

The Canadian Rabbit Hopping Club



January / February 2012 - Volume 2, Issue 1



Welcome to the 7th edition of the C.R.H.C. Newsletter!

*Pictured above is Sugar, Gary, Pongo & Belle. All are currently
for adoption at the Cochrane Humane Society.*

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



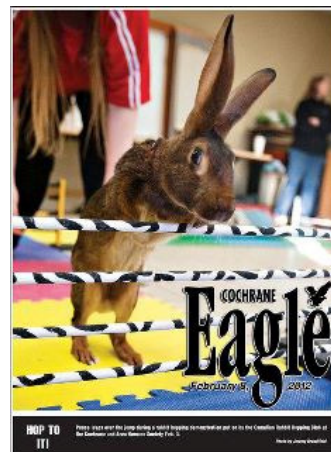
Welcome to the 7th edition of the C.R.H.C. Newsletter. I am your Editor in Peace.

I hope everyone has started off to a wonderful 2012!

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to our club newsletter & hope that more will contribute in the coming year. Without your contributions, it just looks like it's a Greening, MacKinnon newsletter.

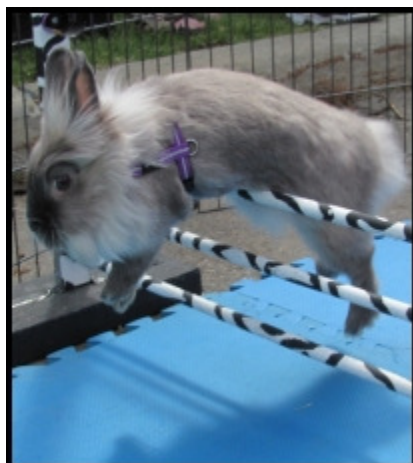
Also, for anyone in the Cochrane area, be sure to pick up the week of Feb 8, 2012 Cochrane Eagle & Cochrane Times! They both have articles on the club & some fellow bunnies!

Until next time! Peace



Featured Bunny!

This issue's featured bunny is Skittles!



Both Skittles were members of the club & unfortunately have both passed away recently. We just wanted to take a moment to remember these wonderful bunnies...



Upcoming Events!

February 19, 2012 ~ Monthly practice at the Weedon Hall in Cochrane. 1:30 p.m.

February 20, 2012 ~ Performance at the Okotoks Recreation Centre for the Family Day Celebrations. 1

March 2, 2012 ~ Monthly practice at the Chestermere Recreation Centre. 6:30 p.m.

March 3, 2012 ~ Demonstration at the Alberta Children's Hospital. 1:30 p.m.

March 10, 2012 ~ Performance at the Children's Festival in Strathmore.

March 18, 2012 ~ Monthly practice at the Weedon Hall in Cochrane. 1:30 p.m.

March 30, 2012 ~ Demonstration at the Shane Home Gymnasium at the Okotoks Rec Centre 10:00 - 11:15

April 4, 2012 ~ Demonstration at the Carewest Garrison Green at 6:00 p.m.

? April 4, 2012 ~ Performance at Red Deer Lake Carnival for Kenya 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

April 6, 2012 ~ Monthly practice ~~CANCELLED~~. (Good Friday)

April 7, 2012 ~ Performance at the Monterey Place. 4288 Catalina Boulevard N.E. at 12:30 p.m.

April 8, 2012 ~ Performance at the Fort Calgary Easter event.

April 14, 2012 ~ Demonstration at the Carewest Royal Park at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. (4222 Sarcee Road S.W.)

April 15, 2012 ~ Monthly practice at the Weedon Hall in Cochrane. 1:30 p.m.

April 21 & 22, 2012 ~ Performance at Aggie Days.

Please note: *We have decided to add an age restriction to the club. Note, this does not affect any members currently in the club. It will only apply to any future members wishing to join. We are setting an age at a minimum of 9 years old. Effective February 10, 2012*
If anyone has any questions, please feel free to ask,

Wallaby's World Wide Web

For this issue I'd like to share a website with you that Craig at Rocky Mountain Tails told my family about. It's called Blue-Eyed Bunny, a humble force for change. They have some neat products available on their website
<http://www.blue-eyed-bunny.com>





Mark your calendars!

Bunanza is scheduled for June 17, 2012

to be held at the Chestermere Recreation Centre in Chestermere, Alberta!

More information to follow shortly!

<http://www.bunanza.ca>

[illegible]

Thanks to everyone who came out and helped at the show!

Canmore Bunny Hop

January 29, 2012

The bunny hop was a successful gathering. Not only did we get to walk around Canmore and see several examples of bunny support, but we also enjoyed the company of new friends, yummy cake, and a couple of wonderful little bunnies (plus a few sightings of the local feral bunnies). The hop...I mean hope, is to schedule another walk (maybe around Easter?) and hopefully, we will have even more bunnies show up!
Email me if you want more info! Tiffany



We travelled to Canmore & met with Tiffany who was organizing the Bunny Hop. We had the pleasure of meeting some very nice people. We then went for a walk, took photos, had some nice conversations with fellow bunny lovers. Afterwards Tiffany invited everyone to her place for some bunny cake. ☺

Hi, this is Babbitty and welcome to Babbitty's Box Office. It is a Boxing Day tradition with my humans to go see some movies. So, I will be reviewing both movies we saw.

The first is *We Bought a Zoo*, starring Matt Damon as Ben, the aforementioned purchaser of the said zoo. Firstly, let me say do not see this movie if you are looking for surprising or amazing cinema. The title pretty much tells you everything you want to know. Family buys zoo, fun, hilarity and life lessons ensue, roll credits. Now, this doesn't make it a bad movie, because it isn't. It just doesn't take many chances. The story has some fun, the animals are, of course, very cool, (Although there is a disturbing lack of bunnies!), the characters are likeable (With one HUGE exception!), and the actors give serviceable performances, especially Thomas Haden Church as Ben's brother, with his usual spot-on, deadpan humor.

The only negative of this movie is the character of Dylan, Ben's son. Why is it that so many animal movies have to be littered with whiney, self-absorbed, and, in some cases, downright stupid, teen and tween characters? There's Jessie from *Free Willy*, Daniel from *Daniel and the Superdogs*, Katy from *Flicka*, and pretty much any child from *A Christmas Bunny*. Here Dylan whines his way through scene after scene. Firstly, because they move away from his friends (Oh, yeah, move away from some skater punks to a zoo, oh the hardship!). Then, he thinks it's funny that he is suspended from school for stealing. Then his stupidity leads him to release a box of snakes, which he complains about having to help catch. Then, in a fit of pique, he actually kicks a snake. It was at this point that I pictured Amanda clothes lining the little punk, then dropping an elbow on him. I guess we are supposed to watch their transformation, but it gets to a point where you hate them so much, you don't care.

So, overall, I would give *We Bought a Zoo* 2 ½ poles on a 5 pole jump. A decent way to waste an hour and a half.

The next movie I'll be reviewing was Steven Spielberg's *'War Horse'*, adapted from the popular British book. In reading up for this movie, I had no idea the huge part horses played in WWI. Over 1 million horses died in that conflict. The movie starts with Joey (The horse.) growing up in rural England. He is trained by Albert, whose alcoholic father buys him on a whim. Unfortunately, he is sold the same way, into the British Military, at the start of the war. The movie then traces Joey's path through the war, and the people he meets, soldiers on both sides of the conflict, even civilians caught in between. The obvious message in this story is twofold: firstly that love of animals is universal, something that unites us even at a time when we are most divided. Yes, there are soulless ciphers, for whom Joey and all other animals are only a means to an end, to be used up and discarded when no longer useful. But at every step, Joey has his champions, people who would protect him, even at their own peril. Secondly, I think these people see something else in Joey. He is a remnant of something happy, something they loved, something they wish more than anything that they could return to after the war. For them, he is hope. The best scene in both regards has two soldiers, one British, one German, both risking their life in no man's land to help Joey. As they talk they realize they could be friends, even though a moment ago, they were shooting at each other, and probably would be again.

For all of this positivity, *War Horse* can, at times, be a hard movie to watch, as any realistic war movie would be. One scene in particular I would rank as the hardest to watch that I have ever seen. Of course, I'm only 4 years old, and can't remember what I had for breakfast, but it's still hard.

With fantastic acting, a great script, and characters that you remember long after the movie, *War Horse* is a movie that should be a big contender when a certain little gold statue is given out. I give it 4 ½ poles, as the second best movie I saw this year. (Nobody beats Harry!). Till next time, this is Babbitty saying that I have to watch *The Christmas Bunny* again. I'm sure if I look closely, somewhere it says "Sponsored by Town of Canmore!"



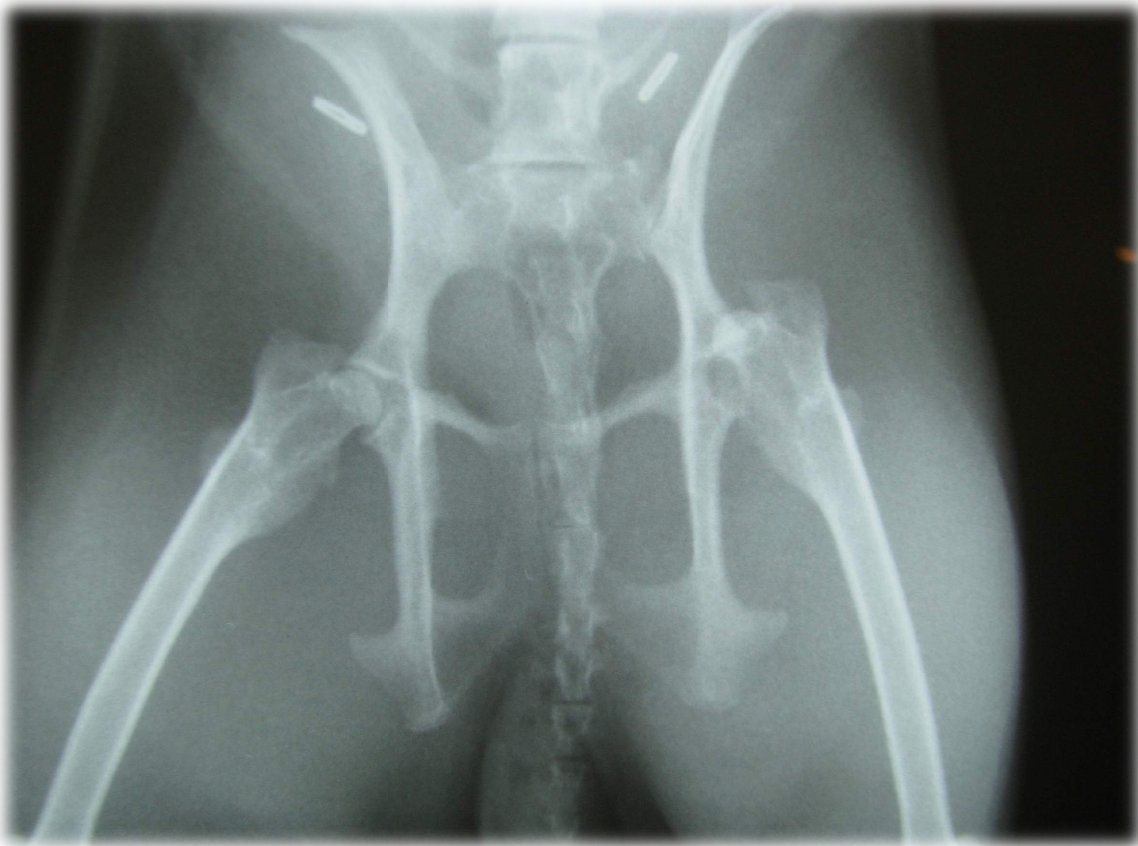


ASK THE VET



Dr. Leticia Materi is currently in the process of preparing to do a Femoral Head Removal surgery on Amanda's little doe Flynn due to her having a dislocated right hip as seen in the x-ray below.

We are hoping for a report from Dr. Materi after the surgery. Please keep Flynn in our thoughts during this time. Surgery is scheduled for February 17th.



Just an interesting note about Flynn's x-ray. If you notice, there are 3 (only 2 are seen above) little white lines near the top of the photo. These were little clips used during her spay.

Jabberwocky's Journals!



I guess since I haven't finished reading the book I was going to review, then I will have to keep For this review, I will be reviewing "The Hunger Games" trilogy in anticipation for the movie that is due to be released in March, something my human has been eagerly awaiting for quite some time now. So, without further ado, onto the review!

The story begins with our main character, Katniss Everdeen. Katniss lives in a dystopian world that was, at one point, was North America but is now split into 12 districts and the Central district that make up the country of Panem. Every year, each district must offer up in tribute one boy and one girl between the ages of 12 and 18. These children are then placed in an arena where they are televised to the country and forced to fight to the death.

This year, much to Katniss's horror, her 12 year old sister Primrose has been selected by the random draw. Desperate to prevent the inevitable death of her younger sister, Katniss offers herself in Prim's place and this is where our story truly begins.

Katniss is one of the series strongest points. Gone are the days of leads that are not able to take a step without succumbing to Damsel in Distress syndrome *Cough*Bella Swan*Cough* and instead, we now have a likeable 15 year old girl who is a capable fighter and a hardened survivor. So capable, in fact, that she kills her fair share of tributes in the arena, her first being within a few seconds of the Games beginning. Although she deals with her conflicting morals of murdering her fellow tributes, two of which are ones that are friends, never does she give up fighting to survive and she comes up with many intelligent ways of doing so. She does not merely rely on luck and she does screw up quite a few times during her stay in the arena, making the suspense all the more heart pounding.

Here we come to the discussion of the other tributes, Peeta (The other tribute from Katniss's own District 12) and Rue. Peeta is one of the love interests and a key part of Katniss's survival through the games. See, something this series uses a lot is the fact that the entire things is televised and

Central, being the one District in control of the goings on in the arena, is mostly made up of people who watch the games for sport as none of them have a vested interest in who should win. What better angle to play then two star-crossed lovers forced against each other? This is a major strategy the characters use and it works well. Peeta is a likeable guy who isn't quite as survival-smart as Katniss, but not to the point of being annoyingly stupid.

Rue is the 12 year old tribute from District 11 whom, eventually, becomes something of an ally to Katniss in the arena. While I won't spoil too much, but she is a very loveable character who plays a pivotal role in the series.

Then it comes to the other tributes. There is one in particular named Thresh who I believe was only in a single scene and in just a few lines, he managed to completely win me over. Then there are the villains (*Although really, I don't think there can truly be villains when a bunch of kids are thrown into such a brutal situation*) who are all different and are, in their own ways, memorable. Not all the tributes are properly explored as the Games start off with a bloodbath, but the ones that are introduced properly are well done.

While this series may be a little too gorey for those with a weaker stomach, I found the suspense to be extremely well done. From the second Katniss enters the arena, it's a non-stop thrill ride where you're not able to put the book down, it's was extremely well planned out. The desperation of Katniss in times of distress was something that got your heart pounding and flipping pages to see what happened next.

While I felt the ending was a little predictable, overall the book really made up for it.

As we move on to the second book, *Catching Fire*, things start off a little slow, to the point where I began to grow a little disappointed after how quickly the first got moving. It's obvious that it's plot building and growing into something but at the time, while reading it, I couldn't help but begin to lose hope. Perhaps Suzanne Collins had a one-hit wonder going on here that would progressively begin to lost steam? Sure, it was gradually getting better, but now that the most fascinating part of the series was over, what else could they possibly be building to?

Then, around 170 pages in, the book finally hits it's stride and snowballs from there. In a very, very good way. Then, as I continued reading, I remembered exactly why I loved the first book so much. The rest of the novel certainly did NOT disappoint.

Then came the final book, *Mockingjay*.

I don't think I've felt so torn about how to feel about a series ending. It had its moments where it felt like the *Harry Potter* and the *Deathly Hallows* climax, the excitement in seeing what the previous books have been leading up to and know that THIS is going to be the moment that defines EVERYTHING, the moment that makes of breaks the series. There were times where I knew I could not put the book down until I knew what happened, I just had to keep reading to know how Katniss and the other characters were going to get out of their situation.

And then... There were times where it felt crushingly disappointing... More like the climax of Twilight's Breaking Dawn, where it felt so crushingly disappointing that you feel tempted to trash the copy you have and never give the series another look. The main moments I felt this with Mockingjay were during a particular plot point that I felt was forced and, to be honest, rather unnecessary beyond the point of building tension in the little love triangle that had built over the course of the three books.

That was where these books all lost their steam. When it focused on the very forced romance. I really didn't care which one she picked and to be honest, I don't think Katniss did either. She made it clear quite a few times that she would wish for simple friendship but it almost feels as if the author cracked under the pressure of a fanbase demanding a romantic conclusion. It simply felt *too forced*.

While the romance did keep the series from reaching its full potential, that's a rather small, nitpicky thing to focus on in a series that was as good as it was, especially considering this was Suzanne Collins breakout novel. Collins should be very proud of her work as the world she built and the characters she developed were all very memorable and had suspense like I haven't read in quite a while. I know that I'll be badgering Babbitty to be writing a review for the film in the future!

I give The Hunger Games 4 thumps out of 5!





Welcome to a new year of Amelia's Boutiques. This year I thought I would change it up a bit. Previously I have reviewed local pet stores, but that has become kind of boring. So this year I will help you shop savvy. Where to buy stuff, saving money and things you didn't think could be used for rabbits. Today I will look at pet store and what you can get that is not rabbit specific, later on I will go into other stores and other awesome stuff.

When shopping at a pet store or even the pet aisle of another store, you might think you are stuck with just the rabbit or small animal area. While there can be great stuff there, some might not appeal to you or be a bit expensive for what you are getting. You can find good items in the cat, bird and even dog

area if you know what to look for.

The cat area probably has the most bunny friendly items. You can use cat litter boxes with great success, the rectangular ones actually tend to be better than the triangular ones sold for rabbits. While cat litter boxes are great, the litter is usually not safe for rabbits. Avoid the clay and clumping litters, but the paper or wood pellets are great as long as they are not scented. The cat paper litters are almost exactly the same as the rabbit ones, but tend to be a bit cheaper and bigger bags. Wood pellets are also cheaper, but you can get them even cheaper at a feed or farm store. Some cat toys are also great. Hard plastic is best and many rabbits like plastic balls with a bell inside. Beds for cats are also very suitable for rabbits, but finding the right bed for your rabbit can be tricky as rabbits all seem to have different preferences. If you are looking for a harness, the cat ones are great and cheaper than rabbit ones, they also come in more colours. Some cat grooming items can be used for rabbits, brushes and nail clippers and good.

While you might not think birds and rabbits have much in common, some supplies can be used for both. Bowls and dishes for birds are good from rabbits. Many bird dishes are made to hook onto the cage; these can be great for a rabbit who likes to play with their bowls. These dishes can be plastic or metal and come in many sizes for different uses. Some bird toys can also be good, but be aware of items that could be dangerous for a rabbit like ropes or beads.

The dog section has more big items that are good for rabbits. Wire dog crates can make great cages (large or giant size) as well as a carrier (smaller sizes). Even though they tend to cost more than a rabbit cage, they can be bigger and you can add levels if needed. X-pens are also great for travel, a larger cage or a safe place to exercise in the house. Since rabbits can jump fairly high, you should get one that is around 3ft high unless you know your rabbit won't jump out. Dog grooming supplies can also be used, just get ones that are the right size for your rabbit. Small dog carriers are also great for rabbits, hard carriers are easy to clean and safer in the car.

So next time you find yourself at a pet store, don't just look at the small animal stuff. Look around in the rest of the store to see if there is anything that your rabbit will like and is safe for them.

Until next time, happy shopping. Amelia.

Fur Mites

Welcome to another edition of Lookin' Lovely with Lillian. In this issue I will go over fur mites. These little mites can cause some problems ranging from fur loss to itchiness and an unhappy rabbit. Luckily they are easily treated. Fur mites are little bugs that generally live on the skin of a rabbit. They can look like dandruff and you might see them move around a bit. *Cheyletiella parasitovorax* is the scientific name for one kind, it is also known as Walking Dandruff. They can usually be found around the base of the neck and along the back, these also happen to be areas that are hard for a rabbit to groom. Fur mites can cause fur loss, so you may find that when you get brushed the fur comes out more than it should and you get a bald spot. This spot may look red, itchy and flaky. Some infestations can be pretty bad and result in lots of fur loss, extreme itchiness, and that can make a bunny grumpy and irritable as they are always itchy.

Fear not itchy buns out there! Fur mites are pretty easy to treat. The common treatments are ivermectin or Revolution. It can take 2-3 treatments around 10-14 days apart to clear up the mites. Ivermectin can be given as an injection, on the skin or orally while Revolution is given on the skin. Talk with your vet about what would be best and how to give it safely. Other rabbits in the house may need to be treated as well, this will depend on where all the rabbits are kept, if they have contact with each other and other factors, again talk with your vet about treatment options.

The house also needs to be cleaned. Any blankets or fabric needs to be washed during treatment and after as the mites could hide in the fabric. The carpet and flooring in the house should also be treated; Borax can be used as well as some other products. Steam cleaning is not a good idea due to the humidity as it can increase the mite population. Keep your rabbit away from the area to avoid contact with any chemicals.

There are also Ear mites that can be an issue. These are in the ear and look crusty. Treatment is similar to fur mites, but there are special considerations to not remove any crust build up as it can be painful.

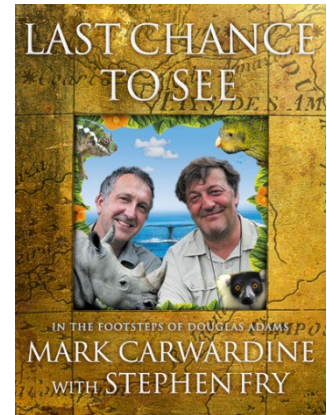
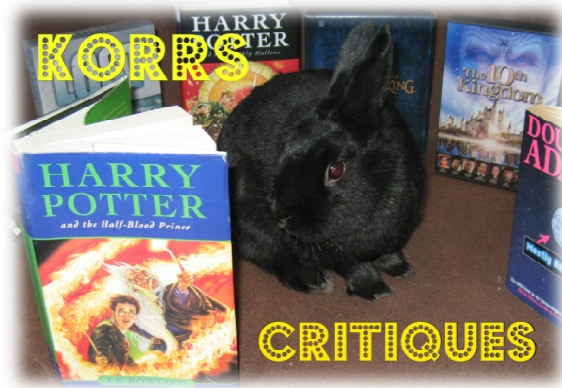
It is important to get treatment as soon as you can to avoid complications.

Until next time, keep Lookin' Lovely.

Lillian



In this edition of Korr's Critiques, I will be reviewing Last Chance to See. Last Chance to See is a British (BBC) show that follows Stephen Fry and Mark Carwardine as they travel around the world to see endangered species.



The story of Last Chance to See starts in the 1980's with Douglas Adams (of Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy fame). He and Mark Carwardine decided to travel to find some endangered species and document them. This first expedition leads to a book published in 1990 and a radio series in 1989. The animals visited included the Amazonian Manatee in Brazil, The Mountain Gorilla and Northern White Rhino in Zaire, The Aye-aye in Madagascar, The Komodo Dragon in Indonesia, The Kakapo in New Zealand, The Yangtze River Dolphin in China, as well as a few others along the way. Some of these animals were easier to find than others, but all were found in some way. While I have not heard the radio series, the book is very good and gives great insight to some lesser known species.

Fast forward to 2009 when Stephen Fry and Mark Carwardine decide to see how these animals are doing 20 years later. This expedition resulted in another book as well as a TV show. Watching the show is wonderful, funny and sad. Seeing the animals and how people are working tirelessly to help save them is amazing. There are wonderful moments of releasing some back into the wild or at least a more wild setting. Funny moments when a large flightless parrot decides to mate with one of the hosts head or just how many cell phones one person needs and the sad times when you realize that some of the species are no longer around due to the choices of humans. While the main animals featured are mostly the same, we do get to see some more along the way. Going to check on the Northern White Rhino also leads to visiting an island refuge for Chimpanzees. A very touching moment follows when a pair of young Chimps who has not seen an adult Chimp since they were taken from their mothers are introduced to a group with adults. The anticipation of what could go wrong is quickly changed to glee as the adults run over and start to hug and play with the young ones and accept them into the group. This is given in contrast to finding no Northern White Rhinos and work starting to declare the species extinct in the wild. Another species not shown due to extinction is the Yangtze River Dolphin which was declared extinct in 2007. Instead of visiting China, we get to see the Blue Whale and the Whale Shark. Both are huge animals and hard to locate. The Kakapo is a story of success. They are a large flightless parrot. In 1989 there were around 50-60 of them, now there are around 130. That is 130 in the whole world. While it may not seem like a lot, the effort is paying off. The Kakapos are kept on a few predator free islands and breedings are carefully monitored. Nests are watched to make sure the babies are doing well. Each death is mourned and each Kakapo is named.

Last Chance to See can really be just that. But there is hope that the species can recover with help. I would recommend reading both books and watching the show. You can find the show on DVD and probably on the internet somewhere.

I give Last Chance to See 5 poles out of 5.

In this edition of Tan Toys with Tesla and Kraken, we will be testing tunnels. There are a wide variety of tunnels available from short ones to long, crinkly to solid, cardboard to fabric. Choosing the right tunnel depends on your rabbit and the space you have.

We have a few tunnels around here and to like them. The most recent one is about 2 feet long and can fold up for easy transport or storage. It is made from a light fabric that is plastic like and was bought at Dollarama, so is pretty cheap. This tunnel is very fun to play with. It is light enough to throw around and play with. It is also short which is nice to quickly run through. We both like to go inside and dig as well as try to hump it. Since the material is not very thick, it probably won't last too long the way we play with it (so we are getting the slave to buy us another one just in case). There are other tunnels about this size available at pet stores and some do have a hole in the middle so you can stop and look out. These tunnels are usually made for cats, so look in the cat area. We also have a tunnel like that one only about 3 feet long. It has 2 holes along the length as well as a tab so you can fold it in half. This tunnel is a bit too big for our play space, but we did use it this past summer when there was a pen outside. Since it is heavier, it is harder to push around. This tunnel was bought at Jysk for around \$10.

Some pet stores carry a tunnel that is made of a harder plastic than those accordions out. We have not tried one of these, but it would be good to put in a corner as you can bend it to different shapes. There could be an issue with chewing, so this might not be suitable for all rabbits. These cost around \$10 and are fairly short.

Another good tunnel is a concrete form. You can buy them at a hardware store. They come in different sizes and lengths. These might not be great for a rabbit who chews though. Since these tunnels would be rigid and solid, they are harder to move around. They can be cut to any size, so good for just about any space. Other cardboard tunnels are good too. Tunnels are just plain awesome. You can run through them, jump over them, move them around, hide in them, hump them, throw them and play with them.

So we give tunnels 4 out of 5 poles as some might not be safe if chewed and some could be hard to clean.

Until next time, play hard. Tesla and Kraken.



COUSIN DANO

Hoolio sniffed the air. Someone was hiding nearby and they smelled funny. It was another rabbit and only one, he could tell that much. But it wasn't anyone he'd ever met. Hoolio was a young buck, the weather was perfect, and he was feeling ten feet tall. Rather than get some of his kin for backup, he approached the bush he thought the stranger was in. "Come out of there," he called. "You are surrounded. But if you come in peace, you are among friends."

Dano had watched Hoolio approach. He knew there were no others with him. Dano was also a young buck and he had no doubt that he would be the victor in a battle with this little cottontail. He hoped for a peaceful encounter. He needed a friend. The intermediate Checkered Giant hopped from his bush under the shade of the longleaf pines and into full view. "I come in peace," he stated.

Hoolio leaped into the air and turned so quickly that he sprang his back. The monster rabbit was unlike any he had ever heard of. His white alarm flag was not confined to the underside of his tail. Most of his body was white. How could anyone hide from predators in that fur? And he was enormous! As painfully hard as he tried to run now, Hoolio could move only grass widths at a time. His injury left him at the mercy of the light colored stranger. As the beast came up to him, it grabbed him by the neck. Hoolio fainted dead away.

As Hoolio came to, Dano said, "Be still, friend. I managed to get you into my bush so that the Bald Eagle could not see you. I was hiding from her here when you found me. You see, I've lost my humans and am quite alone and far from home." Still shaking from the fright, Hoolio was barely able to muster coherent thoughts. As he calmed, a million questions tickled his nose. Soon he and Dano were talking easily. Before long, Dano found more of the Brookgreen Gardens bunnies and they helped care for Hoolio as he waited out the days it would take for his back to heal.

Dano was the center of attention. He was larger than any of the cottontails, and while they knew their histories for generations, Dano was a story fountain of new tales. He was telling one now.

The rabbits knew it was coming. The elders had known for a few days. Their human, Jeffrey, and the younger bunnies had been oblivious to it. Until now. Now the younger bunnies could sense it too. They didn't know what to call it. Jeffrey would have a name for it. Later. After it happened. Humans were so clueless to the events of the natural world. Jeffrey didn't feel it coming. But the rabbits knew something unusual was about to happen. The elders said it was coming from the north. Now they were getting mixed signals. It was coming from the north but something even bigger was coming from the south. There was little they could do except wait. Everyone ate, drank and settled in for a few hours. Even the youngest bunnies got still and waited. Each rabbit sat lost in its own thoughts. There was no communication.

There. The cages rocked. Hard. Every one of them. Even the most solidly hung. It seemed huge gusts of wind were batting them around like dandelion seed. All the rabbits had felt wind gusts before. None had felt them with this power. But there was no wind! Their fur lay in place, just as they had groomed it.

The leaves of the plants around them were not rustling. Whole plants were moving in unison. It was the earth that had moved - rocking their world. And it wasn't finished. Seconds later, their world rocked again, nearly as hard as the first time. Now, with the northern event past, the rabbits returned to their routines. When Jeffrey came to feed them, he told them there had been an earthquake in Virginia and because the east coast is essentially situated on one massive solid rock, the earth's shaking had been felt for hundreds of miles in all directions. The rabbits weren't 100% certain what it meant. They just knew it was finished and there wasn't going to be another earthquake any time soon.

The Brookgreen Gardens rabbits nodded. They too remembered the earthquake. They did not live in cages and many of their home tunnels had caved in from the shaking. Gertie cried quietly, thinking of the three kits she had lost when the roots and dirt of her tunnel fell in, suffocating them.

Now, the elders considered the southern event. It was still days away, but it felt ominous. Hurricane Irene. The southern event was so big that even the humans knew it was coming. Jeffrey fretted. He had taken down the purple martin houses and stored them. No one was living in them now. But what should he do with the rabbits? If he put them all in carriers and moved them into the outbuilding, would the building stand or would it collapse and crush the rabbits? If he left the rabbits under their shelter, would the shelter blow over and leave the rabbits exposed to the wind and rain? The elders consulted. They elected to stay put. If the rabbitry were to turn upside down, it would be a wild ride worth many hours of story time. They might lose a few of their members, but if the outbuilding collapsed with them in it, they could lose nearly everyone. That decided, they groomed, ate, drank, and waited to ride it out. Again everyone chose a back wall of their cage and stretched out, getting still and losing themselves in thought.

WHEN NESTBOXES FLEW

Irene arrived Friday afternoon. It was a warm August day. The first rain bands moved in about 2:00 pm. At first, there were only showers. They felt good. The rabbits were protected from the rain by the roof of their rabbitry but the rain cooled the air temperature which in turn made each rabbit feel frisky and ready to play. Then there were winds. Again, it didn't seem unusual and certainly didn't fit with the ominous feeling that had been permeating the atmosphere in the days following the earthquake. Irene grew stronger and blasted them with winds and with rain. She came in cycles. There was wind and rain. Then, calm. And it kept repeating, each wave stronger than the last. This pattern would continue for 34 hours. Saturday was the worst. The rain bands seemed to have no end. There were narrower periods of calm and then none at all. Sustained winds of 40 – 50 mph with wind gusts up to 62 mph blasted them. Where they had been frisky and dry, the fierce wind blew rain and debris in on the rabbits from every direction. Soon all the rabbits were wet. This was a new experience and one that they did not like. But their discomfort didn't have any effect on Hurricane Irene. She continued to rage and howl. It wasn't long before the rabbits were soaked to the skin and all of their feed and bedding was soaked through and through too. It seemed it would never end. Each huddled at the rear of their cage but there was

nowhere to escape.

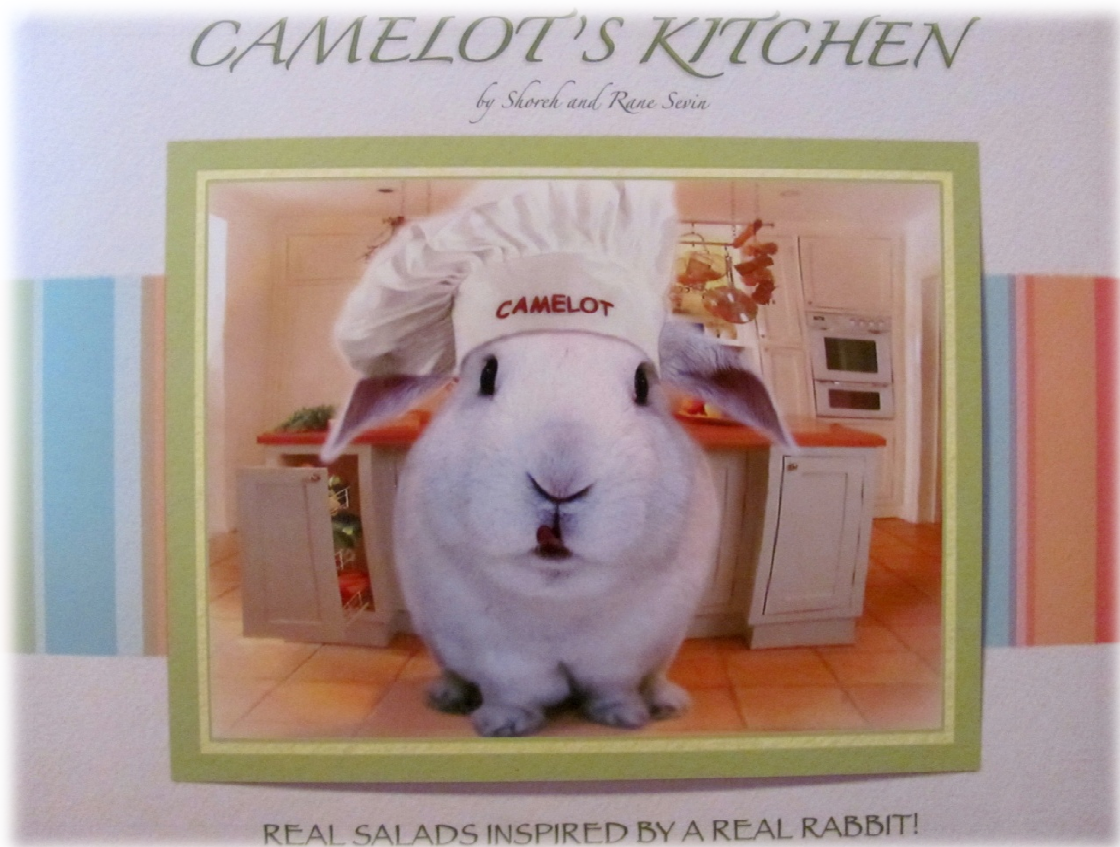
Amber thumped. She was alarmed. The other rabbits turned to see what had frightened her. And then they watched in amazement as the nestboxes which had been lined up so neatly on top of a row of cages took to the air and flew out over the soybean field. How creepy. Many of the rabbits had been born in these very nestboxes. Many of the does had kindled in one or more of them. One by one or sometimes two at a time, the nestboxes rose off the cages and flew across the field. It was as if they had grown wings like a bird. It was hard to see in the blowing rain but none of the rabbits could see wings or tell how it was that the nestboxes suddenly knew how to fly. Soon they had all disappeared in the blowing rain.

Finally, the winds and rain lessened. Slowly. Little by little, much as it had begun, only it appeared to be ending quicker than it had started. That was little comfort to the rabbits as they sat miserably awaiting what the evening would bring. All had eaten well on Friday. Now, there was nothing but waterlogged food and bedding. Jeffrey came out to visit them late Saturday afternoon, explaining that the hurricane was winding down and all would return to normal soon. But, for now, he only offered them water (as if they needed that) and clean dry hay.

Irene dumped 5.3 inches of rain as she moved through, but Sunday brought sunshine. And in the daylight, all the rabbits could see that Death Row had fared worse than any of the other rabbits. It hung cocked at an angle, with one end about two feet off the ground and the other end about four feet off the ground. The six bunnies there were resting on an incline after their ordeal but at least none were sitting in the mud below. Death Row was not a desirable place to be, even when it wasn't wet and lopsided. Sometimes Jeffrey used it as grow out or overflow cage space. The rabbits there now were overflow. There was no room for them in the other cages. Other times it was used for sick rabbits. And at other times it was used for what he called culls. Nobody wanted to be sick or a cull. Rabbits that earned those titles often disappeared, never to be seen again.

Jeffrey cleaned out all the feeders and all the bedding on Sunday and gave them fresh dry pellets. The floorboards under the bedding were soaked through and he left those to dry out for three days before adding fresh shavings. The rabbits in those cages weren't very happy. They were not used to having no shavings to cushion them, plus it was unpleasant being on the wet floors. They anxiously waited for everything to dry. By Tuesday night, all the rabbits were dry and comfortable. Each rabbit had survived. Hurricane Irene was no more than a memory and fodder for quiet story times.

Cousin Dano looked around at the audience and saw that they had enjoyed his storytelling. But he also noted that it was naptime and bid a good night to all the Brookgreen Gardens Bunnies.



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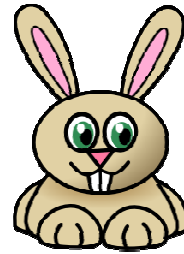
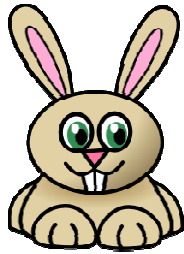
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BUNNY BIRTHDAY'S!



January 3, 2010 – Simba
January 9, 2008 – Skittles R
January 17, 2011 – Mocha
January 20, 2011 - Ashton
January 31 - Biscuit
March 3 – Ophelia
March 4, 2009 - Teddy
March 12, 2010 – Kraken
March 14, 2011 – Mittens
March 24, 2011 – Flynn
April 6, 2010 – Jabberwocky
April 7, 2010 – Peace
April 11, 2006 – Ty
April 15, 2008 – Star
May 5, 2011 – Spyro
May 6, 2008 - Oliver
May 17 - Oreo
May 26 – TarQuinn
June 4, 2011 - Ziggy
June 10 – Caramel

June 10, 2008 – Lillian
June 10 – Samantha
July 21, 2010 – Tesla
July 22 - Autumn
July 27, 2007 – Kokomo
August 7, 2011 – Winter
August 20, 2008 – Popcorn
August 20, 2008 – Wallaby
August 20, 2008 – Mr. Bella
August 26, 2007 - BeBe
September 2, 2011 - Yeti
September 23 – Ronin
October 1, 2007 – Babbitty
October 1, 2005 - Willow
October 5, 2005 – Korr
October 15 - Fajita
October 19, 2008 - Buttercup
October 23, 2011 - Honey Bunny
December 5, 2009 – Amelia
December 12, 2009 - Samus

If you're not listed here & would like to be, be sure to email your Birthday to Peace so he can add you to the list! This also helps when doing up the new CRHC calendars as we don't want to miss adding your big day to the calendar!

Rabbit/Owner Name: Division A**Cumulative Standings:**

	Time Trial:	Match Race:	High Jump:	Long jump:	Total:
Amelia / Kate	0	8	11	-	19
Autumn / Jorja	42	45	60	-	141
Babbitty Rabbitty / Amanda	54	51	35	-	140
Biscuit / Jorja	42	37	22	-	101
Buttercup / Amanda	22	29	28	-	79
Jabberwocky / Amanda	47	41	53	-	141
Kele / Donald	4	8	0	-	12
Korr / Kate	0	2	17	-	19
Oreo / Jorja	22	27	53	-	102
Peace / Rosemarie	16	16	31	-	63
Popcorn / Rosemarie	45	44	34	-	123
Star / Amanda	11	18	5	-	34
Ty / Amanda	2	3	17	-	22
Wallaby / Rosemarie	23	32	15	-	73
Willow / Amanda	9	9	6	-	24

Rabbit/Owner Name: Division B**Cumulative Standings:**

	Time Trial:	Match Race:	High Jump:	Long jump:	Total:
Caramel / Josie	-	7	-	-	7
Coco / Kindrey	0	-	1	-	1
Daisy / Donald	-	-	-	-	-
Fajita / Josie	-	0	7	-	7
Flynn / Amanda	36	32	31	-	99
Honey Bunny / Kindrey	17	19	15	-	51
Kokomo / Alana	37	43	41	-	121
Kraken / Kate	10	12	9	-	31
Lil' Will / Tammy	-	-	-	-	-
Lillian / Kate	3	5	2	-	10
Liz / Keila	8	17	10	-	35
Marbles / Sammy	11	16	7	-	34
Mocha / Marin	-	0	3	-	3
Oliver / Krysta	-	-	-	-	-
Ophelia / Nichole	-	-	-	-	-
Ronin / Nichole	-	-	-	-	-
Sam / Nichole	-	-	-	-	-
Simba / Nicole	-	1	0	-	1
Skittles / Keila	2	2	-	-	4
Spyro / Rosemarie	17	18	20	-	55
TarQuinn / Nichole	-	-	-	-	-
Tesla / Kate	9	8	16	-	33
Winter / Jorja	37	22	24	-	83
Yeti / Marin	-	8	9	-	17
Ziggy / Sara	19	11	16	-	46

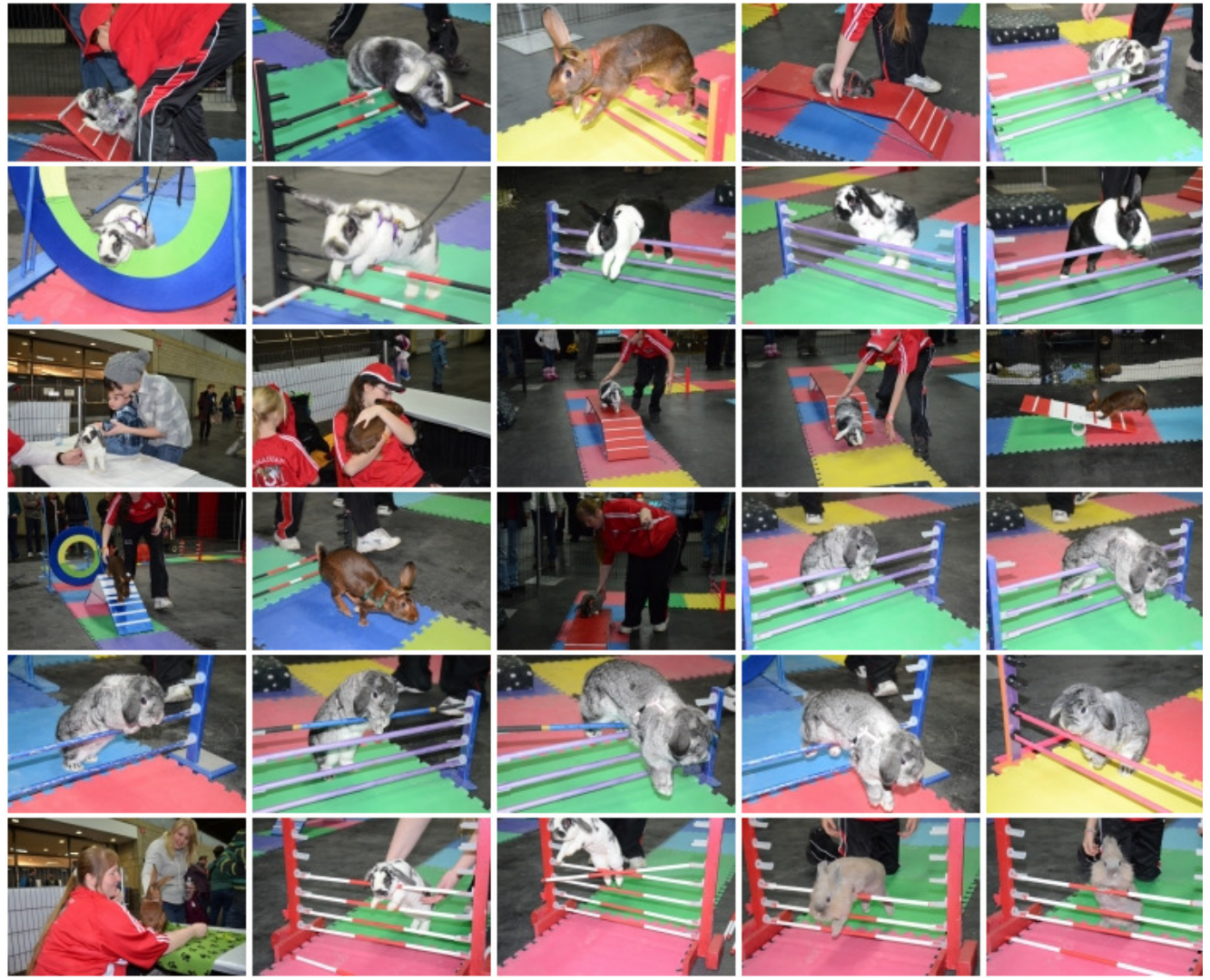


Popcorn's Paparazzi

January 6, 2011 ~ Monthly practice at the Chestermere Recreation Centre.



January 21, 2012 ~ Performance at the Edmonton Pet Expo.



February 4, 2012 ~ Demonstration at the Cochrane Humane Society.



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**The Edmonton
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C.R.H.C. Members List

Club Founding Members:

Amanda Greening

Rabbits: Willow, Babbitty Rabbitty, Ty, Star, Jabberwocky,
Buttercup & Flynn

Krysta Turner

Rabbit: Oliver

Club Members:

Linzie Bell

Rabbit: Wall-e

Holly Feluch

Rabbit: Tornado

Robyn Feluch

Rabbit: Butterscotch

Wendy Finn

Rabbits: Samus & Mittens

Alana Greening

Rabbit: Kokomo

Rosemarie Greening

Rabbits: Popcorn, Wallaby, Peace & Spyro

Terry Greening

Club Announcer

Nichole Giroux

Rabbits: TarQuinn, Ophelia, Samantha & Ronin

Sara Hunter

Rabbits: Ginger

Robert Johnson

Rabbit: Darren

Josie King

Rabbits: Caramel & Fajita

Kindrey Krol

Rabbit: Coco & Honey Bunny

Sara Koch

Rabbit: Ziggy

Marin Laboucane

Rabbits: Mocha, Simba & Yeti

Nicole Lepp

Rabbit: Simba

Ciara McCain

Rabbits: Binti & Kiwi

Kate MacKinnon

Rabbits: Korr, Lillian, Amelia, Tesla & Kraken

Evangeline M.

Rabbit: R.I.P. Skittles

Jorja P.

Rabbit: Oreo & Biscuit, Autumn & Winter

Donald Ryfa

Rabbit: Kele & Daisy

Keila Ryfa

Rabbits: Liz

Stan Mah

Rabbit: Bebe (Honorary Member & Amazing Photographer)

Sammy Sanden

Rabbit: Marbles & Zoey

Tammy Turner

Rabbit: Lil' Will

Kristy Wannop

Critters Pets in Cochrane

Sophie Wardlaw

Rabbit: Fawn

Previous Issues:

Cover Bunnies:

Jan/Feb 2012 – Cochrane Humane Society bunnies
Nov/Dec 2011 – Tornado
Sept/Oct 2011 – Autumn, Star, Popcorn, Simba
July/Aug 2011 – Stampede group photo
May/June 2011 – Kele, Korr/Amelia, Sam/Ronin
Mar/April 2011 – Coco
Jan/Feb 2011 – Willow & Jeremiah

Featured Bunnies:

Jan/Feb 2012 – Skittles
Nov/Dec 2011 – Bella, Teddy
Sept/Oct 2011 – Caramel
July/Aug 2011 – Simba
May/June 2011 – Buttercup, Skittles, Thumper
Mar/April 2011 – Jeremiah
Jan/Feb 2011 – Willow

Ask a Vet Articles:

Jan/Feb 2012 – Flynn's x-ray
Nov/Dec 2011 – Keeping your rabbit safe at Christmas / Housing your rabbit indoors vs. outdoors /
Sept/Oct 2011 – Rabbit feeds / Fecal testing & deworming / Abused rabbits / Kidney ranel disease
July/Aug 2011 – Sore hocks / Ear mites / Spaying & neutering / Proper hygiene / Held to gain or lose weight / Human herpes & rabbits
May/June 2011 – Proper rabbit nutrition

Lookin Lovely with Lillian (Grooming Tips)

Jan/Feb 2012 – Fur Mites
Nov/Dec 2011 – Keeping clean
Sept/Oct 2011 – Long fur grooming
July/Aug 2011 – Brushing
Mar/April 2011 – Scent gland cleaning
Jan/Feb 2011 – Nail trimming

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