

# THE BURROW

A BUNNY BESTIES PUBLICATION

JUNE 2021 · ISSUE 5



BUNNY BESTIES

## THE BURROW

We welcome you to our publication, where our community can learn what our nonprofit is up to from month to month.

In this issue:

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Please visit our website to view our calendar for upcoming events and open houses. On our website visit support us to make a donation to help support our mission.



Teddy Graham visiting Ryan Smith

## RESULTS REALLY MATTER

Bunny Besties pre-pandemic had been traveling around our community since 2012 serving our mission on-site for our partners. Our partners have included the University of Minnesota PAWS program, Homeless shelters serving children, libraries, nursing homes, hospice programs, and Minnetonka High School.

We have served our partners with 446 on-site visits to their facilities. We have volunteered 8,420+ service hours from our organization into their organizations resulting in serving more that 23,749 community members. We may be a small nonprofit but we want to continue to impact those in our community.



# Bunny Besties

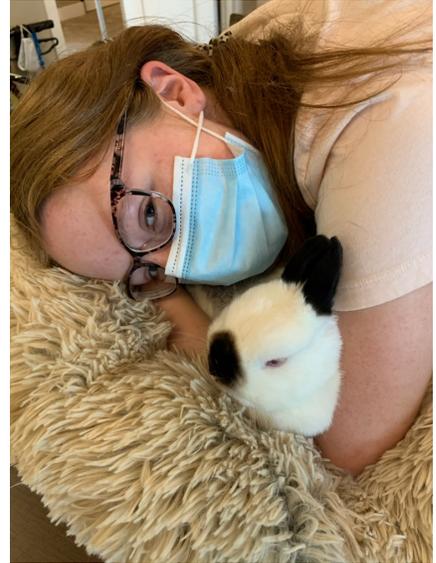
A 501C3 NONPROFIT ORG



Carmen with Dandelion



Tiffany brushing Dandelion



Ella snuggling Tinkerbell

## Outstanding Volunteer's

WE ARE AN ALL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

Bunny Besties is an all volunteer nonprofit. No one takes a salary at our organization so all money that is brought in goes directly towards holding up this organization that gives so much to the community.

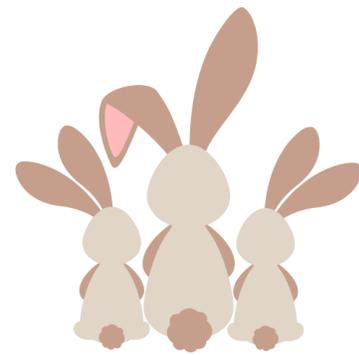
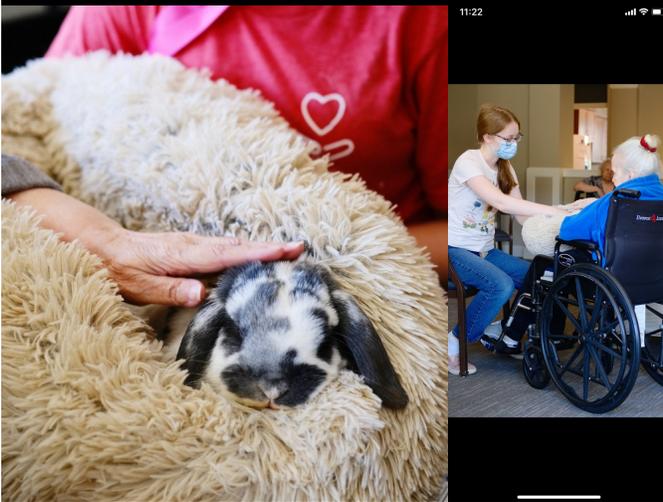
At first we worked out of our cars and Jennifer's home but now thanks to our sponsor Minnetonka Animal Hospital we were able to turn their basement into the Bunny Besties Burrow and General

Store. Now our outreach extends to the rabbit community too.

Each and every task that occurs is completed by our amazing volunteer team. If you are interested in joining our team please go to our website and click on the apply tab at the top of the page. So much is happening now and we are looking to add more great dedicated people.

“

*Bunny Besties is a wonderful community of people who share the same passion and are truly friends. I have such fun at our volunteer events and love bunnies.”*



BUNNY BESTIES

## VISITING THE SANCTUARY OF WEST SAINT PAUL IN JUNE

It was a beautiful summer day and we were invited to visit residents in two separate areas of The Sanctuary of West Saint Paul. First we went to the fourth floor to visit the Assisted Living where so many turned out for therapy rabbit visits. After that it was Memory Care.

Alicia Stamness the Activities Director had worked with us before and said by email today that, "The presentation was incredible. The residents are still talking about the bunnies. Thank you very much."

We were so happy to bring joy and hoppiness to so many and look forward to another visit again!

Bunny Besties mission is to provide Animal Assisted Interactions (AAI) to support the emotional wellness of our community.

We provide sanctuary to the rabbits in our program as well as resources and education to rabbit owners in our community.

Bunny besties vision is to be a resource for our community for emotional wellness, stress reduction and education with rabbits.



## Find us at Minnetonka Animal Hospital

BE A BACK DOOR KIND OF FRIEND TO FIND OUR BURROW!

The Bunny Besties General Store can be found at our convenient location at Minnetonka Animal Hospital. To get to us you need to take Groveland Elementary Road off of Minnetonka Blvd. It is between Minnetonka Animal Hospital and Groveland Elementary School. Take that road and pass the vet clinic on your left then the vet clinic sign, a large tree and then turn left into our parking lot. Go deeper into the parking lot and take the mulch pathway to our door that has our sign above it. Bunny Besties Burrow and General Store is waiting to welcome you!

Please come during our Open House hours every other Saturday or by appointment after shopping our online store at [www.bunnybestiesgeneralstore.org](http://www.bunnybestiesgeneralstore.org). Hop on by to see us soon!



**Minnetonka**  
Animal Hospital

[www.bunnybesties.org](http://www.bunnybesties.org)

# The One Stop Rabbit Shop!

BUNNY BESTIES GENERAL STORE



## How it all began...

WRITTEN BY JENNIFER SMITH

The Bunny Besties General Store has been serving the Minnesota Community since October 2020. It began as a pandemic project to help the rabbit community be able to get their supplies all in one place during the pandemic. Simply going from store to store to get healthy rabbit supplies was now putting our health in peril.

I wish I could say it was my brilliant idea but I have to thank our sponsor Supreme Petfoods. Science Selective Rabbit Food is all I have fed our rabbits for almost seven years now. I was thrilled when they became our sponsor. It was David, the head of Sales in the UK who is so good

to us who came to me with the idea. Without his support along with the location of our sponsor Minnetonka Animal Hospital this little dream would have never been possible.

We had no experience with running a store but it seemed necessary for two reasons. One was we were needing to find another source of income to support our basic expenses. Two, we really believed by using our space to stock up on supplies to keep from running to all the stores weekly that we could share that with our local rabbit community. It would be a new way to be helpers when our pre-pandemic outreach had come to a complete halt.

We filled our burrow with supplies, built an online store and started marketing on our social media and the Bunny Besties General Store was born!

*"Our bunnies can't get enough of the hay. Even when we try to put it away, the bunnies still find a way to jump in the hay box."*



# Let's Talk Veterinary Medicine

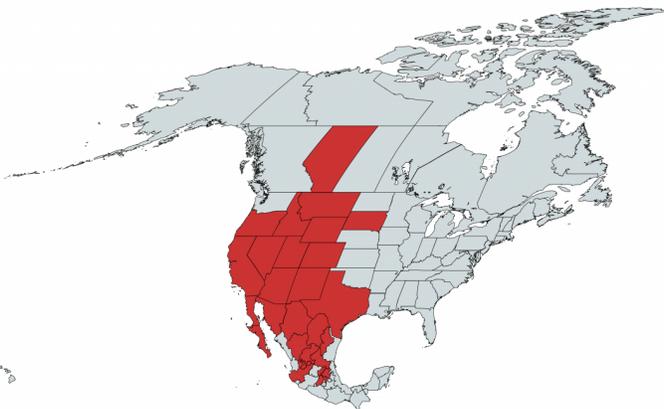
WRITTEN BY DR. LEILANI HOTALING DVM

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease is a foreign animal disease that originated in China in 1984 when a shipment of English Angora rabbits were sent from Germany. Since then it has been a problem around the world but now it is in North America where we do not have an FDA approved vaccine. There is a European vaccine but it is not easily available in the United States.

This is probably something that many people in the USA have not paid much attention to as a pandemic because we are focused on the COVID19 pandemic. This is more serious to the wild rabbit population as a pandemic because it will be devastating for the wild rabbit population and crossing over to the domesticated rabbit. Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease is also known as Bunny Ebola because a rabbit that becomes infected with it bleeds out from all of its orifices. This virus is 90% fatal and must be taken seriously.

This virus is spread by oral, nasal, respiratory, or ocular exposure or by flies or other blood sucking insects. There is no cure for this illness and the only treatment for a rabbit with RHDV is supportive care and hope. Keeping this in mind we must recommend that now that the virus has been found in South Dakota that any rabbits in Minnesota should not be exposed to wild rabbits. Keep in mind that the vector is the fly and it is an important piece of disease transmission. Keep flies and other flying insects away from your bunny.

Minnetonka Animal Hospital is staying on top of RHDV and its progression across our country. Please stay tuned for more education from us.



**Minnetonka**  
Animal Hospital

May 2021 - United States,  
Mexico, Canada RHDV Outbreak  
■ States and Provinces with  
RHDV in 2020-2021

Image was taken from the  
House Rabbit Society Website

# BUNNY SPA

Located at the Bunny Besties General Store  
Bunny Besties Beautician is Colleen  
Open every other Saturday morning

## OUR SERVICES:

Brush out - \$10  
Nail Trim - \$10  
Scent Gland Cleaning - \$10



# Save the Date



SATURDAY, JUNE 26TH  
9:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

## JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH!

written by sook jin ong

Bunny Besties believes in community love and being a source of wellness and sanctuary for all. In this month of June, we want to reaffirm our commitment in supporting and championing spaces of wellbeing and safety for our LGBTQ+ community members. Our mission comes to life because of the dedicated work of our volunteers and supporters including those who identify LGBTQ+. Let's continue to find ways to celebrate and honor all of our LGBTQ+ friends, family and community members.





# Bunny Besties

BURROW AND GENERAL STORE

Bunny Besties General Store OPEN HOUSE dates!

Sat. Jun 26th 9:30am - 12:30pm  
Sat. July 10th 9:30am - 12:30pm  
Sat. July 24th 9:30am - 12:30pm  
Sat. Aug. 7th 9:30am - 12:30pm  
Sat. Aug. 21st 9:30am - 12:30 pm

Bunny Besties General Store located behind Minnetonka Animal Hospital at their back door, use the back parking lot.  
17408 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345

The one stop bunny shop is open again for all of your rabbit shopping needs. Our community nonprofit is here to help make sure that all of our bunnies are healthy and happy. All products are Bunny Besties tested and approved. What we have in our shop are the things we have grown to love. Only the very best for the Bunny Besties community.

While you shop leave your bunnies with the Bunny Besties Beauticians for nail trims, scent gland cleanings, and grooming services. All the volunteers have years of experience and we are here to answer any questions you have. Come be a part of our supportive Bunny Besties community where we love our rabbits!

[www.bunnybestiesgeneralstore.org](http://www.bunnybestiesgeneralstore.org)