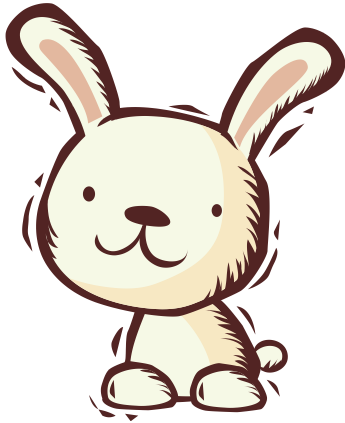


New Rabbit Info Sheet



Congratulations on the new addition to your family. This information sheet is to guide you in how best to look after your new rabbit.

To prevent against two potentially fatal diseases we recommend you get your rabbit **VACCINATED**. This generally involves two injections two weeks apart – anytime from eight weeks of age. Thereafter booster vaccinations are given every year for viral haemorrhagic disease and every six to twelve months for myxomatosis- the surgery will send you a reminder when this is due. Each time your rabbit is vaccinated they will get a thorough veterinary health check. It is also gives you an opportunity to have any questions or concerns answered.

To prevent your rabbit developing behavioural problem when he/she is older it is very important to **SOCIALISE** them as soon as possible. Ideally give them as much contact as possible with humans from an early age. Supervised contact with children is also recommended.

To avoid the vets being a place your rabbit doesn't like we advise that you thoroughly **HANDLE** him/her from a young age. Look in their ears, mouths and feel over their body, legs and feet. Then give a treat as a reward for letting you do this. This will also build their confidence if you have to brush their coat or clip their nails. It is very important that you support their back and hind legs when lifting them as a strong kick from their back legs or a fall could cause serious injury.

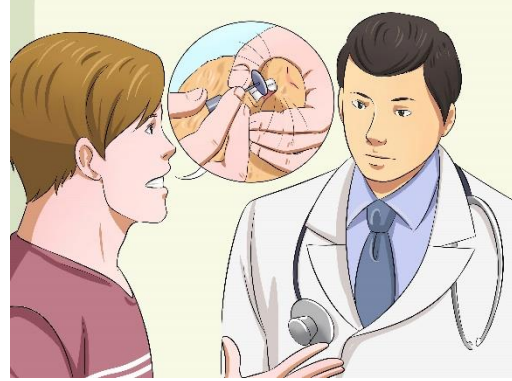
It is very important that if you notice any signs of **ILLNESS** or **ANOREXIA** that you call the surgery immediately. As rabbits are prey to many animals in the wild they tend to **MASK** any signs of illness – so by the time you notice they are not feeling well they are generally seriously ill.



It is important you feed your rabbit a balanced **DIET**. Your rabbit's teeth grow continuously so it is important you feed a diet that ensures these teeth are worn down. We recommend the majority of your rabbit's food (80% - a size similar to your rabbit every day) should be good quality roughage i.e. **GRASS** or **HAY**. Timothy grass hay is one of the best to choose. Dark green vegetables (10%) should be made available on a daily basis e.g. broccoli, cabbage and Brussel sprouts. Any new types of green veg should be introduced gradually – over the period of two weeks, using very small quantities initially. Other veg e.g. carrots should only be fed as a treat – maybe once or twice a week. Avoid lighter green salad items e.g. lettuce, cucumber, celery as they are harder to digest and not very nutritious. A commercial rabbit pelleted



food (10%) should be only offered in fairly small quantities – approximately 30 grams of food per 1 kg of weight of your rabbit. Rabbits that are not fed a balanced diet are more likely to suffer from serious **DENTAL** problems. It is important to check your rabbit's mouth at regular intervals to identify the early signs of disease of poor teeth alignment



It is very important to give regular **WORMING** treatment to your rabbit. This is mainly to kill a protozoa parasite that can cause serious brain and kidney problems. Please ask the nurse or vet for further advice

Some rabbits will unfortunately have **FLEAS** and **EARMITES** when they arrive at their new home. Most pet shop products are not effective to kill these parasites. Our vets will be able to recommend the best and safest product for your rabbit.

We recommend that you get your rabbit **INSURED**. This gives financial piece of mind if your rabbit becomes ill. Although we are not allowed to recommend a particular company please ask our staff who will be able to advise the best type of policy for you and your rabbit. You must check the policy to ensure it is lifelong cover and that there is adequate financial cover for problems your rabbit may develop.

We recommend that you get your female rabbit **SPAYED** (neutered). This is usually done at six months of age. It will be done younger if you have a male



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and female rabbit housed together. This prevents against unwanted pregnancies, womb infections and cancers of the ovaries and womb.

We generally recommend your male rabbit being **CASTRATED** at six months of age.

Our nurses offer a free six month check where they can examine your rabbit and discuss any problems or concerns you have with them. Please do not hesitate to contact the surgery if you have any queries.