

FEATURE

new name, same purpose

Recently the national House Rabbit Society decided to make major changes to its structure and its relationship with affiliated organizations. As part of these changes, local organizations that until now have been chapters of the national organization have also been required to evaluate their own structures and choose how to proceed.

We continue to share the core philosophy of the national House Rabbit Society, and a common commitment to the welfare of rabbits and the education of their humans. During our three years as a Chapter-in-training, we have grown steadily, helped hundreds of rabbits, and built a solid foundation necessary to sustain our organization so we can continue helping rabbits well into the future. However, after a series of long and thoughtful discussions among our members, leadership, and board members, we have decided to proceed as an independent organization.

As a result, some aspects of our organization are changing. The most noticeable of those changes is our name, which will now be Minnesota Companion Rabbit Society (MCRS). We still believe that the best place to care for our rabbit companions is inside the house, but it was necessary to change our name and "companion" best encompasses the educational focus of our group – all companion rabbits.

Rest assured that at the heart of things, who we are and what we do is not changing. Our mission of education & rabbit adoption remains the

same. Our vision continues to be of a future time when rabbit euthanasia due to lack of space is no longer necessary. The guiding principles we have relied on since our founding are unchanged. In addition, our board and leadership remains constant. Since our organization recently achieved tax-exempt status with the IRS, MCRS will continue to be a fully tax-exempt organization. And most importantly, our primary activities of educating the public and helping rabbits find permanent homes will continue. We will also continue with all of our current programs, including our cooperative efforts with the area shelters, the PETCO adoption program, as well as working with rabbit rescue organizations across the country.

We appreciate our formative years as a regional chapter of the House Rabbit Society, and we value the many relationships we have formed with other HRS chapters and individuals within those chapters. We recognize the significant work both the national House Rabbit Society and local affiliated organizations have done to promote rabbit wellness and education. We are looking forward to continuing to work with the House Rabbit Society and the many other rabbit rescue organizations in this country to keep making things better for rabbits.

Current members of Minnesota House Rabbit Society will automatically become members of Minnesota Companion Rabbit Society. Members will receive a letter, with additional details, in the mail shortly.

Board of Directors
Minnesota Companion Rabbit Society

inside the full edition



Learn about the most recent developments in the PETCO project.

Flower essences for rabbit health? You decide.

The best of the bunch ... our expert taste-testers rank different hays.

What should you do when you find a wild baby bunny in your yard?

Rabbits in your area are looking for good homes! Check out their photos and biographies.

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

We give you the names of the best bunny vets in Minnesota, and even some bunnysitters!



**MCRS' 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 MCRS 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.

MCRS 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. 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. MCRS works to educate the public through classes, our info hotline, MN.CompanionRabbit.org, and public events. MCRS 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 mcrs?

What a year! We're continuously stunned by what this group has been able to accomplish. While the list is many and varied, here are a few highlights from 2004 as they pertain to our overall organizational goals:

Expand education in a long-term sustainable way ...

- Educators responded to over 200 email inquiries, and over 200 phone inquiries, as well!
- Provided hundreds of free informational handouts through our PETCO partners.
- Offered Bunny Basics classes 50% more often, presenting to over 100 attendees.
- Created a Bunny Bonding Basics brochure for free distribution.

Shift from a fostering to an adoption focus, with a goal of 50 rabbits adopted ...

- Completed 81 adoptions – an almost 400% increase from last year's 21 adoptions!
- More than half of those rabbits were never actually fostered by MCRS, but rather found homes through various partnerships with local shelters, special events, referral of pre-screened adopters, etc.

- Based on 2003 data, MCRS is currently responsible for approximately 14% of all rabbit adoptions in the Twin City metro area this year, up from 3.5% the previous year.
- Significantly expanded our foster home network, which means MCRS can accept more requests for assistance and has to turn down fewer rabbits than ever before.

Strengthen organizational processes and infrastructure, by creating efficient processes and maximizing use of available resources ...

- Significantly increased use of volunteers during 2004, since dividing the many tasks that need to be done among more people makes it easier for all of us and means we can do more to help the bunnies, too.
- Started member gatherings, which continue to grow in attendance, and provide a great opportunity to exchange information and updates.
- Published three newsletters, as planned, including a major redesign.
- Revamped the website to make it more user-friendly.
- Retained 85% of existing members and added over 80 new members, to bring overall active members to 229 at year-end!

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.

...

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! MCRS 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



Mayda



Hillary



Mason



Clare



Woody



Xena & Gabrielle



Tammy & Lucy



Piper

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 MCRS.

mcrs recommended veterinarians



The veterinarians on this list have exhibited a solid knowledge of rabbit medicine and are recommended by an MCRS 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 MCRS 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 MCRS.

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

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Spokesbunny: Ladybug@MNHouseRabbit.org

Newsletter Submissions: News@MNHouseRabbit.org

Website Submissions: Web@MNHouseRabbit.org

Website Address: MN.CompanionRabbit.org

Board of Directors:

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

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

Operational Leaders:

Tonia Baxter – Education
Joanna Campbell – President
Carissa Dahlen – Membership & Fundraising
Brenda Holden – Volunteering
Janet Kittleson – Website
Laura Franco – Adoptions
Karen Nejedly – PETCO Fosters
Andrea Nye – Foster Homes

MCRS Representatives:

Laura (Tessmer) Atkins
Tonia Baxter
Joanna Campbell

Laura Franco
Ingrid Harding
Tanya Hulsey
Heidi Johnson
Janet Kittleson
Holly Lang
Andrea Nye
Karen Skewes



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UPCOMING events schedule

Bunny Basics Classes

Bunny Basics provides an overview 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. Registration is recommended. FREE!

Adoption Events

Stop by and meet some of the rabbits seeking permanent homes! MCRS 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, 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 May 30th.

Bunny Boot Camp Classes

Having problems with your bunny and want a little hands-on help? Come to our Bunny Boot Camp class with your bunny and learn how to pick up and hold your rabbit, how to trim nails, and some basic "tricks of the trade" for socializing reluctant rabbits.

Bunny Lovers' Picnic

Save the date! The Bunny Lovers' Picnic is August 6th, from noon to 4 pm, at Hidden Falls Regional Park in St. Paul.

Mar 14 & 15	MN Shelter Conference	St. Cloud, Kelly Inn
Mon, Mar 14 7:00 – 9:00 pm	Bunny Basics Class	St. Cloud, Kelly Inn
Tues, Mar 15 6:30 – 8:00 pm	Bunny Basics Class To register, call 612-668-3100	Southwest Mpls. High School 3414 W 47th St.
Mar 20 – 26	Easter Education Tables	Verious PETCO Stores
Sat, Apr 2 12:00 – 3:00 pm	MCRS Adoption Event	PETCO Roseville 2575 N Fairview Ave.
Tues, Apr 12 7:00 – 8:30 pm	Bunny Basics Class To register, call 952-894-5000	MN Valley Humane Society 1313 E Hwy 13, Burnsville
Sat, Apr 23 12:00 – 3:00 pm	MCRS Adoption Event	PETCO Highland Park 2277 Ford Parkway, St. Paul
Tues, May 10 7:00 – 8:30 pm	Bunny Basics Class To register, call 952-894-5000	MN Valley Humane Society 1313 E Hwy 13, Burnsville
Thurs, May 12 7:00 – 9:00 pm	Member Gathering Members only!	Location TBA Let us know if you'd like to host!
Sun, May 15 12:00 – 3:00 pm	MCRS Adoption Event	PETCO Minnetonka 13691 Ridgedale Dr.
Sun, June 5 12:00 – 3:00 pm	MCRS Adoption Event	PETCO Apple Valley 7590 W 150th St.
Tues, June 7 6:30 – 8:30 pm	Bunny Basics Class To register, call 763-489-2220	Animal Humane Society 845 Meadow Ln., Golden Valley
Tues, June 14 7:00 – 8:30 pm	Bunny Boot Camp Class	Animal Ark 2600 Industrial Ct., Hastings
Sat, June 25 12:00 – 3:00 pm	MCRS Adoption Event	PETCO Maplewood 3000 White Bear Ave.
Sat, July 9 2:00 – 4:00 pm	Member Gathering Members only!	Location TBA Let us know if you'd like to host!