



INSTRUCTIONS FOR CARE AFTER A RABBIT SPAY/CASTRATE

Your pet has had a general anaesthetic today and therefore may be a bit sleepy. It is really important that your rabbit starts eating after today's anaesthetic, so please offer tasty foods such as:

- herbs (parsley, coriander, basil, mint)
- their normal dry food
- their favourite vegetables (never give a large amount of carrot)
- fresh grass or good quality hay

and note how much you provide so that you can tell in the morning how much has been eaten. Please also clean out their cage so that you can monitor for any poos produced overnight; the production of faecal pellets is important, along with eating, as it indicates your rabbit's gut is moving appropriately again after their anaesthetic.

Please keep them indoors if the weather is cold but away from direct strong heat. If your rabbit normally lives with others, please keep them separated but close enough to see/smell each other. Only allow them back together under supervision until 10 days after surgery or as directed.

Your rabbit will have been given multiple pain-relieving injections today and should be going home with some additional medication. Please follow the instructions on the bottle for dosing. The easiest way to administer medications to rabbits is to put the syringe in their mouth just behind the front teeth, so they cannot chew on the syringe. Make sure that he/she is swallowing the medication – do not administer it too quickly, allow time for them to swallow the medication. Adding a little apple juice, blackcurrant cordial or similar in the tip of the syringe can help improve the taste for your rabbit.

We do not recommend use of a buster collar in rabbits unless really needed. We can provide, at a small extra cost, a medical shirt to cover the wound. Please ensure you have booked the next post-op check for 1-2 days, then a second appointment for 10 days after the operation. **HOWEVER, IF THEY HAVE NOT EATEN BY THE MORNING AFTER THE OPERATION PLEASE CALL US: 'gut stasis' is much easier to treat in the early stages.**

If you have any concerns, please call us on 01865 736060; if this is after we have closed you will be directed to our out-of-hours provider, telephone number 01993 811355.

Thank you for entrusting your rabbit to our care.