

The Canadian Rabbit Hopping Club



November - December 2012 - Volume 2, Issue 4



*Welcome to the 10th edition of the C.R.H.C. Newsletter!
Pictured above is Bunnerkins, a new bun on the scene!
Visit us @ <http://www.CanadianRabbitHoppingClub.com>*



Welcome! I am your Editor in Peace.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving! We would also like to say thank you to all the veterans who served our country.

We are now gearing up for the Christmas Season!

For 2013 we will be cutting down on the number of newsletters we put out due to lack of submissions. It's hard for the same people to always be the only ones contributing. If anyone reads & enjoys the newsletters, then please send in a submission!

Wishing you all the best in 2013!

Until next time! Peace Out!

Featured Bunny!

This issue's featured bunny is Lillian!



You will be missed..

Rest in Peace sweet Lillian....



Upcoming Events!

December 2, 2012 ~ Demonstration at Jack Carter Chev dealership on the main level.
Address: 11555 - 29 Street Southeast from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. (Booked by Carnivals for Kids at Heart)

December 7, 2012 ~ Monthly practice & club Christmas party at the Chestermere Recreation Centre. Bunny gift exchange, bring a bunny friendly gift if you wish to participate (aprox value \$10) & potluck, bring a holiday treat to share. 6:30 p.m.

December 16, 2012 ~ Demonstration at Winston Heights Mountview Community Centre, 520 – 27th Avenue N.E. from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Booked by Carnivals For Kids At Heart)

January 4, 2013 ~ Monthly practice at the Chestermere Recreation Centre. 6:30 p.m.

January 19, 2013 ~ Demonstration at the Alberta Children's Hospital. 1:30 p.m.

February 1, 2013 ~ Monthly practice at the Chestermere Recreation Centre. 6:30 p.m.

February 9, 2013 ~ Performance at the Strathmore Pet Expo from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Wallaby's World Wide Web

For this issue I'd like to share a new venture with everyone that the Greening family is taking on. Well, truth be told, it's not new, they've been doing it 2007. But just labeling it with a name now as well as separating it from the CRHC. It's called **Against All Odds Rabbit Rescue**. Since first taking in Babbitty when he was only 6 weeks old, rescuing rabbits is something Amanda has been doing. She takes it very seriously, helping those who cannot help themselves. She doesn't discriminate when it comes to breed, age or gender. Potential new homes must go through her screening process which includes applications & home visits before any rabbit leaves her care. We have never charged an adoption fee, but believe finding a good home is what matters the most.

To see rabbits for adoption, please visit <http://bunanza.ca/AAORR>



Hello, this is Babbitty Rabbitty & welcome to Babbitty's Box Office.

In this column I would like to highlight what I believe to be some of Oscar's recent gaffes. Being only 5 years old I will limit this list to the last 40 years, not being a film historian or having much of an attention span. You may also notice a lot of the choices I champion committed the unpardonable sin of being popular.

Way too many Oscar winners came from movies that were probably seen by about 12 people, all wearing berets and using the term Tour De Force a lot. (With apologies to Jeremy Jahns for stealing his bit.) That's not to say they weren't good, it's just that Oscar voters often revel in snobbery.

10. 2000 – The Green Mile & the Sixth Sense, 10 combined nominations, 0 Oscars. I don't think that anyone can say these 2 movies were not great, as both made AFI's top 100. Ironically the 2 big winners that year, American Beauty & Cider House Rules, did not make this list.

9. 1989 – Field of Dreams beaten for best picture by Driving Miss Daisy. Seriously? I realize this is a bit personal since Field of my all time favorite movie. (Keep in mind who writes this for me!) My only guess is that the voters were blinded by the awesomeness by Miss Daisy's Morgan Freeman.

8. 1978 – The Swarm nominated for best costume. This one is just silly. For the most part, everyone in the Swarm just wore regular clothes. The only costumes were bee keeper outfits. Bee keeper outfits. In a movie about bee's. Oh the stretch.

7. 2001 – Spirited Away wins for best animated feature. You probably need to keep being reminded of what Spirited away actually was. Done in Anime style & it was the story of... Actually I have to be remind of what the story was. No such reminders are needed for the movies it beat, the Disney classic Lilo & Stitch, the first & best movie on the Ice Age franchise & the vastly underrated Disney's Treasure Planet.

6. 1999 – Shakespeare in Love beats Saving Private Ryan for best picture. I remember when this was first announced, I thought no, seriously guys, open the real envelope. A lightweight alleged comedy beating a heartfelt war epic. Get serious!

5. 2005 – George Clooney from Syriana beats Paul Giamatti from Cinderella Man for supporting actor. This is not a shot at Clooney, but Giamatti's portrayal of Jim Braddock's fast talking heart of gold trainer was fantastic.

4. 2003 – Ang Lee of Brokeback Mountain beats Paul Haggis of Crash for best director. Again this is not a shot at Lee, I am just confused. I can understand sometimes a great movie, especially an epic can overcome some ham fisted directing. (Yes James Cameron, I am looking directly at you.) But Crash was anything but. It was a complex, multi character, multi story examination of race, that showed everyone is capable of good and bad that delivered a message without being preachy or predictable. I don't see how it can win best picture without being best director.



3. Harry Potter's numerous snubs. I will deal with the most egregious snub at number 2. There was a thought that Deathly Hallows part 2 could win some awards as a sort of lifetime achievement, the way that Return of the King did for Lord of the Rings. Instead, it suffered the same attack of snobbery the rest of the films received. One particular slight was in best picture. By its new rules the academy can nominate 10 movies for best picture. Not only was Deathly Hallows 2 not nominated, the academy only nominated 9 movies. In other words, they would rather leave a nomination blank than nominate Deathly Hallows 2. Shameful. All told, the franchise received 12 nominations. 0 wins. In other words, the Muppet movie won more by itself. Disgraceful.

2. 2011 – Alan Rickman snubbed. For the uninitiated Alan Rickman plays Severus Snape in the Harry Potter series & plays him to perfection. The menacing air, the snide comments, he is perfect! Now, some will say, this lacks range. Yeah, & Marlene Matlin really pushed the envelope playing a deaf girl in Children of a Lesser God, which she won for. You want range? Deathly Hallows 2. He takes a character that you have despised for 7 movies & makes him brave, noble, caring & a sympathetic character without changing any of the original essence of the character. Truly Oscar worthy & he doesn't even get a nomination? Hang your little golden head in shame.

1. 2000 – Michael Caine of the Cider House Rules beats Haley Joel Osment of the Sixth Sense for best supporting actor. Once again, not a shot at Caine, generally very good at everything he does, but Osment's role as Cole in the Sixth Sense was amazing. Especially considering his age, only 11 at the time. He absolutely carries the movie as the haunted child psychic. You truly realize how great the portrayal was in his final scene, where the stress is lifted and he is a happy kid again. Just masterful.

Well, these are my 10 pics! Till next time, this is Babbitty saying look for our new column next year where I battle it out with a fellow hopper in an all new column!

Against All Odds Rabbit Rescue Rabbits for Adoption

<http://bunanza.ca/AAORR>





ASK THE VET



For this edition of the Hopping Club Newsletter, I was asked to submit an article on a topic of my choosing. It was a challenge to pick just one as I find so many aspects of rabbit husbandry and medicine to be very interesting! After much consideration, I have decided to write about the care of geriatric rabbits. A few years ago I adopted a ten-year-old rabbit and she came to me with a number of issues related to her advanced age. Spending time with her allowed me to gain a new appreciation for the unique concerns of the older rabbit. This article will outline those concerns and discuss what steps we can take to make the lives of our geriatric pets more enjoyable.

The Older Rabbit

At what age a rabbit become a senior pet varies slightly depending on breed. I have found that, similar to dogs, the larger breeds (i.e., Harlequin or Flemish Giant) tend to develop age related problems at a younger age than the smaller breeds. I would consider a large breed rabbit to be a senior pet by the age of five, while a smaller breed reaches its geriatric years by seven.



Signs of Aging: Much like human beings, aging for rabbits is a very individual process. Typical signs of aging in rabbits include:

- 🐰 Changes to the coat: The coat may become thinner or coarser, depending on the rabbit. There is often a colour change as well. It is not unusual for senior rabbits to have more white fur present around the lips and ears.
- 🐰 Changes to mobility: Older rabbits tend to have a higher incidence of arthritis (inflammation, swelling, and pain to the joints) and spondylosis (degenerative changes of the vertebral column leading to abnormal bony overgrowth and sometimes fusion of the spine). These changes often make hopping and grooming difficult or even painful.

🐰 Messy backsides: Geriatric rabbits often have stool, cecotropes, or urine adhered to the fur of their behinds. These rabbits are often unable to eat their own cecotropes or groom themselves as a result of arthritis, spondylosis, or obesity. Rabbits normally bend to position their mouths so they can eat their own cecotropes as they are passed from the anus. With advanced joint disease, this position becomes very uncomfortable and the soft cecotropes thus become stuck to the fur. When urinating, rabbits normally lift their haunches to pass a stream of urine. In an older rabbit, normal position during urination becomes more difficult and urine can easily collect on their bottoms resulting in urine scald of the skin. Therefore, ensuring the proper hygiene of our senior pets becomes increasingly important as they age.

Medical concerns: With advances in veterinary medicine and surgery, our pet rabbits have been able to enjoy an increase in life expectancy. With this increase in longevity, however, also comes an increase in geriatric disorders.

🐰 Kidney disease: There is no single cause of chronic kidney disease. Kidney disease can be due to cancer, kidney cysts, bacterial infections, parasitic (*E. cuniculi*) infections, urinary stones or sludge, and so on. Regardless of the cause, rabbits experiencing kidney disease often have a history of increased drinking and increased urine output. Owners often notice that the water bottle or dish needs to be filled more frequently and the litter box feels heavier due to more urine and needs to be cleaned more often.

🐰 Heart disease: There are many reasons why a senior rabbit may develop heart disease and they include infections, inherited disease (I diagnose heart disease more often in large breed rabbits), abnormal electrical activity in the heart, poor nutrition, and so on. Clinically, rabbits experiencing heart disease or failure often display reduced activity, exercise intolerance, and increased respiratory rate or effort. A veterinary examination may reveal a cardiac arrhythmia or murmur and weak pulses suggesting poor circulation.

🐰 Arthritis and Spondylosis: As already discussed, changes to the skeletal system and joints is a common occurrence in senior rabbits. These can lead



to poor mobility, soiled backsides, urine scald, and pain. Reduced mobility can also result in the development of hock sores.

🐰 **Cancer:** Fortunately, the two most common types of cancer in rabbits, uterine adenocarcinoma and mammary adenocarcinoma, are becoming less frequent as a result of owners spaying their rabbits before one year of age. However, rabbits are still vulnerable to many other types of cancers such as skin cancer, renal cancer, liver cancer, lung cancer, and leukemia. The types of signs that rabbits with cancer display can vary from none at all to severe illness to sudden death.



🐰 **Dental disease:** The development of dental disease can be due to a variety of reasons such as trauma, diets lacking hay, and genetics (i.e., lops and dwarfs). With age, dental disease advances and these rabbits often show signs of drooling, difficulty eating, and jaw abscesses.

🐰 **Eye problems:** Older rabbits often present with cataracts as shown in the photo to the right. These cataracts can vary in severity and can cause mild visual impairment or complete blindness. Many times older rabbits present with discharge from the eyes. This is often related to blockage of the nasolacrimal duct, a duct that normally carries moisture from the eyes to the nose. When this duct becomes plugged, the tears then begin to drain onto the face leading to fur matting at the corner of the eyes.



Care of the Senior Rabbit

At home: In order to help your rabbit adapt to life as a senior, a few simple steps can be employed which may help improve his or her quality of life. Firstly, providing them with non-slip flooring helps to improve mobility. Use carpet or exercise mats to help your elderly bunny maneuver around your home (just make sure they are not eating the rugs!). Allowing your rabbit to exercise daily helps reduce the muscle atrophy that occurs naturally during aging. Often the litter box becomes too difficult for a geriatric pet to enter. Either cut down one side or use a litter box with low sides so that the rabbit can move easily in and out of the box.

If your senior rabbit has advanced dental disease, providing hays that are easier to eat can help. Use softer grass hays such as Oxbow's Orchard Grass Hay[®] or steam hays with carrots or apples to help soften the hay and entice them to eat. Make sure water is easily accessible as well. If you feel that your senior pet is too thin or too fat, consult a rabbit-savvy veterinarian to provide detailed diet advice. Monitor the feet and backside of your pet. I find that many of my senior rabbit patients benefit from routine grooming and fur shaving around their hind ends.



Veterinary Care: When a rabbit enters his or her senior years, veterinarians recommend health checks every 6 months and blood work every 12 months. This increases the chance of disease detection. If a rabbit is experiencing discomfort due to joint disease, the anti-inflammatory medication meloxicam is often recommended. Natural supplements such as glucosamine and chondroitin may also be appropriate. Oxbow[®] has developed a new line of nutraceutical treats containing glucosamine which may help reduce joint degeneration, and turmeric and yucca which have anti-inflammatory properties.

Rabbits with dental disease often require frequent dental check-ups and care. The type of dental care a rabbit requires varies on a case-by-case basis. While dialysis and kidney transplants for rabbits do not exist, senior pets experiencing kidney disease often benefit from fluid therapy and medications to help improve kidney function. Many forms of heart disease can be managed through appropriate medications. Senior rabbits have also benefitted from advances in cancer research. I have used both medical and surgical techniques to treat patients with cancer. In appropriate cases, I have also sent my patients with cancer to veterinary oncology specialists so that they could receive radiation therapy.

Overall, veterinary medicine has made many advances to increase the longevity of our furry friends. Through careful monitoring at home and veterinary consultation, we can ensure that our senior pets have a comfortable and happy retirement!

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

Hi Rosemarie,

All of us at Calgary Avian & Exotic Pet Clinic cordially invite all members of the Canadian Rabbit Hopping Club to join us at our annual Christmas Open House on Sunday December 2nd from 12pm to 3pm. You can find us at Bay 1 - 2308 24th Street S.W. located in the Power Plaza just east of Crowchild Trail. RSVP to 403-240-3577 by November 24th. Please come join us for conversation and some Holiday cheer!

(Please note: Unfortunately, furry family members will have to stay at home as some of our clients are allergic to bunnies.)

Thanks, Rosemarie.

Take care,

Leticia

Jabberwocky's Journals!

Hello everyone, and welcome to a new addition to Jabberwocky's Journals! Today we will be reviewing a rather well known book that has grown quite the fan following, a novel called "The Book Thief" by Marcus Zusak.

The story starts off simple, introducing us to our three main characters. The first, our narrator, is Death, a rather detached and intelligent voice that guides us through our story by simply observing the storyline as it progresses, sharing information with us that we may not have known otherwise and offering a unique perspective on the progress of our tale. Then we have Liesel, a damaged young girl who is adopted by a German family during some of the darker days in world history, WWII, after the traumatizing death of her younger brother. Finally, we have Rudy, a neighbor and best friend to young Liesel, and probably my favorite character. He manages to be a character that fits the title of mischievous young boy without entering into the realm of annoying, like so many other books fail at (I'm looking at you "Milkweed").



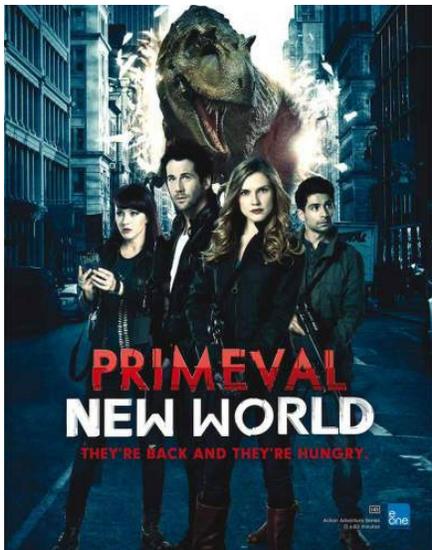
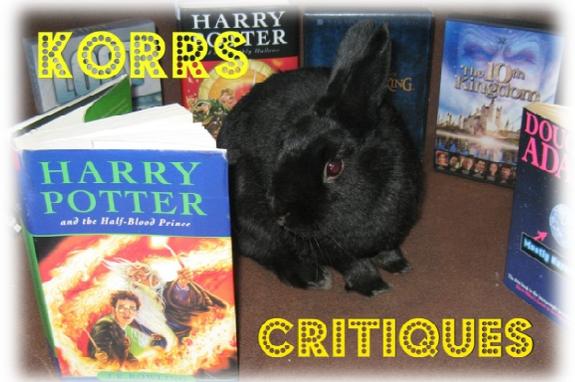
This book is written in an extremely unique way, introducing suspense in a way I have never seen before. Death is not afraid to state facts of events that happen further down the story. For instance, one of the first facts he tells us is **SPOILER** nearly every single character with the exception of Liesel will die. **END SPOILER** This introduces a whole new kind of tension that I haven't read before. As you continue to read and this fact is continually stated, you would think it would take something away, but the way Marcus has written it, it only adds another layer of suspense. You spend the story wondering how it is going to happen, when it will happen, and when it keeps being put off till the last chapter it only gives you more time to wonder. What's hardest is that you can't help but get invested in the characters despite the warnings.

And that is where Marcus truly shines, is in his characters. Every character in this book has their own personality and evolves through the story. They feel like real people, ones that you would see every day in the neighborhood and they fit the time period so well. They are also incredibly memorable. Death with his morbid sense of storytelling? Liesel, a book thief who cannot even read, who learns to read from her first book steal "The Grave-Diggers Handbook"? Rudy, the boy that can be anyone's best friend? Every single one of them will mark a spot in your memory and leave you wanting more of their story, but the finality of their tale prevents this.

Overall, The Book Thief is a novel that is a fantastic read from a different perspective during some of the darkest days in history. In total, this book get 5 thumps out of 5!

Welcome to the latest episode, erm issue, of Korr's Critiques. Today I will be reviewing the new show Primeval: New World. This is a spinoff of the British show Primeval and follows the same premise.

Both Primeval and Primeval: New World center around a group of people who investigate anomalies that connect the present with other time period, both past and future. These anomalies allow dinosaurs and other creatures to pass through. Of course, they don't seem to like coming into our world, let alone a big city, so chaos usually follows where an anomaly opens. While Primeval took place in London and other areas in Britain, Primeval: New World is in Vancouver. This leads to some interesting situations both with creatures in Vancouver and dealing with Canadian government people and of course the local people.



While Primeval: New World is only in the second episode, there are some interesting characters and plot developments. The show focuses around a small group of people who are starting to investigate the anomalies that have recently been showing up in Vancouver. They are led by Evan Cross (Niall Matter), a genius who has his own tech company. Toby Nance (Crystal Lowe) is Evan's right hand girl who builds gadgets. Next we have Mac Rendell (Danny Rahim) is new to knowing about anomalies, but is learning fast. Ange Finch (Miranda Frigon) is the business side of Cross Photonics, she deals with people while the others are off chasing anomalies. Dylan Weir (Sara Channing) works to control wild animals who may come into the city, dinosaurs are new for her. Ken Leeds (Geoff Gustafson) rounds out our main characters as a member of a government project that looks into unexplained phenomenon, he operates a one man department, mostly as his division officially doesn't exist.

Each episode can be watched on its own and doesn't require you to have seen previous ones, but watching them in order does help. There haven't been many big plot developments yet, but there are some mysteries already and I know I want to know what it going on. Primeval: New World can be watched without having seen Primeval,

but there is a little bit of cross over. If you have seen Primeval, you will recognize Conner Temple (Andrew Lee Potts) as he tried to warn about the anomalies without giving too much away (something about the space time continuum).

Primeval: New World is not the most serious or drama filled show you will find, but it is entertaining and has a good story. The effects are pretty good and locations are spectacular.

I am excited to see where this show goes. Being a fan of Primeval, I was quite excited when this was first announced and have been following it ever since.

Primeval: New World is a fun show that is enjoyable to watch. I give it 3.5 out of 5 bars.



The 2nd Annual Bunanza will be held on
August 3, 2013!



Popcorn's Paparazzi

November 3, 2012 ~ Demonstration at the Alberta Children's Hospital.

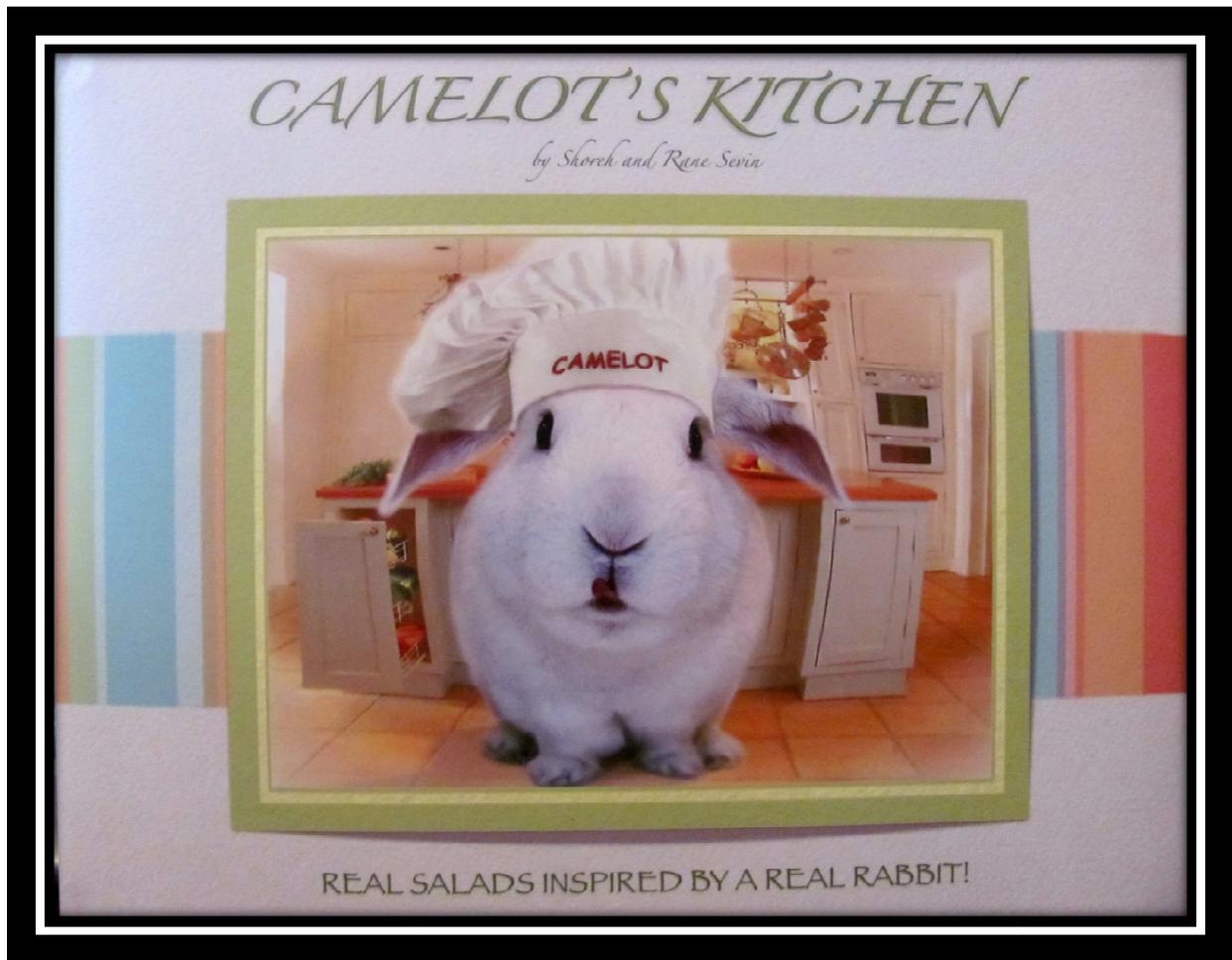


November 2, 2012 ~ Monthly practice & club Halloween party at the Chestermere Recreation Centre.



October 14, 2012 ~ Performance at the Children's Wish Walk for Wishes event at Eau Claire Market.





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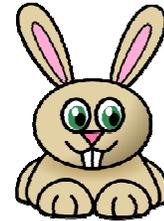
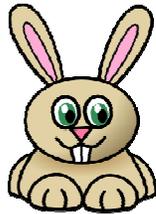
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Bunny Birthday's!



January 3, 2010 – Simba
January 17, 2011 – Mocha
January 20, 2011 - Ashton
January 31 - Biscuit
March 3 – Ophelia
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 17 - Oreo
May 26 – TarQuinn
June 4, 2011 - Ziggy
June 10 – Samantha

July 19, 2012 – Felix
July 21, 2010 – Tesla
July 22 - Autumn
July 27, 2007 – Kokomo
August 7, 2011 – Winter
August 20, 2008 – Popcorn
August 20, 2008 – Wallaby
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!

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We look forward to meeting you!



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About Photos Map Likes Events

CRHC Members receive a discount when shopping at RMT!

Featured in Previous Issues:

Cover Bunnies:

May/October 2012 – Kia
March/April 2012 – Zoey
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:

May/October 2012 – Spyro
March/April 2012 – Winter
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:

May/October 2012 – Emergencies & first aid kit supplies for rabbits
March/April 2012 – Picking up your rabbit safely
Jan/Feb 2012 – F.H.O.
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)

May/October 2012 – Bunny bonding

March/April 2012 – Keeping your cage clean

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