



# Bunnyzine

May 2018

Vol. 4  
Issue 7

Exempel

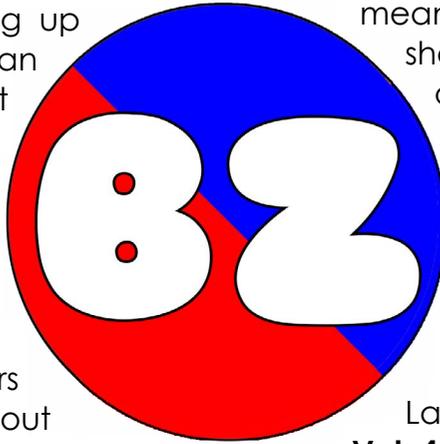


Your FREE Monthly Digital Rabbit Magazine

### **New things are coming**

As you are probably aware from our facebook post about doing a "Men with buns" issue, we have some big plans coming up ahead. We want to create an issue that rescues will have first opportunity to sell as a fundraiser for themselves. We also are going to be focusing a lot of our attention on promoting and marketing Bunnyzine.

Bunnyzine has been testing out different things to see what readers like and don't like while working out better and better ways to logistically assemble the issue each month. It's been a strong learning experience and with the dynamite team we have working on these issues for you, we've had some really great successes and reached some really fantastic milestones.



It's time we took Bunnyzine to the next level and launch it into becoming the financial conduit between advertisers and rescues that it was meant to be. Stay with us because you should see some dramatic changes in our growth over the next few months. It's definitely something to look out for.

And, just a special message to Lena because I know she's reading this. I really hope you change your mind. I do.

Last month's downloads:

#### **Vol. 4 Ed. #6 (Las Vegas Bunnies)**

Downloads: 518

Love and kisses to your bunnies!

Binkies and Flops

-Dustin

officialbunnyzine@gmail.com

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## Bunnyzine Volume 4 Issue 7

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Poetry of Kansas: Kansas the bunny

BZ Cast: Randy Hayes

Ears O'Fluffin: Monica Yoknis

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Kansas The Bunny

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**And, of course, you. Our Bunnyzine readers!**



The artwork of award-winning illustrator

**Penny Collins**

[www.ragingbunnies.net](http://www.ragingbunnies.net)

# Featured Bunny: Exempel

*All bunnies are beautiful. Some bunnies are so beautifully photogenic that you can't help but squeeeee with every photo. Exempel is one such squeee-able bunny. With 38k likes on facebook and 185K followers on Instagram, Exempel is living it up with internet fame and we are very pleased to be featuring Exempel for this edition of Bunnyzine. Special thanks to Moa Näslund for doing this interview with us.*

**Bunnyzine:** Can you tell us about how and when Exempel came to live in his forever home?

Moa : My friend had two bunnies and when I met them in 2011 I kind of fell in love. As my uncle had bunnies as well, I asked my family and him if I could buy a little baby bunny from him, which I could.

**Bunnyzine:** Exempel has an overwhelming number of fans. How does he handle his fame?

Moa: By sleeping, haha!

**Bunnyzine:** I see on YouTube, there is a video of Exempel learning to high five. How long did it take for him to learn?

Moa: It actually took a while as he at first didn't wanted to put his paw in my hand. We only did short training sessions as well, so maybe like 2-3 weeks?

**Bunnyzine:** What's a day in the life of Exempel like?

Moa: He usually wakes up when I wake up, he gets breakfast of some kind. For example dried leaves, salad or a bit of an apple. Then he spends the rest of his day sleeping, eating hay and cuddling! During spring, summer and autumn (before it gets too cold) were also outside a lot.

**Bunnyzine:** What's Exempel's favourite treat?

Moa: Bananas!



**Bunnyzine:** What is one of your most favourite moments of Exempel?

Moa: I would say every evening when I lay in bed and he jumps up, lays beside me and gives me lots of kisses and then he falls asleep. That's something I'll always remember.

**Bunnyzine:** Where did Exempel's name come from?

Moa: My uncle breeds horses, goats, donkeys etc. and their names aren't like normal names, they're named Dream and June, but in Swedish, to name two of them. I wanted to do the same thing with Exempel as I didn't know what to name him. They also go in alphabetical order, in 2011 it was the letter E. So me and my sister looked in a dictionary and we both thought Exempel would suit him so well!

**Bunnyzine:** Can you tell us what Exempel's life was like before coming to live with you?

Moa: I don't really remember as I was only



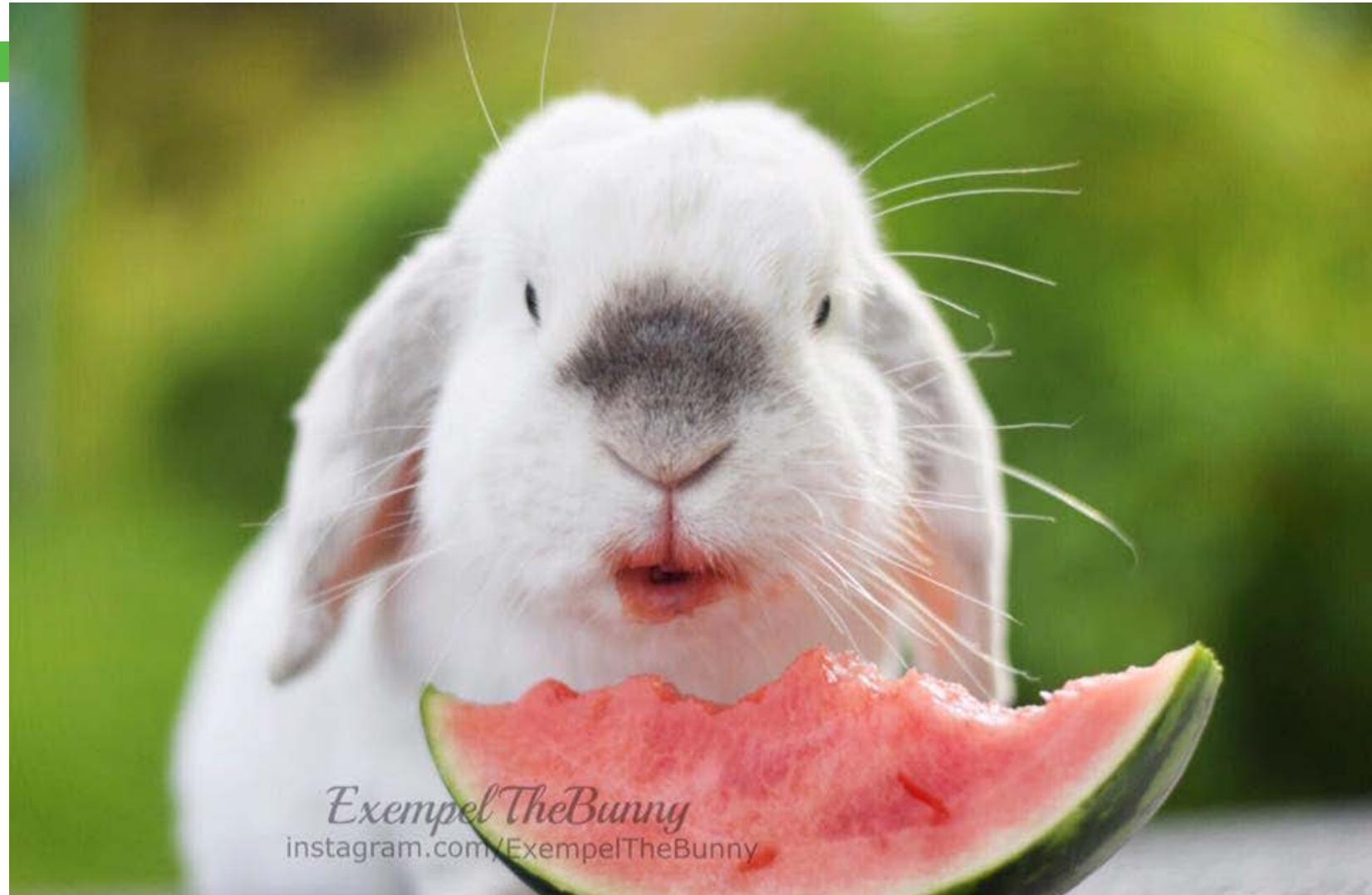












*Exempel TheBunny*  
instagram.com/ExempelTheBunny















13 years old when I got him, but I didn't take pictures as often as I do now and I also was kind of alone. I had friends and we used to hang out, but with animals you're never alone you know?

**Bunnyzine: Who are some of Exempel's favourite friends?**

Moa: Definitely our old Syrian hamster Teolin, who sadly passed away a few years ago. He also loves one of my uncle's Saint Bernard dogs, Juli. He has met lots of bunnies, dogs, donkeys, goats etc. but he has never had a friend like Teolin.

**Bunnyzine: Does Exempel celebrate any holidays? If so, which are his favourite?**

Moa: Christmas is his favorite I think, besides his own birthday. He can open his own presents, get yummy food and just spend time with the whole family!

**Bunnyzine: What are Exempel's most favourite things to do?**

Moa: I actually think that's a tie between eating and cuddling.

**Bunnyzine: That's adorable. Thank you so much for letting us interview you on Exempel and I hope every reader, who isn't a follower, becomes one because Exempel is a fine example of a very wonderful and beautiful bunny.**

## Follow Exempel on:

<https://www.facebook.com/ExempelTheBunny/>

<https://www.instagram.com/exempelthebunny/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ExempelTheBunny>

REGARDIN THE SECRET LIFE OF RABBITS



Cartoons courtesy of Penny Collins

[www.ragingbunnies.net](http://www.ragingbunnies.net)

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[regardingcomic.com](http://regardingcomic.com)

# REGARDING THE SECRET LIFE OF RABBITS: MAY DAYS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE CREATOR OF BUNNYZINE!

P



## The poetry of Kansas

[www.fb.com/pages/Kansas-The-Bunny/110736675648022](http://www.fb.com/pages/Kansas-The-Bunny/110736675648022)



Listen my kits  
'N ye shall hear  
The bunny 500  
Of Paul Lopear

Upon thee nautical twilight  
Thee 'lectric cords are near  
Ready for a-chewin'  
By ye Paul Lopear

Chew one if no peanuts  
'N two it is deemed  
If being no cookies  
Like Paul Lopear dreamed

The 'lectric cords are coming!  
The 'lectric cords are going!



## Fund rabbit rescues without paying a penny

Readers attract advertisers  
Advertisers spend money  
Money funds rescues

Did you know Bunnyzine is a passion project for a small group of volunteers?

We continue to strive to reach a larger goal. We need a larger reader-base to get advertisers so we may fund rescues with ad revenue.

Help us get money from those who have it and give it to those who need it.

Read Bunnyzine. It's that easy.

# Black Bunnies Unite!

by Iris Klimczuk

**Bunnyzine: Who came up with the idea for the Black Bunnies Unite FB page?**

Kaitlen: We would say #blackbunniesunite every time we saw a new picture of either Malcolm or Ori. Then one day, I had a brilliant idea: why not make a special group for these bunnies? Before I created the group, I searched Facebook to be sure this name was not taken as there's so many rabbit groups out there, some with similar or identical names. I wanted a group that was unique and unlike the others.

Ali: Kaitlen actually approached me in regards to starting a group for black bunnies because

Malcolm and Ori are two polish bunnies, who are identical. Our Polish twin boys as we say. She came up with the awesome idea and I loved it. How could I say no?

**Bunnyzine: Why did you decide to start a special Facebook group for black bunnies?**

Kaitlen: We love ALL colors and sizes of Bunnies, but black bunnies hold a special place in our hearts. We wanted a place where everyone could share their special black bunny friend and learn new bunny things. It's not just for the fun of black bunnies. There will be educational posts and facts about bunnies. We welcome our members to ask for advice if needed.



Ali: All bunnies are special in their own way, no matter their size or color. Black Bunnies Unite welcomes bunnies of all colors and sizes apart from black ones. We wanted to make a page for black bunnies because statistically they, like the REW's (red eyed whites), are often the last ones to be adopted. We also wanted to connect with other black bunnies around the world. We love seeing all the different kinds and shapes. Kaitlen came up with the great idea to do different days, for instance, Whisker Wednesday, Bunny Butt Friday and so on. Because we are both moms of two identical Polish bunnies, we thought it would be cool to see other Look-A-Like bunnies.

**Bunnyzine: When was the page founded and how many members does it have?**

The page was founded March 30, 2018. We currently have 280+ members and are still growing.

**Bunnyzine How big would you like this group to grow?**

We would love to have this group be as



#Black  
Bunnies  
Unite

big as it can be. But we believe in quality, not quantity. The group should be a fun, happy, and non-judgemental place where people can come, have fun, and learn with us. The more the merrier!

**Bunnyzine: What geographic areas are your members from?**

Everywhere! We are a worldwide group and have seen members join from Germany to Australia. We are amazed by how many people have joined and have shared information on Bunny safety, education, and cute bunny pictures!



© MrBeansFriends



**Bunnyzine: What makes Black Bunnies so special to each of you??**

Kaitlen: Black Bunnies hold a special place in our hearts. Although black coats can be undesirable to some, I think the black coat is beautiful - so shiny when healthy! I just love how it glistens in the light! But unfortunately, the down side as with black cats, is their color can be a hindrance for them because they get overlooked in rescues and shelters. But people are missing out because black bunnies can be some of the nicest bunnies around! They bring you joy and bunniful luck!

Ali: I used to have a black Netherland Dwarf named Suzi Moo. When she passed, I really wanted another who looked like her. I saw Ori

online and knew I had to have him. He came from a really bad situation. So we rescued him along with his bonded sister, Buttercup (Cuppy for short), who is an American Sable/Cinnamon Rabbit mix.

Black bunnies are amazing! They are always overlooked, but they just have that mystery to them. Plus, they are super cute.

**Bunnyzine: What are some of the most interesting posts you've seen in the group?**

Kaitlen: Everything is interesting in our group! I especially like it when we come across Polish rabbits because at first glance, I think it's Malcolm! Then I realize it's a totally different bunny.

Ali: I would say every post is interesting. One post I especially liked was when Kaitlen shared about scent gland cleaning. A lot of times, that area gets overlooked. She really is very knowledgeable and I love her posts. She's an amazing bunny mom!

**Bunnyzine: Tell us about your own beautiful black bunnies and what makes them special.**

Kaitlen: Malcolm is a Polish Bunny. He joined our family when he was 6 weeks old! He is a sweetie pie, but very grumpy at times. If he is annoyed with you, he will growl/grunt and bite at your clothes. Or if a blanket is nearby, he'll bite that. His nickname is Mr. Grumpy, but I also call him O'Mally.

Sometimes, I wish he would give me a kiss, but you can't force a bunny who isn't very affectionate. Even though Malcolm isn't a cuddle bunny, he likes to follow Mr. Beans, and copy what he does (like follow the leader!). Beans is the total opposite. Beans is the cuddle bunny and very affectionate. He will cuddle with you for many minutes up to when he says no more. He would give you tons of kisses and gets pushy if you don't return the offer with head pets. Beans is also very photogenic!

Beans & Malcolm have been inseparable ever since they were officially bonded, which took about 6-7 months. They were born 1 year apart, but only by a couple months. Beans was born August 4, 2014 and Malcolm February 26, 2015. Malcolm is also picky about what he eats, but when he sees what Beans is eating, sure enough Malcolm will give it a try and then decide if he likes it! Except the one "treat" Malcolm will go crazy for is Bananas! (what Bunny doesn't?)

Ali: Malcolm and Orie are twins (brothers from another mother), but have completely opposite personalities. Orie is definitely a mommy's boy. He's very shy, but always wants attention. He's docile and very sweet, whereas Buttercup is crazy. She loves attention and is very sassy! They are total opposites, but that's why I love them. They balance each other out perfectly.

Orie definitely loves to be the boss sometimes and will make a small snort to assert his dominance. Buttercup is not a cuddler. Orie is, but he will let you know when he isn't in the mood. They love their treats (I use plain brown pellets and only a tiny amount). Cuppy is definitely a daddy's girl for sure, she is all about him! It's quite cute. When he comes home, she and Orie run up to him, but she will give him a kiss. I do not receive kisses from her, unfortunately. We are an extremely happy bunny family.

I am currently in school to become a Licensed Vet Tech, so some of my favorite posts are vet recommendations. Finding the correct vet is really important. Bunnies are considered Exotics and a lot of people don't know this.

I really want to share with people about an Exotic Vet practice near and dear to my heart



because it is extremely important to me and my experience might help other fellow bunny parents.

Orie and Buttercup came from a horrible hoarding situation when they were 13 weeks. They were immediately brought into Stahl Exotics in Fairfax, VA where they were seen by Dr. Costanzo (so when you call ask for him), who was absolutely amazing. They had the worst infection in their eyes. Dr. Costanzo put them on antibiotics, and they healed beautifully. They aced their follow up check-up and that's all I could ask for.

Why do I bring this up? Finding a good rabbit vet is key, but finding a great veterinarian is quite rare and that is Dr. Costanzo! Dr. Costanzo taught me almost everything I know about rabbits, from diet to behavior and so much more. Owning a new bunny can be tricky, but Dr. Costanzo said: "No question is a stupid question. So always ask." I always tell people who own bunnies that they must see a rabbit savvy exotics specialist. I unfortunately didn't know this with my first bunny, Suzi Moo.

I remember when Orie had about 2 horrible cases of GI Stasis, something I knew nothing about because I was a fairly new bunny owner. Dr. Costanzo explained everything to me and the proper care. I did some research too, and it is a common issue with rabbits. So see a vet ASAP when you see signs of lethargy and if your bunny is not eating/drinking/defecating/urinating. Bunnies go downhill fast and are masters at hiding their pain.

Dr. Costanzo also performed the spay and neuter (which is crucial, not just for population control, but for health) for my bunnies and made sure I was kept up to date every step of the way. I am very particular with my bunnies and Dr. Costanzo always accommodates me.

He is an amazingly gifted veterinarian and so are all the others at Stahl Exotics. It's hard to find vets who don't do things just for money, and I found the best. These doctors love every patient and care so much. They will fight for your pet.

By the way, Stahl Exotics just acquired a new CT scan. I would say that I trust them with my rabbits for anything and everything and that is saying a lot! Their LVT's, Techs, Assistants, Receptionists - everyone is so helpful and knowledgeable. This veterinary hospital attracts people from hundreds of miles away because it's so good!

Orie is really good when he sees the vet and Buttercup is on her best behaviour (She's a sassy girl normally). I think she likes the lettuce treat that Dr. Costanzo gives her when they go in, it's a deal breaker. I love my bunkids and always want the best for them!

### **Bunnyzine: Anything else you'd like to add?**

Kaitlen: Please follow the adventures of Beans & Malcolm on their social media accounts. We love our fans who we call friends. Their Facebook page is Mr. Beans & Friends. Instagram is @mr.beansfriends and Twitter is @MrBeansFriends

Ali: I would personally like to thank each and everyone of Buttercup and Orie's followers on social media. Thank you to everyone who has done a Buttercup and Orie 'shout out' to help us grow. It means that world to us. And thank you, Mr. Beans & Friends, for being our biggest supporter.

Buttercup and Orie's social media:

1. Facebook: Buttercup and Orie
2. Instagram: @Buttercupandorie

Malcolm and Orie's FB group/page: Black Bunnies Unite

## **Black Bunnies Unite Facebook Group:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BlackBunniesUnite/>

# The Origins of Doctor Doogs

by Charri Everson

Our first experience using natural remedies for our bunnies didn't come naturally to us... an odd thing to admit considering that I was raised by hippie parents and have been treating myself and my family naturally for as long as I can remember. It was the start of our yearly tradition of bringing home a new furry family member at Christmas, as well. Christmas Eve, thirteen years ago, we attempted our first ever bonding session with Nera and Miss Mookle. In a few short minutes, Nera had managed to scratch a nice gouge on the rim of Miss Mookle's eyelid. Within minutes, Miss Mookle's eye had swollen shut and we were in full panic-mode. We called our vet and of course he was on vacation and the office was closed until after New Year's. We called every other vet and animal ER within two hours of us. Those who were open would not see rabbits, the others were closed until after New Year's as well. So, we had no option but to switch modes from "only a vet can take care of this" to "what would I do for myself and my human family"? I knew that teabags (black, green, and chamomile specifically) used as compresses would bring down swelling and infection in human eyes, but were they safe for bunnies? I knew that bunnies could EAT chamomile; I also knew that saline solution is used to clean all manners of injuries in humans and animals, including eye injuries. In addition, I knew that the similarities between the human eye and the bunny eye were why bunnies were used in lab conditions to test human eye products. While Ken researched whether or not we could use anything else, I brewed up some chamomile and made some saline. The compress and saline worked nicely. Research showed we could add in some echinacea to the brew and to her food, so we did. Little by little, we added other herbs shown to be bunny-safe to the brew. Every two hours, we washed her eye and placed the compress over it for 15 minutes. By the time our vet was back from vacation, Miss Mookle's eye looked great. We still

took her to him to make sure there wasn't any residual damage or infection that we weren't seeing. And there wasn't. That moment defined us. We had to use what we knew in the moment so we were determined to learn everything we could. We've not gone a day without research since. Most people play Candy Crush or the such on their breaks at work or home...we research.

Our research kept our bunnies out of the vet's office. We found that not only could we treat common illnesses like GI stasis and mild bladder sludge, we could actually prevent it from happening again. We even found that boosting the immune system could help bunnies stave off fur mites. We didn't just research WHAT was safe or unsafe for bunnies, but WHY. We took the theoretical and put it into action while always erring on the side of caution.

Then came Facebook...resistant as I was to social media, I too, was sucked in. I wanted every bunny parent out there to know that



there were alternatives to the status quo in bunny care. I couldn't bear knowing that bunnies were getting urinary and GI issues at all when they could be prevented; let alone that bunnies were actually DYING from them. Doctor Doogs, our beautiful and sweet Holland Lop who, with wholistic care, we were able to rescue from the brink, became our voice. He traveled all over the world (via Facebook) dropping tidbits of knowledge and advice to bunny parents, hoping that he could change the bunny world one bunny at a time. Soon, bunny parents were seeking his knowledge and advice. They wanted to pay to have the proper herbs mixed up for them rather than them having to search the health food stores and internet for the proper variants of certain herbs while also being able to make sure the herbs were fresh enough to have maintained their efficacy. Thus, came the start of Doctor Doogs's Bunny Pharm.

of the last quarter of a football game, which more often than not, did not win the game. We could provide comfort and treatment of symptoms in the sick bunnies' last days, but could not save them; but then again, nothing could. This was NOT, is not, what Doctor Doogs's Bunny Pharm was about. We were and are about prevention. Why could no one see if they prevented the sickness, they wouldn't have to treat the sickness? But we kept going, reminding everyone that prevention, wholistic care, is the key. Today, more and more bunny parents are hearing and taking to heart our message. Though there are some parents out there resistant to the warnings, dietary change suggestions, and wholistic suggestions we put out there in the bunny community, there are more who are receptive; and the change can be felt. We always try to troubleshoot diet and environment before we suggest a certain herb or product to potential customers. We get messages from parents everywhere thanking

us for everything from our warnings about the dangers of willow toys to helping them prevent further outbreaks of bladder sludge, stasis, and even seizures. This makes all of the heartbreak and even the haters worth it all.

Though seeing all the sickness in the bunny community and being a last resort has been heartbreaking and angering, it has also been inspiration for many of our products. For example, Sparkle's Haylo Tasties were inspired by Sparkle, a bunny in California who was not eating

It was heartbreaking (and dare I say quite angering) for a while. Bunny parents were only coming to us when Western Medicine had failed their bunnies. We were the last resort. We were the Hail Mary thrown in the last seconds

hay after her surgery to repair a tear in her intestines caused by a splinter of a willow toy. We wanted to make something for her that would not only make her want to eat the hay, but also something with which she could play



as she had once played with the willow toys. These treats, made of only hay and fruit, were the only way Sparkle's mum could get her to consume hay. We had never given our bunnies store-bought treats so didn't realize all of the garbage with which they are filled. Once we did the research, we knew we HAD to make these treats a permanent part of our product line. And, we were right to do so. Ouchie Ointment was also inspired by the bunny community, with all the cases of urine scald,

that is both lickable and highly-effective. Ask anyone who has tried Ouchie Ointment, and they will rave about its greatness. Even vets are pleasantly surprised; some even suggest it above prescription salves and ointments. In addition, many of our products such as Vitality Vittles, Sneezzy Wheezy, Hitch in the Hopalong, Bac Away!, Golden Goose and Cadbury's Cozies have been used in our sanctuary for some time but have only been released for sale once we have found that there is a want

or need for it in the bunny community. We are constantly working behind the scenes to develop products to give bunny parents options beyond the status quo. Henceforth, our product line has grown significantly beyond those early days.

Though the bunnies here at the Flophouse depend on each and every sale, we are not solely concerned about the bottom line. When a bunny parent contacts us to get a suggestion of which product

abscesses, and other ouchies bunny parents were (and unfortunately still are) treating with Neosporin, Aquaphor, Silvadene, etc., none of which should EVER be licked, and to all of which I, myself, am sensitive. All animals lick foreign "stuff" from their bodies; I couldn't imagine ever putting something like those commonly-used salves and ointments on any animal, especially on ultra-sensitive bunnies. It took some time to perfect, but I finally developed a formula

would work best for recurring bouts of stasis, for example, we would love to be able to simply suggest Piddy Poo, but our consciences do not allow that. If we can troubleshoot a bunny's diet or environment to remedy an issue, we would much rather do so than make a sale. Our mission is to revolutionize bunny care, not to bow to the almighty dollar. This philosophy makes money extremely tight, but keeps our hearts and consciences unburdened and free.



## Doctor Doogs' Bunny Farm

<https://www.facebook.com/BunnyPharm/>

<http://drdoogsbunnypharm.com>

# Northeast Bunfest 2018, A Smashing Success

by Shari Cylinder

Things were hopping at Northeast Bunfest 2018! A flurry of activity filled the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center on Saturday, April 21st, the bunny community joining together to celebrate its love for these most endearing furry friends.

Hosted by Luv-N-Bunns Rabbit Rescue, the second annual event featured something for everyone - and everybun! Nearly five hundred attendees came from near and far, some even traveling from New England and Maryland, to participate in the day's festivities.

Thanks to the eight different rabbit rescues and well over a dozen vendors who also took part, this year's Bunfest was even bigger than the inaugural one! With a wide variety of items to purchase - including things like wooden

castles, homemade treats, willow tents, and crocheted hats for the bunnies, along with customized rabbit artwork, t-shirts, jewelry, and pillows for their humans - people could be seen toting around shopping bags and boxes all day long.

The raffles and silent auction also drew large crowds and helped to raise money that will be used to save even more rabbits. And the best part? More than seventy-five bunnies were also in attendance to give their binkies of approval!

The rabbits - all safely transported in carriers, strollers, or bonding scarves - enjoyed the love and attention of their adoring fans, as well as some downtime in the Chill Lounge. There, the



Photo: Shari Cylinder



Photo: Shari Cylinder



Photo: Shari Cylinder

bunnies had the chance to stretch their legs in spacious x-pens, drink some water, and munch on delicious hay.

Many of them also stopped by the Bunny Spa for nail trims and grooming before hopping over to have their pictures taken by a photographer. Then it was back to shopping, exploring, and even modeling some of those adorable little hats!

For the humans, along with the opportunity to shop until their hearts were full and their wallets empty (as any bunny parent can tell you is often the case!), there was also a series of educational talks. Local veterinarians and rabbit enthusiasts spoke about a wide array of topics, sharing their wealth of knowledge on a range of subjects from bonding, to bunny emergency kits, to orthopedic rabbit care. Those sitting in on the seminars were all ears!

In addition, there was a question and answer session where people could ask anything they wanted and receive personalized feedback!

All throughout the lecture hall and the adjacent main area, excitement flowed through the air as everyone traded stories, advice, and, of course, lots of photos of their best bunny buddies.

There is something inherently special about the rabbit community. Bunny people are the best people, and Northeast Bunfest was yet another reminder of that. It might have been a beautifully sunny day outside, but the real warmth was inside that expo hall.

To see everyone come together - to support the wonderful rescues and vendors, to search high and low for the gifts that would make their bunnies happiest, to share in the very special kind of bond that ties rabbit owners together with a friendship unlike any other - it was its own sort of joy, of hope, of sunshine.

Thank you so much to everybody who helped make this day a success. From start to finish, it was, truly filled with such hoppiness!



Photo: Shari Cylinder



Photo: Shari Cylinder



Photo: Shari Cylinder



Photo: Shari Cylinder

Photo: Shari Cylinder



Photo: Shari Cylinder



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Photo: Shari Cylinder

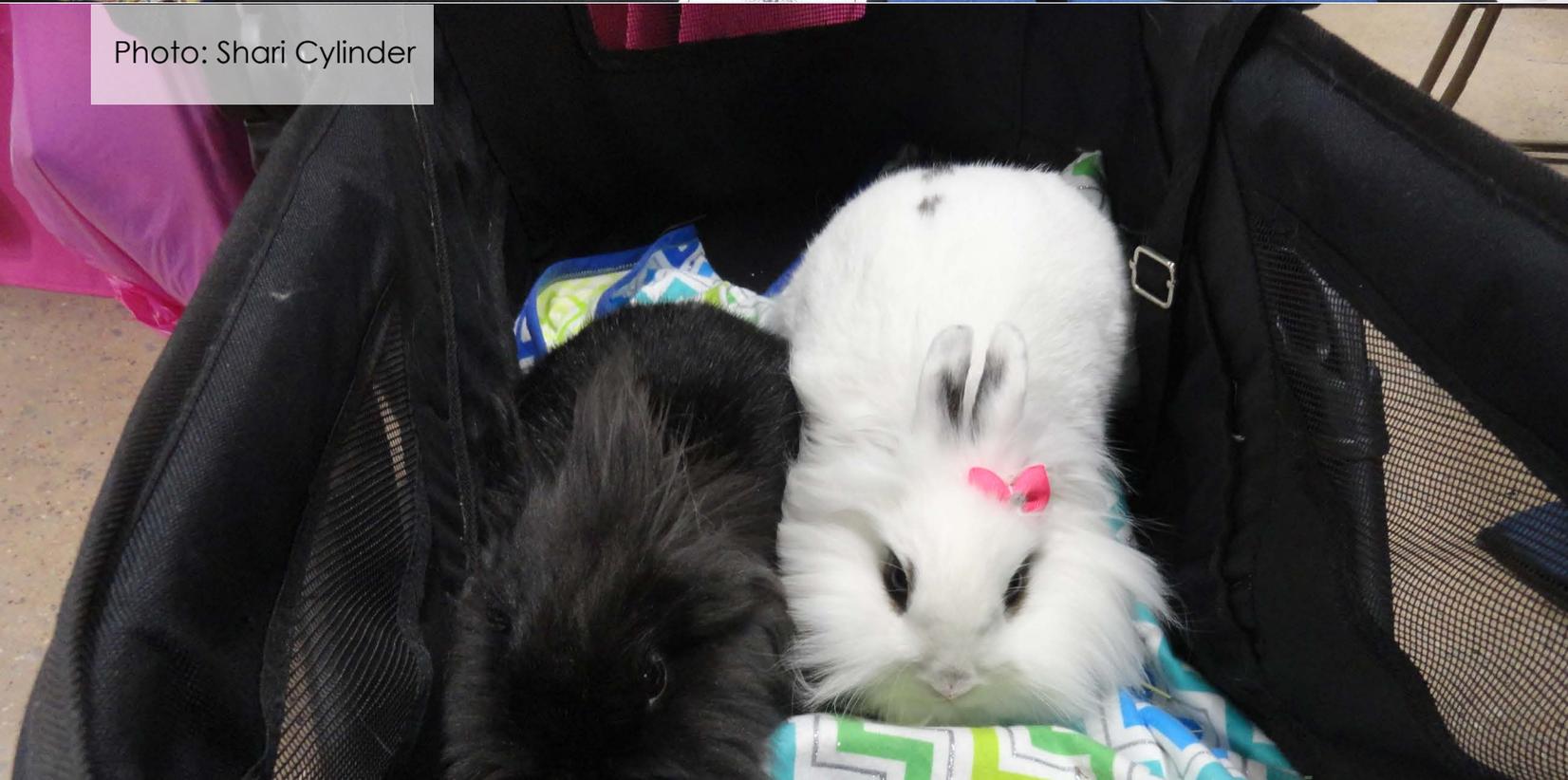


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Photo: Shari Cylinder



Photo: Shari Cylinder



Photo: Kris Smith



Photo: Kris Smith

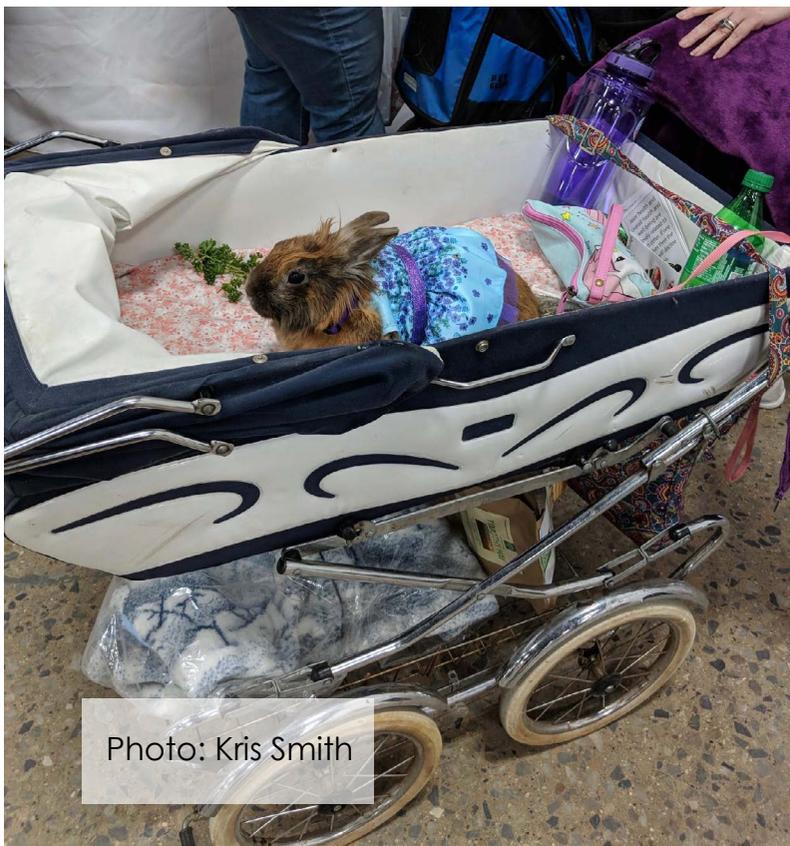


Photo: Kris Smith

# NORTHEAST LOVE VIB BUNFEST





Photo: Kris Smith



Photo: Kris Smith



Photo: Kris Smith

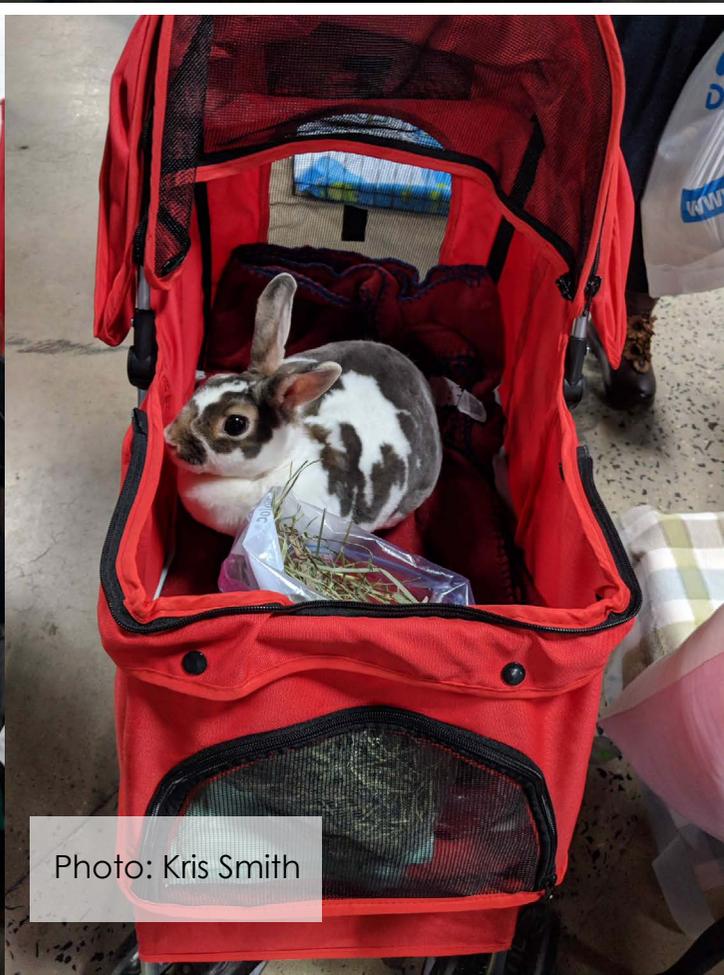


Photo: Kris Smith

Participating Rescues:

- Luv-N-Bunns
- Bunny Lu Adoptions
- Eastern Shore Rabbit Rescue
- Clover Patch Sanctuary
- Peaceable Kingdom
- Friends of Rabbits
- EARS Rabbit Rescue
- House Rabbit Society Southeastern PA-Delaware Chapter

Participating Vendors:

- A.Lynn Designs
- Royal Rabbit Furnishings
- NDorrien Designs
- BinxBox
- Amy Gregory Mott
- Denise Pokorny
- White Rabbit Exotic Pet Care
- Manifestation Manifesto
- Handmade Jewelry
- Bullies & Bunnies Pet Bowls
- Penelopads
- Nina Petrossian Illustrations
- Bingaling Bunnybox
- Calen's Bun-dalas
- Bearly Paper
- Rhody Bun Mobile Market
- Old Town Vintage
- Sherwood Pet Health
- Merritt Sloan Art
- Nicole Stahl Art



Photo: Kris Smith



For the latest news and announcements on NorthEast Bunfest, follow:

[www.fb.com/NEBunfest/](http://www.fb.com/NEBunfest/)

# A Northeast Bunfest 2018 Experience

by Tom Imke

*Who I am in Bunny terms? I knew absolutely nothing Bunny when in 2009 my wife started talking about a co-worker's (single mom of 3 teens) bunny. Typical Easter Bunny sent home with the kids by Dad. She was about 6 when we got her, underweight and neglected for about a year and she quickly took my heart. She taught me everything bunny I needed to know and never held a grudge for all my mistakes. I learned a lot from my Vet, everyone in the different Facebook groups and of course, Rabbit.org. On the different FB pages, I met so many rescuers and shelter people and, being a retired accountant, offered help getting 501(c) 3s and other financial support. I currently volunteer or otherwise help out (transportation or finance) with a bunch of different rescues. In 2014, Cookie took a piece of my heart to the Bridge but 9 months later put the most senior resident at SE Pa-Del HRS in my lap at their open house and Colin has been with us ever since.*

This is Cookie and Colin



## MY DAY AT NE BUNFEST

I arrived around 11:00 and the whole place was jumping. Bunnies in strollers, kids and parents and activity all over. I took a walk around the displays and checked the time of the seminar on Bonding that I didn't want to miss. I had just a few minutes so I went in and met someone from Luv n Bunnis that was behind the Small Pet Select table. Had a nice talk until it was time for the seminar. It was Luv-n-Bunnis again providing 2 people that had some very good experience in bonding. I came away with hope but still feel that my boy is destined to be single as he lived alone so long in the shelter and barely tolerates me in his domaine.

I came out of the seminar into the hustle and bustle of rescues:

Luv-n-Bunnis  
Bunny Lu

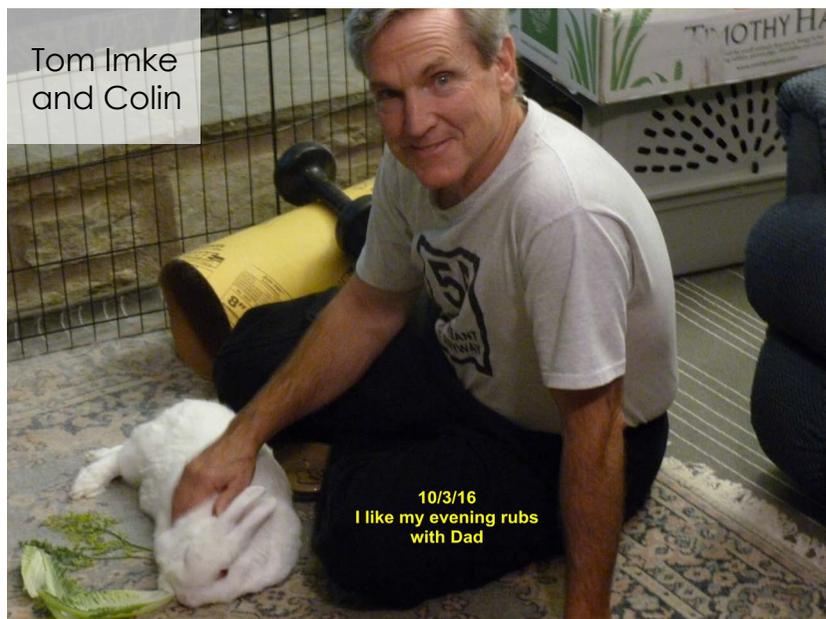
Eastern Shore Rabbit Rescue  
Clover Patch Sanctuary  
Peaceable Kingdom  
Friends of Rabbits  
EARS Rabbit Rescue  
House Rabbit Society Southeastern PA-Delaware Chapter

And so many vendors. In addition to Small Pet Select, I spent some time with Sherwood Pet Health, the guys with Crazy Tasty hay and a group that had a whole bunch of stuff from Binky Bunny. I got to replace Colin's Willow Tunnel which he had completed demolition a while ago, browsed the raffle tables and talked with the rescuers and pet their Bunnis.

I went over to the spa and found several workers with Buns in multiple stages of Spa Treatments. I stopped to talk to Ronnie while she was filling a bag with fur, only to see that she had created a well trimmed angora from a pile of mats and tangles. The spa was busy from beginning til I left with clippers on charge while ones in use were being killed.

I finally got to put faces to many of the people that I only know on line and watched while so many renewed long time friendships.

The time moved along and the raffles were pulled until the day finally had to come to a close



Tom Imke  
and Colin

# Hoppy 7th Birthday to you Angel Pancake on May 2nd

by Dustin Campbell



I want to give a special shoutout to Angel Pancake who spends his 7th birthday, playing with Angel Dynamite, at the bridge, on May 2nd.

Pancake was a favourite of many and a trooper. Despite having strong health issues, Pancake remained a sweet, enduring, and lovable bunny. If you haven't heard of him before, you should definitely check out his Facebook page which has a plethora of photos and an account of his history.

No doubt, birthdays at the rainbow bridge will consist of all the best fruits and vegetables, binkies, and afternoon flops in the sun.

We love you, Pancakey. We wish you celebrated your 7th birthday with us but we know you are going to have a fantastic birthday. Happy seventh birthday, sweetheart.

**Visit Pancake's Facebook Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/Help-Pancake-the-Bunny-636419633088892/>

"The adventure continues and the danger increases"

-Dustin Campbell, Bunnyzine



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# BC RHDV2 Outbreak Spreads From Ferals To Rabbitries, Shelter Rabbits

by *Iris Klimczuk*

Last month, Bunnyzine reported on the first ever rabbit hemorrhagic disease/RHD2 outbreak in British Columbia, Canada. RHD is an extremely infectious and lethal disease causing internal bleeding and organ damage in rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*). Most infected rabbits die suddenly.

Transmission of rabbit hemorrhagic disease occurs by direct contact with infected animals via oral, nasal, or conjunctival routes. It can also spread via contaminated food, bedding, fur, and water, by people's shoes/clothing, by biting insects, birds, rodents, wild animals, vehicles, etc. The RHD2 virus can also survive for long periods of time in the environment, but it does not affect humans.

The outbreak in British Columbia continued to spread during April, with mounting rabbit deaths not only in feral colonies of domesticated rabbits, but also in a Richmond, BC animal shelter and two rabbitries on Vancouver Island. Confirmed positive RHD rabbits were found in the Comox, Courtenay, Delta, Nanaimo, Parksville and Richmond areas.

The no-kill Regional Animal Protection Society/RAPS shelter, which housed its adoptable rabbits in an indoor-outdoor environment, was likely contaminated via infected feral rabbits wandering onto the property. After two rabbit deaths in RAPS care were confirmed due to RHD2, the remaining 66 rabbits housed at the RAPS shelter were euthanized for humane reasons, sparing them a painful death, while also attempting to curb further spread of the

disease. On Vancouver Island, in late March two rabbitries - one a breeder and the other a rabbit meat producer - were also hit by RHD in late March, with rabbit deaths there numbering about 300.

Some positive news is that Canadian Food and Inspection Agency/CFIA issued an import permit allowing the British Columbia Chief Veterinary Officer, Jane Pritchard, to import an inactivated RHD vaccine called Filavac from France to be used as a preventative measure. Although vaccination will not stop a rabbit from contracting RHD, it should allow the rabbit's immune system to mount a fast and strong defense if it encounters the disease, making it less likely to succumb.

The Filavac RHD K C+V vaccine arrived in British Columbia in mid-April, and the very first vaccination against RHD on North American soil was carried out by BC veterinarian, Adrian Walton. (Dr. Walton has become a familiar,



Photo Credit: Sharon Doucette



Photo Credit: Sharon Doucette

trustworthy source of information on the BC RHD outbreak via his Dewdney Veterinary Hospital Facebook video updates.)

Rabbits across the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island began to receive the Filavac vaccinations from April 17th onward, and some clinics in other parts of BC also received it in anticipation of the quickly spreading disease. According to the Filavac manufacturer, immunity is conferred in seven days.

Rabbitats, a large rabbit rescue and sanctuary, held a special mega-vaccination clinic for the almost 300 rabbits under their care on April 24th in South Surrey, BC. Several veterinarians volunteered their time at the vaccination clinic, with vaccines paid for by generous Rabbitats donors.

RHD2 is an extremely hardy virus and this particular strain appears to kill rabbits rapidly and often without blood-tinged orifices as previously seen in Europe. Entire large feral

domesticated rabbit colonies that had proliferated for years in certain locations on Vancouver Island and on Annacis Island on the Lower Mainland seem to have disappeared almost overnight in mid-February. Laboratory testing now suggests the first outbreaks in Nanaimo on Vancouver Island and Annacis Island on the Lower Mainland occurred simultaneously.

If you are in British Columbia and aware of a deceased feral domesticated colony or see dead rabbits without obvious signs of illness or trauma, please report it to your local animal control so that suspect RHD carcasses can properly be disposed of by incineration or by deep burial.

Those with pet rabbits in known RHD areas should observe strict biosecurity, even after vaccination. No greenery, grass, hay or other forage collected in areas where RHD has



wild rabbits like cottontails and hares (jackrabbits) are affected by RHD2, but wild rabbit die-offs can be reported via email at [wildlife.health@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:wildlife.health@dfw.wa.gov) or via the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife website.

Due to concerns of people with rabbits entering from Canada to fairs, shows and exhibitions in Washington State, a certificate of veterinary inspection must accompany all animals - including rabbits - entering Washington State. However, since RHD is invisible until confirmed by post-mortem testing, it is unlikely this requirement will do much to protect US rabbits from being exposed to RHD2. APHIS/USDA at present requires no health certificate for pet rabbits crossing from Canada into the USA, although certain states (like Washington) and airlines may require them to transport rabbits.

Rabbit guardians wishing to learn more about RHD and how to keep their pets safe should speak to their veterinarian and review the updated BC SPCA RHD Information Sheet.

been confirmed or is suspected should be fed to pet rabbits, as eating these could lead to infection with the deadly virus.

Staying away from feral rabbit colonies in hotspot areas is recommended, as approaching them might result in inadvertently further spreading of the RHD2 virus. To help monitor feral rabbit populations in British Columbia and Washington State, please report known feral colonies to <http://www.rabbitats.org/abandoned-rabbits/>. Such information may be useful in helping determine the direction and spread of RHD2.

At press time, NO confirmed cases of RHD2 have been reported in the USA, although it seems probable the outbreak will spread into Washington State during the summer tourist season as cross-border traffic increases. In Washington State, rabbit hemorrhagic disease must be reported to state or federal authorities immediately upon suspicion of the disease or upon diagnosis.

Unexplained increases in death or diseased rabbits should be reported to the Washington State Department of Agriculture at (360) 902-1878 or (800) 606-3056. It is not known whether

#### Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Information Sheet - for Pet Rabbit Guardians

##### What is Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease?

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD) is caused by a virus in the calcivirus family. There are a number of related viruses, some which do not cause disease. RHD was first reported in B.C. in February 2018 in the Nanaimo area of Vancouver Island. Follow-up laboratory work identified an RHD virus. Since then, the disease has been confirmed in multiple locations on Vancouver Island as well as several Lower Mainland locations. Dead rabbits have been feral European or domestic rabbits. All domestic rabbits are susceptible, so pet rabbits are at risk. RHD is a serious and extremely contagious disease with high mortality rates. Most infected rabbits will die. The disease does not affect humans or other species including dogs and cats. The virus can persist in the environment for several weeks and may survive both heat and freezing.

##### How does RHD virus spread?

RHD virus spreads easily between rabbits through direct contact with bedding, feed and water as well as feces and body fluids. It can also spread between areas through contaminated materials (food, bedding, water, surfaces, human clothing/hands, vehicles), dead rabbits, insects and wildlife (flies, birds, mammals) that have contacted or fed on infected rabbits.

##### What are the symptoms of RHD?

The virus causes hemorrhages by affecting the blood vessels and attacks the liver and other organs. Most affected rabbits die suddenly, but can show signs of listlessness, lack of co-ordination, behavioural changes, or trouble breathing before death. There is often bleeding from the nose at the time of death. Once infected, signs of illness usually occur within 1-9 days.

##### How can I protect my pet rabbit?

- **Minimize exposure to the virus**
  - Limit human visitors who have been in areas where the disease was reported and avoid your travel to these areas.
  - Avoid taking your rabbit to shows/fairs or introducing any new rabbits into your home.
  - Ask visitors to remove footwear before entering your home and wash their hands before handling your rabbit.
  - Use designated clean clothing (washed and dried in a dryer) that has not been outside when caring for your rabbit.
  - Clean and disinfect any rabbit supplies entering your home (see below).
  - Use only high-quality commercial feed from manufacturers with good quality control.
  - Don't use wild plants or vegetables or grass grown in areas accessed by feral rabbits or other wildlife, as food.
  - Remove or tightly secure anything outside (feed, garbage) that could attract feral rabbits, wildlife, or flies.
  - Exercise rabbits outdoors only in secured areas with no possibility of contamination.
  - Do not allow cats or dogs who go outside to potentially contaminated areas to access your rabbit's housing area.
- **Monitoring and prevention**
  - Monitor your rabbit daily for signs of illness and contact your veterinarian immediately with any concerns.
  - Vaccination is the best way to protect your rabbit. Talk to your veterinarian about vaccinating. A limited number of vaccines have been imported from France on a special permit, with more expected to arrive in May.

##### How do I clean and disinfect rabbit supplies?

Feeding and housing supplies should be cleaned with soap and water, and then disinfected with a disinfectant that is effective against calciviruses following manufacturer instructions. *Most household cleaners are not effective* against this type of virus. Advised to be effective: bleach (1:10 dilution), potassium peroxymonosulfate (Virkon), accelerated hydrogen peroxide (Prevail, Accel, and Peroxigard). The latter disinfectants are more user-friendly than bleach and may be obtained from your veterinarian.

##### Who do I contact with questions?

Contact your local veterinarian with questions about your rabbit. If you find a dead rabbit or rabbits outside, do not handle the rabbit(s), and contact your local animal control. Veterinarians and shelters have access to additional professional resources and support. For more information, visit [www.spc.bc.ca/rhd](http://www.spc.bc.ca/rhd).



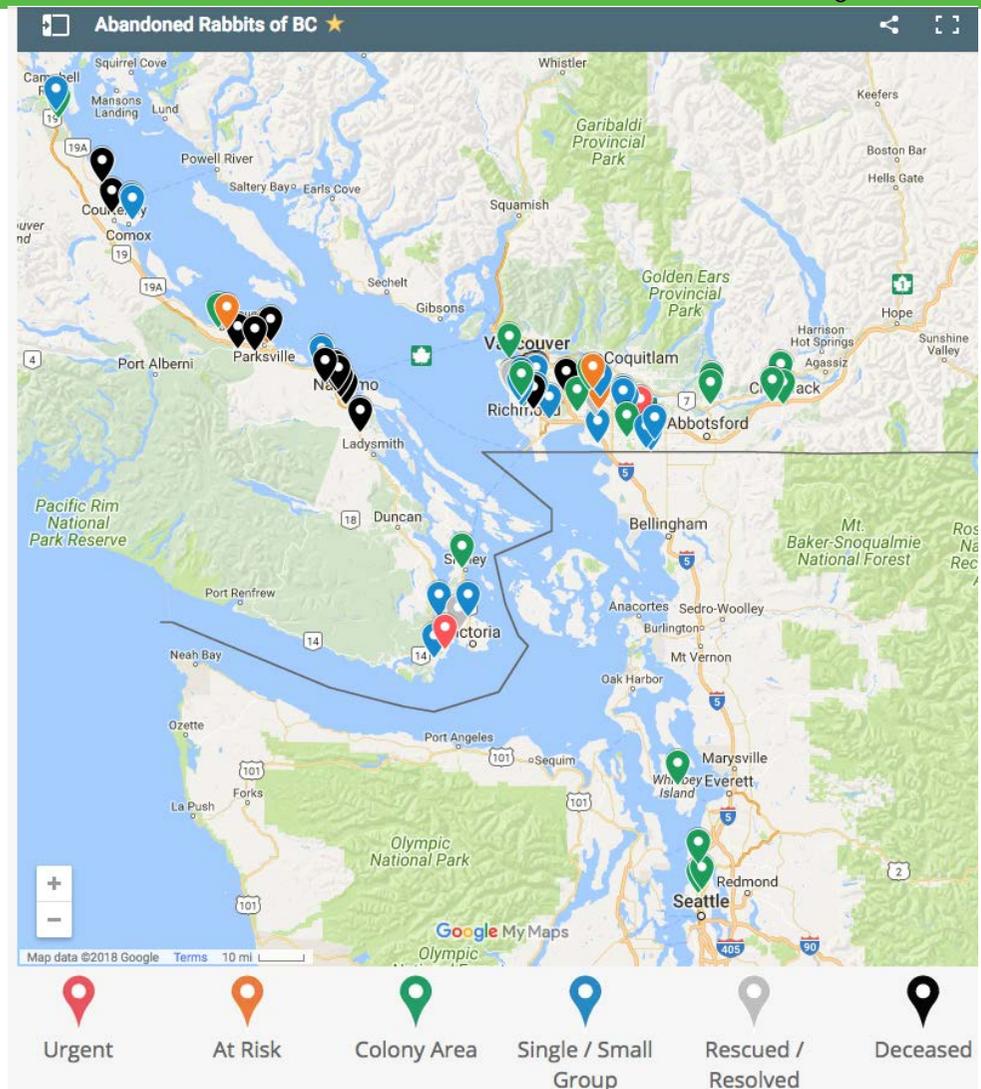
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SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

## Map Illustrating high-risk and deceased rabbits

Map credit:

<http://www.rabbitats.org/abandoned-rabbits/>



Additional Resources:

RHD Information Sheet for Rabbit Guardians, updated 4/18/18, BCSPCA— <https://sPCA.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Rabbit-Hemorrhagic-Disease-Information-Sheet-for-Rabbit-Guardians.pdf>

“Vaccine for rabbit hemorrhagic disease available from BC vets” April 16, 2018, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture Press Release: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2018AGRI0022-000647>

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Serotype RHDV2 reported in British Columbia, Washington State Veterinary Medical Association, April 6, 2018 — <https://wsvma.org/2018/04/06/rabbit-hemorrhagic-disease-serotype-rhdv2-reported-in-british-columbia/>

Walton, Adrian. Various videos on RHD outbreak on Dewdney Animal Hospital Ltd's

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Dewdneyvet/>

General Biosecurity Recommendations for Rabbits, Canadian Food Inspection Agency/CFIA\_ACIA March 8, 2018. [http://cvbc.ca/CVBC1/About\\_Contents/Files/Rabbit%20Biosecurity%20Protocols.pdf](http://cvbc.ca/CVBC1/About_Contents/Files/Rabbit%20Biosecurity%20Protocols.pdf)

“Rabbit hemorrhagic disease and its variants (Lagoviruses)”, Harcourt-Brown, Frances. <https://www.harcourt-brown.co.uk/articles/infectious-disease/rabbit-haemorrhagic-disease>

“RHD Info & Precautions”, Pet Rabbits: Washington State Facebook Group and shared publicly to: <https://www.facebook.com/notes/safe-hands-at-risk-animal-rescue/rabbit-hemorrhagic-disease-rhd/1816592848371718/>

Rabbitats Abandoned Rabbits Map, <http://www.rabbitats.org/abandoned-rabbits/>

# Big Ears Sanctuary Volunteer Weekend

The tradition continues. Volunteers came together for a weekend of helping rabbits getting health checks and grooming. Bunnyzine is thrilled and thankful that some of the volunteers took photos and wrote about their experience to share with you.

If you are unfamiliar with what the Volunteer Weekend tradition is, here is a media release that describes the event by Jacqueline Steele



Big Ears Animal Sanctuary Inc. is a not for profit registered charity which provides a forever home for over 450 animals that have been abandoned, mistreated or neglected. They ensure medical care and ongoing treatment and rehabilitation for animals that include sheep, ponies, donkeys, cows, pigs, goats, chickens, turkeys, ducks, cats and rabbits. Big Ears chooses to focus on caring for and providing a Sanctuary for, animals that other shelters are unable to care for such as the larger farm animals and others like rabbits

The weekend of the 21st April 2018, will see approximately 65 rabbit enthusiasts from various states, including Victoria and South Australia converging on Big Ears Animal Sanctuary located in Longford, Tasmania.

It is the 8th time that we have held this event at Big Ears and each year it grows more popular. The rabbit enthusiasts visiting all pay for their own airfares and accommodation and car rentals. They also raise money to help pay for all the Medication and supplies they will need to health check approximately 230 rabbits that call Big Ears home. Big Ears is home to a variety of animals, but this weekend focuses mainly on rabbits and their special needs.

We are honoured to have the presence of Dr Gerry Skinner (The Rabbit Doctors), Dr Manty Arnott (North Hobart Vet Clinic), Dr Nadine Miller (Wodonga Family Vet Centre), Dr Sally-Anne Richter & Dr Claire Magnifico (Mowbray Vet Clinic), Dr Kim Barrett (Launceston Vet clinic), Dr Kara Frost to assist in the Check-ups and vaccination. There will also be several vet nurses from several vet clinics as well as

rabbit groomers.

The rabbit weekend came about in 2012 when the first visit of about 10 people from the mainland took place. They came to visit after helping Big Ears buy out a meat rabbit farm and close it down. Big Ears became home to 300 ex-meat rabbits at that stage. Since then the support for visiting the Sanctuary on a set weekend twice a year has become increasingly popular. The rabbits will all be health checked which involves weighing them, checking their vitals as well as ears and eyes and teeth. The rabbits are then given the vaccine to protect them against the Calicivirus. Other long hair rabbits will also be groomed, and toe nail trims will also take place. Elder buns will also receive special health checks.

Big Ears is thankful for the support and the expertise that people bring to the weekend. Some fly in just for the day, others stay for the second day. It is amazing to have such support and to see this event blossom and grow each year with more people wanting to participate every year. We have previously had people from Overseas join us telling us they have planned their trip to coincide with this event some making it an integral part of their overseas trip. We do not know of any other event like this in Australia, where people who care for rabbits (or any animal) will pay their own expenses to come to Tasmania to help health check rabbits, as well as raising money to help Big Ears cover the costs of the vaccine. Big Ears Animal Sanctuary is the largest rabbit Sanctuary in Australia and possibly the Southern Hemisphere.



The event was a great success and we are fortunate and proud to bring you these testimonials from a few of the people from the event:

### **Big Ears April 2018 – The Vet Perspective**

**by Dr Gerry Skinner BSc BVSc PhD MRCVS MANZCVS - The Rabbit Doctors**

April 2018 was the biggest and most successful trip so far! Eight vets, ten vet nurses, and five veterinary students from all over Australia joined us to examine, treat, and vaccinate the 206 rabbits at Big Ears Sanctuary.

All of the rabbits were checked and vaccinated in record time! Some of the original meat farm rescue bunnies are starting to show their age, and are going on arthritis pain relief (I think some of the volunteers might also need it after all the running around they did!), but overall the rabbits at the sanctuary are in very good health, thanks in part to the clinical protocols used in the hospital by Kathy and developed by the Rabbit Doctors over the last couple of years.

It was exciting to be joined by several local vets from Launceston and Hobart and get the chance to exchange ideas and discuss new treatments available for rabbits. The day ended with an impromptu “training session” over mugs of tea in the new Education centre where the vets and nurses discussed emergency and critical care approaches in rabbits.

All in all it was another great vaccination day – thanks to everyone who took part!

Australian veterinarians at work during the vaccination and health check weekend for animals at Big Ears Sanctuary in Tasmania. Pictured: Dr Gerry Skinner - green scrub; Dr Manty Arnott - Light blue scrub; Dr Nadine Miller - Red scrub; Dr Amanda Chong - Green animal scrub; Dr Kim Barrett - dark blue scrub. Organized by volunteer Joelle Leung, these vaccination clinics at Big Ears Sanctuary are held every six months in April & October.





*Shy Wolf*  
Photography



*Shy Wolf*  
Photography



*Shy Wolf*  
Photography



*Shy Wolf*  
Photography

### Michelle Pepper

I have attended the rabbit day previously once before I was a vet student. It's such a valuable opportunity to be able to help out such a wonderful organisation that is so selfless and inspirational, as well as being able to spend time with rabbits that I can't have as pets due to my allergies. As a vet student, it's an incomparable opportunity to get hands-on with these beautiful animals and learn their basic vitals such as heart and respiratory rate, handling techniques, and stress signs. I have learned so much from the amazing vets and volunteers that give their time to help these adorable rescue animals!

[Photo: Michelle Pepper, a vet student, (black top) and Charlee Green - Vet nurse (blue top) team up to give nail trims to a sanctuary rabbit.]



### Marina Carter, Vet Nurse

I am a vet nurse from Melbourne, and this was my very first Big Ears Vaccination Day, and what a day it was! I loved every minute of the day, whether it was grovelling around on the ground, catching bunnies, working with the other wonderful people in my team, whilst the buns were weighed, vet checked, nails clipped, vaccinated and treated for parasites and meeting so many amazing, like minded people, who were all there, giving freely of their own time and expertise.

The vegan lunch was delicious, especially those notorious "hash brownies" and the amazing desserts.

An added bonus to finishing on time, was the Q & A session for the vets and nurses with Dr Gerry Skinner.

I'm sure that every one of us enjoyed and benefitted from this session and we are so grateful to Dr Gerry for her passion and generosity in sharing her wealth of knowledge with us all.

My only regret was that I had to leave so early, to get back to the airport, for my flight home.

This may have been my first Big Ears trip, but it certainly won't be my last!

A huge thanks to Jacqui and Brett for hosting us, to Dr Gerry Skinner, for sharing her passion and knowledge and to Joelle Leung, for her tireless, super human efforts in organising this extravaganza.



Vet nurse Marina Carter (green overall) holds a sanctuary rabbit as Dr Kara Frost (black jacket) prepares to give the vaccination



### Dr Nadine Miller - Veterinarian (left in photo)

"This was my first time at Big Ears Sanctuary- myself and two friends I met via involvement in rabbit rescue made the trip down to Launceston from Wodonga on the Victoria/NSW border. As a vet, it was revitalising to be surrounded by those who are actively trying to address the huge stray and abandoned rabbit issue and are equally as passionate about rabbit welfare. Founders Brett and Jacquie Steele are truly inspirational people, and are fortunate to have the help of many amazing volunteers such as Ros, part of the same health checking team as me on the day.

I checked, vaccinated, and cuddled about 25 rabbits on the day and approximately 10 birds. Helped by a fantastic team of nurses, vet students, volunteers and helpers- we got through our patients efficiently and had lots of fun along the way.

I think my rabbits living in the lounge room at home would be so jealous of the Big Ears buns- in the fox free environment, it makes living outdoors so much safer. They have a wonderful diet (all had very good body condition scores!), plenty of social interaction, lots of hides, they can burrow to their heart's desire and they are loved by those who care for them. What more could a rabbit ask for?"

### Ros Johnson (right in photo)

I am a regular Big Ears volunteer and I am also involved in the twice-yearly Big Ears bunny vaccination days. It's always wonderful to see how many amazing people care enough to volunteer their time and pay their own way to vet check and vaccinate all of our bunnies - the bunnies that I, and the other Big Ears volunteers, know and love. These bunnies, over 200 of them, are an important part of the Big Ears family and to know that they are getting the best care is really heartening. It's not just the vets who are awesome though; we have vet nurses, bunny catchers, nail clippers, scribes and groomers who all help out, and this time one of our team members "camped out" to catch an elusive bunny while we all moved onto the next enclosures.

Our latest vaccination day saw 72 volunteers converge on the Sanctuary to spend the day in fog, mud, laughter, friendship and finally sunshine to get the job done - oh and we had an awesome vegan lunch, too!

But not only were the bunnies checked, groomed and vaccinated, also cats, dogs and birds got the vet treatment. For me personally, it's an amazing opportunity to learn .... and all of the vets and vet nurses are so willing to share their knowledge. Each time I learn so many things about bunnies. This time I also learnt how to hold a very unhappy cockatoo without getting my fingers detached from my hands!! I was a bit nervous, but I did it.

It is also a great opportunity to connect with like-minded people and many friendships are made, and continued, and we all look forward to the next bunny day so we can catch up with each other again.

None of this could happen without the amazing organisational skills of Joelle Leung, who puts in so much time, effort and brainpower to ensure the day runs smoothly and so that everyone knows exactly what they should be doing.

I feel so privileged to be a part of these bunny days and I get a great deal of satisfaction knowing that I am making a difference —albeit a small difference — to my Big Ears furry, hairy, woolly, feathered and human friends.





## Kathleen

"I've been volunteering at Big Ears Animal Sanctuary for 6 years, focussing on rabbit husbandry. There is no better way to understand what it means to be a rabbit, than interacting with them closely, in as natural an environment as can be created in captivity. Their specific needs have often been misunderstood by their humans, but now many people are motivated to learn how to live with them and provide appropriate care for long and happy lives."



Long-term volunteer Kath, at left in a white shirt, assists with the veterinary health check of a Big Ears Sanctuary rabbit.

Bunnyzine fully supports the efforts of Big Ears Sanctuary and we encourage every reader to learn more about Big Ears (and their incredible history) and when it comes to these volunteer weekends, we want to particularly thank Joelle Leung for her amazing, dedicated efforts in organizing these weekends. It's a huge undertaking for her, for Big Ears, and for the volunteers.

**Follow Big Ears Sanctuary to join the next volunteer event**  
<https://www.facebook.com/bigears.sanctuary/>

**Follow The Rabbit Doctors:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/Therabbitdoctor/>

**A special thanks to the beautiful photos of Shy Wolf Photography:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/shywolfphotography/>

# The Creation Of The New Ears O'Fluffin Book

by *Monica Yoknis*

Ears O'Fluffin started out as serial short stories to give Bunnyzine some recurring content. I've always been an avid mystery reader, and had published one paranormal mystery novel (*Fear and Terror Stalk the Museum*). I had been watching reruns of the show, *Castle*, and particularly the episode called *The Blue*

*Butterfly*. Naturally, my character had to be a bunny, and the idea of a hardboiled detective seemed like a lot of fun to write.

The writing process for short stories is pretty simple. I fill out a form I created to list the key points of the story. Who the clients are, what their problem is, clues that Ears will find, dangers he will face, and the solution to the problem. I decided to keep these stories pretty light, and not include any murders or other violence. Especially since all my characters are animals.

The process for writing a novel is very different. I spent several months plotting it out to be ready for November 1st, the start of NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month). The idea there is to write 50,000 words in 30 days. I learned in 2016 that I have to have the whole thing plotted from the start, or I get lost. I finished the Ears O'Fluffin novel early, but only had about 32,000 words. There just wasn't 50,000 words worth of story there. I didn't let that get me down because, hey, I just wrote an entire novel in less than 30 days!

I started writing seriously in 2015, after my health failed and made working outside the home practically impossible. I had heard about NaNoWriMo from some friends, and decided to

## The Adventure of the Scarlet Bird

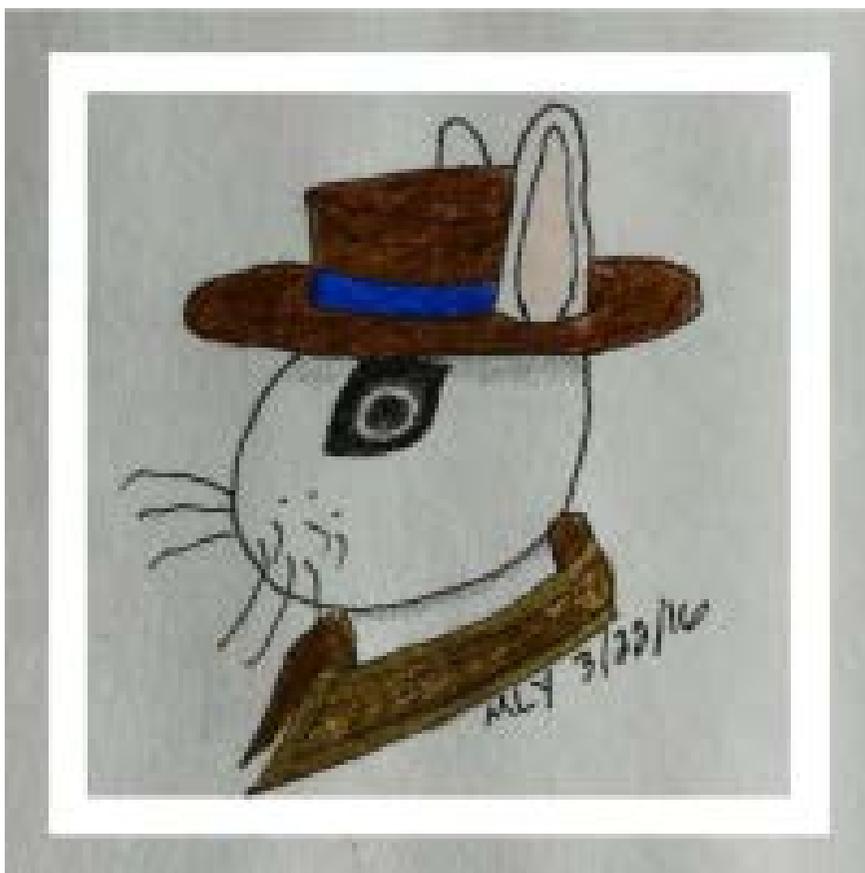
By Ears O'Fluffin



Edited by  
Monica Yoknis

use that opportunity to finally write the book that had been rattling around in my head for nearly 20 years. If you like ghost stories and jerks getting their comeuppance, check out *Fear and Terror Stalk the Museum*.

Back in July of 2013, I was already too sick to work, and falling into an ever-deepening abyss of depression. I started volunteering at the local Humane Society as a foster parent. The shelter had just taken in 80 or so rabbits from a hoarding situation, and needed someone to foster some small animals for about a week. I offered to take in a bunny. Sitting in the waiting room as the foster coordinator brought out my new temporary critter, I had no idea my life was about to change. I peered into the carrier and made eye contact with a little helicopter eared fluff. They had been calling her Rocky, but the coordinator suggested I pick a better name. Well, she was sweet and round and



covered in fuzz, so Peaches was a perfect name. A week later, the coordinator called to say I could bring Peaches back. I bawled for an hour before calling her back to say I couldn't let Peaches go. Peaches is my rock. My savior. My heart.

Now that the *Ears O'Fluffin* novel is done, I can get back to the serial short stories. New adventures will begin in *Bunnyzine's* June issue.

*Ears'* previous serialized cases are available in *The Adventures of Ears O'Fluffin*, Vol 1, as both paperback and eBook. See [www.monicayoknis.com](http://www.monicayoknis.com) for purchase links (the novel will be there too, as soon as I'm able). Please contact me directly for signed paperback copies of any of my titles ([monica.yoknis@gmail.com](mailto:monica.yoknis@gmail.com)).

**Get the brand new, just released *Ears O'Fluffin* book here:**  
<http://a.co/e2jIT9e> (for a signed copy email: [monica.yoknis@gmail.com](mailto:monica.yoknis@gmail.com))

## Little Maui - A Las Vegas Abandoned Bun Success Story

by *Debbie Widolf and Sarah Massucco*

Little Maui's story began in Las Vegas, Nevada in the area now known as the "Las Vegas Dumpsite". His birth date is listed as 11/22/2017.

About the time Maui was beginning to explore outside the nest, he was snatched up by a coyote that was attracted to the multiple rabbits living in the dumpsite. The coyote ran off with Maui in his jaws, and volunteers who witnessed the capture ran after the coyote, spooking him enough to drop Maui as he ran. Miraculously, the tiny bunny was not injured seriously and was rescued by the courageous volunteers.

Maui initially went to Erin of Rusty and Furriends, and then into a foster home. The resilient little bunny settled in quickly and made friends with another rabbit also waiting to go to her adoptive home. Maui, tiny in stature, had to wait until he weighed enough and his body was strong before he could be neutered, which was four months in Maui's case.

Next, Maui joined the transport team driven by Jody and Rodney in Las Vegas. First stop was Albuquerque, New Mexico, with an overnight with Iris of the New Mexico House Rabbit Society. After a delay because of wintery weather, Iris drove Maui to Trinidad, Colorado, for a meet up with Julie in Colorado Springs.

Meanwhile, Debby Widolf (Maui's anxious adopter) was getting updates from these wonderful ladies about how sweet Maui was, and she could hardly wait to meet him. For the final leg from Julie's, Debby's friend (and dedicated rabbit rescuer) Rita drove Maui to Loveland, Colorado. Debby was starting to wonder if she would be able to pull Maui away from all the love and attention he was receiving from the people who had cared for him along the way...

Finally, Debby's 3 pound, ginger colored bunny was home. Maui's original name was "Silo", but since Debby was hoping that

he will be friends with her lady bunny "Ku'uipo", ("sweetheart" in Hawaiian), she named him Maui. It has not taken long for him to adjust to a new home with different sounds and scents, and Debby reports that it has been nine days of fun getting to know him. Maui plays fetch with a wooden clothespin, loves to float his hard plastic boat in his water bowl and definitely has a sweet tooth like his mom! He likes to snooze in his cardboard house, greets Debby in the morning and has exceptional litter box skills. She feels that she hit the "jackpot" as they say in Vegas.

Debby is grateful to everyone who has been a part of Maui's life and for bringing him home to her. She can tell he was well loved and cared for and she will continue to do the same as his new, and always, mom.



A Novel By Monica Yoknis



Fear and  
Terror Stalk  
the  
Museum

An Artemis Lewis Adventure

Available at <https://www.amazon.ca/dp/B01JPBPRWA>

# Book Review: A Day In The Life Of Marlon Bundo

by *Dustin Campbell*

Just to avoid confusion, I want to clarify to anyone who might not be familiar with the Marlon Bundo books. This one is not the official Marlon Bundo book created by the Pence family. This book was the one presented through the Last Week Tonight with John Oliver show.

I wanted this distinction to be clear so no one thinks this particular review is on the original book "Marlon Bundo's Day in the Life of the Vice President".

A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo is a children's book written by Jill Twiss (and also credited, Marlon Bundo) with Illustrations by EG Keller.

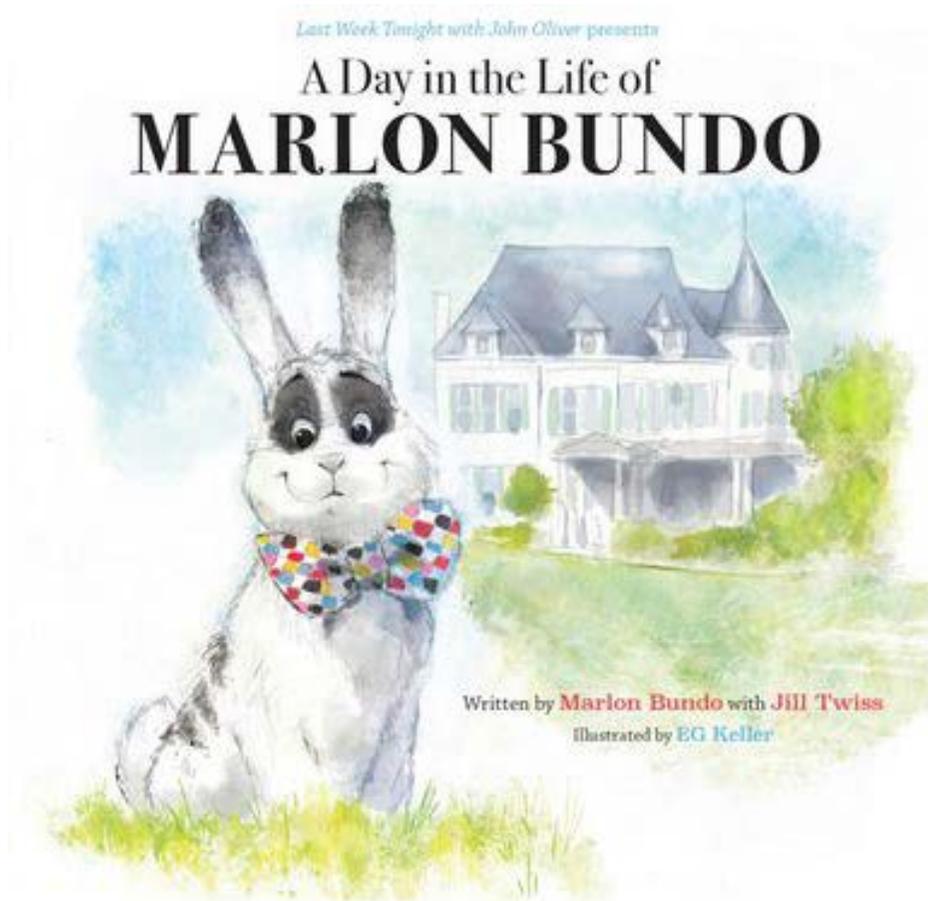
There are three particular perspectives of this book that I will cover because of the unique nature of intending to agitate Mike Pence, rather than being an original children's story.

## 1) The political/social view

If you oppose Mike Pence and are in support of homosexual rights, this book is ideal. It presents Marlon Bundo meeting another boy rabbit named, Wesley, whom Marlon falls in love with and wants to marry. The leader of the land, a stink bug, opposes the wedding and gets voted out of power, leaving Marlon free to marry Wesley.

While, primarily a children's book, there are a few lines that are purely cheapshots at Pence but written delicately enough that children won't notice. Personally, I found them to be a bit pithy because

I'm really not into having these sorts of real-world quibbles put into recreational reading (and certainly not in a children's book) but I don't think the book was designed so much to be a children's



book as it is a parody of the original book which just happened to take the form of a children's book. I imagine if the original publication was a comic book, Twiss might have parodied with a comic book. Though written on a child's level, the audience for this book is intended for adults who stand for homosexuality rights and freedoms and who hate Pence and on that level, with those intentions, the book is fine.

## 2) Value as a children's book

I am not a parent but there are some core criteria I have when evaluating

children's books that I believe are fair and most parents agree with. Some of the criteria are: Is the language appropriately leveled for the intended market, are the moral lessons (if any) appropriate to expose to a child, and is the level of sex or violence appropriate for a children's market (which is absent from this book).

Let's start with language.

This book is great in terms of gearing its language toward children. It keeps the vocabulary light, simple, and effective. It engages the child with charged adjectives and verbs that give the story energy. The plot moves swiftly and feels full, though short. This would be a nice, brisk bedtime read.

The moral lessons in the book.

The overall moral lesson of the book is: if a community doesn't like an aspect of the rules or opinions of its' leaders, vote and change it. However, the big contention of the book is, undoubtedly, how accepting the book is of homosexuality.

Of all the animals in the book, the stink bug is the only one in opposition of homosexuality and through the course of the book, Marlon and Wesley happily declare their love for each other to their friends whom are all in favour for it.

If you are not in favour of or support homosexuality, this book is not recommended. Plain and simple.

If you are in support of homosexuality and are looking for a children's book that includes homosexuality as feeling and being normalized as it is among Marlon Bundo's friends, then this book does an excellent job of not being preachy or heavy on the social agenda and presents homosexuality as something already accepted in their community (except by the stink bug).

I imagine that if an impact did happen upon a child, that impact would just be familiarity with the concept that a boy bunny can love a boy bunny, familiarizing the idea of homosexuality so it doesn't seem "weird" or "different" should they see examples of homosexual couples in real life. This book does an excellent job of presenting it.

### **3) From a rabbit lover's perspective**

One of the key elements for any media about rabbits, for me, is how the rabbits are viewed and how rabbit care is presented. With so much efforts put in by rescues, we cringe at media that shows improper rabbit care or builds up rabbit hype that encourages impulse purchases. We are extra pleased if the media slips in some rabbit education, such as what M.Y. Zeman does in the first Chronicles of a Wererabbit book does when John, who has never cared for a bunny before, gets some good information from a pet store employee.

The Marlon Bundo book, from this perspective, holds no value at all.

It doesn't address diet, handling, or care. To be fair, it wasn't meant to. The only reason they use rabbits in it is because Marlon Bundo is a rabbit. Had Marlon Bundo been a dog, this book could easily interchange with a dog (or any other animal) with very little revision needed.

While the book doesn't make efforts of incorporating rabbit care into the book, it does not hinder rabbit care either. It provides no misleading information that could be harmful to rabbits. There is one slightly objectionable illustration of Marlon Bundo getting picked up improperly that some may find offensive but other than that, nothing detrimental is in the book.



**Saturday, May 12, 2018**

in Rock Hall, Maryland

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**Eastern Shore Rabbit Rescue  
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10AM –Noon SPACE IS LIMITED

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(includes leash and harness)

Registration Deadline: May 1, 2018



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Entry Fee: \$10.00

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Questions: [events@esrrec.org](mailto:events@esrrec.org) • Register: <http://esrrec.org/hop-a-thon>

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# Exempel Cover Collection Pictorial

We were so smitten by Exempel's adorable cuteness that we couldn't decide which picture to use for our cover. As a result, we turned to the readers for help. The cover we used was picked from popularity of everyone's input. The other covers looked so good, I didn't have the heart to throw them away unused so I present to you: The Exempel cover collection pictorial.





# Bunnyzine

May 2018

Vol. 4  
Issue 6



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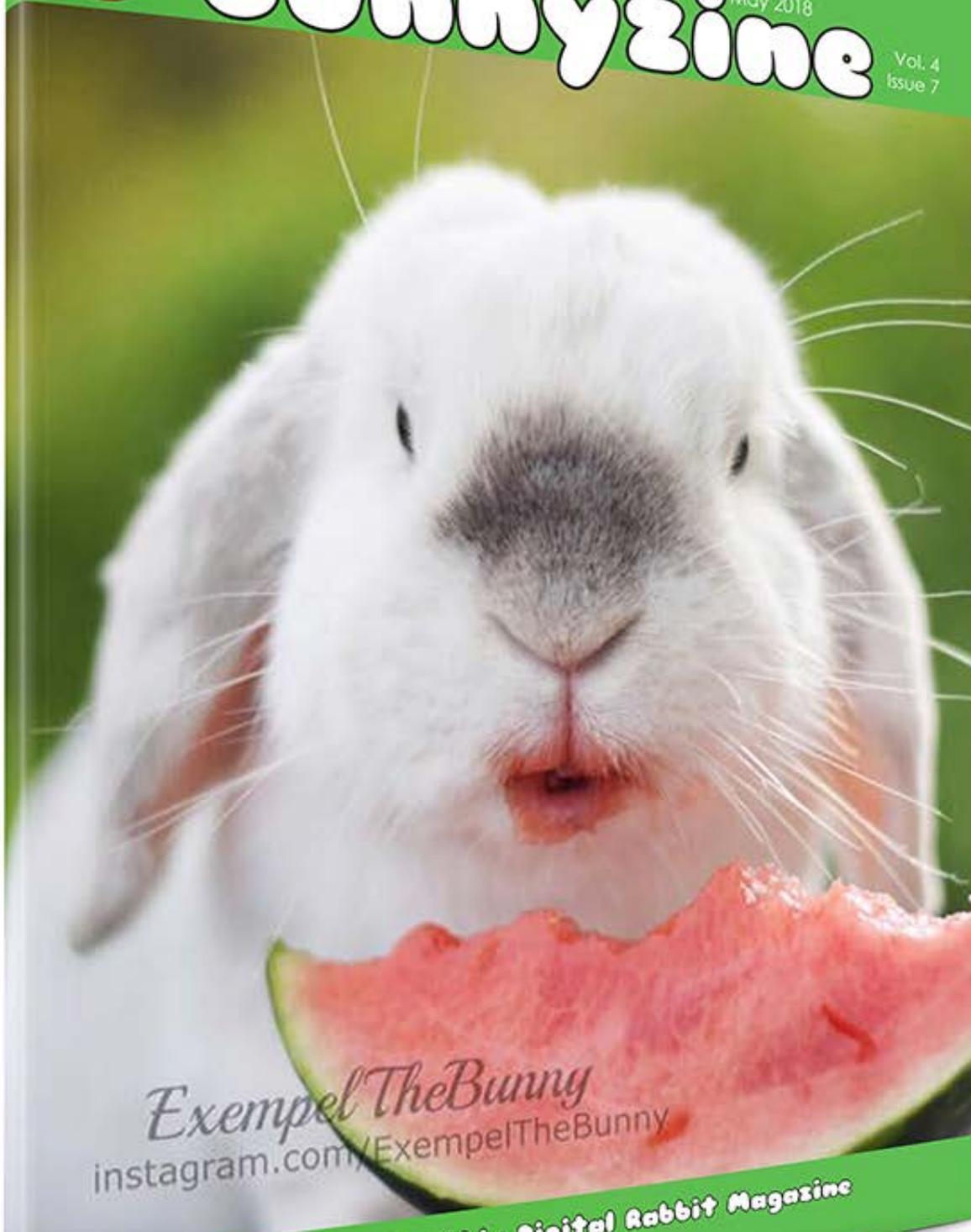
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## The Bunnyzine Dream

We hope you've enjoyed this edition and it is our hope that, one day, we can help rescues with money from our advertisers. In order to do this, we need a larger audience.

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