

News from

Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary

formerly PigHoppers

Fall 2003



Dear Friends,

We have exciting news! PigHoppers has changed its name to Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary and is embarking on a fantastic new venture.

In the past couple of years we have seen a diminishing number of requests for rescue of potbelly pigs in Michigan, and a huge increase in the number of rabbits needing our assistance. For this reason we formed an agreement with Safe Harboar Farm in Kentucky, which we mentioned in our holiday letter to you last December. This past spring our pigs were relocated to Safe Harboar, where they now enjoy lush rolling pastures and even a pond for swimming. Safe Harboar is able to concentrate on pigs alone, while here at Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary we will now focus on saving the many domesticated rabbits who find us.

Our volunteers have been doing a tremendous job of placing rescued rabbits in new, loving homes. By late October we had already adopted out over 80 rabbits, whereas in 2002 we adopted out a total of just 49. Because of our increased adoption rate, we have been able to take in 107 rabbits already this year, while in 2002 we took in just 57. We are working hard to rescue all rabbits in immediate need, such as those who have been abandoned, and we are also able to take in many rabbits whose owners wish to surrender them. We are proud of the fact that we are able to adopt out our rabbits for an adoption fee of just \$35, which includes spaying or neutering, and the acclaimed rabbit care manual, *The House Rabbit Handbook*. Last January we received a \$2500 grant from The Summerlee Foundation, allowing us to spay or neuter the rabbits we take in who were abandoned or neglected, and thus have no former owner to pay the cost of the surgery. By adopting out our neutered rabbits at a low cost we make it a no-brainer to adopt from Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary rather than a pet store or breeder, which would encourage additional breeding and result in more homeless rabbits

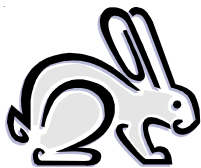
Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary is a vital organization fulfilling a need that would otherwise be left unmet. We take in rabbits that have nowhere else to go. We consider our volunteer work with PigHoppers to be morally necessary – we simply *must* continue to do all we can to save these innocent animals from the uncaring hands they often find themselves in. But to continue our mission we need a great deal of help – and we are relying on you, our devoted members and supporters, to continue to be there for the animals.

We have previously told you about Executive Director Lake Jacobson's increasing difficulty in running the sanctuary while also fulfilling her family obligations, particularly raising one-year old Sammy and 5-year old Nathaniel, who has autism. Lake would like to step down from the position of Executive Director, and move to a neighborhood where her sons can find the playmates they do not have in the rural area where Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary is located. Lake would remain on the board of directors but play a much less active role than she does now. Tireless volunteer and board member Cathy Watson, who has been with the sanctuary for nearly 6 years, and has 8 house bunnies of her own, would take over the Executive Directorship.

We are excited about this opportunity for the sanctuary to continue its mission. But it requires that Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary purchase the property on which it is located. Once the sanctuary owns the property, it will be able to build, remodel and expand to meet the changing and growing needs of the sanctuary. Already we are planning to grow timothy hay for our rabbits in the fields formerly occupied by our pigs. We plan to convert the old chicken barn to a rabbit food preparation area and rest and gathering room for our volunteers. The organization's ownership of the facilities will ensure a truly permanent and sustainable haven for abandoned, abused and neglected rabbits (and our resident ducks and cats).

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**New
Website!**
check us out at
[www.
rabbitsanctuary.org](http://www.rabbitsanctuary.org)



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 handouts offered to the public free of charge.



Daffodil was abandoned when her owners were evicted from their house. No one knew she and her friend, Tulip, were there for three days. When they were found, there was no food or water. The new owner of the house was kind enough to bring these rabbits to Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary.

Rusty is one of our resident cats. He showed up at the sanctuary one day when he was a kitten, and soon took over, as far as the cats are concerned anyhow. Lake was trying to get some photos of rabbits when Rusty decided he wanted his picture taken as well. Here it is!



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To bring this plan to fruition we are embarking on a capital campaign to raise the funds necessary to purchase the property. Our goal is to raise approximately \$65,000 within one year in order to make a twenty-five percent down payment on a mortgage and pay closing costs. We are actively pursuing grants to fund the purchase of the property. But we also need assistance from you, our members. To help raise the necessary funds, we are going to build a Memorial Walkway to our Rabbit Barn. During mud season and after any heavy rain the walk through the field to the Rabbit Barn can be a bit messy. We need a brick walkway, a functional path that will also be a beautiful testimony to the support given the sanctuary by its many friends. Your gift will be engraved with your name, your companion animal's name, your company logo or just about anything you wish and will become a permanent part of the sanctuary. Most important, your "gift brick" will help us ensure a forever refuge for the rabbits. (All proceeds will be placed in the Property Acquisition Fund; see page 5 to purchase a brick.)

YOU will make it entirely possible for the sanctuary to continue its mission in a grander way than ever before, by extending your support with your monetary gifts. As always, all contributions are tax-deductible, and all donations help the rabbits, no matter how small. **Please** help today! The rabbits are depending on **you**. Thank you for caring, and Happy Holidays!

For the animals,
 Lake Jacobson
 Mark Jacobson
 Catherine Watson

I Want to Do More – How Can I Help?

- 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 management 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!
- Do you have fundraising ideas? We are all ears! Can you organize a fundraising event for the rabbits?
- Are you a marketing pro? Can you help us get our message out to the public?
- 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.

LAST SUMMER we received a very sweet letter from Heidi Guck, whose family adopted two rabbits from the sanctuary the year before. Heidi wrote, "I recently had my 14th birthday party and received a lot of gifts of cash. I don't really need much, so I decided I would like to donate it to a worthy cause. I really love animals, and of course what you're doing to help unwanted rabbits and other animals came to my mind right away. I hope you accept this gift of \$77." We think it is incredibly admirable for Heidi to give away her birthday money while other kids would spend it at the mall. All we can say is THANK YOU, Heidi, for helping us save rabbits!

Happy Tails



Amy Nasir adopted Odysseus from the sanctuary as a friend for her rabbit, Athena. Within a few months the two had fallen in love and were “married” in a beautiful ceremony written by Amy. This is a photo from their special day:



← *School teacher Darlene Klingenberg adopted this beautiful lop rabbit from Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary. These are her words:*

Molly came to live with me last January. After she had time to settle in and take charge of the resident cats, she traveled to school with me when weather allowed. That environment proved to be a good outlet for her energy and curiosity. She certainly taught all of us in the fourth grade at Queen of Apostles School, Toledo, Ohio about rabbits.

Our bunny demonstrated that animals have feelings that deserve respect. She didn't do this with a show of strength—clearly, she didn't have that. Her way was to be a funny, soft friend when she wasn't picked up, prodded, or chased. She also showed us how clean bunnies can be while running free in the classroom. She never made a mess.

Molly proved to be an excellent listener as students practiced their reading skills on her. She can't speak for the kids, of course, but among her personal favorite stories were, *The Velveteen Rabbit* and the perennial classic, *Charlotte's Web*.

When tired of listening to me, she amused us by “dancing” and warned us of imminent danger with an occasional resounding thump.

To celebrate Molly's birthday, the students wrote poems. I'd like to share parts of these:

M is for more love than ever.

O is for obeying everybody.

L is for liking people. You're loving.

L is for love, because everybody loves you.

Y is for you're my favorite rabbit.

Molly is a good rabbit. She is so sweet. And she smells good, too!

Last summer the sanctuary received a phone call from a man concerned about his neighbor's two unwanted rabbits. These poor bunnies had been Easter pets for the owner's children, and the family had grown tired of them. What this cruel man did was even worse than abandoning the rabbits to fend for themselves. He set the two cages, way too small for any rabbit, on the far side of his above-ground pool, several feet from each other so the rabbits were not even able to comfort each other. They had virtually no shade or protection from the elements and were rarely fed and watered. He claimed he was “waiting for them to die.” Thank goodness the kind neighbor took it upon himself to feed these lops and eventually call the sanctuary. One very hot morning he drove Junior, pictured here, and Snoopy, on the cover, to the sanctuary. They surely would have died in the hot sun that day had Richard not rescued them. They both have found wonderful homes. Thank you, Richard!



Denielle and her son, William, adopted this adorable little Netherland dwarf rabbit named Sidney. Sidney was abandoned on the side of a road and rescued by kind people who brought him to the sanctuary.



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. Thank you for your help!

Please choose the size brick you would like and supply the inscription in the spaces provided. Please note, spaces and punctuation count as characters. All bricks except for the 4" x 8" can have your company logo, your signature, or artwork inscribed for an additional \$75.

4" x 8" brick \$ 75 tax-deductible donation. 3 lines of text, maximum 14 characters per line. Please note, spaces and punctuation count as characters. Print inscription below:

8" x 8" brick \$150 tax-deductible donation. 6 lines of text, maximum 14 characters per line. Please note, spaces and punctuation count as characters. Print inscription below:



12" x 12" brick \$300 tax-deductible donation. 9 lines of text, maximum 21 characters per line. Please note, spaces and punctuation count as characters. Print inscription below:

Path to the Rabbit Barn. Our brick walkway will be both a beautiful memorial tribute as well as a solution to the problem of mud. Inscriptions will be treated with a special epoxy to ensure they stand up to the elements. We will begin the walkway at the door of the Rabbit Barn and continue it back to the driveway as more bricks are sold. Please purchase a brick today to ensure the rabbits will always have a permanent home at Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary.

20" x 20" brick \$750 tax-deductible donation. 18 lines, 35 characters per line. Please note, spaces and punctuation count as characters. Please type inscription on a separate sheet of paper.

Sponsor an Animal

Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary sponsors are crucial to our continued ability to provide a safe haven for abandoned, abused and neglected animals. Sponsors provide the cost of caring for their foster animal here at the sanctuary. This cost includes food, veterinary care, straw and hay, and supplies to keep the farm operating.

Sponsors receive a sponsorship certificate, a photo and the story of their foster animal, and our print newsletter.

Rabbit **\$15 per month**
Cat **\$10 per month**
Duck **\$ 7 per month**

To become a sponsor, fill out the form below and send payment for at least one month. The animals thank you!!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If this is a gift, your name here: _____

Occasion: _____

wish to sponsor a: Rabbit Cat Duck

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

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

ONLINE SHOPPING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?

Sign up with iGive.com! You will be helping the rabbits just by shopping the Mall at iGive.com. Hundreds of participating merchants include Barnes&Noble.com, JCPenney.com, Land's End, Expedia, Dell, and Sears! It takes just a minute to download the iGive Shopping Window, which ensures that every time you visit a participating merchant you will automatically be taken through iGive.com so that your purchase raises money for Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary! No need to remember to do anything special, the iGive Shopping Window does it all! Simply go to <http://www.iGive.com/html/refer.cfm?causeid=25772> today!

Special Contributions Recently Received

In Honor of the marriage of Jill Pernicano and Peter Bednekoff:

Carol Adams
Margaret, Jon and Alex Coffman
Jamie Schwingel
Peggy, Eric & Rigel Bruening
Deborah Sobeloff
Anna Remen

In Memorium

Collin Ross, in memory of his pet bunny, Oatmeal
Paula Shanks, John Hilton & Kati Shanks, in memory of their rabbit Velvet

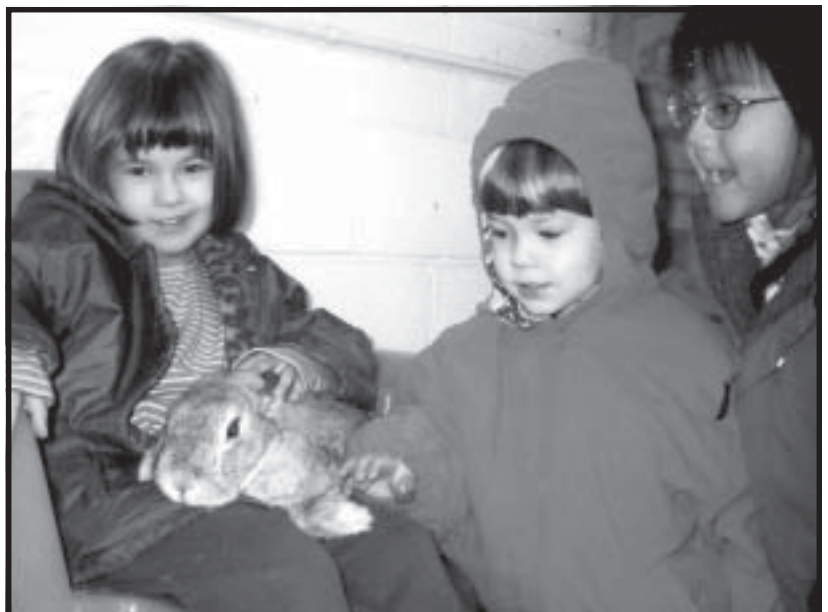
Thunderous Thumps of Thanks to:

Tecumseh Veterinary Hospital; the veterinarians at Animal Kingdom; Kappa Phi Alpha, Phi Sigma Kappa, and the GREENS of Eastern Michigan University; Washtenaw County Sheriff Department Work Program; Temple Beth Emeth; Produce Station; Whole Foods; our homeschooling families and all our wonderful and dedicated volunteers!

Wish List

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

Lauren, Isaac, and Maya visit with Posey, a beautiful bunny who has a deformed leg as a result of abuse. She is waiting for a new home!



A RABBIT RESCUE STORY by Cathy Watson

Last February the sanctuary received a call from a young woman, Teresa Richards, whose neighbor had turned loose a total of seven adult rabbits, all Red Satins. The humane society had come out and caught the first three but refused to return and take the four that were released a few weeks later. Teresa told us that they had moved under the foundation of her small apartment building and that one pair had recently had 12 babies. Almost everyone in the apartments fed them and most of the babies were quite tame, but the adults were not. The tenants were worried about the rabbits, how they would survive in the cold weather and how their landlord might respond to what was clearly becoming an overpopulation of bunnies.

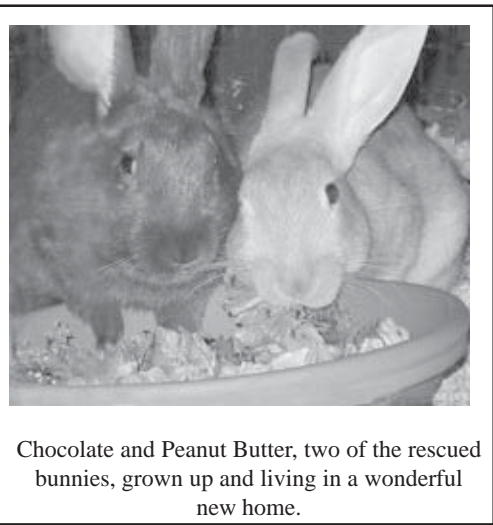


Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary agreed to catch the rabbits and find them new homes. But the rabbits not only had a foundation underneath a building to hide in but four acres of open fields as well. Happily, the landlord agreed to give us as much time as we needed to catch each and every rabbit.

Teresa easily caught 11 of the 12 babies and was able to adopt them out. In the ensuing weeks many unsuccessful attempts were made to catch the adults and the remaining teenager from the first batch of babies. We put out live traps that the adults were cagey enough to avoid. As all of this was occurring the second female rabbit had babies as did the third. A fourth female, a small white bunny, was released during this time and she too had a batch of babies that sadly did not survive. Due to the fact that there were now so many more rabbits, the subsequent babies took a cue from the adults and were very skittish and proved much more difficult to catch. As all of this was going on both Momma #1 and Momma #2 both had another batch of babies. We finally caught the last of them in May. Our tally is that it took us four months to catch five adults, who between them had 61 babies that lived and 29 that died.

Most of the babies were adopted, while some still remain at the sanctuary and are now fully grown. Much to our delight several of these teenagers have recently been adopted and we are hearing that they are very amusing and full of mischief.

These rabbits were very lucky as it is estimated that most abandoned rabbits live only one to two weeks after release. Domestic rabbits do not have the survival skills of their wild relatives, are used to people taking care of them and in most cases end up as victims of a predator or an automobile. They have been a prey animal for thousands of years and as a result have a reputation, rightfully so, as timid and fearful creatures that are afraid of things that are bigger and louder than they are, whether it is a person standing over them or an airplane up in the sky. They cannot discern if they are going to be attacked or if our intention is to pick them up and cuddle them. We at the rabbit sanctuary are doing our best to educate the public about the plight of abandoned rabbits but we need your help to spread this message. You can help by talking to your friends about rabbits. Go up to that stranger in the pet store looking at the rabbits and talk about what great companions they can be. Emphasize that they are dramatically different from a cat or dog and not to expect a rabbit to act like either. Rabbits, after all, are not for everyone, especially those who want instant gratification and affection. I truly believe that it takes special people to gain the trust of a rabbit and not everyone can do it. When that bond is finally established between rabbit and human, there is a great sense of accomplishment. Along with the bond of trust you established, there is the wonder and amazement that something so small can be so charming and amusing. Many people will say to me “Why a rabbit?” They have no idea what they are missing out on.



Chocolate and Peanut Butter, two of the rescued bunnies, grown up and living in a wonderful new home.

Rabbit Care Books For Sale!

Each is \$12, including shipping. Purchase at rabbitsanctuary.org, or send a check to Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary, POB 7, Whittaker, MI 48190.



The House Rabbit Handbook is the “Bible” of rabbit care and behavior. Anyone who has a bunny or is thinking of adopting one should own this book!



Rabbit Health in the 21st Century will help ensure optimum health for your companion rabbit. Most veterinarians, even those who specialize in “exotics,” don’t know much about rabbits. This book covers all the basics as well as the latest research and treatments — your vet may wish to purchase a copy as well!

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!

2002 Income & Expenses

(rounded to the nearest dollar and percentage)

INCOME

Donations	\$21,122
Grants	27,000
Other	295
Total Income:	\$48,422

EXPENSES

Advertising	\$ 768 (3%)
Bank Charges	246 (1%)
Building & Farm Supplies	2226 (9%)
Education (training for board members)	100 (<1%)
Feed	3178 (13%)
Garden, vegetable	154 (<1%)
Miscellaneous	1637 (6%)
Office Supplies	458 (2%)
Payroll	1300 (5%)
Postage	685 (3%)
Printing	1364 (5%)
Rent	0
Straw, Hay & Litter	818 (3%)
Supplies, all other	3023 (12%)
Utilities & phone	453 (2%)
Veterinary	8899 (35%)
Total Expenses:	\$25,309



Newton was cruelly abandoned in a residential neighborhood with a harness on, which could have become entangled in brush. Even worse, Newton has severely maloccluded teeth -- his top and bottom incisors do not meet and thus continually grow and are never worn down. When Newton was found his teeth were so long he could barely eat, and as a result he was skin and bones. Today Newton is healthy again, with a super friendly personality, just waiting to be adopted by a bunny lover who won't mind trimming his teeth for him.

How Your Donations Help the Animals:

\$10 will buy antibiotic for one rabbit for a week

\$25 will buy a week's worth of duck feed

\$50 will spay or neuter one rabbit

\$100 will buy enough hay for three months

\$250 will pay for utilities for one month during the cold winter

Thank You For Your Help!

We would like to thank the fine folks at **Zingerman's Bakehouse** in Ann Arbor for their years of donating bread for our pigs. Although the pigs have retired to Safe Harboar Sanctuary, we understand that Jean Luc Pigard is still looking for his loaf of chocolate cherry bread! Thanks again, Zingerman's, for your support of our porcine friends.

2004 Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary Calendar!

Sanctuary rabbits pictured every month!

Order yours at www.cafeshops.com/rabbitsanctuary

All proceeds go toward the care of the rabbits.

Volunteer View

by Nicole Porter

My road to Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary was a somewhat convoluted one. A year ago I was looking for an animal therapy group with which to volunteer with my blond lop, Cuddles, but was having no luck finding a group online. It was then that I happened upon Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary. Within a week of contacting Lake, Cathy was training me on feeding and cleaning. Within two months I was devoting my Saturday mornings to the animals and had wrangled my friend, Steven, into volunteering as well. We've braved snowstorms and frigid temperatures, and the joys of the beating sun and swarming bugs.

Rabbits are highly intelligent creatures. Like most rescued animals, our residents and visitors here seem to be cognizant that they have been rescued and we are their caretakers, and they seem to appreciate it. This really hit home after having spent a very long day at the sanctuary last spring helping to supervise a volunteer group. The group had cleaned most of the bunny barn, and as a result a majority of the rabbits had spent the day outside. The barn was returning to normal and the late afternoon sun was coming in through the west windows. The rabbits came back inside and lay down to sun themselves and Cathy and I noted that they really looked happy. Can a rabbit look happy? If you have a companion rabbit, you know that they can. The rabbits were sacked out, in some cases snuggling with each other, and they all looked so content, as if to say "Thank you! We know that you clean our house and feed us and care for us and we appreciate that."

There are days when I don't want to leave my bed or might be too tired after work to want to attend to my duties, but I know that as much as I have given to the rabbit sanctuary I have received back again multifold. I have learned how to be a better bunny mom to Cuddles, Steven has adopted the love his life, a little blue dwarf named Blueberry, and I know that I have made a difference. It isn't always easy – the work can be hard, the hours can be long, and you can get emotionally attached to the animals which makes it hard when one



Nicole holding Lily, who was abandoned when her owner was evicted. Now Lily has a loving home and a boyfriend -- Cuddles!

leaves, but it *is* worth it.

My volunteering pet peeve is people who say they don't have time to volunteer. All of us here at the sanctuary are very busy people. I work full time at a law firm and am a full-time graduate student, plus I have my own bunny to care for, parents, and friends. We all have things in our lives that require and deserve our attention, but as upright walking, reasoning beings we owe it to ourselves and our planet to help those who cannot help themselves, and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Produce Station to the Rescue!

When Food Town closed its doors after 7 years of donating their throwaway produce to the animals, we no longer had enough leafy greens for our rabbits. But the Produce Station in Ann Arbor jumped in and saved the day. We would like to sincerely thank everyone at the Produce Station for donating veggies for our bunnies. When we see the rabbits practically inhale huge platters of greens we know just how much they appreciate these donations. And we appreciate having very healthy and happy bunnies!



Whole Foods

A big thank you to Whole Foods Market for their continued support of the sanctuary through daily donations of leafy greens. Thanks, too, for allowing us the occasional very late pick up when we get bogged down by chores or are short-staffed. We love you, Whole Foods!

Adoption Not an Option?

If you do not feel you are ready to provide a lifelong home to a rabbit but live in our area, please consider fostering one of our bunnies. It is also a great way to get hands-on experience if you have never had a rabbit before. You will see for yourself what great companions rabbits make. We will provide the rabbit's basic necessities of timothy hay, a cage, water bottle and food bowl. You provide fresh greens and tender loving care. And of course we are available to answer your questions or concerns.

Often we need someone to care for a very shy, elderly, ill or recovering rabbit that needs a tad more attention than we are able to give. Fostering is usually a temporary situation but we have had more than one very lucky bunny be adopted as a result.

Please contact us if you are interested in hosting a rabbit visitor. Your help will be greatly appreciated.



Snookie was abandoned and found covered with burrs. He is waiting to find a permanent, adoptive home.

Your donations saved the lives of these rabbits. Thumps of thanks!



Tommy and his siblings were abandoned outside a shelter. He and sister Sophie are waiting for a loving home together.

- 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 _____ Please charge my: VISA Mastercard

Address _____ Card # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Expiration Date _____

email address _____ Signature _____

Please make checks and money orders payable to either Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary or PigHoppers.
Thank You!

Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary
(formerly PigHoppers)
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