

Everything Changes... A letter from the Board of Directors

Dear Friend,

As we told you in our holiday letter, 2007 brought much growth and development for Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary. We were already the largest rabbit sanctuary in the United States, but when 108 Reno rabbits needed to be relocated from a sanctuary in Washington state, we took them in.



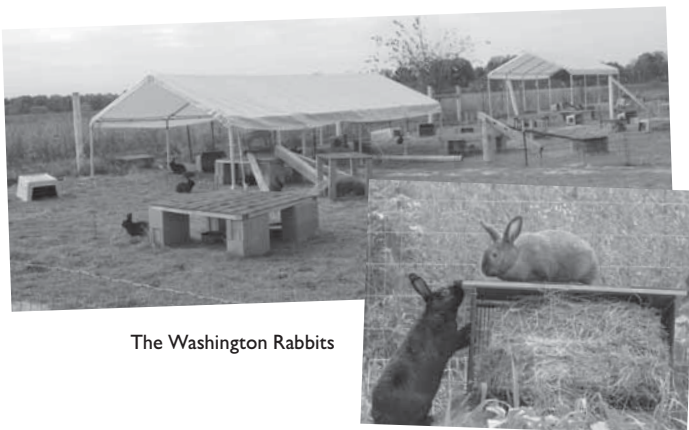
Blossom (top) and Ozzie



At the end of 2007 we also completely renovated our Bunny Barn, the building where our rabbit residents who are ready for adoption call home. Rabbits like Blossom, who was kicked out of her home with her seven newborn babies. And Ozzie, whose family left him behind in a junkyard when they moved. Blossom, Ozzie, and over 60 of their friends now live in a warm, cozy, like-new building. This was a big change from the old, run down building that had problems with insulation and rodents.

We were able to accomplish these things in 2007 **thanks to you**, our generous supporters, without whom we could not survive. **With your support**, we are able to provide a safe, caring home for bunnies like Blossom and Ozzie who would otherwise have nowhere to go.

Along with everything we accomplished, 2007 also brought some major changes in our organization.



The Washington Rabbits



The Bunny Barn before and after.



After much soul-searching, Lake Jacobson, our founder, decided to retire from the sanctuary at the end of 2007. We will miss her fiery spirit and the knowledge she contributed to the organization. But we support Lake's decision to retire and spend more time with her family. We will always be thankful that Lake took the time and energy to help so many animals over the years.

Thank you to Lake Jacobson and her family for all they have sacrificed over the past thirteen years to save countless neglected and abused animals!

In 2008 and beyond, we will continue to care for the **over 700 rabbits** who live at the sanctuary. We will give them all the food and love they need. And when they're ready, we will help them find their forever home. For those bunnies who need special care and attention or are otherwise not ready for adoption, we will make sure they get the medicine, care, and love they need to have a wonderful life at the sanctuary.

Our focus for the upcoming year will also be, as it has always been, raising awareness of rabbits as house pets. We will continue to spread the word about these amazing little creatures who will give many years of love and laughter if just given the opportunity to share a good home.



Squanto



Owen



Oliver



Arnold



Arlo



Woody

We will do all of this with great pride in being the largest rabbit sanctuary in the county. **What we are doing – with over 700 rabbits in our care – has never been done before anywhere.** We are excited about the future and all the things we can accomplish.

But we can't do any of it without **your support.**

Our biggest challenge is raising funds to pay for food and veterinary care for our bunnies. We also need funds to pay our staff their modest incomes, make our mortgage payments, and pay the electric and heating bills.

Of course, we can't forget about the other animals your support allows us to help. Squanto and Owen, our feline greeters who play host and hostess to visitors. And of course the piggies who love nothing more than a friendly visitor – especially if that visitor has goodies for them! Oliver, Arnold, Arlo, and Woody thank you for helping us give them a place to call home!

Please join us in our growth and share the excitement by doing what you can. Can you volunteer to help with a fundraising event? Maybe come out and help with a work day? Or even just visit and give some much needed attention to one of our many residents. Rabbit, cat, or pig - **they all need your love!**

Of course, with all of our growth there is a **greater need than ever** for your cash donations. **We simply can't continue our work and care for the animals without your help.**

Every donation goes to the animals! Donations go directly to the bunnies in the new Bunny Barn waiting to go home, like Blossom and Ozzie. Your money goes to the Reno rabbits running and jumping with delight in their yards. To the older rabbits living peacefully in our Assisted Living barn. And to the many rabbits who have made their way through our hospital, nursed back to health with love from our staff.

We know all of our animals are grateful for whatever you can spare. So please take out your checkbook and open your heart to help the animals. **Your contribution today** will help build a better tomorrow for the animals.

Let's toast to 2008 and see what more we can accomplish! **Thank you** for what you have given in the past and for your continued support.

Sincerely,


Tim


Jennifer


Karen

Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary Board of Directors

Clicker Training

Adding a New Dimension to your Bunny Relationship By Karen Tobler

Have you and your bunny settled into a boring routine? Are you looking for something more in your relationship with BunBun? Then try clicker training. Whether your bunny is a jumper, dancer, chewer, or loves to snuggle, you can use this natural tendency to have fun together. To begin your clicker training you need a clicker and treats (small ones are best). Your rabbits should have access to hay and water at all times. First you will need to get your rabbit used to the clicker. So wait for her to do something – turn her head to you or step toward you – then click and treat. The click must happen when the bunny does the movement. Continue to click and treat for that movement. Soon she will get the idea and do the behavior and look for the treat. Then it's time to work toward a specific behavior by adding a cue. This can be a word or hand signal that you give as the behavior is happening. Then you will begin to use the cue before the behavior. In time, you will fade away the clicker and treats. I have used clicker training to teach rabbits at the sanctuary to come to the front of the cage, to touch my hand when presented, hop over jumps, hop onto a chair, and sit up and beg. Those that are most interested in food seem to be the easiest to train, but I have also watched a rabbit to see what they do themselves and have used that to start from. It's fun and creates a new level to your relationship. **For more ideas and information check out www.clickerbunny.com**



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.

Being a Bunny Hugger

by Carrie Henderson

I'm more than a little embarrassed to confess this... I'd read a newspaper article that recommended volunteer activity as an excellent way to meet a mate. So last April I signed on to be a "bunny socializer" at GLRS. I found love, all right, although perhaps not the type the columnist had in mind... My first trip to the sanctuary was like stepping into bunny lover's paradise. Rabbits as far as the eye could see! They all seemed healthy, and I was impressed with how clean and roomy the pens were. Each rabbit had its own personality and quirks, and Karen, who trained me, filled me in on them all.

Frederic was the first rabbit to whom I was introduced. He hopped boldly behind me and latched onto the tissue I had jammed in my back pocket, deftly extracted it, then shredded it in front of me... all the while eyeing me as if to say, "HAH! I am SO CLEVER! What are you going to DO about it?" I did not expect to bring home a rabbit. I was, in fact, quite adamant that I did NOT want a rabbit of my own. But one really has no defenses against a determined bunny. Fred came home with me in July, and Kenzie followed in December.

It still amazes me that I GET to do this. Spending the evening sitting crosslegged in a barn holding bunnies is surely not for everyone, but it is my idea of pure bliss. The bunnies are always happy to see me (or at least the bag of parsley in my hand). They don't mind listening to me rattle on about my day, and they don't criticize my singing voice. I never have to wonder how a particular bunny is feeling. They show me. Bunnies are straightforward little creatures and I appreciate that! Petting a bunny is soothing to both the bunny and the person petting the bunny. Seriously, I sleep like a brick after an evening of bunny hugging. It's no small thing to earn a rabbit's trust and affection and I'm honored to be part of their furry little lives.



Frederic (top) and Kenzie

Upcoming Events

Please join us at the following events. You're sure to have lots of fun while helping the rabbits at the same time!

My Bunny Valentine

breakfast brunch buffet



Sunday, February 10th

10:00am – 1:00pm

Bennigan's Grill & Tavern, Plymouth

40441 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth

Adults \$11 • 12 and under \$6

Full breakfast buffet with vegetarian options.

Tickets will be available at the door, but purchasing tickets in advance is recommended.

Not only a great place for cupid to hang out, but **Jon duh Balloon Buffoon** will be there to entertain both the little and big kids! **Face painting** and **games** will also keep you bunny-thumping happy!

To purchase tickets please contact Tim Patino at 734-634-9720, at Bennigan's at 734-459-8907, at GLRS at 734-461-1726, or tim@rabbitsanctuary.org.

Knock the Pins and the Buns Win!!

A hopping bowling fundraiser.



Saturday, February 23rd

2:00 pm

(registration at 1:15, warm-up at 1:45, 9 pin no tap)

Plaza Lanes

42001 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Adults \$20 • 12 and under \$10

Ticket price includes **3 games of bowling, shoe rental, and pizza & salad buffet.**

— Advance ticket sales only please —

To purchase tickets please contact Tim Patino at 734-634-9720, at Bennigan's at 734-459-8907, at GLRS at 734-461-1726, or tim@rabbitsanctuary.org.

In Memory

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

In Memory of **George**, one of the gentlest, sweetest buck bunnies to come our way
– Mary Idelsohn and Craig MacNeill

On behalf of **Riley, Willow & Faith**, adopted in 2006
– Valerie Hemmes

In Memory of **Pooter** – Mary Idelsohn and Craig MacNeill

In Honor of the finest rabbit I've ever known, and perhaps the finest French Lop to ever grace the state of Michigan,
Prince Tulip – Arthur Na

In Memory of **Uno** – Mary Stanczyk

In memory of my parrot, **Maggie**, who passed away on July 24, 2004 – Susan Wilhelm

In memory of **Bandit, "Little Dude"** – Alicia Hayden

In honor of **Pyper** – Ruth Thomas

In memory of **Uno** – Mary Maykuth

In memory of my best friends, **Rusty and Stormy**
– Lea Rogers-Snell

In memory of **Jackie Lynn Hunter**
– Denise and Larry Hunter

In loving memory of our **angel kitty**
– Janet and John Humble

For **Bugzy** of PigHoppers 2003
– Clemens and Donna Mae Bertell

In memory of **Pogi** – Catherine & Michael Daisy

In Memory of **Bun-Bun** – Lynn & Bobby Hicks

In memory of **Phyllis Roberts** who always cared for stray rabbits – Vicki L. Deisner

In memory of **Gail Hardenbergh** – Mary Schlottman

In memory of **H.B., Esthon, & Mange** – Michael Lee Updike

In honor of 3 neighbor rabbits that were neglected and I tried to save but couldn't: **Frodo, Hershey, & Ron**
– Mary Lou Schultz

In memory of 3 rabbits I saved from a nursing home where they were tired of them. The rabbits were over 8 years old and all passed on within a year:
Bun-Bun, Charlie, & Harvey. – Vicki Praszek

In Honor of **Cesar Chavez** – Brien J. Comerford

In Memory of **Sweet Mazie**
– Mary Stanczyk and her Dutch Bun, Lee

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

Wish List

Bunny Supplies Always Needed

- Fresh, leafy-green vegetables and carrots
- Toys for the rabbits
- Newspapers
- Boxes big enough for a bunny to hide in
- Carefresh bedding
- Large blankets
- High-fiber/low protein/timothy rabbit pellets
- Regular rabbit pellets with 16% protein
- Timothy or other grass hay, and straw
- Branches from apple trees (untreated)
- Good-sized ceramic bowls to hold water for bunnies
- Water bottles for bunnies
- Hay balls/racks

Can Always Use

- Postage stamps
- Gift cards to Lowe's, Home Depot, Sam's Club, or Tractor Supply Co. (TSC)
- Paper towels and tissues
- Nitrile or latex gloves
- Individual-sized bottled water, for our hard-working volunteers
- Tools of all kinds
- Plywood and lumber
- Trees to plant in the rabbit yards
- Large garbage bin with lid
- 35 gallon or large recycling container with wheels

Just Need One

- Compressor for walk-in cooler (please contact GLRS for further information: info@rabbitsanctuary.org or 734.461.1726)
- Full-size pickup truck with long bed, in working condition, or flat-bed trailer, to haul hay

Time Is A Precious Gift

- Volunteers!
- Handyperson who will do odd jobs at low cost
- Experienced grant writer

Helping the rabbits is as easy as searching the web!

GoodSearch
powered by **YAHOO!** SEARCH

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!

From the Resident Files

by Celeste DiFelici



Name: Keiko

Alias: Queen Bee, Ice Queen, Queen of the Straw Castle

Behavior: Armed & Dangerous – Approach with Caution

Warning: Don't let her sweet, innocent looks fool you!

Bio: If there is anything we have learned from the bunnies here at GLRS, it's that the females can be very territorial. They will stake out a territory in the yard and defend their turf like a pitbull protecting his

master. We have one such resident in Reno Run who would probably take on a pitbull to defend her straw castle!

Keiko, who is sometimes referred to as the Queen Bee of Reno Run, was with the sanctuary during the move to our current location in Willis. Since adoption was not looking likely for her due to her feisty attitude of grunting, boxing, and biting every time a human came near her, even after two years of socializing, we decided rather than keep her in a pen for the remainder of her life, we might as well put her outside with the Reno rabbits.

We gave her a head start, letting her and a few other rabbits who had been equally undesirable as adoptable pets, have free roam of the yard the day before the Reno rabbits arrived. She had already staked out her strawbale turf by the end of the day, so when morning came, and 511 rabbits were introduced to the yard, she was in a defensive position that many a football team could learn from.

We kept a close eye on her, worried that her small stature would be no match for the much larger, feral Reno rabbits we had heard so much about. But after a few days of mixing, our focus turned toward the Reno rabbits who were on the receiving end of Keiko's defense tactics. They quickly realized that Keiko was no match for them and kept a safe distance from her.

Keiko has since let a chosen few remain in her territory, but she keeps close tabs on them, sitting atop her straw castle, giving them the no-fraternizing-with-the-enemy glare. A few schmoozers are trying to work their way to the top of her ranks by kissing up and grooming her. Of course, we have not witnessed her returning the favor by grooming back, hence the nickname Ice Queen.

Keiko knows her name well, and her strawbale turf is located on the cement just next to the Reno barn, so she is easy to spot. When visiting the sanctuary, say hello to her and call her by name, but be sure to maintain your distance and subservience or you just might feel the Queen Bee's sting.

Code Name: Queen Bee

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 to the extent permitted by law. MIC 21900

Gift Brick Program We're excited to announce we've reached the minimum required for a production run! We hope to have the first bricks laid this spring!

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. The Gift Brick Program was developed to help with this expense. These beautiful bricks will be laid at the sanctuary and every visitor will see them and learn how your generosity made the dream of a permanent home for GLRS a reality. **(Please submit by March 1st to have your brick included in the first production run.)**

Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone
Email

Payment: Cash Check Visa MasterCard
 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	-----	-----

February is Adopt-A-Rescued- Rabbit Month!

So come meet your Bunny Valentine!

GLRS will be having an adoption event at:

Pet Emporium
4940 Ann Arbor Saline Rd
Ann Arbor, MI
Saturday, February 9, 2008
11:00 - 4:00

Come meet that special bunny just waiting for a loving home! Not sure if a rabbit is the right companion for you? GLRS volunteers will be on hand to answer questions on rabbit temperament, housing, diet, and care.

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 and 108 Washington rabbits (who were originally from the Reno rescue).
- Dr. Lewis of All Creatures Animal Clinic, Dr. Katherine Irizarry of Easthaven Animal Hospital, and Dr. Clarkson of West Arbor Animal Hospital for treating our rabbits at a discount.
- Humane Society of Huron Valley for spay/neuter services.
- Dr. Cavender of Salem Veterinary Services for 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 Co-op, all in Ann Arbor, and Busch's in Tecumseh for donating their throwaway greens for the rabbits.
- Oxbow Hay for awarding GLRS a \$1,000 Oxbow Rescue Grant
- TheBunnyBasics.com, for their support and efforts to raise awareness of GLRS.
- All our volunteers and staff whose commitment, hard work, and dedication ensure the rabbits have a safe and loving place to live.

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!



Renos Not All as Feral as We Thought

As you walk through the new Bunny Barn you will notice both Geneva and Magpie begging at the front of their pens. Take Magpie out and hold her against you and she will start to groom you. Pass by Linus grooming Sabrina and see the bliss on her face. Or you may hear Chimp as he starts to breathe heavily, cuddled next to Sophie because he doesn't recognize your voice. All of these rabbits are from Reno, Nevada. Once labeled as feral, these rabbits are now friendly and looking for a forever home.



Jethro and Violet

Jethro and Violet are just two of the 511 rabbits from Reno, Nevada. They were born from mothers who had e. cuniculi, which left each of them with fragile corneas that the sun's rays damaged. The vet was unable to save both eyes, but they each have one good eye left. These two have bonded together and developed a partnership to handle their blind sides. When you come to visit them, notice how they sit, with their missing eyes facing each other so that they can use their one good eye, creating two good eyes together. Another benefit to blind or partially blind bunnies is that they rely more on their sense of smell, which usually makes them a lot neater bunnies. Jethro and Violet's pen is one of the cleanest at the sanctuary. They are nearly immaculate when it comes to using their litter box.

Jethro and Violet are looking for their forever home, a loving family who will understand their handicap has no effect on their wonderful personalities.

To see all our rabbits available for adoption please visit our page at

Petfinder.com

ADOPT A HOMELESS PET

<http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/MI120.html>



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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 59

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Thank you for helping us provide a safe haven for:



Zoey & Simon



Helga & Mimo