



Rabbit Advice: Health

Disclaimer: These notes are only based on my own experience and are not set in stone. They have worked for me and people who have adopted a bunny from Windwhistle Warren, I hope they will help you too.

The first thing you should do when bringing a rabbit home is to register with a local vet who is experienced with rabbits. Rabbits are classed as 'exotics' and can therefore be expensive, making the veterinary fees a large outlay. It is worth considering getting your rabbits insured.

All rabbits should be neutered, preferably at an early age. This not only stops unwanted litters but also reduces the risk of uterine cancer in females. Neutering reduces the hormones and therefore reduces the aggression so often found in unneutered rabbits.

Rabbits need to receive two vaccinations each year, one against myxomatosis and RVHD (Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease) and another for RVHD2 (a newer strain of Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease). When your rabbit is vaccinated, the vet will check it over for signs of any other problems. It is also possible to worm your rabbits and there are a number of products available for this, something worth discussing with your vet.

Rabbits are prey animals adapted to hide signs of suffering and they won't cry out if something is wrong. Get used to their normal behaviour and if they seem out of sorts, take them to a vet. If your rabbit stops eating it needs to see a vet immediately as rabbits who stop eating can become very ill and die very quickly.

If your rabbit has a long coat, it must be brushed every day.

Please familiarise yourself with the signs of these common ailments/diseases:

- GI stasis
- Flystrike
- EC (E. cuniculi)
- Pasteurella

All of our rabbits are neutered and vaccinated before being rehomed and you will be given a vaccination card with your rabbit.