

The Canadian Rabbit Hopping Club



July/August 2011 - Volume 1, Issue 4



Welcome to the 4th edition of the C.R.H.C. Newsletter!

Pictured above is a group photo from the 2011 Calgary Stampede!

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Welcome to the 4th edition of the C.R.H.C. Newsletter. I am your Editor in Peace. For those who have been following my progress & sending your good thoughts for my recovery, I just want to say Thank You. Also, to everyone who helped in donating to help cover the cost of my surgery, I am so grateful & can't express how much that truly meant to myself & my family. I'm afraid things might have turned out differently without all your help & support in my time of need. I am very happy to report that I have recovered fully from the abscess & neuter, but am keeping my ears crossed it doesn't reoccur. It was quite a nasty thing to deal with & I know my family was quite stressed during that month of my recovery. Now, back to business as usual! On with this edition of the newsletter! I hope you enjoy it & remember, if you or anyone you know would like to submit to it just let me know! I appreciate any submissions we get!! Peace out!

Featured Bunny!

This issue's featured bunny is Simba!



Simba is a fairly new member of the club, but has shot to fame at the Calgary Stampede, being the first bunny at this event to sell out of all his autographed photos! With his trainers Marin & Nicole, we can expect to see many more achievements from this up & rising star.

Upcoming Events!

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.

September 2, 2011 ~ Monthly practice moved to tomorrow, September 3rd.

September 3, 2011 ~ Club BBQ & practice at Nichole's home. Please contact Nichole for details & directions at saria_the_sage@hotmail.com.

September 10, 2011 ~ Performance at the Springbank Fall Fair. The day starts off with a family fun run in the morning followed with a lions breakfast, a horticulture show, a kid zone, petting zoo, pony rides & various vendors throughout the day. The day finishes off with a dinner/dance in the evening.

Location: About 1.5 km South of Calaway Park on the corner of Range Road 33 & Springbank Road.

Hours: From 9:00 - 3:00. The kid zone is held in the outdoor rink & runs from 11:00 - 2:00. The dinner/dance starts at 6 and runs until midnight.

September 16 & 17, 2011 ~ Performance at the Country Fair at the [Chestermere Recreation Centre](#).

Wallaby's World Wide Web

For this issue I'd like to share a website with you that I just found that appears to have some really interesting recipes for us bunnies. I haven't looked through the site completely, but from what I've seen, it all looks very yummy! So be sure to check out <http://amazingdwarfs.blogspot.com>

If anyone has any great bunny websites, please let me know. I'm always on the lookout for new & interesting sites to explore!



Hello everybody, welcome to the 4th edition of Babbitty's Box Office. The movie we will be looking at today is the finale of the Harry Potter saga, (Oh, quit crying Amanda!) Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows, Part 2. Now, if there is anyone who has not read the book or seen the movie yet, (And if you haven't, why in god's name not?) **This review will involve a lot of spoilers! So you are warned!**

We pick up where the last movie left off, with Voldemort claiming the Elder Wand. The early scenes involve Harry, Hermonie & Ron planning a raid on Gringott's to claim a horcrux. (A part of Voldemort's soul which must be destroyed to kill him.) But don't get used to any kind of a slow pace, because the rest of the movie is slam-bang, mile a minute action & plenty of it! The plan goes awry, as Harry points out with the immortal line, "Hermonie, what difference does it make? We have a plan, we show up, all hell breaks loose!" But do they slip out as low key as ever? Of course not, they smash right through the bank itself riding a dragon!

Needless to say, Voldemort is none too pleased, & lays waste to what is left of Gringott's staff. (Including a certain little jerk who deserves it!) But this also allows Harry to witness where a missing horcrux is, Of course, it is in Hogwarts. This sets up the last hour of the movie, the battle for Hogwarts. After destroying what they believe are the final 2 horcrux, they find there is another, Nagini the snake. While trying to track her, they witness the death of Severus Snape. Before he dies, Snape gives Harry some very important information in the form of memories. Nagini is not the last horcrux. **Super Spoiler Alert!** The final horcrux is Harry himself. In order for Voldemort to be destroyed, Harry must die at Voldemort's hand. But Harry faces this with moving bravery & courage, which is nice to see. Movies these days have far too many reluctant heroes, it's encouraging to see an old time hero who knows what needs to be done & does it, & doesn't think what it will cost him. In his arrogance, Voldemort has again over looked the obvious. The curse does not kill Harry, but the part of Voldemort's own soul in Harry. When he carried Harry's "dead body" back to the castle to mock Harry's supporters, he once again plants the seeds of his own doom. The battle has many highlights, such as Hogwarts statues vs. the Giants, Molly vs. Bellatrix, Neville vs. Nagini, the death eaters running like scared children when they realize Harry is alive, & of course Harry vs. Voldemort. But other than an excellent performance by Daniel Radcliff, the unequivocal star of this movie is Alan Rickman as Snape. Up to this point, the movies have shown Snape as an uncaring villain. His final memories given to Harry to view change everything. Potter fans who have hated Snape throughout the series will be in tears, pitying him without reservation. (At least I know one who did.)

In short, this movie had everything. Loads of action, very touching moments, great acting, especially by Rickman, Radcliff & Maggie Smith, fantastic writing & best of all, no let down in the least. It can be awful to be with a saga that has a horribly weak ending, cough, Twilight, cough. This was a classic ending for a great epic which is extremely hard to pull off. As such, I give it 5 out of 5 jump poles. Till next time this is Babbitty saying, academy, you had better get ready to put some hardware on Alan Rickman's mantel, or I'll avada kedavra your butt!





ASK THE VET



Thanks to everyone in the club that submitted a question! There were quite a lot so I plan to answer a few of them in each newsletter. Please keep them coming!

What's the best way to prevent sore hocks? Once they have a problem, what's the best way to treat it?

The term 'sore hocks' refers to a condition known in veterinary medicine as pododermatitis. This word translates to 'foot skin inflammation' from ancient Greek. This is a potentially very serious disease that is considered to be due to a variety of reasons. In order to understand why this condition happens and how to avoid it, it is important to understand the anatomy of the rabbit foot.



Most of us are familiar with how dog and cat paws appear. These animals have areas of extremely thickened skin on the bottom of their paws known as footpads. These footpads are the toughest part of the skin and act as a cushion to help absorb shock and pressure on the joints from standing, walking and running, as well as providing traction when walking down a slope.

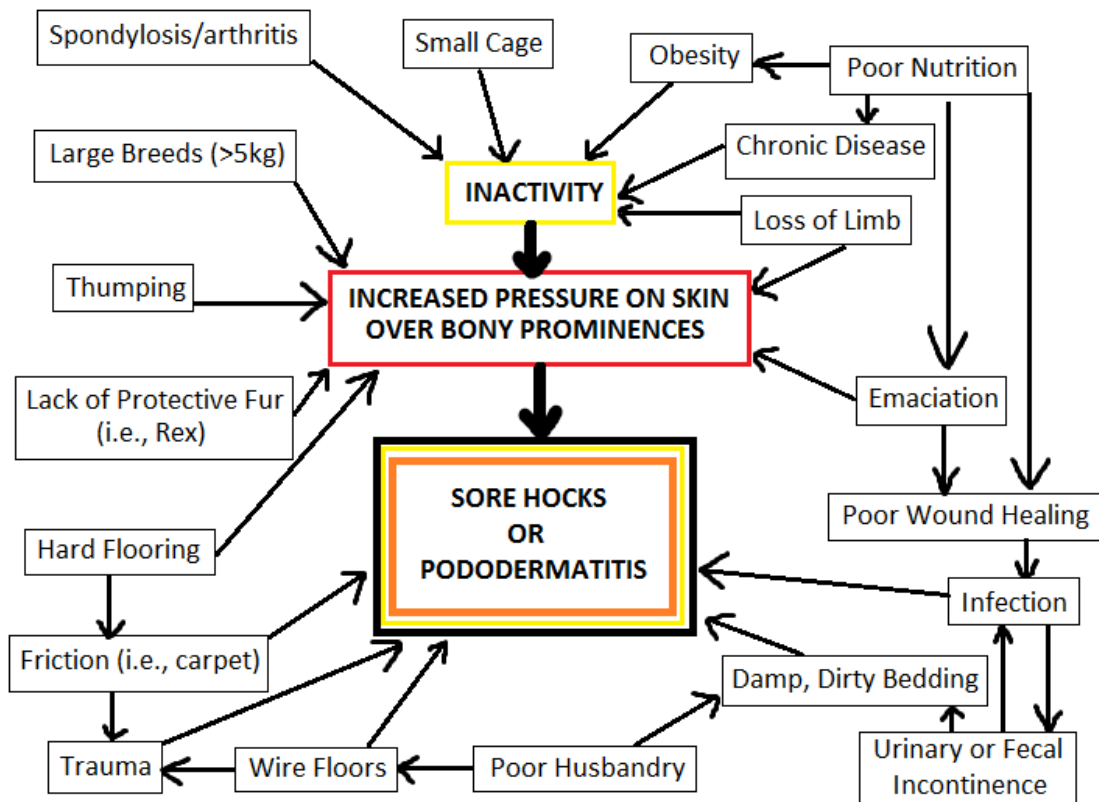
Rabbits, on the other hand, do not have footpads. The skin on the underside of their feet is much thinner than that found on dogs and cats and is covered by thick, coarse hair. The very back part of the hind foot is known as the hock and it is equivalent to the human ankle. However, the hock does not have the tissue padding that we possess in our heels. In that respect, the hock of a rabbit is somewhat similar to the human elbow, with only a thin layer of tissue and tendon between the skin and the underlying bone. When rabbits hop, the claws sink into the ground and take the weight during locomotion, especially on the hind feet. When resting, most of a rabbit's weight is distributed between the claws and the sole of the foot (the area between the toes and the hock). The toes, sole and hock are normally protected by thick fur.





The type of flooring the rabbit hops or stands on will affect how the body weight is distributed on the feet. When housed on hard surfaces, such as concrete or hard plastic, the claws are unable to sink into the flooring and the weight is distributed away from the toes and towards the back part of the foot. This puts excessive pressure on the poorly cushioned hock. Flooring like carpet can be very abrasive and will increase friction and shearing forces on the skin and can also lead to pododermatitis. Large breed

rabbits (>5 kg) and rabbits that have a tendency to be 'couch potatoes' will also be more predisposed to pododermatitis since larger size and immobility allow more pressure on the bony protuberances of the hocks. Some breeds of rabbits, such as Rex Rabbits, have short, soft, 'velveteen' fur which makes their feet especially prone to sores since they lack the longer protective foot fur found in other breeds. This scenario is made worse if the rabbit is also overweight or housed on dirty bedding. The complex nature of the development of pododermatitis is demonstrated in the diagram below.



Modified from *Textbook of Rabbit Medicine* by Frances Harcourt-Brown

The first sign of pododermatitis is often a loss of hair and reddened skin on the bottom of the feet. Without the cushion of the thick fur, the skin is now susceptible to mechanical trauma. Left untreated, ulcers begin to develop in the skin which gradually grow deeper and can erode underlying blood vessels, leading to bleeding. The wound then becomes contaminated by bacteria and infection sets in. This infection begins to spread into deeper tissues and may eventually affect the underlying bone and joints. The rabbits become progressively painful and reluctant to move which makes the situation worse. In the most extreme cases, tendons become displaced and bones erode leading to permanent disability for the rabbit. The prognosis at this extreme stage is grave.



Arrows point to subtle signs of bone infection in the hock

If you suspect that your pet may be developing pododermatitis, consult a veterinarian right away. Your veterinarian may recommend testing such as a culture for bacteria and radiographs (x-rays) to determine how far the disease has advanced.

Radiographs are critical for determining if bone infection (osteomyelitis) is present. This is necessary in order to determine what kind of treatment is needed for your pet. Treatment of this terrible disease is aimed at relieving pressure on the affected area and treating any secondary infection. First, the underlying cause must be addressed. Dirty bedding

must be changed, obese rabbits should lose weight, 'couch potatoes' must be encouraged to exercise, and nonabrasive, soft, dry bedding must be provided. Foam rubber or a thick towel placed under newspaper with hay on top can be helpful. If there are already ulcers, then just use foam, towels and/or quilts so that nothing adheres to the wounds. Sometimes these wounds are best treated with bandages or specialized 'booties', antibiotics, and pain control medication. Sometimes surgery is needed to remove infected or dead tissues. Drains, antibiotic impregnated beads or gauze, or even amputation of the limb may be warranted.



Obvious bone infection in the front foot

In conclusion, the best medicine for sore hocks is prevention! Maintain your pet at a healthy weight, encourage them to exercise, and provide bedding that is clean, dry, and nonabrasive. Monitor your rabbit's feet regularly for early signs of the disease and consult a veterinarian right away if you have any concerns.

What's the best way to prevent &/or deal with ear mites?



Ear mites (*Psoroptes cuniculi*) are external parasites that live in the ear canal but can occasionally be found in the skin folds around the genitalia of infected rabbits. These parasites chew and pierce the skin of the ear. Rabbits with ear mites may be itchy, shake their heads, and will sometimes have thick crusty material in either one or both ears. These mites are typically transmitted by direct contact between animals. Crusts that fall from the ear may contain mites that can survive in the environment for up to three weeks and could, in theory, infect another rabbit.

Treatment for ear mites is best accomplished with antiparasitic medications such as ivermectin or selamectin. It is important that the environment be thoroughly cleaned as well. There have been reports of using mineral oil in the ear but this could be dangerous if the ear drum is ruptured. Do not attempt to remove the crusts from the ears as this can be extremely painful for the rabbit. The crusts will eventually disappear with proper treatment. Sometimes rabbits require antibiotics and pain control medication due to secondary bacterial infections.



To prevent ear mites, newly arriving rabbits should be quarantined until it is determined that they are free of the parasites. If a rabbit has been found positive for ear mites, the environment must be cleaned before new rabbits are permitted into the area. Mites can also be transmitted by grooming materials so ensure all brushes and combs are thoroughly cleaned. Although rabbit ear mites are considered species specific (i.e., they only infect rabbits), there has been one report of a guinea pig contracting *Psoroptes cuniculi* from an infected rabbit. Fortunately, this parasite does not affect humans.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leticia Materi PhD DVM

Calgary Avian & Exotic Pet Clinic



ASK THE VET



1. In our club we like to promote spaying & neutering, can you tell us what's involved at your clinic in doing this & the costs involved?

2. What are the benefits of spaying/neutering pet rabbits and not breeding just for the sake of having babies?

*I invited **Ashley Nolan**, a 4th year veterinary student from the Atlantic Veterinary College in P.E.I., to answer these important questions. Ashley was at our clinic to complete a rotation in exotic pet medicine and learn about these special pets. I think she did a great job and wanted to share her answer with your club.*

- Dr. Materi, Calgary Avian & Exotic Pet Clinic



No matter what type of veterinary practice you may enter, one of the most common topics that we as veterinarians must address is advising and educating clients on the benefits of spaying or neutering their animals. This is especially important for rabbit owners to consider given the health and behavioural problems it will address.

Spaying (Females) - involves removing both ovaries, uterine horns and the cervixes. It is recommended that spays be done at five to six months of age.

Depending on which articles you read, there is a 50-85% chance that an intact female rabbit will develop uterine cancer in her lifetime. In the wild, rabbits are designed to reproduce extremely quickly and frequently, with only a portion of their young surviving to reach sexual maturity and reproduce themselves. The uterine tissue will undergo massive numbers of cell replications during each heat cycle and potential pregnancy. However, with every one of these cell divisions there is a possibility of a mistake being made leading to a cancerous mutation. The lifespan of wild rabbits is significantly less than our domesticated companions, who are not exposed to harsh environmental conditions and the constant risk of predators.

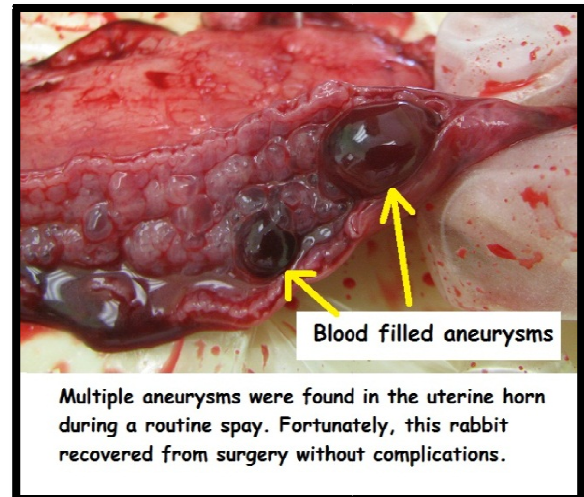


A large tumour was found attached to the uterine horn during a routine spay

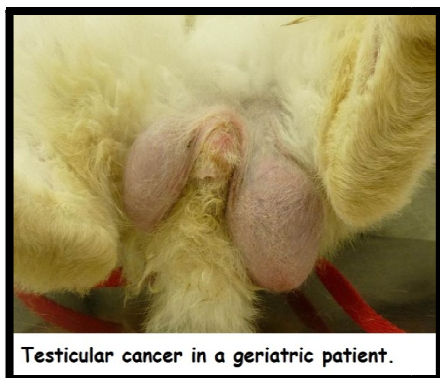
For this reason, wild rabbits routinely do not live long enough to succumb to uterine cancer. However, pet rabbits can live very long lives, leaving uterine cancer to overcome their bodies.

In addition to uterine cancer, female rabbits also have the tendency to develop what are known as uterine aneurysms. Aneurysms are enlarged blood vessels that have very thin weak walls that can rupture at any time potentially resulting in fatal blood loss. The treatment of which is an emergency spay, which carries a higher risk of complications.

Not only does spaying a rabbit reduce the risk of uterine cancer and aneurysms, it can also prevent behaviour issues. It has been reported that spayed rabbits are much easier to litter box train and less aggressive and territorial. Spaying also prevents unwanted pregnancies. Sadly, local shelters are full of unwanted bunnies.



Neutering (Males)- involves removing both testicles. It is recommended that males are neutered between 4-6 months of age.



And don't forget about all those boy bunnies out there! While the rate of testicular cancers in rabbits is not as high as it is in dogs, it can still occur. Neutering males also helps prevent undesirable behaviours. As most male rabbit owners have probably noticed, once they start to reach sexual maturity they will begin to urine spray. In the wild, this is a behaviour used to let other males know that they are living in a particular territory. At home this can be a frustrating, and not to mention, a smelly problem. Neutering can reduce or prevent urine spraying by removing the testicles that are secreting all the sex hormones contributing to this behaviour.

Now that we have explored the medical and behavioural advantages of fixing our rabbits, another concern we often come across is owner anxiety of leaving their

fluffy friends at the veterinarian in order for the procedure to be done. I hope to alleviate some of this anxiety by explaining what happens once you drop off your rabbit at our clinic.

Behind the scenes

After booking a surgery appointment, you can drop off your rabbit first thing in the morning where they are immediately put into a comfy kennel to calm down and get used to their surroundings. The veterinarian then gives them a complete physical exam to make sure that they appear healthy. This includes listening to their heart, lungs and taking their temperature.

After their physical, they are given a combination of medications that will provide sedation, relaxation and pain control. After about 10-15 minutes, the drugs will have taken effect and the veterinarian will then put a breathing tube down their trachea to ensure that they are getting enough oxygen and anaesthetic during the procedure. At the same time, a technician will give fluids to the rabbit to replace the small amount of blood that may be lost during the surgery.



Spay- a technician will now clip and clean the surgical area. Once sterile, the rabbit will be moved into our surgery suite. At this time we will attach a variety of monitors. These include a Doppler machine, so we can listen to her heart rate and rhythm, and a pulse oximeter so we can make sure she has enough oxygen. The veterinarian will then make an incision through her belly into her abdomen where they will gently find and remove both ovaries, the uterine horns and the cervixes. Then the vet will close up the incision.

Neuter- For boy bunnies, they are also attached to our monitoring equipment and the scrotum and surrounding area will be clipped and cleaned as well. An incision will be made through the scrotum to expose the testicle which will be completely removed. The remaining tissue is then sutured closed to prevent hernia development. The second testicle is removed in a similar manner and the scrotum closed.

After the surgery is completed, your bunny will be moved to a nice warm, quiet cage to wake up from the anaesthesia while being monitored by trained technicians.

We recommend all animals undergoing any type of surgery have pre-anaesthetic blood work done in order to help identify potential health risks. Blood work allows us look at how well the kidneys and liver are functioning. These organs are important for processing and metabolizing the anaesthesia. We also look to see if there are enough platelets. Platelets are necessary for the blood to clot properly. Examining white blood cells help identify infection and inflammation that are not obvious on physical exam.

As rabbit owners, we have a responsibility to make sure that our companions live happy and healthy lives. Spaying and neutering is a key factor in managing health and behavioural problems, and can also help improve the quality and quantity of time you may experience with your fluffy friend.

The cost of these procedures includes overnight hospitalization, fluids, anaesthetic, surgical time and materials, and postoperative monitoring. For further information, quote inquiries, or to book an appointment, please call our clinic at 403-240-3577.

For more info, please send your questions to Rosemarie so she can gather them & forward them on to Dr. Materi.



ASK THE VET



Q: What can you do to an old male rabbit, who can't keep the inside of his back legs clean any longer? – Submitted by Aase Bjerner

A: Thank you for this very interesting question, Aase! It raises the topic of proper hygiene in our pet rabbits and also introduces the need for special care of geriatric pets.

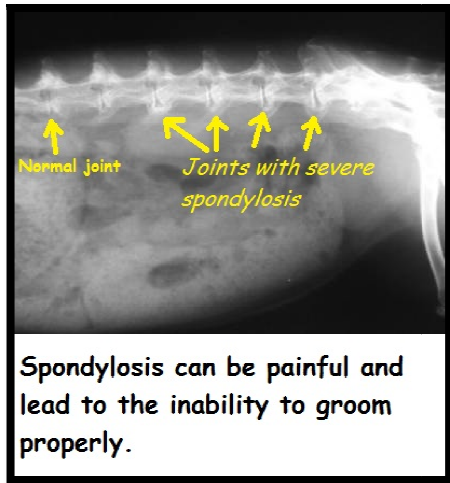


There are a few ways in which a rabbit can get, for lack of a better term, a dirty backside. Sometimes they are outside frolicking and digging in our yards and gardens and end up with dirt or plant debris stuck to them. This should be easily remedied with brushing or gentle washing of the legs and hind end. My preference is not to submerge a rabbit in a bath but to hold dirty areas under a stream of lukewarm water or have them sit in only an inch or two of water to wash away mud. But be careful! Many rabbits like to squirm and can hurt

themselves quite badly if they flail. If using a shallow bath, have the rabbit sit on a towel in the bath to provide them with a non-slip surface. I prefer to not use a cleaning product but if you need to use a mild pet soap, be sure to rinse it off thoroughly as soap build-up can be irritating to the skin and your rabbit may end up ingesting it when grooming.

If, however, your rabbit is getting an accumulation of stool, cecotropes, or urine stuck to his fur, then this may indicate a medical problem. I have seen obese rabbits with messy hind legs because they were not able to bend enough to groom the back part of their body or eat cecotropes properly due to excess body fat. Because the cecotropes are soft, they can easily stick to the fur and legs of the rabbit. Diets too rich in sugars/carbohydrates and too low in fibre can lead to soft stool which also sticks to fur around the anus. Elderly rabbits are prone to arthritis, urinary stones or sludge, and spondylosis (a condition that leads to changes in the vertebral column or back bones). These





conditions can be painful and can alter how a rabbit positions himself to urinate and in some cases can cause incontinence. I would recommend that you seek out a veterinarian to help you determine if your rabbit has a condition that may require medical attention.

Some of my geriatric patients that have arthritis or spondylosis benefit from non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory medications. These types of medications relieve joint pain and allow the

rabbits to groom properly and void urine normally. Proper grooming by professionals familiar with rabbits may be necessary to remove matted fur. Diseases such as urinary stones or sludge require more intense medical management.

It is also very important to remember that rabbits with dirty backsides should be monitored closely if going outside. It is possible for these rabbits to become infected with maggots due to flies laying eggs in the soiled fur.

Q: What's the best food to help a rabbit to gain weight? And to lose weight?

A: Just like in humans, weight management can be a challenge for some of our furry friends! The best indicator of body condition is how your rabbit feels when you pet him or her. If the hip bones and spine are really prominent, then it is likely your rabbit is too thin. On the other hand, if you cannot feel the back bones or hips due to excess tissue, it is likely you have a chunky bunny on your hands!



When considering a thin rabbit, my first instinct is to ensure that there is not a medical reason for him or her to be underweight. Some diseases such as cardiac dysfunction, renal disease, liver disease, diabetes, internal parasites, and cancer can cause a rabbit to lose weight despite seemingly normal appetites. Some rabbits become thin because they have a hard time eating due to dental disease while others may simply refuse food due to other illnesses such as infections or gastric stasis.

If your rabbit has had an examination by a veterinarian and there is no medical reason for the thin body condition, increasing his caloric intake is the only way to allow him to gain weight. Safe weight gain is best accomplished by encouraging the intake of more hay. Use a variety of hays such as oat hay, brome hay, meadow grass hay, orchard grass hay, and botanical hay. The shelves at many pet stores and even some veterinary clinics are full of a variety of tempting hays. Some alfalfa can also be given provided that your rabbit does not have a history of bladder stones or sludge. Only give a small amount of alfalfa as it is considered rich hay and can cause soft stool in some rabbits. Do not use it at all if your rabbit has a sensitive tummy. Steaming hay with food items such as carrot or apple can increase its palatability and soften hay fibres which some rabbits prefer. A light misting of the hay with dilute organic apple juice can also tempt thin bunnies to eat more. Using 100% hay toys such as Bungalows, Loungers, or Mats by Oxbow[®] can allow your pet to destroy and eat his favourite toys thus increasing caloric intake safely.



The shelves of our veterinary clinic are full of a variety of hays and pellets to suit your pet's needs.



On the other hand, chubby bunnies require a safe reduction of caloric intake and increased exercise in order to lose weight. It is very important that weight loss be gradual and monitored by your veterinarian as hepatic lipidosis, also known as fatty liver, can occur. Rapid weight loss causes fat stores in the body to break down quickly and the excess fat is soon taken up by the liver. This can lead to inflammation and liver dysfunction.

Safe weight reduction can be accomplished by reducing or eliminating high calorie treats such as root vegetables (i.e., carrots), pet store treats, and pellets from the diet and replacing them with hay. Again, this should be done gradually. I would recommend buying a scale so that your rabbit's weight can be monitored daily. Do not feed gourmet diets, grains, seeds, or alfalfa as these contain too many calories. Encouraging your rabbit to exercise is another healthy way to encourage weight loss. Involvement in clubs such as this one will promote movement and a healthier lifestyle!



Respectfully Submitted, Leticia Materi PhD DVM Calgary Avian & Exotic Pet Clinic

News from the AEMV

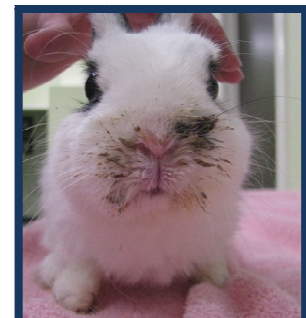
For several years, the AEMV (Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians) has organized an annual meeting on the latest topics in exotic pet medicine. Scientists and



veterinarians from many countries including Canada, the United States, England, France, Germany and Italy meet to discuss exciting new topics in exotic mammal medicine and surgery.

Veterinarians and technicians from our clinic have always been fortunate enough to attend this prestigious event and this year was no exception. This year, one of our technicians, Rebekah, and I were able to attend the meeting in Seattle, Washington, USA. Seattle is a city full of artistic creativity and amazing restaurants to satisfy all cravings. It also provided the scene for advanced education and intense learning so that we might better serve our clients and furry patients.

Several lectures focused on the difficulties of treating chronic upper respiratory tract disease in rabbits. Many pet owners refer to this condition as 'snuffles'. While infection by the bacteria *Pasteurella* has received the most attention, it is clear from the research that numerous other disease processes such as cancer, foreign bodies, and abscesses due to numerous other bacteria and even fungus are more likely to play a role in this disorder. Advanced imaging techniques such as endoscopy and computed tomography (CT) scans were reviewed as diagnostic tools in assessing these diseases in rabbits. While treatments have traditionally focused on the use of oral antibiotics, this meeting presented methods for surgical removal of diseased tissue from the nasal cavities and sinuses. Rabbits with foreign bodies, tumours, or abscesses within the nasal cavity or sinuses may benefit from surgical intervention when antibiotics alone are unlikely to be curative.



New research suggests that some rabbits may benefit from surgical removal of diseased nasal tissues



Human herpes virus can be fatal to rabbits

Over the years, many clients have asked me about diseases that rabbits can carry that can infect humans but rarely am I asked about diseases that we humans can give our pet rabbits. One topic discussed at the conference was the rare form of fatal encephalitis in rabbits linked to human herpes simplex-1 virus. This virus is believed to be transferred from infected owners to their rabbits. While the researchers demonstrated that the virus can infect rabbit eye and nervous tissue, no known cure is yet available. In fact, the testing for this virus in rabbits can only be performed on tissue from deceased animals. Thus,

humans that have active herpes virus infections (i.e., cold-sores) may want to restrain from giving too many kisses to their rabbit since we do not know enough about how easily the virus is transmitted to our pets. Continuing research on this virus in rabbits is important since herpes virus in humans is fairly common and developing a cure would help save many precious bunny lives.

In addition to the numerous lectures on rabbit disorders, a variety of hands-on laboratories were also presented. I attended one lab that presented various ways of helping rabbits such as intravenous and intraosseous fluid administration, endotracheal intubation, and epidural anaesthesia. Each laboratory and workshop aids veterinarians in learning the special techniques needed to help critically ill rabbits.

The role of veterinary technicians in the field of exotic pet medicine is also an important one. This conference held a series of lectures and laboratories focused exclusively on topics important for technicians dedicated to the field of rabbit medicine. By attending these discussions, our technician Rebekah was able to learn about a variety of subjects including rabbit gastrointestinal stasis, physical therapy, and cardiopulmonary considerations for anaesthetized patients. It is just as important that technicians remain educated about rabbit medicine as it is for veterinarians since we work as a team to provide quality services to our patients.

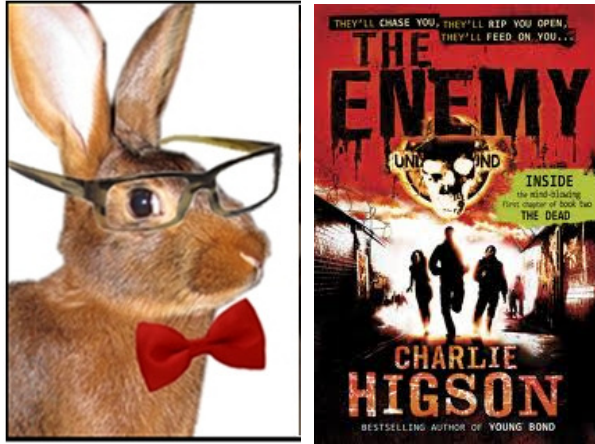
Overall, the conference on exotic pets was as exciting as the city that hosted it. I hope that next year's lectures in Oakland, California also focus attention on the special medical needs of rabbits and help the veterinary community strive to learn more about these unique pets.

Respectfully submitted,

Leticia Materi, PhD DVM

Calgary Avian & Exotic Pet Clinic

Jabberwocky's Journals!



Today we will be reviewing The Enemy.

Salutations there star shines! Today we will be reviewing the first book in a series. The Enemy, by Charlie Higson. Without further ado, let's start the review!

The story of the novel revolves around the city of London after a terrible disease begins spreading to anyone over the age of 14 and turns these people into ravenous, hungry creatures who roam the street searching for children who have not been infected, presumably to devour. I say presumably because despite all the violence and gore in this novel (And trust me, there is PLENTY of it!), we never actually see a "grown-up" eating a child. Dragging one off to drown it, yes. Kidnapping one, yes. Actually eating one? Not yet.

So our story revolves around a number of characters in which the point of view jumps around, ranging from Maxie, Blue, Arran, Achillieuos, Freak, Small Sam and even a zombie or two. This can get rather annoying and hard to keep straight because it jumps around at a random pace and yet, all of the storylines and characters managed to hold my interest. Admittedly though, it seemed at times that the author had less focus then Babbitty, jumping from one plot line to the next.

The grown-ups themselves are still a bit of a mystery. They are described as bald-looking, covered in sores and ravenous with hunger, differing from regular zombies only by that they do not rise back from the dead but merely went insane by the disease and their bites do not spread the disease, just increases the rate of regular infection. However, as seen in the book, not all of them fit this mold as a small band of older ones that our characters find have no interest in attacking, instead cowering at the site of the kids. The grown-ups are still quite the mystery and the cause of the illness is still unknown.

Back to the main characters, it seems like no one is safe in the book, two of the presumed main ones being killed off brutally within the first hundred pages, and plenty more following later on. So try not to grow too attached to one character because you never know when they'll bite the dust!

The pacing of this story was very quick and worked well with the setting and the situations that the characters were placed in. The gory scenes will turn your stomach, the action scenes will make your heart race and the character building scenes are... Admittedly, the weakest ones. There were a few characters I feel could have been great had there been more of a chance to see them but unfortunately, they were cast off in favor some less interesting characters.

Overall, it's hard to judge with this book only being the first in a series (One that I will definitely continue reading) but overall, I would give *The Enemy* 3 and a half thumps out of 5!





Welcome back to Amelia's Boutiques. This issue I will be reviewing Critters Pets and Supplies. This store is owned by Kristy Wannop. It is located at #1 118 1st Ave West, Cochrane, AB and their phone number is (403) 932-2096. Hours are: Monday to Friday 10am to 6pm and Saturday 10am to 5 pm.

Once again, I have not actually been to this store. However, from what I have been told it is a very nice store. When you go in, you are greeted by a host of friends. There are all the dogs as well as Luau the pig. With the welcoming committee, it's hard to actually get into the store to do any shopping. After you are allowed to stop petting them, you are faced with the baby bunnies and such. Since Kristy is a breeder, most of the small pets (rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, etc) are bred by her. Knowing Kristy, all the pets are totally spoiled and bred with the best of intentions and not just bred to be pets. After you are done petting all the little bunnies, you come to Chloe the cockatoo. She is a bit of a handful, so be prepared for some birditude. Next you will find the reptiles, fish and such. I am not really a fan of these (they could eat me, and I don't approve of being eaten), so I will not get into these much. After looking at these guys, you will probably have another dog or pig to pet again for a while. Honestly, I have no idea how anyone could shop here, too many cute things to pet.

So after you have managed to pull yourself away from the cute animals, you come to the pet stuff. There are aisles and aisles of stuff (ok, only about 4 or 5, but that's still a lot for a small bunny). There is stuff for small animals like rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, chinchillas, ferrets and others. I don't really know all the stuff there, but there is food, toys, cages, bowls and bottles and other fun stuff. There is also dog and cat stuff. Again, food, toys, bowls, collars and leashes, litter boxes and litter (cats) and chew sticks.

As far as I know, the prices are pretty good. CRHC members do get a discount. If you need to order something, just call and you should get it pretty fast. We ordered some harnesses and they cost less than even the same brand at other stores and about \$3-5 less than some other brands, so a great deal.

If you are in Cochrane, near Cochrane or just wanting something fun to do, go to Critters Pets and Supplies. (There are other good things in Cochrane as well, like McKays Ice Cream). Do be careful or you may never leave and have to spend the rest of your life petting a cute piggy.

Until next time, Hoppy Shopping, Amelia.

Welcome to Kokomo's Kitchen!

Berry-Mix

1 Strawberry, 1 Blueberry, 1 Blueberry, 1 Raspberry & 1 Blackberry.

Place berries into a grinder or blender and have it chopped up in fine, gritty pieces. As optional, use these as variations:

- 1 tsp Honey; Put over mixture, serve.
- Bundle of Hay; Pour mixture over hay.
- Create into cookies; Mix 1/4 c. Rabbit pellets & 3 tsp. Old Fashion Oats & add to mixture. Using a tsp., spoon

out onto a cookie sheet covered in parchment paper. (It prevents sticking & doesn't add any grease at the same time.) Flatten your cookies until about 1/4" thick & bake for about 30 minutes or until brown on the bottom. For a crunchier treat, turn off oven & leave it in until it cools or take it out and let cool. Serve to your rabbits & store leftovers but not for more than 5 days in a refrigerator.



Welcome to Ty's Travels! We visited Critters Pet & Supply after my trip to the vet.

I was treated to pleasant hellos from

the dogs in the store and the fish in the tanks. I also got to pick out some very yummy treats.



I highly recommend Critters for all your pet needs!

Coco and Honey-Bunny's European Adventures!

Hello Sheriff Honey-Bunny, how goes sheriff life?

Not so good Coco, a couple of out-laws have been terrorizing the town.

Sounds like you need a break, in the Netherlands!

Yup, yup..... wait, the Netherlands?

Yeah! I thought it would be cool to research where my breed originated, when I mentioned it to Peace he said I could write an article on it for the club newsletter!

That is so cool, I would love to go I...(ring, ring) hold on... Hello?

Sheriff it's Kokomo, come quickly my kitchens been robbed!

Okay I will be right over (click) sorry Coco I can't go to the Netherlands, I have to many problems here, have a safe trip, bye!

Um bye?!

In the Netherlands!

After I left the Sheriffs office I headed straight to the airport, where I boarded my plane and a few hours later I landed in the Netherlands! I must have looked like the biggest tourist ever I had so many brochures that they were coming out of my ears!

My cousin Cera easily found me. Cera is three years old her name means colourful because the Netherland Dwarf breed comes in so many different colours.

Netherlands Tour Guide



Breed: Netherland Dwarf

Name: *Cera (meaning colourful)*

Relation: *Coco's cousin 27 times removed*

After we left the airport we went back to Cera's where I met my great, great, great grandfather Andre . He is twelve years old, most Netherland dwarfs as well

as most rabbit breeds only live to ten years old. Andre told me a lot about the Netherland Dwarfs history. The breed was established in the early 20th century it was imported to the UK in 1948 and to the USA in the 1960's/1970's. In 1969 the breed was accepted by the American Rabbit Breeders Association. Several generations later the small domestic rabbit became known for its small size and babyish face. In the earlier breeding the small rabbit had fearful, sometimes aggressive temperament because of the wild rabbits bred to create the Netherland Dwarf.

After my brain had been loaded with information, thanks to Andre, Cera showed me to the guest room where I got a good night's rest, and I would need it, because the next morning I became a real tourist checking out all Netherland historic sites!



Netherlands!



The weekend trip went by quickly and before I knew it I was back at the airport saying a sad good bye to Cera and Andre. At least I would have an amazing article to give to Peace and a cool story to share with Honey-Bunny!

Brushing

Today we will be covering how to keep your coat looking its best. This will be for rabbits who are not extra fluffy (like us angoras), as that is a bit different.

First, we need our tools. A pin brush, bristle brush, slicker brush & comb are good to start with. You can also use a deshedding brush such as a Furminator. A damp cloth or wet hands is also helpful, a spray bottle with water will also work. Some people use lint rollers, but I have never used one. You should also have table space where you can work where your bunny can't run off; a towel on top is a good idea for traction.



What brushes you use will depend on a few factors. The length of coat does matter; some rabbits have shorter fur than others. Shedding or moulting rabbits do require some different tools than those who are not shedding or moulting.

Start by getting your brushes ready, this will keep you from having to find them while you work. Get your rabbit & put her on the table. Next determine if your rabbit is shedding or not. Some rabbits that are shedding or moulting will have tufts of fur sticking out, usually around their butt. You can also try to lightly tug at a spot & see how much fur you get. If you get hardly any fur, then your rabbit is probably not moulting, if you do get a lot, then she is moulting. You can also look at the cage or even your clothes after holding your rabbit, lots of fur everywhere is a good sign of a moulting rabbit.

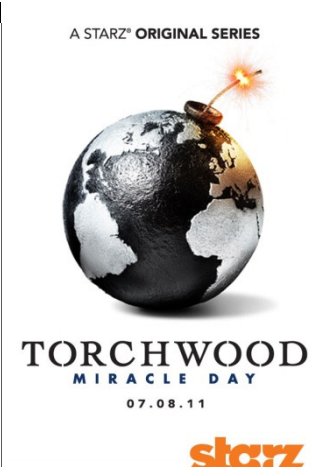
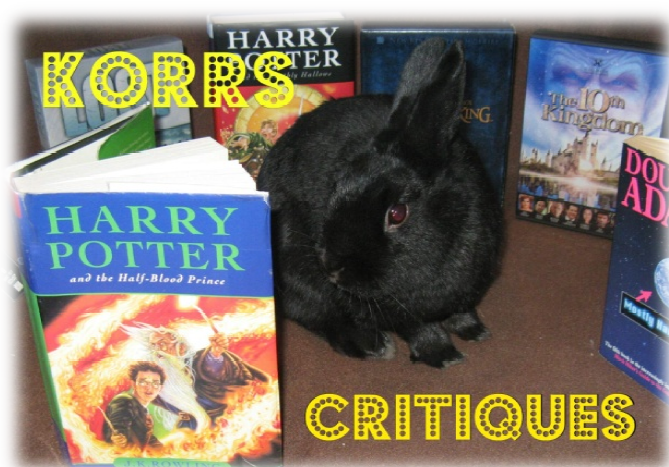
If your rabbit is not moulting, then you don't need to do a ton of brushing. A pin or bristle brush will be enough. Gently run the brush along the fur from the head to the tail. You want to get out the loose fur, but there won't be a ton to get out. You can also run the brush against the grain of the fur (tail to head) to get out some extra fur. Be careful as rabbit skin is sensitive. Do the tummy if your rabbit will let you. You can try holding your rabbit but supporting the chest with one hand & having the feet on the floor & gently lift up. You should then be able to gently brush the tummy. Also brush the face & head. When you are done brushing, you can wet your hands & run them along your rabbit, this help with any other loose fur and help make the coat look shiny. Damp hands are all you need; you do not want to get the rabbit wet.

If your rabbit is moulting, it is a bit more work. You can still use the same brushes, but the deshedding brush is a good idea. Try to focus on the areas that are shedding the most. Be gentle & only run the brush over the top of the fur, you don't need to push into the fur to get it out. It may take a few sessions to get all the fur out, so don't try to do it all at once. I find it is good to do this outside so the fur can just blow away. Some people use the lint roller to get the fur off, I have never tried it but it could be worth a try. It would keep the fur contained so it doesn't go everywhere, but it would be a lot of sheets to do a rabbit. When working with a moulting rabbit, don't overdo it on one area. Bald spots can happen if you take off the dead fur when the new growth has not come in yet. If you notice a bald spot, stop working that area & try it again in a little while. Some rabbits will tolerate being plucked. This is when you just pull out the loose fur. Since this tends to be around the butt area, some rabbits do not like it as it can feel like they are getting bit by another rabbit. If you do this, be careful to only pull the tufts that are coming out & not the stuff that is still firmly attached.

Brushing is important for rabbits, especially during moulting. Rabbits do groom themselves quite a lot & will ingest the fur. This can lead to issues. Brushing & removing this fur prevents the rabbits from ingesting it all. Some rabbits are more sensitive to the excess of fur during moulting & do have some issues with it. It is better to just prevent a problem before it becomes one, save yourself the vet visit if you can & brush your bunny.

Brushing is bonding time as well. It can be good to sit around & brush your rabbit. It gets them used to you & gives you some down time to relax. It is also a good time to feel your rabbit. You can check for lumps, bumps & other abnormal things. If you do find something, be sure to call your rabbit savvy vet & book an appointment.





After last issues highjack, I am now back. Today I will be doing Torchwood: Miracle Day.

Torchwood is a spinoff of Dr. Who. It follows Capt. Jack Harkness and his crew as they battle aliens (the outer space kind) to save the planet. Torchwood is the organization, as is based in Cardiff Wales. The members of Torchwood for this series are Jack Harkness (John Barrowman) and Gwen Copper (Eve Miles), there is also Rhys Williams (Kai Owen) who is Gwen's husband.

This season of Torchwood is called Miracle Day. Essentially, something (not sure what yet) has happened and make everyone unable to die. This includes those who are in horrible accidents, the very sick and those scheduled for execution or blown up. These people just keep on living. In one moment, everyone becomes unable to die and this is the Miracle Day. The twist comes as Jack is immortal anyway, so he becomes mortal.

This season is presented as a continuous story. While other seasons have had each episode being different with some connection plot points, this one is one story presented over a number of episodes (to avoid spoilers, I don't even know how many episodes there are). This makes for an interesting show as many aspects of the plot can be explored and the story is given a chance to unfold over many weeks instead of just under an hour.

Since we are only 3 episodes in, it is hard to determine where this season is going. Each episode is adding more to the story and it is getting pieced together bit by bit. Each character is developing more, there are some you hate from the start (will we still hate them at the end) and some you already know and love that are being tested (who knows what will happen with them) and some you don't know enough about yet and wonder what could happen with them.

The world is being challenged with an exploding population. No one dies and babies are still being born. Food and resources will become very scarce very soon. Hospitals are as busy as ever and having to revamp how they work, nothing is life threatening anymore. Those who are injured don't seem to be getting better fast, so there is a wide and growing need for drugs, pain killers, antibiotics, even birth control. Someone has to provide these drugs and a huge profit can be had. The world has changed and since there is no clue as to how long this could last, we must change as well for better or worse.

The stakes are high and there is a mystery to be solved. Can Jack and Gwen get to the bottom of it before it is too late? Can Jack come to terms with being mortal? Will the world be saved yet again by the Torchwood team and their allies? I guess we will just have to wait until next week to find out.

Torchwood has been a riveting show since it started and it continues to be now with Miracle Day. It aires on Space (in Canada) on Saturday evenings.

Torchwood is a show for adults. It is really not appropriate for younger audiences. I give it 9 poles out of 10.



Welcome to the first ever edition of Tan Toys brought to you by Tesla and Kraken. We will be testing and reviewing different toys. In this edition, we will have 2 toys. Tesla will take on a wooden tunnel and Kraken will be taking on Jungle Balls.

The wooden tunnel is not really a tunnel, but can be one. It is a bunch of wooden sticks that are connected by wire. You can bend it into different shapes like a tunnel, circle or whatever. This is a very nice toy. You can chew it, hop on it, go under it, chin it, and just have fun. It is easy enough to clean, just wash it off. You do need to get the right size, they come in small and medium sizes for smaller animals like hamsters or guinea pigs. The large size is better for a rabbit. It should not be placed near the edge of the cage if there is no top as some rabbits will use it to escape. I think they cost about \$20 and you can get them at most pet supply stores.

Jungle balls are pretty awesome toys. They are a hard plastic ball that has a smaller bell inside it. There are holes all around the ball so you can pick it up and throw it around. You do want to get a larger one as they do come in small sizes which could get lost and aren't as much fun. There are many different colours and styles to choose from. The possibilities for these balls are endless. Mostly you can pick it up and fling it around, but you can also put it places and make tons of noise to annoy the humans. Some people will put some rings in it and hang it from the cage. You can get these for a \$1 or 2 at a dollar store or pet supply store. They are generally sold for cats, but are great for rabbits too.

Both these toys are great to have. These toys will last a long while if not chewed too much.

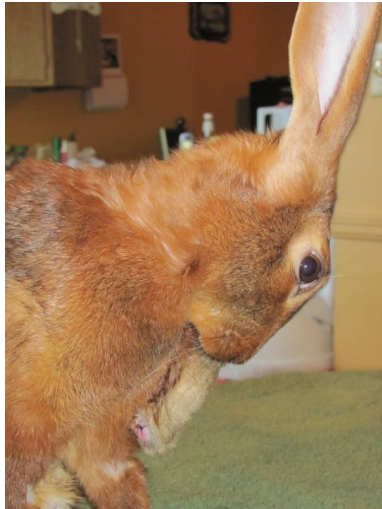
The wooden tunnel will get 3 out of 4 paws since it is a bit more expensive. The Jungle ball gets 4 out of 4 paws since it is so versatile. Until next time, keep playing. Tesla and Kraken.

Peace's Medical Journey

As you may have read in our last issue, our Editor in Peace was battling a nasty abscess & also recovering from surgery. While the images are a little graphic, it's also quite interesting from a medical point of view. The vet who has been treating him said they have never seen anything like this before, so found him to be a quite interesting case.

When we left off in the last issue, it was June 9th and Peace had torn out 2 stitches causing the beads to fall out & him needing to be stitched close again. Since then there have been major changes!

June 12. One of our biggest battles through this whole ordeal was removing the vet bandages to air out & check on his healing progress. It would sometimes take us up to 2 hours to get the tape off as it would stick so well to his skin, we were afraid of tearing his very thin skin while removing it. I never would have thought we'd have to use peanut butter or that it would take so long to remove! How does the vet manage to do it all in like 15 minutes? Peace was very happy once we got the bandage off.



Because Peace loved to clean his toes, it was very annoying to him to have them taped up for such long periods. So when we would finally get the bandages removed, he immediately would start grooming his feet. However, we would have to watch him very closely as he would also try to go at the hock area and stitches.

The photo to the right is what it looked like 12 days after surgery.

The photo below was taken June 16, back at the vet for another checkup.





To the left, June 16th. It's starting to look a little better.

June 18th, We changed Peace's bandage, his poor skin, it's so thin & raw looking. So this time we didn't stick any tape to



it, we just used the vet wrap & then taped that so hopefully next time getting that nasty sticky tape off won't be an issue.



To the right, June 22nd. This was a day I won't soon forget. When we went to change Peace's bandages, we soon discovered leaving his toes exposed so he could groom them was not a good idea. We suspect he had been pulling on the bandage, gradually tightening it around his foot,



making it much tighter than it should have been causing a great amount of swelling to his foot. When we discovered it, his foot was about 3 times the size of it should have been. Amanda had a very difficult time getting the bandage off as it was too tight to cut & there really wasn't any way to get at it. So it took quite a while to get off. I was sure when seeing this he had caused some major damage.

He wouldn't use it when trying to hop, so we wondered just what the extent of the damage would be. We spent a couple hours messaging the foot to try to get the swelling down. We did the best we could this evening & took him back to the vet the next day to see if & how much damage had been done. Luckily, the swelling went down & it improved by the following day.



June 26, things are looking better.



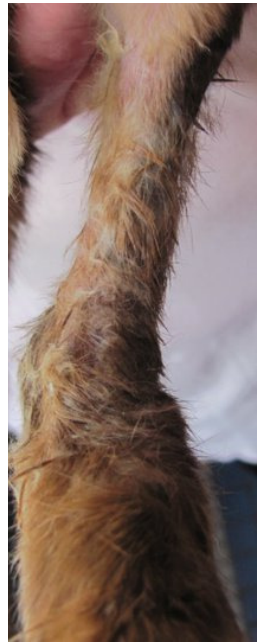


At this visit the vet suggested we start using organic, pure, unpasteurized honey on his hock to help aid in healing. I admit, at first I just couldn't believe after all we had been dealing with, something as simple as honey could really improve & help to heal. But we did it!



To the left, the gauze after it was removed from the first treatment of honey.

To the right, July 29th, Peace's hock, it appears to be healing nicely!



Poor Peace, he's lost so much muscle tone during this past month. It's going to take this fellow a while to be able to build up the muscle again..



Photo on the right. July 1, Canada Day in Sherwood Park, Alberta. Regardless of where we went since all this started, Peace was never left unattended. Because he would start chewing at his bandage & the one attempt at trying to use a cone & it failing miserably, we just took shifts monitoring him. This meant, 24/7, he was being watched. If we went anywhere, he went with me. You have no idea how hard it is until you have to run an errand & then remember, Oh, yeah, come on Peace, you're going for a ride! The family couldn't even do something as simple as go grocery shopping together as he couldn't go there with us. So someone was always having to stay home with him. Any hopping events we went to, he went as well, although I don't think he minded as he got to hang out & be treated like royalty. Getting much



attention from all the other members. But after all we had been through to get to this point. We were finally seeing a light at the end of the tunnel. So we weren't about to give up now.



I would like to thank all the members at the events who helped us to keep an eye on him. If anyone caught him trying to chew, they'd stop him real fast. As you can see to the left, he was quite a stinker & always looked for an opportunity when someone wasn't looking to try to rip that nasty wrap off!

After a few more vet visits & up's & down's. Peace was finally on the mend & getting back to normal. It was a very hard month on his family. I hope he knows how much he's loved.



He made his debut back into hopping at the Calgary Stampede, July 16 & 17th. I think he's enjoying being back at hopping & I know I'm grateful he's well now & back at it too! He picked it up as if nothing ever happened!



I love ya Peace & I'm so glad you're back to yourself again!



Popcorn's Paparazzi

Due to the size of this newsletter, we will be cutting down the photos for this section! But here is a great photo of our club at the Calgary Stampede 2011!



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We look forward to meeting you!



The Edmonton Area



UPCOMING ALBERTA SHOWS

OCTOBER 1 & 2 ** ST. ALBERT**

Double Both Days

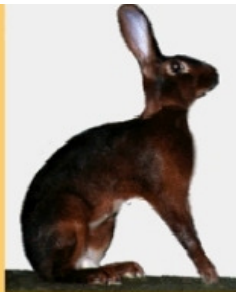
Judges:

- Chris Zemny
- Mike Avesing

www.earsclub.ca for more details. We hope to see you there!

Classified Ads!

**American
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<http://www.BelgianHareClub.com>



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Rabbit: Li' Will

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