

The Canadian Rabbit Hopping Club



May-June 2011 - Volume 1, Issue 3



Welcome to the 3rd edition of the C.R.H.C. Newsletter!

Pictured above is Kele, Ronin & Sam, Amelia & Korr.

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



Welcome to the 3rd edition of the C.R.H.C. Newsletter. I am your Editor in Peace.

For those who don't know or haven't communicated with my staff recently, it's been a pretty tough week for me. I developed an abscess on my left hock & went in for surgery on May 31st. As if it wasn't bad enough just dealing with going under the knife with that, they also thought it would be a good time to have me neutered as well. Unfortunately they neglected to ask me my opinion on this matter.

As things turned out, I did well with the surgery & came out missing a few more parts than when I went in. But that's another story.

I'm doing well and despite the terrible medication & having fluids forced into me, I'm doing well & expecting to make a full recovery. However, because of the problem with my hock, I'm told that I can't join in any hopping events until fully recovered, which could be August. I will be sad to miss so many activities & sadly on all the fun with my fellow bunny friends.

I hope you will enjoy this issue of the newsletter... Peace out!

Featured Bunny!



This issue's featured bunny is Thumper. Thumper, pictured here with her daughter Buttercup (far left) & friend Skittles (middle), passed away suddenly on May 17, 2011. Thumper was a 4 yr. old Lop mix who has joined the club back in 2008 with her previous owner. Thumper had just been adopted into a loving new family only a couple weeks prior. Thumper was a very sweet & lovable bunny who will be missed by many....

Upcoming Events!

- July 1, 2011** ~ Strathcona County's 2011 Canada Day Festival at Broadmoor Lake Park. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- July 2, 2011** ~ Club BBQ & practice at Connie & Jorja's home. Please contact Connie for details & directions at musicaljourney@telus.net.
- July 12, 2011** ~ 9th Annual Canadian Red Cross Stampede Breakfast. Event is from 8 - 10 a.m. in the Crush Restaurant parking lot.
- July 14, 2011** ~ We will be at Colonel Belcher from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. to visit with the residence. This is not a hopping event, rather just a few bunnies & other small pets. Amanda will be bringing her miniature horse.
- July 16 & 17, 2011** ~ The club will be performing at the [Youth & Agriculture in Action Showcase](#) at the Calgary Stampede.
- July 29, 2011** ~ We will be at Carewest Garrison Green from (TBA) to visit with the residence. This is not a hopping event, rather just a few bunnies & other small pets. Amanda will be bringing her miniature horse.
- August 5, 2011** ~ Monthly practice cancelled for tonight.
- August 6, 2011** ~ Demonstration at the [Alberta Children's Hospital](#) from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
- August 6, 2011** ~ Club BBQ & practice at Tanya & Grace's home following the demo at Children's Hospital. Please contact Tanya for details & directions at tanyaharvey@telus.net.
- August 16, 2011** ~ Demonstration at the [Carewest Sarcee](#) at 3504 Sarcee Road SW. 10:30 a.m.
- August 20, 2011** ~ Performance at [Priddis and Millarville Fair](#)
- August 28, 2011** ~ Performance at [St. Albert's 150th Birthday Celebration!](#) 12:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Wallaby's World Wide Web

For this issue I'd like to share a website with you that I haven't personally visited very much, but have heard a lot of great things about! It's called the House Rabbit Society.



Visit them at <http://rabbit.org>



Hello everybody, welcome to the 3rd edition of Babbitty's Box Office. I have been looking forward to today's movie for a while, for obvious reasons. It's the movie Hop, the story of E.B. (Easter Bunny, get it!), & how he's not sure if he wants the gig that has been in his family for generations. He wants to be a drummer, so he runs away to Hollywood, where he runs into a slacker loser named Fred O'Hare (O'Hare, get it !). Fred is between jobs & it is ticking his family off. After Fred hits E.B. with his car, E.B. cons him into staying at a house that he's house sitting for his sister's boss. E.B. is hardly the ideal house guest, & ignores the rules like Star ignores a treadmill. In other words, completely.

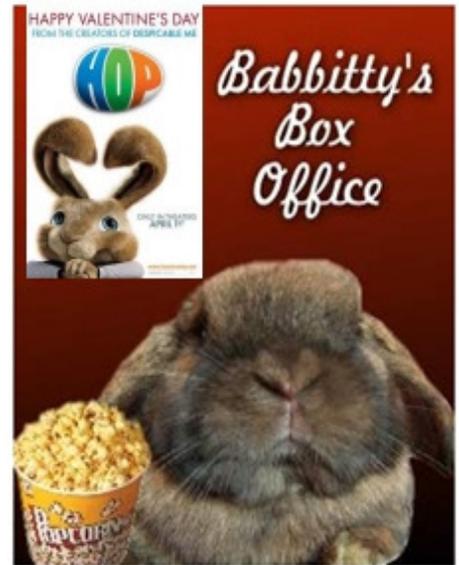
Initially, Fred is a bit freaked out by this anthropomorphic rabbit, especially the fact that he poops candy. (Although Dodger thinks we all do.) But, being the kindred souls they are, they start to get along.

But all is not perfect. E.B.'s dad is ticked off that he left & sends in the Pink Berets, the elite bunny female guard & they are out to find him. (There's a rumor that these were the soldiers that actually found Osama.) Also, his dad doesn't know it, but the chicks (baby chickens, I'm not sexist) are planning a hostile takeover of Easter, like those little bird brains could pull it off.

Being a real jerk, E.B. leaves evidence that Fred has killed & cooked him. (Come on Fred doesn't look the least bit like Mike Strobel.) This evidence is found by the Pink Berets, & Fred is hauled back to Easter Island to face the crime, while E.B. goes off to pursue his dream of being a drummer. But of course, he repents, returns to Easter Island to save Fred, his dad & Easter from the chicks.

Now, while I'm thrilled there is a movie for rabbits, there are a couple of things that bug me. Firstly, HELLO, there is a rabbit walking on his hind feet, wearing clothes & speaking English & no one other than Fred in the beginning is freaked out by this? I know L.A. is laid back, but come on! Another thing, initially Fred keeps him a secret, but half way through the movie they're in a restaurant, walking down the street & auditioning for the Hoff. It's like the writer said, Ah the heck with it, it's too hard to keep him a secret. Also I find it hard to believe that Fred's oh so hard to please dad is thrilled Fred will be the next Co-Easter bunny, yeah, that'll happen. Another thing, how does the adopted daughter get a part in a play with a voice like nails on a chalk board? Is it some sort of affirmative action for the untalented?

But there are some funny scenes, such as E.B. pretending to be a toy, which is hilarious. The Pink Berets are kick butt. (No Kokomo, you can't join.). It also seems they have done some homework on rabbits, such as how we can't vomit, which is another funny scene. But overall, I can only give HOP 2 poles on a 5 pole jump & this is all for E.B. Until next time, this is Babbitty saying; don't use pellets or shavings in your litter box. Just use newspaper. Particularly the Toronto Sun. You know the page I mean, (The Mike Strobel column.)



Proper Rabbit Nutrition

Leticia Materi PhD DVM
Calgary Avian & Exotic Pet Clinic

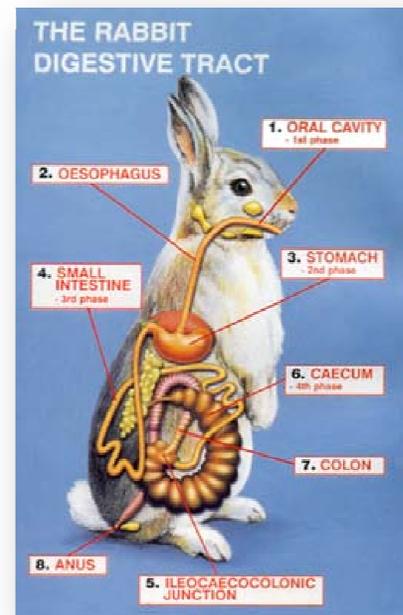


Rabbits are truly amazing little creatures with one of the most unique digestive tracts in the animal kingdom. They are herbivores and are natural browsers of grasses and other heavy fibrous materials. In fact, fiber is the most important part of a rabbit's diet. Not only does fiber promote normal movement of material through the digestive tract, it also helps maintain healthy bacterial populations in the digestive tract. Now, fiber rich foods such as grass and hay can be a difficult food source for many animals to survive on because they are poorly digestible. However, rabbits have developed special strategies for extracting the nutrients from these food sources.

Ultimately, when we feed our pet rabbits, we are feeding the bacteria that live in a portion of their digestive tract called the cecum. The cecum is like a large fluid-filled vat containing countless bacteria that are constantly converting the nutrients they derive from the digestible fibers of grass and hay to energy, vitamins, and amino acids for the rabbit. The rabbit can directly absorb some of this material across the cecum wall but often the bacteria-derived nutrients are deposited into a special droppings called a cecotrope. Typically the rabbit eats the vitamin and protein rich cecotropes as they are passed from the anus about 4 hours after a meal and following an undisturbed rest period (hence the term 'night feces'). Thus, rabbits are the ultimate 'recyclers'!

In addition to containing digestible fiber that acts as a food source for the cecum bacteria, grass and hay also contains non-digestible fiber. This fiber is expelled in the regular dry droppings we see in our pet's litter box. While it may appear that this non-digestible fiber is not important, scientists have discovered that this portion of the diet actually stimulates the pacemaker of the digestive tract and prevents gastrointestinal slow-down. In fact, fiber particles greater than 0.5 millimeters seem to work best for promoting normal peristalsis (i.e., contraction of the cecum and intestinal tract). Fibers of this length are best derived from loose hay. While pellets are also made from hay, this hay is pulverized into tiny particles less than 0.5 mm that don't work as well for promoting normal gastrointestinal motility. As discussed below, pellets can be a part of the diet, but should not act as the sole source of fiber for the rabbit.

While fiber is undoubtedly a very important part of rabbit nutrition, protein is another nutrient that rabbits require. Protein in an herbivore diet comes from the leaves and stems of legume plants (such as alfalfa). Protein is necessary to provide the building blocks for muscle and tissue growth and is especially important for growing, pregnant or lactating rabbits. However, many commercial rabbit diets are based on protein levels designed for fast growth and are not appropriate for the adult, non-breeding pet rabbit. Persistent high dietary protein typically results in an altered digestive tract rate, obesity, poor tooth wear, decreased water intake, a reduced appetite for cecotropes and an increased tendency to chewing cardboard, carpet, or furniture. Choosing a good rabbit diet, therefore, is based on content and balance of both fiber and protein in the diet.



The following outlines the most current recommendations for feeding rabbits at various life stages.



Pellets:

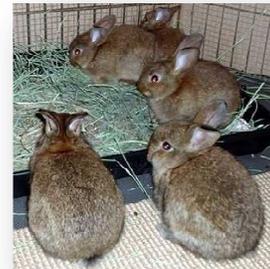
Commercial pellets should be offered as a measured portion of a rabbit's full diet. An increase in dietary pellets may be indicated in young and growing rabbits, for weight gain following a debilitating illness, or in households where there is an allergy to hay.

It is currently recommended that a dietary level of 16% protein is suitable for maximum growth and this should be reserved for young bunnies. After the first six months, pellets offered should be composed of less than 16% protein, 25% or greater fiber, 2.5% or lower fat, and less than 1% calcium. This is typically achieved in timothy or other grass hay pellets and should only be offered to the rabbit in a measured amount daily. Pellets should be checked for mold, odor, sweetness, and milling date.

If a rabbit is used to certain diet items, it may be 'addicted' to that diet and may resist converting to a more appropriate diet. Conversion processes should be slow, guided by a veterinarian, and both the rabbit's food intake and the stool output should be measured. Remember: What goes in must come out! So if stool output is reduced in size or number, ensure that your pet is eating normal amounts of food.

Hay or non-legume grasses:

Hay should make up the bulk of a rabbit's diet and be available at all times. Hay or non-legume grasses are high in fiber, low in protein and low in calcium and are made from timothy, oat, brome, meadow or orchard grass. Alfalfa hay is legume hay - high in protein and calcium and should only be given in circumstances where increased protein is desired (see above). Do not feed straw as it is without nutritional value. Hay should be clean, dry and sweet smelling.



Hay also plays an important part in maintaining healthy teeth. The teeth of a rabbit are open-rooted which means they are all constantly growing. Scientists in Japan demonstrated that when a rabbit eats hay, its jaw moves in a predominantly horizontal motion in order to grind down the coarse hay fibers. This provides even wearing of the surface of the premolars and molars. However, when eating pellets, the jaw moves up-and-down, the pellets crumble easily, and the rabbit does not wear down the back teeth as uniformly. This is believed to be one of the contributing factors to the development of spikes and spurs on the teeth.



Fresh Green Foods:

Fresh greens are an important part of a rabbit's diet. Not only do they provide a variety of micronutrients, they provide water in the diet. Studies have shown that rabbits provided fresh greens as a part of their diet will naturally drink more water as well. Greens should be offered daily, by slow and steady introduction and *after* the rabbit's introduction to hay. Any fresh food that causes a persistent soft stool should be discontinued.

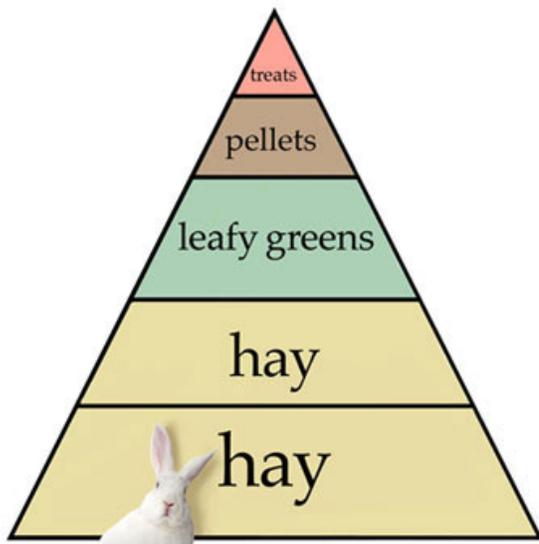
Greens should be washed, organic and offered in a variety daily. Once a rabbit is used to the greens, a minimum of *1 packed cup of greens per 1 kg of body weight can be fed daily*. Safe greens include: broccoli (leaves and tops), cabbages (red, green, Chinese), chicory, dandelion greens and flowers, romaine, green or red leaf lettuce, watercress, celery leaves, collard and mustard greens, escarole, kale, basil, parsley, carrot tops, beet tops, radicchio, and bok choy.

Treat foods:

In nature, depending on the time of year, a rabbit may have access to certain foods or flowers. Since these are not regular items in their diet, they should be offered in limited quantities. Any diet item that causes a soft stool should be removed from the diet. These food items should be viewed as treats only and should not make up more than *1 tablespoon per 1 kg of body weight daily*. Treats include: blueberries, blackberries, raspberries or strawberries, carrots, melons, organic (not florist) garden flowers such as roses, nasturtiums, or pansies, papaya or pineapple.

Forbidden Foods:

Foods high in starch or fat can cause marked digestive tract upsets. Avoid crackers, bread, grains, seeds, peas, beans, cereals, oats, nuts, wheat, grains, and chocolate flavoured items. Avoid feeding dehydrated fruits (including raisins), bananas or grapes because of the concentrated sugar in these foods. Many commercial rabbit treats contain sugars and should be scrutinized before feeding.



Rabbit Food Pyramid

Water and Supplements:

Rabbits should have access to fresh water at all times. A healthy rabbit does not need vitamin supplementation and both mineral blocks and salt licks are unnecessary.

By ensuring the proper nutrition of your pet, medical conditions such as gastrointestinal stasis and diarrhea may be avoided. Always consult your veterinarian before changing your pet's diet to ensure that his or her nutritional needs will be met.

Ask a Vet

Do you have a burning question you'd like to ask a vet but haven't had an opportunity to?

Now is your chance! Send in your questions to our Editor Peace & he will send them on to Leticia Materi & she will answer them & send them back to Peace so he can publish the answers in our next newsletter!

Twisting the Evening Away

By: Mae Howell, NC

Bailey remembered asking, "Mama, what is Farm Animal Days?" Their human, Stacy, had put all 6 of Pearl's kits into a tiny cage when they were only two weeks old. They were separated from their mom for the first time in their lives. Stacy placed Pearl in a tiny cage beside them. It was some comfort that she was close. Other rabbits went into tiny cages. Stacy placed the tiny cages she called "carriers" or "rabbit car seats" into a big box she called a car. The car had wheels. And it moved! As they rode the one hour fifteen minutes to NCSU for the exhibit, Pearl and the other rabbits explained to the kits that Farm Animal Days was a competition between lots of animals to show the humans which were the most special creatures. And the rabbits won every year. Horses, cows, pigs, sheep, goats, turkeys, ducks, chickens, and ice cream all competed. "Mama, what is a horse?" Ashley had asked. None of the kits had seen any of these other animals. Three days and more than 11,000 humans later, the kits were thankful for once not to be grown up. The humans thought they were adorable. Of course they were. That had never been questioned. But the humans all wanted to "pet" them and pick them up. Stacy had said they were too young to be handled and refused to take them out of their cage, a larger one that they also shared with Pearl during this competition. The rabbits had been the stars of this exhibit yet again, with ice cream finishing a distant second. The kits had learned that ice cream was not an animal. It was a form of human food and it still finished ahead of all the animals except the rabbits.

Six weeks later, Pearl had moved into a new cage at the farm and left the bunnies in the one where they had been born. Stacy placed the six bunnies into a carrier and into the car again. Only Bailey and his littermates went this time. After a half hour drive, Stacy gave their carrier to a strange human called Jana. "Wait, Stacy, we want to go home with you. We don't know this human," they called. "It is OK," Stacy said, "you are going to an Easter breakfast. Entertain the humans. And I will see you tomorrow." Still unsure of this adventure, they went. There were fewer than 200 humans at this breakfast and no other animals. The bunnies were all petted by many of the humans. It hadn't exactly been fun but it wasn't too bad. They did have an obligation to "represent" rabbits to the rest of the world, after all.

Stacy talked to Jana after the breakfast and told her she was on the way home and could meet to get the bunnies early if she wanted. Jana said no, they would meet at 5 pm as planned. The bunnies heard Stacy in the tiny box in Jana's hand but they could not see her. Hours later, Yvette and Sam, two new humans, put the bunnies back into the carrier and into another car. They were going home. These humans were very inconsiderate and not very intelligent. The bunnies heard them talking into another tiny box telling Stacy they were on the way. It was already past 5 pm. Still later, the humans told Stacy that their GPS had gone out. "What's a GPS?" Ashley asked. None of the bunnies knew. Off and on, these humans talked into the tiny box and the bunnies heard Stacy talking too, but, look where they would, they could not find her. Finally, they were back with Stacy and only slightly more than 45 minutes late. Now, the humans wanted to talk. Stacy looked in the direction of home and saw very black clouds. She told the humans, "That's some ugly looking weather. I'm not going to keep you." "But," Ashley said, "Stacy isn't the one..." Bailey shushed her.

The bunnies relaxed as Stacy started for home, soon to leave Snow Hill behind. How long would it be until they were expected to entertain humans again? They thought about their cage and longed for pellets. It was dinnertime. "Oh, how pretty" Ashley exclaimed. She was looking at a beautiful funnel of fluffy white clouds. It was huge and only twice as wide at the top as it was at the bottom. The bunnies had never seen clouds

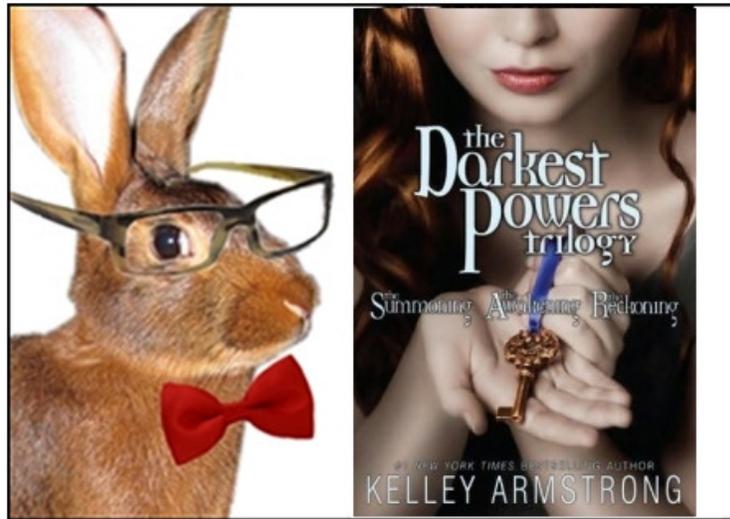
do that. It looked like a funnel for filling giant wide mouth water bottles. A tree passed by and the new angle and perspective were frightening. The funnel was now a swirling beast picking up trees, buildings, and everything in its path, then flinging them out in all directions. Stacy saw it too. Her body language became intense as she reacted. The bunnies could feel her thinking “You’re not supposed to try to outrun them” as her right foot got heavier and heavier. The beast loomed larger as he came straight for them. Stacy seemed to be trying to push a dent into the floorboard. Ashley whimpered. “If she abandons the car, will she take the time to get us and take us into the ditch with her?” “I don’t know,” answered Jim. The speed that things were whizzing by the car was dizzying but the bunnies were afraid to blink or take their eyes off the beast. At last, it appeared to be growing smaller. Either they had moved away from him or he had tired of chasing them and gone in another direction to terrify someone else. The chase had seemed an eternity but in reality, it was only seconds.

It was hard for the bunnies to relax this time. All six siblings were jumpy. As they neared home, they passed a house across the field. It had lost its hat! Stacy stopped, reversed, and drove by it again. Then she went on home and put the bunnies in their cage. But wait, where were all the nice new shavings they had left only yesterday? The wooden floor was almost bare. As the neighboring rabbits babbled about the strong winds that had turned the cages into “self cleaning” units and the ice balls that had fallen from the sky, Pearl’s bunnies nibbled on pellets and glanced back and forth between themselves, waiting their chance to tell of their adventures. Stacy later told them that the frightful beast was an EF3 tornado. Stacy and the bunnies hoped to never see a tornado beast again.

April 16, 2011 was a bad day for a lot of people in eastern NC (as well as several other southern states). Severe weather spawned record numbers of tornadoes and broke many more records. Record paths on ground, record dead or injured, record damages, etc. I actually saw a tomado, my first, and if lucky, my last. As in most cases like this, I reacted. I had to get home to get scared. Here is a story about that day that you may publish if you like. It is based largely on fact. Farm Animal Days is an exhibit that our local clubs participate in every year. It is for children through elementary school to see and learn about animals. This is in our capitol city of Raleigh, NC and most of these kids never see animals except at fairs and exhibits like this. We broke a record there this year too with over 11,000 people coming through our three day exhibit.

Mae Howell, NC

Jabberwocky's Journals!



Today we will be reviewing the Darkest Powers series.

Salutations there star shines! Today we will be reviewing not one book, but a series of three. The Darkest Powers Series by Kelley Armstrong. Without further ado, let's start the review!

Now, our story starts off with 15 year old Chloe Saunders, the daughter of a rich man but socially awkward due to her constantly changing schools and rarely seeing her father at him. On the day she becomes a "woman", she is suddenly chased across school by a severely burned and violent janitor. She runs for help, but comes to the realization that no one else can see the man. Due to her crazed ramblings, she is diagnosed with schizophrenia and shipped off to Lyle House, described to those outside as a house for troubled teens. And troubled these teens are.

While at Lyle house Chloe becomes acquainted with the other occupants. Liz, a bubbly, friendly girl who is especially close with one of the other girls, Victoria, who is just about as nasty as could be. Then there is Rae, with whom she quickly becomes friends with and the pair of brothers, Derek and Simon. Derek appears to be the regular moody, sarcastic teenage boy we all know and Simon a perkier, happier brother who is only in the house to keep Derek company... And under control.

However, the dark secrets of Lyle House begin to unravel as Chloe delves further into twisted conspiracies, cold-blooded murders and genetic experiments, coming to the realization that she is not schizophrenic but, in fact, a necromancer, a person not only capable of seeing, summoning and banishing ghosts, but also capable of returning them to their rotting corpses and forcing them to do her bidding, a gift that she is terrified of using. Around her surround her fellow Lyle House supernatural's are a warlock, a witch, a half demon, a werewolf and a telekinetic being. From there, adventures and suspense ensue.

Now, as ridiculous as this series sounds it's actually... Pretty darned good. Chloe is a decent main character, one that is realistically afraid of the situations she has been tossed into and yet not to the point of being annoying, all the while growing realistically through the three novels of this part of the series. The side

characters are also rather well written. While Simon never really develops past the “nice brother”, Derek actually grows through the books and gains some actually reasonable explanations for his rude behavior. The other characters... Well, I can't really say much without leading to spoilers, but they all have their own part in the story and a good background, making them all feel like individual characters.

While this novel contains a hint of romance (As with any young adult series these days it seems) it was something that was not overbearing and actually rather nicely written, always kept in it's proper place as a subplot rather than taking over the more interesting action/suspense/horror essence. There are a lot of portions of this book where the situations do get rather dark and creepy, such as Chloe's first accidental raising of a corpse or the description of the werewolf transformation she comes across. No Twilight immediate miracle magic for these guys. No, there's bones popping, vomit spewing and body twisting, the grotesque image of werewolves and their abilities once again back on the scene and personally, I missed it. And there is plenty more where that came from.

Overall, I would deliver The Darkest Powers series 4 thumps out of 5.



I am Amelia and I will be taking over for Korr to bring you Doctor Who! Doctor Who is the mostest awesomest show ever! Everyone should watch it all day every day on a constant loop.

“Amelia”

“Yes Korr?”

“If you are going to write a review, you need to be objective, not just say how good it is. You have to talk about what the show is about, who is in and why it is good.”

“Fine.”

So, Doctor Who is about this guy called The Doctor. He is a Time Lord and uses a TARDIS to travel through time and anywhere in the universe. He travels with a companion who is from Earth. He can end up just about anywhere and anywhen, but tends to end up where he is needed rather than where he wants to go. One thing to know about Time Lords is that they can regenerate. This happens when they are about to die, they regenerate into a new body. With each new regeneration, The Doctor has to relearn some things and figure out who he is again. The Doctor is also known as the last of the Time Lords.

Doctor Who originally started in 1963 and aired until 1989. It was then picked up again in 2005 and is currently running. There have been 11 Doctors over the years with the current one being played by Matt Smith. It is the longest running science fiction show in the world according to the Guinness Record Book. It is a British show with most episodes taking places somewhere in England or the UK (the ones that aren't in space that is).

The current season is the one that I will be reviewing. It is currently on the 6th episode of the season. There are 2 companions in this season so far. One is Amy Pond (whom I am named after) and Rory Williams who is married to Amy. Amy has been a companion since the start of last season with Rory being involved but not a full companion until this season. This season has gotten off to an exciting start. The Doctor, Amy, Rory and River Song (a companion that comes and goes) are in America. They get enlisted to help the President (Nixon, this one takes place in 1969ish) to save a girl in a space suit. They end up discovering these creatures called The Silence who erase themselves from your memory as soon as you look away from them. This is a 2 part episode and really good, it keeps you guessing right until the end and even the 2nd or 3rd time around. The next episode is about pirates. A pirate ship has a siren that goes after anyone who has an injury or is sick. This episode is not the best, but still scary and touching at points. The Doctor's Wife is episode number 4. This one finds the Doctor getting Time Lord mail and thinking that there are some Time Lords left. They find themselves on a planet that is just outside the universe which uses Time Lords as energy. You will have to watch it to find out who The Doctor's Wife is, as that is a spoiler for this episode. The Rebel Flesh is the first part of another 2 part episode. There is a group of people who use Gangers do to dangerous jobs. These Gangers are basically clones of the person who is controlled by the person. After a solar tsunami hits, the Gangers start to become separate 'people'. Part 2 has not aired yet in Canada, so we will have to see how this situation turns out.

Since I, Amelia, am doing this review, I think I should tell you about why I am named after Amy Pond. First, you should know that Amy's real name is Amelia and she changed it as a child. The episode I am really named after is called Vincent and the Doctor. This episode has The Doctor and Amy going back to see Vincent van Goth as they found the image of a creature in one of his paintings. They want to know what is going on with that, so go back to meet Vincent and see if they can help him. While with him, they learn more about how he is perceived by the people in his town and what he has to deal with. While there, they find out about the creature that is invisible to everyone but Vincent. Since they saw the creature in a painting of a church, they know that they have to go to the church to see the creature. As with many of the creature on Doctor Who, this one is not bad or out to get people, this one is lost from its group and is blind. The Doctor tries to understand the creature even though he cannot save it. After dealing with the creature, Vincent, The Doctor and Amy and lying in the grass looking at the stars and Vincent is describing how he sees it and they see the painting Starry Night. Later on, The Doctor and Amy take Vincent to his future so he can see what impact he has made on the world and how people see him now. After taking him back home, The Doctor and Amy go back to the museum to see if anything has changed. There are no new paintings, but the creature of gone from the painting and a painting of sunflowers has an inscription to Amy on it. So while they didn't seem to have changed much, they did make an impact. It is episodes like this one that really make Doctor Who a great show that can be more about the characters than a bit dramatic scene.

Doctor Who is a show for families. There are 2 spinoffs, one called The SarahJane Adventures which is targeted for children and the other is Torchwood which is for adults. While some scenes of Doctor Who can be a bit much for young children, it is still a good show for families. Doctor Who airs on Space in Canada in Saturday nights.

I give Doctor Who 2 paws up and a tail flick.

p.s. Korr will return with the next issue of Korr's Critiques.

Welcome to Kokomo's Kitchen!

HANGEL'S MUSH sent to us for Peace from Paula!
Thanks Paula!

This recipe is designed to provide fiber and nutrition for rabbits that may have difficulty eating due to dental or other medical problems. Although if a rabbit's condition cannot be reversed, this diet will sustain the rabbit, it is not intended for Angel's Mush to be fed to normal, healthy rabbits in place of their hay, pellets, and veggies.

1 cup of either oat or barley flour

4 cups pellets

5 cups water

Mix together the flour and pellets. Add the water and let the mixture stand an hour or so until the pellets have dissolved.

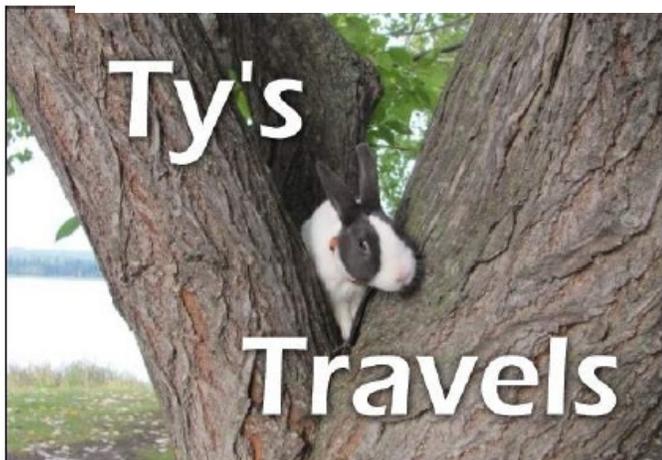
Then add: 1 - 8oz. can vanilla Ensure or Deliver 2.0 (or its equivalent)

1 - 28oz. or 32oz. can pumpkin (NOT pie mix)

1 - 12oz. can V-8 juice

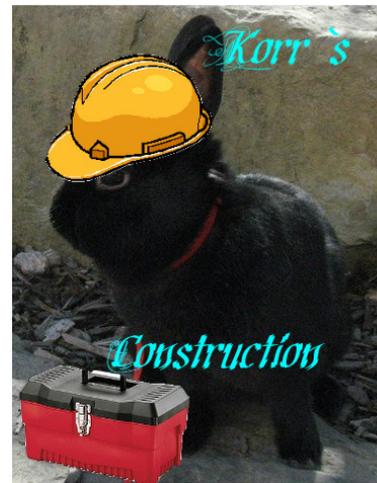
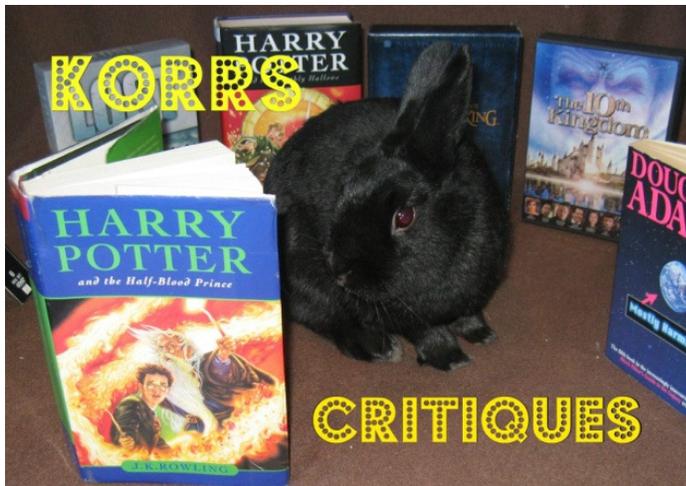
Mix together, adding additional water if needed. We keep it fairly dry for buns eating it on their own and fairly soft for syringe feeding. Store small amounts in baggies and freeze. Thaw as needed.

I also mix this dry and spread it out to dry - break it up and use it as treats



Earlier this month I was feeling a little off & couldn't hop more than 2-3 hops without falling over. So Amanda took me to see Dr. Leticia Materi at the Calgary Avian & Exotic Pet Clinic. After a good looking over, it was decided that I could have possibly suffered a stroke. So I'm on Boost now & doing so much better, I'm feeling like my old self again! Thank you Amanda for taking such good care of me & for loving me like you do! I'm such a lucky little guy!





Hello, since Amelia has taken over my regular column, I Korr will be doing a special feature on building a jump.

Supplies: 2 bases, 2 stands using 1X2" wood, 4 2" screws, 1/2" screws for the cups, film canisters, 1/2" wooden dowels, paint, screw driver, utility knife, saw, drill, paint.

The size of the supplies depends on how big you want the jump. A 2ft tall jump will need bases that are about 6X8 or a bit bigger, 2ft tall stands. Taller jumps should have bigger bases while smaller jumps can have smaller ones. The taller the jump, the more jump cups (film canisters), screws and dowels you will need.

- Step 1: Measure the centre of the base and mark where you want the screws for the stand to go. You will need space for 2 screws on each one. Drill the holes or just screw into the wood. Line up the stand so that the screws are where you want them and screw the stand and base together. Make sure it is tight. You can use glue to make it secure if you would like. Do this for both stands.
- Step 2: This is a good time to paint your jump. You can also do it before you put it together. Don't paint the poles yet, it is better to wait until you have put the jump cups on.
- Step 3: You will need to cut the film canisters. Cut them lengthwise in half leaving the bottom intact. Cut the excess off around the bottom. Use one of the small screws to put a hole in the centre of the bottom.
- Step 4: Measure where you want the jump cups. They should be about 2" to 3" apart. Any further and small rabbits can slip through. I tend to do 2.5" or 3". You can drill the holes, but don't go too far.
- Step 5: Screw the jump cups into the holes. This completes the basic stands for your jump.
- Step 6: Cut the dowels. You can do them 2ft long, but some people do them longer. Sand the edges.
- Step 7: Paint the poles as you want. I put some tape on the jump cups so the dowels can dry easily.

As our club uses foam mats for the course, the jumps have to go over them. The mats are 2ft wide. To avoid having to use longer dowels, you can put the stand part on the edge of the base. This allows the jump to be wide enough for the mats and not need longer (and more expensive) dowels.

Make sure the screws you use for the bases have flat bottoms.

When making any jump, there are a few things to keep in mind. The number 1 thing is safety. The poles need to fall down easily if the rabbits hit them. The poles should not be too heavy so they can't come out. Fixed poles are dangerous. Only if the jump is less than about 4" can it be solid or fixed.

Peace's Medical Journey

As you may have read in the Editor in Peace section at the beginning of the newsletter. Peace, my 1 yr old Belgian Hare has recently undergone some medical procedures & surgery. While the images are a little graphic, it's also quite interesting from a medical point of view. The vet who has been helping us said they have never seen anything like this before, so found him to be a quite interesting case.

On May 27th Amanda noticed this strange lump on Peace's inside of his left hock.



As you may also notice in the 2nd photo, a fairly large testicle. This was something that seemed to be quite a topic at rabbit hopping events as he seemed to draw a lot of attention to himself. The most common reply people had, vets included was, wow, that's impressive!

On May 31st the look of his hock had changed and started to appear to be more of an abscess.

As you can see in the photo to the right, it has gotten much bigger & was now showing a white spot. This is also a good photo as it allows you to see his testicle which hangs quite low & appears to be stretching the thin skin quite a bit.

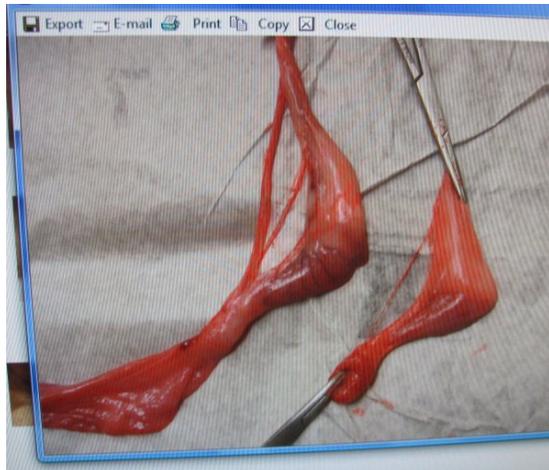
We took Peace to the Dewinton Pet Hospital to see Dr. Eva who is an exotics vet. My first thought when looking at Peace would be, WOW, look at that abscess! But Dr. Eva's first comment was, WOW, look at that testicle. It appeared to her the bigger issue was taking care of the testicle & having him neutered right away. Because he would need to be put to sleep to take care of the abscess, she suggested getting him neutered at the same time. Since I had planned to do it at some point & not wanting to put him under more than necessary, I decided to book the appt. for the neuter/abscess the next morning. Fearing if the abscess got any worse that it might spread throughout his body. Dr. Eva feared he could get testicular cancer, which also wouldn't be something we would want to deal with.



So on June 1 I took him to the vet and dropped him off. I was really worried about this special guy. I wasn't sure with all that he would have to have done and the time it would take to do it all, that he would make it through. So before I handed him over, I gave him a big hug, a kiss on his head and told him I loved him and made a point to tell him I would be seeing him later when I came to pick him up.

They told me that they had a previous emergency with a cat, so not to worry if it took a bit longer for them to call me. But they had said that I could pick him up about 2:00 p.m.

When 1:40 came and I still had not heard from the vets office, I of course started to worry more. But then the call came in that he made it through ok and was recovering. He was still apparently sleeping it off but doing well. Then they told me I could pick him up at 5:00 that evening.



So I said to them when I arrived to get him that it's a shame, I wanted to see if they would take photos during the surgery. But they said they did because it was such an interesting surgery, so they took a fair number for future reference. The photo above is Peace's 2 testicles that they removed. The one on the left is the one which hung down outside his body. The one on the right was the cryptorchid testicle. They said usually the one inside the abdomen is usually smaller, but this was about half the size of the other. Apparently the one on the right is approximately the size of what a regular rabbit's testicle would look like. All the fleshy stuff on the left one is apparently what made it look the size it did.



This was the abscess which broke open as they were trying to put in an IV.



This was where the abscess was, but what it looked like after cleaned up & flushed out.



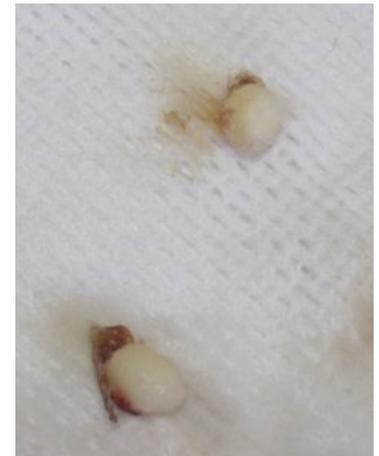
Peace not liking any of the pain killers or antibiotics.

June 4, 2011. This is what the hock looked like after the vet flushed it out and brought him back to show us so we could take a pic. They said sometimes sutures can tear, so he has 2, one on each side, then the middle white looking thing is like a shoe lace they said, it helps to pad it and protect it from ripping. The hole below is where the little syringe goes in to flush as well as drain. He also still has the 4 antibiotic beads in there so in 2-3 months those will have to come out as well, so chances are in that amount of time, they will have to give him a local and open it slightly again to pop them out.



Even with being neutered, he's still got a little left. The vet says it should shrink in 5-6 months, if not she wants to remove what's left. But I think it's a whole lot less than what it was before. She said they didn't remove it during the surgery as it has such a large blood supply, they didn't want to risk it..

To the right are 2 of the antibiotic beads that fell out due to his pulling & chewing on the bandage between vet visits.



On June 9th at the vet, Peace had torn out 2 stitches, which then caused the bead to fall out and also for the Dr. to put 1 back & 2 new stitches.



Now we just hope it will heal & the flesh around it & he won't get sepsis, or worse...

Popcorn's Paparazzi



Glenbrook Pre School!



Photos below are from Aspen Crossing Train Days Event!





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*Thank you to Jason at Aspen Crossing for
the donation to our club!*

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