

FEATURE

animal ark sponsorship

Ingrid Harding

In early August, MN HRS became the permanent sponsor of a rabbit condo unit at the Animal Ark shelter in Hastings!

The idea for this wonderful partnership came up through talks with Ark Executive Director Mike Fry about cooperative efforts. When Mike approached us about the idea of making a cat condo into a rabbit condo, we, er, hopped at the chance! We saw this rabbit condo as not only a wonderful space in which homeless rabbits could live, but also a place to show families how rabbits should live!

After an MN HRS board discussion, a friend of MN HRS put up half the monies and MN HRS put in the other half. We — and the rabbits — were on our way to a beautiful new condo! Animal Ark had focused primarily on cats and dogs before this, and so rabbit-specific intake procedures, adoption and care guidelines, and supply questions all needed to be worked out.

The unit has in it a large wicker basket, assorted toys, and litter boxes lined with fuel pellets and heaped with hay. Outlets were bunny-proofed, as was the lower part of the door. Families visiting the shelter can peek into the condo through a great big window and can enter the condo through a sliding door.

Two of our favorite educational posters hang in the condo — Things I Learned From My Rabbit and the Did You Know poster. Fun signs are placed around the condo, covering information points on rabbit care and behavior, as well as providing MN HRS contact information. One sign talks about how to meet a rabbit, encouraging folks to come on in and sit with the rabbit and to let him or her — or them — come to them. A Petfinder book of adoptable rabbits in the Twin Cities area is also available for the public to look through, along with the MN HRS events calendar and

sampler newsletters. A brass sign with our chapter name will also be hung on the outside of the unit.

MN HRS trained adoption and cleaning staff at Animal Ark and the rabbits are available for adoption through the Ark. As with all the animals at the Ark, the rabbits have all been spayed or neutered and microchipped prior to adoption. Since August, five rabbits have been able to enjoy an “almost home sweet home” at Animal Ark — best friends Harley and Cassie, then Buggsy, and now the bonded pair of Laurel and Hardy. Each rabbit has taught the Ark staff even more about



Harley goes for the wicker basket, while Cassie lurks above in the Cottontail Cottage!

rabbit personalities and behavior!

“It’s a pretty special collaboration,” says Animal Ark Shelter Manager Mary Salter. “And truly a win-win for all — the rabbits, the staff and volunteers, visiting families, and even the cats, who enjoy watching the rabbits from their own condos!”

The link to the MN HRS website appears on the Animal Ark website (www.animalarkshelter.org) and you’ll note that rabbits are now included in the border of animals which decorate the Animal Ark shelter home page. In the future, MN HRS hopes to schedule rabbit care classes for the public in the Ark’s great community room. Animal Ark also plans to have rabbit supplies for sale in its retail area, including the cardboard Cottontail Cottage pictured on the front page! And both MN HRS and Ark would love to have volunteers help out and socialize with the rabbits there. If you are interested in volunteering with these rabbits, please contact us!

This special partnership is quite unique and we look forward to announcing it to the media. Do stop by Animal Ark next time you are down in the Hastings area, to say hello and check out the elegant rabbit condo! Thank you Animal Ark!

inside the full edition

Learn about the mental disease of rabbit “collecting.”

Discover the amazing cleaning power of plain old vinegar!

Have you prepared for the worst?

A “bunny profiler” makes a difference.

LadyBug talks about winter issues.

Meet the new MN HRS board members.

Rabbits are looking for homes in your area!

Ways you can help support MN HRS by giving of your time, talents, money, or even goods!

Check out the new holiday bunny toys in the Bunnydale special insert.



MN HRS’ mission focuses on Education and Adoption:

Reducing the number of unwanted rabbits and improving the lives of companion rabbits by educating the public and assisting humane societies;

Helping rabbits in area shelters, or those that shelters can no longer care for, to find permanent homes.

MEMBERSHIP

membership has benefits!

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 members receive a one-year subscription to our chapter's periodic newsletter, which contains information about chapter activities, upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, rabbit stories, and much more.

In addition, members receive invitations to special "Members Only" events that give them the chance to get to know other rabbit people, share pictures, and tell stories about their bunnies.

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 our membership form.

In addition, your membership supports our efforts to help the over 750 rabbits a year that find themselves homeless in the Twin Cities area. MN HRS works to 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 edition of the New Rabbit Thymes. What you see in this sampler is just a fraction of the wonderful information available!

CHAPTER MANAGER

what's new with mn hrs?

At this time of year when many of us are counting our own blessings, some of the rabbits helped by MN HRS in the past 12 months would like to share their own gratitude:

Mindy is thankful MN HRS helped someone see her wonderful personality, despite her splayed front legs. Her new family drove all the way from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to adopt her at this year's Bunny Lovers' Picnic.

Ramona cannot believe her good fortune at being rescued from barn life and finding herself now living the life of a princess!

Rosie, a rebellious teenage bun, is thankful for the stability of her new family. She had been adopted from a shelter three times before coming to MN HRS and finding a permanent home.

Arial is thankful MN HRS never gave up on finding her a forever home. After a record-setting time in foster care, this spunky little girl found her home with a dashing boy named Bun Bun.

Callista appreciates the MN HRS fosterer who hand-raised her babies so that she could have the time and attention she needed to recover from being abandoned. Now she and her kits have a chance to find loving families of their own.

Mocha is thankful that MN HRS gave her a second chance for happiness after her original people turned her into the shelter at the wizened age of 8! While this may seem tragic, it actually saved her life as Mocha had uterine cancer that was removed when she was spayed – saving her life. She has now found a new family who loves her.

The above rabbits are just a few of the 43 rabbits that MN HRS has helped find forever homes, either through fostering them ourselves or through the PETCO adoption program.

Another 25 rabbits are thankful for MN HRS cooperative events with area shelters to promote rabbit adoptions, as they each found homes through these efforts.

Because MN HRS takes in rabbits regardless of their health, we did lose 8 rabbits in foster care this year. Three were new-borns. The remaining rabbits are thankful they got to spend the last part of their life being the spoiled house rabbits they were meant to be. Some didn't get to enjoy the perks for long, but they all knew they were loved.

Despite our careful screening process, four rabbits were adopted out only to be returned later this year. Each is thankful MN HRS makes a lifetime commitment to every rabbit we foster so they had a safe space to return to.

There are over 40 rabbits currently in foster care that are thankful for the second chance MN HRS can give them. Every one of these rabbits would have been euthanized if MN HRS hadn't been able to provide foster space for them. Some also had special needs MN HRS was able to address, like Pippin's aggressive behavior, Sherman's teeth issues, Tex's bladder stone, and Scotty's broken leg.

And Gizmo and Sadie are grateful to be MN HRS' first rabbits in "sanctuary" care. Gizmo was the first foster rabbit ever for MN HRS; he was in foster care for almost two years. He and Sadie were adopted out several years ago, and then returned in 2003. They have now been in foster care for another year, and MN HRS has committed itself to caring for them for the rest of their lives.

Over 90 rabbits helped by MN HRS in the past 12 months are pictured on both the 2005 weekly planners and the 2005 At-a-Glance calendars available through MN HRS. This is a visual representation of all the rabbits who have benefited by the efforts of MN HRS.

Of course, MN HRS is very, very thankful for all the volunteers, members, and donors that made it possible to help each one of these bunnies. All of us together made this possible!

did you know?

Once two rabbits are bonded, they should be kept together even when one is sick or potentially contagious. Most of the time, the partner has already been exposed and separating them will only traumatize them both. If one rabbit in a pair needs to go to the veterinarian, the bonded buddy should go along. This helps the sick bunny stay calm and ensures he doesn't end up being rejected by his companion after returning!

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.

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Some alfalfa-based pellets and hay are too high in protein and calcium to be a healthy diet for pet rabbits; pellets with seeds or cereal are especially dangerous. Check the label and offer food quantities and varieties appropriate to your rabbit's individual needs. Or, try using timothy-based pellets and hay instead! MN HRS makes healthy choices available for sale; contact us to find out more!

ADOPTIONS

adoptable rabbits

These rabbits are just a few of the many bunnies in the Twin Cities area looking for a permanent home. Read more about them, and about other rabbits available for adoption, at www.petfinder.com.



Pippin



Zahra



Abbie



Jennie



Callista



Nicki



Callista's Babies



Bingo



Boomer

Do you have a single rabbit who spends a lot of each day alone? Rabbits are naturally communal animals, so you may want to consider finding a partner for your bunny to provide companionship when you can't. If you'd like to find a companion for your rabbit, contact MN HRS.

mn 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 him or her know that the HRS recommendation helped you to make your decision. If your vet is not on this list and you feel that he or she should be included, please contact MN HRS.

Dr. Sheila Megan
Companion Animal Hospital
1321 Duckwood Dr.
Eagan, MN 55123
(651) 456-5665

Dr. Lisa Re Jeanetta
Dougherty Veterinary Clinics
215 E. 14th St.
Duluth, MN 55811
(218) 722-3963

Dr. Kate Ann Hunter
Dr. Kim Ammann
Carver Lake Veterinary Center
2201 Ventura Dr.
Woodbury, MN 55123
(651) 578-3290

Dr. Rich Lancello
Jordan Veterinary Clinic
560 W. Second St.
Jordan, MN 55352
(952) 492-5000

Dr. Larry Tholl
Valley View Pet Hospital
13600 Cty. Rd. 11
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 432-9661

Dr. Cynthia Fetzer
Camden Pet Hospital
1401 44th Ave. N
Minneapolis, MN 55412
(612) 522-4374

Dr. Peg Frank
Cottage Grove Animal Hospital
8136 E. Pt. Douglas Rd.
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
(651) 768-0200

Dr. Jennifer Kokes
All About Pets
5669 Duluth St.
Golden Valley, MN 55422
(763) 546-4452

Dr. Katherine Belisle
Southfork Animal Hospital
17445 Junelle Path
Lakeville, MN 55044
(952) 892-7970

MN HRS contacts

Mailing Address: MN House Rabbit Society,
PO Box 390691
Edina, MN 55439

Voice Mail: 651-768-9755

General Email: MNHouseRabbit@aol.com

Board of Directors: Board@MNHouseRabbit.org

Spokesbunny: Ladybug@MNHouseRabbit.org

Newsletter Submissions: News@MNHouseRabbit.org

Website Submissions: Web@MNHouseRabbit.org

Website Address: MNHouseRabbit.org

Board of Directors:

Tonia Baxter
Joanna Campbell – President
Carissa Dahlen
Ingrid Harding – Director of Education, Secretary
Brenda Holden
Tanya Hulsey – Director of Adoptions

Rich Lancello – DVM
Rachel Mathre – JD CPA, Treasurer
John Nephew

Operational Leaders:

Tonia Baxter – Education
Joanna Campbell – Chapter Manager
Carissa Dahlen – Membership & Fundraising
Brenda Holden – Volunteering
Janet Kittleson – Website
Laura Franco – Adoptions
Michelle Nephew – Newsletter
Andrea Nye – Fostering

Licensed MN HRS Representatives:

Laura (Tessmer) Atkins – Educator
Tonia Baxter – Educator-in-Training
Joanna Campbell – Fosterer, Educator

Laura Franco – Educator-in-Training
Ingrid Harding – Educator
Tanya Hulsey – Fosterer, Educator
Heidi Johnson – Educator-in-Training
Janet Kittleson – Educator-in-Training
Holly Lang – Educator-in-Training
Andrea Nye – Educator, Fosterer-in-Training
Karen Skewes – Educator-in-Training,
Fosterer-in-Training

Mentored HRS Representatives:

Kim Jackson – Educator-in-Training, Maine

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UPCOMING events schedule

Bunny Basics Classes

Bunny Basics is a presentation by MN HRS Educators, providing an overview of several aspects of rabbit behavior and care. It's great for families considering a companion rabbit, for first-time rabbit owners, or for those who want to brush up on their rabbit basics. FREE!

Adoption Events

Stop by and meet some of the rabbits seeking permanent homes! MN HRS Educators will be on hand to answer general questions, explain the adoption process, or even help find the right rabbit for you. FREE!

Newsletter Deadline

Do you have an idea for an article you'd like to contribute to the MN HRS newsletter? Maybe a cute rabbit story or photo of your bunny that you'd love to share? Send your ideas to News@MNHouseRabbit.org! The deadline for the next issue is January 30th.

Member Meeting

Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 10th. Please contact MN HRS if you would like to host!

Tues, Dec 21 6:30 – 8:30 pm	Bunny Basics Class To register, call 763-489-2220	Animal Humane Society 845 Meadow Ln., Golden Valley
Tues, Jan 11 7:00 – 8:30 pm	Bunny Basics Class To register, call 952-894-5000	MN Valley Humane Society 1313 E Hwy 13, Burnsville
Thurs, Jan 13 7:00 – 9:00 pm	MN HRS Member Gathering Members only!	TBA Contact MN HRS if you can host!
Sun, Jan 16 12:00 – 3:00 pm	MN HRS Adoption Event	PETCO Minnetonka 13691 Ridgedale Dr.
Sun, Jan 30	Newsletter Deadline	Turn in your articles now! send to news@mnhouserabbit.org
Feb 1 – 28	Adopt-a-Rabbit Month!	
Sun, Feb 6 12:00 – 3:00 pm	MN HRS Adoption Event	PETCO Apple Valley 7590 W 150th St.
Tues, Feb 8 7:00 – 8:30 pm	Bunny Basics Class To register, call 952-894-5000	MN Valley Humane Society 1313 E Hwy 13, Burnsville
Sun, Feb 13 TBA	Bunny Massage Class	TBA watch MNHouseRabbit.org for details
Sat, Feb 19 12:00 – 3:00 pm	MN HRS Adoption Event	PETCO Maplewood 3000 White Bear Ave.
Feb 26 & 27	Pet Expo	Minneapolis Convention Center www.twincitiespetexpo.com
Tues, Mar 1 6:30 – 8:30 pm	Bunny Basics Class To register, call 763-489-2220	Animal Humane Society 845 Meadow Ln., Golden Valley
Tues, Mar 8 7:00 – 8:30 pm	Bunny Basics Class	Animal Ark 2600 Industrial Ct., Hastings
Thurs, Mar 10 TBA	MN HRS Member Gathering (tentative) Members only!	TBA Contact MN HRS if you can host!

Visit Us Online!

*www.MNHouseRabbit.org was recently completely redesigned.
Check back often for new information and features on your favorite furry friends!*