

The Canadian Rabbit Hopping Club



January-February 2011 - Volume 1, Issue 1



Welcome to the 1st edition of the new C.R.H.C. Newsletter!

Pictured above are the two founding bunnies that started it all!

Jeremiah & Willow

Visit us @ <http://www.CanadianRabbitHoppingClub.com>



Welcome to the first edition of the C.R.H.C. Newsletter. I am your Editor in Peace.

I could see Rosemarie was having some difficulty in getting this newsletter started, so I decided to take matter into my own paws & help her get it going. We hope that you will find this newsletter to be a fun & an enjoyable read, it's different than any other out there as really, how many other rabbits do you know who put together a newsletter?

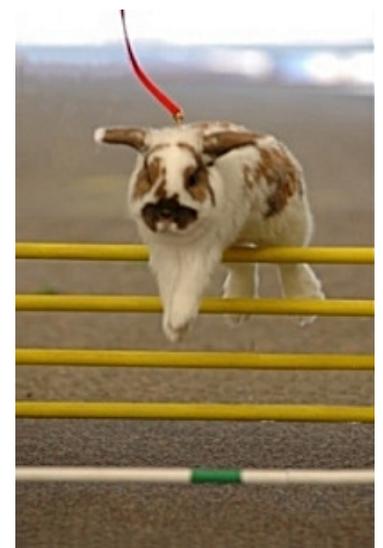
Thank you to everyone who has sent in a submission for this issue & for all the new readers, if you would be interested in submitting anything for our next issue, please email Rosemarie so she can pass the info on to myself. But please, only submissions from bunnies will be accepted. ☺ Thank you & I hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter! By the way, take note of my beautiful daughter in the posting by Baby Hare!

Featured Bunny!

In this issue we are featuring Willow. Willow was the co-founding rabbit of the CRHC. Willow has always been an ideal ambassador bunny, what with his loveable personality, patience and intelligence, he's always looking to please and good about meeting his adoring public.

Willow caught on to Rabbit Hopping very quickly and has gotten extremely confident in his 4 years of doing it, so much so that he is to the point that I can just put him down on the pause box and watch him do the course entirely on his own. That is something I don't think I have ever seen another rabbit do.

With his charm, charisma, good looks and natural social skills, Willow is the ideal co-founding bunny and quite the special little guy!



Upcoming Events!

February 20, 2011 ~ Demonstration at the EARS Club Wetaskiwin Rabbit Show.

February 21, 2011 ~ Performance at the Bonnie Doon Shopping Center.

March 4, 2011 ~ Monthly practice at the Chestermere Recreation Centre. 6:30 p.m.

March 22, 2011 ~ Demonstration at Colonel Belcher. 10:30-11:30 a.m.

*March 26 & 27, 2011 ~ Performance at the 2011 Pet Expo at the Lower Level,
Big 4, Stampede Grounds.*

April 1, 2011 ~ Monthly practice at the Chestermere Recreation Centre. 6:30 p.m.

April 9 & 10, 2011 ~ Performance at the 2011 Aggie Days at Stampede Grounds.

April 21, 2011 ~ Demonstration at the Alberta Children's Hospital.

April 23, 2011 ~ Performance at Fort Edmonton Easter Event.

April 24, 2011 ~ Performance at the Bonnie Doon Shopping Center.

Wallaby's World Wide Web

Here I will post interesting link to websites I might run across as well as any updates to our own CRHC site.

I don't know how often any of you may visit our site, but my people have recently added some neat additions to the site. We now have hopping videos, training videos, behind the scene videos as well as all our TV videos in one easy link so you will no longer have to search through the 700 or more videos my crazy mom has posted on YouTube.



If you get a chance, visit the site & let me know what you think of these new videos. If you find them helpful, informative or just plain annoying!

Until next time, safe surfing & watch out for all those popups! My mom learned the hard way they are bad news!

Hello everybody, and welcome to the premiere edition of Babbitty's Box Office. Here, we will be looking at movies, some possible lists, and all around cinema fun.

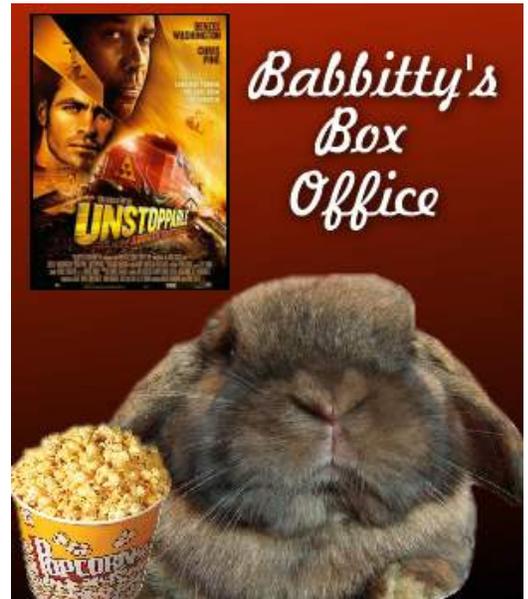
The movie we will be reviewing today is *Unstoppable*, starring Denzel Washington. We know this will be a good one, because, well, it's Denzel Washington! An actor who can keep even those of us with a limited attention ooh, shiny! What was I saying? Oh yeah, our movie!

In this outing, Denzel plays Frank, an old railroad hand, who has break in a rookie, who is played by some dude we really don't care about, it could be any generic young Hollywood actor. He's young, cocky, has family issues, blah, blah, blah, let's get to the train.

The train in question is a long freight that has to be moved to another track. It leaves the yard with no one aboard, thanks to a yard worker that combines all the speed of Kokomo, and the mental sharpness of a gerbil that has been dropped on its head. Repeatedly. Apparently, this happens sometimes (It's called a coaster.), and they usually roll to a stop a few miles away. Unfortunately, this genius left it in a higher gear. He also forgot to connect the brakes to the rest of the train. As that great show biz rabbit once said. "What a maroon!". So now an unmanned train is speeding along the tracks and must be stopped.

Now, the train is only the first obstacle. The second is the management of the railroad. The operations manager (Played by Rosario Dawson, who is also very good.) is trying to set some plans, but is hamstrung by her supervisor, who keeps her out of the loop on decisions, and who thinks any stupid idea sounds much better if it is yelled in a loud, abusive manner. There are also various golf-playing, corporate weasels (An apology to any actual ferrets or mink reading this review.) who are more worried about how this will affect the stock price or the profit margin than how many people will be killed.

After many near misses and heart pounding moments, including a great cameo by a woodchuck, and the spectacular failure of the best laid plans of the corporate weasels, Frank takes it in his own hands. They have to stop it, or at least slow it down, before it reaches a certain point in the tracks. I won't ruin it, but the train is carrying a very dangerous cargo, and it's approaching a section of track that looks like it was designed by Lindsay Lohan on a bender! Like I said, I won't reveal how it ends, but very entertaining! This is the kind of movie where you are leaning forward in your seat, your palms are sweaty (If you have palms!), and your body is tense!
In conclusion, I give this movie 2 thumbs up.... wait, I don't have thumbs. I give it 4 bars on a 5 bar jump! Till next time, this is Babbitty saying, could someone please tell me how Shia LeBouf became a movie star? I have more chin than he does!



The Blizzard DOWN UNDER 2011
by Baby Hare

This last week we were hit with a blizzard, third largest ever recorded for our area. Winds constant at 26 miles per hour with gust of 35 plus, snow coming down inches per hour, with the threat of power outages for up to three days. The temperatures going down to -10 with wind chills of -35, I started to think how will they stay warm without power. What will they do in this cold?

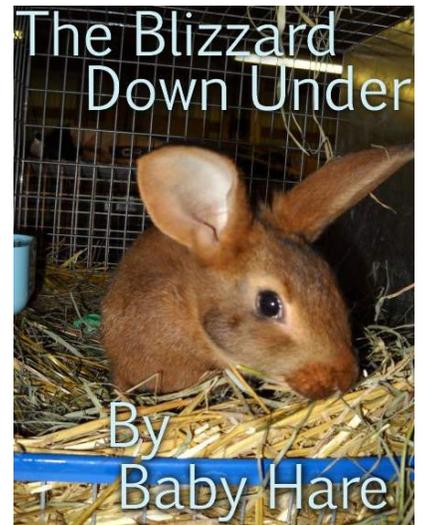
Looking out the barn window you can see the wind blowing the snow, snow building up higher than the fences. I could see the lights are still on in the homes around us, that is good that means they are still safe and warm.

At dinner time grandma came from the house with water cans full on water. She is fighting the wind and snow all the way, but we knew she would come. A blizzard couldn't keep her away; she is always here to take care of us.

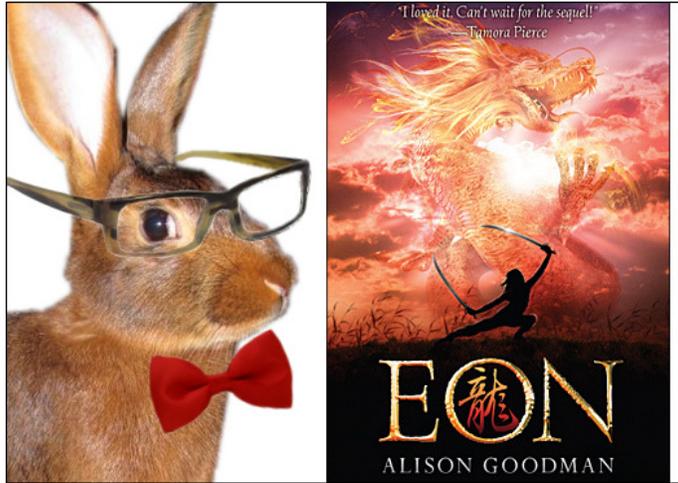
Grandma came in and started taking care of us and as she did off came her hat, gloves then her coat. At that moment I knew if grandma needed to keep warm in the storm she just needed to come into a building heated by bunnies.

I was so glad we were snug and warm in our barn as so many other bunnies are not so lucky. Some bunnies had to ride out this storm in their hutches outside.

I hope they came through the storm safe without frost bite or lost of life.



Jabberwocky's Journals!



Welcome star shines, I shake you warmly by the hand... Er, paw, and welcome to the first article of Jabberwocky's Journals. In this article I will mostly be reviewing novels, book to big screen adaptations or anything else that happens to tickle my fancy. To start off, I'll be reviewing a novel called "Eon" by Alison Goodman (Also known as 'Eon: Dragoneye Reborn', 'Eon: Rise of the Dragoneye', 'The Two Pearls of Wisdom', etc.).

Now Eon, titled after the alias of our main character, has been studying the art of dragon magic for years in hopes of becoming an apprentice to one of the 12 energy dragons of good fortune, each dragon representing a separate animal of the zodiac calendar. Although it has not been seen in over 500 years, the people continue to also hope for the return of the powerful mirror dragon, which disappeared for unknown reasons. Eon trains to become apprentice and future Dragoneye to the powerful rat dragon, but by doing do, Eon is endangering his very life. Or, as the case may be, her very life. Instead of the 12 year old boy she masquerades as, Eon is actually Eona, a 16 year old girl. Caught quite cruelly between a rock and a hard place, Eon is gambling with her life as girls are not allowed to practice dragon magic and the punishment for her deceit would be a very gruesome death. To make matters all the worse, not only is Eon hiding her gender, but she is also a cripple with a deformed hip. When Eon is rejected by the Rat dragon and instead chosen by the mirror dragon, our story really begins.

When my audio human aka bunny slave began reading this to me, the rating of the book gave the impression that this book was most likely going to be an adventure novel with some fast paced action and heroic triumphs despite the grim situation our main character faced. After all, how could anything rated age 12 and up contain anything too graphic or dreary? I settled myself comfortably into a pillow and began to listen to the story.

Well, not only was this not so much an adventure tale with dragons and magic as it was a political game by the people surrounding Eon, but also extremely dark in places and speaking on topics such as slavery, rape, murder

and even the ruthless slaughter of an infant. It caught both myself and human a little off guard but something about the storyline is very intriguing.

I'm a little disappointed to note that the weakest point of Eon is probably the main character herself. Her focus is a lot like Babbitty if someone slips him some coffee, hectic and rather unfocused... Never mind the coffee; it's like Babbitty on just about any day. It is understandable for Eon to panic in many of these situations as her life is constantly in danger and she is surrounded by unrealistic expectations of someone such as herself, but when the endless tirades of self doubt, fear and panic stretch over 3-4 pages at a time, it gets a little tiresome and detracts from what is actually happening around the character. The biggest challenge that Eon faces is that, throughout about 90% of the novel, Eon is incapable of calling upon her dragon to use its power and skill (It allows her combat skills to be almost flawless and takes away the pain in her hip) and thus, little more than a helpless cripple who looks to the adults around her for help, something that not many of them seem to be willing to give because it might work against themselves. One thing I do have to give this book credit for is a realistic look into how some humans will do just about anything to further their own quests for power. At times, this book gets extremely brutal with the message but it never comes off as sounding preachy, something I would imagine being difficult to accomplish.

The pacing also tends to drag a bit in places. For example, the first time Eon is able to take her first bath in a real tub when she becomes the Dragoneye takes around 5 pages to describe how immaculate the workmanship in the bathroom is and this is before she even dips a toe into the water, an event I'm sure took another 2-3 pages. Detail is a wonderful thing, but when overdone really detracts from the storyline.

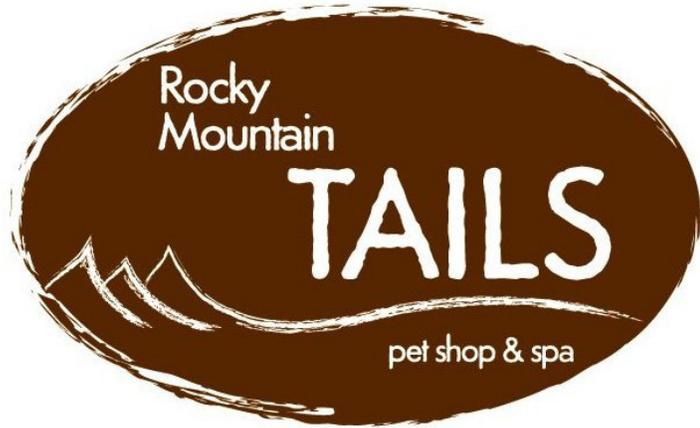
Now on to the positives of this novel, and there are plenty. Firstly, our villain is someone that I can almost guarantee any reader will love to hate. He is vile and despicable and overall someone you can't wait to have die a terribly gruesome way. A book like this is only as good as the villain and he is a character that, while not deeply explored or developed, pushes the book in a good direction.

The side characters were also rather fascinating and they are characters that you generally enjoy reading about, with the exception perhaps of Eon's "Master". However, it is difficult to delve into what makes these characters good without giving away a number of spoilers.

The action scenes, while they are far in between, are extremely well written and the point where the authors skill for detail comes shining through. It's hard for your heart not to pound a little when you read about the ceremony before the Dragoneye apprentice is chosen, let alone the last 70 some pages. Where the book tends to wander for a while, throwing you subtle scraps of hints here and there to satisfy your appetite to get the plot moving for a while, it gets right down to business where it is most necessary and reminds you just why you're liking this book so much in the first place.

Overall, the biggest flaw that the book suffers from is the very minimal mention of the Rabbit dragon. Honestly, that one should have been the star of the book from the very beginning, but I can understand an author being intimidated to take on such a mighty task, so I suppose I can let it slide... This time.

For Eon, I will award it four thumps out of five!



Hello. I am Amelia and this is Amelia's Boutiques. I review local pet stores.

This issue is Rocky Mountain Tails Pet Shop and Spa. They are located at 5255 Richmond Road SW, Suite 480, Calgary AB. This is near the intersection of Sarcee Tr. and Richmond Rd and is just a few stores away from the London Drugs. Their website is <http://rockymountaintails.ca>. The store is owned by Craig and Sandy.

While I have only been in the store once, I am told by my human (Kate) that it is a nice store. They have mostly stuff for cats and dogs with a few things for us bunnies (and other small furry pets). While I don't know much about the cost of things, they do have good prices that are much better than some of the bigger chain stores.

Some of the bunny stuff they carry is Oxbow pellets, hay and treats as well as Oxbow hay tunnels and houses. They also have a few toys and other treats. When I was there, they did offer me a treat but I was not so sure about eating it. I did eat the treat when I got home and the other bunnies here also ate their treats. I might have liked a different type, but are still getting used to them as Korr is a pig and tries to eat all of mine (bucks pshhh).

For the dogs, they have various high quality foods such as Orijen, Acana, go!, now!, Canidae, Felidae, Timber wolf, Pronature Holistic, Honest Kitchen, Blue Buffalo, Merrick, Almo and Weruva. They also have some canned and dehydrated foods. The dogs who live here really liked the Canidae food, so you bunnies with doggy friends might want to try it. The cat stuff is similar, but we really don't know much about cats around here.

Other items include collars and leashes (for the doggies), clothing (some won't fit me, how small are these dogs), toys (cat and dog), gourmet dog treats that look like truffles and pizza. They also carry stuff for people like t-shirts, note pads and bags.

Some other things at the store include grooming for dogs and cats on Thursday, Friday and Saturdays. They also host a few rescue dogs on Saturday afternoons, so if you are looking for a doggie friend, your human could stop by.

At this point, the store does not have a resident pet. Craig and Sandy do have a couple dogs, but they have not done well being in the store. They also have a rabbit named Chloe. Chloe was adopted from the Cochrane Humane Society. She will hopefully be visiting the store once she is spayed and healed. If you drop in the store in the future, you might just find her there.

If you are looking for a nice pet supply store that has some bunny items and bunny people, then go to Rocky Mountain Tails.

Welcome to Kokomo's Kitchen!

Here you'll find recipes to some tasty treats for your little bun bun!

If you have a recipe & willing to share, please email them to our editor!

1 - 29 oz can of pure pumpkin (not pie filling, it has spices)

1 or 2 bananas, mashed. (Make sure they are at perfect ripeness, not beyond or it will cause stomach upset.)

1 tablespoons honey

1/2 cup quick oats

7 cups oat flour

2 jelly roll pans or cookie sheets

Combine, pumpkin, mashed banana, honey & oats, mix well. Slowly add flour cup by cup (you're looking to make this dough a pizza dough consistency) until ready to roll out onto a floured surface & knead for about 5 min or until elastic. Split dough in half. Roll each out to be about 1/4 inch thick, sprinkle bottom of pans with quick oats, transfer dough to pan & press to adjust to size of pan. Cut into 1 inch squares with a pizza cutter or knife. Repeat for other half of dough. Bake at 275 degrees Fahrenheit until golden brown & dry (about 2 hours, maybe longer), but not burnt on the bottom. You'll want them to be good & dry.

Recipe courtesy of <http://www.HoppyAcresRabbitry.ca>



Oh, Hello there! Glad you could join me today! In my little section of the newsletter I will take you on my many adventures as I travel around to near & far places!

My most recent trip out we visited Petland. Here are a couple photos of my girl Amanda & I as she takes me around the store to meet some of the interesting critters there. I had the chance to meet

some strange fellows. The puppy just sat staring at me while the little kitty kept sticking its paw out trying to slap me. If there are other buns out there thinking of traveling to your local pet store, beware of the kitties!



Until next time, safe travels!



Hello and welcome to Lookin' Lovely with Lillian. I will help you on your road to looking as awesome as you can with a litter help from your slave.

It is important to get your nails trimmed every 4-6 weeks. Long nail make is hard and even painful to hop and they can get ripped off on a wire cage or even just on carpet or clothing. Keeping the nails short helps prevent scratches (both to humans and bunnies), and helps keep your paws in good shape.



What your slave will need: Nail clippers (cat or small dog ones will work, I prefer scissor type with a spring), Styptic powder (in case you cut the nail too short), Q-Tips, A towel, good lighting & A helper (if not confident)

How to do it: As a rabbit, it is important for you do hold still and let your human clip your nails. I know it is not fun, but it is necessary and you might get a treat out of it. Fighting won't get it done any faster and will just leave you and your human frustrated.

There are 2 ways your human may want to do this. One is to turn you on your back and clip the nails, the other is to have you upright and pull one paw out at a time to clip them. Each human is different, so you may be stuck with one method.

If your human is going to turn you over, they should have a pillow or be able to hold you securely. They will then expose each paw, separate the nail and clip that nail then do the others on that foot. If you stay still and they are quick, this should not take more than about 5 minutes. Keep in mind that humans who are not used to doing it may take longer.

If your human is not comfortable with turning you over, then they should place you on a small table. It is important for you not to try to explore the table and to just sit still. Your human will then have to pull each paw into view and cut the nails. This can take a bit longer as it can be harder to see the nails.

Regardless of which way your human does it, it is important that they don't cut too much as that will make you bleed. For light or white nails, your human should be able to see a pink part near the base of the nail this is called the quick and is the blood vessel. For dark nails, the quick is harder to see. A flashlight can be used to see it. With dark nails, only trimming a tiny bit at a time will help prevent cutting the quick, the inside of the nail will get smoother as you get closer to the quick. If the quick is cut, some styptic powder can be used to stop the bleeding. Use a q-tip to get some powder and press that to the nail until it stops bleeding.

If your human is still nervous about cutting nails, then they should get some help by people who know what they are doing. Rabbit savvy vets, some pet groomers, breeders, 4-H rabbit members and other rabbit people can usually help. They should also be willing to show your human how to do it. There are some humans who just pay other people to trim your nails, don't be offended as your human just wants what is best for you.

If your human has managed to follow these instructions, you should have nice nails. Remind your human that this should be done every 4-6 weeks to keep your nails looking nice.



On The Small Side

I am Lil' Will and small and cute is my virtue! My take on life is simple. For instance, I get to see the world from human eye view since I like to sit on my partner's shoulder & ride around. Also it gives me the opportunity to check out the all the goings on around me from a nice viewing point. Another cool way to travel is by hood. It's soft, warm & cozy plus the added advantage of humans cooing over how cute you look! That's the best part!

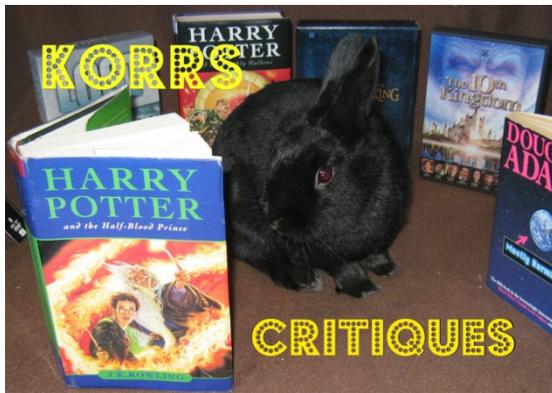
I love running the hopping course with my fellow bunnies & can do just as good as them. I jump really high for my size. I have met a few other small bunnies my size on the course & they say they are really happy their partners bring them to have fun! When I meet with the bunnies that are bigger than me, it's great & interesting. I find I need to investigate everything about them as they are so much bigger than me. Some have heads that are as big as my whole body!

We all agree to love and have fun with our partners the humans'. We let them think they are training us but we have all this down to perfection. We like it when they take our leashes off & in this way we know we have our partners trained to follow us while we run the course. Sometimes our partners get so tired of us teaching them that they all sit down while we continue to perfect our hopping skills by ourselves. Then we will chat with each other & discuss our partners we are teaching & the day's events while our tired humans sit around & catch their breath.

And so in closing on my first "take on small", I hope you will continue to enjoy my little events & stories & if you have any questions for me on the art of being small or want to come out to see us & play with us just send me an email to weelion@telusplanet.net & we will publish your question or story in the CHRC Newsletter !

Itty Bitty Bye for now! Lil' Will





Welcome to Korrs Critiques. In this column I will be reviewing everything from books to TV shows and even movies, basically whatever I feel like writing about.

This issue I will be reviewing Sanctuary, a Sci-Fi TV show. Sanctuary is a Sci-Fi show that chronicles the adventures of Dr. Helen Magnus (Amanda Tapping), Dr. Will Zimmerman (Robin Dunne), Kate Freelander (Agam Darshi), and Henry Foss (Ryan Robbins) as they work to protect and learn from abnormals and is currently in its 3rd season.

Abnormals are non humans that have some sort of mutation that makes them different from what we as humans think of as 'normal'. They can range from the stuff of legends like mermaids and vampires to small furry creatures called Nubbins. Some are more human like and are able to live amongst humans while others are closer to animals and need protection from the world. Each abnormal is treated with respect and is considered an opportunity to be learned from. The show is centered around Dr. Magnus' team as they work with abnormals. She runs the Sanctuary in Old City (Vancouver) and is the head of the Sanctuary Network which has locations in England, Japan, India, Russia, and Australia among other places. The Sanctuary was started by Helen's father Gregory Magnus in the late 1800's. Helen has run the Sanctuary for over 100 years.

In the first half of season 3, the team is concerned with a holographic city. They discovered this after Will was given a code that linked to birthday gifts given to Helen by her father. After combining these 2 gifts, a hologram of a huge city appears. It is up to the team, along with Nikola Tesla (yes, than Nikola Tesla as an ex vampire), Bigfoot (the Big Guy) and John Druitt (a former lover of Helen's), to discover what the city is about and how to get there. Along the way, they rob a bank to obtain an abnormal egg that has hatched early, battle with a suit that turns that wearer into a superhero, investigate a lycan home in England, and meet a very old friend who knows more than he claims. The mid season break has Helen, Will, Kate and Henry going into the city to try to find Gregory. It ends with a huge cliffhanger that leaves you wanting more and makes the wait until it continues (in the spring) all the harder.

Even though there are some major plot points and big episodes, there are also ones that are less dramatic. These tend to be more light hearted, but still have an element of danger even if they don't tie in with the main plot too much. These episodes and even parts in some episodes show how the characters interact when they aren't fighting for their lives.

Sanctuary is filmed in Vancouver BC. It uses mostly green screen and visual effects rather than elaborate sets. It is also the first TV show to use RED cameras which allows for higher resolution than high definition cameras. The show also started as an 8 episode web series. The first 4 webisodes became the first 2 episodes and season 1 and the last 4 became episode 2.

Sanctuary is a wonderful show that really gets you to think about how we treat those who are not 'normal'. It is about understanding things around us rather than just killing what we do not understand. While it is not suitable for all ages, it is a show that should be watched. It makes you think, lets you laugh and get you on the edge of your seat wondering how they will get out of the situation.

I give this show 2 paws up.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE BROOKGREEN GARDENS BUNNIES

Carl screamed. Ramsey bolted upright. Had danger snuck in while he, the sentry, dosed? He and everyone else in the group searched the surrounding brush. Thankfully, nothing unusual was to be found. Carl was having another of his nightmares. They were quite alarming but were occurring less frequently as time went on. You see, Carl had been with Florence when the snapping log had swallowed her two weeks earlier. Florence and Carl had been moseying along enjoying the fresh green grass near the edge of the estuary when a log leaped at them and, chomp, Florence had dropped into a hole lined with razor sharp teeth, never to be seen again. Who knew logs could do that or that they had teeth? It was frightful. Ramsey had heard the humans call these logs "alligators" and they seemed to ENJOY seeing them. Humans sure were a strange breed. Carl's terror at the attack was so great he had nearly died of heart failure. Then for more than a week afterwards, each time he tried to sleep, his heart beat so fast it seemed it would burst right out of his chest.

Granny Lucy gathered all the youngsters around her and calmly began talking about what a Christmas they had had, soothing them and Carl. The Brookgreen Gardens rabbits had gone to Huntington Beach for their annual get together with the cousins there. They had encountered many new and strange things on their journey. It had started out as a long cold trek to the jetty where crashing waves made it difficult to hear. Gramps Murphy remembered meeting Sea Stars and a Brittle Star here the year before. Ramsey was disappointed that he did not meet these exciting creatures. Instead there were giant gray fish swimming and splashing everywhere this year. Whales! He had heard Brantley, the Brown Pelican, talk about these enormous animals but Brantley had failed to tell the Eastern Cottontails how numerous the whales were. Rudy, the Ruddy Turnstone and the HB cousins had laughed at them

and then quickly corrected the BG cousins. None of the rabbits, including the HB bunnies who lived by the ocean, had ever seen a whale. These gigantic fish were dolphins! Not whales. They were minnows compared to a real whale if you would believe Brantley and Rudy, who both flew miles at a time over the vast ocean where the whales lived.

Ramsey and the rest of the junior BG bunnies had met Ring Necked Ducks for the first time during Christmas. These cool birds had a white outline around the beaks of the bucks. Drakes, they called themselves. Even cooler was the beak of Wilma, the Wilson's Snipe. When she was jabbing her head up and down, her long beak was probing the mud in search of food. But she did not have to open her mouth and gunk it up with a lot of mud. The very tip of her beak opened and closed without her having to open her whole mouth. Ramsey could find no one who knew of any other bird or animal that had a beak that hinged in two places. But Wilma assured him that she was not abnormal. All of her kind had mouths like this. They had also met Vinny, the Virginia Rail. He was a smallish bird and very shy and secretive; more so even than the rabbits were when trying to avoid danger as they traveled or went about their daily routines. And there had been Amy, the American Bittern. She was a larger bird, closer to the size of a Great Egret, though not so long legged. She frequently walked and rested among the reeds of the freshwater marsh, her plumage blending in so well that she often observed her surroundings for hours unbeknown to anyone passing by. As easy as it was for her to hide, Amy did not mind being seen out in the open for long periods of time too.

On the way home from the beach, the clouds had shed dander all over the rabbits! It was cold and wet, not at all like that from a rabbit's coat. The white flakes filled the sky for hours, only to disappear as soon as they contacted the ground. Wally, the Wood Stork, told the rabbits that it was called snow. The cold and the snow were the biggest reasons the Wood Stork family traveled south to warmer grounds every winter. Snow was common on their northern homes but was very rare in Murrills Inlet, SC and further south where they overwintered. This was the first time any of the Brookgreen Gardens rabbits had seen snow. If Christmas week and the weeks after were any indication of 2011, the Year of the Rabbit was indeed going to be one to remember. Ramsey ambled up to lay beside Cleome, wondering how much longer it would be before they could wed. He hoped to have kittens and grandkittens next winter to share the stories of 2011 with.

Hope that your Christmas was merry. Best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous year in 2011.

Mae Howell, NC

SHRIKE FIVE

A Story by Mae Howell

Bunny Hare and the kits did not visit the catalpa tree in Granny Howell's yard. Her two cats, Sheeba and Fuzzy Tail, were far too dangerous for such adventure. But it was a small neighborhood and news traveled fast. When the tree slowed its production of the catalpa worms coveted for fishing, most said that it was because it was old and tired. The tree, after all, was more than fifty years old. What excitement there was when it was learned the tree had not slowed production at all but that a new family had moved into the tree. Larry and Lucy, the Loggerhead Shrikes, had made it their home three years ago and raised several broods of children on the catalpa worms before it became common knowledge that they were there. After feeding the growing chicks, there were very few worms left for the fish. Loggerhead Shrikes eat protein. This may be in the form of small mammals, birds or reptiles; juicy worms; and bugs. Grasshoppers are a favorite. Also called "butcher birds", Loggerhead Shrikes, are known to stockpile extra food by hanging it on thorns or the barbs of barbed wire fences when it is plentiful. There's nothing quite as flavorful as jerked grasshopper in lean times.

In Spring 2009, Larry and Lucy raised three new chicks, Laurie, Lester, and Langford, often bringing them to visit Bunny and her young ones. The couple stayed very busy hunting while the chicks greedily gulped all the food provided by their parents. They were lazy teenagers, raucously begging to be fed long after they had learned to fly and should have been hunting on their own. Lester, the prankster of the clan, was forever getting into trouble. Twice, he captured himself in rabbit cages Human Mae had stored on top of her rabbitry. After finding him trapped the second time, Mae left all doors to the run open so that he could get out by himself the next time he found his way in. Mae was excited about the Loggerhead family choosing the Howell farm as their home. She spent hours listening to and watching the family. There were times though when she became quite put out by them and by Bunny's bunnies. The worst contention was over the garden. The catalpa moths had not hatched their eggs yet and Larry and Lucy looked everywhere for food for the children. Their searches of the garden were so efficient that there were few insects left to pollinate the vegetables Mae was growing. Bunny's biggest chore was to teach survival skills to her young ones, Buster and Cotton, for they loved to eat and busily foraged for themselves. They found the *bushel gourd* plants in Mae's garden to be especially tasty. Mae was disappointed and confused when she only had 10 plants sprout from the 25 seeds she planted. Then there were 7 plants, and each night, there were fewer as Buster and Cotton continued laughing and snacking when she was not looking. Mae reluctantly conceded that there would be enough for the birds, the rabbits, and the humans – but this was only after she had placed the last three bushel gourds in wire cages - leaving Buster and Cotton to stand outside and drool.

Meanwhile, Lucy and Larry built a new nest. There would be two broods of babies this year. These summer chicks would be easier to feed as the shrikes had smartly chosen a food tree for their home. The catalpa worms would be hatched and growing plump by the time these babies started to eat, making parenting a much easier chore this time around.

Then, disaster. Chain Dog's humans got a new puppy and suddenly Chain Dog was left to run free. And he often ran from his home way across the field to visit Granny Howell's yard. He loved to torment the cats. And he loved to stop before getting there to torture Mae's domestic rabbits as well as Bunny and her younguns. The electric fence around the rabbitry had been unplugged for months but now that changed. Ohhh! The entire neighborhood heard Chain Dog the first time he got fired up. He would not soon forget that. Mae and the rabbits still break into giggles when they think about it. The disaster though, happened when Lester chose the bottom wire of the fence to perch as he reached into the wet grass for a fat grasshopper. Lester got fired up too. The current was too strong for little Lester and it killed the young Loggerhead Shrike. Chain Dog had been funny. Little Lester wasn't funny at all. It was a devastating blow for the entire farm.

Lucy, Larry, Laurie, Langford, Bunny, Buster, Cotton, and Mae keep Lester in their memory as life moves forward.

THE MORAL: Pleasure, drama, and, yes, pain can be found even in the simplest of things.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE BEACH BUNNIES

Brrrr!! Murrell hurried along. This was her third winter and it was the coldest ever. She and her family were returning to Brookgreen Gardens. It had been a great Christmas. Thinking of it made the journey home less tiresome. They had been to visit relatives at the north end of Huntington Beach State Park near the jetty. What a noisy and windy home these cousins had. Giant waves crashed on the ocean shore almost constantly. The waves were fun too. One never knew what surprises might ride in on them. Why, on the day they had started their journey home, Murphy and Mandy had met several Sea Stars and a Brittle Star on the beach after they narrowly escaped Beatrice, the Bald Eagle. Of the 326 species of birds that inhabited the park and were known to the Humans, only a few were dangerous to the Rabbits. Among them were the Eagles, Falcons, Harriers, Hawks, Kestrels, and Owls. She shivered thinking about it and this time the chill wasn't from the weather.

Murrell and four generations of her family had traveled the 4.2 miles to the Christmas gathering in six days, carefully staying concealed by the vegetation and traveling mostly at dusk and dawn. Gary, the Great Blue Heron, or Gertie, the Great Egret, or Bert, the Belted Kingfisher, had stayed close along the way to keep an eye out for danger and alert them if trouble was close. The Herons, Egrets and Kingfishers traveled between Brookgreen Gardens and Huntington Beach frequently, bearing news and befriending the creatures on both sides of the terrifying blacktop that the Humans referred to as Hwy 17. If Rabbits had wings... Oh, that would be a sweet dream.

On the return trip now, they were approaching the shelter by the freshwater lagoon where they would hunker down for the night. It was the final stop before reaching home. Murrell considered the mysteries of the lagoon. Her first winter, there had been a flock of American Black Ducks here. The second winter was drier and Green-winged Teal and Blue-winged Teal had been here in abundance. They were "Dabbling Ducks". American White Pelicans had also spent several weeks here in the winter of 2008. This year found the lagoon with very high and very cold water. A flock of Ruddy Ducks interspersed with Redheads had taken up residence. They were "Diving Ducks". The Hooded Mergansers and Buffleheads were here as always, but fewer Mergansers and more Buffleheads than the past two Christmases. The Ibises were missing. It seemed they always wintered here - but this year they had flown further south for warmer temperatures and shallower waters. The Rabbits had seen an uncommonly large number of Snowy Egrets this winter. Terrapin Road was the causeway that kept the freshwater separated from the salt water to the north. The Egrets preferred the salt water marsh. Heads tilted and eyes looked upwards as Brantley, the Brown Pelican passed by relayed that the American Coot flock and several Common Moorhens were still in the freshwater marsh south of Brookgreen Drive. It would be New Year's Eve day before the Rabbits would see them again.

That was tomorrow. The Rabbits were returning home in time to ring in 2010 with the Wild Turkeys. The Turkeys were a rowdy bunch. New Year's Eve was a special time for them and the Fox Squirrels. All the Brookgreen Gardens Eastern Cottontails would join in the celebration, even those who had missed the Christmas journey due to age or health. As Murrell closed her eyes for the night, she pictured tomorrow's activities and dreamed of her nest under the statue of the flute playing girl sitting on the sunflower. Within 32 hours the holidays would be over and life would regain normalcy.

Over 800 Rabbits Rescued From UVic!

Over 800 rabbits were removed from the University of Victoria campus on Vancouver Island from September to December courtesy of a handful of rescue groups.

Over 50 rabbits were handed over by UVic trappers to a group housing the bunnies at the Pacific National Exhibition grounds in Vancouver and overseeing their spays/neuters, recovery and transport to the Precious Life Animal Sanctuary in Washington State in March.

Other permit holders included Tracs for Texas, responsible for close to 300 rabbits taken from UVic and rehomed to the Wild Rose Rescue Ranch in eastern Texas, and EARS, a Vancouver Island group housing 550 rabbits near Coombs, BC. (The numbers vary because they include litters born before the rabbits were spayed and neutered).

Permits must be granted by the Ministry of the Environment in order to possess and transport the UVic rabbits because they are classified as wildlife.

A life-saving grant of \$50,000 for a spay/neuter budget from the Fur-Bearer Defenders was accessed by all the groups making the rescue possible. Other major contributors included Martin Mills who donated hundreds of pounds of their Little Friends rabbit food, and Tisol Pet Nutrition and Supply Stores who donated 10 bags of bulk food and also offered their stores as a drop-off point for donations. World Park Foto, a company that donates its profits to wildlife rescue, contributed over \$1100 to the cause along with over a hundred posters and cards to sell for future fundraising efforts. The House Rabbit Society contributed an emergency grant of a \$1000, a private citizen donated \$1000 towards the massive vet bills and many many other rescuers and donors contributed to this amazing effort. All the groups will now be faced with years of continuing costs for food, vet care and property maintenance and other expenses, but the rabbits are safe.

Only 50 or so rabbits are left on campus and negotiations are underway to rescue that group as well. The ranks, estimated at 1600 at its peak last year, were depleted by natural deaths including a large number succumbing to hawks and owls.

The campus has announced that any rabbits left on the grounds after March 1st will be killed.



RESCUE GROUP HOPES TO HELP FERAL RABBIT PROBLEM

One of the rescue groups helping save the UVic rabbits is forming an organization that will help save other feral rabbits like those under the gun in Canmore as well.

RABBITATS CANADA has applied for a Pepsi Refresh Canada grant to fund a humane solution to the contentious feral rabbit issue. The group believes that the abandoned pets and their feral offspring can be safely, securely and happily housed in a number of small 'Rabbitats' built in conjunction with animal shelters, pet rescues, institutions or on private land under the care of responsible citizens.

A 'rabbitat' can provide safe, affordable colony housing for anywhere from six to 60 sterilized rabbits. The designs vary based on the space, type of predators, etc, but they all incorporate similar elements that make them 100% escape proof and 99% predator-proof.

Rabbitats intends to solicit materials and labor either by donation or at a reduced cost and hopes for support from the communities, businesses, sponsors and the guardians housing the rabbits. The organization will strive to educate new rabbit guardians on low maintenance and low-cost sustainable care.

This will come with a cost, but so does trapping and euthanizing.

Private citizens interested in housing small numbers of rabbits can contact rabbitats@gmail.com





We are excited to announce our next show, February 19 & 20, 2011 at the Wetaskiwin Drill Hall in Wetaskiwin, Alberta.

[Click here for show brochure.](#)

[Click here for show entry form.](#)

DETAILS:

Judges: Briony Barnes, Johnny Hausener & Jeff Albright

Saturday:

TRIPLE Open Show

Sunday:

DOUBLE open show

Youth Show

Specialty Shows

Meet & greet

***NEW* Live Rabbit Auction**

We are looking for donations of show/breeding quality rabbits with full 3 generation pedigrees. To Donate please contact Mark Buckley.

Rabbit Hopping

Come watch the Fur Fly Sunday Feb 20, 2011 when the Canadian Rabbit Hopping Club performs for the general public in the Wetaskiwin Drill Hall alongside the Rabbit Show. They will be holding rabbit agility demonstrations and answer any questions for people interested in this exciting sport.

The Canadian Rabbit Hopping Club will also be at the Bonnie Doon Shopping Center Feb 21, 2011 between 12pm-5pm.

Costume Contest

The Canadian Rabbit Hopping Club will also be holding a Fun Show the same day for you and your pet to enter in. Classes include a Pet Class (Crossbred's welcome), Showmanship, the Biggest Bunny, Smallest Feet, Longest Ears, Hopping, etc. You do not need to be a member of E.A.R.S. Or CRHC to compete. All funds will be donated back to the CRHC for future events.

Entry Fees are \$1.00 per class or \$5.00 for every class.

Longest Ears

Biggest Feet



Craziest Hair



Welcome to Popcorns Paparazzi

Hello & welcome to my own little section of the newsletter! Here I will be posting photos from recent events! You never know where I will be, so beware, if you're within camera shot, you might be at risk of being captured on film & posted here or on our website!



Photo taken during the demonstration at West Dover School
←.



American Belgian Hare Club



<http://www.BelgianHareClub.com>



<http://www.Calgary4H.com>



<http://RockyMountainTails.ca>



HOPPY ACRES RABBITRY - Edm Ab.

LIONHEADS – MINI REX – HOLLAND LOPS
& occasionally Flemish Giants and French Lops

<http://www.HoppyAcresRabbitry.ca>

Foothill Rabbitry

Breeding American Sables
& Rhinelanders

<http://FoothillRabbitry.webs.com>

Happy Days Rabbitry

Show Quality Dwarf
Hotots & Netherland
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Show, Breeding & Pet Stock out of new imported
lines available this spring

Contact Brianna Forgle
horse_girl294@hotmail.com
<http://www.happydaysrabbitry.webs.com>
Located in Grande Prairie, Alberta

C.R.H.C. Members List

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Rabbit: Lil' Will

****DISCLAIMER**** *The views expressed in the C.R.H.C. Newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor nor the consensus of the Canadian Rabbit Hopping Club members.*