



# B.U.N.S. NEWS

Sept. 2011

## BUNNY FESTIVAL AND PIGNIC

It's a hop! It's a churr! It's Bunny Festival and Pignic! One day each year bunnies frolic on the green lawn of the Santa Barbara County Courthouse. Last year the bunnies had so much fun they had to share with their guinea pig friends again. You will find them all luxuriating in the private and secure Lagomorph Lounge nibbling on Spa salads. Or, they will be preparing for a close-up at the Photo Booth by getting the full Spa Bunne treatment: nail trim, massage, light grooming and ear toner. After a brief health exam and they are ready to sign up for the olympics. Not athletic? Champion eaters can compete in the carrot and strawberry events.

Catch up on the latest happenings with your best buns; two Animal Communicators, Laura Stinchfield and Christina Codazzi will fill you in. Your buns have opinions and a point of view that will amaze you. No worries. All communications are confidential.

The children's area will have face painting, snow cones, crafts, and other activities to keep little hands and hearts occupied. Hungry? Try the Cottontail Cafe. Watch the spinners turn angora fur into yarn for knitting or weaving. Are you looking for a bunny or guinea pig? Visit the adoption area. Find a new friend or just share a little kindness with a lonely fur person. Cont. p 2

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## OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Watching your beloved house rabbit safely leap and binky with joy in the outdoors brings as much joy to you, as it does to your bunny. My own B.U.N.S. bunnies have time with the gifted animal communicator, Laura Stinchfield (she will be at Bunny Festival!). They tell her how safe and loved they feel living in a house. They also share that they enjoy the ramps, tunnels, and toys they play with indoors. But they miss the feel of soft grass and cool earth under their feet. As a protective bunny parent I wanted to be sure my bunnies had safe and fun outdoor experiences.

If you want to take your rabbit outdoors, take a few precautions. Stay close to your rabbit or leave your rabbit with a trusted supervisor. I will discuss halter leashes and outdoor pens.

While taking your rabbit outside use the following tips:

Know the area that you are taking your rabbit. Many areas use pesticides on grass and in gardens, which can harm your bunny. The Sunken Garden is safe.

Heat is a concern when taking your rabbit for some outside fun. Shaded areas during the cooler parts of the day are recommended. Ice bottles also help. Remember a vet is just a few steps away at Bunny Festival.

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## Bunny Festival & Pignic Con't.

We all love to shop at the Bunny Bunch Boutique, the SaveABunny Booth, Oreana Winery, SLO BUNS, Elegant Animals and Heidi Bratt. Tee shirts (who can forget the seven deadly sins) or Heidi's beautiful watercolors cards and reversible bunny harnesses; bunny and guinea pig jewelry, and toys for you and your pets galore. This is the best selection of bunny and guinea pig items in Santa Barbara; plus you can plan your internet purchases for later in the year. Find bargains and the thrill of the chase at the silent auction. A bottle of Oreana Wine would make a perfect end to a perfect day; better yet a case of wine can be shared with your rabbit loving friends or get you through the winter months.

Hop on down to the Bunny Festival and Pignic on Sunday Sept 25 (1100 Anacapa St. Santa Barbara). Questions call 683-0521. Bring your friends. Your support will help BUNS spay and neuter rabbits and pay rabbit and guinea pig medical bills. Your smiling faces and enthusiasm keep BUNS hopping each year. You make it possible to find new homes for rabbits and guinea pigs. So let's celebrate together.

Special thanks are due to the volunteers and sponsors who make Bunny Festival and Pignic possible: Laurie Breecham Ballard Sculptures, Patron.

Gold Sponsors: Adobe Pet Hospital, Carpinteria Veterinary Hospital, Claire et Belle, Cambria & Christianne Morgan, Kay and Kerry Nicholson, Big Blue, Sasha & China Silva-Seymour, Valley Animal Hospital, VCA Noah's Ark Animal Hospital.

Silver Sponsors: Airport Animal Hospital, Animal Medical Clinic, Buellton Veterinary Clinic, Glitter Critter Ana Fagan; Foothill Pet Hospital, Island Seed & Feed, La Cumbre Feed, Lemos Feed and Pet Supply, Jenny Bailey and Fabio Nace, Santa Barbara Arts, Santa Barbara County Animal Services.

*Whee, Whee,  
Whee want to  
go to the Pignic.  
Please!*



## Outdoor Adventures, Con't.

Some plants may be poisonous to your rabbit – don't assume your rabbit will naturally avoid these! At Bunny Festival a spa salad will keep your rabbit away from the plantings. It will also keep BUNS from getting in trouble with the Park Department.

Depending on the season and location mosquitoes and flies may bite your rabbit and can potentially transmit diseases. Check your bunny for ticks if you go into a "wild area."

I use a halter with a double leash when I "walk" my bunnies. Let your rabbit take you for a walk or hop. Rabbits will not follow leash directions like dogs, so you will need to follow your bunny. Never use just a collar and leash as this can lead to injury. Purchase a body harness that fits your rabbit snugly, but not too tight. You should be able to fit your little finger between the harness and your rabbit's body. Purchase two compatible leashes. An additional leash helps prevent a tight leash from pulling the rabbit's back unnaturally. Having a longer leash will give you more room and your bunny will be more comfortable if you're not following too closely. Andrea Bratt has designed a comfortable harness that will be available at Bunny Festival.

Introduce your rabbit to the body harness and leash over several days while indoors. Most rabbits will become comfortable with the harness. If your rabbit is frightened of the harness, an outdoor pen might be a more positive alternative. Some rabbits chew the harness.

Your rabbit's travel carrier is a private space where your rabbit can relax and be safe. Keep it near.

Outdoor pens can be set up following the safety guidelines suggested earlier. I always keep a cover over the pen to provide plenty of shade and protect small rabbits from hawks. Supervision is still needed.

It is best to stay in familiar areas. Before I take my bunnies on a walk or set up pens I visit the area first. Most of the time I go to the Ojai Community Garden because I know it is all organic and no pesticides are used on the grass or in the garden. I check there are no dogs off leash, loud noises, or any other potential concerns. Limit your walks to the attention span of your rabbit. You may find your visits are short 15 minute sessions or may last an hour.

# NANCY'S NIBBLES

as told to Deborah Matson

I'm flattered to be asked to tell you my tale. Excited, too! The last rabbit who was featured in the newsletter got adopted right away! Pink eyed white rabbits like me are more easy going than other colors. I find joy in every little thing. Especially mornings. I love mornings because they're usually so cool and moist. I feel like kicking up my heels and running as fast as I can. I'm so lucky because my play time is usually in the morning.

I almost forgot to introduce myself. I'm Nancy Nibbles, and the shelter is the only home I've ever had. Well, of course I had a birth home with my mother and siblings. We were hrair! All of my brothers had beautiful coloring and flashy markings. My sister and I were solid white with pink eyes. My brothers were adopted but my sister and I were never chosen.

One day we were put in a box and when it was opened we were at the shelter. That was almost a year and a half ago. My sister, Candi Carrot, and I are still here. Candi minds it more than I do; she went to foster care and it was almost like having a real home. Candi says the people in a real home feed and snuggle just you. It's hard for me to imagine that. But it must be true because rabbits who came here from homes say the same thing. It must be heaven! I can imagine it since I went to an "event." Four of us were in pens in front of a place with many animal smells. It was a very popular place, with people and sometimes people with dogs on cord things going in and out all the time.

I would have been very confused and maybe scared, but the volunteer from the shelter put me in her lap. I was there for the longest time! Oh, it was the most thrilling day of my life! There is nothing I like more than to sit in a lap and be petted. My second favorite thing is to be held with my paws against the person and nestle my head on their shoulder. That is true contentment. But back to that wonderful day... I was petted by so many people.

The entire time the volunteer kept me on her lap and stroked me and talked softly to me. I had never been held so long. I didn't move at all, I didn't want to break the spell of the magical experience. I ground my teeth in contentment and wished that day would never

end. I imagined my forever home and my special person holding me on their lap every day. I had to stop because it made me want a forever home so much that the tips of my ears tingled.

Now, whenever another rabbit is adopted I wish it was me. I'm happy when my fellow rabbits get adopted, but I wonder why it isn't me. I've been at the shelter longer than any other rabbit except Candi. I'm attractive and I love to snuggle! Oh, it worries me sometimes, but all we can do is keep ourselves groomed and our cages are clean. I really dislike a messy cage. Recently, I've had another dream. I hope that I will be chosen to go to Bunny Festival and Pignic. That may be my best chance to find a forever home. So few are chosen to go, but I hope, hope, hope I am one. Tonight and every night until Bunny Festival I will settle down in my tidy cage and listen to the other bunnies breathing the dark. I've been here so long, I am in an inside cage. I am safe from weather and predators and can whisper to my sister, Candi Carrot, in the dark, just as we've done all our lives. Then I can settle down to chew pellets and dream of Bunny Festival and finding the person who will snuggle and cuddle me forever and ever.



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*Santa Barbara*

# BUNNY FESTIVAL AND PIGNIC

ANIMAL COMMUNICATOR  
BUNNY & CAVY OLYMPICS  
ADOPTABLE BUNNIES  
AND GUINEA PIGS  
LAGOMORPH LOUNGE  
CHILDRENS' AREA  
SPINNERS  
VENDORS



SILENT AUCTION  
OREANA WINERY  
PHOTO BOOTH  
SPA BUNNE  
BAKE SALE  
VET VISITS

SEPT. 25 NOON TO 4:00 PM

COURTHOUSE SUNKEN GARDEN 1100 ANACAPA