



## THE NEW RABBIT THYMES - SAMPLER

All the news that's fit to chew...A publication of the MN House Rabbit Society

MN-HouseRabbit.org

Fall 2003

## PETCO Pilots Rabbits for Adoption

By Ingrid Harding, Director of Education

In a first-of-its-kind partnership, two PET CO stores in the Twin Cities area are now featuring Minnesota House Rabbit Society (MN HRS) rabbits for adoption, instead of baby rabbits that PET CO has traditionally sold.

This pilot program, scheduled to run until the end of 2003, gives homeless rabbits a high-visibility location to find permanent homes, and provides the MN HRS with an excellent opportunity for educational outreach to the Twin Cities community. What is particularly exciting about this program is the potential it holds

**PETCO, traditionally a seller of baby rabbits, has partnered with MN HRS to instead provide adoption opportunities for homeless rabbits.**

for the future— if successful, the concept of homeless, spayed or neutered rabbits for adoption rather than rabbits for sale could possibly expand to all PET CO stores in the Twin Cities metro area and then on to implementation at PET CO stores nationwide.

The MN HRS Board is pleased to help create and participate in a program that has such far-reaching potential! A full four-page article detailing this program appears in the regular edition of this newsletter. Become a member now to read all about it!



Minnesota House Rabbit Society

Minnesota House Rabbit Society

### MISSION

**Education**—To reduce the number of unwanted rabbits & to improve the lives of companion rabbits by educating the public and assisting humane societies.

**Adoption**—To help rabbits in area shelters, or that shelters can no longer care for, to find permanent homes.

## Full-Edition Newsletter Features

In the recent 40-page, full-edition of The New Rabbit Thymes, Minnesota House Rabbit Society members learned about a variety of interesting topics, including:

- Recently adopted rabbit success stories!
- A recap of our very successful Easter Education effort, where MN HRS created a unique campaign that was also utilized by other HRS chapters around the country.
- A full-page article covering First Year Accomplishments of MN HRS as well as the goals MN HRS continues to work toward in 2003.
- A new logo developed just for MN HRS!
- Information on composting rabbit litterboxes for use in your garden.

- Exciting new volunteer opportunities to benefit rabbits in the community.
- Upcoming events, classes, etc.
- News about members & volunteer accomplishments
- Many, many ways you can help support MN HRS through giving of your time, your talents, purchasing merchandise or directly donating cash or goods.

Exclusive "members-only" content includes:

- Bunny Boot Camp—this regular column provides tips on handling difficult bunny behaviors.
- Ask LadyBug—an advice column written by a rabbit! LadyBug hands out advice on a variety of topics helping rabbits to better understand humans.

In this issue...

Membership Has Benefits!	2
Amazing, but True!	2
Did you know...?	2
Pellets: Timothy vs. Alfalfa	2
Is Your Rabbit Legal?	2
Recommended Veterinarians	3
Monkeypox Update	3
Rabbits for Adoption	3
Contact Information	4
Upcoming Events	4
Online Calendars	4

## Membership Has Benefits! Join Now!

As an all-volunteer, member supported non profit organization, memberships are critical to support the MN HRS mission of rescuing rabbits in need while educating the public on rabbit behavior and proper care.

All memberships will receive a one-year subscription to our chapter's periodic newsletter that contains information about chapter activities, upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, rabbit stories, and much more!

In addition, members receive invitations to special "Members Only" events, which

provide members the opportunity to get to know other rabbit people, share pictures & tell stories about their buns

MN HRS membership starts as low as \$10, with options ranging up to \$250. Memberships can be paid annually, or in monthly installments through our Guardian Angel option. You can also join the national House Rabbit Society through MN HRS in one easy step! For details on all the membership options, see the reverse side of the enclosed membership form.

In addition, your membership supports

efforts to help the over 750 rabbits a year that find themselves homeless in the Twin Cities area! MN HRS works to help educate the public through classes, our info hotline, MNHouseRabbit.org and public events. MN HRS also partners with area shelters to help as many rabbits as possible to find permanent homes.

Join now to get the recent 40-page edition of The New Rabbit Thymes! What you see in this "sampler" is just a fraction of the wonderful information available through the full edition of The New Rabbit Thymes.

### Amazing, but True!

Did you know a male rabbit can impregnate a female for WEEKS after being neutered? It's true!

In fact, recently neutered males should be kept apart from intact females for six weeks after surgery to insure there are no unexpected litters.

### Pellets: Timothy or Alfalfa?

To say that an "alfalfa [pellet] is bad" and "timothy is good" misstates the situation. Both types of pellets can provide a diet that is lower in protein and calcium; the key is to read the product label and then offer food quantities and varieties appropriate to your rabbit's individual nutrient needs.

Read the full two-page feature on pellets in the 40 page version of The New Rabbit Thymes.

### Did You Know ...?

Once two buns are bonded, they should be kept together even when one bun is sick and/ or potentially contagious. Most of the time, the partner has already been exposed to whatever the sick bun has and separating them will only traumatize them both. If one bun in a pair needs to go to the veterinarian, their bonded buddy should accompany them. This helps the sick bunny to be more calm and also helps to ensure that the sick bun does not end up rejected by the buddy after their return from the veterinarian.

### Is Your Rabbit Legal?

Everybody knows that you have to license a dog and many people are aware that you may need a special permit to have several animals in their home, but did you know that in Minneapolis you must have a permit in order to own a rabbit? Or that if you live in a building with 3 or more units/ apartments, rabbits are not permitted even if you have your landlord's permission? St. Paul is a little more generous, allowing one rabbit without a permit but requiring a permit for the second.

With city codes differing so wildly, there is no quick and easy answer to the

question "Can I legally have a rabbit?" Several Twin Cities area cities do have their city codes online, allowing you to find the answer for yourself. If your city does not have its code online, or if you still have questions after reading the code, contact your local animal control office or police department. Since they are the ones enforcing animal ordinances, they should be able to help you.

If you are interested in attempting to change the ordinances in St. Paul or Minneapolis to make them more house rabbit friendly, please contact the MN HRS.

## M N HRS Recommended Veterinarians

The veterinarians on this list have exhibited a solid knowledge of rabbit medicine and are recommended by an HRS member. Keep in mind this is just a place to start your search for your rabbit's veterinarian. You should still check any potential veterinarian out to your own satisfaction and make your selection based on what you believe is best for you and your rabbit.

If you choose to work with one of these veterinarians, please let them know that the HRS recommendation helped you to make your decision. If your vet is not on this list and you feel that he/ she should be included, please contact MN HRS.

Dr. Sheila Megan  
Companion Animal Hospital, Eagan  
651-456-5665

Dr. Lisa ReJanetta  
Dougherty Veterinary Clinics, Duluth  
218-722-3963

Dr. Kate An Hunter  
Dr. Kim Ammann  
Caver Lake Veterinary Center,  
Woodbury, 651-578-3290

Dr. Peg Frank  
Cottage Grove Animal Hosp  
651-768-0200

Dr. Rich Landlo  
Jordan Veterinary Clinic  
952-492-5000

Dr. Larry Tholl  
Valley View Pet Hospital, Burnsville  
952-432-9661

Dr. Cynthia Fetzer  
Camden Pet Hospital, Minneapolis  
612-522-4374

## Monkeypox Update

In early June, an outbreak of monkeypox, normally found only in Africa, was reported in Wisconsin and the Chicago area. The disease was brought to the U.S. by imported African rodents destined to be sold in pet stores. These African rodents infected some prairie dogs that were housed with them, and the prairie dogs in turn passed the monkeypox disease to humans, where it caused a relatively mild infection compared with its much more powerful cousin, smallpox.

When a pet rabbit died after contact with an infected prairie dog, many agencies started including rabbits in their efforts to contain the disease.

However, careful testing by the CDC has now proved that the rabbit was NOT infected with monkeypox. Indeed, during this outbreak NO rabbit was EVER infected with monkeypox.

## Rabbits for Adoption

These rabbits represent just a few of many rabbits in the Twin Cities area looking for permanent homes. Read more about them, and many other rabbits available for adoption, at:

**Petfinder.com**  
ADOPT A HOMELESS PET



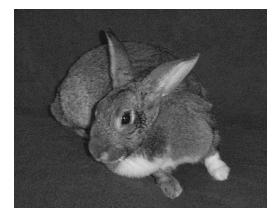
Misty Rose



Harvey



Jennie



Michaela



Brokk



Alex & Araby



Jewels



Houdini



Arial

# MN House Rabbit Society Contacts

Mail Address: Minnesota House Rabbit Society

P.O. Box 390691

Edina, MN 55439

Telephone: 651-768-9755

Email: [MNHouseRabbit@aol.com](mailto:MNHouseRabbit@aol.com)

Board of Directors: [Board@MNHouseRabbit.org](mailto:Board@MNHouseRabbit.org)

Joanna Campbell, President

Ingrid Harding, Director of Education, Secretary

Tanya Hulsey, Director of Fostering

Rich Lancello, DVM

Rachel Mathre, JD CPA, Treasurer

Suzanne Richcreek, DVM

Operational Leaders:

Chapter Mgr & Fundraising—Joanna Campbell

Education & Newsletter—Ingrid Harding

Fostering & Website—Tanya Hulsey

Membership & Volunteer—Andrea Nye

Licensed MN HRS Representatives:

Joanna Campbell—Fosterer, Educator, CM

Tanya Hulsey—Fosterer, Educator

Laura (Tessmer) Atkins—Educator

Andrea Nye—Educator

Tonia Baxter—Educator-in-Training

Laura Franco—Educator-in-Training

Ingrid Harding—Educator-in-Training

Kim Jackson—Maine Educator-in-Training

Heidi Johnson—Educator-in-Training

Janet Kittelson—Educator-in-Training

Holly Lang—Educator-in-Training

Kari Nollendorfs—Educator-in-Training

Julie Sutter—Educator-in-Training

Spokesbunny: [Ladybug@MNHouseRabbit.org](mailto:Ladybug@MNHouseRabbit.org)

Website: [MNHouseRabbit.org](http://MNHouseRabbit.org)

## Bunny Basics Classes

Maybe you are considering adding a rabbit to your household, or perhaps you just acquired a rabbit companion. This class, aimed at beginners, is just the place to learn how to start out right!

Admission: Free and open to the public. Please pre-register via MN HRS.

Sunday, September 28

11:00-1:00 p.m. Maplewood PET CO

3:00-5:00 p.m. Highland PET CO

Thursday, October 16

7:00-8:30 p.m. Minnesota Valley Humane Society, Burnsville

Saturday, October 18

11:00-1:00 p.m. Highland PET CO

3:00-5:00 p.m. Maplewood PET CO

Sunday, November 23

11:00-1:00 p.m. Maplewood PET CO

3:00-5:00 p.m. Highland PET CO

## Informational Tables

Stop by and say hello! Ask about rabbit care and behavior. MN HRS Educators will be available at:

Highland PET CO

2277 Ford Parkway, St. Paul

Sat, Sept 13 11-3 p.m.

Sun, Oct 12 noon-3 p.m.

Sat, Nov 15 11-3 p.m.

Sun, Dec 7 noon-3 p.m.

Maplewood PET CO

3000 White Bear Avenue

Sat, Oct 11 11-3 p.m.

Sun, Nov 16 noon-3 p.m.

Sat, Dec 6 11-3 p.m.

## Online Calendars

As MN HRS continues to expand activities, events & volunteer opportunities are always being added. Once in a while, events are also cancelled at the last minute.

To keep up to date on the latest events & volunteer opportunities, we have added two online calendars to our website: [MNHouseRabbit.org](http://MNHouseRabbit.org). You can also get to the calendar from the main web page, by clicking on "events" or "volunteering." Just click on an event or opportunity to find out more about it!

These calendars will always have the latest, most current information about upcoming events, activities, and volunteer needs.

In addition, as event dates approach, they are listed on the voice mail message at 651-768-9755.