



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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FEATURE STORY

Brisco



Jack Briscoe is a surveyor who drives a winding narrow mountain road every morning at dawn to get to his office near Hendersonville, NC. One morning on his usual route, he noticed a white rabbit grazing on the shoulder of the road. From then on, he would slow down at that particular spot to catch a glimpse of the rabbit. She was always there. Jack became concerned. "It's only a matter of time 'til it takes that fatal hop into the road," he thought.

After a week, Jack mentioned the situation to his wife Carolyn, a dentist. They agreed Jack needed to try catching the rabbit.

On the following Monday, Jack left for work a bit earlier than usual to attempt his rescue. He parked on the narrow shoulder and approached the rabbit. It stopped grazing, lifted its head, and looked at Jack. It acted as though it was willing to trust him. But every time the encounter ended with the rabbit bolting into the endless forest. Jack was becoming a bit exasperated; and by the time Friday rolled around, Jack's gentle coaxing, "Come little bunny... I'm not going to hurt you" became "Stop, rabbit! Not one more hop!"

"I'll try again on Monday," Jack told Carolyn. "I think my best chance for success in rescuing that rabbit is to trap it."

Sure enough on Monday morning, there the rabbit sat in the same spot grazing away. Jack pulled over. He slowly approached the rabbit. True to form, the rabbit hopped ahead of him. "Here we go again," thought Jack.

But then the rabbit stopped. As Jack approached the rabbit, it did not move. Then Jack could see why: the rabbit had hopped right into a Have-a-Heart trap. "Unbelievable!" Jack announced. Obviously Jack wasn't the only one who had been attempting to catch the rabbit.

Jack had only a few miles to go before reaching his office. Instead of risking a transfer of the rabbit from the trap into his truck, he simply placed the trap, rabbit inside, into the bed of his pick-up.

That evening at home, Jack and Carolyn could see the rabbit was starving, dehydrated, and full of ticks and warbles. They noticed too that the rabbit's back legs appeared weak. "She didn't have a strong springy hop," Carolyn said.

The next morning Carolyn dropped the bunny off at her vet. The immediate issues were addressed: all warbles (over 17 of them) and ticks were removed and all wounds were cleansed and treated. At lunchtime when Carolyn picked her up she learned the rabbit was a female, not pregnant and about one year old. To the delight and entertainment of her dental practice staff and patients, the rabbit spent the rest of the day at Carolyn's office. Jack and Carolyn kept "Brisco" at their home for several weeks to get her health and diet on track.

On his next trip down that winding mountain road, Jack made a final stop at the spot where he first sighted Brisco. He placed the empty wire trap exactly where he had found it with a note attached: "The bunny has a good home. Thank you for caring."

Jack and Carolyn drove Brisco to the Sanctuary on July 30, 2016. She settled in nicely. Next was a visit to Doc Hurlbert to be spayed. Doc Hurlbert took an x-ray that revealed an old fracture in Brisco's spine likely caused by being hit by a car. Jack was not surprised. This explained Brisco's awkward hop. She also is left with a neurogenic bladder (one that does not empty completely) and partial loss of bladder control. Brisco manages very well and is not in pain. Because of her history, she is a special needs rabbit and will always have to live indoors.

On December 23, 2017, a one-year-old black female Lionhead arrived at the Sanctuary. Sparkle, as she was named, has a congenital condition that also requires her to be an indoor special needs rabbit. And so Sparkle and Brisco were introduced. They enjoy each other's company and are best friends. It was a match made in Heaven!

Note: Jack Briscoe and Dr. Carolyn Sullens really devoted a lot of love, time, and money into Brisco's rescue and care. Help us continue her care at the Sanctuary. So far Brisco's expenses for spay surgery and x-rays have reached over \$300. Please consider "adopting" Brisco to assist with her medical costs.



Continue the kindness of Jack & Carolyn

Sponsor Brisco as a gift or for yourself

Your adoption fee of \$30.00 or more will help pay for her \$300 spay surgery and her \$121 wellness check.

Wonder

Wonder, a solid black female bunny, was barely a year old when she came to the Sanctuary. Abandoned at an apartment complex, she was found by the maintenance man. He took the little bunny home and introduced the bunny to his resident cat. Before he knew what was happening, the cat viciously attacked the little bunny. Had the man not interceded immediately, the cat would have succeeded in killing the bunny. In an instant, the bunny sustained deep lacerations about her face, neck, and jaw. She was completely traumatized and so frightened she literally "shivered" and shut down.

The man brought her to the Sanctuary. It was immediately evident she needed veterinary care. The vet cleaned the wounds and prescribed an antibiotic as well as pain medication. Back at the Sanctuary, it was up to us to get the little bunny comfortable enough to begin eating. With the help of a motility drug, sub-Q fluids, and critical care formula syringe feeding every couple hours, the bunny began to eat on her own by Day 3. The worst was over. It was a "Wonder" she survived.

Several months later she was spayed. Because of her previous close call with death, kind Doc Hurlbert took the little bunny home with her for the night. The Sanctuary picked her up the following day. After an appropriate recuperation period, Wonder was introduced to Spots. The two became immediate friends and live happily together in Rabbitat I.



Sponsor Wonder as a gift or for yourself.

Your adoption fee of \$30.00 or more will help with the cost of her wellness checkup and spay which cost \$400.

A Night on the Town

It was an evening of glitz and glamor and all for a good cause. Or maybe we should say causes.

On the evening of Saturday, February 3, Rabbit Sanctuary volunteers donned their best bib and tucker to attend Auction for A Kaws, a bachelor and bachelorette auction. This evening of food and fun was designed to raise funds for local animal charities. And this year the Rabbit Sanctuary was one of the charities selected to benefit from this event!

We are very thankful to Keli Miller, who started this gala in 2010, for her support. When we approached her in 2017 and asked to be considered as a beneficiary, without hesitation she said "Yes!" It was gratifying to meet someone who understood the plight of domestic rabbits in need of rescue, appreciated the work we do, and was willing to help in a very meaningful way.

WHAM Bam!

In March, the Rabbit Sanctuary partnered with WHAM Auctions for its first-ever on-line auction to raise funds to support the rabbits in our care. Items were available for 7 days, and it was exciting to see the bids increase as the week ticked by. Our auction offered a wide array of interesting items from a race-run tire from Jeff Gordon's #24 to handwriting analysis to an air purifier to a will preparation. There was something for everyone! Our sincerest thanks to the following generous companies and individuals who donated items or services for our auction: Sam Adams, Anonymous, BI-LO, Erik Bogart, Funny Bunny Toy Company, Caroline Gilbert, Becky Hummell, Leith Petworks, Sharon Menze, Shannon Myers, Patrice Pruitte, Rabbit Air, Helene Robinson, Small Pet Select, Swamp Rabbit Café and Grocery, Trader Joe's, and Veronica Hall Winstead.

Going High Tech!

Well, sort of...at least for the Sanctuary.

As you know, since you're actually holding a copy, we publish a semi-annual newsletter. It's our primary communication tool for putting information in your hands regarding the rabbits in our care, our ongoing efforts, and noteworthy events. Unfortunately, a twice yearly print schedule is not an effective method for putting time-sensitive information before you quickly.

Included on the donation form in this newsletter is a space for you to enter your e-mail address. We ask you provide this even if you are not making a donation at this time. Information often has a finite shelf live. Having a more immediate way to communicate with you will allow us to get information to you before its expiration date. At times, reporting something after the fact is a missed opportunity. Being able to e-mail you will help us avoid this.

Please note: Your trust and privacy are very important to us. Your address will NOT be sold or used by anyone other than the Rabbit Sanctuary for Rabbit Sanctuary business. In addition, we promise to be prudent and not flood your inbox with messages whose contents do not warrant immediate communication.

New Board Members

Lorrie Brooks and Val Magin joined the sanctuary board on May 8.



Back row: Dale, Erik, Honey, Amos, Lynne, Chandler, Mary Front row: Becky, Caroline, Clark

Boy Scouts Visit

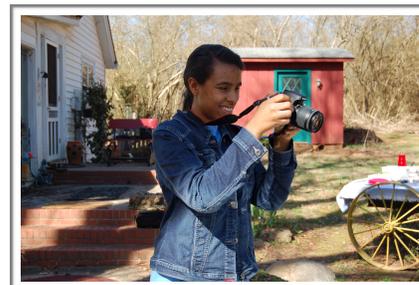
Low Country Boy Scout Troop #241 from Bluffton, SC visited the sanctuary in March.



Pictured with Caroline are: Andrew and Matthew Sherburne, and Thomas Smith

Sanctuary Documentary

Dynestee Fields, a junior at South Wesleyan University studying media and communications, visited to make a documentary about the sanctuary. See it on our website at www.rabbitsanctuaryinc.org.



Open House 2018

Our annual Picnic with the rabbits was held on March 30.

The Cost of Doing Business

No matter how you slice it, the cost of operating the sanctuary is high.

Though the sanctuary has no paid staff, it's still costly to maintain the Rabbitats, purchase feed, provide vet care, maintain tools and equipment, and keep the lights on!

Listed are some of the savings our volunteers contribute to the overall picture.

- The sanctuary has never had any paid staff.
- We have no groundskeeping costs. The grounds are kept in top shape by two dedicated volunteers, Deb & Michael Reuter, who also grow organic veggies in the rabbits' garden.
- The Rabbitats are cleaned weekly by four volunteers who come regardless of the weather or holidays! They maintain the cleanliness and safety of the rabbit territories. Their efforts keep the rabbits healthy.
- The daily routine which covers everything from feeding, haying, watering, and running the health care building, is carried out by Caroline. It is a 24/7 job that keeps her always on call. It's not possible to calculate the monetary savings of a person who has dedicated her life to caring for the rabbits.
- Every third Sunday a dedicated group of volunteers arrives to deep clean the Rabbitats, trim trees, work in the garden, dig graves, and tackle a long list of other odd jobs. Their efforts save the sanctuary from hiring outside help to get many of these jobs accomplished.
- Volunteers also do a lot of administrative work ranging from sanctuary correspondence to handling adoptions and training new volunteers. Our website was developed and is maintained by a volunteer. The newsletter, brochures, invoices, receipts and so on are also developed and produced through the efforts of volunteers. It really is an exhaustive amount of work that is cheerfully completed by a behind-the-scenes crew who care deeply about the sanctuary's mission.

However, not all jobs and services can be provided through the efforts of our volunteers...

- The sanctuary operates off of its own well. After 24 years of service, the well pump had to be replaced. The cost for a new pump and installation was \$2,500.
- The rabbits face an expense this fall as measures are taken to correct and control a water issue in Rabbitat II. Groundwater levels have risen in recent years due to the encroachment of housing developments that cause more run-off water during more frequent and heavier rains. As a result, puddles form in their territories. Assessments have been made and plans devised to correct the problem. The installation of a 125-foot French drain appears to be the best solution to help divert the water, per the engineer who assessed the job.
- Shade trees are vital to the comfort of the rabbits on hot summer days. The Rabbitats are protected from the sun's heat by an abundance of trees. However, the removal of trees that threaten their structural integrity has to be addressed.

Trees that are too close must come down to prevent damage to the buildings, the clogging of rain gutters, and the accumulation of debris on the roofs that will eventually weaken and rot them. Also, before the 125-foot French drain can be constructed the trees must come down. An estimate for this entire job has yet to be determined, but it is most certainly in the range of \$10,000.

There are always upkeep and repairs to be made to buildings, grounds, equipment, and the like. All projects are carefully evaluated by our board, with assessments and bids gathered from contractors before any work is started.

The spending of the rabbits' money is done with deference to the generous people like you who support the sanctuary.

Please give a donation of \$50 or more to help with the capital expenses facing the rabbits.

Your contributions are vital to the continuation of the sanctuary's mission.

Thank you for your generosity.

Nutrition 101 for Rabbits



Hay is the most important part of a rabbit's diet. Our bunnies munch on hay 24/7! It helps their teeth to wear normally and is good for digestion. Our rabbits consume about 1.5 bales of hay weekly! That's a lot of munching!

Fresh, uncooked vegetables like carrot tops, mustard greens, and kale may be offered daily. Keep in mind that a rabbit that has been fed commercial pellets only should be introduced to hay first and then veggies. Our bunnies enjoy fresh kale from our organic garden!



Ollie



Commercial rabbit chow has its place in the diet, but it is the least important component. It's high in calories and low in fiber and should not become the main source of nutrition. Too many pellets can lead to obesity and other related health problems. Our rabbits receive pellets in supplement to hay and fresh greens, about 1/4 cup per 5-pound rabbit daily.

Please visit our website to read "Feeding Rabbits for Optimal Health" by Dr. Cynthia K. Wheat to learn more about how to keep your rabbit in tip top shape!

Thank You New and Renewing Members

Includes donations given through June 11, 2018

Lisa Alleman
Carol Anderson
Carolyn Anderson, DVM
Jessica Atkins
Auction for a Kaws

Samantha Barnard
Lynn Barnett
Bruce & Sally Bauder
Betty Billingsley
Carol Bogdan
Barbara Bolt
Johanna Brager
Lorrie and Michael Brooks
Nicole Brown
Douglas Buffo
Amy Burris
Eric & Yvonne Butrick

Don & Eleanor Campbell
Kelly & Jason Cassandra
Teresa Cawley
Zbynek Chudej
Suzanne Chudejova
Laura Cruz

James Daniels
Regan Day
Joanne Deyoe
Julie Donath
Rosamund Downing
Joe Drews
Esther Dukes

Monica Edger
Laura Elder
Ron & Kari Ellison
Kaye Evatt

Cesar Filippi
Mary Finegan
Faye & Irving Fishman
Bunny Foley
Donna Fonseca

Faith Gabel
Vivian Garcia
Jenny Genone
Lee Ellen Gorman
Ronald & Ladonna Greiner
Rosie & Michael Griep
William & Brian Ground
April & Guy Guittar
Jenna & Tom Gutierrez

Margaret Hale
Mary Hanson
Ann Harris
Greg Hartley
Emily, Dan & Jolene Harvey
Dora Hazard
Doreen Heimlich
Evelyn Henry
Scot Henry
Christopher Hepler
Hepler Family
Patricia Hill, DVM
Dawn-Michelle Hiseley
Linda Hopkins
Beverly Huley
Becky Hummell
Dennis & Susan Hutchinson

Douglas Ionnatta
Shion & Punch Ishiguro

Cathy & Bill Jacobson
Franklin Julian
Freda Juralewicz

Vanessa Kahn
Tina Keene
Debra Keller
Beth & Jamie Kendall
Mary Ann Kiriakides
Byron & Barbara Knuth

Ladia Konz
Katsushi & Akiko Kosaka
Marilyn Krizansky
Katie LaPointe

Marilyn Lautenschlaeger
Renee & Landry Layson
Phillip Lee
Karen Leonard
Sonja Levine
Jane Lewis
Manuel Lopez
Mary Alice Lorick
Low Country Boy Scout Troop #241
Erin Luntey

Frank Machovec
Peter Mady
Diana Maggi
Val Magin
Dorothea Mayerchak
Marie Mead
Keli Miller
Elizabeth Miller-Welborn
Marion Moore
Karlene Moore
Katy & Tony Moore

Holly & Gordon Nason
Edward Nevera
Sharon & Tirzah Nichols

Patti Packer
Lillian Pais
Charlotte Palmer
Marilyn Patterson
Jill Pearson
Nate Peters
Philip Prince
Ron & Patrice Pruitte

Suzanne Raboy
Pat Reber
Jennifer Redfern

Cheryl Remsburg
Deb & Michael Reuter
Jim & Honey Robinson
Nadine Robson
Lynn & Michael Ross
Barbara Ruder

Lisa Sandler
Teri Sardella
David & Jane Schiraldi
Nancy & John Schuhrke
Lauren Shilling
Susan Shumpert
Sandi Smith
Eileen Snitzer
Mary Sparshott
Lee & Terry Spears
Monica Stone
Veronica Strauch
Charles Stroup, MD
Richard Strouse
Meili Swanson
Sue Swanson

Bethany & Errol Tisdale
Don Turner

Elaine & Eric Unger

Sharon & Lucio Valle
Nicio Vega
Christopher & Nancy Virgulak

Judy Waddell
Jane Waldmann
Carolyn Walker
Madelyn Waters
Tom & Betty Way
John & Beth Wehlitz
Rebecca Weider
Carey White
Susan Wood
Kathy & Mike Worsham
Loretta Wroble

Elizabeth Zimmerman
Ellen & Steffen Zinsser

In Honor of People

Sanctuary volunteers Jim & Honey Robinson and Tom & Betty Way

Michael & Debra Reuter By Sanctuary Rabbits

Lisa Sandler By Sanctuary Rabbits

Keli Miller By Sanctuary Rabbits

Jim Robinson By Sanctuary Rabbits

Mike & Kathy Worsham By Sanctuary Rabbits

Carol Bogdan & Reynaldo Matute By Sanctuary Rabbits

In Memory of People

Landry Lars Layson Renee Layson

Dr. Perry I. Lupo Monica Edger

Mike Smith The Sanctuary Rabbits

Dennell Sandoval Newhall Edward & Nora Nevera

In Honor of Rabbits

Alfie Landry Layson

Honey Bunny & White Lightning Ron & Kari Ellison

Narbie Jenny Genone

Ming Cat Clinic of Greenville

In Memory of Rabbits

Angel Bunnies Eric & Elaine Unger

Hopkins & Boo Terri Sardella

Gus, Roxy, Jack & Jenny Sharon & Tirzah Nichols

Cookie Man & Annie Lucio & Sharon Valle

Nugget Ysette & Jessica Rodriguez

Lilly Marilyn Patterson

Panchita Carol Bogdan & Reynaldo Matute

Gus, Iris, & Hops..... Lynn, Mike, Maddie, & Robert Ross

Isabel, Bosco, Clancy, Toby, Chance, Buffalo, Cocoa ... Patrice P.

Pumpkin Kitty Dorothea Mayerchak



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Simpsonville, SC 29680
rabbitsanctuaryinc.org

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: _____