

Vaccinations - Rabbit

For a new rabbit the ideal starting age is 6 weeks for myxomatosis. At 10 weeks it can be given the vaccination for V.H.D. These are single vaccinations.

An older rabbit that is beginning a vaccination course can start at any time with the second vaccination given 2 weeks later. Your pet does not achieve full immunity until one week after the second dose.

All boosters (necessary to keep up the immunity) are given one year from the date of the second starting dose.

We are open seven days per week. Call us to book an appointment and for price

WHY DO YOU OFFER CHOICES?

Our vets will advise you on what is best for your rabbits lifestyle. This is an entirely individually based assessment and you benefit from a thorough examination of your pet and consultation with the vet to decide together the best course of action for your own rabbit.

WHAT ARE THE DISEASES?

Here the diseases we can vaccinate your rabbit against.

VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE (VHD OR NECROTIC HEPATITIS)

First reported in 1992, this is caught by contact with infected rabbits or contact with objects they have been in contact with, i.e. a feeding bowl. It takes 24- to 48 hours for the disease to show after being caught. The symptoms are lethargy and fever, sometimes including nose bleeds. It has a 90% mortality rate, usually only sucking rabbits are spared probably due to them having an immaturely developed liver but no proven reason is yet given. It causes massive hepatic, lymphoid and intestinal necrosis with terminal intravascular coagulation. This means that the internal tissues and organs die. It is quick acting and untreatable. This can be spread by birds and flying insects.

MYXOMATOSIS

This was accidentally spread to Britain from France in 1953 and is used by farmers to reduce the rabbit population on their land, originally in Brazil and Australia. It is spread by blood sucking insects. The symptoms include, runny, sleepy eyes, swollen face, swollen ear and genitalia lumps, nasal discharge and difficulty breathing. Blindness, starvation and pneumonia develop. The usual course of the disease is contagion to death in two weeks. There is no guaranteed treatment other than nursing care and anti-pneumonia drugs. With all best efforts a 50% survival rate is optimistic leaving a scarred and possibly blind survivor.

WHY DO VACCINATIONS WORK?

Your rabbit receives a dose of vaccine which stimulates the immune system to protect it against the disease. The body produces antibodies, proteins that recognise a disease causing agent and

alert the body to destroy it before it takes hold. We have chosen a new vaccine which is non-live that it is very safe giving no adverse reactions. It is up to date against the new strains of the diseases and viruses we look to protect against. You can individually protect your rabbit but also the more people who choose to have their rabbit vaccinated, the better for the whole rabbit population. This is why we have kept our fees low to encourage people to vaccinate. We have also chosen this specific type of vaccine to give the best safety and efficacy.