

Rabbit vaccinations

We recommend regular veterinary checks to keep your rabbit in robust health, along with vaccination against the two most serious diseases:

Myxomatosis is a viral disease spread by biting insects such as fleas and flies. The initial signs include puffy swellings around the head and rear end. Within a few days affected rabbits become blind and therefore have difficulty in getting around and finding food and drink. Intensive treatment and dedicated nursing is necessary to combat both the initial disease and secondary pneumonia. Few affected rabbits survive to lead a normal life - the majority die within 10 - 12 days or are euthanased to prevent further suffering.

Protecting your pet by vaccination is vital. A single injection can be given to any healthy rabbit over the age of 6 weeks, though vaccinating during pregnancy is not advisable. Most cases are seen in the late summer and autumn, so we advise vaccinating in the spring. Regular boosters are needed every 12 months as we live in an area where wild rabbits suffering from myxomatosis are often seen.

Viral haemorrhagic disease is becoming increasingly common in S. E. England. It can be transmitted by direct or indirect contact as well as via insects. Affected rabbits often show no warning signs, dying suddenly from internal haemorrhage and so vaccination is advised for all healthy rabbits over the age of 6 weeks, with a yearly booster to top up immunity.



RECOMMENDED PROGRAMME

From 6 weeks: A single combined Myxomatosis and VHD vaccination with annual boosters.

