

Gastro-Intestinal Disease

Our small pets can be susceptible to gastrointestinal (GI) problems just like other pets.

Enteritis due to bacterial, viral or parasitic disease can result. Typical signs include diarrhoea, lethargy, lack of appetite and dehydration. Antibiotic therapy and supportive treatment are required if a GI problem is suspected.

Ileus is another problem that can be seen, especially after a period of stress, illness or course of medication. Ileus describes the condition whereby the GI tract slows or stops working completely. It can be a challenging condition to treat but do seek Vet advice early if your rabbit stops eating and producing droppings.

Viral haemorrhagic disease is a highly contagious calicivirus that has been used around the world to control the populations of wild rabbits in the environment. It is a nasty disease that is most often fatal, often causing a sudden death with no prior clinical signs.

You can protect your rabbit by vaccinating yearly. The initial vaccination should be done at 10-12 weeks of age and then annually thereafter. Other methods such as minimizing your rabbits contact with wild rabbits, hygiene and quarantine of new rabbits, will also help reduce the risk to your rabbit.

