



Bunny tales

Spring 2002

Helping Rescue Groups Rescue More Pets

Once Upon A Time...

By Judy Hogler

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"PetSave Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to actively supporting the rescue, adoption, and overall betterment of companion animals."

...we were a happy two-cat family, until the day a cute little brown bunny crossed our path. We saw him hopping around our community golf course, and since he was so friendly, we assumed he belonged to someone, and was either lost or abandoned. We kept a watchful eye over him, but didn't consider rescuing him until we talked to Bob Tucker at **Accents & Animals**.

Bob explained to us how dangerous it is for a rabbit to be on the loose. Some predatory animal could eventually maim or kill him. He suggested we bring the bunny to a veterinarian to be examined and altered, and then foster him until he could be adopted.



Photo: Carolina Kroon

So we did. We were told that he is a Rex (a specially bred plush-haired rabbit). Because of his burnt-orange fur, and because he was found on a golf course, we named him "Tiger Woods". Since we have two indoor cats, however, we didn't think we could keep him permanently. We didn't want him to have to spend the whole day in a cage while we were at work.

We were surprised, though, when we brought Tiger home — he was not intimidated by the cats one bit! In fact, they actu-



Photo: Carolina Kroon

ally play together and chase one another. Tiger has been such a wonderful addition to our family that we eventually decided to get him a soulmate to keep him company while we're away. We adopted a beautiful English-spotted bunny from the PetSave Foundation, and named her "Picabo". (The Winter Olympics were on at the time and we like skier Picabo Street). This very cute bunny also has a predominantly white coat with black circles around her eyes that make her look like she is playing "peek-a-boo".

At first, Picabo wanted nothing to do with Tiger, but after a few days, they became inseparable. Even though Tiger was already a love bug when we first got him, he is even more affectionate toward us now. I think he really appreciates having another rabbit to share his life with.

Having two bunnies instead of one only requires a little extra time, and it is so rewarding to watch the two of them groom each other and cuddle together. Our family and friends are amazed that we have bunnies running free in our house, and that they are litterbox-trained to boot. We never imagined being bunny owners, and now that we are, we can't imagine life without them.

Bunnies Get Airtime! ☆

By Bona Tucker

PetSave Foundation bunnies Cinder and Bella got their 15 minutes of fame thanks to AT&T Broadband Television's "From Around Los Angeles" cable program and its host, Gary Cox. Bob and I appeared on the show, which highlights interesting people, places and things in the Los Angeles area, and were able to educate thousands of viewers about domestic rabbits.

The program addressed a variety of topics – from proper rabbit diet to the sad plight of abandoned rabbits. Overall, viewers were informed that rabbits make wonderful companion animals and PetSave has plenty of loving bunnies awaiting adoption. The show aired throughout the month of March,

"Rabbits make wonderful companion animals, and PetSave has plenty of loving bunnies awaiting adoption."

and in some areas through April, across Southern California.

We extend our appreciation to AT&T Broadband and Gary Cox for featuring the PetSave Foundation and helping us get the message out about our furry little friends. We invite you to tune in to AT&T's "From Around Los Angeles" for other interesting stories.



Photo: Ted Vegvari

Our Founding Rabbiters

Part One in a Series of Three Profiles

By JoLynn Vensel

Every person who volunteers has their own reasons for choosing a particular charity. For Terri Walker, one of PetSave's original volunteers, her love for her own house rabbits motivated her to help bunnies in need. Terri began by volunteering with a rabbit rescue group where she met Bob and Bona Tucker. Together, they started rescuing abandoned bunnies from local parks.

"We had no idea how many rabbits were running loose on the streets of the South Bay," says Terri. "It became obvious we would have to actively rescue these bunnies, then work hard to get them adopted. Bona and I started showing bunnies at Petco on Saturdays, and in about one year we adopted out 50 bunnies. Since the cost of housing and caring for these rabbits was so high, Bob, Bona and I began to think of ways to fund our rescue effort."

After many brainstorming sessions, the Tuckers formed the PetSave Foundation. To help fund PetSave, Bob and Bona opened Accents & Animals gift boutique, where 10 percent of each purchase goes directly toward rabbit rescue and care. All other funding for PetSave comes from private donations. Since opening the store in December 2000, PetSave has placed about 100 bunnies into loving homes.

Now, Terri's volunteer work has turned into a full-time job—she's the assistant manager of Accents & Animals.

In addition, she is the proud owner of four PetSave bunnies: siblings Holly

and Hoppity, rescued by Bona when they were about three months old, and angora sisters Fluffy and Muffy, who were dumped at a shelter. (Terri also has four other bunnies she rescued prior to her involvement with PetSave.)

When asked what one word describes



Photo: Pet Pix ©2002

the rabbit/human bond for her: "Companionship," says Terri. The biggest misconception about rabbits among people she has spoken with is that they are boring, sedentary, non-interactive creatures. "That is just not true," she says. "Rabbits are wonderfully interactive animals. Once you understand 'bunny-speak' you realize how fascinating they are. They are more subtle than other companion animals, but very social. They are quiet and clean, and don't have to be walked. The perfect apartment pets!"

Caring for rabbits has had an indelible effect on Terri's life. "Rescued animals are grateful and will only enhance the quality of your life," she says. "The simple kindness you show them is repaid over and over in the love they give you."

Looking for a few good homes



Photo: Carolina Kroon

Eric and Pansy—big, cute, and best friends!



Photo: PetSave Foundation

Roscoe—very people-friendly and snuggly.

🐰 Would you like to contribute to next month's newsletter? Please submit your articles or photos to Terri Walker at Accents & Animals. We'd love to hear from you!

🐰 A heartfelt thank you to our former Adoption Coordinator, JoLynn Vensel, for all her hard work and dedication. JoLynn has left PetSave in order to spend more time on her freelance journalism career, but has promised us she'll visit often.



Ask Little Boots Advice for Bewildered Bunnies

By Little Miss Muddy Boots

Dear Readers,

A few months ago, Little Miss Muddy Boots went over the Rainbow Bridge.

She carried with her some of her favorite toys, a few papaya treats, fresh hay, and a soft towel. These things, and the love of her family and friends, made her journey to the Sunny Meadow a pleasant one.

However, feeling that her work here was not yet finished, Little Miss Muddy Boots has very kindly offered to continue dispensing her invaluable advice to bewildered bunnies everywhere.

She is still happily exploring all that lays beyond the Rainbow Bridge, and has told us that it is a very beautiful place. There are a lot of other bunnies there, but fortunately very few are bewildered.

Being a nice bunny, Little Boots has been sharing her papaya treats with all her new friends, and collecting stories and wisdom to pass along to the bunnies who will be writing to her in this column.

She promises to answer your letters very soon.

Signed,
The Editor

What's up, doc? Your Rabbit's Health

By Carolina Kroon

For some reason, when our animal friends get sick or hurt, they seem to do so outside of the vet's regular office hours. Even a routine cut, sniffle, or loss of appetite can become an emergency.

There's nothing you can do to prevent emergencies from happening, but there is something you can do to reduce the stress of an emergency, both for your pet and yourself. That something is to be prepared. When you have a plan in place, you will be able to act more quickly, and have the comfort and confidence in knowing that you are providing your friend with the best possible care. Your confidence will also help your pet remain calmer, an important element in emergency treatment, especially for bunnies.

So what can you do to be prepared?

1) Talk to your veterinarian beforehand. Can your vet be reached in an emergency? If yes, get that phone number and post it in a prominent place in your house. If no, ask which emergency clinic they recommend, and find out if that clinic will call them to consult on your

pet's emergency.

2) Pay a visit to the clinic so that you know where it is and how to get there. Post the clinic's business card in a prominent place in your house.

3) Have a list ready that notes your pet's current medications, allergies, diet, and any previous medical history.

"...there is something you can do to reduce the stress of an emergency, both for your pet and yourself."

Remember, your pet is feeling unwell and unhappy, and will not understand that you are trying to help them. It's important (especially with bunnies, who are very vulnerable to stress) that they are made as comfortable as possible. This will give them every advantage in recovering quickly and completely.

Stay involved in your pet's treatment. Often, in emergency procedures, every form of treatment is applied. Take the time to understand each treatment the

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vet is proposing and, if you're not sure, ask "Is that really necessary?" Have the clinic mark on their chart that you are to be notified if there is *any* change in your pet's condition, and don't hesitate to call them.

Emergencies are scary. But when you're prepared, you've already gone a long way toward helping your friend, and yourself, make the best out of a bad



Photo: PetSave Foundation

Baby Ozzy enjoying a hay box. Ozzy is learning good habits at a young age, and will be ready to be adopted in a few months.

Home At Last

Recent Adoptions

This has got to be our favorite part of the newsletter — announcing all the happy endings to our bunny tales.

James Dean and Honey Bun



Photo: Carolina Kroon

Sugar, Buttercup & Daffodil, and YoYo Paw (now named "Picabo" - see our cover arti-

cle) all found loving homes. Additionally, lucky lops Cinder & Bella and Jimmy Dean & Honey Bun, as well as Brother, Katrina, Omar, Bridgette, Oliver, Zoe, Skipper and Laura & Ashley went hopping off to happy homes.

A big thank you to their new guardians for opening up their hearts and homes.

Since the last newsletter, several lucky bunnies found homes, including most of the ones featured in last newsletter's "Looking for a Few Good Homes" section.

Laura and Ashley (and friend)



Photo: PetSave Foundation



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THANKS!

Thanks to all the terrific volunteers of North High's Key Club for helping out with the bunnies!

Accents & Animals

A Magical Store Filled With Animal Decor!



PetSave Foundation

Helping Rescue Groups Rescue More Pets

On any given day, there are about 80 bunnies being cared for by PetSave. Here's how your donation can help take care of them:

- \$25** keeps the bunnies in hay and greens
- \$45** supports the spay/neuter program to make sure no unwanted pets will be born
- \$100** provides special medical care for the bunnies
- \$500** supports our adoption program and gives a bunny, cat, or dog a new home

Here's a special donation of \$ _____ to help my animal friends.

Name: _____

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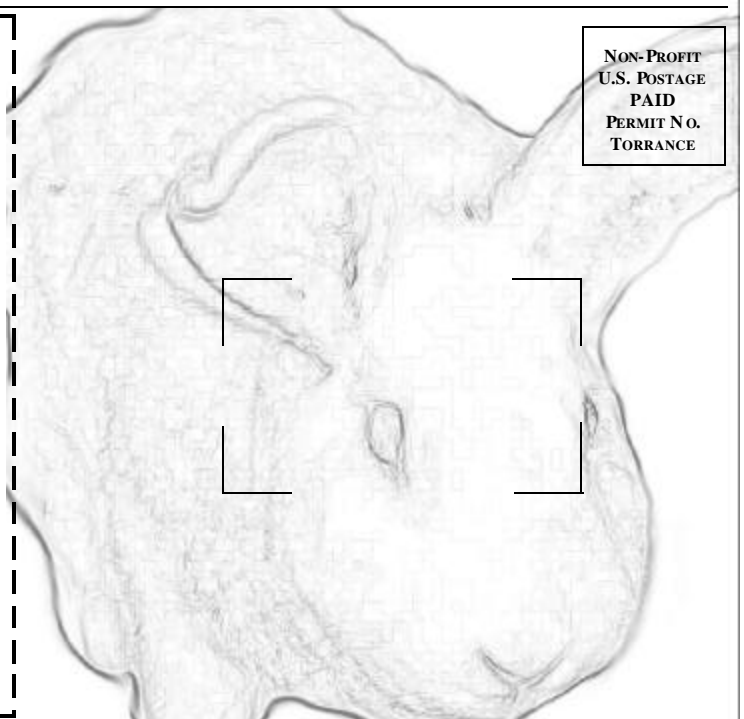
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