

Bunny Birthday Bash a Success!

by Jennifer Watkins

Thumps of thanks to the many visitors who came out to wish the bunnies a very happy birthday at the Bunny Birthday Bash on May 20th. The celebration fundraiser was in honor of the sanctuary's 12th year saving and protecting rabbits and others. We had near-perfect weather for the day and the event was a success!

Visitors got a chance to meet the 600+ rabbits who live at the sanctuary and raised much-needed funds for the sanctuary by purchasing gifts for their own bunnies, bidding on items in the silent auction, and enjoying delicious food generously donated by Bennigan's Grill & Tavern in Plymouth. Kids enjoyed face painting, games, jumping on the moonwalk, and feeding and petting several of the bunny residents.



Sanctuary bunny Gino and volunteer bunny Samantha had a great time amazing visitors with their clicker training skills (and they even got a few treats in the process!). Adults and kids alike enjoyed giving bunny residents Ashes, Bradley, Frederic, Iggy, Red Rover, Twix, and others some special attention.

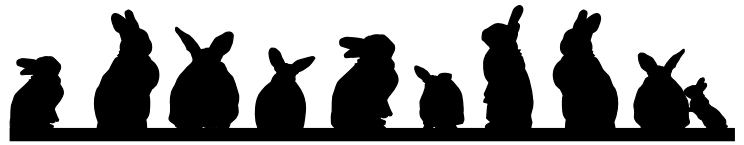
Despite our name, rabbits are not the only beneficiaries of your generous donations to Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary! Sanctuary cat residents Owen and Squanto tolerated Birthday Bash visitors by leaping on willing laps and purring contentedly. Potbellied pigs Arnold and Oliver even got into the action and donned their birthday hats for a few photos while they enjoyed back scratches from visitors and treats of leftover birthday cupcakes.

Visitors got a very special treat as they watched the Reno 500 make a mad dash toward the fresh greens offered by sanctuary staff members Celeste and Mia.

continued on next page



Special thanks to all of the visitors who came to see the bunnies and wish the sanctuary a happy birthday, the over 30 dedicated volunteers, and the following generous donors:



1999 Tavern
24 Carrot Lane (24carrotlane.com)
A Unique Idea (auniqueidea.com)
Adorn Me
Affordable Automotive
Afternoon Delight
American Pet Diner
Arbor Farms
Bennigan's Grill & Tavern in Plymouth
Bert & Glenda Kovich
Binky Bunny (binkybunny.com)
Brent Dix
Bunny Bunch Boutique (bunnybunchboutique.com)
Bunny Bytes (bunnybytes.com)
BunnyLuv Essentials (bunnyluv.com)
Busy Bunny (busybunny.com)
Cats & Rabbits & More (catsandrabbitsandmore.com)
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Cindy Rogers, "Pooch Photographer"
Coastal Pet Products
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Sparkle Designs by Terri McKay
The Golden Apple
Thumper Patino
UNO
Whole Foods
Wild Bird Center
Wooly World by Debbi
ZuPreem

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.

Hope to see you all next time!

A Sad Goodbye by Mia Jung

The little rabbit with a heart of gold and zest for life leaves us for the rainbow bridge.

On Sunday, the 20th of May, our beloved Uno passed away. You may remember from our previous newsletters how Uno came to us with his 510 Reno relatives as a one-eared, no-tail bunny. We discovered soon after his arrival that he had a pasteurella infection in the area where his ear had been removed, and this ended up affecting his eye, as well. After surgery to remove his eye and what was left of the infected ear canal, Uno healed quickly and moved in with his two best friends, Pandora and Orion, who adored him, as we all did.

With no warning of unusual behavior, the weekend staff was surprised to find Uno in his pen one Sunday with his head tilted nearly to the ground. He had gone from our spunky, playful Uno to having head-tilt overnight. Not a good sign. A vet visit confirmed that his infection had recurred.

We did our best in hopes to nurture him back to health once again, and it seemed to work for a while; he had stopped rolling and was moving around with a bit more ease. But, ultimately, the infection won over this time.

His girls, Pandora and Orion, gave him much comfort in his last days, including sitting on him to prevent him from rolling too much so that he could eat or clean himself. The staff had also dedicated much time in providing all the comforts we could to make him as cozy and well-fed as possible. Thanks to all of you who were touched by Uno's story and assisted in his care. We will miss him always, but we feel fortunate that he shared his life with us and brought so much love to our sanctuary family.



Uno maintained one of the sweetest attitudes of any bunny at the sanctuary, constantly asking for snuggles and giving kisses in return. It was obvious despite his injuries he still loved life. He became a favorite amongst the volunteers and staff.



Uno relaxing with Pandora and Orion.

In Memory

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

In Honor of the Reno rabbits – Jackie Decker

In Memory of Hershey and Cocoa – Nannette Roberson

In Memory of Mr. Dusty – Jean Hanson

In Memory of Prof. Dink – Sharon Weller & Dawn Lilley

In Memory of Harley Jester – Mr. and Mrs. Michael Reed

In Memory of Dolly – Patricia Paul

In Memory of Prince Tulip, "the finest rabbit I have ever known" – Arthur Na

In Memory of my beloved son, Bill Engel – Helen Trendle

In Honor of Cesar Chavez – Brien Comerford

In Memory of Bandit – Lynn & Mark Varacallo

In Memory of my husband, Harley Jester – Eva Porter

If you'd like to have your donation mentioned here, just let us know in whose honor or memory the donation is made. Thank you for honoring the GLRS animals with your contributions.

GoodSearch
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Helping the animals is as easy as searching the web!

What if GLRS earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Well, now we can and those pennies can add up fast!

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary as the charity you want to support. Just 50 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$730 in a year without anyone spending a dime! That's a lot of fresh greens for the bunnies!

Gift Brick Program Part of the Property Acquisition Project

In August of 2006, Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary saw a dream come true. We purchased, on land contract, the property on which the sanctuary is located! However, this also means GLRS now has a mortgage. Please help the rabbits by purchasing an engraved "gift" brick. These beautiful bricks will be laid at the sanctuary as a patio adjacent to one of the barns – and every visitor to Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary will see it and learn how your generosity made the dream of a permanent home for GLRS a reality. Please use the form below to purchase a gift brick. **All proceeds from the sale of bricks will go into our Property Acquisition Fund and all donations are tax-deductible.**

Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone
Email

Payment: Cash Check Visa Master Card

Card No. _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature: _____

Please mail this form to:
Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary
ATTN: Gift Brick Program
P.O. Box 7 • Whittaker, MI 48190

Please choose the size brick you would like and supply the inscription in the spaces provided.

8" x 8" and 12" x 12" bricks 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,
14 characters per line.

8" x 8" brick
\$200 tax-deductible donation.
6 lines of text,
14 characters per line.

12" x 12" brick
\$300 tax-deductible donation.
9 lines of text,
21 characters per line.

Please note, spaces and punctuation count as characters.

	14 characters 4"x8", 8"x8"	21 characters 12"x12"
1	_____	_____
2	_____	_____
4" x 8" 3	_____	_____
4	_____	_____
5	_____	_____
8" x 8" 6	_____	_____
7	_____	_____
8	_____	_____
12" x 12" 9	_____	_____

Meet Our Oinkers!

by Lake Jacobson



Oliver



Arnold



Arlo



Woody

Last fall Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary expanded its animal community to include potbelly pigs. You may ask, “why pigs?”

Like rabbits, pigs are gravely underestimated and misunderstood. They are superbly intelligent animals, with distinctive and strong personalities. They are sensitive and playful, messy and clean. But the poor pig suffers terribly in our society. “Farm” pigs are raised in confinement for slaughter. Potbelly pigs are often purchased as house pets, and then when they begin acting like pigs, they are turned loose, roasted at a barbecue, or sent to the slaughterhouse.

Potbelly pigs are “miniature” in comparison to farm pigs, which can grow to be 1000 pounds. Potbellies reach their adult size at about three years of age, and this size varies from a low of 60 pounds to more than 200 pounds. Not many people are willing to live with a full-grown pig in their house! Pigs innately wish to root, or dig up soil with their snouts. If they are kept indoors, they will root up the carpet, vinyl flooring, and anything else they can find. Pigs are pretty much always hungry (this is one stereotype that is true). Many pigs learn to open cupboards and refrigerators and help themselves to the contents. They will eat as much as you let them, and can grow so overweight that pockets of fat eventually grow around their eyes to such an extent that they are blinded. Pigs are also herd animals, and herd animals fight for dominance. So when a pig is kept in a house with a human family, he will view the people as members of the herd and try to fight them. This aggressive behavior can be very alarming and is one of the biggest causes of people giving up their potbelly pigs.

But when potbelly pigs are allowed to be pigs, they are hilarious to watch, fun to interact with, and downright charming. Who could possibly resist a pig plopping down on his side for a belly rub?

Last fall the sanctuary received a call from a woman living in Detroit. A friend had given her husband a baby potbelly pig for his birthday! The pig was fine for the moment, living in their garage and too small to make much noise or cause any trouble. But pigs are illegal in Detroit (as in most cities) because they are considered farm animals. Not only that, this couple knew that they would not be able to make little Oliver happy as he grew older. He would be lonely without another pig, and without anyone around all day long while his people were at work. As it happened, we had recently been talking about possibly rescuing a pig if we should hear of one needing our help. We had plenty of room at the sanctuary for a pig. The old Reno yard, unusable for rabbits because of the flooding we described in our Spring newsletter, was perfect for pigs. Mud puddles and shallow ponds are sought by pigs, after all!

So early in November we picked up Oliver and spoiled him rotten in the vestibule of the house at the sanctuary. You see, Oliver was so small that he literally shivered from the cold weather. He seemed to need a heated house until he grew bigger and more robust. Since the vestibule was pretty much empty we set up a bed and a litterbox there for Oliver, and he quickly made himself at home.

But after a couple weeks we realized that he was already showing signs of loneliness. We needed to get him a friend. Miraculously, we received a phone call about a pet pig who was neglected and left to roam the rural neighborhood, where dogs chased him and cars nearly hit him. Even worse were the nose rings. Arnold’s owners had put metal rings right through his snout as a means of preventing him from rooting up their lawn. This is a terribly abusive practice, because rooting is a natural and necessary activity for a pig, just as playing is for a child. Moreover, one of the rings had caused an infection which was not being treated. So Arnold came to live at the sanctuary, where our veterinarian promptly removed his nose rings and neutered him, and he moved in with Oliver. The first couple of days were rough, as Arnold was twice as big as Oliver and thus they were not equally matched as fighters. But soon the two became buddies, sleeping side-by-side and speaking to each other in soft snorts and whines. They were adorable and volunteers and visitors were enchanted by them.

So when we were asked to take in a couple of pigs who had been abandoned on a Northern Michigan farm, we said yes. Of about 125 pigs who had been on the farm, only 60 survived starvation and the frigid temperatures of the Upper Peninsula. This May, after spending a few months recuperating at a rescue facility, Arlo and Woody were brought to the sanctuary. They are about four years old but tiny! Definitely no more than 60 pounds, their growth had been stunted by malnutrition. Even after several months, they are still too thin for pigs. But they no longer fear humans, and will come right up to us for food.

All four “oinkers,” Arnold, Oliver, Woody and Arlo, live in a shady yard with the mud that pigs need to keep cool in the summer. They have lots of soft dirt and grass to root up, kiddie pools to rinse off in, and many visitors bearing leftovers from their refrigerators. We enjoy having these amusing souls as much as they enjoy being with us. If you come out to visit, be sure to give a pig a belly rub and a kiss on the snout. And don’t forget the donuts (they have a real sweet tooth)!

How You Can Help

GLRS is funded entirely by contributions from individual donors and a few grants from foundations. Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary does not receive any funding from any government body or municipality. If it were not for caring individuals like you, we would be unable to provide a safe haven to the rabbits here at the sanctuary.

Sanctuary Sustainer: By making a monthly donation you will help ensure that abandoned, abused, and neglected rabbits will forever have a safe haven at Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary! For as little as \$5 per month you can help save the rabbits.

Sponsoring: Sponsor an animal who resides at the sanctuary. In this way you can “adopt” without the commitment of actually taking the animal home with you. Sponsors provide the cost of caring for the animal at the sanctuary, and ensure that we are able to continue to provide a home for animals in need.

To make a one-time donation, become a sponsor, or a sustainer, please fill out the form below and send with donation. Donations can also be made from our website at www.rabbitsanctuary.org.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

- I wish to sponsor a rabbit (\$15.00/mo.) Name of rabbit(s), if known: _____
- I wish to sponsor a cat (\$10.00/mo.) Name of cat(s), if known: _____
- I wish to sponsor a pig (\$25.00/mo.) Name of pig(s), if known: _____
- For a period of (3-month minimum please): 3 months 6 months one year other _____

- I would like to become a Sanctuary Sustainer by donating \$ _____ per month.
- Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____.

Enclosed is a check/money order. Please charge my: VISA Mastercard

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

- Please send me information on bequests and planned giving.

Please make checks and money orders payable to Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary.

Please return to: Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary • P.O. Box 7 • Whittaker, MI 48190.

Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and all donations are tax deductible. MIC 21900

Wish List

- Fresh, leafy-green vegetables and carrots
- High-fiber/low protein/timothy rabbit pellets
- Regular rabbit pellets with 16% protein
- Timothy or other grass hay, and straw
- Newspapers; Carefresh bedding
- Chest freezer
- Microscope
- Branches from apple trees (untreated)
- Paper towels and tissues
- Nitrile or latex gloves
- Full-size pickup truck with long bed, in working condition, or flat-bed trailer, to haul hay
- Individual-sized bottled water, for our hard-working volunteers
- Riding lawn mower in good working condition
- Wagon suitable for hitching to the back of a golf cart
- Gift cards to Lowe’s, Home Depot, Sam’s Club, or Tractor Supply Co. (TSC)
- Paper plates (not foam or coated)
- Postage stamps
- Tools of all kinds
- Plywood and lumber
- Handyperson who will do odd jobs at low cost
- Trees to plant in the rabbit yards
- Toys for the rabbits
- Patio umbrellas with bases
- More volunteers!

How Your Donations Help the Animals:

\$15 will buy antibiotic for one rabbit for a week

\$25 will pay for 150 pounds of rabbit pellets

\$60 will neuter one rabbit

\$100 will buy hay for two weeks

\$250 will pay for three spays

Thank You
For Your
Help!



Petfinder.com

ADOPT A HOMELESS PET

Bradley and Ginger & Rocky are just three of the many rabbits at GLRS waiting for a loving home! Find a listing of all our rabbits available for adoption at www.rabbitsanctuary.petfinder.com



Bradley

Isn't that the cutest face you've ever seen? Bradley is a veritable doll! He is cuddly and snuggly and loves to be held. The sweet little guy is 5 years old and was surrendered to us because the family grew tired of him. How sad and unbelievable! Bradley

will steal your heart as soon as he sees you walk in the room, and he stands up to greet you, as if to say, "pick me, pick me!"

Ginger & Rocky

Poor Ginger came from a very neglectful situation in Illinois. Shortly after arriving at the sanctuary in December, Ginger was adopted by a family with two girls.



Unfortunately, Ginger did not seem to like the kids, and was unfriendly and aggressive towards them, so after trying and failing to gain her trust, the dad returned Ginger to us. We never noticed any aggression before she was adopted, and haven't seen any since, so that home must just have been a bad match for her. She is a sweet bunny!

Rocky was a mess when he was found abandoned and brought to the sanctuary. He had parasites and teeth so badly maloccluded (misaligned) he could barely eat and was extremely thin. Today Rocky is a healthy and friendly bunny.

Ginger & Rocky have bonded and must be adopted together.

Like to shop online? Why not help the rabbits at the same time? Here are four online stores that give a percentage of sales to the sanctuary!

<http://www.igive.com>

<http://www.shopforcharityday.com/shopping.asp?sorgid=140644>

<http://www.cafepress.com/rabbitsanctuary>

<http://www.puppypaws.com>

Fine jewelry for pet people, including rabbit jewelry! When paying, there is a place to leave a note to the company. Just indicate you want the 15% to go to Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary and Puppy Paws will do the rest!



Hoppy Endings Bunny Tales



A Surprise Visitor comes to the Open House!

Remember this little guy? Thunder came to the sanctuary at the end of summer 2005. He was adopted shortly thereafter as a companion for Gwen. We were utterly delighted to see Thunder and his new family at the open house on May 20th!



Thunder and Gwen

Thunderous Thumps of Thanks!

Special thanks to area businesses and individuals whose support GLRS couldn't do without.

- Best Friends Animal Society for helping us provide a permanent home for 511 Reno rabbits.
- Dr. Lewis of All Creatures Animal Clinic and Dr. Katherine Irizarry of Easthaven Animal Hospital for treating our rabbits at a discount.
- Humane Society of Huron Valley for their discounted spay/neuter services.
- Washtenaw County Sheriff Community Service Program for the participants' very hard work on behalf of the bunnies.
- Busch's, Produce Station, Whole Foods, and People's Food Coop, all in Ann Arbor, for donating their throwaway greens for the rabbits.
- All our volunteers and staff whose commitment, hard work, and dedication ensure the rabbits have a safe and loving place to live.



Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary
P.O. Box 7
Whittaker, MI 48190

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Thank you for helping us provide a safe haven for



Bear



Dallas



Berta



Belle