

Henlow Veterinary Hospital

FLY STRIKE

WHAT it is and what we RECOMMEND
to keep our rabbits SAFE.

WHAT is Fly Strike?

Flystrike (Myiasis) is a serious and potentially fatal condition of rabbits and other species. Flies lay their eggs on the skin of the rabbit and within hours these eggs hatch into maggots which start to eat away at the flesh.

All rabbits are at risk, although those with dental disease, arthritis, wounds, obesity, gut issues or urinary issues, are at increased risk.



- If your rabbit has a wound, keep it clean and dry. If you suspect your rabbit has a urinary problem, then take it to the vet for diagnosis and treatment.
- If your rabbit is producing unusually wet faeces, take it to the vet for diagnosis and treatment, and be prepared to change the diet accordingly.
- If you suspect your rabbit has arthritis, ask the vet for anti-inflammatory medicine to ease pain in joints and ensure it isn't overweight.

The Rabbit Welfare Association gives the following advice:

- Check your rabbit's bottom every day, more than once a day in the summer.
- If there is any urine or faeces, clean and dry the area.
- Look for small yellow oval fly eggs. If present remove. If cannot please book an appointment ASAP with one of our nurses.
- Keep the rabbits' environment clean so that flies are not attracted. Remove dirty litter and bedding.
- If your rabbit is obese, it needs to lose weight so that there is less strain on joints, it is able to squat properly when toileting and it is able to clean itself properly.



CONTACT US

If you find maggots on your rabbit call us immediately day or night, flystrike will require emergency treatment and possibly investigation into any underlying problems.

In order to reduce the risks please speak to us about the application of Rearguard, this is a topical treatment that can be applied during warmer months, and lasts for 10 weeks following each application. This is also supplied as part of our Henlow Healthy Pet Scheme.

