

# RIVER'S WISH ANIMAL SANCTUARY

## & Thumpqua Rabbit Sanctuary



*Free at last! 50 rabbits get running room and a home for life.*



*The Best Friends truck*



*2 new arrivals*

## The Best Friends Rabbits arrive

By Kit Jagoda

On October 9th Best Friends Animal Sanctuary delivered 50 spayed, neutered and micro chipped bunnies rescued from a situation in Reno, Nevada. An individual was allowing unaltered rabbits to breed in her back yard and by the time Best Friends stepped in to help the rabbits the population was growing to 1,600. Over several months they spayed, neutered and treated these rabbits for medical needs and relocated them into rabbit rescue organizations and individual homes across the country and into Canada.

The Reno rabbits that journeyed here are very feral. There is a significant problem with people releasing domestic rabbits as this leads to dangerous situations for the rabbits and the eventual increase of population of the rabbits.

This past fall a person in Spokane was ordered by the city to 'get rid of' the rabbits running on his property and throughout the neighborhood. We assisted him with capture and relocation but it doesn't take long for more bunnies to appear from the woodpiles.

Please remember to spay and neuter all pets, including rabbits, to help stop the pet overpopulation of unwanted pets.



### Did you know?

- Altered rabbits live longer and are healthier.
- They make better companions, and have better litter box habits.
- Altered rabbits won't contribute to the problem of overpopulation of rabbits.

**Read more facts at**  
**[www.rabbit.org](http://www.rabbit.org)**

We strongly discourage the declawing of rabbits. Rabbits cannot retract their claws and use them continuously for traction while ambulating. As a result, declawing (which surgically removes the small bone attached to the claw) can lead to difficult and painful ambulation and conditions such as splay leg. Furthermore, the procedure requires suturing and bandaging which may be poorly tolerated and may result in the affected rabbit failing to eat normally. Anorexia may then lead to debilitating gastrointestinal problems.

We urge those with rabbits that dig or scratch excessively to instead perform regular nail trims and/or seek behavioral assistance in dealing with these problems.

**For information on proper care of rabbits visit  
[www.rabbit.org](http://www.rabbit.org) and [www.rabbitron.com](http://www.rabbitron.com)**



*Cassidy, a 6 year old mini lop came to us declawed on all four feet. At River's Wish, we agree with the House Rabbit Society's standing of never declawing a rabbit.*

## The Angel Bunny

by Mary Crowe Costello



Brodie came to us in the fall of 2005. He was no longer wanted by the teenage girl or her family, after housing him in a outdoor hutch for six years.

Already having 5 house rabbits, I intended to foster Brodie until I could find a suitable permanent home. But all that changed when I discovered that he was not only blind, but also deaf. Brodie badly needed a loving home where his special needs could be addressed, and had won my heart in a very short time.

Brodie developed other health problems, including seizures. In spite of it all, he was a sweet, affectionate rabbit and won the hearts of everyone who came to know him. Brodie passed away recently, but will always be in our hearts as our Angel Bunny.

## 2006 Campaign A Success

Tracy Martin

"Choose Chocolate" was the theme of the 2006 Easter Campaign. This campaign helped to spread the message that rabbits are a 10-year life commitment and not just a seasonal Easter amusement.

With generous donations from many of you we were able to acquire 3 billboards on Sprague and one on the Northside just off Division in Spokane. The 4 Inlander ads ran consecutively for an entire month. Our message was seen by thousands of commuters and readers in the Inland Northwest. We know our campaign has made an impact as many people have contacted us directly and visited the [rabbitron.com](http://rabbitron.com) website for more information on rabbit care.

We would like to thank all of you who were able to contribute to this worthwhile campaign. Bruce Andre took the beautiful photographs for the ads, Nick Murto at Seven2 and Mastery Sheets contributed to make the [rabbitron.com](http://rabbitron.com) informational website a reality. And Tracy Martin designed the ads and placed the media. As well as several individual donors (see list on back page) helped make this campaign a reality. Thank you everyone for helping to make the '06 campaign a great success!



2006 Billboard



One of the Inlander ads

## You can help spread the word

We hope to keep our campaign growing every year and to spread our message to Idaho as well as expand our media coverage in Spokane. If you can contribute funds or services to help us spread the word please fill out and send the donation form included in this newsletter or contact Tracy Martin at [rabbitron@comcast.net](mailto:rabbitron@comcast.net).



*Leisel and Tucker*

**For more information on how you can adopt or help a horse in need, go to [www.columbiabasinequinerescue.org](http://www.columbiabasinequinerescue.org)**

Last winter four horses from Columbia Basin Equine Rescue came to River's Wish Sanctuary. Each of these healthy young horses was headed to slaughter. Two were pregnant!

Kestrel, a quarter horse cross had a filly on May 5th and we named her Graciela. One month later Leisel, a beautiful Belgian and a former pmu mare gave birth to a colt. His name is Tucker. We believe he is sired by a Thoroughbred. This cross is known as a "sport horse" because they are very athletic, large and have gentle dispositions. Tucker is living up to expectations.

Ben and Paloma are the other Columbia Basin rescues. Ben is a very handsome Belgian gelding. He arrived with squamous cell carcinoma in both eyes. Thanks to Mount Spokane Veterinary Hospital and Dr. Bill Yakely, Ben is doing fine now.

Paloma is a beautiful black Percheron. She was also a PMU mare but had not been bred. She has had several months of training and is learning to trust people but is still a little shy. It is hard to imagine that these magnificent animals were very close to going to slaughter.

The sad fact is the majority of horses destined for slaughter are healthy and are purchased at livestock auctions and sales. The horse slaughter industry is brutal. Nearly 100,000 horses are slaughtered in the U.S. each year. There are three horse slaughter plants in the U.S. and all are foreign owned. There are also thousands of horses transported across the border to Canada for slaughter. Their flesh is shipped to Asia and Europe for human consumption.

The horses experience fear and suffering before being slaughtered, whether this be during transport or at the slaughter house. Many owners have no idea that this is what their once beloved horse is facing when placed into the wrong hands.

## Long-Legged Lagomorphs

by Mary Crowe Costello

Rabbits, hares, and pikas are all members of the Mammalian Order Lagomorpha. Lagomorphs have more traits in common with each other than they do with other mammals. For example, rabbits are more closely related to pikas than to chinchillas which are members of the Mammalian Order Rodentia. Lagomorphs are characterized by the presence of two incisors on each side of their upper jaw, unlike rodents that only have one set on either side in the upper jaw.

The scientific name of the domestic rabbit is *Oryctolagus cuniculus*. Domestic rabbits are descended from the European Rabbit and have been domesticated for over 2000 years. Relatives of the European Rabbit and the domestic rabbit include wild cottontail rabbits, of which there are several species, and hares, including Snowshoe or Varying Hares, Desert Hares, and Blacktail Jackrabbits which are actually hares.

Although closely related, rabbits and hares differ in several ways. Hares are born fully furred with their eyes open, and can move about on their own after birth. Hares make no nests for their young. Rabbits are born furless and blind and require an extended period of time to mature in a nest constructed by the mother. Not surprisingly, hares have longer gestation periods as their young are more fully developed at birth.

Domestic rabbits cannot interbreed with our native rabbit species, but can interbreed with the European rabbit from which they are descended. Likewise, rabbits and hares cannot interbreed.



**Thank you all so much!**

All Creatures Veterinary Clinic  
Animal Advocates  
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Beula Morgan Spay & Neuter Clinic  
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House Rabbit Society President  
Spokane Humane Society Staff

Sue Brennen Rabbit Haven  
Suzanne Leedy  
Suzanne Seifert  
Tracy Martin  
Willy Smith  
WSU

**Thank you for contributing to our 2006 Rabbit Outreach Campaign:**

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Mary & Jim Costello  
Mountain Empire Veterinary Services  
Jamie & Andy Smith  
Erik & Nancy Hinkle  
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Dan & Wendy Aeschliman  
Max Martin

River's Wish Animal Sanctuary and Thumpqua are a non-profit, 501 (c) 3 organization founded in 2004. It is home to dogs, cats, goats, sheep, horses and donkeys, and rabbits which is the primary focus of the sanctuary.

**For more information visit [www.riverswishanimalsanctuary.org](http://www.riverswishanimalsanctuary.org)**

**Kit Jagoda** President  
**Brooke Evans DVM** Vice President  
**Mary Costello** Treasurer  
**Diana Magers** Secretary  
**Tracy Martin** Education Facilitator

**You can,  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

**2007 PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND**

Every Easter hundreds of rabbits are sold as Easter pets in the Spokane and Coeur D'Alene area. And every year, many of those rabbits end up abandoned in local shelters, streets or neglected in backyard hutches. We at Rabbitron and Thumpqua Sanctuary, intend to help change that. We believe that with public awareness and through education we can make a difference. This year we plan to continue the public education campaign but we need your help.

Advertising is expensive, so we are asking you to help. We purchase space on local billboards and Inlander ads to help spread the message to think twice before impulse buying a rabbit for Easter. This can make a great difference in the lives of existing and future "Easter" rabbits. Please send what you can. Any contribution you make will go directly to the campaign fund and help reach people who directly affect the lives of rabbits.

clip & send

**CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAUSE: help rabbits and it's tax deductible!**

Please make your checks out to River's Wish Animal Sanctuary

**Billboard: \$500**

**Inlander ad: \$350**

**Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_

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Send your contribution to:  
River's Wish Public Education Fund  
c/o Tracy Martin  
1618 West Wilson,  
Spokane, WA 99201