

# *The Canadian Rabbit Hopping Club*



**September/October 2011 – Volume 1, Issue 5**



*Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the C.R.H.C. Newsletter!*

*Pictured above is Autumn, Star, Popcorn & Simba.*

*Photo taken at the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra at  
Epcor Centre's Jack Singer Hall October 8, 2011.*

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



Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the C.R.H.C. Newsletter. I am your Editor in Peace.

First off, I must apologize for this issue being so late getting out to everyone. It seems some of the staff is slacking a bit over the past month, I won't name names, (Babbitty & Jabberwocky), but I just got their articles today.

I also wanted to send out a big Thank You to those who went to Edmonton in September for the Canada's Got Talent audition! Unfortunately I wasn't invited to go, but I heard from Oreo that everyone had a great time!

I also want to thank Leticia Materi, PhD DMV for all her wonderful articles & sharing her knowledge with so many of us! Remember members; send me your questions to forward to her so she can continue to share her knowledge with us!

I also want to wish everyone a Happy & Safe Halloween!

Peace out!

## Featured Bunny!

This issue's featured bunny is Caramel!

Caramel is a fairly new member of the club but has shown great progress in agility. She's often joined by her little friend Fajita.

Be sure to watch for them at upcoming events!



# *Upcoming Events!*

**November 4, 2011** ~ Monthly practice at the Chestermere Recreation Centre. 6:30 p.m.

**November 5, 2011** ~ Demonstration at the Alberta Children's Hospital.

**November 12, 2011** ~ Performance at the Golden Feather & Fur show in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan. 12-5 p.m. One of the only shows of its kind left in Canada, with exhibitors bringing in poultry, game birds, fantail pigeons, homer pigeons, pheasants & rabbits. A great show to see some unique birds & small animals.

**December 2, 2011** ~ Monthly practice & Club Christmas party at the Chestermere Recreation Centre. 6:30 p.m (Pot Luck, bring your favorite Christmas goodie to share!)

## **Wallaby's World Wide Web**

For this issue I'd like to share a website with you that I can't believe I never talked about before. It's a site that my family spends many hours on. You never know what you might see on it, but I do know one thing you can see is some pretty amazing rabbits showing off some of their mad skills doing various things.

The site is <http://www.YouTube.com>



Hello everybody, welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Babbitty's Box Office. In honour of Halloween, instead of a new review we will look at what I consider to be the 5 best and 5 worst horror movies of all time. Now, before we start, let me define what I think makes a great horror movie. You have to have a menacing feel that builds as the movie progresses. You have to have good characters and care what happens to them. This eliminates most slasher movies where the victims are so stupid and annoying; you generally start cheering for the killer. Also, gore doesn't equal horror, so again the slasher movies and a lot of zombie movies are out. (A big exception is T.V.'s The Walking Dead, which is excellently done.)

So now, we start with the 5 worst.

(5) *The Village* - M Night Shamatyn's worst movie, and that's saying something. A "historic" village is threatened by a beast. Long, boring story short, a blind girl ventures out on a journey to save her boyfriend. The beast is just one of the Elders in a stupid costume. A stalker uses the costume to chase her, and ends up being killed. (Way to go genius.) The 'historic' village is really in the modern day, chooses to be isolated in time. Which most people watching guessed halfway through.

(4) *The Wicker Man* - Nicholas Cage is a cop hunting for a little girl whose death has haunted him. Finds a village populated only by women who have permanent PMS. In the end, we find out why there are no other men. Other than the PMS thing.

(3) *Poltergeist 3* - A tragic movie in so many ways. Only poor little Heather O'Rourke is left from the original cast, and, sadly, she died from kidney failure soon after this movie was released. You can tell by her puffy face she was probably sick while working on it. Bad script, bad acting and plot holes you could drive a truck through. For instance, the teen daughter's boyfriend arrives to help the family. He ends up being captured by the entity and dragged to the spirit world. When the movie ends, he's still there and the family walks off to a happily ever after ending. Hello!

(2) *The Human Centipede* - Stupid. Gross. Sick. Pointless.

(1) *Drag Me to Hell* - Never has such a promising story and trailer disappointed so badly. Instead of a scare this movie opted for the gross out every time. Note to main character: if you keep your mouth shut, it will keep disgusting stuff from falling in it. And when we get to what should be the most tension filled scene, the séance, we get.....a talking goat. It may just be me, but in your big payoff scene, your audience shouldn't burst out laughing.

So, now that we have dealt with the dreck, on to our top 5.

(5) *The Others* - I had a real dilemma choosing between *The Others* and *The Shining*, but I settled on this dark tale because of its fantastic end. Nicole Kidman is a mother of 2 children, in a huge, old house. Her husband is away in the "Great War" and she is in need of some assistance. Enter some creepy servants who show up to apply. Add to that the fact the sun never seems to shine. And then the children start to see "the others". Constantly building tension leads to a fantastic finish, which I won't spoil.



(4) The Ring - This film takes creepy to a whole new level. The little girl's back story is horrific. The dark video that summons her is disturbing and cryptic. Finally, horror and dread have a new meaning when you see her crawl from the well. Or worse, the T.V. And believe me; I carefully check any video before I watch it.

(3) The Blair Witch Project - This film struck on a unique idea that most ignore. You don't have to see some CG monster or ghost to be scary. In fact, it is much scarier to not see it, because we imagine most things as scarier than they actually are: The scariest thing is the unknown. And there are enough creepy sounds and other evidence to build the tension.

(2) Stephen King's IT - With what was easily King's best book, it had to be toned down because it was a TV movie. It still has more than enough menace, thanks to the masterful acting of Tim Curry as Pennywise the clown. He is easily the creepiest, evilest, most menacing character of any horror movie. And probably the reason most people hate clowns. Just ask Amanda!

(1) Paranormal Activity - Maybe so scary because it looks so real in the way its shot. Like an episode of Ghosthunters on steroids. The tension builds masterfully with each escalating event. It gets so that you almost dread when they go to bed and turn on the camera. Plus it has the biggest jump scare in the history of movies. I guarantee, if you sleep in a room at the top of some stairs, and watch this movie before going to bed, you will spend at least 2 hours awake, staring at the staircase, listening for the slightest sound. And if you hear one, break into a terror sweat. Stupid Dodger!

Well, that's our horror episode. This is Babbitty saying, I didn't mention the scariest thing I have seen recently: Meesha's hair! Scared the buttons out of me.



# ASK THE VET

*Q: Is one feed really better than another? Examples of feeds, Masterfeed, Oxbow, Martins, generic store brands such as Walmart.*

A: Determining which type of pellet is most appropriate for your pet depends a lot on the age and health of the rabbit (see my article on 'Proper Rabbit Nutrition' in the May/June 2011 newsletter). However, when comparing brands of rabbit pellets, it becomes much less obvious which one is best. This is because the guidelines for pet food labels, as required by the Canadian Government, are not nearly as strict as those required for human food products. When it comes to the guaranteed analysis of a pet food, companies are only legally required to list the maximum or minimum percentage of protein, fat, fiber and moisture. If a bag of pellets lists calcium or vitamin content, it is because that company has chosen to share that information and not because it is legally required to list it. This makes direct comparison of different brands difficult.



Regardless of brand, it is important to avoid 'gourmet' pellets. These are the diets that consist not only of pellets but sugary dried fruit and fatty seeds. Remember, rabbits are clever and will pick out their favorites (i.e., sweet treats) and leave behind the fiber rich pellets. This often leads to gastrointestinal problems such as stasis or diarrhea. Fiber is the most important part of a rabbit diet so I recommend pellets which have a high fiber content (i.e., greater than 22%).

Freshness is another important consideration when choosing a brand. Rabbits choose foods based in part on smell so pellets that are stale will often be rejected. A good company will print an expiration date on the package and use fresh ingredients.

Adult rabbits should be fed timothy based pellets as these are lower in calories and calcium content. Many companies continue to use



alfalfa in their pellets since it is cheaper. Alfalfa is considered by most veterinarians to be too high in calories and calcium for most healthy adult rabbits.

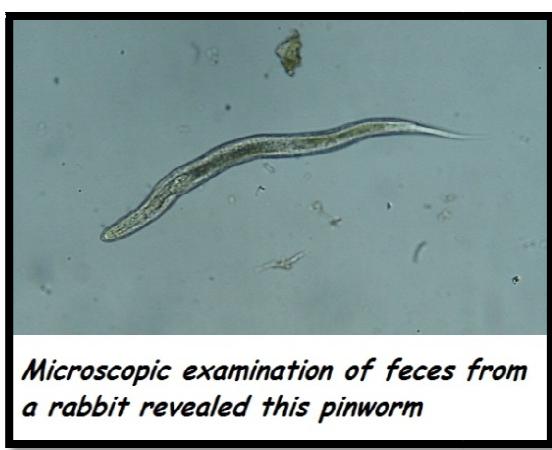


I will confess that our clinic carries the Oxbow ® line of rabbit pellets and hay. We have chosen to promote this brand of pellets since it has one of the highest fiber contents (up to 29%), is appetizing to most rabbits, provides a fairly comprehensive guaranteed analysis of the diet, and lists an expiration date on each bag. We have also been impressed by the dedication of the company to small exotic mammal health. This company has done extensive research on rabbit nutrition, provides scholarships to students, and offers grants to various rescue organizations (and just for the record, I am not paid by the company☺).

It is also very important to remember that pellets are never a substitute for hay. Hay is essential for good gastrointestinal health in rabbits and should be given in unlimited amounts to all rabbits.

I would recommend working with your veterinarian to determine what the best diet would be for your rabbit based on his or her age and health status.

*Q: Would it be a good idea to do general deworming for club rabbits and what is the best option for medication to use considering there are dutch and Blue Eyed White rabbits (which I have heard can have issues with Ivermectin)?*



*Microscopic examination of feces from a rabbit revealed this pinworm*

A: This is a great question since it focuses on “herd health” which is important for all clubs that have animals from different sources mixing together.

My recommendation would be to have fecal testing done on the rabbits. This will identify animals that need to be dewormed and prevent those that are free of parasites from having to take unnecessary medication. Any new additions to the club could also be

encouraged to have a fecal test done in order to prevent the introduction of infection. If rabbits are living in pairs or in groups, then performing a single test on a pooled sample can help reduce costs. The medications we use depend on the parasitic infection present. Typically we use fenbendazole, trimethoprim sulfa, and metronidazole for internal parasites. While there is unlikely to be any harm in giving deworming medication to a rabbit without parasites, no single medication eradicates all types of infections and some parasites can cause more problems for the rabbit than others. That is why fecal checks would be a better option.

I found your comment on ivermectin to be interesting since I had not heard about this medication being dangerous for certain breeds. I have used ivermectin on many rabbits, including my female dutch rabbit, for external parasites without any reported complications. I posted your comment on an international veterinary forum and have not heard any reports about complications in certain breeds with ivermectin. That is not to say that ivermectin is without side effects. It is known to alter neurologic function but usually at extremely high doses. However, selamectin is another equally effective medication that can be used if you are nervous about using ivermectin in your pets.

*Q: I would appreciate any tips on teaching a formerly abused rabbit how to do normal rabbit things (hop, grooming his wife, periscope etc). How can I get his instincts to kick in again?*

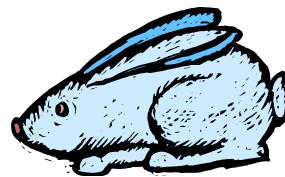
A: I would like to start by thanking you for opening your heart and your home to this bunny. While it can be very challenging to modify behaviour, the rewards of taking an abused pet and nurturing it to become a happy and thriving rabbit can make it all worthwhile.



Animal abuse is one of the most heartbreaking topics to consider. Abuse comes in many forms: physical, emotional, psychological, and neglect. The consequences of an abusive environment can vary depending on the animal. Some animals display avoidance behaviours, preferring to interact less and less with humans. Some will display overtly aggressive behaviours in an abusive environment and perform grunt-lunge-bite sequences. Some



rabbits will develop phobias or an over-generalized fear of everything. A fearful rabbit will often flatten its abdomen onto the floor with the ears laid back against the head, the eyes may bulge, and occasionally they may emit a high-pitched scream. Finally, some individuals suppress all responses and become apathetic or dispirited (this is often referred to as 'learned helplessness' in psychology). This may be what your pet is experiencing. In all, these unhappy souls live in a constant state of anxiety.



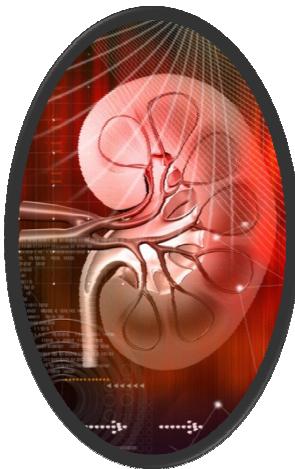
The most important goal is to help your rabbit regain his trust in people and in his environment. This takes a lot of patience and a calm demeanour. Progress will occur in small steps since behavioural problems are rarely an overnight phenomenon and quick fixes rarely work. One approach that may work is a strategy termed 'nurturing guidance' by Sally Blanchard, an animal behaviourist who works primarily with

birds but which, I feel, is applicable to most animals. One fundamental principle of this theory is that all interactions must be trust-building, not trust destroying.

In order for an animal to perform normal behaviours, it must have a sense of trust and security. Start by sitting down on the floor with your side or back to the rabbit. You are not facing him or even paying any attention to him. Have a special treat with you that he really likes and allow him to see it. Make the treat accessible to him by placing it on the floor so that he can come over to get it but don't try to give it to him. Read a book or magazine and occasionally look at him for a second or two without making direct eye contact then lower your head and look away. The idea is that you are using body language to ask him to join you. This may take days, weeks, or even months of training. Keep the sessions short and as stress free as possible. When he finally does come over, stay calm and indirect until he is genuinely comfortable coming to you again. Rabbits are very social creatures and want to be a part of the group since there is safety in numbers when living in the wild. The hope is that once some natural behaviours begin to develop, others will follow. Using positive reinforcement such as food rewards to encourage normal bunny behaviour may also help.

Fortunately, rabbits are capable of bonding and re-bonding on many different levels throughout their lives and they can form different types of relationships with both people and other rabbits. Progress may be slow and sometimes proceed in a nonlinear fashion with one step forward being followed by two steps back. Overall, patience, determination, and consistency will be your best tools. Good luck!

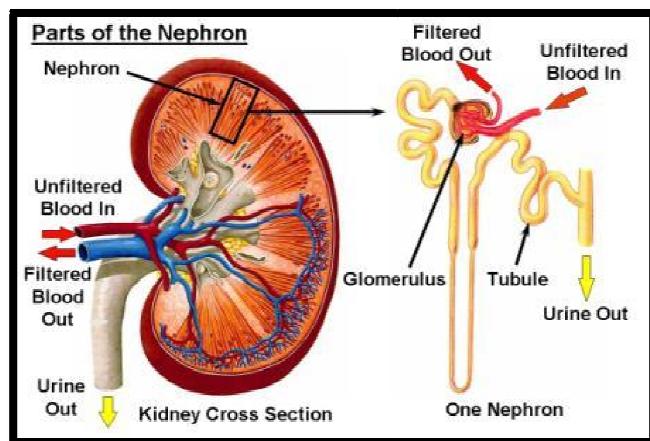
## RABBITS AND KIDNEY DISEASE



Many people are surprised to find out that the kidneys do more for the body than just make urine. The kidneys are involved in water conservation for the body, regulating blood pressure, maintaining proper salt balance, activating Vitamin D, and stimulating the production of red blood cells by the bone marrow. Without the kidneys, the body would soon become very toxic as waste products are removed from the blood by the kidneys and excreted into the urine. So when rabbits experience kidney dysfunction, it is no wonder that they become very ill and can even pass away as a result. The goal of this article is to examine the kidneys, both in health and disease, and to provide tips on how we as pet owners can identify renal disease in our furry friends.

### Kidney Anatomy & Function

Like humans, rabbits have two kidneys that lie on either side of the body and are constantly processing a large volume of blood. Each kidney is made up of hundreds of thousands of individual units called nephrons, and each nephron is made up of a glomerulus and tubule. The glomerulus acts like a



filter for the blood and the tubule collects the material that passes from the blood through the glomerular filter. Small molecules pass from the blood through the glomerulus and into the tubules easily while other particles like proteins and blood cells are too large to pass through. Other processes along the length of the tubule also occur which ultimately determines what material ends up in the urine and what stays in the body.

Other areas of the kidney monitor blood pressure. When the kidneys sense a drop in blood pressure or blood volume (i.e., haemorrhage or dehydration) they secrete renin. Renin then acts on other molecules to cause vasoconstriction, increased water retention, and the feeling of being thirsty. These changes result in increased blood pressure and/or blood volume. The kidneys also activate Vitamin D which promotes calcium absorption from the gut and stimulate red blood cell production by secreting the hormone erythropoietin.

In most mammals, the kidneys regulate pH levels in the blood by excreting acid waste products from the blood into the urine. However, rabbit kidneys are not as efficient at this process. Thus, rabbits are more susceptible to acid-base imbalances. Also, blood flow to the kidneys in rabbits appears to be reduced by pain and stress. This leads to poor filtration of blood by the kidney and reduced nutrient flow to renal tissue making the kidneys more susceptible to damage.

The most obvious function of the kidney is to produce urine. The urine of rabbits is somewhat different compared to other mammals. Firstly, rabbits are not able to concentrate their urine as well as other animals and, therefore, produce more urine than a similarly sized dog or cat. On average, rabbits pass about 130 ml/kg of urine per day. In rabbits, urine is the major route for the excretion of calcium. Calcium in the urine is often seen as a white deposit in the litter box. Rabbit urine can also vary in colour from a pale yellow to deep red. The red colour is a result of plant pigments passing through the kidneys and is often mistaken for blood. Laboratory tests may be necessary to



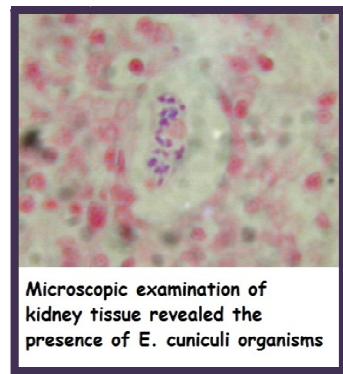
determine if the red urine is due to plant pigments or blood. Blood in the urine is abnormal and indicates disease.

## Renal Disease

The rabbit urinary system is comprised of the kidneys, ureters, bladder and urethra. This system is susceptible to numerous diseases including glomerulonephritis, uroliths or stones, sludge, infections by parasites or bacteria, cancers, and so on.

When a rabbit has urinary system disease, the symptoms can vary depending on the site affected and the stage of the illness. During the early stages of renal disease, rabbits may show a noticeable increase in water intake and urine output. Owners may find that they have to fill the water bottle or dish more often and that the litter box feels heavier when being changed. As disease advances, the rabbit may show other signs of illness including poor appetite, weight loss, lethargy, incontinence, poor litter box habits, urine scalding of the skin around the hind end, blood in the urine, or straining to urinate. Some of these signs can be easily confused with other conditions such as dental disease or gastrointestinal stasis so a check by a veterinarian familiar with rabbits is warranted. Some specific diseases of the urinary system include:

- *Encephalitozoon cuniculi*: This is a parasite that targets kidney and nervous tissue in rabbits. *E. cuniculi* is spread from infected rabbits to other rabbits via the urine. Typically, owners report signs consistent with neurological disturbances such as head tilt, eyes darting back and forth, and rolling over. However, this parasite can also cause scarring to kidney tissue. Testing for this parasite is difficult. Blood tests are available but are not considered reliable. Definitive diagnosis may require microscopic examination of kidney tissue.
- Calcification of the kidney: If blood calcium levels are so high that the kidney cannot excrete the excess calcium, this mineral is deposited into soft



Microscopic examination of kidney tissue revealed the presence of *E. cuniculi* organisms

tissues such as the kidney. This can occur due to Vitamin D toxicity or if the kidneys are failing for other reasons leading to poor calcium excretion into the urine.

- Acute renal failure: Sudden onset of kidney failure can be due to toxins (i.e., heavy metal poisoning, pesticides, herbicides, antifreeze, and some prescription medications) and inadequate blood flow to the kidneys which may result from haemorrhage, sepsis, hypothermia, trauma, and so on.
- Chronic renal failure: This is often seen in geriatric rabbits. This can be the result of aging or long term infections in other parts of the body that lead to bacteria and inflammatory products being swept up by the blood and travelling to the kidneys. This long term exposure of the kidneys to bacteria and the products of inflammation lead to slow and steady damage to the renal tissue. Cancer, fatty degeneration in overweight animals, and kidney stones can also result in chronic kidney failure.
- Urolithiasis and hypercalciuria: Urolithiasis refers to the presence of stones in the urinary system and hypercalciuria is the medical term for sludge. Several factors are believed to contribute to the development of these diseases including inappropriate diet, genetics, obesity, ingestion of mineral blocks, limited exercise, and infection. In some cases, chronic sludge can lead to overly distended bladders that lack the ability to completely void urine.



## Testing and Treatment



X-rays help identify a bladder full of sludge

In order to determine the nature or severity of the renal disease your pet may have, your veterinarian may recommend a variety of testing. Blood work and urinalysis evaluate the levels of toxins in the blood and whether or not the urine produced is normal. Abnormal urine may be too dilute, have blood cells,

bacteria, or excess calcium in it. If bacteria are found, your veterinarian may recommend a culture and sensitivity test of the urine in order to identify the type of bacteria present and what type of antibiotics will work best to combat the infection. Radiographs (x-rays) help identify the presence of stones and sludge in the urinary system. Often these tests are repeated during treatment in order to determine how well the therapy is working. An ultrasound or renal biopsy may be needed to definitively identify the cause of kidney disease in your pet.

The most important goal when treating kidney disease is to improve the quality of life for the rabbit. If an infection has been detected, appropriate antibiotics are necessary. One of the best treatments for renal disease is fluid therapy. I have trained many owners with rabbits that are experiencing sludge or chronic renal



Multiple stones were found in the bladder of this rabbit

failure to give their pet sterile fluids under the skin (subcutaneously) to help flush sludge from the bladder and toxins from the body. Some renal diseases such as stones and sludge can be quite uncomfortable, if not painful, for the bunny and pain relieving medication may be indicated. Surgery is often required to remove large bladder stones. At our clinic, we have also employed Chinese medicines and herbal remedies in order to help control renal disease and make our patients feel better.

In human medicine, terminal kidney disease is often treated by dialysis or transplant. Dialysis involves passing the blood from the body, filtering out toxins, and then replacing it back into the body. In humans, this is often done over the course of 4 to 5 hours every other day. Unfortunately, this process is very difficult to do in pet rabbits and, as far as I know, is only performed at one veterinary hospital in the United States. Transplantation is not a standard treatment in pet rabbits due to the poor survival rates following surgery and the ethical implications when considering the donor rabbit.

Regardless of the stage of renal disease that your pet rabbit may be experiencing, working with a veterinarian to determine the type of renal disease your pet has and how best to treat it is important to ensure that your pet has the best quality of life possible.

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

# Jabberwocky's Journals!



## Today we will be reviewing Sarah's Key.

Salutations there star shines! Today, we will be reviewing 'Sarah's Key' by Tatiana De Rosnay.

Sarah's Key begins with what appears in the guise of a fascinating story. Revolving around a girl names Sarah during Vel' d'Hiv Roundup, who is taken from her home and shipped to Auschwitz, there is an interesting snag in the story. Sarah's younger brother is left locked in a cupboard hidden in the wall, with Sarah being the holder of the key. So begins young Sarah's story to reunite with her brother.

The books biggest flaw, without question, is the second storyline that later on overshadows Sarah's with alternating point of views bouncing between Sarah's time and present time through the eyes of journalist Julia, who seems to be more interested in her failing marriage then the actual plot. As the book continues, Sarah's point of view fades into the background, leaving behind the thrilling tale through the young girls eyes to, instead, turn into a soap opera as Julia begins investigating the events that lead to Sarah's capture. Every ounce of tension the book has created to that point leaves in the blink of an eye and instead of the page turner it had been, the reader's eyes begin to glaze as Julia spins a tale that no one cares to hear. It was an amazing downwards spiral that ended with a whimper.

As the book comes to a predictable close, the only positive light being the final chapter given through Sarah's eyes, the reader does not ponder their place in life as the critics on the back cover promised, but instead leaves the reader wondering why a perfectly good 150 page book was dragged into an incredibly dull 341 page novel that nearly made it's audience fall asleep. It's never a good sign when the reader's first thought upon completion is that they wish it had been shorter.

So, for this cure for insomnia, I award it 1.5 out of 5 thumps.



Amelia's Boutiques will return in the next issue!

## Welcome to Kokomo's Kitchen!

### Pet Rabbit Planet's Mint Berry Cookies:

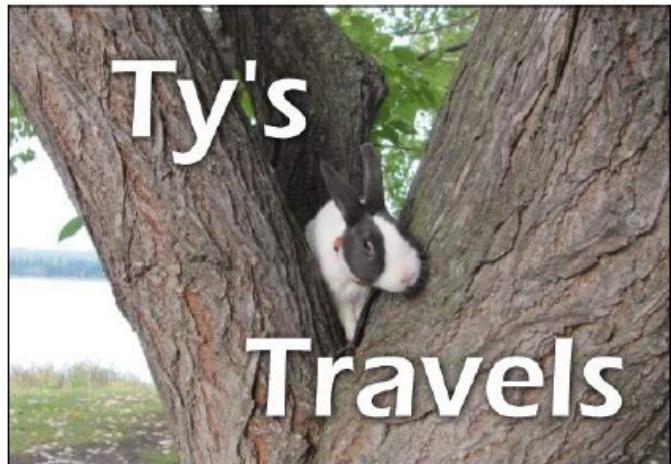
#### Ingredients:

1/2 cup of blueberries  
1/2 cup of raspberries  
1/2 cup of mint leaves  
1/4 cup of rabbit pellets  
1/4 cup of oats  
1 tbsp of honey

#### Directions:

1. In a blender, puree your berries and mint leaves together.
2. Next you can use a coffee grinder to grind down your pellets and oats together.
3. Combine all ingredients and mix well with your hands.
4. Flatten out little balls of dough to form cookies onto a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper, or you can cute fun shapes for your cookies out of cookie cutters.
5. Bake at 325 degrees for 20-30 minutes.
6. Let your cookies cool for a couple hours before serving.





## Welcome to Ty's Travels!

Ever since my unfavorable diagnosis I haven't been able to travel as much as I would like. But I still managed to talk myself out of the house a few times.

The last trip I did was when we went to the Lethbridge Pet Expo on October 1, 2011 where I was putting on a great show as always.

I really enjoyed getting back at hopping. I hope to be going to more events in the near future.

The club's next big trip will be to Saskatchewan on November 12, 2011 for the Fur & Feathers Show in Lloydminster!

Until next time, safe travels!



## Long Fur Grooming

Welcome to the latest article of Looking Lovely with Lillian. Since we discussed grooming of shorter fur last time, we will discuss long fur grooming today. Us long furred rabbits have some unique needs and need regular grooming to keep us looking and feeling great. This goes for any Angora, Fuzzy Lop, Jersey Wooly, fuzzy Lionhead or those who just have long gorgeous fur or wool.

There are a few tools you will need. These include a comb and a fine toothed comb, a slicker brush (soft ones are better), and a blower is a good idea, but not necessarily needed if you can keep up with the grooming with brushes. A good pair of scissors is good for cutting the knots. If you can afford them, a good pair is dog clippers are good to have. An apron and lint rollers are also good since your human will get covered in fluff. A grooming table is also good, a good one is to have a small spinning table (used for condiments and stuff on a kitchen table) and cover it with a toilet seat cover. Using a blower is the easiest way to keep the coat in good condition. It will blow out any loose hairs as well as keeping mats from forming; it will also blow out any dander in the coat. A blower does not have to be expensive; a shop vac with a blower port will work and only costs about \$40. When using a blower, it is important to not get too close to the wool as it can cause mats rather than prevent them. You should see the wool go out from the force of the air if you are at a good distance. Too close and it will go around the force of the air and kind of look like a tornado. If you have not blown the coat in a while, there will be lots of dander coming out of the coat, so be prepared for that. Rabbits who are not used to blowing may not like it at first, so take some time to get them used to the noise and feeling of the air on them. If you want to keep the wool for spinning or are interested in showing, then it is important to use a blower as it preserves the coat and keeps the rabbits extra fluffy. Brushing does take out some of the wool which leaves less for spinning and the coat is less dense when the show comes along.

If you don't have a blower, then you can use brushes. When brushing, make sure you get down to the skin; just brushing the top of the coat is not enough. Use the slicker brush to work out and knots and tangles, then follow with the wider comb to make sure there are no knots in that area. Work in sections so you can make sure the whole coat gets brushed out. The fine toothed comb is good for the area behind the ears, the ear tassels, and the face. It is also good if there is thicker fur that the wider comb can't do as well. Pay special attention to the neck, especially under the chin and the lower back above the tail. These areas tend to be harder for rabbits to get at and can become matted more easily. The belly can also become matted, so brush that as well and don't forget the feet and legs.

If you find any mats that can't be brushed out, you may need to cut them out. First, try to gently use your fingers to get it out. If you can't do anything with it and it is right against the skin, do not try to cut it out as you can cut the skin. This is when you need to visit a vet or rabbit savvy groomer to get it shaved off. If you can get the comb between the mat and the skin, you can cut on the outside to get it off. Once the bulk of the mat is off, you can try brushing it out again.



If your rabbit is matted to the skin all over or in large areas, it is best to find someone to help you. It takes a lot of time and patience as well as the right tools to get rid of the matting. A vet, rabbit savvy groomer or breeder with experience with wooled breeds should be able to help you. It is important to keep up with grooming. Ideally, you should be doing some brushing or blowing 3 to 4 times a week. Sheering the coat should take place every 3 to 4 months, but can be more often. Some rabbits will need to be groomed more than others and how often you sheer the coat can depend on how much grooming you can handle. Until next time, stay pretty.

## Dewinton Pet Hospital

450-412 Pine Creek Road

Dewinton, AB, T0L0X0

Phone: (403) 256-PAWS (7297), Fax: (403) 256-1413

Website: [www.dewintonvet.com](http://www.dewintonvet.com), Email: [info@dewintonvet.com](mailto:info@dewintonvet.com)

Dear Canadian Rabbit Hopping Club

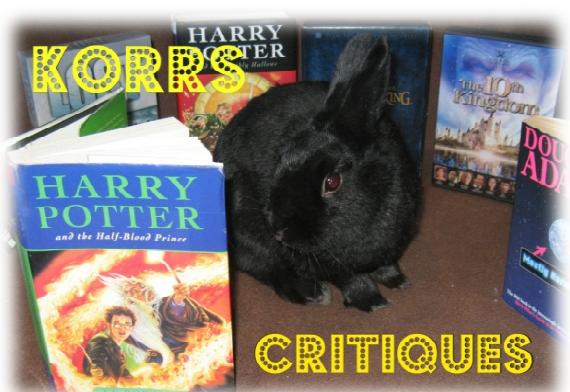
We would like to extend an invitation to join us for an information session here at Dewinton Pet Hospital!

If you are currently cooking for your dog, feeding a RAW diet, or are interested in learning to cook homemade meals for your pets we would love the opportunity to share with you some very exciting information that may help improve your pet's health and wellness!

Aventix is Proud to support Hilary's Blend, a Nutritional Supplement for home-made meals. The biggest challenge in preparing home-made meals for dogs is ensuring that they provide complete and balanced nutrition. What may seem to be a great home-made recipe may be deficient in many vitamins and minerals your dog needs.

If you would like to participate in an informative session presented by Aventix, please RSVP to Dewinton Pet Hospital at 403-256-7297 or [info@dewintonvet.com](mailto:info@dewintonvet.com). Deadline for RSVP is October 31, 2011. A date and time will be announced pending attendance numbers, as we need at least 10 RSVP's in order to host this event. Friends and family are always welcome!

Please see the following website for more information: [www.CompleteandBalanced.com](http://www.CompleteandBalanced.com)



After last issues highjack, I am now back. Today I will be doing Terra Nova.

So many new shows so little time. With all the new show starting in the last month, it's hard to decide which one to do. Of the new shows that I am watching, Terra Nova has been on the longest so I have more to review with it. Don't worry, the other shows will get their turn soon enough.

Terra Nova is about the Shannon family from the year 2149. The Earth is not doing so well, pollution abounds and the people can hardly breathe. The human population is out of control and there are limits on the number of children a couple can have. There is one hope, a chance to go back 85 million years.

The Shannons were selected to go to Terra Nova. The family consists of Jim and his wife Elizabeth and their children Josh, Maddie and Zoe. Due to the child limits, Zoe has been hidden all her life. She had been discovered a couple years previously which lead to the imprisonment of Jim. She has to be smuggled into Terra Nova as her parents were not going to leave her behind. Jim is played by Jason O'Mara; Elizabeth is played by Shelly Conn. Josh, 17, is played by Landon Liboiron; Maddie, 16, is played by Naomi Scott and Zoe, 5, is played by Alana Mansour.

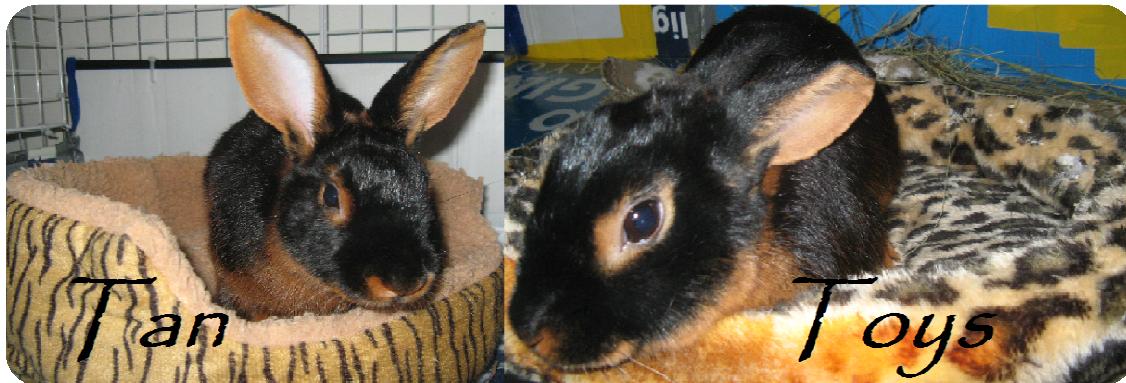
Once the family arrives in Terra Nova, they start to meet the other residents who have come before them. They have arrived on the 10<sup>th</sup> pilgrimage, so there have been 9 other groups that have gone before. The leader of the colony is Commander Nathaniel Taylor (Stephen Lang), he has also been there the longest and due to a glitch ended up spending 118 days alone. Other people include Skye (Allison Miller) who help Josh learn about Terra Nova. As in any show, there must be someone who causes trouble; in Terra Nova that role is the Sixers lead my Mira (Christine Adams). The Sixers came on the 6<sup>th</sup> pilgrimage. We don't yet fully know their motivations other than that they have a rebel colony and regularly make trouble for the residents of Terra Nova.

Since this show takes place 85 million years ago, there is the wildlife to contend with as well, these happen to be dinosaurs. Some are peaceful herbivores that will eat leaves from your hand (once the reach down far enough) while others are looking for places to breed and some are just mean and very dangerous. Fences can't keep everything out and that can lead to some troubles.

There is more to Terra Nova that meets the eye. A water fall has some strange carvings in it that could be from people who we have not yet met. We don't know what the sixers are up to and who knows what else might be lurking in the distant past.

When I first heard of this show I was quite excited. It is written by some of the people who worked on LOST. While another Lost might not have been good (I still don't know everything that happened there), Terra Nova can still hold its own. The effects are fairly good as well. I hope we will find out more about what is going on and don't just get left with weird cliff hangers and unanswered questions. It seems to be a fairly family friendly show, but may have some scenes that could scare younger children. Terra Nova airs on Monday nights on CityTV.

I give it 3 out of 5 cleared bars, but only as I don't know where it is going and am not getting my hopes up quite yet. Watch it and keep an open mind.



Welcome to Tan Toys brought to you by Tesla and Kraken

In this issue, we will be exploring the fun of beds. While beds may not seem to be a fun toy, they really are full of fun (and stuffing too).

We have tried a few different beds. Kraken has a doughnut bed. This has a flat bottom with a stuffing filled ring around it. Tesla has a bed that has more cushion on the bottom with sides that go up a bit. Some other beds have a removable cushion and others are like a pillow. Since there are limited options just for bunnies, most of the beds we use are cat beds.

Beds have a wide variety of uses. There is the somewhat obvious (and boring) use of laying in it, sitting in it and sleeping in it. They can also be used for digging, moving around the cage, peeing in (who really needs litter boxes), humping and chewing. If you have the right kind of bed, you can put it over your back and pretend you are a turtle. It can also be fun to rip a hole in it and take out all the stuffing, be warned as some humans don't like that and will take away your bed.

There are some bunnies out there who don't like beds. Since we live with some of these bunnies, we won't say anything bad, but they don't know what they are missing.

We think that all bunnies should get a bed. If you don't like it, you can destroy it and don't have to get another one. If you do like it, you can play with it, take a nap and be a turtle.

Beds get 3 tans out of 4.

Tesla and Kraken.

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My name is Jackie Giles, I live in Makwa,  
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Contact me at [canadagirljackie@yahoo.ca](mailto:canadagirljackie@yahoo.ca)





# Popcorn's Paparazzi

Canada's Got Talent September 14, 2011 audition!

Members from the club went to Edmonton to audition. It was a neat & exciting experience for everyone!



Photos from the Chestemere Fair, September 17, 2011



## Bugs Bunny at the Symphony



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Rabbit: Oliver

## Club Members:

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Rabbit: Lil' Will

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