

FEATURE

petco program one year later

Ingrid Harding

In early 2003, MN HRS began actively negotiating with PETCO management to create an in-store rabbit adoption program — replacing rabbits for sale with spayed or neutered rabbits for adoption.

One year later, we're delighted to report to our members that MN HRS and PETCO have expanded this program a total of four PETCO stores in the Twin Cities area. These high-visibility locations also provide the MN HRS with an excellent opportunity for educational outreach to a wide audience in the Twin Cities community.

There are also lots of exciting new developments, such as:

The "House Rabbit Handbook" by Marinell Harriman is now available for sale in these four stores, as well as PETCO locations throughout Minnesota and northern Wisconsin!

MN HRS volunteers print pages with photos and bios of all the homeless rabbits available in Minnesota shelters and rescue groups, along with shelter contact info, from www.petfinder.com, and create "Adoptable Rabbits in Minnesota" books for each of these four stores. The three-ring binders also include basic information on rabbit care and behavior.

MN HRS now holds Adoption Days in these four PETCO stores, rotating through each location, so there is one MN HRS Adoption Day every month. All PETCO stores in Minnesota list MN HRS Adoption Days and rabbit care classes at both Minnesota Valley Humane Society and Animal Humane Society on their website calendars.

Free educational materials on top of

the rabbit display area now include a sampler newsletter with MN HRS membership info, the HRS trifold brochure, supply checklists, and event flyers listing upcoming classes and adoption days.

These materials supplement the educational picture the store customers see, which is: a rabbit in a tidy space with linoleum flooring; one or two scatter rugs; a box full of appropriate litter and lots of timothy hay; a small amount of pellets; and a toy or two.

If you're interested in helping our program expand to more PETCO stores, please let us know. MN HRS needs volunteers to help with:

- Exercising rabbits and tidying up display

- Thoroughly cleaning the display area in between rabbits.

- Transporting rabbits from shelters to foster homes to veterinary clinics for spay/neuter surgery to foster homes to PETCO stores.

- Maintaining the "MN Rabbits for Adoption" books

- Keeping the education materials stocked

If you're interested in volunteering, please email Brenda Holden, MN HRS Volunteer Coordinator, at MNHouseRabbit@aol.com.

We also urge PETCO customers and others in the community who support this program to let PETCO know. Make your money talk by buying pet supplies at PETCO, and fill out the customer comment cards available by the registers to let PETCO know that you support the MN Rabbit Adoption Program!



Volunteer Karen Skewes with Smokey at a recent MN HRS Adoption Day at PETCO

inside the full edition

Find out why a toy is a better Easter gift than a pet bunny.

What should you do when your rabbit won't eat what's good for her? Bunny Boot Camp gives good advice.

Year-end figures show MN HRS is making a difference!

New rabbit adoption stories to warm your heart.

Bunnies who heal in Animal Assisted Therapy programs.

Plant a Garden of Eatin' for your bunny this spring!

Rabbits looking for homes in your area.

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

New toys for you and your rabbit at Bunnydale!



**"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!

Joanna Campbell

SPECIAL REPORT

2003 in review

Looking back on the statistics for 2003 tells us much about the situation of homeless rabbits in Minnesota. These numbers are not comprehensive for the entire state, but rather reflect information from select shelters for the calendar year of 2003.

Overall Numbers for 2003

	Count*	Percentage*
Total Incoming Rabbits ¹	862 ²	n/a
Total Rabbits Adopted ³	569	64.8%
Total Rabbits Euthanized	238 ⁴	28.6%

* for known domestic rabbits

Numbers for 2003 vs 2002

	2002 Overall Count	2003 Overall Count ⁵	Count Change	Percentage Change
Total Incoming Rabbits	736	832	+96	+13.0%
Total Rabbits Adopted	468	539	+71	+15.2%
Total Rabbits Euthanized	267	238	-29	-10.9%

¹ Does not include rabbits identified as DOA or owner requested euthanasia.

² Another 128 rabbits were taken in by animal control, but not tracked whether they were wild or domestic rabbits. That brings total incoming rabbits to 990.

³ Includes rabbits adopted into homes as well as placed with rescue groups.

Additional Numbers

Highest Adoption Rate for an individual organization:
71.4%

Biggest increase in incoming animals:
Up 38.5% from 2002!

Biggest increase in adoption rate:
Up 23.7% from 2002!

Most common reasons for euthanasia:
No Room/Space (28.4%)
Temperament (27.3%)
Health (26.1%)

Most common reasons for surrender:
Poor planning/expectations (56%)
Stray (22.1%)
Owner's health (10.2%)

⁴ Up to another 128 rabbits may also have been euthanized, although some may have also arrived dead or been relocated (if wild rabbits).

⁵ In order to make a valid comparison, Overall Count for 2003 does not include the two Animal Control agencies which were not represented in 2002 data.

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 to whatever the sick bunny has 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 to be more calm and also ensures the sick rabbit doesn't end up being rejected by his companion after returning from the veterinarian!

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 provide a healthy diet for pet rabbits if given other than as a treat; pellets with seeds or cereal in them are especially dangerous. Check the label and then offer food quantities and varieties appropriate to your rabbit's individual nutrient needs. Or, try using timothy-based pellets and hay instead! MN HRS makes healthy pellets and hay available for sale to its members; just give us a call 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.



Ramona



Bingo



Ebony



Arial



Nikki



Gizmo & Sadie



Harley



Tony & Cleo



Alex & Araby

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. Shari Skifstad
Dr. Skifstad has moved out of state and is no longer available at All About Pets in Golden Valley. We hope to have a new recommended veterinarian at this clinic by the next edition.

MN HRS contacts

Mailing Address: Minnesota House Rabbit Society
PO Box 390691
Edina, MN 55439
651-768-9755
MNHouseRabbit@aol.com
Voice Mail:
General Email: Board@MNHouseRabbit.org
Board of Directors Email: Board@MNHouseRabbit.org
Spokesbunny Email: Ladybug@MNHouseRabbit.org
Newsletter Submissions: News@MNHouseRabbit.org
Website: www.MNHouseRabbit.org

Board of Directors:
Joanna Campbell – President
Ingrid Harding – Director of Education, Secretary
Tanya Hulsey – Director of Adoption
Rich Lancello – DVM
Rachel Mathre – JD CPA, Treasurer
Suzanne Richcreek – DVM

Operational Leaders:
Tonia Baxter – Education
Joanna Campbell – Chapter Manager & Fundraising
Brenda Holden – Volunteering
Heidi Johnson – Carissa Dahlen
Janet Kittleson – Website
Holly Lang – Adoptions

Michelle Nephew – Newsletter
Andrea Nye – Fostering

Licensed MN HRS Representatives:
Laura (Tessmer) Atkins – Educator
Tonia Baxter – Educator-in-Training
Joanna Campbell – Fosterer, Educator
Bridgette DaSilva – Educator-in-Training
Laura Franco – Educator-in-Training
Ingrid Harding – Educator-in-Training
Tanya Hulsey – Fosterer, Educator
Heidi Johnson – Educator-in-Training
Janet Kittelson – Educator-in-Training
Holly Lang – Educator-in-Training
Kari Nollendorfs – Educator-in-Training
Andrea Nye – Educator
Julie Sutter – Educator-in-Training

Mentored HRS Representatives:
Kear Cornelius – Educator-in-Training, Iowa
Kim Jackson – Educator-in-Training, Maine

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Under Construction

*www.MNHouseRabbit.org is in the process of being completely redesigned.
Check back often for new information and features on your favorite furry friends!*

UPCOMING events

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. Registration is recommended. 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!

Upcoming Member Meetings

Join us May 13, July 8, Sept 9, and Nov 11. Contact MN HRS for locations and times.

Sat, May 15 12:00-3:00 pm	MN HRS Adoption Event	PETCO Maplewood 3000 White Bear Ave, Maplewood
Thurs, June 10 7:00-9:00 pm	Bunny Basics Class To register, call 952-894-5000	MN Valley Humane Society 1313 E Hwy 13, Burnsville
Sun, June 13 Noon-3 pm	MN HRS Adoption Event	PETCO Roseville 2575 N Fairview Ave., Roseville
Tues, June 15 6:30-8:30 pm	Bunny Basics Class To register, call 763-522-4325	Animal Humane Society 845 Meadow Ln, Golden Valley
Sat, July 10 Noon-3 pm	MN HRS Adoption Event	PETCO Apple Valley 7590 W 15th St, Apple Valley
Thurs, Aug 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, Aug 21 Noon-3 pm	MN HRS Adoption Event	PETCO Highland Park 2277 Ford Pkwy, Highland Park

5th-Annual Bunny Lovers' Picnic

*Sat, Aug 7, Hidden Falls Regional Park, St. Paul, Noon to 4 pm
See www.MNHouseRabbit.org for details!*