



# THE NEW RABBIT THYMES

Excerpts from all the news that's fit to chew!

A publication of the  
MN House Rabbit Society  
Winter 2004 SAMPLER

## Bunny Boot Camp: Grooming By Tanya Hulsey, Director of Fostering

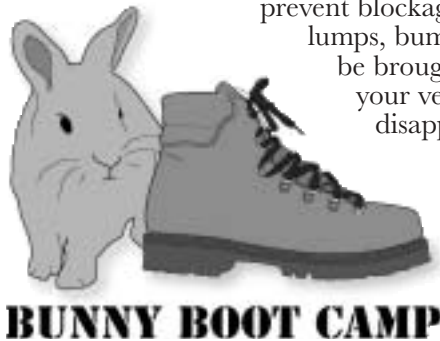
What exactly does it take to groom a rabbit? It's actually very simple.

### Eyes

Most rabbits do a poor job of grooming their eyes. If you find a deposit of crust at the corner of an eye, gently moisten the area and then wipe the deposit away.

### Ears

Gently run your fingers over her ears, inside and out, and notice any scratches, cuts, or scabs. If a scratch looks inflamed or doesn't seem to be scabbing, use Betadine. For anything more serious, consult your veterinarian.



### Toenails

A rabbit's toenails grow continuously. Some rabbits need their nails trimmed every 2 weeks while others can go up to 2 months.

### Feet

Gently feel between her toes and under her foot to check for mats, cuts, or scabs. Also check the soles of the back feet for "sore hocks." This condition is usually only seen in rabbits who live on wire cage floors; to prevent this, be sure that the rabbit has something soft to sit on in her cage so that she can give her feet a rest.

### Scent Glands

Located on either side of the rabbit's genitalia, the scent glands produce a musky liquid. Using a moistened cotton swab, gently clean any accumulated "gunk" out of the opening.

### Fur

Rabbits shed four times per year; two major sheds and two minor sheds. Unlike cats, rabbits don't have the ability to regurgitate, so any hair that they swallow while grooming must go through their system; groom your rabbit regularly and make sure she has free access to hay to prevent blockages in the gut. Any lumps, bumps, or flaky skin should be brought to the attention of your veterinarian if they do not disappear within a few days.

### Nose

Rabbits are subject to allergies, sinus infections, and several other illnesses that can manifest themselves through frequent sneezes or excess mucous. Check with your veterinarian if your rabbit exhibits these symptoms.

### Teeth

A rabbit's teeth grow continuously; eating and chewing on toys usually keeps the teeth at a good length. Some rabbits, however, have what's known as a malocclusion; either the incisors or the molars (or both) don't line up and the teeth don't wear down properly. It may be necessary for a veterinarian to trim the rabbit's teeth or even to remove them.

As with most things, practice and repetition make these "chores" easier for both you and your rabbit. If you haven't spent much time grooming your rabbit in the past, take it slowly and add one new piece of the puzzle at a time. Soon, both you and your rabbit may find that grooming time is actually enjoyable!

### Full-Edition Features

In our recent 40-page newsletter, MN HRS members learned about a variety of interesting topics, including:

Living with rabbit allergies

Recently adopted rabbit success stories, and bios on those still waiting for homes

Exciting new volunteer opportunities to benefit rabbits in our community

Updates on our outreach efforts with local shelters

How to shop for rabbit-safe toys and supplies through MN HRS

Upcoming events, classes, etc.

What fostering rabbits is really like

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

## Mission

**Education:** To reduce the number of unwanted rabbits and to improve the lives of companion rabbits by educating the public and assisting humane societies.

**Adoption:** To help rabbits in area shelters, or those that shelters can no longer care for, to find permanent homes.





## Did You Know?

Once two rabbits are bonded, they should be kept together even when one is sick or potentially contagious. Most of the time, the partner has already been exposed to whatever the sick bunny has and separating them will only traumatize them both. If one rabbit in a pair needs to go to the veterinarian, the bonded buddy should go along. This helps the sick bunny to be more calm and also ensures the sick rabbit doesn't end up being rejected by his companion after returning from the veterinarian!



A male rabbit can impregnate a female for *weeks* after being neutered. It's true!

In fact, recently neutered males should be kept apart from intact females for *six weeks* after surgery to insure there are no unexpected litters.



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

## Membership Has Benefits!

As an all-volunteer, member-supported non-profit organization, memberships are critical to support the MN HRS mission of rescuing rabbits in need while educating the public on rabbit behavior and proper care.

All members receive a one-year subscription to our chapter's periodic newsletter, which contains information about chapter activities, upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, rabbit stories, and much more.

In addition, members receive invitations to special "Members Only" events that give them the chance to get to know other rabbit people, share pictures, and tell stories about their bunnies.

MN HRS membership starts as low as \$10, with options ranging up to \$250.

Memberships can be paid annually, or in monthly installments through our Guardian Angel option. You can also join the national House Rabbit Society through MN HRS in one easy step! For details on all the membership options, see our membership form.

In addition, your membership supports our efforts to help the over 750 rabbits a year that find themselves homeless in the Twin Cities area. MN HRS works to educate the public through classes, our info hotline, MNHouseRabbit.org, and public events. MN HRS also partners with area shelters to help as many rabbits as possible to find permanent homes.

Join now to get the recent 40-page edition of the *New Rabbit Thymes*. What you see in this sampler is just a fraction of the wonderful information available!

## Adopt a Senior Bun!

By Joanna Campbell, Chapter Manager

People often shy away from adopting buns "of a certain age." However, senior rabbits can be equally delightful companions as younger bunnies.

While rabbits can live 12 years or longer, homeless rabbits as young as 5 years old can be overlooked by adopters. Most commonly, we hear that it would be too hard to lose them soon. But none of us come with any guarantees of how long we will be around.

Why consider an older rabbit? Older buns are generally more laid back than they were in younger years. While they will still leap with joy, these displays are less frequent — but just as special. Older bunnies are very curious, but most have learned that certain behaviors are not appreciated by their human companions.

Many older buns also are more appreciative of attention than they were in their more energetic days. In fact, rabbits that have been given up at an older age sometimes seem extra appreciative of the "second chance" their new home offers them.

Perhaps you have an older rabbit already or a bunny that has recently lost a partner. Older buns make excellent companions. They are generally easier to bond than younger rabbits, in part because they appreciate the companionship more than they care about the "small stuff."

Older rabbits deserve to be adopted, too. Would you consider offering an older bunny an opportunity to be spoiled for the rest of his or her life?

## February is Adopt-A-Rescued-Rabbit Month!



# Adoptable Rabbits

These rabbits are just a few of the many bunnies in the Twin Cities area looking for a permanent home. Read more about them, and about other rabbits available for adoption, at [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).



*Jennie*



*Ramona*



*Alex & Araby*



*Arial*



*Ebony*



*Victoria*



*Jack*



*Houdini*



*Tony and Cleo*

## MN HRS Recommended Veterinarians

The veterinarians on this list have exhibited a solid knowledge of rabbit medicine and are recommended by an HRS member. Keep in mind this is just a place to start your search for your rabbit's veterinarian. You should still check any potential veterinarian out to your own satisfaction and make your selection based on what you believe is best for you and your rabbit.

If you choose to work with one of these veterinarians, please let him or her know that the HRS recommendation helped you to make your decision. If your vet is not on this list and you feel that he or she should be included, please contact MN HRS.

Dr. Sheila Megan  
Companion Animal Hospital  
1321 Duckwood Dr.  
Eagan, MN 55123  
(651) 456-5665

Dr. Lisa Re Jeanetta  
Dougherty Veterinary Clinics  
215 E. 14th St.  
Duluth, MN 55811  
(218) 722-3963

Dr. Kate Ann Hunter  
Dr. Kim Ammann  
Carver Lake Veterinary Center  
2201 Ventura Dr.  
Woodbury, MN 55123  
(651) 578-3290

Dr. Rich Lancello  
Jordan Veterinary Clinic  
560 W. Second St.  
Jordan, MN 55352  
(952) 492-5000

Dr. Larry Tholl  
Valley View Pet Hospital  
13600 Cty. Rd. 11  
Burnsville, MN 55337  
(952) 432-9661

Dr. Cynthia Fetzer  
Camden Pet Hospital  
1401 44th Ave. N  
Minneapolis, MN 55412  
(612) 522-4374

Dr. Peg Frank  
Cottage Grove Animal Hospital  
8136 E. Pt. Douglas Rd.  
Cottage Grove, MN 55016  
(651) 768-0200

Dr. Shari Skifstad  
All About Pets  
5669 Duluth St.  
Golden Valley, MN 55422  
(763) 546-4452



# Minnesota House Rabbit Society Contacts

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**Board of Directors Email:** Ladybug@MNHouseRabbit.org

**Spokesbunny Email:** News@MNHouseRabbit.org

**Newsletter Submission Email:** MNHouseRabbit.org

**Website:**

Holly Lang – Adoptions  
Michelle Nephew – Newsletter

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

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

**Operational Leaders:**  
 Tonia Baxter – Education  
 Joanna Campbell – Chapter Manager & Fundraising  
 Brenda Holden – Volunteering  
 Tanya Hulsey – Fostering & Website  
 Heidi Johnson – Membership

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

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## Upcoming Events

### Bunny Basics Classes

Bunny Basics is a presentation by MN HRS Educators providing an overview of several aspects of rabbit behavior and care. It's great for families considering a companion rabbit, for first-time rabbit owners, or for those who want to brush up on their rabbit basics. Registration is required. FREE!

### Adoption Events

Stop by and meet some of the rabbits seeking permanent homes. MN HRS Educators will be on hand to answer general questions, explain the adoption process, or even help find the right rabbit for you. FREE!

<b>Thurs, Feb 12</b> 7 - 9 pm	<b>Bunny Basics Class</b> To register, call 952-894-5000	<b>MN Valley Humane Society</b> 1313 E. Hwy 13, Burnsville
<b>Sun, Feb 15</b> Noon - 3 pm	<b>MN HRS Adoption Event</b>	<b>PETCO Roseville</b> 2575 N. Fairview Ave.
<b>Sat, Feb 28</b> 9 am - 7 pm	<b>Pet Expo</b> Stop by the MN HRS booth!	<b>Minneapolis Convention Center</b> 1301 Second Ave. South
<b>Sun, Feb 29</b> 9 am - 6 pm	<b>Pet Expo</b> Stop by the MN HRS booth!	<b>Minneapolis Convention Center</b> 1301 Second Ave. South
<b>Thurs, Mar 11</b> 7 - 8:30 pm	<b>MN HRS Member Meeting</b> Members only	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Sat, Mar 13</b> Noon - 3 pm	<b>MN HRS Adoption Event</b>	<b>PETCO Apple Valley</b> 7590 W. 150th St.
<b>Tues, Mar 16</b> 6:30 - 8:30 pm	<b>Bunny Basics Class</b> To register, call 763-522-4325	<b>Animal Humane Society</b> 845 Meadow Lane, Golden Valley

**5th Annual Bunny Lover's Picnic — Sat, Aug 7**

**More Member Meetings — May 13, July 8, Sept 9, Nov 11**