



House Rabbit Society Leaps For Joy

Pet rabbit welfare organization celebrates 20th year with benefit dinner.

By Rachael Brugger

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To celebrate its 20th anniversary, the House Rabbit Society (HRS) will be hosting the "Leap of Joy" banquet on June 21, 2008 at Humanist Hall in Oakland, Calif.

The event will feature a catered vegetarian dinner and auction, and HRS board and staff members will speak on the history and accomplishments of the pet rabbit organization.

"We've gone from a grassroots, bay-area organization to the largest international rabbit protection group in the world, with thousands of members and hundreds of licensed volunteers across the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe and Asia," said Margo DeMello, the HRS administrative director.

DeMello said that the HRS rescued more than 20,000 rabbits over its 20-year history. To add to its accomplishments, she said in 2000 the organization opened the United States' first rabbit-only shelter in Richmond, Calif., which serves as an international model for animal shelters.

All California HRS members will receive an invitation to June's event in the mail, but all are welcome to join in the celebration. Invitation information to "Leap of Joy" can be found on the HRS website.

In conjunction with the main event, HRS chapters across the United States will sponsor local celebrations. The HRS website lists the complete list of events.

The seven members who founded the House Rabbit Society in January 1988 quickly saw the fruits of their efforts. By the end of their first year, the nonprofit had 300 members, according to the HRS website, and now holds steady at nearly 8,000 members. The organization focuses on fostering pet rabbits and educating the public on proper pet rabbit care.