



TREMAIN VETERINARY GROUP

Treating your pet like one of the family

Advice Note 16.0

Flystrike in Rabbits

What is flystrike?

Flystrike is an unpleasant and distressing condition, which occurs in the summer months when flies lay their eggs around a rabbit's rear end. The eggs hatch into maggots, which feed on the rabbit, burrowing into the flesh. Some rabbits can be successfully treated but unfortunately this condition is very often fatal.

Prevention is better than cure.

How can I protect my rabbit from flystrike?

STEP 1 – Examine your rabbit each day, to check that his fur is clean, dry and not matted.

If you see any signs of maggots, remove them using soap and warm water, thoroughly dry the affected area and contact your vet immediately. A rabbit with diarrhoea or a dirty bottom is far more at risk. Ensure that your rabbit has a balanced, complete diet to avoid the side effects of digestive disturbances. Diarrhoea is often the sign of a diet lacking in fibre. Why not feed complete, nutritionally balanced foods which are high in fibre and protein and provide all the goodness your rabbit needs in one handy bag?

STEP 2 – Change soiled bedding every day.

Use plenty of good quality absorbent bedding in your rabbit's toilet area to avoid excess moisture. Use one that is ultra-absorbent and medicated with an organic disinfectant based on natural oils which is entirely safe for your rabbit, even if he eats it.

STEP 3 – Once a week, thoroughly clean and disinfect the hutch

Remove everything from the hutch and disinfect with a purpose made solution suitable for use with small animals, preferably one that is an effective fly deterrent.

Effective hutch hygiene is by far the best defence against flystrike for your rabbit.