of the actors.

If you'd like to know more about the voice work, here's an entry from Elaine's website: <https://elainemaysmithblog.wordpress.com/2019/05/21/were-all-rock-stars/>

Elaine has updated me with some recent success, including a book tour which kicked off on June 29th at WHSmith

which you can read more about here: <https://elainemaysmithblog.wordpress.com/2019/05/27/book-tour-summer-2019/>

Is that all? Of course, that's not all.

I also learned this little bit of news that, rather than me tell you, I'm going to quote Elaine herself: "Following the ABCs of rabbit care, the sequel "Wee Bunny Book 2" is in the pipeline, introducing new bunny characters who teach the DEFs of rabbit care in Dundee, Edinburgh & Falkirk."

Sign me up! I already want the sequel!

So the big question you probably have is: How do you enter the giveaway for the Audiobook?

Easy: Send an email to officialbunnyzine@gmail.com with "The Wee Bunny Book Contest" in the subject line. That's it. We will randomly draw three winners on August 10th so be sure to enter soon.

If you don't want to wait that long, you can purchase the book now! I'll provide the link in the box below.



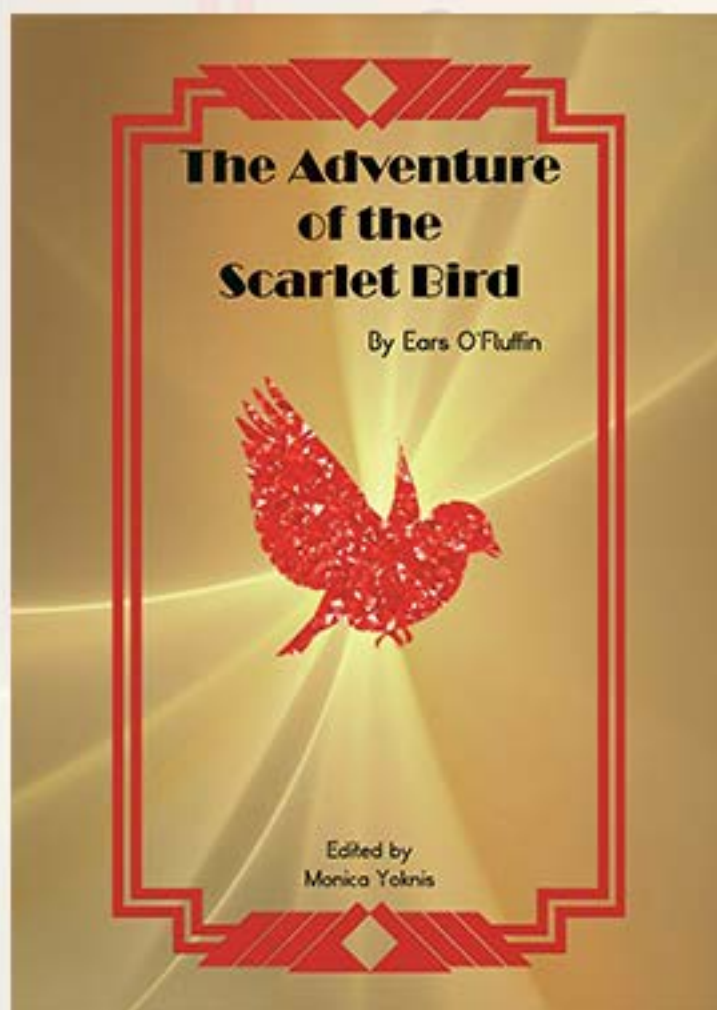
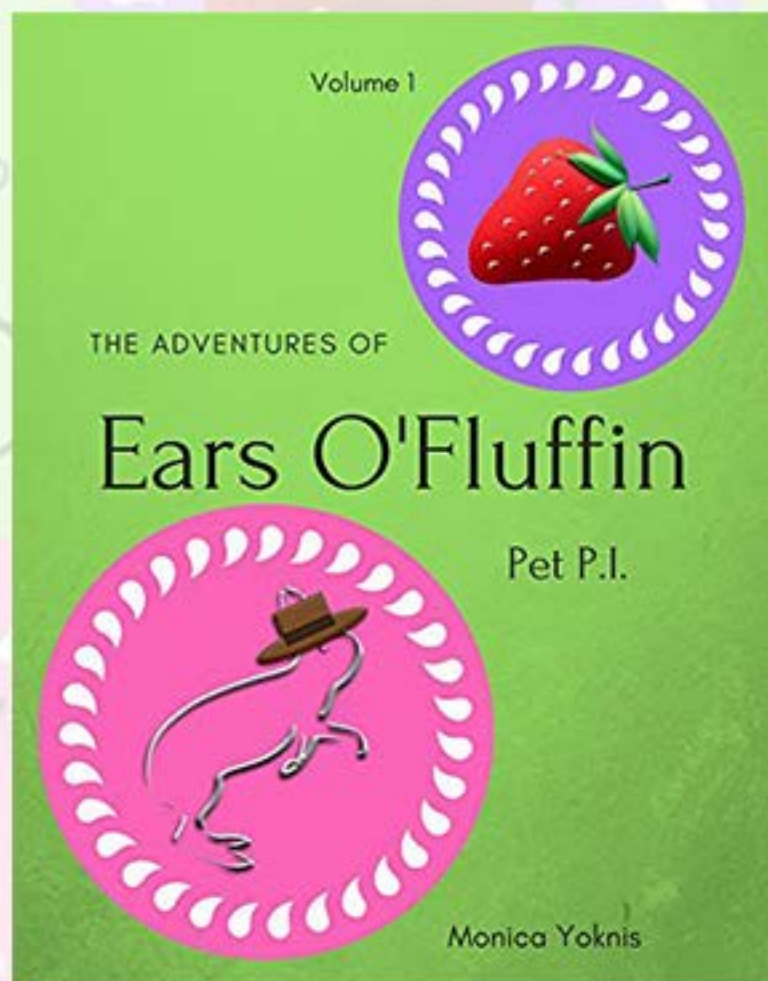
Website: <https://elainemaysmithblog.wordpress.com>

Book: <https://www.amzn.com/gp/product/099577840X/>

Audiobook: <https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/elainemaysmith>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheWeeBunnyBook>

Two Ears O'Fluffin Books



Get them here: <https://tinyurl.com/yaxwltng>

Ears O'Fluffin in: The Case of the Missing Case. - Part 5

by Monica Yoknis

We made our way through the crowds to the otter exhibit. The 11 o'clock feeding had just ended and the humans were drifting off to other sights. One small group was hovering around the entrance to the nursery. They looked like zoo officials and police officers, and didn't seem likely to get in our way.

The sea otters were occupied with various after lunch activities, a few were preening and stretching, one was chasing a ball around, and the others were swimming. I let Penny take the lead, and she gravitated to my favorite spot. At the base of the six inch thick acrylic water tank, we could sit out of the way of hoomin feet and watch the otters slide through the water with a grace I've always envied.

Otters are smart. Scary smart. It didn't take long before one of them noticed us. She popped up on the top edge of the acrylic barrier and smiled down at us.

"Well if it isn't our favorite detective!"

"Hello, Maris. I'd like you to meet Penny, my bunwife."

"It's so nice to meet you, Penny! I'm glad your leg healed well."

"Thank you, Maris," Penny had to hold her hat to look straight up.

Maris threw a glance toward the nursery. "I'm betting you two are here to talk to Jed".

"If he's available," I cocked an ear in the direction Maris had looked. There seemed to



be an increasing commotion near the nursery.

"You know the bushes over at the far corner?"

"Sure".

"I'll have him meet you there". Maris slipped silently back into the water and swam off.

"Bushes?" Penny asked.

"That's where the otters sneak out to pick up and hide trinkets the hoomins drop". I lead the way around the base of the water tank.

The bushes were really a nice thick yew hedge. It looked like a solid wall of green, but there was a comfortable and well protected space behind the green front.

"What kind of plants are those?"

"Yew. Thick, beautiful, and very poisonous".

"Oh," Penny looked carefully at the hedge. "So no nomming, then".

"Nope". I found the nearly invisible gap where the hedge met the last few feet of clear acrylic and hopped through. I turned to help Penny but only saw her hat. I took it and stepped back. She hopped right in after me.

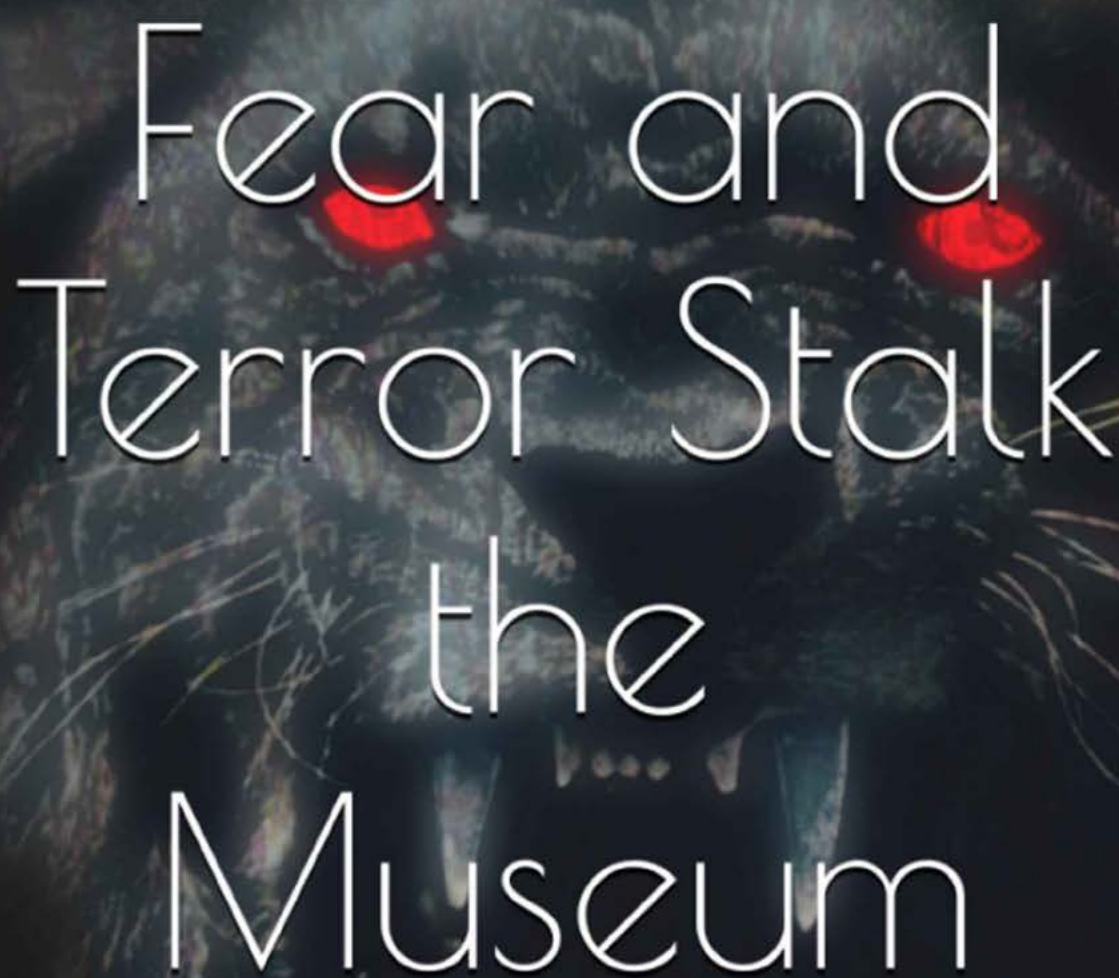
"Oh, this is a nice space," she looked around as she settled her hat back on her ears.

We felt a large thud behind us, turned, and found ourselves face to face with the largest otter I've ever seen.



To be continued...

A Novel By Monica Yoknis



Fear and Terror Stalk the Museum

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Daisy's Diary |

Snapshots of Daisy's posts on Ocean's page

I genuinely get amused by Daisy's posts on Ocean's page. It often cheers up my day and I thought it would be great to pick a few of them and reprint them here. So I reached out to Daisy and she was all excited about the idea and so we are now starting this new section of Bunnyzine called Daisy's Diary. I hope you enjoy it.



"The adventure continues and the danger increases"

-Dustin Campbell, Bunnyzine



Snow faces her worst situations yet as she struggles to survive an island full of new creatures

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Bad News For North American Bunnies

By Iris Klimczuk and Sorelle Saidman

Rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus/RHD2 is back in the news again as the second confirmed case on US soil has been found in a 2 year old pet rabbit as well as in feral rabbits on Orcas Island in Washington State in mid-July. Many rabbit deaths are also being reported on Lopez Island to the south of Orcas Island, although at press time the virus had not been confirmed as the cause. It was also unknown if the strain was a match to the one found in British Columbia. Both islands are tourist destinations not far from the Canadian regions hit hard by RHD2 in spring 2018. On the advice of the Washington State Veterinarian, the San Juan Island County Fair rabbit show was also cancelled.

2019 saw RHD2 confirmed again in April near Parksville on Vancouver Island and in June in a downtown Vancouver apartment in British Columbia, where unvaccinated pet rabbits died. No details were released regarding precise location or how/where the pet rabbits in the downtown Vancouver apartment became exposed to the fatal virus. A BCSPCA representative confirms that the incident remains localized at press time, but urges all rabbit guardians to vaccinate their pets.

The BC government's Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Jane Pritchard, is urging people to send in deceased rabbits for testing. "People should not assume they have this disease without a diagnosis," she told Bunnyzine in an email. "The lab does not even charge to test a rabbit for RHDv but very few are sent in."

When announcing the Orcas Island RHD2 deaths, the Washington State Department of Agriculture asked veterinarians who suspect a RHD death on other San Juan islands or the mainland to contact the State Veterinarian's Office at ahhealth@agr.wa.gov so spread of the disease can be tracked. Rabbit owners with questions about the disease were directed to contact their veterinarian.

RHD2 is fatal to unvaccinated rabbits and currently there is no vaccination available in Washington State. Interest in importing the Filivac vaccine, which protects against both rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus strains 1 and 2, is gathering steam in Washington State among rabbit guardians who fear that the disease - which is lethal only to rabbits - may spread further.

The RHD2 virus has proven quite resilient and is thought to have lingered in the environment since last year's initial outbreak in British Columbia. The disease can be spread via fomites and vectors, such as by predators and in their excrement, by mosquitoes/flyes, in feral rabbit populations, by deceased rabbits or even a few survivors, who shed the virus or provide a reservoir for the disease to survive and spread.

APHIS/USDA has a special e-permitting application process for the import of unlicensed biologics by licensed veterinarians which would allow importation of a vaccine, if approved. To make the vaccine cost-effective, a large amount of vaccine would need to be imported. The vaccine must also be kept refrigerated during transport, adding to the cost. In Canada, where the RHD vaccination has been available, the cost to rabbit guardians ranges from US\$20 to US\$75+ per rabbit, depending on whether it is given as part of a multi-dose vial or as an individual dose.

The first laboratory-confirmed death due to strain 2 of the rabbit hemorrhagic virus disease on US soil occurred on a private Ohio farm located in Medina County in September 2018. Four out of five rabbits living colony-style in a horse stable on the farm died in rapid succession and an astute veterinarian called for testing of the fourth deceased rabbit. None of the five rabbits were new arrivals to the farm and no new rabbits had visited the farm premises, so how RHD2 turned up at the Ohio location remains unknown.



Rabbitats volunteer, Terence, holds bunny Nutmeg while Joseph Martinez, DVM, administers the vaccination against rabbit hemorrhagic disease.

that RHD appears for now NOT to affect native North American cottontails and jackrabbits. On other continents, wild rabbits are European rabbits (scientific name *Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and can succumb to RHD infection. A recent report out of the UK states that wild hares are also dying from RHD2 disease and the disease is known to previously have jumped to European brown hares in Italy, Spain, France and Australia.

Further information:

Washington State Department of Agriculture Ag Briefs, July 25, 2019, 'Update: Deadly Rabbit Disease on Orcas Island now confirmed in feral rabbits' <https://wastatedeptag.blogspot.com/2019/07/update-deadly-rabbit-disease-on-orcas.html?m=1>

'Rabbit virus confirmed in Vancouver', British Columbia Gov Information Bulletin, June 21, 2019, <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019AGRI0051-001301>

BC-SPCA Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Information Sheet for Rabbit Owners, updated June 2019, <http://spca.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Rabbit-Hemorrhagic-Disease-Information-Sheet-for-Rabbit-Guardians.pdf>

BC-SPCA Information Sheet for Shelters, Rescues and Sanctuaries, updated June 2019 <http://spca.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/BC-SPCA-RHD-Information-Sheet-for-Shelters-Rescues-and-Sanctuaries.pdf>

Notification from Dr. John Clifford, APHIS/ USDA to OIE/World Animal Health, September 21, 2018. Rabbit Haemorrhagic disease, United States of America http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=28028

'Hares in Essex and Dorset found with rabbit virus', BBC News, 25 January 2019, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-46991599>

This confirmed RHD2 presence led to the cancellation of last year's Midwest Bunfest out of an abundance of caution; it had been scheduled for end-October 2018 in Columbus, Ohio. The Ohio RHD2 incident is considered an isolated RHD2 occurrence that has been fully contained. In December 2018, RHDV1 - a different strain of rabbit hemorrhagic disease - took the lives of 40 rabbits in a barn in Pennsylvania. That case has also been fully contained.

European countries, Australia, New Zealand and Israel have also confirmed the presence of the rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus strain 2, which appears to be replacing earlier RHD strains. The relatively recent arrival and spread of the RHD2 virus on the North American continent remains worrisome, especially in areas where no vaccine is permitted, as is currently the case in the United States. Containing the spread of RHDV2 therefore should be a high priority and biosecurity is currently the only way to protect against RHD2 in the US, although a vaccine has been available in affected parts of Canada since last year.

A notable difference between the North American RHD2 situation and elsewhere is

The Bunnyzine Dream

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