



ewell veterinary centre

4 Langton Avenue, Ewell, Surrey KT17 1LD Telephone: 020 8393 6056 Fax: 020 8394 0583
Email: info@ewellvets.co.uk Website: www.ewellvets.co.uk

Caring for Your Rabbit: Essential Advice for a Healthy, Happy Life 🐰

Welcome to our rabbit care advice page! Whether you're new to rabbit ownership or have had bunnies for years, this guide covers the essentials to keep your rabbit healthy and content.

1. Vaccination Protocol 📄

Vaccinations are vital to protect your rabbit from diseases:

- **RHD Combo Vaccine:** Protects against both Rabbit Viral Hemorrhagic Disease types 1 and 2 (RVHD-1 & RVHD-2)

Schedule: Rabbits can be vaccinated from 5 weeks old. Annual boosters are recommended to maintain protection.

2. Parasite Control 🐛

Rabbits can suffer from internal and external parasites:

- **Flystrike Prevention:** Use products recommended by your vet, especially in warmer months.
- **Mite and Flea Control:** Regular checks and preventive treatments help keep parasites at bay.
- **Worming:** Not always necessary, but consult your vet if you suspect an issue.

Keep your rabbit's living area clean to reduce the risk of parasites.

3. Feeding Your Rabbit 🥕

A healthy diet is key to a rabbit's wellbeing:

- **Hay:** 85% of your rabbit's diet should be fresh, high-quality hay. It aids digestion and keeps teeth healthy.
- **Fresh Vegetables:** Leafy greens like romaine lettuce, kale, and parsley. Introduce new veggies gradually.
- **Pellets:** A small amount of high-fiber pellets daily.
- **Fresh Water:** Always available, preferably in a heavy bowl to prevent tipping.

Foods to Avoid: No chocolate, iceberg lettuce, onions, or processed human food.

4. Neutering

Neutering is recommended for both male and female rabbits:

- **Health Benefits:** Reduces the risk of uterine cancer in females and testicular cancer in males.



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- **Behavioral Benefits:** Decreases aggression, territorial behavior, and unwanted pregnancies.

Neutering is usually done from 4-6 months of age.

5. Pet Insurance

Rabbits can develop health issues that require veterinary attention. Pet insurance helps cover the costs of unexpected illnesses, injuries, and ongoing medical conditions. Review policies carefully to ensure comprehensive coverage.

6. Microchipping

While not as common as with cats and dogs, microchipping your rabbit can be a lifesaver if they escape. It provides permanent identification, increasing the chances of a happy reunion if lost. 🐾

7. Housing and Enrichment

Rabbits need plenty of space and stimulation:

- **Housing:** Large hutches with an attached run. Indoors, consider rabbit-proofed areas.
- **Enrichment:** Provide tunnels, chew toys, digging boxes, and opportunities to explore safely.
- **Companionship:** Rabbits are social animals. Consider keeping them in bonded pairs for companionship. 🤗

8. Handling and Socialisation 😊

Gentle, regular handling helps your rabbit feel secure:

- Support their hindquarters to prevent injury.
- Avoid sudden movements and loud noises.
- Build trust gradually with treats and patience.

If you have any questions or need more advice, we're here to help. Contact us anytime to discuss your rabbit's health and wellbeing!