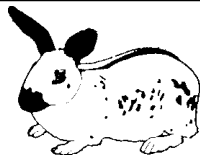


Your rabbit's health check

If you have any questions about your rabbit's health please do phone and ask to speak to one of our nurses.



	Normal	Abnormal	Comments
Mouth and Teeth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eyes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ears	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heart and Lungs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Digestive System	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skin and Coat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paws and Nails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bones and Muscles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Urinary System	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reproductive System	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Perianal Glands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toileting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Diet Ideal Diet
 Weight Ideal Weight



would benefit from -

1. Check-up with the vet every 3 mo. to spot health problems early.
2.
3.

NEXT APPOINTMENT -

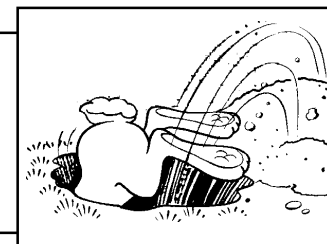
Breed	Ideal Weight	Life expectancy
Dutch	2 - 2.3kg	8 yrs -12 yrs for rabbits neutered young.
Dwarflop	2 - 2.4kg	5 yrs - 10 yrs for entire rabbits.
English	2.7 - 3.6kg	<u>Pregnancy</u> (Gestation) = 31 days (29 - 35days)
Lionhead	1.4 - 1.7kg	Litter size is 4 - 10. Weaning at 7 -8 wks
MiniLop	1.5 - 1.7kg	<u>Normal body temperature</u> 101.5F - 103.0F
Netherland Dwarf	0.9 - 1.1kg	

June 2009@VHC

Name

Date

Top Priorities for your Pet Rabbit



GET THE DIET RIGHT!

- Feed mainly a GOOD QUALITY HAY (90% - 100% of the diet).

We now stock a top quality Timothy Hay which most rabbits love.

VACCINATION against two highly infectious lethal viruses

1. MYXOMATOSIS (6-monthly) - (from 6 wks of age)
2. VHD (VIRAL HAEMORRHAGIC DISEASE) - (from 10 wks)

PREVENT E.CUNICULI - Use "Panacur Rabbit" daily for 9 days, 2 to 4 times a year to prevent this serious rabbit infection.

PREVENT FLY STRIKE (maggots around the rear end) - For protection throughout the fly season apply "Rearguard" in April, June and August. Rearguard is a safe insect growth regulator that stops maggots developing and prevents fly strike.

NEUTERING for male and female rabbits from 4mo of age

MALE rabbits to reduce aggression and spraying in the house.

FEMALE rabbits to reduce aggression, and to reduce the risk of cancer of the uterus. (an 80% risk in females over 5yrs old!).

TEETH - Keep the teeth healthy by feeding correctly (see inside), and by having the teeth checked every 3 months by the vet.

WEIGHT - Check your rabbit's weight regularly.

Weight loss is usually a sign of ill health. (see the vet right away).

Overweight rabbits should be slimmed down by feeding hay only.

HEALTH INSURANCE - well worth it for peace of mind.

MITES - Excess dandruff usually indicates the presence of Cheyletiella mites which cause irritation to both rabbit and owner (see the vet).

Visit our website: www.vet-healthcentre.co.uk

Veterinary Health Centre, Daisy St. Blackburn (01254) 53622

Vets: John Davies MRCVS, David Higginson MRCVS, Sam Purcell MRCVS

Practice Manager: Ruth Swan VN BSc(Hons) PhD



ENTERTAINMENT for your rabbit?

TWO'S COMPANY - Ideally keep rabbits in small groups of 2- 8 rabbits. Litter mates usually get on well. Prevent aggression (and breeding) by neutering. Provide plenty of living space. Provide lots of hide holes, things to climb in and on (pipes, cardboard boxes etc.) - this allows rabbits to get away from each other when they need to. Possible combinations for rabbits include :- male + female, male + male (but not if near to females!), male + several females, avoid 2 males + female. If a rabbit is kept with a guinea pig it's vital to provide a "hide" pipe for the guinea pig that the rabbit can't get into.

TOYS - Rabbits love to chew. It's good for their teeth. Provide something interesting every day for your rabbit to chew on. "Nylabone" dog chews, rabbit treats such as softwood gnawing blocks, sticks, leaves, branches of trees (esp. fruit trees), small cardboard or wood containers. Avoid objects that are sharp or poisonous.

ACTIVITY An outside run is essential for regular exercise, grazing and digging. Inactive caged rabbits develop weak bones which can result in a broken back (cage paralysis).

HANDLING - Rabbits appreciate regular gentle handling once they have got used to it. Handling also gives you an opportunity to examine your rabbit for signs of ill health. Long-haired rabbits (angora type) require regular grooming. Don't pick up a rabbit by the ears. Lift by holding the scruff and support the rear end firmly.

HOUSE RABBITS - Rabbits can be kept successfully in the house like dogs and cats. They readily learn to use a litter tray, will play, and come when called. They'll hum when they're happy. For more information contact:-
British House Rabbit Association, P.O. Box 346, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 1FA.

LOOKING AFTER YOUR RABBIT'S HOME

- ✓ The hutch should be waterproof, draughtproof, escapeproof, easy to clean, in the shade from direct sun in summer, and sheltered from extremes of weather.
- ✓ Make your rabbits home safe from dogs and foxes.
- ✓ The hutch must be large enough for your rabbit to stretch fully up to the roof and to hop 3 times along it's length. Two rabbits need twice the space.
- ✓ Use clean dry straw, hay or woodchips for bedding. Even better use the new "Russell Rabbit Bedding" (dust free, absorbent and has a natural fungicide to keep environment healthy and hygienic).
- ✓ Remove soiled bedding daily. It helps to use a small cat litter tray with bedding in it in the corner of the hutch used for toileting. This can be removed and cleaned easily. Keep the hutch dry.
Avoid condensation in the hutch. Rabbits can tolerate cold well, but not dampness.
- ✓ Thoroughly clean out the hutch weekly and use a safe disinfectant such as "Home Help" - safe to use even when the rabbit is in the hutch.
- ✓ Clean the food bowls and water bottle daily. Feed hay in a hay rack.

"A healthy rabbit is always a hungry rabbit"



GET THE DIET RIGHT!

**Hay, Grass, Hay, Grass, More Hay
and Grass - and not much else!!**

CORRECT FEEDING

1. **Rabbits eat grass. Good quality hay is as good as grass.**
Rabbits that eat only grass or hay are much less likely to develop dental problems, have bowel problems, become overweight or have a messy bottom. Hay is 20% - 24% fibre.
 - Rabbits need this high level of fibre to maintain normal digestion.
 - The teeth need to grind fibre to keep them healthy and strong.Too little hay and the teeth will overgrow resulting in irreversible damage to the bones of the skull and jaw. Even high quality commercial diets do not have enough fibre (14% fibre is typical).
2. **A small amount of a good quality commercial diet can be fed but is not essential.** Supreme Selective and Burgess Excel are reliable foods. Avoid cheap "rabbit mixes"
3. **Feed a small amount of freshly cut grass / garden weeds or tree leaves daily. A piece of carrot can be used as a chew toy.**
4. **AVOID feeding anything that people eat!** If we can eat it - it hasn't enough fibre in it! Rabbits are not fruit eaters and although they love sweet things they are not good for them. OK a tiny taste won't do any harm, but be careful! And no toast, crisps, biscuits or chocolate! Don't be tempted to buy those rabbit treats and goodies from superstores, most of them are far too sweet and will cause serious bowel disorders.
5. **Fresh water daily** (ideally in a water bottle).

Vaccination Protection

Viral Haemorrhagic Disease (VHD) vaccination

VHD is a new and very dangerous disease of rabbits. It first appeared in the U.K. in 1992 and is spreading. The virus can survive on the ground and be transmitted by hands, or on footwear.

Myxomatosis vaccination

Myxomatosis causes swellings in the eyelids, head and skin. Usually fatal after 10 -14 days. Transmitted by biting insects such as fleas and mosquitoes. Even indoor rabbits can be bitten by insects.