



CARLA MURPHY
BVMS MRCVS
&
MELANIE BROAD
BVMS MRCVS

Moving Away from Muesli

Rabbits can make great pets. They are cute, fun and intelligent and have their own personalities, but they do require a lot of commitment and care. Keeping your rabbit fit and healthy is our aim so we can help them live a long and happy life. Like us, diet, environment and exercise are key to this but preventative care like vaccinations and parasite prevention are also important. Common ailments that can be prevented include:

Myxomatosis is caused by a virus that is spread by flea bites. Wild rabbits could have access to your garden bringing fleas in contact with your pet. The first signs of infection are usually puffy swellings around the eyelids and ears, and once infected the disease is usually fatal within 7-10 days. **RHD**, also known as Viral Haemorrhagic Disease (VHD) is a very serious condition which causes a high fever, internal bleeding and liver disease. The prognosis for both of these infections is very poor and since they are widespread in wild rabbits in the UK we recommend that all rabbits that go outside in the summer are **vaccinated** for both. The best time to give this vaccination is in the spring hence our focus now.

Flystrike occurs in warm weather if the rabbit's bottom becomes soiled with faeces and urine. This attracts flies which lay eggs on the soiled fur. These eggs then hatch into maggots that eat away at the skin. Rearguard can be sponged on to your rabbit's rear end to protect

them from this horrible problem.

E. Cuniculi is a parasite of rabbits which can cause paralysis, tremors, kidney and eye diseases, and ultimately death. However not all rabbits show signs of illness; they can appear healthy whilst passing E. cuniculi on to other rabbits through contaminated urine. We recommend worming your rabbits annually with Panacur to prevent this disease.

Obesity is unfortunately one of the biggest problems we see in rabbits. Diet often plays an important role and we are keen to support the **Rabbit Awareness Week** campaign this summer by encouraging you to **Move Away from Muesli**. Rabbits should mostly eat grass or hay supplemented by a mixture of different vegetables and just a few spoons of nuggets to supplement.

Rabbit Awareness Week this year is 2nd-10th June. If you know someone who has a rabbit that has not been to the vet for a check recently, let them know we will be giving free health checks.

Rabbits who join our Healthy Pet Club get their vaccinations included plus a pack of Rearguard. They also get 10% off diet – we stock Excel nuggets and hay plus 10% off Panacur Paste to prevent the E Cuniculi.

Hop along soon ☺

Mel & Carla

www.bordervets.co.uk



Galashiels Veterinary Surgery
Gala Terrace, Galashiels. TD1 3JT
01896 752 156

Office: 8.30 - 6pm **Mon - Wed**, 8.30-7pm **Thurs & Fri Sat**
open 8.30 - 1.30pm.
Consultations by appointment