

Owners Newsletter

Spring 2024



It's key for owners to vaccinate pet rabbits

It's important your bunnies live a happy, healthy life. So vaccinate them every year against Myxomatosis and two strains of Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease (RVHD). Do this and you're doing your bit to keep your rabbits at their best.

More about Myxomatosis

Vaccinating your rabbits is the most important measure you can take to protect them. They can be injected from five weeks old and they'll need boosters every year with the new triple combination vaccine.

It doesn't guarantee absolute protection from Myxomatosis. But the disease will be milder in vaccinated rabbits, appearing as a single skin lesion, or a short, fairly minor illness. If you think your rabbit has Myxomatosis take it to a rabbit friendly vet who'll report the infection to the vaccine manufacturers. Vaccinated rabbits with Myxomatosis usually survive, unfortunately unvaccinated rabbits tend not to.

Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease (RVHD)

You'll need to protect your rabbits against two strains of RVHD, known as RVHD1 and RVHD2.

Vaccination is very effective. Your rabbits can be injected from five weeks old. They'll need a booster with the triple combination vaccine every 12 months. If your rabbit has never had a stand alone RVHD2 vaccine then it should be given as a one-off the first time you vaccinate. See above for more information.



What vaccines do my rabbits need?

It's important your bunnies live a happy, healthy life. So vaccinate them every year against Myxomatosis and two strains of Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease (RVHD). Do this and you're doing your bit to keep your rabbits at their best.

Here at the RWA&F we've held meetings with the vaccine manufacturers and updated our advice. Detailed information, including drug names, which we are only legally allowed to give to veterinary professionals, is published in the Vets section. If your vet has any queries, please ask them to email us directly.

If you come across a new, young rabbit that's never been vaccinated, make sure you protect it against all three diseases, RVHD1, RVHD2 and Myxomatosis, as early as possible. However, it may or may not have immunity handed down from the mother. This can interfere with the efficiency of a vaccine, so talk to your vet about the exact timing, and whether to give an additional stand-alone RVHD vaccine or repeat the triple vaccine again, later.

Vaccination FAQs

I'm thinking of having my rabbit vaccinated, but there's no RVHD or Myxomatosis in the area. Is vaccination really necessary?

Yes. We'd still recommend vaccination:

- It's impossible to predict when and where diseases will strike.
- If you wait for a local outbreak your rabbit might be the first to suffer.
- Many boarding places and insurance policies need rabbits to have up-to-date vaccinations.

My rabbit has chronic health problems. Can it still be vaccinated?

- Usually vaccines should only be given to healthy animals, whose immune system can respond properly. However, if your rabbit's condition is stable, it may be ok to vaccinate. Talk this over with your vet.

Join Our Happy Bunnies

Our members share a passion to learn the latest about rabbit welfare, and how to give them the best conditions to live long, happy lives.

We'd love you to be part of our vibrant community helping rabbits live their best lives. As a member of the Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund not only are you helping fund these lovely creatures, there are lots of other benefits too.

For just £24 a year, here's what else is in store for you as a member.

- Quarterly issues of our fantastic Rabbiting On magazine.
- Comprehensive care guide, On the Hop.
- A Hutch is Not Enough car sticker, to spread the word.
- Exclusive, FREE access to our specialist rabbit advice service for your vet.
- Become part of our community and support our crucial work.
- For instant membership simply scan the QR code below and join online.



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