

# NTRS Newsletter

Summer 2007

Volume 12, Issue 2

WE  
CAN  
NOT DO  
GREAT  
THINGS

ONLY  
SMALL  
THINGS  
WITH  
GREAT  
LOVE

MOTHER  
THERESA

## In Loving Memory Of Jerry Yule

Ask Barb Yule how she started rescuing rabbits and the story always starts with "Well it's really my husband Jerry's doing." Jerry came home from running errands many years ago and told Barb of lonely little rabbit he saw who needed help. That day Jerry and Barb Yule rescued the first of many rabbits who needed them. The rest is a 20 year history where Barb and Jerry Yule have run a rabbit sanctuary from their loving home. Jerry not only loved Barb madly, he loved the rabbits very much and helped in their care and support throughout the years.

Jerry Yule left us in the early hours of July 13, 2007. Jerry was a composer in Hollywood for many years, and a well-known pianist in the California, Las Vegas, and



**Jerry Yule**

Dallas arts communities.

While this world is a duller place without Jerry and his music, the Rainbow Bridge is now brightened with his beautiful piano music. Boomer and all of the animals' ears are joyful to hear Jerry play and hear the stories of how the Sanctuary saved so many lives. Jerry can entertain them with stories of his youth and his Hollywood days. Barb and

Jerry were a part of the entertainment world together for some number of years, and Jerry continued on by playing his music in upscale restaurants and clubs in Dallas.

For those of us who are often at the Sanctuary, we have lost a friend. Barb has lost her husband, partner, friend, and love. Jerry will be greatly missed here, yet warmly welcomed at the Rainbow Bridge by the many lives he has touched.

Jerry leaves behind four sons, Michael, Jeremy, Kenneth, and Shaun, and 7 grandchildren, as well as the pillar of his strength, his Australian-born wife, Barbara.

*To read more on Jerry's life please visit [www.jerryule.com](http://www.jerryule.com)*

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# Non-Pelleted Diets in Rabbits The Key to Better Bunny Health

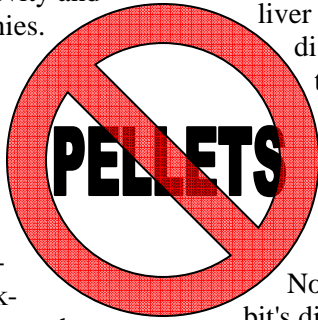
By Dr. Suz A. Whitman D.V.M

In years past, the rabbit industry has focused on the breeding animal and rabbitry environment, emphasizing economics and efficiency. Unfortunately, the published information on rabbits often still touts the breeder and business industry's view point, which we now know is not aimed toward the longevity and good health we strive for in our pet bunnies.

We spay and neuter our pet bunnies to save them from the very common problems of reproductive system cancer and aggressive "bad bunny" behavior, but we seem to have a long way to go in the rabbit world to educate owners about how a rabbit's gastrointestinal tract functions! Even without any physiology background though, most Americans know more than they think they know about rabbits. Try focusing for a moment on the wild rabbit, which has evolved to live in harmony with its environment and its intestinal tract: The rabbit forages all day and night, nearly 24 hours a day! A mother rabbit returns to the nest to feed the babies at about 5 a.m., but in order to stay healthy herself, she must get back out and eat more greenery as soon as those kids are fed! Think about what she is eating: fibrous green plants, some vegetables stolen from a garden, clover, dandelions. If she lives near a farm with crops, her diet may include some grains; but if she is in a grain environment, her gut is used to that on a regular basis, and the grains don't come and go abruptly. Her greenery is consistent too- she doesn't have a gas-former like Bok Choy in a large amount one day, and a stack of clover the next. Instead, she gets a pretty consistent mix of the foliage in her specific area; there is variety, but it is regular variety.

We can simply take this wild bunny model, view it as a pet, and build a healthy diet for our own rabbits. Only a few new rules apply, because our buns are spayed and neutered, which alters their calcium needs (no lactation) and their calorie needs (no mating energy or pregnancy drain on nutrition). If we saturate our rabbit's diet with spinach and alfalfa, and they are not young, growing bunnies or lactating

bunnies, then that excess calcium is going to be excreted through the urinary tract and can cause "sludgy bladder disease". If we overload the calories by using grains or alfalfa pellets in our pampered, low-calorie-burning bunnies, then the extra fat is going to be deposited in the liver and cause a serious illness known as "fatty liver disease" or hepatic lipidosis. Remember those two issues, calcium and calories, and you will be forced to eliminate alfalfa-based pellets from your rabbit's diet, and will have to resist the urge to feed spinach, kale, and dandelion greens (also high in calcium).



Now think about the consistency of the wild rabbit's diet, and put that knowledge into the pet rabbit's diet regimen: The wild rabbit forages a set territory; if clover predominates in one rabbit's territory, dandelions may predominate in another rabbit's area. (This is of particular importance in wildlife rehabilitation! Notice the foliage where the injured rabbit was found, and try to duplicate that specific diet in rehab.). Also, for the wild bunny, season changes are gradual. In the fall, the greenery gradually becomes drier and dry greens are supplemented with now-harvested field corn, wheat, and grains. Early in the fall, the greenery/grain mix is still more greenery; later, there will be more grain and less greenery in the blend. **BUT THE CHANGE WAS GRADUAL!** It occurred over several weeks!

Gradual change is an important and critical issue for rabbits, because their digestion is completely unlike that of humans. Their intestinal tract is filled with bacteria that are the essential element of their food processing. Unlike humans, dogs, and cats, rabbits do not depend on their pancreas to break down the food they eat into its simpler components for absorption into the bloodstream. Instead, rabbits depend on their "bacterial flora", a group of bacteria individually tailored to each rabbit's diet, to break down their intestinal contents. The bacteria are a mix of many different types- some are specific for breaking down one sort of carbohydrate, and others are specific for another sort. Some only digest proteins. The bacterial flora of each rabbit develops and changes to accommo-

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Clicker Training Your Rabbit

by Joan Orr and Teresa Lewin



Jump! Spin!  
Come when you call – YES you can train your rabbit to do these things and beyond. More than just wriggling noses and long ears, rabbits go way beyond cute and are intelligent

fun-loving pets.

Clicker training is a marker-based system of teaching in which a click sound is used to tell the rabbit, “Yes – that was right!”. The precision and consistency of the click sound make this a far superior approach to the use of food without a marker or to the use of just a verbal marker (such as “good” or “yes”). The click is always followed closely with a food treat so that the rabbit comes to associate the click with something desirable. Soon the click becomes a positive reinforcer for the rabbit and it will begin to try to elicit a click and treat from you. There is no scolding, correction or punishment in clicker training. Mistakes are simply ignored.

Training is fun for you and your bun and helps to develop a bond between human and animal. Finding food, creating homes and staying safe all require various activities and problem solving, most of which are not required of a rabbit living in a cage or a human house. By providing training sessions for your bunny you are allowing him to use his natural abilities and providing mental and physical stimulation. This will contribute to a happier life for your pet. Rabbits can have lots of fun doing tricks, but if you are not interested in tricks, you can use clicker training to teach your bunny to be more confident and learn useful and even potentially life-saving skills such as coming when called, going back to his cage on cue, cooperating with nail clipping, getting into a basket or carrier and eating when he is ill. Shelter rabbits can benefit from clicker training since they can be taught to come happily to the front of their cages and interact with potential adopters, thus making them more adoptable.

## Getting Started

To begin with clicker training you need a clicker and treats that your rabbit loves. Be sure that the rabbit has free access to ample hay and fresh water at all times. The best treats to use for clicker training are small and able to be consumed quickly. Give only a very small amount of sweet or new foods at one time. Wait for the rabbit to do something, take a step, look at you, move a paw... any movement and then click and treat. The click must occur at the exact moment that the bunny performs the movement that is being marked. A few short sessions may be required before the rabbit seems to get the idea. Soon the rabbit will try to repeat behaviors that earned a click and a treat and the game is on!

## Adding a Cue

A cue tells the rabbit what you want it to do in order to receive the click and treat. This can be a word or a hand signal. Once a rabbit is reliably offering a behavior, a cue can be added at the same time as the behavior is happening. For example if you have placed a

*(Continued on page 7)*

*Lori's Loving  
Pet Sitting*

*Lori Thames*  
*Richardson, Texas 75082*  
*972.234.3303*

[www.lorislovingpetsitting.com](http://www.lorislovingpetsitting.com)

**Now Carrying Bags on Board**  
Doggie Pick up Bags at  
[www.petpawssessions.com](http://www.petpawssessions.com)



## When It's Time to Say Goodbye!

One of the toughest things we ever have to face is euthanizing a beloved companion animal. No matter whether it is a rabbit, cat, dog, or even a tiny critter for that matter, it is a heart wrenching decision.

When is it time? How do you face it? and most importantly, How is it done? It is never easy no matter how many times you may go through euthanization.

A discussion with your veterinarian should be your first step. Quality of life is the foundation that underlies all other decisions. If your rabbit is young and there is a possibility that extensive surgery MIGHT save his/her life you have several considerations. How much pain and discomfort is involved in saving the life. If it was you, would you want to go through the same type of surgery/treatment. Is the prognosis very good or just OK. If you have a clear guarantee that once the pain is over the rabbit will be healthy and happy then there is a reward for the suffering. If your veterinarian can not tell you that there is at least a 60-40 chance of success, then I think you need to consider how much pain is too much.

Euthanasia is most often an issue with older rabbits. It is difficult to see your beloved companion starting to fail, so what do you do? How do you know it is time? I feel I am somewhat of an expert in this area because it usually falls to me to make this decision for the sanctuary bunnies. I agonize over it just as you will. I have found that most veterinarians will never say "Now is the time". They will not usually make the decision for

you unless it is so apparent that it leaves no other decision.

Look to these things for your answer.

**1. Is the rabbit still eating?** Older rabbits may eat less, so the question is whether your rabbit is eating substantially less. Loss of appetite is one of the first signs of illness, or a desire to die.

**2. Is the rabbit still happy to see you?** When your rabbit sits in the cage and is non-responsive, faces into the corner or does not want to be with you, maybe he is letting go.

**3. Does the rabbit still enjoy being held and petted?**

**4. Is the rabbit still ambulatory?** Many rabbits lose the use of their legs from accidents, from strokes, or arthritis. This makes it difficult to keep the rabbit clean. We have resorted to diapers, daily washing, and diaper rash treatments for disabled rabbits. If the rabbit is still eating and enjoying being petted and you can cope with the cleaning then it is possible for an older bunny to live fairly comfortably in this manner.

There are several methods used to euthanize companion animals. I suggest you discuss exactly how this will be done so you can be prepared. I personally insist the rabbit be sedated first before the fatal shot is given. Think of it as a three step process:

1. First the rabbit is relaxed with an injection of Torbugesic and/or other drugs that are used before general surgery.
2. Then a gas mask until they are sedated as they would be for surgery. This can be easily done by wrapping him in a towel and hold-

ing him on the table where you can still talk to him as he goes under. The Veterinarian will hold the gas mask up close to his face and he simply will fall asleep with your voice in his ears. (Some veterinarians want to put the rabbit in a box that is for "gassing down". I find this more stressful for the rabbit as sometimes they get agitated and hold their breath.)

3. Once the bunny is totally sedated, the leg can easily be shaved and the fatal injection administered. It is immediate. Sometimes the fatal injection is given directly into the heart and again, if the rabbit is totally asleep this is quick and painless.

Never allow a veterinarian to euthanize your companion animal without total sedation, this means that they are asleep. You have the right to refuse euthanization if it is not done in a manner that you are comfortable with. Stand your ground, even if it means you go to a different veterinarian.



Should you be there? Yes, I feel you owe this to your friend. Your beloved fur companion is counting on you to find the courage to help him one more time. It is a comfort to know that proper euthanization is peaceful, that your rabbit felt your presence and heard your voice when going to sleep for the last time.

Yes, it is tough, yes you will cry, but this is the ultimate gift of love.

## Non-Pelleted Diets in Rabbits continued

(Continued from page 2)

date its needs, based on what the bunny eats. However, bacteria cannot multiply and reproduce themselves instantly; the contents of the gut must change slightly, and then the bacterial multiplication can adjust slightly. A change that is too sudden, as we often see occur in pet bunnies when an owner discovers that his pet loves bananas and can't resist giving 1/3 of the fruit, becomes life threatening, causing a condition we call endotoxemia.

This emergency occurs because an intestine full of bacteria aimed at digesting romaine lettuce and parsley, just got blasted with fructose (a sugar) from banana.

The romaine/parsley bacteria just got murdered (death by drowning in sugar), and there are no bacteria present yet in this bunny to handle fructose, since this is his first banana encounter. Therefore, the intestine shuts down, toxins from intestinal waste products enter the bloodstream, and the rabbit (within a few hours) is in shock and dying. I am not saying here that bananas kill rabbits; the point is that the banana bacteria can be harvested by introducing a small piece of banana DAILY over several weeks. The same is true for any diet change involving a pellet change or a new veggie or treat.

Now that we have the principles down, let's do an "Ideal Bunny Diet Plan" based on this knowledge that the wild rabbit has imparted:

First, minimize calcium-containing

products such as spinach, kale, alfalfa, dandelions, and alfalfa-based pellets.

If you can afford the vegetables to provide a veggie pile the size of your rabbit, every single day, then your rabbit has no need for pellets at all. **RE-MEMBER** to increase from a single piece of a veggie to a big pile of veggies gradually, and to add new veggies to the mix a little piece at a time. As you are making these changes, gradually taper the amount of pellets provided, and be sure you have a healthy supply of timothy hay available so that your bunny never runs out of something to eat. (An empty intestine "starves" bacteria, and kills them). I have never seen a rabbit not like Oxbow timothy hay (you can find it by going to [www.oxbowhay.com](http://www.oxbowhay.com)), but many bunnies won't eat the brown, chopped timothy that is carried in the pet stores.

When you select your vegetables, remember that some veggies are rich in vitamin A, some are rich in vitamin D, etc., so select a variety. Include at least one Vitamin A veggie in the mix daily; these include: green leaf lettuce, parsley, romaine lettuce, broccoli, carrot tops, and endive.

If your finances do not allow the purchase of so many veggies (my bunnies cost me \$25 / week in veggies alone!), then you can provide timothy hay, the new timothy-based pellets (which I have only seen produced by Oxbow Pet Products), and a smaller amount of veggies daily.

Again, when you serve these veggies, try to make it be a consistent mix with no sudden jolts to a new vegetable, and try to include a vitamin A veggie every day.



Some of the benefits of following this high fiber, low/no pellet diet for the rabbit are:

- 1) Fewer hairball-related illnesses because the increased fiber carries the hair from the stomach as it moves through the intestinal tract.
- 2) Fewer problems with obesity due to high carbohydrate/high calorie diets, which then leads to liver disease.
- 3) Fewer bladder/urinary tract infections and obstruction due to an overload of calcium in the diet.

Whereas the average life expectancy of a rabbit in a breeding facility is 3 years, the pet rabbit often lives to be 8-12 years old due to spaying/neutering, and a proper diet high in fiber and vitamins!

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**Oxbow hay is available at NTRS every Saturday between 10am and 2pm. See additional items in our Bunny Shop on page 8**

## UPDATE ON THE TYLER RABBITS

We would like to thank all of you who donated money to help rescue the Tyler rabbits. All 64 rabbits were rescued. Many rabbits required expensive medical treatment. We are pleased to announce that all 64 have been spayed/neutered and 24 of the Tyler rabbits have already been adopted.



LOLO was adopted by Erin and Audri after they helped NTRS rescue all 64 Tyler rabbits. Now Lolo enjoys reading the NTRS newsletter and checking out her siblings Pumpkin and Qbert



Flower was one of the Tyler rabbits who came to us with the sneezies. Flower is on the mend and was adopted to be Maverick Haltom's leading lady. They are still in the courtship phase but as you see here they make a stunning couple.

NTRS is still looking for homes for all of the rabbits in our care including the remaining 40 Tyler rabbits. If you have room for another fabulous fur-kid or your rabbit needs a friend, email [ntrs\\_tx@yahoo.com](mailto:ntrs_tx@yahoo.com) to setup a bunny date.

### Bunnyz Boarding with Barbara

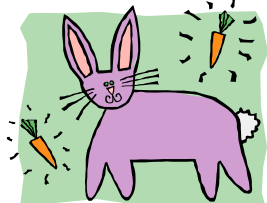
NTRS offers expert pet boarding services for your rabbits. You can go on vacation feeling sure that your rabbits are getting the best in care, food and accommodations.

The cost is \$10/day per rabbit for a cage in the sanctuary and \$15 in the boarding room.

This less expensive than most boarding prices and you know your rabbit is with the people who care.

Please make holiday reservations in advance. Space is limited.

For reservations:  
Call Barb: 972-494-1994



**Pepper Square Pet Clinic**  
 14902 Preston Rd  
 Dallas, TX 75240  
 (972) 386-9688

**Dr. Loretta Pantenburg, DVM**

# Clicker Training Your Rabbit Continued

(Continued from page 3)

low jump between the rabbit and its litter box and the rabbit jumps over the jump in order to get to the box, you can click during the jump (and treat when the rabbit lands) to indicate that this is desired behavior. When the jumping is happening reliably you can start saying the word “jump” as the rabbit jumps and then before the jump. Now you have a rabbit that jumps in response to the verbal cue “jump” and you can begin to make the jumps higher or longer or add more jumps to the sequence.

### Touch a Target

You can teach a rabbit to touch and then follow a target (a ping pong ball on the end of a pen for example). Hold the target in the vicinity of the rabbit and click/treat for looking at the target, then for any movement in the direction of the target, then for actually touching the target with its nose. This incremental building of a behavior one small step at a time is called shaping. Soon the rabbit will follow the target and you can use this to lead him and



to teach other things such as come when called, go into or come out of his cage and get into a basket.

### Fading the Clicker and Treats

Every time the rabbit hears a click it must receive a treat. This establishes a bond of trust. It is not necessary to use the clicker forever, though. Once a behavior has been learned and put on cue, the click/treat can be faded by using it less frequently and then only intermittently to keep the behavior strong. You will simply be amazed how smart your bunny is!

### Sidebar: Tips for Success

Be sure rabbit is healthy, is receiving adequate nutrition and has free access to hay and water at all times in its condo. Use good treats – the reward must be more interesting to the rabbit than distractions in the environment. Be patient – allow the rabbit ample time and opportunity to explore the training area (this may take more than one session). Provide the rabbit with a comfort zone – a non-slip mat and litter box and perhaps even a covered box where it can hide if necessary.

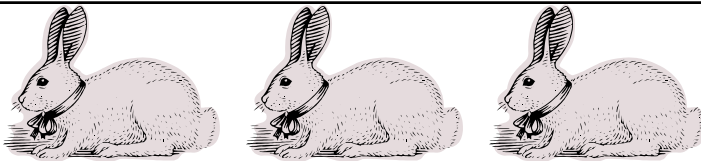
Click and treat in the cage at first if the rabbit is nervous on the outside. Work in a low distraction environment at first – use barriers and remove anything that you do not want the rabbit to investigate. Keep sessions short – 5 minutes is plenty at first. Rabbits are easily bored – repeat one thing only a few times per session.

Use several different types of treats in each session and reserve special treats only for training. Use jackpots – larger or special treats to acknowledge especially good performance.

### Territorial Rabbits

At BUNS we have found that clicker training really helps cage territorial rabbits. I will see if I can give them a treat through the cage wire and then start clicking and treating with the cage door closed at first. You can start target training through the wire and once the rabbit is

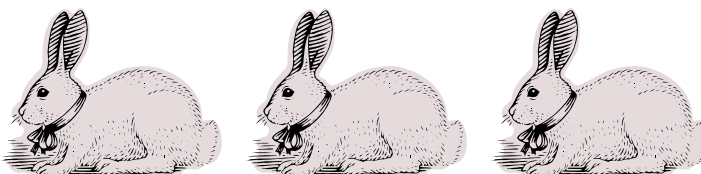
(Continued on page 8)



## Dr. Effie Giannopoulos

Dr. Effie has supported NTRS through her amazing medical care and spay/neuter surgeries for the sanctuary rabbits. A four paws salute to Dr. Effie Giannopoulos.

City Vet  
2732 Oak Lawn Ave  
Dallas, TX 75219  
(214) 219-2838



## Clicker Training Continued

(Continued from page 7)

enjoying the game, open the door a crack and start presenting the target through the open door. Watch for rabbits that pounce on the target with their ears pinned back. You might not want to click that behavior too often. If the rabbit attacks the target I will wait for it's ears to come forward and click "happy ears". It works like a charm.

After the rabbit is calmly touching the target in the cage, you can try using your hand as a target (wear gloves if necessary). The rabbit can't be attacking your hand if it is calmly touching it as a

target so you have trained an alternative to attack. We have one rabbit at the shelter that needs to work on this weekly or she seems to go back to attack mode. I'm not sure what the other volunteers are doing with her though. If you can show some of the other volunteers your technique and try to be consistent you should be able to train these rabbits to present for a nose rub instead of attacking when a hand enters their cage.

### Sidebar – Favorite treats

Raisins (max 3 per day)  
Carrots (max 3 inches per day)  
Romaine lettuce  
Dandelion leaves  
Parsley

Timothy hay pellets  
Banana (max 1 inch per day)  
Apple (max 10 bites per day)



### Resources

[www.clickerbunny.com](http://www.clickerbunny.com) – articles, videos and other information about rabbit clicker training

Clicker Bunny and Critters Yahoo list - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/clickerbunnyandcritters/>

House Rabbit Society: [www.rabbit.org](http://www.rabbit.org) – information about care and feeding

Carrot Café: [www.carrotcafe.com](http://www.carrotcafe.com) – detailed information about feeding and nutrition

The Language of Lagomorphs: [www.muridae.com/rabbits/rabbittalk.html](http://www.muridae.com/rabbits/rabbittalk.html) - fascinating information about rabbit body language

### Joan and Teresa Bio

Joan and Teresa are the co-creators of the Doggone Crazy! Board game and Clicker Puppy training DVD ([www.doggonecrazy.ca](http://www.doggonecrazy.ca)), co-founders of Doggone Safe ([www.doggonesafe.com](http://www.doggonesafe.com)) and co-authors of the newly published book, "Getting Started: Clicking with Your Rabbit" ([www.clickerbunny.com](http://www.clickerbunny.com)). Teresa offers consulting and workshop services to shelters and rabbit clubs wishing to implement clicker training programs.

## One Hop Bunny Shop

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| HOPPER HIDEAWAY     | \$20      |
| PORTABLE PLAY PEN   | \$35.00   |
| WILLOW TUNNEL md/lg | \$18/\$24 |
| COTTON TAIL COTTAGE | \$17.00   |
| RESTING BOARD       | \$10.00   |
| NAIL CLIPPERS       | \$10.00   |
| ZOOM GROOM          | \$10.00   |
| TIMOTHY PELLETS     | \$10.00   |
| TIMOTHY HAY bag/box | \$10/\$39 |

Items are on sale on Saturdays and at the Holiday Open House, *see page 10*.

**NEW** : NTRS now carries the Busy Bunny line of Willow Products, including Willow Tents and Tunnels, willow chew rings and baskets as well as new Willow Hay racks.

NTRS sells quality timothy, alfalfa and gourmet hay by both the bag and the 25lb box. NTRS hay prices are much less expensive than the low-quality hay found in pet supply stores or ordering online.

**Cottontail Cottages** can be ordered from NTRS for \$17 each. These cottages are the perfect, safe playground for your buns.

Please email us ahead of time so we can confirm your order is in stock. **[ntrs\\_tx@yahoo.com](mailto:ntrs_tx@yahoo.com)**



## LATSON PHOTOGRAPHY THANK YOU!

NTRS would like to thank Latson Photography for hosting a great fundraiser. Professional photos were taken of members and their pets and proceeds went to benefit the rabbits.



**Latson Photography**  
(214) 837-8780  
www.latsonphoto.com  
jerry@latsonphoto.com



Search the web with [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and money from Yahoo advertisers will go to the North Texas Rabbit Sanctuary.

Just use [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) (Powered By Yahoo) instead of your standard search engine and for every search, money gets donated to the rabbits. Download the GoodSearch toolbar or make goodsearch.com your home page. Select North Texas Rabbit Sanctuary as your charity and you're set to search.

There is no easier way to earn money for the rabbits and there is no cost to you.

## WARNING!

### SUMMER , FALL, WINTER AND SPRING: KEEP YOUR RABBIT INDOORS.

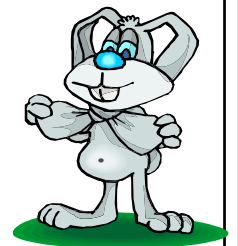
Just a reminder from the North Texas Rabbit Sanctuary. Keep those spoiled bunnies indoors and out of the elements. It can take less than 30 minutes of being outside for your rabbit to be seriously injured or killed. Between the elements, insects and predators, rabbits are at extreme risk just being put outside to play. To avoid exposure to fly-strike, warbles, hawks and other dangers give your rabbit plenty of exercise time INDOORS in a bunny proofed area of your house. We may sound like a broken record but after 14 years of severely hurt rabbits, we want to make sure everyone remembers your fur kid is domesticated and does not need to be let outside to play.

### Sponsor a Bunny Make a Difference for 14 Cents a Day

For your gift of just \$.14 a day , \$50 a year, you can sponsor a wonderful NTRS bunny. The money will go to food, shelter, vet bills and adoption campaigns for the rabbits here at the sanctuary.

You will receive a letter from your bunny, including a photo and general information, quarterly updates on the rabbit's well-being and notification when your rabbit is adopted. Send your \$50 donation to NTRS in the enclosed envelope or at [www.nt.rs.org/donations.htm](http://www.nt.rs.org/donations.htm) . Specify Sponsorship Program on the memo section of your check.

*The bunnies thank you.*



# PET NOT SO SMART!



As many of you know PetSmart has joined the ranks of PetCo in their disregard for domestic rabbits. PetSmart has started a trial of selling purpose-bred Netherland Dwarf rabbits in their

stores. Rabbits are the third most abandoned pet to city shelters. PetSmart selling purpose-bred rabbits instead of promoting adoption as they do with dogs and cats will only increase these numbers.

The trial was originally to include 40 stores. Due to the outraged response, they limited their trial to the existing 25 stores. This is a small concession but it shows that your voice is being heard.

If you have not contacted PetSmart, please contact them and tell them that you will NOT patron their store or website until they stop the trial and agree to stop selling rabbits.

If you have already contacted PetSmart, please write a follow-up letter. The initial response is always impressive but we must keep the pressure up and remind them that their policy is unacceptable.

When you contact PetSmart, state how many animals are in your household, what breeds and approximately how much money you spend at PetSmart per year. PetSmart stated in an interview on NPR that they are doing this because "rabbits are popular pets". Dogs and cats are also popular pets but they refuse to sell them because they recognize the over-population problem for shelters. They have always claimed to support animals above profit, however they are not living up to this promise.

You can also help by visiting your local PetSmart and speaking directly to the store manager. Tell them that you will no longer be shopping at their store because of the trial and decision to sell rabbits.

**PetSmart Contact Information:**

PetSmart, Inc.  
 19601 North 27th Avenue  
 Phoenix, AZ 85027  
 Email: corpcommunications@ssg.petsmart.com  
 Phone: (800) 738-1385  
 Fax: (623) 580-6502

**ALTERNATE PLACES  
 TO BUY PET SUPPLIES**

NTRS carries all the major rabbit supplies you may need for your rabbit. However for litter and supplies for the other fur-kids in your household we recommend:

**Canine Commissary: They will special order**

11504 Garland Road  
 Dallas, TX 75218  
 214-324-3900

6322 East Mockingbird Lane  
 Dallas, TX 75214  
 214-821-7700

1301 Custer Road  
 Plano, TX 75075  
 972-985-3900

**Pet Supplies Plus:**

6060 East Mockingbird Road  
 Dallas, TX 75206

4100 Legacy Suite 402  
 Plano, TX 75024

**North Texas Rabbit Sanctuary  
 Membership Application**

Associate Member     \$15.00  
 Other Donation     \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send To:**  
 North Texas Rabbit Sanctuary  
 c/o Cathy Kelly, Treasurer  
 9301 Moss Farm Lane  
 Dallas, TX 75243

**www.ntrs.org**

NTRS is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to the domestic rabbit.

## Rabbit Medical Seminar with Dr. Effie Giannopoulos DVM



Join Dr. Effie and NTRS for a special medical event. Learn about common rabbit illnesses, how to identify symptoms and common treatments.

Topics will include:

**GI Stasis**

**Head Tilt**

**Bladder Issues**

**Respiratory Infections**

**Dental Disease**

**Question/Answer Session**

**Emergency Medical Kits** will be for sale at this event for \$20. The kits include emergency supplies you may need to get a sick rabbit through the night before you can make it to the vet.

A **\$10 donation** per family is appreciated.

*This event is for humans only.  
Please leave your rabbits at home.*

**Carpenter Park Recreation Center**  
**6701 Coit Road Plano, TX**  
**Sunday October 21, 2007**  
**2 pm to 4pm**



## NTRS HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

**SAVE THE DATE! DECEMBER 2, 2007**

**For the bunnies:** Hay, playpens, Hopper Hideaways, Busy Bunny toys and more will be for sale! *Holiday Baskets* full of bunny toys and treats will be for sale for \$15.

**1013 Lesa Lane**  
**Garland, TX 75042**  
**December 2, 2007**

**1 pm to 4pm**

There will also be lots of bunny themed items for your favorite bunny lover. This is a great opportunity to pick up some fabulous Christmas gifts and help the rabbits all at the same time.

# NTRS Newsletter

North Texas Rabbit Sanctuary  
1013 Lesa Ln  
Garland, TX 75042

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