



# B.U.N.S. NEWS

December 2008

## Where to Find B.U.N.S.

**Rabbit Care Information**  
683-0521

**Volunteer Information**  
(805) 684-2269

**Basic Bunny Class Time & Location**  
683-0521

**Mailing Address**  
P.O. Box 91452  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93190 - 1452

**Shelter Address**  
5473 Overpass Rd.  
Santa Barbara

**Adoptables**  
[www.bunssb.org](http://www.bunssb.org)

Government Access T.V.  
Channel 20

**B.U.N.S. Web Page**  
[www.bunssb.org](http://www.bunssb.org)

**House Rabbit Society Web Page**  
[www.rabbit.org](http://www.rabbit.org)

## In Loving Memory of Caleb Miller Uribe

We adopted Caleb at BUN.S. of Santa Barbara on September 18, 2002. When we saw Caleb it was love at first sight – just a small, quiet, black mini lop. We were so grateful he picked us to be his parents. He enjoyed laying in the sun, running in the backyard through the baby tears and checking to make sure we were close by to pick him up and hold him. He loved his bedtime laying on his favorite blanket, on the bed and sleeping for hours with his back legs always touching us. He loved getting and giving kisses, and being called handsome.

He loved his Birthday parties every year and Christmas time with all his family and friends spending time with him. He loved us so much and loved his home with all his toys. Caleb passed away on May 9, 2008. We will always miss him, he was the best bunny every and could never be

replaced. He will always have a special place in our hearts. We love you Caleb!

Love Lee and Valorie

Lee and Valorie moved from Santa Barbara to San Diego. They have continued to remember BUN.S. and have joined the San Diego House Rabbit Society. We treasured receiving their Christmas cards and were happy to know that Caleb had such a lov-

ing home.

We at BUN.S. dedicate this issue to all the volunteers, BUN.S. bunnies and the wonderful people who since 1992 gave them their forever homes. Without your help and support, our whole community would be just a little less special. Thank you all for sharing your love and joy and for being the best part of our BUN.S. family.



# Buns Gets Adopted! by Deborah Matson



The Petco store at the Five Points Shopping Center in Santa Barbara has officially chosen BUNS as the store's non-profit partner. Each Petco store chooses its own non-profit partner, and BUNS is thrilled to be affiliated with the Petco at Five Points. This holiday season, Five Points PetCo will give BUNS the proceeds of the Holiday Fundraiser. Just buy an ornament for \$1 or \$5 and get free PetCo Founda-

tion Shopping bag.

For the last several months BUNS have been showcased at Petco Five Points. This gives BUNS great visibility. BUNS volunteers feed and care for the rabbit daily; the bunny is changed each week. All bunnies are adopted after a BUNS home visit., Adoption applications are available at the store.

## BUNNY TOYS MADE AND FOUND

**Chew Toys** – Pine cones, branches from citrus, apple, loquat, and pear trees, junk mail (avoid color print), phone books, cardboard boxes with two doors and some small windows.

**Toss toys** - pine cones, baby keys, (or put some real keys on a shower ring), the outer rings and inner sections of adhesive tape containers, screw on jar lids, baby rat-

gles, several shower rings linked together.

**Tug toys** - phone books. Take a brown lunch bag, punch several holes in the sided, fill it with hay, add a pine cone, apple twig or banana chip and tie the top with raffia. Take an old paper back book; fold each page down until the top corner touches the inner spine of the book; hot glue the covers together and hang

BUNS will be holding a monthly adoption fair on the second Sunday of each month at the Petco Five Points. Petco will provide flyers to be placed in each shopping bag for a set period of time around the adoption days, educating customers about BUNS and encouraging adoption and donations.

If you would like to help out at an adoption fair, please contact Deborah at (805) 453-9091.

**Where:** Petco. 3985 State Street.

**When:** Noon to 3 p.m. The second Sunday of every month. Congratulations to Max, who met his new family at PetCo this December. PPP

from roof of the cage. You can also fold the bottom corners up, open the book like a fan and wire the spine to the cage wall.

**Digging toys** – Phone books, cardboard boxes or tubes lightly stuffed with newspaper.

**Exercise toy** – Put pellets in an empty soft drink can or Soup at Hand Can. Let the rabbit roll it around until the pellets are eaten.



## Hutches Go Green

There's at least one in almost every neighborhood, the empty rabbit hutch in the corner of the yard, standing in silent testimony of children now grown and gone on to make homes of their own. These lonely hutches can either slowly disintegrate into unsightly rubbish, or they can be given new life by donating them to BUNS.

BUNS is always in need of hutches to replace worn out ones at the shelter, or to provide emergency shelter for bunnies evacuated from fire areas.

BUNS also tries to provide hutches to volunteers who foster BUNS bunnies, but there are rarely enough hutches to go around.

If you would like to donate a hutch to help homeless bunnies, please contact Phil or Jean at (805) 683-0521. The bunnies thank you!



### **Bunny Bus Driver Needed Wednesday and Friday Mornings –**

Volunteer to drive a rabbit from the shelter (5473 Overpass Rd) to Adobe Pet Hospital (3230 State St) between 8:00 AM and 10:00 am. The name of the rabbit to go would be on a white board at the shelter. You would put the rabbit in a carrier and

drive it to the vet arriving no earlier than 8:00 and no later than 10:00 A.M. Call 683-0521

### **Bunny Bus Driver Needed Thursday After-**

**noons** – Volunteer to drive a rabbit from Adobe Pet Hospital (3220 State St.) to the Animal Shelter (5473 Overpass Rd. You would take a carrier, rabbit and paperwork to the shelter between 1:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. Shelter volunteers would take care of the rest. Call 683-0521.

**Weekday Shelter Volunteers** – Are you available for two to four hours on a weekday? If so, we would love to have your help caring for the shelter rabbits. No experience required, we are happy to train you. Call 708-1418 and speak with Andrea.



## Spring is Around the Corner

Spring will soon be here, and it is time to start thinking about what to grow during the coming months for the rabbits, and a bit for you as well.

Celery is good year round, as well as, chard, parsley, kale and fennel. There has been some debate about not feeding long pieces of celery to a rabbit because of the stringiness. Um, it has been my observation that if they can chew through plastic covers over electrical wire or eat the baseboards, they can eat celery with ease. To harvest celery just cut what you need of the outer stalks, and the

plant can last several months or seasons. One can still get peas in the next month, but once it starts to be hot most of the days the plants turn yellow and sad looking. Yank them out and move on.

All berries—blackberries, strawberries, blueberries, etc., will blossom in spring. It is usually ten for me and one for the rabbit Rabbits also love strawberry leaves.

For lettuce, I grow all types. I get a mix of seeds from Island Seed and Feed, and start it in a four-inch pot. When the seedlings are a couple of inches tall, I break the mass up and plant

them in the garden. I am lazy and will have 2-3 seedlings in a clump.

I have been experimenting with growing lettuce in cement mixing tubs, so I can move them into the sun in the winter and out of the full sun in the summer. One can also put up shade cloth over them to keep out pests and prevent scorching. This year I'm going to try planting cucumbers on a slanted piece of sturdy wire, and put the lettuce underneath it, thus, maximizing precious growing space and providing filtered midday sun.

Another good plant for all seasons is chicory. It is sold in the stores as "dandelion greens." It differs from the dandelions growing as weeds in the yard, but is the same family, and is drought resistant because of the long taproot. The beauty of chicory is that you can cut it down to the ground (to harvest), but unlike the weed, it will grow back upright. The weed version adapts to being cut (e.g., mowing the



Plan your spring and summer garden now, and enjoy fresh goodies for months. And don't forget your rabbits when planning what treats to grow.

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lawn), and grows back flatter each time. Chicory is great to give to a rabbit with digestive troubles, it also has the prettiest blue flower, and it makes me smile every time I see it. The plants will last up to two years.

I usually let at least one plant of a vegetable go to seed (meaning don't cut the flower stalk), so one can get seeds for the next year, feed the birds, and attract bees to help pollinate the flowers.

By having rabbits, you can take advantage of making compost out of the hay and the waste from their litter pan. Find a semi-shady spot in the yard where you can pile up the litter (the higher the pile the better [3-4' or more]) I like to layer in dead vegetables or blood meal, moisten it with the hose while making the layers, and put a tarp over it. The next day you can

feel the heat through the tarp as the pile begins to "cook."

From personal experience and the reality of how I spend my time, I turn the pile once a week at best

When the hay has broken down (it is brown and in small pieces), I let the pile sit for a few more weeks to let the worms and bugs work on it some more. It can get to cake flour like



soil of the garden (or layer it on the top and water it in), and you will be rewarded with healthy plants. I usually have three piles in various stages of decomposition. I have anywhere from 10 to 25 rabbits at my place, so my piles are significantly larger and more time consuming

There are days when I fantasize about having to turn only four or five cubic feet of compost.

Don't be afraid to try different things in the yard. Every yard is different, there are

microclimates in your yard--one plant may flourish in a spot, while twenty feet away the same may fail.

Also, water in the morning to cut down on potential fungi, and remember to rotate your crops (don't

plant the same thing in the same place every time).



consistency, but you don't have to wait that long. You can dig the compost into the



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group, but circumstances intervened. I told my husband that I was through with rabbits and was considering returning Piper to B.U.N.S. and giving up my involvement with B.U.N.S.

Wisely, he advised I keep to my regular volunteer schedule and think about it for a few days.

Meanwhile, Piper began eating again, but started acting out. She had never been a cuddly rabbit; she was Buddy's rabbit, not mine. Now she refused to come when called and stamped at me often. It seemed she blamed me for taking Buddy away from her, and there was no way we could take comfort in each other.

Piper's history with humans was a sad one that had landed her at B.U.N.S. twice in her less than two years on earth, and I knew the only salve for her pain would be to have a new companion rabbit. If I was to keep Piper, I had to put aside my timeline for healing and get a new rabbit as soon as possible.

Before I left for my volunteer shift at B.U.N.S. that week, my husband said, "Keep your eyes open for a friend for Piper. Someone snuggly and friendly that you can both love." I

looked at him like he was crazy, but his words stayed in my mind as I fed the bunnies and then put them in their exercise pens for their daily romp. As I made my rounds, I was surprised that Nubia didn't have a hold card for potential adopters on her pen. She had arrived two weeks before, a tiny white bundle of love,



barely three months old. Nubia had stolen all of our hearts immediately, for she was one of those bunnies who adored people and would rather be held and snuggled than anything else in the world. True to form, as I lifted her from her hutch to put her out to exercise, she melted into my chest and rested her tiny head on my arm, eyes closed, teeth purring in contentment. She had just been spayed, and I noticed the card saying that she wasn't to exercise for two more days. I sat and held her instead. "Will you be the one to help our hearts heal?" I whispered to her.

Before I left, I put a hold card on her pen.

Nubia is now Little Bit, our little bitty bunny. Piper stopped stamping at me, and sometimes comes when called. She is digging up a storm. Little Bit is not Buddy, like all creatures she is unique and I love her for her

sense of humor (she is constantly inventing new games to play with me and my husband) and her affectionate, people loving nature. I still cry over Buddy sometimes, but then Little Bit will make me laugh with something comical she

does and with every laugh I heal a little more.

If you have lost your bunny friend and know that you will never recover from the loss of that one special bun, keep in mind that your heart is bigger than you think. Your heart has room for all kinds of love with all kinds of bunnies. If you have been thinking that you need more time to heal, consider that your next special bun may be waiting for you right now at B.U.N.S., and you can heal your hearts together.



Bunnies Urgently  
Needing Shelter  
P.O. Box 91452  
Santa Barbara, CA 93190

Address Correction Requested

## **And the Stockings Were Hung by the Hutches with Care...**

Every day the shelter bunnies and guinea pigs wake to the hope for a new home. They dive into litter boxes of hay - Burrowing to the very bottom in search of the best stalk of grass. They frisk in the play yards and look forward to a fresh salad and helping of pellets. There is a Santa Claus for the bunnies, because of those who care for them lovingly.

And the bunnies are right. You are Santa Claus and have been so for many years. Your generous gifts have cared for the sick, re-homed the abandoned, and reformed some very feisty bunnies until they too at last found their forever homes.

This year BUNS has taken many bunnies into its embrace. There were the 41 Winchester bunnies, but also many bunnies whose families had to move. They left the shelter in tears, but with the comfort that their furry friends would find a loving new home. Please give to BUNS this year—we need your help.

