

Rabbit Sanctuary Newsletter

Adopt-A-Rabbit



A Program of Rabbit Sanctuary, Inc.

OUR MISSION: TO PROVIDE RESCUED DOMESTIC RABBITS A HOME FOR LIFE

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"Hey, is this the rabbit sanctuary?"



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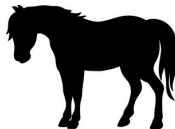
An injured rabbit meets an angel of mercy.



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*It's hard to say
"Good bye"*



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March 27th 2016

My friend, Debra Reuter and I had worked outside at the Sanctuary all day. Toward evening we watched as dark clouds, off to the west, were approaching: closer and closer.

Feeding the rabbits in Rabbitats I & II completed our final chore. Tired and dusty, we ran to the house, just as those clouds opened up. A deluge!

Someone was banging on the front door. A soaking wet man was standing on the porch. At his feet, a small wire cage containing two equally soaking wet rabbits.

"Is this the rabbit sanctuary?" Before I could answer, the man continued "If you don't take 'em I'm dumping 'em in the street" he said, as he gruffly pushed the cage toward me with his foot.

I called Deb to the door. "He say's if we don't take these rabbits he's going to dump them in the street."

"FOLLOW ME!" Deb ordered. The three of us ran to the health care building, heads down against the pouring rain. Deb and I couldn't help but notice that the man was very "tipsy."



Little Red

He set the cage with the two frightened rabbits just inside the door. I began: "We'll need you to step inside a minute and sign a release form to give us information about the rabbits. If you can give a donation, that would be appreciated"--- but the man had taken off running, zig-zag, to his truck and was gone.

I lamented, "He didn't give us his name. He didn't sign a release form. We have no information about the rabbits.



Wisp

We don't know their age, sex or the reason why he is dumping them---NOTHING!"

Deb gleefully announced, "WE JUST SAVED TWO RABBITS!"

"Wait, what are we doing?" I asked. "These rabbits can't be in this building. They must have a veterinary wellness check- up before mixing with the other rabbits. What if they have something contagious?"

It was Easter Sunday and almost 7PM, so taking them to the vet was not possible. We could not put the rabbits in our quarantine area as it was already occupied. Then Deb made another gleeful announcement: "THEY'RE GOING HOME WITH ME!"

We arranged towels to cover the area in the back of her SUV. We removed the frightened, bedraggled rabbits from their cage and placed them in the vehicle. They immediately began hopping about the clean dry space; it felt so good to get out of that tiny cage. Forty-five minutes later, upon reaching Deb's home in Spartanburg, they were no longer wet or frightened.

"Now, this is the way to travel," they seemed to say. "Not in a miserable wire cage, being slammed around in the back of a junk pick-up, driven by a drunk."

And, life kept getting better! "Auntie Deb" treated the two little rabbits like royalty in her home. That night she served the most fabulous dinner they had ever seen or tasted. Two salads piled high with: kale, parsley & dandelion greens and each topped with a slice of fresh strawberry. On the side, a heaping serving of sweet hay and cool, fresh water to drink. "Now this is the way to eat," they seemed to say. "Not the usual moldy pellets and slimy water."

Early next morning, Deb drove the rabbits to Doc Hurlbert. They checked out OK: no parasites and nobody pregnant since they were discovered to both be females. Later on, that same Monday, I retrieved them from the vet and drove them back to the Sanctuary: the little "travelers" long journey was finally over.

The two, both about one year old, were not especially bonded to one another. So the little gray Lion Head we call Wisp, was paired (after spaying) with a newly arrived neutered white New Zealand named Dandy. (Look for Dandy's story in our upcoming fall/winter newsletter.) They reside in Rabbitat II, territory #2.

The other rabbit, we named Little Red. She is the reddest rabbit any of us have ever seen. She glows like an ember. Beautiful. She, (after spaying) was introduced to Litz, as he had lost his mate and was alone. They live in Rabbitat II, territory #9.

Wisp and Little Red finally have everything they deserve: a mate, a territory, a burrow, good food and health care. And they enjoy it all, in a beautiful woodland setting. "Now, this is the way to live!" they seemed to say.

A Total Loss

BMW began production at its Spartanburg, SC plant in 1994. Eighty percent of the cars it manufactures here are customized for individuals and are sold overseas. The plant has eight thousand eight hundred employees. According to Chris McLeod, BMW's senior computer analyst, a lot of the employees have pets at home and hold a general fondness for all animals.

Monday, December 5, 2016

97 specially customized BMW cars were loaded onto the train at the Spartanburg plant and headed to Charleston harbor. There, the cars would be transferred to a cargo ship to sail off to ports of call: England, Germany, and France. About fifty miles into the trip, the train derailed. Those beautiful cars were tossed, like toys, into the surrounding woods. None of the cars "survived." After working a double shift due to the accident, Chris, was finally driving home. He was exhausted. He could not know that the disruption of his regular schedule had put him on a fateful course. Chris didn't realize, until after he had gone by, that he had seen a big white rabbit on the grassy shoulder of the rural road. He quickly stopped and reversed back to the rabbit. As he walked toward the rabbit, it took off across the road. Chris noticed its back end was crippled. It was obvious that the rabbit had been hit by a car. Upon reaching the opposite shoulder of the road, the injured rabbit could go no further. Chris gently picked it up. The rabbit screamed. It was a high pitched, blood curdling scream. Chris wasn't expecting this. It really rattled him. He gathered the neatly folded laundry from the back seat of his car and formed it into a circle on the front floor of the car. Carefully, he nested the rabbit in the center. The rabbit did not move.

Chris called his wife Karrie: "There's been an accident." "Well yes. I know" Karrie replied.

"No, not that accident," Chris answered. "It's a rabbit. A big white rabbit. It's been run over. Look on your phone and find a shelter or rescue that can help."

Karrie tried several places. All refused: "We don't take rabbits." Then Karrie found the Sanctuary.

I asked Chris and Karrie if they could drive another half hour to the vet in Simpsonville and I would meet them there. The three of us sat together in the exam room waiting for the vet to return with the rabbit and X-ray.

Chris said "I'm sure his back leg is broken." Karrie said "A broken leg can be splinted and heal." I said, "We have a newly arrived rabbit at the Sanctuary with an injured back leg. She would make a perfect mate for him." The three of us continued enthusiastically discussing plans for the newly rescued rabbit's future.

The vet returned with the rabbit, a large white New Zealand. He looked a bit dirty as though he had been on the lam for some time. He looked older than most stray rabbits, maybe two years or more. A very handsome rabbit.

The vet shook his head and said sadly, "There is no good news here." He displayed the X-ray and pointed to the break in the rabbit's back. The three of us gasped simultaneously. Our plans for the rabbit's future were dashed. There was nothing to do but euthanize.

Chris is a hero. Chris' and Karrie's time and efforts were not in vain. Their kindness spared that poor rabbit untold hours (perhaps days) of lying immobilized on the roadside in excruciating pain.

Kiddo

Kiddo is how I begin every day: his breakfast at 7:30 AM.

Kiddo is how I end every day: his supper at 6:00 PM. And so it has been for twenty seven years.

By the end of January 2017, I had to face the reality that I may lose him: my chestnut, one eyed quarter horse gelding with a white blaze face. Due to stiffness and pain in his neck, shoulders, and legs, caused by arthritis, he could not bend to reach his feed bucket. Dale rigged a new raised vessel. I summoned the vet. We began daily pain medicine. All of this helped and Kiddo was managing.

Around February 5, Kiddo began to behave very strangely. Kiddo always comes promptly when called. Now, he did not come. He shied. He acted afraid of me and his friends. He would not let any of us get near him. Kiddo was breaking our hearts. We didn't understand.

Kiddo was diagnosed with equine dementia. I liken it to Alzheimers in people. I was informed that, as time passes, the condition will worsen. He may begin wandering and he will become confused. I could not let life become frightening for him. I knew that before it reached that point, I had to muster up my courage.



On April 12th, at age 34 years, Kiddo was euthanized. He's buried directly in front of his barn.

Recently, with my friend Deb, I walked up the hill to Kiddo's barn, a barn Dale had built for him almost twenty years ago. We visited his old stomping grounds. We stood where he always stood, under the large shady elm tree. From this vantage point Kiddo could watch the rabbits in rabbitat 1 and see down to the bottom of the hill where the garden is. We stood in his stall where he rested. We could feel his presence.

We followed his well worn path through the woods to Allen's back yard at the back corner of his pasture. Allen is a kind man who fed him carrots.

Kiddo had a lot of friends: Ron was a favorite. He always had an apple and kind words. Deb brushed him and kissed him. Lorrie took pictures of him. I took good care of him.

Kiddo, the sanctuary's only horse rescue, had a good, long life. We miss him!



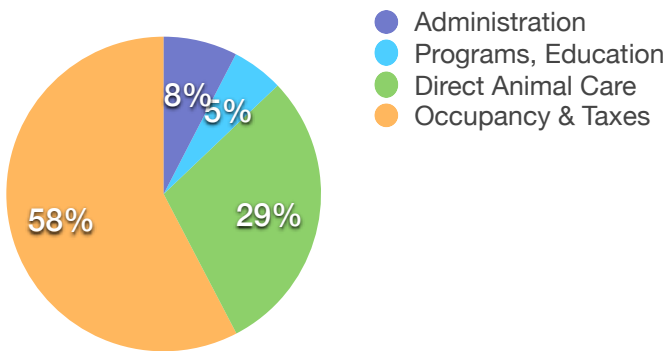
Legacies

If you have named our Sanctuary as a beneficiary in your will, or are considering doing so, make sure that we are listed as Rabbit Sanctuary, Inc. The address is:

Rabbit Sanctuary Inc., P. O. Box 80036 Simpsonville, SC 29680

RSI 2016

Operating Expenses



Bunny Budget Needs a Boost

The Sanctuary horse and the three rabbits featured in this issue incurred expenses totaling \$1,710.00. Here is the break down:

Kiddo: Veterinary care and backhoe: \$600.00

BMW rabbit: Veterinary care and cremation: \$170.00

Little Red and Wisp: Veterinary wellness check and spay surgeries for both rabbits: \$940.00

Thank You

Lori Jewell of Pet Tender Angels and Jenna Gutierrez for donations of chow and hay.

Mike Smith and **Tammy Johnson** for making the long trip to to get hay for the rabbits-twice!

Channel WYFF and **Myra Ruiz** for inviting Sanctuary friend **Val Magin** to speak for rabbits this Easter season. Sanctuary rabbit, Lillibelle, attended to enforce Val's message: Rabbits are not toys!

Lynne Hummell editor of *The Bluffton Sun*, for her article in the April 4th issue explaining that rabbits are not seasonal toys.

Amos Hummell, Hilton Head artist, for two beautiful signs for the Sanctuary's nature trail.

Jac Valitchka, contributing editor of *Town* magazine for her story in April's issue commemorating the Sanctuary's 50th year.

Alice Ratterree, artist, for her illustration to Jac's story in *Town* magazine.

Lorrie Brooks for making portrait name tags for each and every Sanctuary rabbit. They are proudly displayed on each rabbit's territory gate.

Susan Woods (our Martha Stewart) for the decorations and table settings at our annual open house on April 8th.

Leah Elliott, Sarah & William Graham for their bi-annual bunny wellness check -up and nail trim.

Thanks to All Adopt-A-Rabbit members

Amazon Smile

You can help support the Sanctuary by shopping at smile.amazon.com Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchase to Rabbit Sanctuary, Inc.

Binky Bunny

Shop at Binky Bunny to generate funds for the Sanctuary. BinkyBunny.com is a fun informative site for people with house rabbits. Their store includes hay and feed, treats, baskets, books, toys, and playhouses! Use the link below, and the Sanctuary will receive 7% of the purchase price.

<http://store.binkybunny.com/shared/>

GoodSearch.com

You can help the Sanctuary by using a search engine. Go to goodsearch.com and enter Adopt A Rabbit then click verify. Each search will raise money for the Sanctuary.

Shop at iGive.com to Help the Rabbits

Generate funds for Adopt-A-Rabbit by shopping on line through iGive.com. Join for free at www.igive.com/AAR

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Our volunteers keep things hoppin'!

Thank you!



Suzanne & Benny



Honey



Debra



Lynne & Amos



Lorrie

Jim & Mike

Thank You New and Renewing Members

Includes donations given through June 11, 2017

Lisa Alleman
Judith Roye Adler
Cherokee Allen
Carol Anderson
Cheryl Ann

Marianne Baisch
Lynn Barnett
Sally Bauder
Betty Billingsley
Lorice Black
Sara Bogart
Carol Bogdan
Lorrie & Michael Brooks
Christine Brouwer
Douglas Buffo
Amy Burris
Eric & Yvonne Butrick

Bruce Cable
Lori & Tom Calhoun
Don & Eleanor Campbell
Maya & Brandon Christen
Zbynek Chudejova
Suzanne Chudejova
Liz Cone
Bonnie Cook
Kristin Cox
Janice Creech
Liam Creech

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Phylis Dyches
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Jeff Hoyt
Beverly Huley

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Tammy Johnson
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Beth & Jamie Kendall
Jennifer Kincaid
Ladia King
Stephen & Marie King
Susan & Anna Kleinhanzl
Byron & Barbara Knuth
Julian & Genevieve
Kosanovich
Katsushi & Akiko Kosaka
Donna Kwilosz

Amie Lankowski
Mary LaPorte
Marilyn Lautenschlaeger
Gail Laviola
Renee & Landry Layson
Sonja Levine
Jane Lewis
Ryan Liebman
Barb & Brian Loomis
Manuel Lopez

Peter Mady
Val Magin
Dorothea Mayerchak
Kathleen McKinney
Chris & Karrie McLeod

Marie Mead
Sharon & David Menze
Marion Moir
Katy & Tony Moore
Jan Muse

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Sharon, David & Tirzah Nichols

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Philip Prince
Ron & Patrice Pruitte
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Christina Sprecher
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Sue and Meili Swanson

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Lillian Wanda
Madelyn & Lillian Waters
Tom & Betty Way
John & Beth Wehlitz
Rebecca Weider
Elizabeth Wellborn
Ava & Liam Weston
Cynthia Wheat, DVM
Anthony & Cynthia White
Carey White
Anne Witty
Kathy & Mike Worsham
Loretta Wroble

Elizabeth Zimmerman
Ellen & Steffen Zinsser

Photos by:

Lorrie Brooks & Becky Hummell

In Honor of Rabbits

Kremski... by Doreen Heimlich
Cookie... by Gordon & Holly Nason
Hoppy... by Steve & Becky Quinn
Krissy... by Benny & Suzanne Chudejova

Yolo... by Lynn Barnett

Willoby... by Beverly Huley

Alfie... by Renee Layson

Honey Bunny & White Lightning... by Ron & Kari Ellison

In Honor of People

Patrick & Sam Adams... by David and Sharon Menze
Landry Layson... by Renee Layson
Jim & Honey Robinson... by James & Cecilia Fowler
Chris & Karrie McLeod... by Sanctuary Rabbits

In Memory of Rabbits

Beloved rabbit of Ladia King
Dana, Katie, & Danny Bunny... by Dorothea Mayerchal & Pumpkin Kitty
Willow... by Ron & June Fisher
Gus & Roxy... by Sharon & Tirzah Nichols
Clancy, Toby, Chance, Buffalo, Cocoa, Isabel, & Bosco... by Ron & Patrice Pruitte
Boots, Bonny, & Peter... by Eric & Elaine Unger
Cookie Man... by Lucio & Sharon Valle
June & Pikachu... by Carol Anderson
Gus & Iris... by Lynn Ross
Snowball... by Anthony & Cynthia White
Kiddo, Sanctuary horse... by Ron & Patrice Pruitte
Scout, Border Collie... by Jane Lewis
Chocolate... by Jonathan, Sarah, & William Graham

Memory of People

Sharon Obbink... by Shay Simmons
Edward & Edith Dukes... by Esther Dukes



Bunny Health Care Building



Rabbitat 2



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OUR VISION: To see the DOMESTIC RABBIT win his rightful place as a valued and beloved COMPANION ANIMAL

The Rabbit Sanctuary provides a HOME FOR LIFE for rescued domestic rabbits. Rabbits given a second chance at life by kind people who, regardless of inconvenience, expense or even their own safety, made an extra effort to help rabbits in need.

Our Adopt-A-Rabbit program, a virtual adoption program, offers an alternative to supporting the cruel pet industry and the bunny mills. For \$30.00 or more you can choose and virtually adopt one of the Sanctuary's rescued rabbits. You will receive a photo of your rabbit, certificate of adoption, sanctuary news letters and invitation to our annual Picnic with the Rabbits. Sponsorship is renewable annually. Additional rabbit adoptions are \$30.00 per adoption.

Your support is vital to our ongoing work. Please help as you can. In return, we will devote ourselves to ensuring a wonderful life for the rabbits.

ALL DONATIONS, OF ANY SIZE, ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Cut along dotted line and enclose with your check.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____