



Bunnyzine

August 2018

Vol. 4
Issue 10



Hesper The Hare



Your FREE Monthly Digital Rabbit Magazine

Freedom To Stretch Our Paws!

Since Bunnyzine's website was launched, we have been paying Hostpapa for our hosting. Our contract with them expires (Sept or Oct, I can't remember), but fear not, we have our own server now!

What does this mean for us? Well, some good things and some bad. The bad news is, it's run from my home so if my power goes out, the website goes down. I intend on working with a friend of mine to have a duplicate site as a failover but considering we should still have a 99.9% uptime, I'm not concerned about the downtime in this moment.

The good news is, we have the freedom to stretch our paws! Hostpapa, for the rate plan I was paying, didn't allow me to do as much as I wanted to because of resource limitations but

since we own our own dedicated server, we are free to run more scripts and plugins and do whatever we want! So be prepared for some new changes coming soon.

This will also let me (finally) work on the Men With Buns edition which has been delayed until I could build a system that will allow the guys to upload their bios and photos and be able to handle all that material without Hostpapa's limitations. Not that I'm faulting Hostpapa, they are good. We just outgrew them.

Last month's downloads:

Vol. 4 Ed. #9 (Dante)

Downloads: 1085

Love and kisses to your bunnies!

Binkies and Flops

-Dustin

officialbunnyzine@gmail.com



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Special Thanks to James Bolton's Memorial:

Abby Caroline
Fiona Mallia
Dr Gerry Skinner
Joelle Leung

Magda Wozny
Jacqui Steele
Carolyn Knight
Sakinah Jonas-Mawji

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Bunnyzine Volume 4 Issue 10

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Mandy Kocka-Yoon

Everyone who submitted pictures of GHRs

Everyone who sent their rabbit tattoo photos

Gem Simon for catching our layout mistake on pg 14/15

And, of course, you. Our Bunnyzine readers!



The artwork of award-winning illustrator

Penny Collins

www.ragingbunnies.net



Featured Rabbit Hare: Hesper

Hesper The Hare



This issue is truly a special extra treat for us. We are honoured to bring you our special feature this month. If you know who Hesper is already, then already know what we mean. For the readers whom have not been introduced, we couldn't be happier about being the ones to introduce you to Hesper The Hare!

Before we begin our interview with Hesper's mama and Hesper (both of whom we thank

so much for doing this interview with us and for letting us feature Hesper), and I urge you to visit and follow Hesper's page, you won't regret it.

Bunnyzine: Thank you so much for doing this interview with us. We are very, very curious about Hesper. My first question (which I am sure everyone whom hasn't met Hesper yet is wanting to know), how did you come to meet



Hesper The Hare

Hesper and how did Hesper find her forever home with you?

Hesper's Mama: I had received an email regarding someone finding a very small baby rabbit in a box in a sports field not far from us. Although we were not taking any more rescues on at the time it seemed quite

an urgent case so I emailed back and told them to bring the rabbit in. Upon arrival it was soon clear that it wasn't a baby rabbit and was in fact a tiny leveret, no more than a week old. I don't know how she got there but it was clear we couldn't release her in the same area as it was completely unsafe and we didn't know where her Mum was.





Hesper The Hare

We hand reared her with the intention of releasing her once weaned, but even though we kept contact to a the bare minimum she became very bonded to us very quickly. She would become frantic if we left her alone even for the shortest amount of time and seemed to crave interaction and affection. It was a tough situation as we knew that release was the right thing to do, but seeing the way she was with us it became clear that she wasn't cut out for the wild. She wouldn't have survived, and we couldn't bear that in our consciences.

Bunnyzine: Are there significant differences between Hesper (being a hare) compared to your other rabbits in terms of behaviour or exclusive care-giving tasks or whatnot?

Hesper's Mama: I'd say the biggest difference

is that the rabbits are much more territorial than Hesper. She's pretty easy going and will avoid any conflict that occurs between the group. Although hares are generally solitary animals in the wild, Hesper does seem to enjoy the company of the rabbits. I often find her cuddled up with them and have witnessed mutual grooming on several occasions. They've definitely helped her to adjust to domestic life.

Bunnyzine: Traditionally, I wouldn't think of hares as being as friendly and cuddly as Hesper is. Do you think this is because of Hesper herself or would most hares be like this?

Hesper's Mama: I think this is one of Hesper's unusual and very un hare-like traits, because she formed such a close bond to us from such a young age she sees us as a source of safety and



Hesper The Hare

reassurance. Though I admit cuddles always have to be on her terms and she does go through phases of 'wild' quite skittish behaviour and will keep her distance from us, usually when she is going through a moult, I have found.

I think as hares are a prey species they are naturally rather aloof and afraid of humans. After much research I have found they tend to be rather peaceful animals and very unlikely to attack in defence, unless protecting young or in mating season when you see the famed displays of 'boxing'!

Bunnyzine: What's it like having such a large following online for Hesper?

Hesper's Mama: My husband and I were both surprised to have such a positive reaction to Hesper, especially being a wild animal in



Hesper The Hare



Hesper The Hare



Hesper The Hare

captivity. Many people tend to frown upon such situations. I think because we have made it clear from the beginning that this is an unusual situation and have generally discouraged people from keeping hares captive, people are more understanding.

We wanted to use Hesper's page not only

to share her journey with the public, but also to raise awareness of hares and the troubles they face in the wild. We have some wonderful loyal followers which is very humbling. It's great to be able to share such an amazing animal up close to people who have never been lucky enough to encounter a hare in the wild. There is something really



Hesper The Hare

quite magical about hares which is why they are used so much in folklore, I imagine.

Bunnyzine: Do you know how old Hesper is and do hares have a similar lifespan to domestic rabbits?

Hesper's Mama: Hesper will turn 1 in early

September, which has flown by! Hares do have a similar lifespan to rabbits, though obviously in the wild they would not live as long as they would in captivity due to predators, among other factors. In captivity they can reach up to 12 years, possibly more; much like domestic rabbits.



Hesper The Hare

Bunnyzine: What memories stand out the most with Hesper?

Hesper's Mama: Memories of Hesper as a tiny leveret are some of my favourites; doing milk feeds and being followed around the house and jumped on at every given opportunity. Then there are the not so fond memories, such as when she escaped a couple of

months back. I remember the rollercoaster of emotions I went through that day and I am still in disbelief that she a) chose to come home and b) managed to navigate her way back!

Bunnyzine: What's Hesper's favourite food?

Hesper's Mama: Without doubt, banana. Though she does love her freshly grown





Hesper The Hare

herbs and forage, banana will always be at the top of her list. Much to her annoyance, she only gets a teaspoon size portion once a week. Sugar in excess isn't good for any Lagomorph!

Bunnyzine: Does Hesper get gifts from adoring fans?

Hesper's Mama: Hesper has had some beautiful gifts sent to her, from treats to toys, as have I. We've had several people use Hesper as inspiration for art projects which is just fabulous. It's truly amazing to receive such kindness from strangers and really makes you feel part of a very big animal loving family.



Hesper The Hare



Hesper The Hare



Hesper The Hare



Hesper The Hare



Hesper The Hare





Hesper The Hare



Hesper The Hare



Hesper The Hare

Bunnyzine: How do other bunnies get along with Hesper?

Hesper's Mama: I get many questions about this, and all I can say is luck was very much on our side. As a rescuer I have bonded my fair share of bunnies, some easy and some very challenging. I introduced Hesper from a tiny leveret to the group and she was almost instantly accepted by them. I'd say she does have her favourites out of the group. I often find her sat with Olive, our eldest bunny and she's almost always hiding in the lavender bush with Posy when it's time to come inside. For a naturally solitary animal she does seem to enjoy being part of a group.

Bunnyzine: These next few questions are for Hesper. Hesper, how much do you love your home?

Hesper: My home is just about adequate for a hare of my high standards, I allow my humans and the uncouth bunnies to reside here as I am a thoughtful and generous hare. I did have an interesting adventure out in the wild not long ago, it was pleasant but it was not as nice as home. There were no nanners there, none at all! Not even one single deck chair for my superior hare bottom! How do wild hares cope with such poorly equipped accommodation?

Bunnyzine: What do you love most about your Mama?

Hesper: I love it most when Mama says things like "dinner time!" And "who wants a treat?". She is a kind Mama and keeps me safe, though sometimes she needs reminding that her standards are slipping. Especially on a

couple of occasions when she has forgotten my weekly nanner allowance and expected me to sit on an unmade bed, but I don't remind her of this... Often.

Bunnyzine: What do you love most about your Daddy?

Hesper: Daddy goes to work to pay for my luxuries whilst Mama takes care of us and the small human. Daddy often gives me extra nanner allowance when Mama isn't looking, you won't tell her that, will you? This confession must be in the strictest of confidence!

Bunnyzine: Besides your Facebook page, are there any websites that you would like us to promote for you?

Hesper:

We would love for everyone to take the time to visit the Hare Preservation Trust website. The charity work tirelessly to keep our hares safe in the UK. They are massively under threat and need our protection. The website has endless information about hares and is most interesting.

Bunnyzine: Is there anything you would like Bunnyzine readers to know that we haven't already covered?

Hesper:

"I would just like to thank all of my wonderful followers for joining me on this journey. I hope that we have sparked a real interest in hares and you will go on to campaign for their protection, like Mama and Daddy. Thank you also to Bunnyzine for featuring your first (and probably only) superior hare in this edition!"



Follow Hesper The Hare's Facebook page here:
<https://www.facebook.com/HesperTheHare/>

REGARDIN THE SECRET LIFE OF RABBITS



Stillness SPEAKS



-ECKHART TOLLE-

The poetry of Kansas

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



I was born in England
Raised in France
They had no cookies
So I Chewed a pair of pants

If the ocean was peanuts
'N I was a duck
I'd dive to the bottom
'N never come up

Me bunny lies o'er thee ocean
Me bunny lies o'er thee sea
He went a'lookin' for candy
'N joined Ye Olde Navy

Me bunny he went a'sailin'
Avast in thee windward lee
'N found himself a Big Hunk
'N a bit of Bit 'O Honey



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MY HEART HAS JOINED THE THOUSAND ...

by Penny Collins

With Penny's permission, we are reprinting a post from her ragingbunnies.net website. Our hearts join you Penny. Thank you for letting us reprint this. The original posting is located here: <http://www.ragingbunnies.net/2018/07/my-heart-has-joined-thousand.html>

Russette

Originally, this rabbit was under my daughter's roof. Due to life, they both came to temporarily live with me. I refused to let the little one leave.



She looks so innocent here

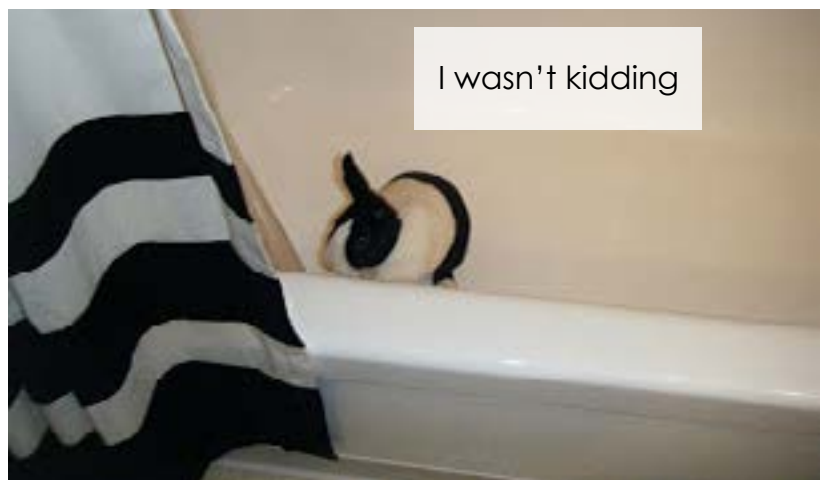
Her name was initially "Russel" -- we soon discovered "Russel" was "Russette". The first time I took her outside, Russette ran. She made a bee-line to a squirrel. I was following quickly behind, worried that it would not end well. They kissed. Then they both casually went their own ways.

This was just the beginning of nearly a decade of one of the most ornery Dutchies I have ever known. Russ was an expert at stealing art supplies, taking pencils while still in my hand, running across canvases and spilling inks. My studio was her favorite room.



She eats art supplies

I also had to keep the bathroom door shut. Russette loved to be IN the bathtub ... whether I was bathing in it or not. She was NUTS and full of unending energy.

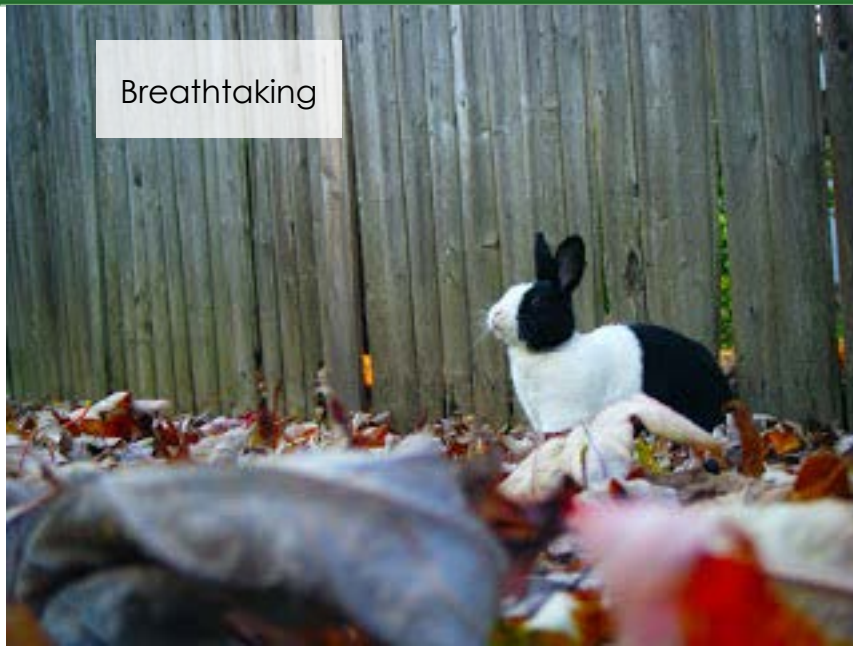


I wasn't kidding



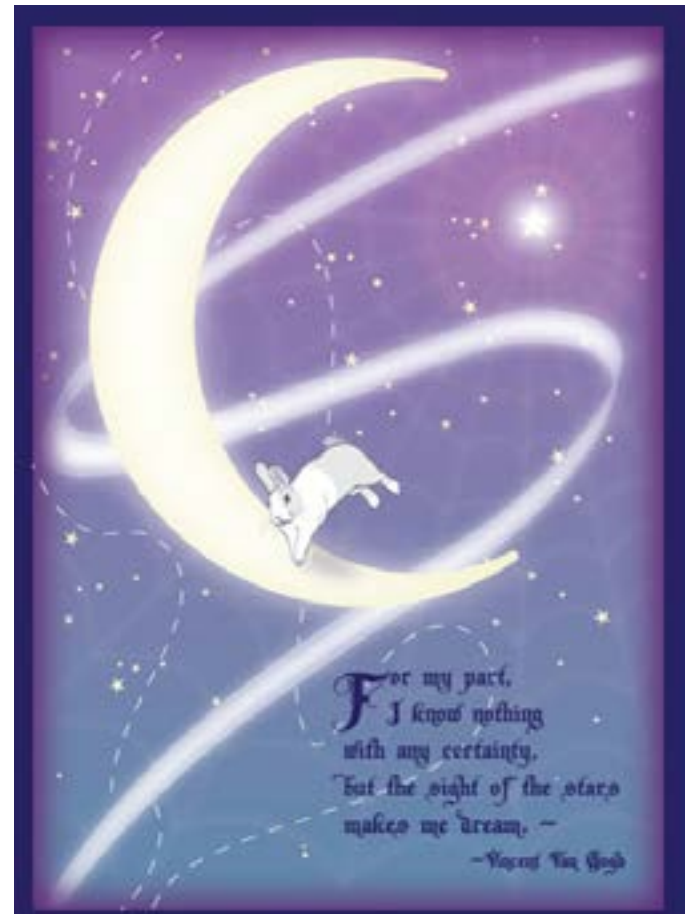
Every day

Breathtaking



Her illness was hidden. By the time she let me know it was too late. This time, I had no choice. I had to let her leave.

If you ever wanted to know where she was, she was either asleep in my eye or at my feet. The little heartbeat.



Her ashes will be here tomorrow. She'll be where she belongs.



*In remembrance of her —
Kiss a squirrel.*

Bunnyzine gives Penny our condolences. :(
You can follow Penny at her websites:
<https://www.ragingbunnies.net>
<https://regardingcomic.tumblr.com>

The Emotional Rabbit

by Monique Goosen

Monique Goosen is founder of Southern Cape Rabbit Haven, the only disabled and special needs rabbit rescue in Africa. Monique also edits e-tourism magazines about Southern Africa, having spent 20+ years in the tourism and hospitality sector there. The Southern Explorer Magazine Series cover interesting travel destinations with breathtaking original photography from Southern Africa: <http://www.namibiaexplorer.com/> Copies of Monique's original photography can be purchased for US\$25 and support her rescue work. To learn more or to make a donation via PayPal, email: sc.bunnyhaven@gmail.com

Trust & The New Rabbit

degree angle, with the front feet and chest on one hand and pat-pat the bottom softly with the other one that crosses over to hold it, (like you would with a baby) while talking softly with the bun and kiss it softly between the ear and eye. Do not touch the ears of the bunny at the start.

Kissing between the ear and eye is a soft movement that mimics trustful, non-aggressive and friendly grooming in rabbits. Never kiss ON

Robert Plutchik's Theory say that there are 8 basic emotions: Fear, Anger, Sadness, Joy, Disgust, Surprise, Trust, and Anticipation.

We previously covered Sadness – that goes together with depression, and we covered a bit of anticipation, that goes together with anxiety and hormonal changes, including pregnancy.

Now we will start to talk about TRUST. Trust is a positive emotion, while admiration and adoration is stronger, and acceptance is weaker.

Having your rabbit trust you is vital to the understanding and relationship between you and your baby. Especially when you get a new rabbit, (s)he may be scared and wary. You will first need to build trust. Trust in letting you close, trust in picking up, trust in handling and trust in grooming.

When you first meet/rescue a new bun, the way that you approach him / her the first time is what will be the basis of your relationship and trust. If you fly in aggressively and talk loudly, you will have a much longer way to repair the damage to build trust.

Even in rescue situations, always talk softly, and try to move slowly when close to the rabbit. If you do have to approach the bunny fast in order to catch it, what you do next is of utmost importance. Hold the bunny LEVEL or at a 30



Snowy was shown love before she came to us, and trusted quite easily.



When Cottonball came to us, he was not used to being handled and cowered away. we gained his full trust in a week, even with the intense grooming we had to do with him. If your bunny doesn't show trust, grooming will always be an issue.

the ear, or ON the eye, and be careful of wearing lipstick or lipgloss, if you do; then rather press your chin or nose (wearing no smudge make-up) on the spot. Do not attempt to touch the face with your fingers at first. This may result in a bite if the bun feels scared.

When you know that you are getting a new rabbit, or have to rescue one, wear as little make-up and perfume as you can, and make sure that there are no creams or lotions on your hands. Also try to wear clothes that have been worn once before, and are not just washed and smelling of detergents. The bunny must smell YOU, as natural as can be. That is one of the best secrets in starting your trust-building relationship with your bun!

When you put the rabbit down in their first place to stay after you acquired it, offer it food or a treat, by showing it to him/her, with the fingers and palm of your hand to the top, at floor level. Always talk softly to the bun, telling him / her what you are doing. The tone of your voice, when soft and calm, will tell the rabbit that you do not mean any harm.

Place the food about 10-20cm away from the bun,

Smoky's trust was instant and he is totally bonded with us.





Heidi came to us very pregnant and very neglected. Gaining her trust was difficult, and till today she only trusts me fully and and is skittish.

if possible and if they allow you that close. Otherwise, place the food at the distance where you see the bun becomes skittish. Do not attempt to touch the bunny when placing the first food. Make sure water is available, and then leave the bunny to settle in for at least half an hour before visiting again, but try to keep an eye from a distance.

sign, as the bun will make peace with the initial smells. If the bun takes a while to groom, it will show he/she is uncomfortable with you, and you will need to check your own calmness – or the perfume/make-up you wear, and be sure that it is naturalized before approaching the rabbit again. As always, keep an eye on eating, drinking, poohs and wee.

Because you kissed / nose-rubbed the rabbits face, you will see one of the first responses is that he/she will start to groom. This is a positive

In my next article, we will cover “building the trust: acceptance”.

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www.bunnyhaven.southern-cape.com



Toffee and Caramel



Coffee and Pippin



Lady Pearl



Smoky (Gizmo)



Fizzie

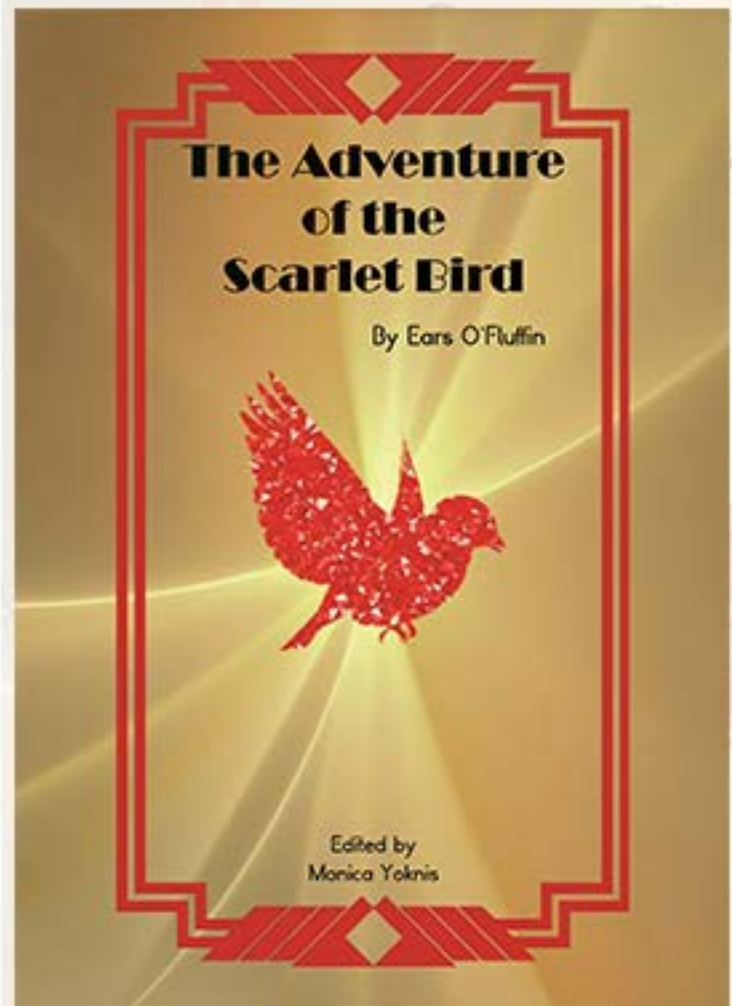
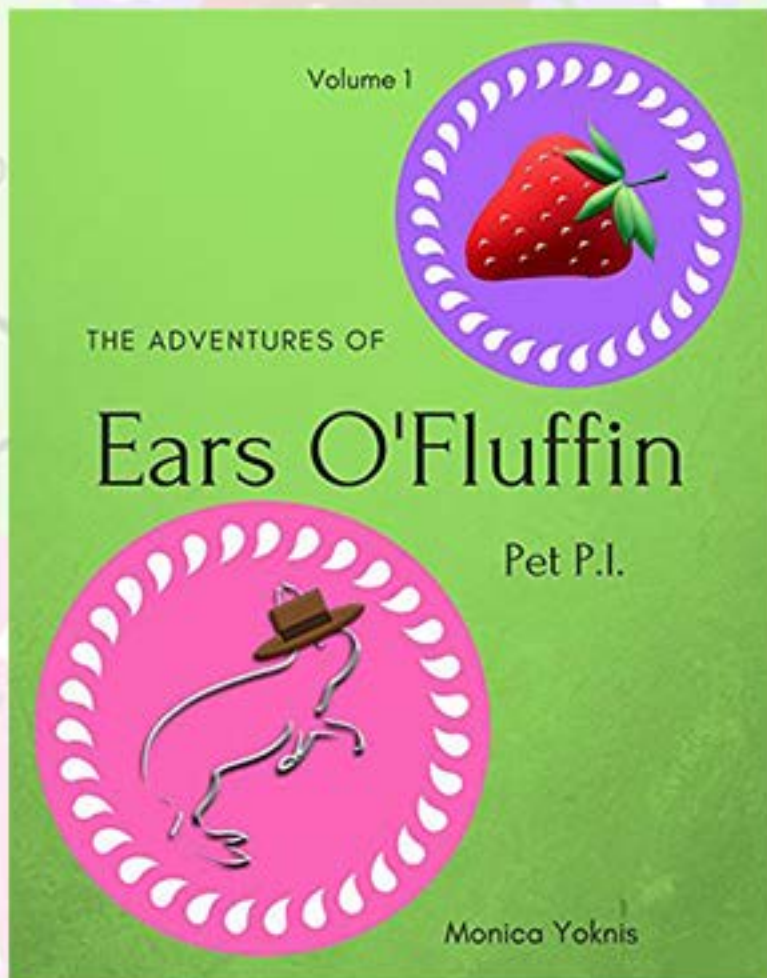


Fudge



Snowy

Two Ears O'Fluffin Books



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

GHRs Bunnyfest 2018

by Martha Boyle

July 15th was a record-breaking day for the Georgia House Rabbit Society, our volunteer-based nonprofit dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and re-homing of abused and abandoned domestic rabbits. We had over 220 people join us for Bunnyfest 2018, where Hoppy Hour was the main attraction. Hoppy

Hour allows 108 rabbits to run free and make friends with other rabbits in a safe, supervised environment filled with bunny-friendly toys. We were fortunate to arrange a large gym to hold the event, which meant we could set up bleachers so all our human attendees could have a good view of the commotion.



Bunnyfest also included an agility course, a spa station for nail cutting and brush outs, bunny massage area, a health check station run by our favorite vet, and cold laser treatments for aches and pains. Sherwood Pets set up a table explaining their food and treat offerings and had free samples for us to try. Items on sale from our rescue center's store included items for health, toys, beds, places for shy bunnies to hide, handmade willow wreaths, and handpicked and dried kudzu. The treats for humans included delicious pastry from our friends at the Cake Hag and scrumptious vegan gelato from Revolution Gelato. We had a book signing of *A Stiff Wind Blows*, written by a treasured volunteer. Blake's House of Independence representatives came with amazing bunny-themed jewelry and art made by their residents.

All in all, everyone had a great time and enjoyed being with other people who understand bunny obsession! We met new people, new bunnies, and got to know each other better. Along the way we made some much-needed funds (rabbits can be an expensive obsession!) This was our sixth year of doing a Bunnyfest, and it has grown and improved amazingly in that time. This year we had many volunteers to help in the event, and the whole day was coordinated by Jennifer McGee and Sarah Holbrook who, through their immense skill and hard work, had everything running smoothly. Join us for our Hare Ball Shindig in September.

Please follow us at <https://houserabbitga.com> and <https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaHouseRabbitSociety>

Photo by Tricia Mims



Photo by Tricia Mims



Photo by Tricia Mims



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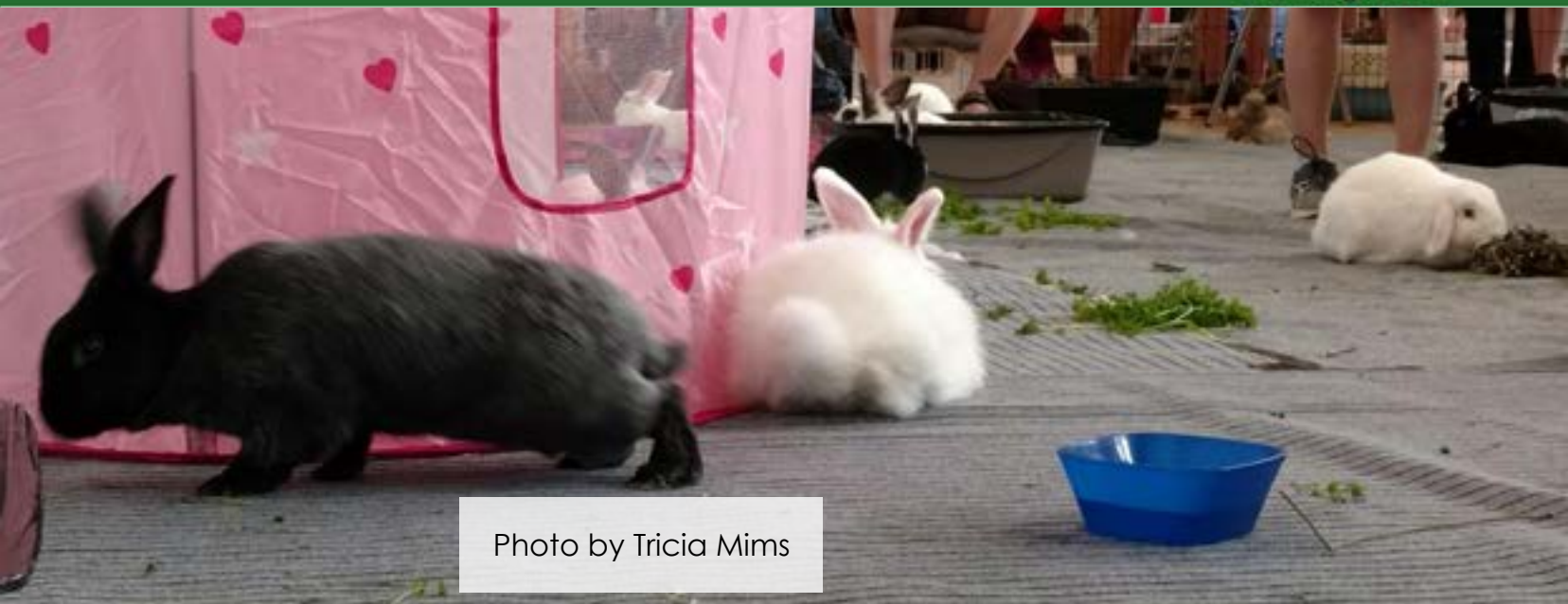


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www.facebook.com/GeorgiaHouseRabbitSociety

Ears O'Fluffin in:

The case of the missing pewps - Part 3

by Monica Yoknis

Snowy and his mama lived in a building three blocks from my home. The little guy talked the whole way about his home and family. He had three sisters and two brothers. They had all been rescued with their mama from a breeder shortly after they were born. The mommy hoomin dressed hoomin hair for a living, so she took very good care of their fur. If his mama's fur was anything to go by, their hoomin had some skills with a comb.

Their apartment was on the second floor, so Snowy climbed onto his mama's back

to ride up the stairs. It was a modestly sized apartment, but nicely furnished and inviting. Snowy led me over to their nest box to meet his siblings. They were all varying shades of gray such that, if you lined them up right, it would look like mama had lost pigment with each birth. I'll admit, they were adorable.

Snowy showed me the litter box inside the nest box, then I followed him over to the other side of the living room to a second box. I had to marvel at how tiny their pewps were.

"So what do we do, first, Mr O'Fluffin?"

"When does the hoomin take the boxes away?"

"In the evening, before mama snuggles us to sleep."

"Good, that may or may not be important. Let's look closely at the boxes." I hopped into the box and started shuffling the hay around.

"What are you looking for?" Snowy asked hopping in beside me.

"Nothing in particular yet. I'm just observing as much about the scene as I can."

He looked puzzled, so I continued. "If you look for something specific, you might miss other clues."

"Oh." He sat thinking for a minute while I continued my study. "I think I get it. You don't know what might me a clue and what might be nothing."

"Exactly."

"Have you found a clue, yet?"

Ah, the impatience of





youth. "Yes, I have." I pulled the hay back to reveal a fine mesh screen. "This screen separates the hay and pewps from the litter."

"Why?"

"It makes it easier for the hoomins to sort the stale hay and pewps from litter that is still clean." He made a funny face, so I continued. "Hoomins don't like to waste clean litter, so the screen helps them to throw away only the litter that has been peed on."

"Oh, ok."

"Where does the hoomin take the boxes?"

"Into the spare room, but we're not allowed in there."

"Sometimes, we do need to go into places that hoomins don't want us to go. It's important that we understand why we aren't allowed. Our hoomins want to keep us safe. Has your hoomin told you why she doesn't want you in that room?"

"Mama says it's because there are 'lectric snakes that can hurt us if we chew them."

Hooboy, how to explain to a budding investigator that sometimes it's ok to break the rules to solve a case without letting him (or his siblings) think rules aren't important?

To Be Continued.

Rabbits Around The World - South Korea

by Mandy Kocka-Yoon

Mandy Kocka-Yoon teaches English at a Christian International School in Ilsan, South Korea, quite close to the North Korean border. She is an American citizen from a small Ohio city 45 minutes southeast of Cleveland and 45 minutes northwest of Pittsburgh. Her husband is Korean and she taught him all about rabbits (he had never had an indoor pet before.) Mandy has always loved animals and her pets have always been like children to her.

Rabbits are seen as novelty pets in Korea. Korea, much like Japan, loves cutesy things and rabbits definitely fit into that category.

Rabbits can be easily bought in department stores here. They are kept in small pens and sold for about US\$30. Rabbits are also sold as baby bunnies on street corners and in subway stations by private breeders. This leads to a lot of pet rabbits being abandoned in the forests of the mountains here.

Rescue societies are overfilled with many unwanted rabbits and, sadly, most shelters here are kill shelters. The administration of President Moon is trying to ban the selling of small animals in department stores.



Rabbit savvy vets are hard to find in Korea. House pets are a relatively new thing in Korea. The Korean War is quite recent history and Koreans were too worried about feeding themselves and their families to worry about pets.

Pets were viewed as food, a belief still held by many older Koreans. Thankfully, with economic





success, many younger Koreans are keeping dogs and cats as family members and there is rising interest in rabbits as pets.

Another problem with rabbits in Korea is the ex-pat population. Korea hires many foreigners from English speaking countries to come here to teach English in small private academies.

Many of these teachers are young recent college grads, who have never really been away from their families before and who take full advantage of their newfound freedom. They party (bars in Korea don't close!) and

buy small animals on a whim. Many of these animals die within the first year of neglect.

Many teaching contracts last a year and many of these ex-pats choose to go home after their contracts end. They abandon their pets because it is a hard process to transport them home; some states in America will not allow rabbits to come in and some countries



ban rabbits from entering all together.

There are many rabbit rescue societies here in Korea, both Korean and ex-pat. However, there are more unwanted rabbits than they can handle. Rabbit food is also hard to come by as most stores and pet shops only sell alfalfa hay and pellets.

I'd now like to share the story of how I acquired my rabbits. Bojangles is my older girl. I was in my second year of teaching in Korea and I took a job at a horrible academy. The other ex-pats were young spoiled kids and they made lots of ignorant comments.





The leader was a very spoiled girl who thought her racist remarks were quite witty. When it became apparent that I did not find her charming nor worshiped her as the princess she thought she was, she began horrible bullying techniques. I was flabbergasted, because I had never seen anyone act like this, especially an adult.

I became quite depressed and thought about leaving. A friend of mine rescued a rabbit that her landlord would not allow her to keep. I decided to take the rabbit to give it a home, at least temporarily. Bojangles quickly bonded with me and helped lift my mood. Her mischievous antics could make me laugh, even on the most dreary days.

Bojangles helped me and I stayed on in Korea. It turned out to be a great decision, because I met my husband here (Bojangles had to approve of him!) and I landed a job at a great school. Leia came to us on a whim via my

husband. He saw a rabbit up for adoption and jumped at the chance!

My students have officially adopted Bojangles as their class pet (even though she has never been to this school.) I use stories about her as a teaching tool and they write stories about her all the time!



"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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James “Jimmy Hopper” Bolton: 06.11.1952 ~ 06.07.18

Foreword by Yollie Boag



I received the phone call on the 7th July from my very dear friend Abby, who shared the tragic news with me; our friend James had grown his angel wings.

My first reaction was disbelief, how was this possible? I had seen an animal activist post he shared only a few days before? He was excited about returning to Big Ears for the next vaccination day. It couldn't be real- there must be some kind of mistake!

My next feeling was emptiness- I realised that I would never see James again, this can't be right? Abby had to ask if I was okay, the silence was deafening- I just always believed I would have the chance to see and work with James again.

I only met James in person once, while we attended a Big Ears Bunny Vaccination day in Tasmania, yet we have been friends for more than 7 years, online.

It's a surreal feeling to come face to face, in real life, with a person you have forged a friendship with online. Meeting a fellow animal activist, a person you share common interests and actual animal rescues in the cyber world, is suddenly very real and within your reach. It's a highly emotional moment and one I will never forget, when meeting James.

It was pre-dawn, in the Melbourne Airport (Australia) domestic departure terminal. As our group of Big Ears Volunteers from around Australia converged, we waited for our flight to Launceston, Tasmania. James was nervous about the flight, he hated planes and his skin tone showed it! I walked up to introduce myself. This was the actual, real James Hopper, in the flesh! I reached out and shook his strong, confident, leathered (yet slightly clammy due to the soon to depart plane ride) hand. As we shook hands, I felt instantly at ease, this was exactly how I imagined James to be. The first thing he said to me? "I thought you'd be taller? It's great to finally meet you Yollie!" Followed by a warm and friendly hug and beaming smile.

Yes, this is the James I know: Calm,

organised, honest (to a fault) and ready to take on the world and help people and animals in a moment's notice.

I could see his excitement, we were a short plane ride away from where he loved so much to visit, Big Ears. The place where he felt so much achievement and personal reward seeing all those long eared, cotton tailed and furry faces he had personally helped rescue from a Meat Farm, and find sanctuary for the rest of their lives. These same bunnies he now continued to help regularly at these special events; vaccinations, health checks, nail trims- all that good stuff! The things these bunnies would never have known if not for James and our group of likeminded people who rescued them.

At the sanctuary James and I were in the same group. He showed me the ropes. Efficient, concise and thorough- I could not have had a better teacher, no time for chit chat when there is work to be done. It is true what they say though, poor James needed extra Band-aids (bandages) packed just for him, he rarely walked away without a few run-ins with sharp bunny teeth and claws! To James, however these were called "love bites".

To honour James today, and pay tribute to the amazing life he lived, I reached out to a few of his close friends and it is my absolute privilege to share them with you. The passages that follow are heartfelt, personal and share just a few areas of James' full and exiting life of adventure, rescue, politics and animal advocacy. I wish to thank all the wonderful people who took the time to share their stories with me, especially at a time when we are mourning the sudden loss of our good friend.

James, until the next world my friend – Rest In Peace and I know you will take good care of all those who were there, waiting just on the other side of Rainbow Bridge to

greet you, their rescuer. With their vitality restored, ailments and age rewound, finally their hero arrived. Together you've crossed to a place of peace and happiness- till we meet again.

1/

JAMES: A TRUE BUNNY HERO, RESCUER & ADVOCATE

(YouTube Video: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=B9pPKYfgUHo&feature=youtu.be>)

James achieved so much in the past 7 years, all a credit to him and his new found love of rabbits. He was always available no matter what, if a bunny emergency was in progress, he would be the first to arrive on scene and made sure the rabbit/s were in the best of care by the end.

James had a very funny sense of humour, made us laugh so much and really was a remarkable loving man. We will miss him forever and his closest friends will without a doubt follow all his wishes regarding his fur family as he would have done if it had been any of us.

Please try to understand the impact that James passing has had on so many of us; from vets, administrators of his page (Rabbit Hollow Refuge Australia), close friends, acquaintances, other rescue groups and his many friends and family outside the bunny community.

James really was a true bunny hero and the global bunny community will forever feel his departure... yet will strive to band together and get a move on with all that





James would have wanted to do to make the world a better place for rabbits.

I will miss you dear friend. I'm in such shock to hear of your passing.

You had a heart of pure gold, you were one in a million and you will be missed by so many. Thank you for being an awesome friend, for always picking me up and taking me out to dinner with our other friends when I visited Melbourne.

We shared so many laughs online and on our adventures to Big Ears Sanctuary. It's such a devastating day for the rabbit world, you rescued so many and cared for many more.

You eased their pain and suffering and showed them that not all humans are cruel. You showered them with love and care and for that I thank you.

You will forever be remembered and missed forever. Safe travels my friend and enjoy that wonderful green field up there where I'm sure many rabbits will binky to be

reunited with you once again.

Until we meet again

The YouTube Video presentation and this piece have been written and produced by Abby Caroline- friend of James, South Australia- Australia.

James' Rescue: Rabbit Hollow Refuge Australia.



2/

'Whenever someone passes away, there will always be broken hearts left behind. When people like James Bolton pass away, there seem to be more hearts than usual that are affected.

As James' stories started to get shared, we realise how much he did, and how big a gap his passing will leave in the world - not just emotionally, but physically, and it's an



especially tragic loss for the animals that won't be saved because of him.

It's a wonder how he ever managed to fit in all that he did, what with looking after his rabbit sanctuary, his wildlife rescue when he would drop everything and dash out whenever anyone asked for his help, and firefighting volunteering. James always seemed to be like a Lone Wolf, but in truth

he was loved and respected by many, many people.

Other than his direct actions that helped animals, James also was a member of the Animal Justice Party, Australia's only political Party that is dedicated to improving the lives of all animals, and quickly became involved in helping at various events, functions, and supporting candidates during the elections.

It was not just protecting animals that mattered to James. Since 2006 he was a volunteer Firefighter in North Warrandyte Brigade, Country Fire Authority in Victoria Australia. He always put his hand up to help in whatever capacity was needed and was deployed with strike teams to many fires and floods. On the fire ground, he was incredibly safety aware and seemed to have a sixth sense about where to go or not to go, as if he was connected to the land.

Someone who gave of himself so much, he asked for very little in return. A very humble man, but comfortably outspoken about those things that mattered, he did not shy away from challenging conversations.

VALE James 'Hopper' Bolton: Vegan, rabbit rescuer, wildlife protector, volunteer firefighter, generous to the end.

As Ex Captain Rohan Thornton says: 'James marched to the beat of his own drum' - a beat that will continue in our hearts forever.' This piece has been written by 'Magda Wozny-Friend and Animal Justice Party State Secretary (Victoria) Animaljusticeparty (national website) <http://ajpvic.org.au/> (Victoria) and Fiona Mallia - Friend, wildlife rescuer, and Brigade Administration Support Officer for North Warrandyte Station

3/

Many times I have started to write something about our beautiful friend James 'Hopper' Bolton, and many times I have had to stop because of the tears.

So many people have already summed up



the way we all felt about him, much more eloquently than I can. I do want to share though that James always put others first. James was an amazing animal advocate and voice for the animals, all animals, and

he did all this humbly and with dignity. He never sought the limelight for his actions, he just did what he knew was right.

For me, James will always be fondly remembered for his participation at our regular bunny vaccination days. In fact, as early photos show, James (and Joelle Leung) began the volunteer vaccination visits back in 2012. This was in response to the 400+ ex-meat rabbits, finding their forever homes with us here at our sanctuary after a successful rabbit farm buyout that they had been heavily involved with settled.

James will also be remembered in our wardrobe, where many of his t-shirt gifts to Brett and myself are.

Most of all his love of the rabbits will be my foremost memory of him. So much so that the night before he passed, James sent me a photo of Bing (a rabbit he adopted from us) letting me know that Bing was doing well and having a haircut.

James, you will be greatly missed but never forgotten. See you one day at the Rainbow Bridge, with all our rabbit and other furry friends.

This piece has been written by Jacqui Steele – Co Founder of Big Ears Animal Sanctuary, Tasmania -Australia. Big Ears Animal Sanctuary



4/

RIP James "Hopper" Bolton of Rabbit Hollow Refuge -

The death of a fellow activist and bunny lover was a huge shock and is always going to be awful- yet I was ok, until I was given James' emergency vet kit to look after by his family...



Few tears and lots of smiles, as I remembered our many trips to the Big Ears Animal Sanctuary, in Tasmania. This is a place James loved and massively supported (Big Ears Animal Sanctuary) please look up and follow them!) and how he hated flying to get there!

But once at Big Ears, his skills with the otoscope were legendary (better than most vets at spotting ear infections!) however James' ability to avoid being

attacked by angry bunnies with sharp nails was less so- I always packed extra Elastoplast [bandages], just for James! But always, always rabbits had the number one spot in his heart.

We will miss you, the rabbit rescue world will miss you, and specifically I will miss you- Even if our best, secret conversations were short, and out of the back of your car, behind the clinic at CARE!

I hope there is a Rainbow Bridge, if so someday I'll see you there with a pile of both our bunnies and a few James squires.

This piece has been written by Veterinarian, Dr Gerry Skinner of The Rabbit Doctors, Victoria -Australia. <https://m.facebook.com/Therabbitdoctor/>

5/

The Jigsaw of James Hopper

James my friend your sudden and unexpected passing on, is a shock to all who knew you. You were not alone at home, you called for help and Tok was there trying in vain, surrounded by your beloved bunnies who I'm sure were thumping furiously.

I have so much to say, yet I cannot talk, just like the voiceless animals you championed tirelessly for, through your associations and friendships-





James and I were introduced by his friend Mark and after "Hello"- the first question James asked me was, "Are you Vegan?"

Easily and quickly falling into step as a quirky couple who shared a love of horses, motorbikes, opportunity shopping, hoarding (because everything can be recycled) and of course, rabbits as companion animals living inside as member of the family (well, anything "rabbit" really, a rabbit logo, shape, print or jewellery which he was cleverly starting to make & sell) - Our friendship blossomed.

So many of us wanted our little piece of James and he gave us his. James truly wanted to help- available any time, any day, and anywhere. This caused him to shatter into the many pieces we each who knew him, now hold and in his passing are bringing back together; fitting in, overlapping and making the most extraordinary picture of a life well lived- as when we all stand together the one-piece missing is James.

In my care I have one of James most cherished rabbits Two Socks, every time I leave the house, I tell him James will be here for cuddles, care and possibly the whole tribe of his treasured rabbits that have passed over the Rainbow Bridge.

James worked closely with Warrandyte Vet Clinics, Veterinarian Dr Stuart Turner and his own animals. James made himself available

to assist with their emergency callouts. Recently they were called for assistance when a German Shephard was injured as result of being hit by a car. Unfortunately, the sedation was knocked out before the full dose could be administered, leaving the dog alert, frightened and in pain from the injuries. The police, who attended the incident, left the scene pronto (safety first) - It was James who bravely and expertly transported the injured dog back to the Warrandyte Vet Clinic. Staff quickly handed James a muzzle to put on the dog, while they took cover and pressed themselves back against the wall. James' efforts were not without injury, as the Shepherd already scored a 'hit', with a serious love bite to his hand. Once the injured dog was safely contained, thanks to James, the Vet staff then cleaned and dressed his wound, better than the hospital (he later attended for further assessment). While at the hospital the human Doctor (self-proclaimed) was useless at bandaging, he lamented; he was in awe of the bandage fabric used by the Vet!

The very caring and concerned Vet staff called James the next day to check on his wellbeing. In true selfless James Style- he promptly deflected to ask about the Shepherds prognosis and microchip.

James was working to gain more qualifications to rescue wildlife. He



constantly had to make decisions based on the best interest of the animals he rescued. Assessing their future quality of life, this process included the difficult and heartbreaking decision to euthanize when absolutely necessary.

He was a long time dedicated Country Fire Authority volunteer with a 12 year career. At any hour, day or night, as a volunteer, James was called out to clean up the mess caused by humans or bring welcome relief to humans caught in natural disasters. His many achievements were beautifully highlighted by North Warrandyte Fire Brigade. The Brigade also highlighted the important point of James' dedication of looking after the welfare of the animals, which were also victims of the event he

attended or en-route.

James lived a life of adventure and showed true compassion on every level including walking with local indigenous people on their land. James was shown sites and artefacts only the privileged get to see.

He was in his element at Big Ears Animal Sanctuary in Tasmania, volunteering his talents; rabbit wrangling, fur clipping and grooming, medical checks while also finding time to network with the other volunteers and sharing news with family (of Jacqui & Brett).

James taught me a lot and showed me it's easy to be kind to animals with a beautiful tribute by Animal Justice Party (AJP) Victoria with whom he rallied, marched and attended meetings to raise more

awareness for all animals.

I feel I may have contributed to his early departure as he recently saw me without makeup and it's too early for Halloween. I am angry I did not force more of my help onto James & angry at him for fending me off- with what I now know, to be reasons as flimsy as disposable chopsticks.

James I'm sure you are riding your Horses and Harleys, going even faster than in this mortal life, as you now have further to travel to see your beloved rescue rabbits, who are in safe and capable hands, all fostered thanks to Joelle & Dr Gerry.

It was not meant to be this way, he had so many projects and future plans, and he intended to be around for another 65 years. I would prefer to be writing this in 2083 as there would be more hilarious, exciting and edge of your seat stories and adventures from James' daily life to share.

We have to make our own replica, in the form of your choice as he held us all together, we will hold onto your spirit.

I am so fortunate to be a passenger on James' journey in life, he is my hero (Brother you are my blood hero).

As Michael Hutchence said

"I've got to let you know

You're one of my kind

I need you tonight

'Cause I'm not sleeping"

Love ya guts.

This Piece has been written by Carolyn Knight, close personal friend of James. Victoria - Australia

6/

Rest In Peace - James Hopper.

Dear James,

Sunny-Sunshine, Momo, Kisa, Lily and I love you so much and will always miss you.

We are still expecting to see a message pop up from you, with your silly jokes. We can't believe you are really gone.

We will always cherish the time we spent



with you. You have been a big part of Momo, Sunny and Kiki's life and helped us so much when they became my furkids.



The babies remember the first time they met you, and you gave them their first nail trims!

Our Big Ears Animal Sanctuary Vaccination days are never going to be the same without you there.

This piece has been written by Joelle Leung, friend of James. Joelle is founder and owner of Mosuki Bunny Shop, Victoria -Australia. Mosuki Bunny Shop



will be very greatly missed across the globe by so many. The world is sorely in need of more people with James's dedication to helping the helpless, and we wish him peace. We give our heartfelt condolences to all who knew him.

From all of us at Rabbit Aid International, we salute you. Be at peace James.

This piece has been written by Sakinah Jonas-Mawji. Friend of James and Co-Founder of Rabbit Aid International. RAI

7/

"My heart has joined the Thousand for my friend stopped running today." - Richard Adams (Watership Down)

We have often paid tribute to buns who have passed away. Today we pay tribute to rabbit rescue owner James Hopper of the Rabbit Hollow Refuge Australia, who passed away suddenly on 06/07/2018.

James was a genuine and wonderful man with an enormous heart, and a deep sense of compassion for others, both furry and human. He was an unwavering voice for the voiceless, and a solid and real friend to those who knew him.

Volunteer firefighter, animal activist, and protector of wildlife and domesticated animals alike, his love for others knew no bounds.

We would like to show our respect to James sincerely from the bottom of our hearts for the incredible and unfaltering devotion and passion he showed in his rescue work, and for the love, hope, kindness, care and safety he gave unconditionally to all those buns who needed sanctuary.

His passing has been a heartbreaking shock within the bunny community and he



Rest In Peace, James

A Novel By Monica Yoknis



Fear and Terror Stalk the Museum

An Artemis Lewis Adventure

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

Rabbit Tattoo Pictorial

This month, we asked you for pictures of your rabbit tattoos and we are thrilled to have such an overwhelming number of entries. It's beautiful to see the wide arrange of bunny tattoos from a fantastic array of tattoo artists.

Heather Downey:
"Are you ready for this splendour!?"



Suzanne Smith:
"Designed and tattooed
by the fabulously
talented and beautiful
Jenna Kerr"

©Jenna Kerr



Kelsey Shuping
Got one for my Harvey. It covers my
old scars, he helped me recover
so I wanted to cover them with
something for him



Haviva Porter
Finnegan

Mike Metzler Jr.
Dark Side of the Moon but with rabbits



Kerim Aktug

I got my bunny tattoo while I was visiting a friend in Croydon UK. This tattoo is a symbol of my love for my bunnies past, present, and future. I'm a 6'4" guy and I am very proud of my bunny love



Beth Schilling

My 2 buns. Blue lop and REW. The s on the tail of the lop is in memory of my first bun love Lady Stew. I love that I have no tattoos that represent my 2 kids only my bun kids





Judy Perry
Gracie, my first bunny love



Kaylea Mitchem
My first ever tattoo had to be a bunny,
done by Suflanda at Parliament Tattoo!



Berlin Sorfa
The Three Hares at night.



Alice Schwarzenegger Boyd
Just got this one finished today!! What do you think? My four bunnies, from top to bottom are: Alan (rip), shnitzal, Eevee, and Pingu (rip) I adore it already

Tymree Kalyn Fleming

These are my babies Alice n Chains. They passed away 1/2017. Miss them always



Christine Schutrum Gaston
Icing's name on my foot along with bunny paw prints. Every time I take a step, he's there hopping with me still.

Leela Wright

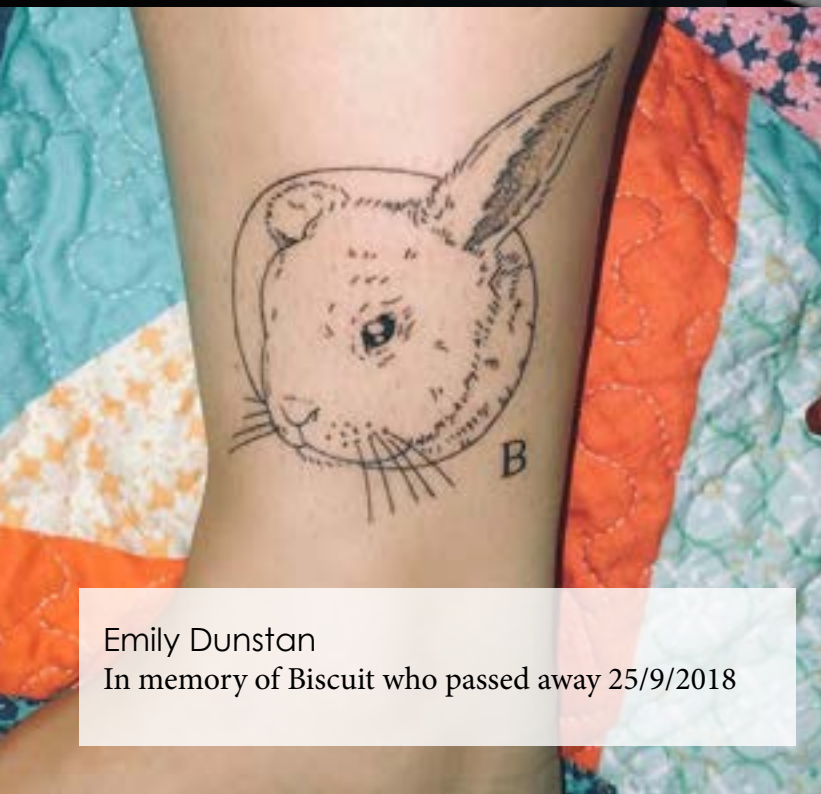
2 of my buns. i also have a bunny paw in a heart ill have to get a pic of



Mango and Finn's "lady-people"



Leeann Shaw
For my first 2 bunnies who passed away within 6 months of each other slushy with the helicopter ears and stormy who's stuck out like antenna



Emily Dunstan
In memory of Biscuit who passed away 25/9/2018



Alice Costen
I have two rabbit tattoos, one of my rabbit Leila on my arm and a gemetric rabbit on my leg, done by my amazing boss Toby Wenham at Serenity Ink tattoo studio.



Jackie DeVore
this is my little Omar as a scuba bunny (the sleeve
he's on is all mechanical sealife)



Anne Niendorf



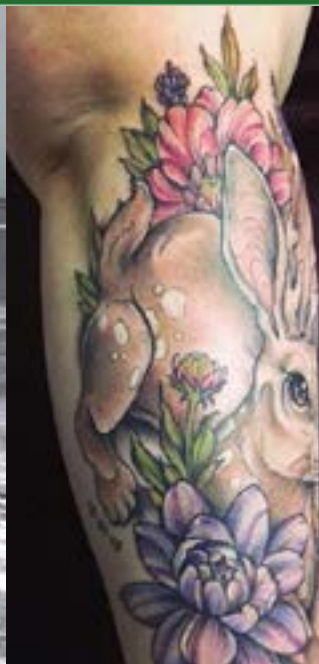
Lisa Cordell
Just finished her on Sunday! Portrait of my late Sequoia by
David Goldstein at Dead Gods Tattoo in Tigard, Oregon.



Marie Anastasia Scott
Heres my little
Marshmallow. I got it a few
months after I fell in love
with him. The tattoo is by
Taylor from Mission Tattoos
in Calgary.



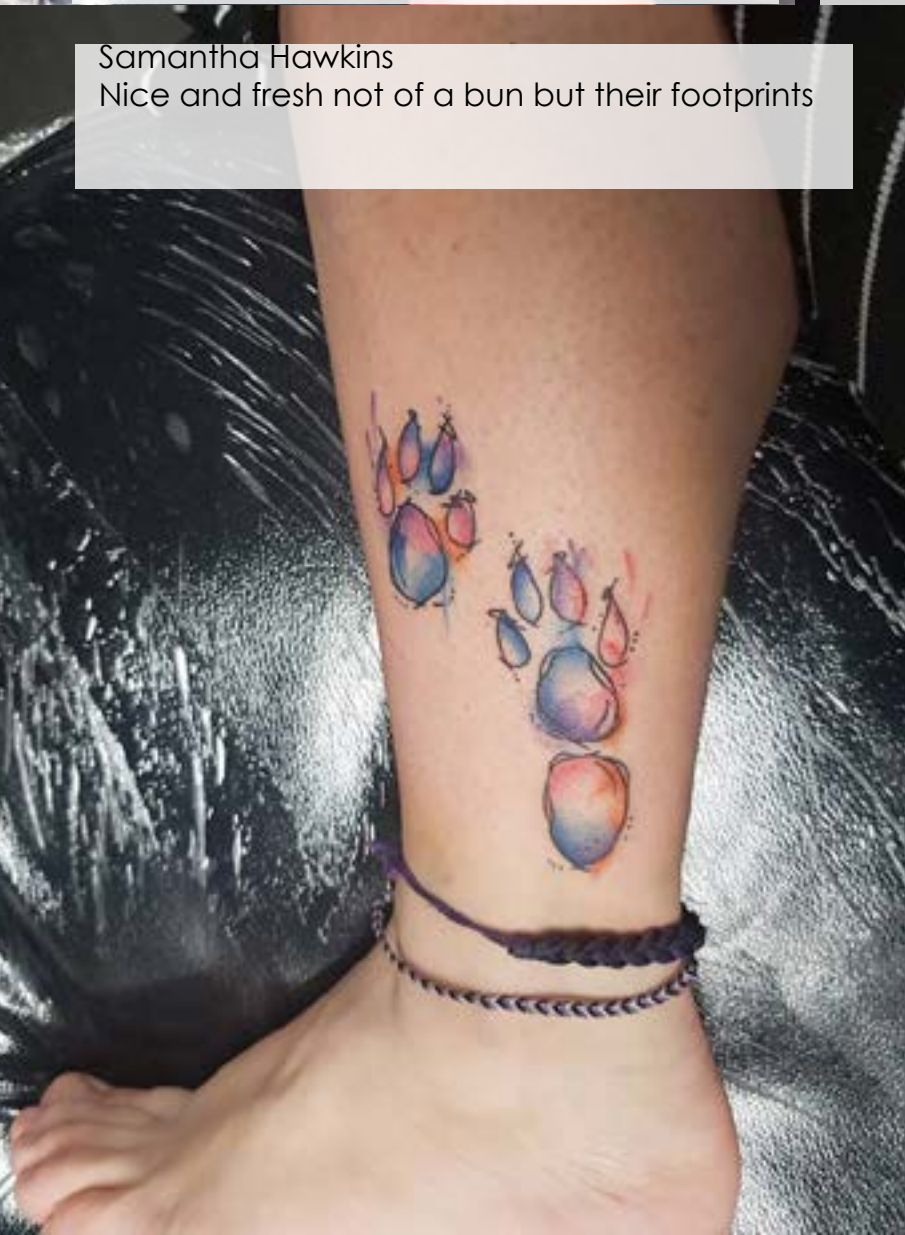
Gabby F LR Driscoll
Two Feathers Photo realism with water color by
Emily Taylor @ Twisted By Design Tattoo Studio



Samantha Daviau
A tattoo dedicated to my choice of being vegetarian
and cruelty free

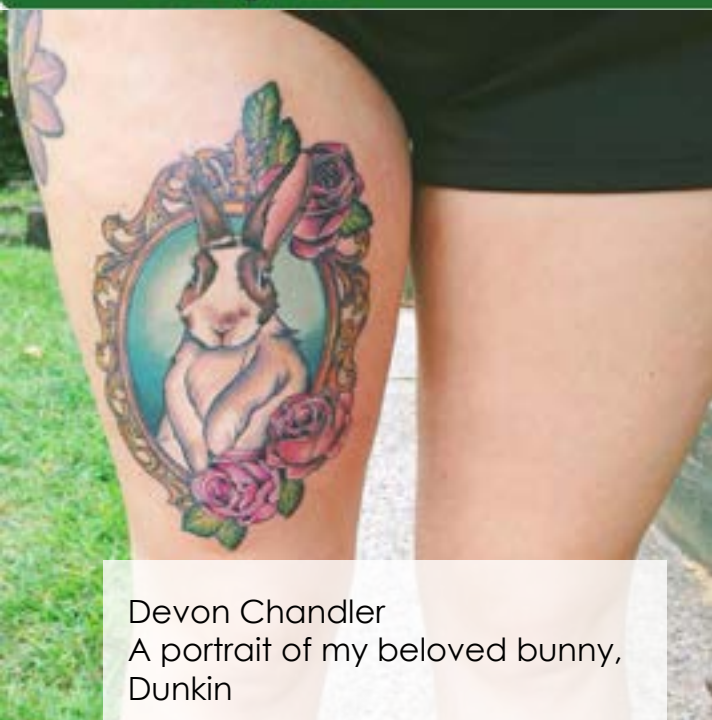


Samantha Hawkins
Nice and fresh not of a bun but their footprints



Tiffany M. Burkhard





Devon Chandler
A portrait of my beloved bunny,
Dunkin



Christi-Ann Pierantoni
My tat of the first 2 buns I had, Scooter and Harley



Tamar Damstra
My first bun Daan,
who passed when
he was just 4,5
years old



Miss-y Isaksson
This is my tattoo. Infinity with paws and heart
for the love of my precious Nellie



Holly Durward
My Charlie-Bun.



Julia Davidson
My white rabbit-running late.

Char Woolman

This is a cover up...but covered up with my Jackson...



Sammy Jane
My bunny wally who passed away recently x

Mango & Finn's "lady-people"



Topi Rautjoki



Christine Dockerty
Just had mine done a few
weeks ago



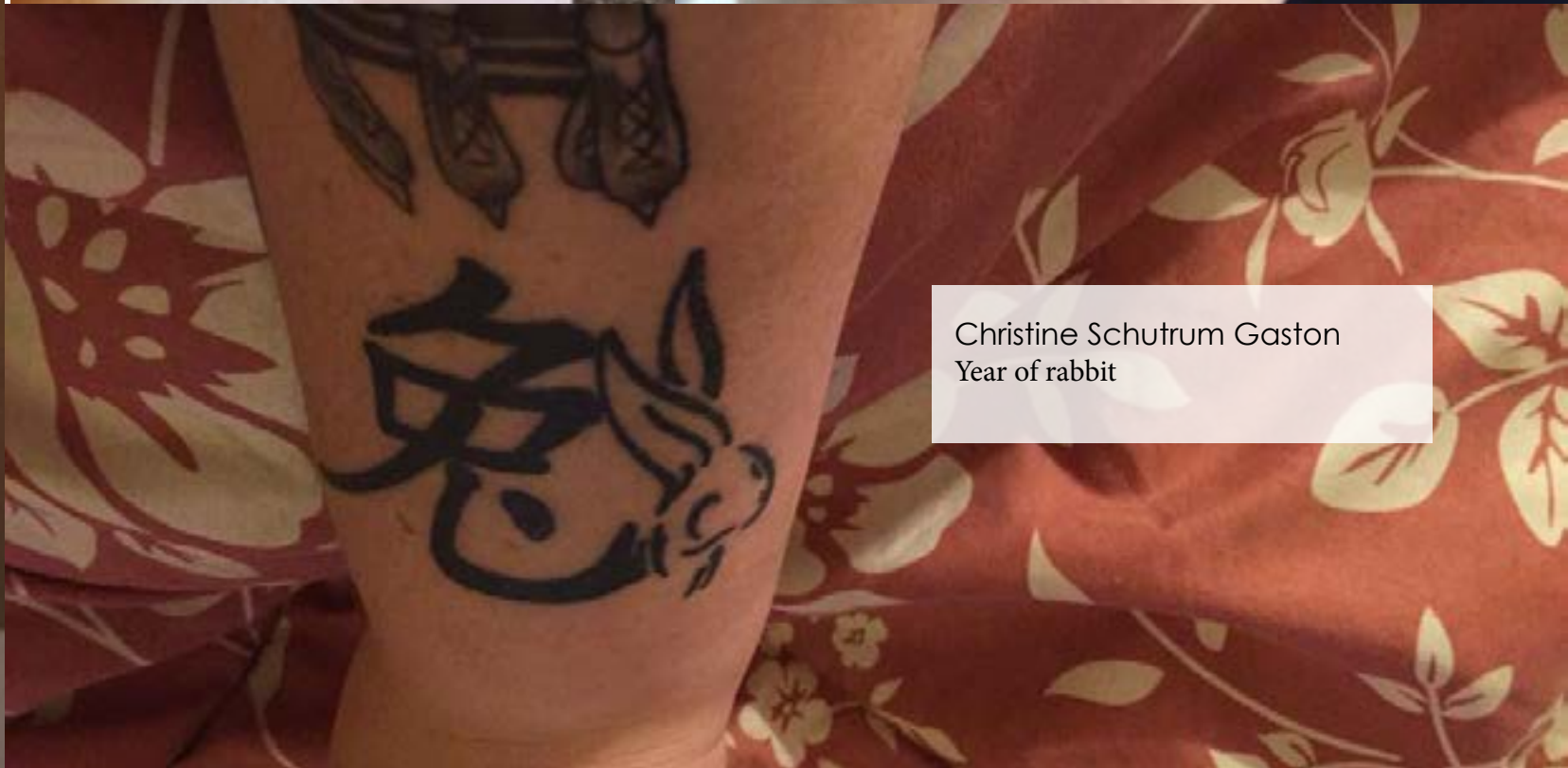
Amy Lynn Carpenter



Charlito Man
This Ella.....miss her dearly
Char Woolman



Kim Burtsfield
My rabbit Rascal, who passed
away November 2006. He was
my heart bunny.

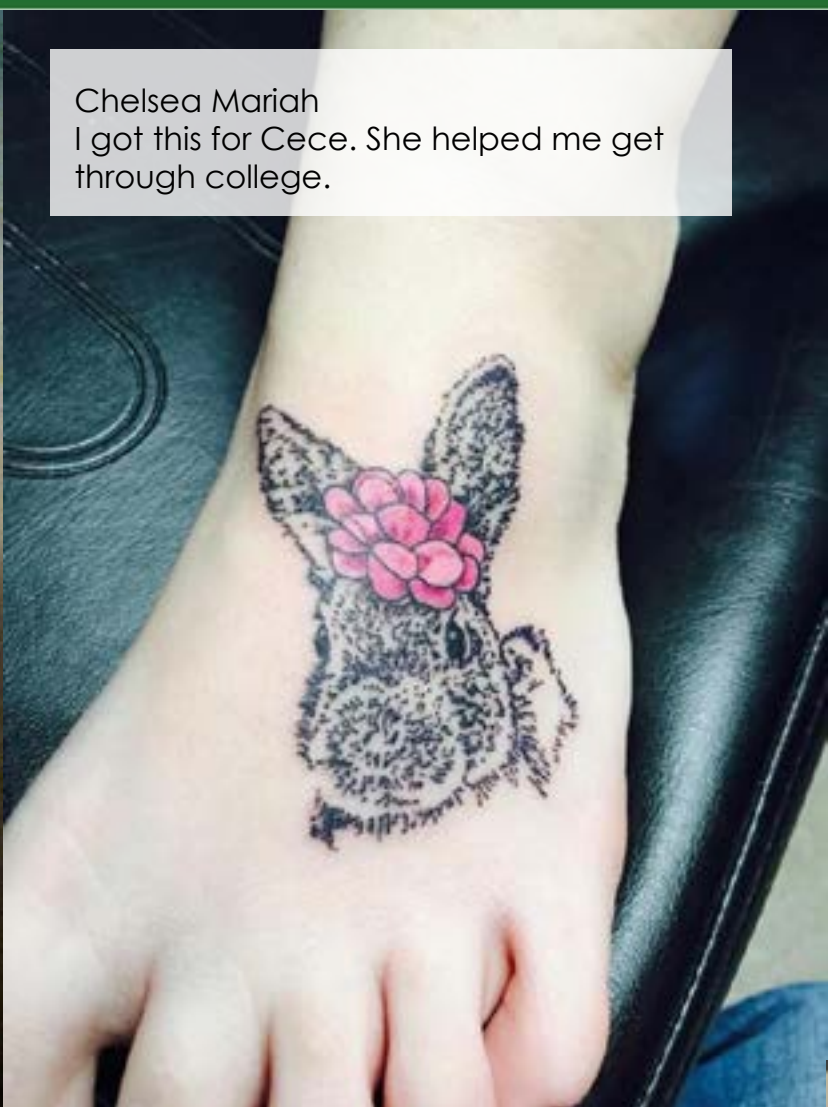


Christine Schutrum Gaston
Year of rabbit

Daniel Nitta



Chelsea Mariah
I got this for Cece. She helped me get through college.



Coco D. Stabs



Hannah Doorn



Christina Maura Phelan



Anna Daszkiewicz
My husbands tattoo of our bunny Misiek



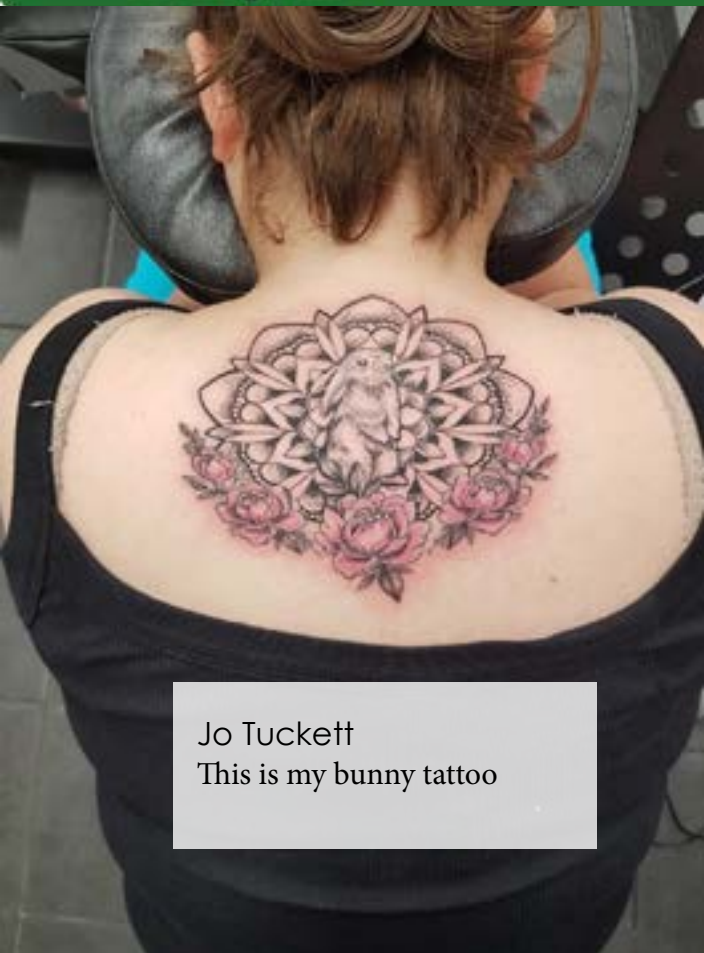
Kelli Mulligan



Laëtitia George
My Qbie! She left us in February



Val Kocha BC



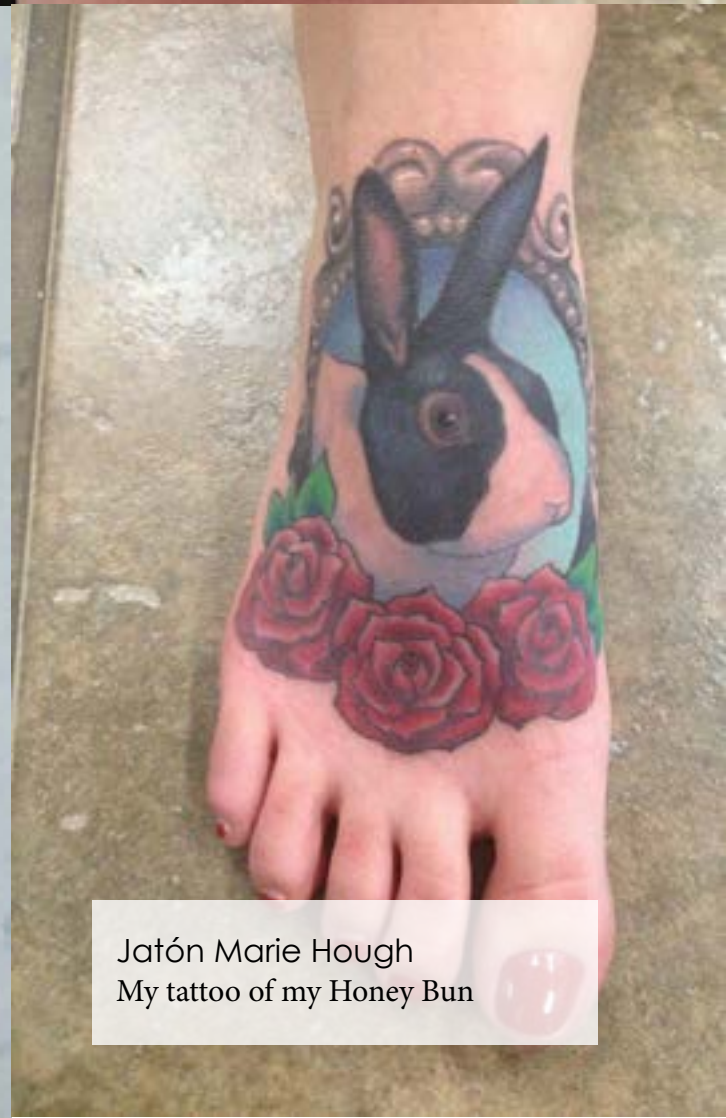
Jo Tuckett
This is my bunny tattoo



Haviva Porter
Captain Jack



Cindy Hildebrand
My darling Chloe



Jatón Marie Hough
My tattoo of my Honey Bun

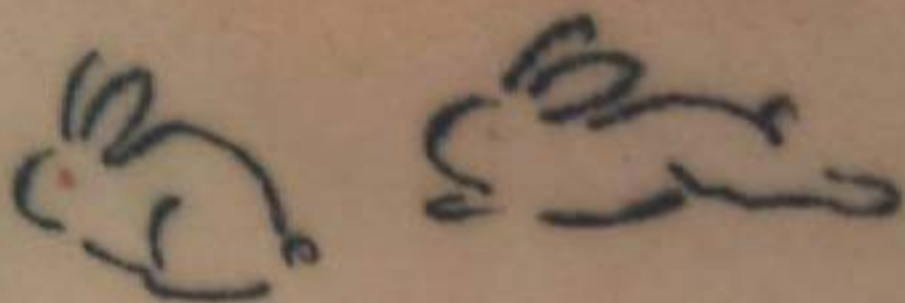
Sara Isabel Tikka



Mina Cataneo



Chrystabel Burt



Elena A. Villeco



Alice Costen

I have two rabbit tattoos, one of my rabbit Leila on my arm and a gemetric rabbit on my leg, done by my amazing boss Toby Wenham at Serenity Ink tattoo studio.



Chrystabel Burt

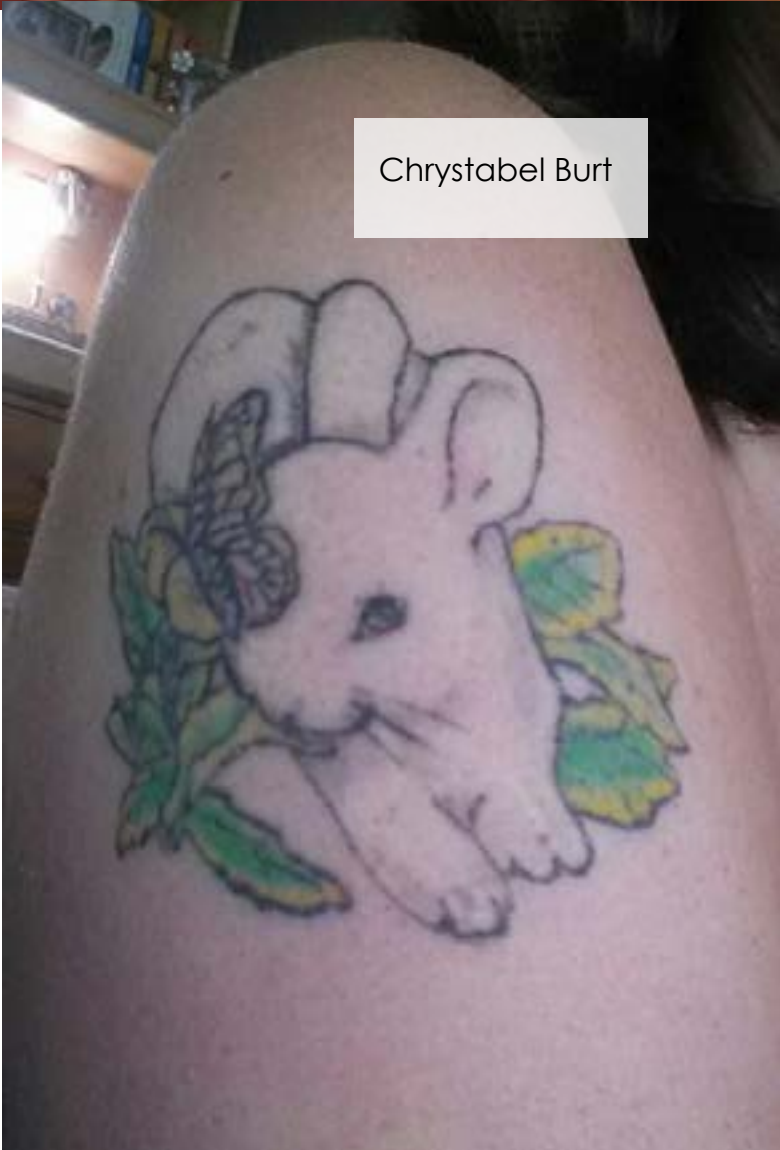


Dave Wood
My Smokin' Bun.





Christine Schutrum
Gaston
Baby flemmie



Chrystabel Burt

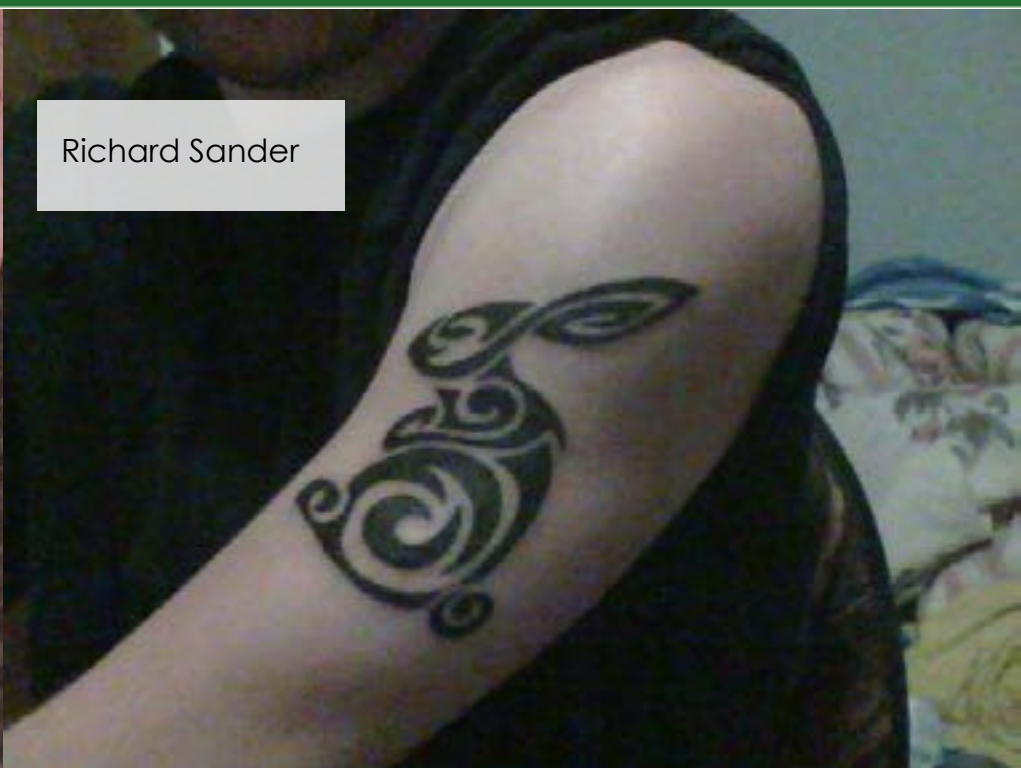


Chrystabel Burt

Stephanie Hennessy
He needed something to
ride on



Richard Sander



Johanna Huotari



Dave Wood
For my friend Wonka



Christine Schutrum Gaston
My heart bunny Icing



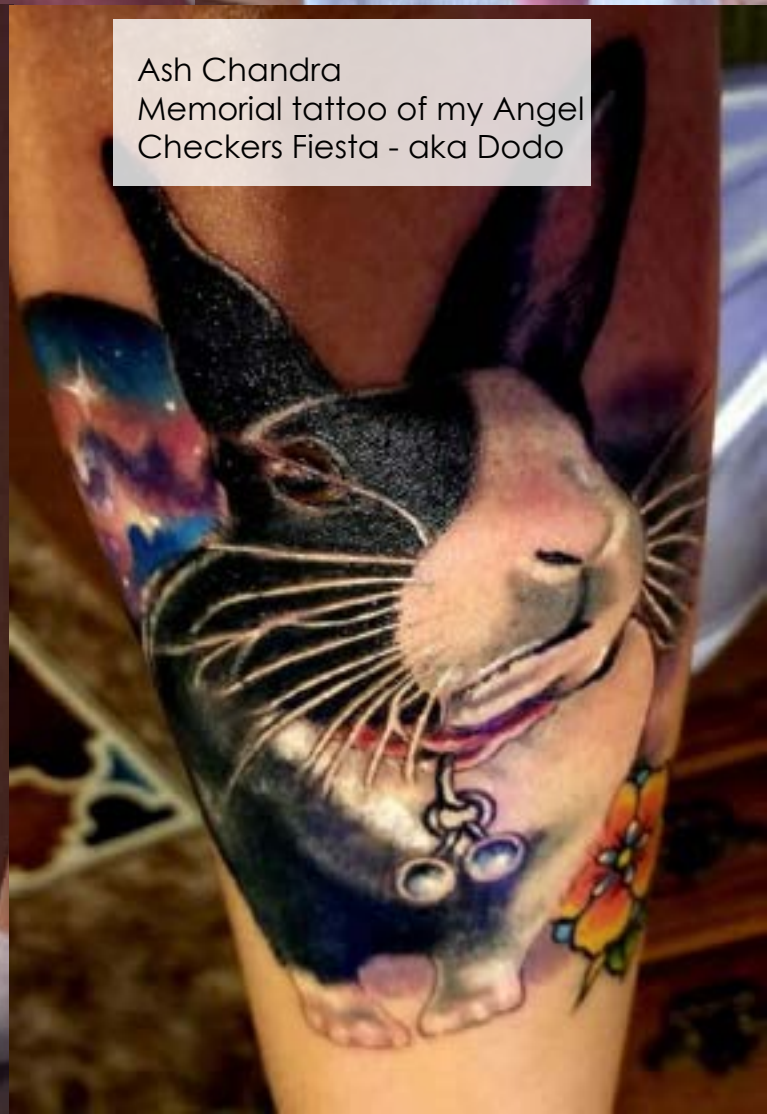
Christine Schutrum Gaston
Blue



Denise Donovan



Amy Lynn Carpenter



Ash Chandra
Memorial tattoo of my Angel
Checkers Fiesta - aka Dodo

Kathy Krafft DiPrinzio



Lori Ranard Haggard
Here's mine Joanna Rumsey



Angela Hen





Heike Bishop-Otto



Nin Gorman-Manning
Of my two babies that have
gone to the rainbow bridge



Heike Bishop-Otto

Denise Donovan

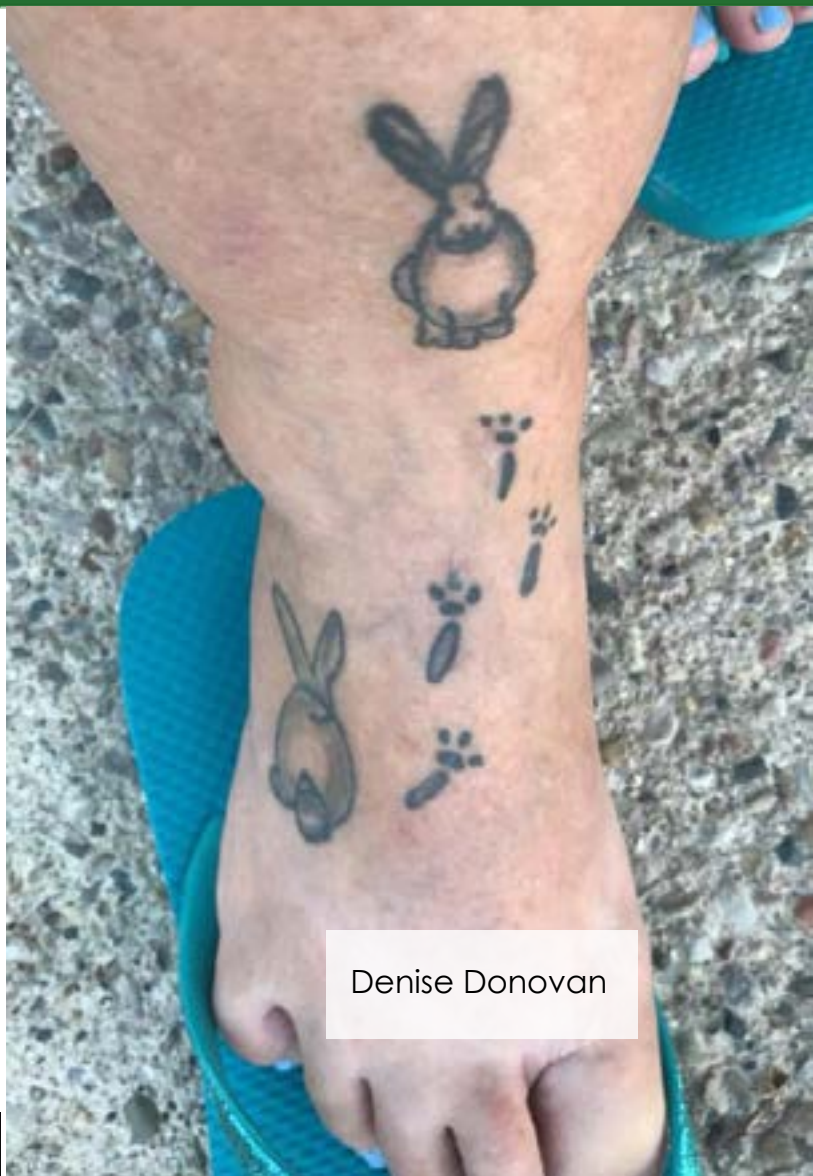


Angel Street-Parks



Amy Lynn Carpenter





Denise Donovan



Denise Donovan



Heike Bishop-Otto

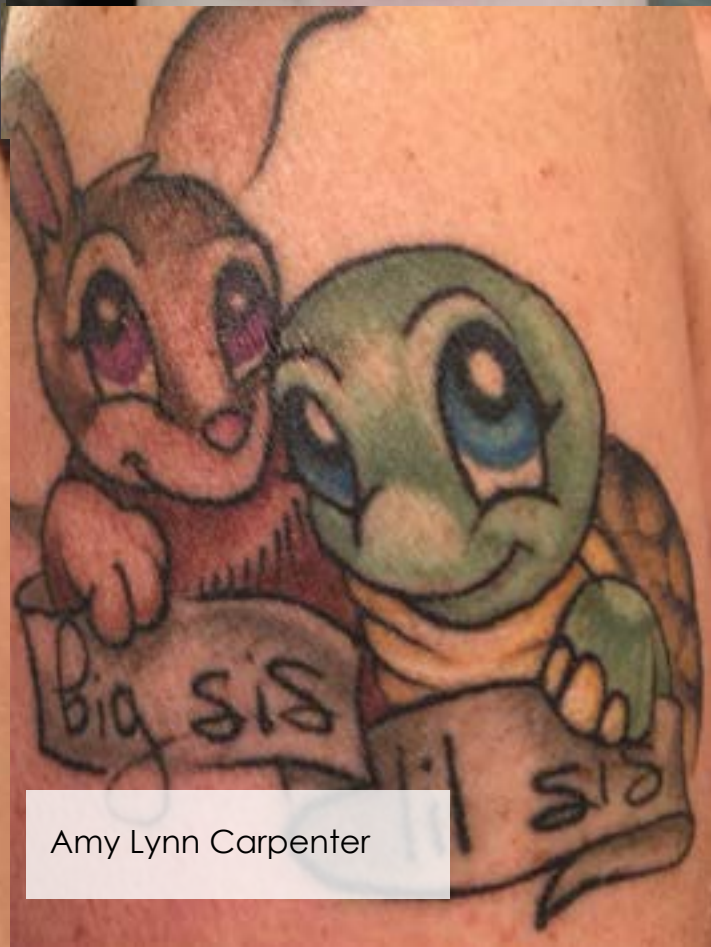
Amy Lynn Carpenter



Heather Demeulenaere
My right outer ankle. My first and final tattoo



Amy Lynn Carpenter



Amy Lynn Carpenter



Heike Bishop-Otto
My Angel Bunny Murphy
Done by the best Tattoo Artist Patrick Braveheart Tattoos

Thank you to everyone who
sent us rabbit tattoo pictures.

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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