

Happy Spring! Greetings from the executive director

It looks like spring is finally here, and we at the sanctuary are overjoyed! It was a cold winter with many single-digit days, and this winter we received more calls about pet rabbits abandoned to fend for themselves outdoors than ever before. Lydia and Pepper were found freezing alongside a road near Lansing, Michigan. Libby, Black Jack, Dorian and Eva were all left on the doorstep of a dog rescuer in Detroit. Gabe and Ashford were left in a field near Toledo, Ohio. And poor Emma and Stinker, just a couple months old, were kicked out of their owner's apartment to try to survive on their own in a snow-covered yard. These are just a few of the rabbits Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary has saved recently. And this is why, no matter how unpleasant the weather, or how tiring it is to clean up after these darling rabbits, we don't mind because without us, the rabbits would be dead.

In our last newsletter we explained our serious fundraising needs – the large amount of money that must be raised if the sanctuary is to stay open and continue to save

abandoned and neglected rabbits. We have both good and bad news to report on our progress.

The good news is we now have nearly half of the \$65,000 required as a down payment for Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary to purchase the property on which it is located. These funds are in a new account, our Property Acquisition Fund, and came from the sale of our Gift Bricks (which can be purchased on our website at www.rabbitsanctuary.org/buy_brick_form.php) and grants from anonymous donors. This is terrific, since the sanctuary needs to purchase the property within the next year, and we are well on our way!

The bad news is that we need to substantially increase donations to pay everyday operating costs, everything from veterinary bills to the mortgage payments the sanctuary will have.

But in the last few months donations have decreased. Although the newspapers tell us the country is in an economic recovery, money is still short for



Lake Jacobson with Harvey, rescued from cruel conditions in Ohio.

many people. We understand the difficulty of being generous with charities such as Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary when money is tight, but please understand that the sanctuary simply will no longer exist, and there will be nowhere for homeless rabbits to go, if we do not receive the funding we need. The humane societies and shelters in our area, as in most of the country, have little concern for rabbits and often euthanize them without even trying to find them homes.

It is a fact that without Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary, hundreds of rabbits will die in the coming year and every year after that. Please don't let this happen! The rabbits truly need you.

Please make as generous a donation to the sanctuary as you possibly can today. Even better, become a monthly Sanctuary Sustainer or Sponsor and make a commitment to help save rabbits, ducks and cats every month (see pages 2-3 for more information).

Thank you for your generosity. We truly are grateful for your contributions, as is every animal here.

For the animals,

Lake Jacobson
Founder and Executive Director

P.S. Remember, all donations to Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary are tax-deductible!

Please Help Save the Rabbits!!

Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary has saved hundreds of rabbits and other animals over the past nine years with your help. We are a small non-profit organization funded solely by donations from people just like you.

Our volunteers rescue animals, take them to the veterinarian, provide them with a comfortable home and a healthy diet, clean up after them, groom and socialize and spend time with them, find loving adoptive homes, and do all this regardless of whether it is 0 degrees or 90 degrees outside. Our dedicated volunteers have been known to still be doing chores at the sanctuary at 2 am!

While we would love more hard-working volunteers, we recognize that busy, modern lifestyles often make it difficult to volunteer time. And many of our supporters, who live from Florida to Alaska, do not live near the sanctuary. If you are too busy to volunteer, or live too far away, you still have the opportunity to play a vital role in the sanctuary's ability to save animals. Become a monthly sponsor of one (or more!) of our sanctuary residents!

Sponsors provide the cost of caring for their foster animal here at the sanctuary. Sponsors receive a sponsorship certificate, a photo and the story of their foster animal, and our quarterly print newsletter. The cost of caring is:

Rabbit \$15 per month

Cat \$10 per month

Duck \$7 per month

The numbers of abandoned rabbits we must rescue continue to skyrocket, sending our bills through the roof as well. We are in desperate need of 300 rabbit sponsors, 75 cat sponsors, and 35 duck sponsors. These sponsors will generate \$4000 per month for the sanctuary to continue operating. Make no mistake, this is an urgent plea. We are in a financial pickle. We must purchase the property on which the sanctuary is located within the next year, and hire a new

executive director who will live on the premises and provide 24-hour care to the animals.

\$4000 a month will permit us to continue to save rabbits. The sanctuary will be a truly permanent home, owned by and for the animals, with this amount of income guaranteed every month. Only YOU can make this happen.

Every rabbit we rescue has a face and a name, and is thankful for YOUR help. Last December we took in a bunny couple whom we named Nicholas and Ivy, their teenage son, Rudolph, and their four babies, Cinnamon, Nutmeg, Peppermint and Holly. These poor darlings were neglected in a filthy outdoor cage, and were slated to become bait to train hunting dogs! But in spite of this sad environment, these rabbits are some of the friendliest, sweetest, most trusting animals. Could it be because they could sense your love and compassion when they arrived here, to a place that was warm and dry and offered delicious foods they had never dreamed existed? Your donations saved this family in time for the holidays just as surely as if you had plucked them from their former prison yourself.

In January we took in ten rabbits from an Ohio humane society which had confiscated them due to cruel conditions. Thin and freezing, in filthy cages exposed to the elements,

these beautiful animals had nothing to live for. With no warm words, no fresh food, no shelter from the cold and wind and snow, and the only kindness they had known the phone call that reported their plight to the humane society,



Ivy



Cinnamon, Nutmeg, Peppermint and Holly



Rudy

The Mission Of Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary

To provide a safe, permanent home with companions of their own species to abandoned, abused, and neglected domestic rabbits and other animals; to educate the public regarding the plight of these animals in our society so that over time a decreasing number will suffer abandonment, abuse, neglect, and willful mistreatment; to exercise population control of companion animals by spaying or neutering all mammals entering the sanctuary, health permitting; to adopt out animals residing at the sanctuary to loving and permanent homes; to educate the public about proper care of these companion animals through classes and hand-outs offered to the public free of charge.



Cocoa Puff, part of an Ohio cruelty confiscation



Moffit, part of an Ohio cruelty confiscation

surely these rabbits must have wished their lives would quickly end. But YOUR gifts to the sanctuary allowed us to take them in, to love them, and to make them well in body and spirit.

Running a sanctuary is very expensive. In addition to the obvious expenses of veterinary bills, food, utilities, straw, and payroll (we have two part-time employees to ensure that the animals are well cared for even when volunteers are unavailable), there are a myriad of other expenses. Kitty litter for the rabbits costs us \$50-75 per month. Water, which must be trucked in, is \$52 for 2000 gallons (3 weeks' worth). Antibiotics for sick and injured rabbits, and other medications, cost \$250 per month.

We are very frugal with your donations. Volunteers use their own vehicles and pay for their own gas; the Jacobsons, current owners of the sanctuary property who also live there, charge GLRS no rent and pay half of the sanctuary's utilities; our volunteers spend a great deal of time picking up donated produce each and every day, produce which would cost \$50-100 per day if we had to buy it; and we do not spend your donations sending out fundraising letters like many other animal rescues do.

Remember:

- Every gift to the sanctuary makes a difference to the animals. If you simply can't afford to sponsor an animal at this time, perhaps you can contribute \$5 a month. Provide us with your credit card information and we will do the rest – no stamps, no check-writing, yet YOU will be helping us save another neglected animal each and every month as a Sanctuary Sustainer.
- GLRS receives NO money from any government, and is not sponsored by any business. All funding comes from individual donors like yourself.
- All donations to GLRS are fully tax-deductible.
- We use your gifts wisely. All donations go toward animal care.

Please help save the rabbits and other animals by becoming a GLRS sponsor today. You will be glad you did, knowing the animals thank you and depend upon your generosity.

To become a sponsor, fill out the form below and send payment for at least one month (3-month minimum sponsorship, please – one year will save the most animals!). Donations can also be made from our website at www.rabbitsanctuary.org.

Name _____ email address _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I wish to sponsor a: (circle one or more) Rabbit Cat Duck

Name of specific animal(s), if known: _____

For a period of: 3 months 6 months one year other _____

I would like to become a Sanctuary Sustainer by donating \$ _____ per month.

Please charge my: ___ VISA ___ Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please make checks and money orders payable to Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary. Please return to Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary P.O. Box 7 • Whittaker, MI 48190. Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and all donations are tax deductible.

Where Your Donations Go

Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary remains a small organization with a small budget. We do our best to ensure that your donations are used wisely. We believe we have always done a good job of providing the animals with a safe, happy, and healthy environment at a minimal cost. Thank you for allowing us to help the animals!

2003 Income & Expenses

(rounded to the nearest dollar and percentage)

INCOME

Donations	\$23,402
Grants	34,500
Other	59
Total Income:	\$57,961

EXPENSES

Advertising	236	(<1%)
Bank Charges	330	(1%)
Building & Farm Supplies	2911	(5%)
Charity to other nonprofits (\$7000 to Safe Harboar Farm to care for PigHoppers pigs)	7250	(13%)
Education (training for board members; books for adopters)	661	(1%)
Feed	1658	(3%)
Garden (vegetable)	327	(1%)
Gifts for service workers	49	(<1%)
Grounds Maintenance (mowing)	260	(<1%)
Merchandise for Resale	1353	(2%)
Miscellaneous	203	(<1%)
Office Supplies	980	(2%)
Payroll	11,961	(22%)
Postage	919	(2%)
Printing	1308	(2%)
Professional Services (e.g. management consultant; web design)	1150	(2%)
Rent	0	
Straw, Hay, Litter	1602	(3%)
Subscriptions	79	(<1%)
Supplies, all other	2358	(4%)
Telephone	852	(2%)
Utilities	2494	(5%)
Veterinary	12,000	(22%)
Volunteer Costs (e.g. beverages, snacks)	915	(2%)
Website Maintenance	242	(<1)
Total Expenses:	\$53,753	

How Your Donations Help the Animals:

- \$15 will buy antibiotic for one rabbit for a week
- \$25 will pay for 50 copies of our Bunny Basics rabbit care pamphlet
- \$55 will neuter one rabbit
- \$100 will buy hay for three months
- \$300 will pay for utilities for one month during the cold winter.

Thank You For Your Help!

Special Contributions recently received:

Donations in memory of:

Lucky, beloved pet rabbit, by Lynn K. Stoll
Daisy and Domino Kracker, by Ingrid Bergin, DVM

Donations in Honor of:

Dedicated to Henry Matwichuk-Fahs, from Chad Fahs



Pyke found his way to the sanctuary over a year ago. He was thin, sickly and fearful of people and the other cats. We treated his infections, got him neutered, and let him eat alone, as he wished. Today Pyke is best friends with Rusty, another sanctuary cat. Pyke enjoys following Rusty around, doing exactly as he does. It is truly comical! Pyke has shiny, soft fur and has filled out beautifully. Occasionally he will even let himself be stroked, but he is still very shy. In fact, Pyke is the most camera-shy animal we have ever met – in over a year's time this is the first clear photo we have ever gotten of him! Thank you for allowing us to give him a home.

Buy a Gift Brick to Save the Rabbits!

By purchasing a brick for our Memorial Walkway to the Rabbit Barn, you will help ensure that the rabbits will always find refuge at Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary. All proceeds



from the sale of bricks will go in our Property Acquisition Fund, and used solely for the purchase of the land on which the sanctuary operates. For more information and an order form log-on to www.rabbitsanctuary.org/donate_funds.htm

Volunteer View

By Marie-Chantal Patino

A Painful Spring

Last May my husband and I lost our first rabbit, Trouble. She was 8 and very much a part of our lives; we were devastated by the loss. Though we both knew we would eventually welcome another rabbit into our hearts and home, we knew we definitely didn't want to go to a pet store. But where to look? Tim searched online and found GLRS, which was still PigHoppers at that time. Finally in August, though not sure if I was ready, we made arrangements to come out to the sanctuary.

TWO Bundles of Joy

Ironic that I didn't think I was ready for another bunny, as we ended up adopting two! Chocolate and Peanutbutter (Peanut for short) came home with us that night. Though Cathy had counseled us that they would require a lot of patience and TLC, we decided our schedules and lives would allow us to give that attention and care.

A Beginning

But it didn't end there. Tim and I thought the organization was such a great one, and we wanted to get involved. In an email updating how "the boys" were doing, I mentioned that Tim and I would be happy to help out in anyway we could. The first meeting we attended was in November, and we have been happily involved ever since!

Christmas Joy

Our first feeding experience was on Christmas Eve morning. We came out so Carie could show us the ropes. Our first official "solo" feeding was to be the next day, Christmas Morning. And what a wonderful way to start out the holiday! It was cold, and early in the morning, but non of that mattered. Just going into the bunny barn, and seeing all those happy rabbits come running up to be fed...what a joy! And even now, we both look forward to the Sunday mornings when we feed. GLRS is such a wonderful organization, and now that I am more aware of the dilemma of domestic rabbits, a much needed one as well.

Wait, there's more!

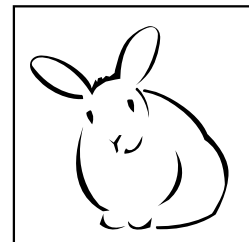
Not only have we added another rabbit, Thumper, to our family, bringing our house rabbit total up to three, we've also been fostering a pair as well. Athena and Aphrodite are two beautiful Californian girls. Athena has an injured leg, and is missing her tail. But, surprisingly, she has always been the more outgoing of the two. Tim has mentioned that if he doesn't pet her head just right, she gets grumpy and squirms around until Tim is doing it to her satisfaction! Aphrodite is also blossoming into a wonderful rabbit. When she first came to us, she would cower in the corner, and actually shudder if you tried to pet her back. Though she is still on the shy side, we are now able to pet her without her cowering in fright.



Athena and Aphrodite

The Silver Lining

So here it is, almost a year later since our Trouble passed. Though it was, and always will be, painful losing her the silver lining is that we found GLRS, and became a part of a wonderful organization. And Trouble does live on, in our hearts, and also in GLRS. You see, when I was developing ideas for the logo, I used the many pictures of our beloved Trouble for reference, and the final design is based on one of my favorite photos of her. So in her own way, she is also a GLRS Volunteer.



How can you help?!

Here's how!

- Volunteer to feed and care for the animals! We are always in need of people to learn to feed a meal a week, give out medications, and clean up the rabbit poop. The rabbits are fed twice a day and each feeding takes around two hours. This is a great way to get to know all the rabbits, and to have them instantly love you!
- Nominate yourself or someone you know for a position on our board of directors. We need people with fundraising or marketing experience, experience serving on the board of a non-profit, accountants, and attorneys.
- Pick up donated produce in Ann Arbor and drive it out to the sanctuary. We do this everyday in the early evening and can use help!
- Adopt or Foster a rabbit!
- Transport rabbits to the veterinarian or help with chores on work days.
- Post flyers, take photos of the animals, or make a monetary donation.

Wish List

Van or truck with extended cab • laptop computer
copier • newspapers • paper towels
hay and straw • plain clay cat litter (nonclumping)
carrots • high resolution digital camera
more volunteers!

Why You Should Care About Rabbits

Those of you who know and love companion rabbits are probably puzzled by the above heading. But the fact is that an awful lot of people who claim to care about animals actually care only about cats and dogs. Indeed, that explains how people can love animals called “pets” and eat animals called “dinner.”

A lot of people simply don't think about rabbits at all. But rabbits are becoming more common as companions for adults, especially in large cities where people often live in small apartments. As a result of their popularity, rabbits are the animal most often surrendered to humane societies, after cats and dogs. Thousands of rabbits are euthanized in shelters every year all over the country. Many more rabbits are simply abandoned to fend for themselves, in the misguided belief that domesticated rabbits, like their wild cousins, have the instincts to survive on their own.

And these are just the companion rabbits. Of all animals that are used and abused by people, rabbits probably suffer in more ways than any other species. Rabbits are raised as meat and for their fur, wild rabbits are hunted, laboratories use rabbits in toxicity and cosmetic testing and biomedical research, rabbits are used to train hunting dogs, and they are used as props by photographers at Easter time, often abandoned afterwards. In all these ways rabbits' needs go unmet and they are not treated as individuals who have desires and lives they wish to live.

That one animal should be abused in so many ways surely says something untoward about our society, our blindness to cruelty, and our failure to cherish the animals with whom we share the earth.

Rabbits as Fur Coats

A recent article in The Wall Street Journal explains that rabbit fur is now considered fashionable and fun. “Nearly driven out of business by the early 1990s by antifur activists, the fur industry has rebounded. A new generation of women who don't remember the heated animal-rights battles of the '70s and '80s is embracing fur” (WSJ, 1/27/04). Moreover, the article states, the higher status now accorded rabbit fur is due to the “Rex” breed of rabbit, whose fur is denser and silkier than other rabbit fur. Who buys these garments awash in the blood of peaceful animals? How cold and vain must a person be to believe that fashion is an adequate reason to imprison rabbits in tiny wire cages, and then break their necks or electrocute them and peel the skin off their bodies?

Few Americans can imagine this happening to dogs and cats, although of course it does in some countries. Why do people allow it to happen to rabbits, not to mention all the other animals who are raised for their fur? Because people

don't think about rabbits as having desires, needs and personalities. Americans know dogs and cats have these things, because our society says that they do, but rabbits are a mystery, an omission in their thoughts, an animal that is defined as “other,” not “pet.”

This is changing as more people welcome rabbits into their homes. But that sort of gradual evolution of consciousness is very slow. We need to help rabbits now. And this is why the work of Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary is so important. We not only rescue rabbits from abusive situations, but also educate the public about the true nature of rabbits. People who know an individual rabbit as a somebody, a being with a will, cannot then buy pink rabbit-fur ponchos.

The sanctuary is currently home to several Rex rabbits, all beautiful, gentle, sweet animals. Patches was abandoned on a country road along with two other Rex rabbits, who were hit by automobiles and killed. Luckily for Patches, a homeowner caught him and brought him to GLRS. In spite of the terror he had gone through, Patches is one of the friendliest bunnies we have ever met. He loves both people and other rabbits, and in fact has fallen in love with a beautiful girl rabbit, Punkin, who also was abandoned this past winter.

Thumper and Dotty are gorgeous black and white Rexes who were rescued from becoming meat and fur for a backyard breeder. They are a bit nervous, not sure if they should trust either other rabbits or people – very understandable.

These regal rabbits are among our ambassadors to the public. When people visit the sanctuary, or meet the rabbits at one of our adoption events, they learn that rabbits are people, and understand why it is wrong to eat or wear or hunt them. We are positive that no one could hold

Patches and then wear a rabbit-fur coat!

continued on page 7



Patches



Thumper

What You Can Do

1. Don't buy fur and don't wear fur if you already own it. Furs can be donated to organizations such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals for use in educational displays.
2. Don't allow someone wearing a fur to believe that there is nothing wrong with it. Speak up! Believe it or not, many people do not even realize that the animal is killed in order to make a fur coat! You don't need to be rude. Say something like, "I'm not sure you're aware that dozens of rabbits were raised in inhumane conditions and then killed to make that coat." Yes, it may be difficult to speak up like this, and occasionally you may receive an unpleasant comment in return, but aren't the lives of the animals worth it? Even if you do nothing to sway the person you are speaking to, others within earshot may learn something.
3. Don't eat rabbits. In fact, try going vegetarian, and extending your circle of compassion to all sentient animals. You wouldn't eat a cat or a dog, right? Well, pigs and cows and chickens have as much will to live, needs, desires, and intellect as do those commonly called "pets." Skip the meat for just one day. And then another. Remember, if you love animals, the single most effective way to save the greatest number of them is to not eat them. Visit www.veganoutreach.org for more information on vegetarianism and veganism.
4. Send Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary a donation today. We will dutifully use it to rescue more rabbits, to rehome rabbits, and to educate the public. We are committed to saving rabbits from abuses that no animal deserves, and we hope you are as well.

Adoption and Pet Photo Days

On March 13th and 14th GLRS held Adoption and Pet Photo Days at Specialty Pet Supplies in Plymouth, Michigan. Our goal was to adopt out 5 rabbits, a goal we happily achieved! Cindy Rogers, pet photographer, was also on hand taking pictures of four-legged companions.

If you live in Southeast Michigan or Northern Ohio please log-on to www.rabbitsanctuary.org/events.htm for our upcoming events such as adoption events and bunny basic classes.

Meet our rabbits available for adoption! Please log-on to: www.rabbitsanctuary.petfinder.com



Domino and Garry Kracker

Domino, an intelligent, entertaining, and affectionate rabbit, was found abandoned in a city park last summer.



Thunderous Thumps of Thanks!

Special thanks to area business & individuals whose support GLRS couldn't do without.

- Drs. Lewis and Bergin of All Creatures Animal Clinic
- Dr. Edward Tritt of Tecumseh Vet Hospital
- Nonprofit Enterprise at Work and Washtenaw County for scholarships allowing GLRS volunteers to take several classes over the past year
- Petco of Waterford, Michigan for raising funds for the sanctuary
- Whole Foods and Produce Station of Ann Arbor for donating leafy greens to feed the rabbits
- Manchester and Associates for providing the space to hold our Bunny Basics class
- International Absorbents, Inc. for donating a pallet of Carefresh litter
- The Ahimsa Foundation and the Helmut & Candis Stern Animal & Bird Welfare Fund for generous grants to the sanctuary
- Specialty Pet Supplies in Plymouth for sponsoring Adoption and Pet Photo Days
- Cindy Rogers, pet photographer, for donating her time and proceeds from her photography
- Phi Sigma Kappa of Eastern Michigan University for some back-breaking work one rainy March day!

Plain Vanilla? White Rabbits

By Cathy Watson

It has always been a puzzle to us at Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary why it is so difficult to place white rabbits. We have found them to be among the most mellow and friendly of rabbits and are the rabbits most likely to resemble our childhood idea of the Easter Bunny. Are they hard to place because they are “plain vanilla” and not exotic or colorful enough to appeal to people? Most white rabbits have pink eyes, is that the problem? It is, of course, an old wives’ tale that pink eyes indicate evil or possession by malevolent spirits. Since nothing could be further from the truth, I ask what would happen if we shunned people with, for example, blue eyes? Just think of the friends we wouldn’t have in our lives and consider how much poorer we would be for that silly bit of discrimination.

Well it is the same with rabbits. Over the years the sanctuary has taken in many white rabbits that need a second chance. We have found that the New Zealand breed especially tend to be among the most calm, affectionate and placid of rabbits. Unfortunately this is also a reason why they are used so extensively in cosmetic testing and for medical experiments and are raised, sadly, for meat.

The white Holland lops we currently have are a good example of very happy, energetic and playful rabbits. We found out last summer just how close and loving they are when an adolescent female gave birth to a litter of kits and then died. She had them so well hidden that we could not find them. We spent several days trying many different means to find the babies, including enlarging the entrance to one of the burrows in an attempt to save them. It appeared that we had failed. About 8 to 10 days later four tiny babies sud-



White rabbits are popular at Easter but during the rest of the year they are, unfortunately, the least favored. The sanctuary has always had quite a few permanent white bunnies.



© 2004 Cindy Rogers, the Pooch Photographer

Caddie, a sweet and loving elderly rabbit of 10 years.

denly appeared in the yard. We never did discover where they were hidden but it was clear that they could only have survived by having their mother’s siblings care for them.

Then there is Caddie. She has one eye, is 10-years old and has been undergoing treatment for pasturella for many years. Until recently she has lived at the sanctuary with her boyfriend Eeyore, who was an elderly gentleman. When he died in early December Caddie went into a decline and I took her home expecting that she, too, was not going to last much longer. I am happy to say she surprised us all by completely recovering and is currently eating everything in sight. She now follows me everywhere and the minute I sit down she nudges my ankles with her nose to let me know she wants to be picked up and held. She has also decided that she wants to sleep with me. I have traveled this route before with other rabbits and it has never worked well. However, being the softy that I am, I decided to give her a try and to my amazement she has been a lady in every way. We have had no accidents on the bed, she doesn’t steal the covers, or, better yet, take up most of the space. Around 11:00 p.m. she will start hopping back and forth between my feet. That’s rabbit talk for “Put down that book” or “Turn off that computer, it’s time to go to bed!” Then she gets really cute and snuggles up on to my shoulder and sticks her nose in my ear, and starts to snore!!!!

Caddie certainly keeps me entertained and I’m sure I do the same for her. She has been a wonderful addition to my household of rabbits and has personality plus. The next time you see a white rabbit, you might just want to take a second look. I wouldn’t be surprised if you find a bossy comedian behind those pink eyes and white fur!

Alumnus opens field for other rabbits.

Houdini - Registered Service Animal. By Amie Peoples

Houdini arrived at my home in January 2002. His companion was a handsome paralyzed male rabbit named Fudgecicle, whom Houdini entertained, watched, kept company and protected. They spent all their time together, until Fudge left to cross the bridge at age 9 with congestive heart failure. Deenie was heartbroken, but I kept him engaged and loved. Over that fall I began to have mobility problems, so Houdini kept me company.

One winter day, he kicked me. I put him down, watching quizzically as he stamped his feet repeatedly. The incident was soon forgotten. Later in spring, he began to stamp his feet repeatedly, with seemingly nothing wrong. When I picked him up, he began to kick me repeatedly. I set him down, but later woke up on the floor with Houdini laying right next to me. I have epilepsy, and Houdini had warned me of an impending seizure with the rabbit signal for danger. My husband, Dick, watched to see if it would happen again, which it did. Houdini "knew" when these things would hit, and gave me the time to prepare, lay down, get out of public; whatever it took. He stays with me until the seizure passes. Deenie is now a registered service animal, going into stores, the neurologist's office, and wherever I go. He's a hero in more than one respect! What I haven't mentioned is that Houdini has trouble himself. The same parasite (raccoon roundworm) that paralyzed Fudgecicle, also infected Houdini, but medication checked the progression to paralysis. He is weakened on his right side, falling often, and when very, very cold needs me to carry him, as the weakness



Deenie with Fudgecicle. (7/2002)

becomes so profound. Two disabilities, two inseparable friends!

Love is a force that works in ways and through circumstances we cannot predict. Rabbits, as pets (or service animals) are not fully understood by most people, discounted by even veterinarians. If given the chance, any rabbit can contribute greatly to their family! Adopt a rabbit today from Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary. You, too, might get more than you expect!

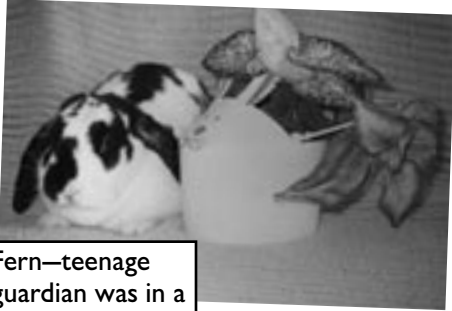
Check out our website!

www.rabbitsanctuary.org

- **NEW!** sign up for our e-newsletter
- **NEW!** enter our monthly drawing to win a prize!
- great rabbit info
- awesome rabbit related merchandise
- upcoming GLRS events
- meet the rabbits available for adoption & animals needing sponsors
- Bunny Basics available for download
- links to other great rabbit sites



Please help us save more rabbits like these.



Fern—teenage guardian was in a tragic accident



Marbles—abandoned in Delaware

Please add my donation to the Property Acquisition Fund.

Please use my donation wherever it is most needed to help the animals!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

email address _____

Please charge my: _____ VISA _____ Mastercard

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please make checks and money orders payable to Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary.



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