



Great Lakes
Rabbit Sanctuary

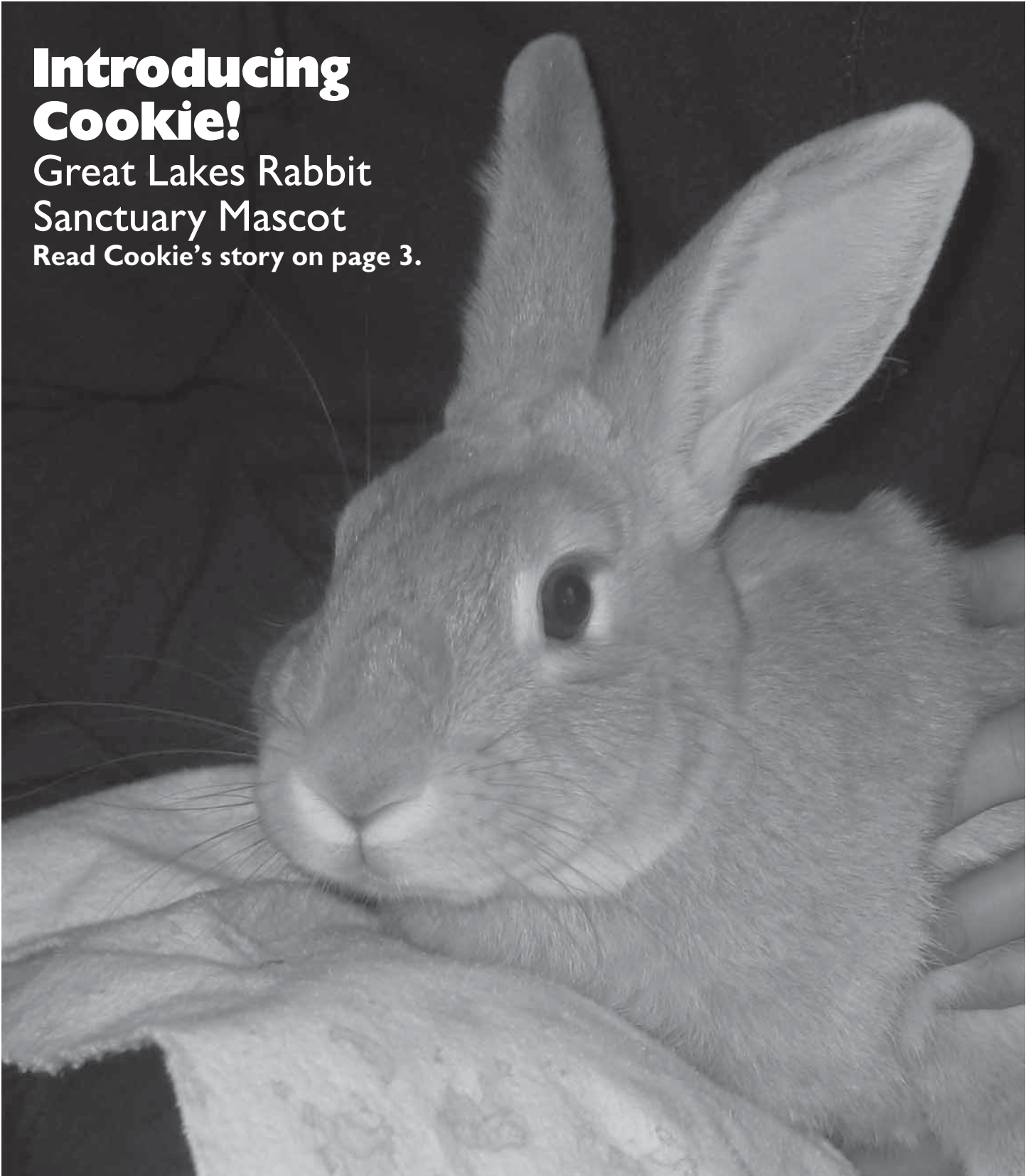
newsletter

Spring 2005

Introducing Cookie!

Great Lakes Rabbit
Sanctuary Mascot

Read Cookie's story on page 3.



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.

Dear Friend,

The past several months have been an intense flurry of activity at Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary. Four board members were added, three annual fundraising events were established, two board retreats were held, several grants were received, and numerous adoption and education events were coordinated. This heightened activity has been our preparation for the next stage of events that is beginning to unfold.

Mark and Lake Jacobson, founders of Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary, have generously allowed the sanctuary to operate on their property for ten years. They are now ready to take a step back and separate GLRS from their personal lives which will allow them to focus on the needs of their children. Lake and Mark put their property on the market while the board of directors began evaluating options for the future site of GLRS.

Our immediate need is an interim facility (rented or borrowed) to house our rabbits, cats, chickens and ducks while we continue to investigate possibilities for a permanent location.

Our two main options are as follows:

1. Find an affordable piece of property (or land donation) and build a facility in the greater Ann Arbor area.
2. Integrate with a like-minded animal organization which has available land on which we could build a facility.

Although transition and change can be stressful and tough, they are requirements for progress and growth. The great need for our organization and our passion for rabbits and all other animals motivate us during these challenging times. The number of positive connections and exciting possibilities for the future continue to pop out of the woodwork. But we need the help of our supporters more now than ever before.

Your generous donations have enabled Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary to take in more rabbits than in prior years, to adopt out an ever-increasing number of rabbits to good homes, and to maintain a healthy, clean and loving environment for all of the animals at the sanctuary. We have been blessed with sizeable grants and numerous donations which we have saved in our Property Acquisition fund. This ensures that GLRS will continue despite needing to relocate.

However, every week there are more rabbits in need of our care, more veterinary bills which must be paid, and soon, we will have moving expenses and rent as well. Please help us continue to save rabbits and other animals by making as generous a donation to GLRS as you can. We know that many organizations ask for your help, but please remember that GLRS helps animals that no one else will. The rabbits who find their way to the sanctuary literally have nowhere else to go. We are always thankful for every donation we receive, and spend frugally so as to stretch every dollar to the limit so that we can help as many animals as possible. We at Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary are humble stewards of your generosity and proud guardians of the animals who call the sanctuary home. We know you will continue to help us rescue animals and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



For the animals,

GLRS Board of Directors:

Willow

Willow McCombs

Lake

Lake Jacobson

Mark

Mark Jacobson

Jill

Jill Pernicano

Tim

Tim Patino

Marie-Chantal

Marie-Chantal Patino

Cookie, our Sanctuary Mascot

by Willow McCombs, GLRS Board Member

Cookie came to us from upstate NY after being abandoned by her owners. She had caught a back toenail in the wire bottom of her cage and broke her back trying to free herself, resulting in paralysis of her hind legs. Two weeks later Cookie's owners brought her to an animal shelter to be euthanized. Luckily for Cookie, a kind and loving woman named Brandy noticed how sweet-natured and friendly Cookie was and decided to save her life. After providing vet care and lots of TLC, Brandy called GLRS to see if we could find a home for Cookie.

We immediately responded "yes" knowing that if anyone could find Cookie a loving home, we could. She arrived two days before Christmas and is a sweet and loving soul who epitomizes the friendly, cuddly bunny that most people expect when adopting a rabbit. After having her for just a short time, she had completely captured my heart.

I realized that Cookie, with her sweet personality and special needs, would be a great mascot to help the sanctuary reach out to the community regarding domesticated rabbits and their needs. Her particular story also shows why wire bottom cages and neglectful owners can be very dangerous. Rabbits also require specialized vet care, daily exercise, mental stimulation and companionship.

Cookie and I plan to advertise our educational outreach by mailing an informative flyer to local schools. We will request a donation to Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary for educational visits. Keep your eyes peeled in our newsletter for "Postcards from Cookie," where we will update you on the places we have visited and how our educational outreach is progressing.

Thank you, Brandy, for saving Cookie's life and bringing her to us. She is a terrific reminder of why we exist and will help us with our mission of educating the public regarding the plight of domesticated rabbits everywhere.



Cookie, safe and secure in Willow's arms.



Cookie, ready to help spread the word about proper rabbit care!

In Memory Generous gifts to GLRS were received in memory and honor of the following special people and animals.

Amy Nasir, in Honor & Memory of **Odysseus, Prince Bunnybutt Nasir**

Fred & Carri Dannhauser, in Memory of "**Goober**" **Sarkisian**

Anne Stars, in memory of **Trix**, "a good pet"

Mary Idelsohn and Craig MacNeill, in memory of **Benjamin**—greatly missed by her people and her companion rabbit, Hankelmeier.

Gene and Peg Turnbull, in memory of **David J. Hardy**, 3/20/54 – 8/14/04

Sandra Martin, in memory of **Dave Hardy**

Sue Wortman, in memory of **Willow**

June Schiller, in memory of **Dr. Dave Hardy**

Betty Ibur, in memory of **Mrs. Andrew Kagan's Father**

Sujo Parmenter, in honor of **Steve Richardson**

Christina Kress, in memory of **My Baby Girl**

In Honor of **Dominique**, who rescued us! We are grateful! Love, Liberty and Justice Babcock (and Lisa)

John Hilton, in memory of **Paula Shanks**

From **Coco, Puff, Trix** and **Miss Bunny Doas**

In honor of **Mr. Nibbles, Oreo, Bradley, Molly, Abby, Sparkle, Smiley, Hannah, Cleo, Duff** and **Denver** – and their humans: **Michael** and **Velora, Neil** and **Michelle**, and **Chris** and **Angella**



Hoppy Endings Bunny Tales

Here are some of the rabbits who, thanks to your generous donations, GLRS has been able to rescue. Each one has a different story – some came from a background of abuse and neglect, some were abandoned. But all have found their way to the sanctuary. Some reside at the sanctuary, while others have been adopted to loving homes.



These beautiful Californians were dumped off in a neighborhood in Ferndale; there were 9 total! Fortunately some kind-hearted people from the neighborhood called the sanctuary, and even lended a hand to help catch them! These rabbits now happily reside in the bunny barn.

Dorian and Shelby

Mr. Dorian Grey of the Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary is pleased to announce his engagement to Miss Shelby Lop. The couple met at the prestigious “Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo” annual event; however, it was not love at first sight. Miss Shelby found Mr. Dorian to be too laid back upon their initial meeting. The turning point for the couple was Miss Shelby’s illness with gi stasis. Mr. Dorian kept watch over Miss Shelby and even helped her with her daily bathing activities. After Miss Shelby began to feel better Mr. Dorian took her out for a dinner of organic kale, cilantro, and dill where the engagement was finalized. When asked if the couple plan to have children they responded by saying, “It is impossible for us to have children as we have both had a special operation, however, we feel that with so many wonderful homeless bunnies in the world adoption is the best option for us.” The couple reside in Rochester Hills with their human pets Angela, Tom, Sebastian and Noah.

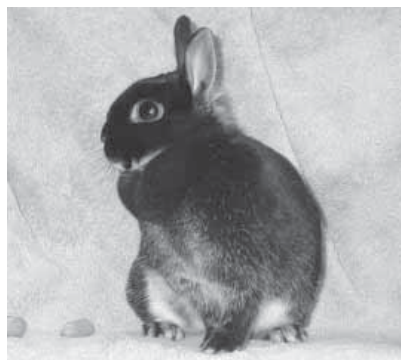


Harley with a couch to call her own, and stretched out in front of a warm fireplace...what more could a spoiled bunny want on a cold winter’s night?

Usagi was abandoned in a K-Mart parking lot. Fortunately, he was rescued before surely meeting his fate under the wheel of a passing car. He’s loaded with character, and is happily exploring his new surroundings at GLRS.



Squeak was rescued from cruel conditions—kept behind a shed, with barely enough food and water. She is now the spoiled companion of one of our volunteers.



Raisin was abandoned, and the individual who found him was about to use him to train hunting dogs! Luckily, someone intervened and brought Raisin to us. This lovable little guy was recently adopted, and will soon leave GLRS to go to his new home!



Wolf is the cutest little guy! Spunky too! Hard to believe he was abandoned. He now has a wonderful new home, and a loving new companion!



Hopper was abandoned when her owners moved and left her behind. Fortunately, a neighbor discovered Hopper and rescued her. She wanted to keep her, but already having several dogs and cats, was unable to. So Hopper found a safe place at GLRS. She was adopted this winter, and is now in a wonderful new home!



Mr. P Bunny

GLRS doesn't limit itself to Michigan. When able, we also help animals from other states. Mr. P Bunny came to us from Kentucky. He has a lame rear end, which didn't stop his new "bun mom" from falling in love with him, as well as his new bunny companion, Noel!

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
- \$60 will neuter one rabbit
- \$100 will buy hay for three months

Thank You For Your Help!

Want to help make more happy endings?! Here's how!

- **Sponsor an animal!** \$15.00/month will help us feed and care for a rabbit at the sanctuary.
- Become a **Sanctuary Sustainer.** As little as \$5.00 a month will help continue our rescue and rehabilitation efforts.
- 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 the facility.
- 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!
- Transport rabbits to the veterinarian .
- Post flyers, take photos of the animals, or make a monetary donation.

Find a listing of our rabbits available for adoption at

Petfinder.com
ADOPT A HOMELESS PET



Mercury

Mercury's new mom, Amy, writes,

"My husband, four kids, five bunnies and I adopted Mercury into our family one short month ago. For a couple of days, while he was adjusting to his happy new home, he mostly lazed on the couch. Then he discovered the floor below, which led to everywhere else! Now he plays in the dining room everyday for hours - that is, when he isn't napping.

"We built him a bi-level carpeted bunny condo, where he lives with his new bride Willow, formerly of Iowa. Good thing the young man has a healthy appetite, because he is still growing! He may weigh close to 15 pounds when full grown. When he does his binkies, the floor shakes! And when we go out to the pet store or to visit friends, everyone asks, "What is that?" Are they missing the cute little twitching nose, fluffy cottontail and big helicopter ears??"

"Mercury has found his forever home with us. I hope you will consider adopting a rescued rabbit when you choose a new companion for your family!"

Mercury has his own webpage! Come see!!
www.geocities.com/cottonlove1965/shelterbuntest.html



Rabbit Fur on the Rise in Fashion Industry

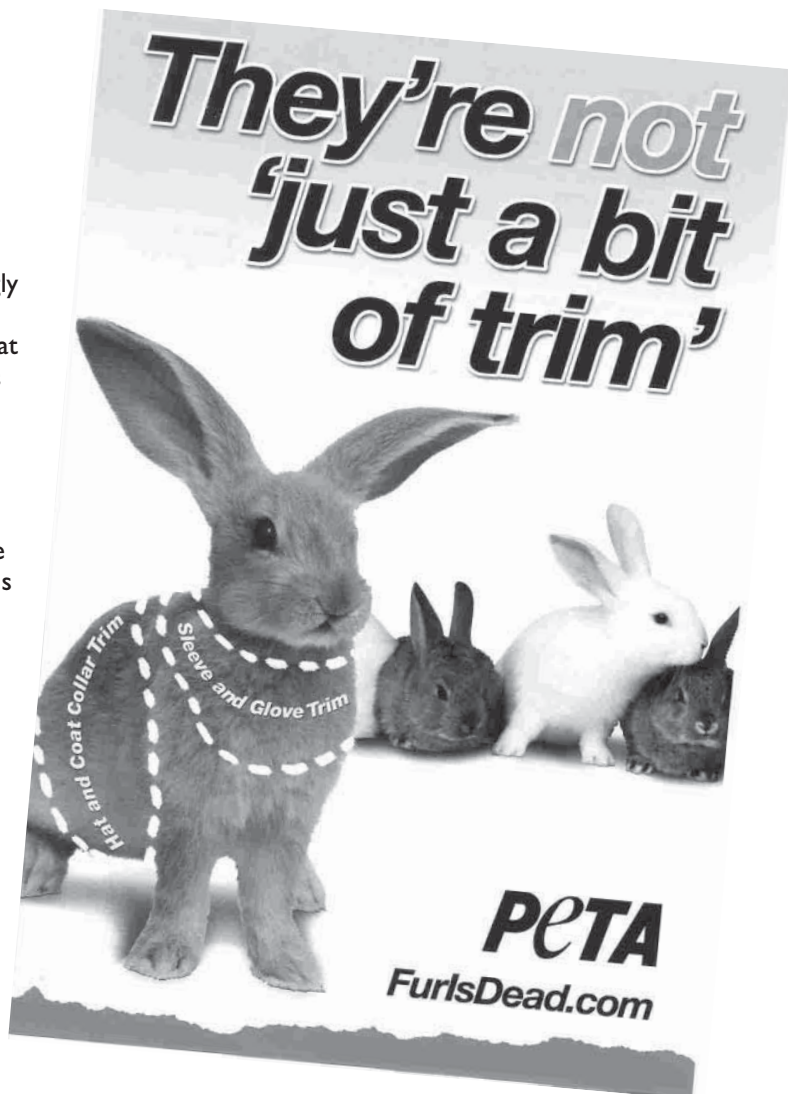
In the past year or so the fashion industry has increasingly been pushing the use of rabbit fur in garments and novelty items. Many consumers may not even think about what that trim on their jacket, tassels on their hat, or even their cat's toy mouse is made of. Sadly, increasing numbers of rabbits are being farmed and slaughtered to create these products.

Like other animals farmed for their fur, rabbits are kept in tiny, filthy cages, never having a chance to dig, jump, play or meet a kind human being. The methods of slaughter are extremely inhumane – their necks are broken or their skulls are beaten before they are strung up by the legs and their heads are cut off.

Retailers such as Gap, Abercrombie & Fitch, and American Eagle have responded to consumers' concerns and refuse to sell rabbit fur. But some retailers don't care about the suffering involved in every cuff and collar, so the rabbits need your help!

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has asked GLRS to help in their campaign to stop the use of rabbit fur in garment trim. We urge you to write polite letters of complaint to stores that sell rabbit fur, such as those listed below. Last fall PETA was successful in convincing Forever 21 to stop selling fur, so your voice WILL make a difference!

And remember, no federal law protects animals on fur farms, but you can help them by refusing to buy or wear fur or fur trim. Thank you for standing up for the rabbits!



Please help by writing polite letters of complaint to the following stores that sell products with rabbit fur:

Gregory Scott, CEO
bebe Stores, Inc.
400 Valley Dr.
Brisbane, CA 94005
415-715-3900
415-715-3939 (fax)

Jennifer Pritchard, President
Arden B.
36972 Burbank
Foothill Ranch, CA 92610
949-699-4910
949-699-4864 (fax)

Maurice Marciano,
Co-Chair & Co-CEO
Paul Marciano,
Guess? Inc.
1444 S. Alameda St.
Los Angeles, CA 90021
1-800-22-GUESS
213-765-0911 (fax)

Joel N. Waller, CEO
Wet Seal, Inc.
26972 Burbank
Foothill Ranch, CA 92610
949-699-4734
949-206-4977 (fax)
Joel.Waller@WetSeal.com

Wish List

Van or truck with extended cab
postage stamps • paper towels
bottled drinking water for volunteers
laptop computer • newspapers • hay & straw
carrots • high resolution digital camera

Help with moving to new facility!
Please contact Jill Pernicano at
rabbitbloom@yahoo.com or
734-717-8545 if you can help!

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
- Whole Foods, Produce Station, and Busch's of Ann Arbor and Randazzo's of Westland for donating leafy greens to feed the rabbits
- PETSMART Charities
- Petco Foundation

Fundraising 2004

By Jill Pernicano

Fun Bunny Fundraisers a Success!

Thanks to board member Tim Patino's exceptional event planning skills, and the hard work of over thirty volunteers, Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary has held three brand new fundraising events in the past six months. Each was a success, especially considering that these were all "first annual" events. We have learned from our experiences, and next year will be even better!

Our very first event was the "All-You-Can-Eat Pasta Dinner" held August 11th at Bennigan's Grill and Tavern in Plymouth. In spite of unseasonably cold weather, we had twice the expected turnout, with lines out the door and standing room only. Everyone left well fed on several varieties of pasta with vegetarian sauces. Spaghetti the Clown gave temporary tattoos and painted faces for the kids, a jazz ensemble played, and a few braved the cold for ice cream outside. Athena and Aphrodite, our Bunny Ambassadors, helped to raise awareness of the plight of domesticated rabbits in our society. We raised \$2500 for the bunnies!

"Art, Wine & Ears; A Hare-Raising Event" took place on November 7 at the Plymouth Community Arts Council. Several local artists displayed their work, and we held a large silent auction. We had wine tasting with our own "private label" wine, a live band, and a good spread of hors d'oeuvres. Our Bunny Ambassadors, Daisy, Gabe, and Chewbacca,

helped to educate attendees about the neglect and abandonment that domesticated rabbits too often face, and what we can do about it! We raised \$4055 for the bunnies!



Chewbacca at Art, Wine and Ears, our Goodwill Bunny Ambassador representing all the animals at GLRS.



Children enjoying the entertainment at My Bunny Valentine Pancake Breakfast.

"My Bunny Valentine" Pancake Breakfast was held on February 12 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Ypsilanti. The community turned out in force for this hearty breakfast of pancakes to order, cruelty-free scrambled eggs, hash browns, veggie Boca sausages, bagels, juice, coffee, and fresh fruit. Martha Stephens delighted the crowd with "My Funny Valentine" and other piano tunes. Christian the Clown, Nate the Great and Didi teamed up to captivate the kids with amazing balloon creatures and hilarious magical tricks! Barb Root from Glazier Way Co-op Nursery School led kids coloring activities. The Rabbit Room upstairs was crammed with people meeting and learning from seven of our very own Bunny Valentines. We raised \$1100 for the bunnies!

Equal to bringing in money for the buns, our events have brought us much needed exposure in our community. We have gained great new volunteers, adopters, and supporters, and have made valuable contacts with people who can help us with future events.

Thank you to all the wonderful people and businesses who donated raffle items and door prizes!

Thanks to Bennigan's Grill and Tavern in Plymouth, Mama Mucci Pasta Company in Canton, and People's Food Co-op in Ann Arbor for donating food and more!

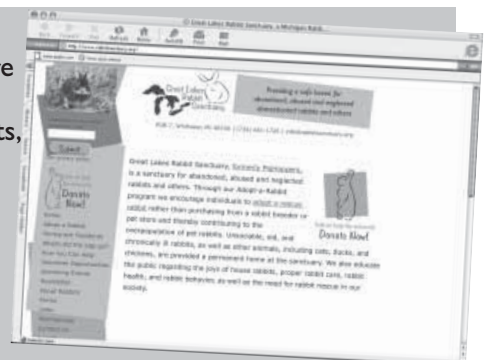
Many thanks to all the volunteers who made our events a success!

Upcoming Events

If you have an interest in helping with our upcoming events, please contact Jill Pernicano, Volunteer Coordinator, at rabbitbloom@yahoo.com or 734-717-8545.

April 9	Vet-a-Visit Event at MSU
April 11	Petsmart Northville Adoption Event 4-8pm
April 30-May 1	"Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo" Adoption Event, Detroit Zoo
May 9	Petsmart Northville Adoption Event 4-8pm
June 4	Taylor Petapalooza Adoption Event
July 30-31	Petapalooza Adoption Event, Sterling Heights
August 10	Pasta Dinner Fundraiser

Check out our website for more information on upcoming events, rabbits available for adoption, cool GLRS merchandise, and other great information!

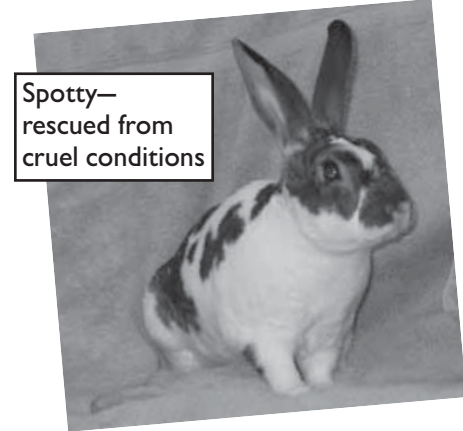


www.rabbitsanctuary.org

Please help us save more rabbits like these.



Mimi and Edsel were being raised for food.



Spotty—rescued from cruel conditions

I want to become a Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary **sponsor**.
 I would like to sponsor a: rabbit, \$15/mo cat, \$10/mo duck, \$7/mo chicken, \$5/mo
 for 6 months 1 year other _____

I want to become a sanctuary **sustainer**.
 I will make a monthly donation of: \$ _____ for 6 months 1 year other _____

Please charge \$ _____ every month for the time specified above or until I notify you.
 I will send a check or money order every month for my contribution.

I want to make a **contribution** of:
 \$25 \$15 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$ _____

Enclosed please find my: check money order

Visa/Mastercard #: _____ Exp. date: _____
 Signature: _____
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____

Please use the included envelope and mail to:
 Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary, P.O. Box 7, Whittaker, MI 48190



Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary
 (formerly PigHoppers)
 P.O. Box 7
 Whittaker, MI 48190

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