



Rabbit Vaccinations

Infections/Diseases covered:

>Myxomatosis

This is a serious and frequently deadly illness in rabbits, caused by the myxoma virus. It is mainly spread through biting insects such as mosquitoes and fleas but can also be passed directly from one rabbit to another. Common signs include swelling around the eyes and genitals, which can result in blindness, lethargy, and loss of appetite. Although there is currently no cure, vaccination remains the most effective way to protect pet rabbits from this disease. Even indoor rabbits are at risk due to insects coming into the home.

>Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus 1 (RHD1) classical strain and 2 (RHD2) variant strain

This highly infectious, often deadly virus, targets a rabbit's internal organs, leading to internal bleeding. The illness is caused by the rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus (RHDV) and exists in two main forms: RHD1 and RHD2. It can spread through direct contact between rabbits or indirectly via insects, contaminated objects, or even human clothing. Symptoms may include tiredness, loss of appetite, and bleeding from the nose or mouth, although sudden death, especially with RHD1, is frequently the only sign. While there is no known cure, vaccination is the most reliable method of prevention. As for myxomatosis, even indoor rabbits are at risk due to insect transmission

When to vaccinate: Rabbits can be vaccinated from 7 weeks old. Previously this required a combined single vaccination, repeated yearly to boost the immunity (Nobivac Myxo-RHD Plus). More recently a new, highly virulent strain of RHD2 has emerged. Currently there is not enough data available as to whether the Nobivac Myxo-RHD PLUS vaccine provides an adequate immune response to this new strain, so an additional vaccine (Yurvac RHD) has been produced to provide further protection. It cannot be given at the same time as the Myxo-RHD Plus vaccine - a minimum of a two-week gap is recommended, followed by a yearly booster vaccination.

Before the vaccinations are administered, your rabbit will have a full clinical examination performed by one of our veterinary surgeons, and they may be booked in with a Registered Veterinary Nurse for their second vaccination.

Indoor vs. outdoor rabbits: Even rabbits that live inside should be vaccinated, as diseases like Myxomatosis can still be transmitted through insects.

Possible vaccination side effects: Though uncommon, side effects may include tiredness, decreased appetite, or a mild lump at the injection site.