

Congratulations on Your New Rabbit!

We at Tern Veterinary Group are delighted to meet your new rabbit! We have put together this little pack of handy tips to help your newest member of the family settle in.



Consultation times

9:00 am to 10:00 am

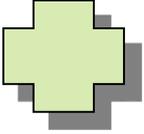
2:10 pm to 3:10 pm

4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

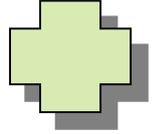
Saturdays

9:00 am - 10:00 am Market Drayton Branch

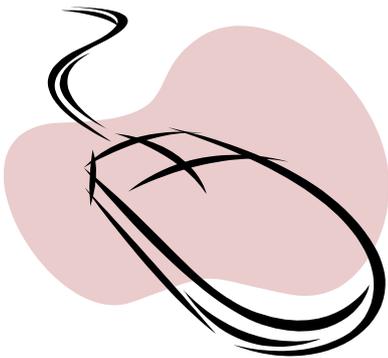
11:00 am - 12:00 pm Newport Branch



In case of an emergency please call 01630 652 935



Your call will be forwarded to one of our own small animal vets, so rest assured there will always be a familiar face to advise and help when you need it - 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



Why not check out our website for more information about us:

www.ternvets.co.uk

Or “like” us on facebook to find out our latest news, help reunite lost pets with their owners and follow interesting pet stories! We would love you to post pictures of your puppy.

www.facebook.com/ternvets

The Facebook logo, which is the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

facebook

Peace of mind....

Microchipping



Microchipping your pet is a permanent method of identification. It involves implanting a small microchip (the size of a grain of rice) under the skin at the back of the neck, a very quick procedure that is very similar to an injection. When this microchip is read by a special reader, the unique number is linked to your details on a database. This is invaluable if your rabbit ever goes missing and required if you ever wanted to travel abroad with your pet. By 2016, microchipping will be a legal requirement.

It can be performed during a consultation or other procedure and is priced at only £10

Insurance

Unfortunately, things happen in life when we least expect them - and illnesses or injuries in our pets are no exception. Insuring your pet takes the financial side of the worry away - meaning we can all focus on getting your pet back to health.



We recommend **Petplan** insurance - ask our receptionists about **FOUR WEEKS FREE** cover for new pets. Fill out a form and be covered from today.

www.petplan.co.uk

Worming

Many rabbit owners can overlook the fact that rabbits can get worms. If your rabbit is caged then the risk of worm infestation is much lower, but infestation is still possible and the risk increases in households with multiple pets. Your rabbit can contract:

Roundworm



Hookworm

Pinworm

Did you know?

Some adult female worms can produce up to 80,000 eggs...in a single day!

Rabbits can contract worms from dog and cat faeces that may contain worm eggs, so if you have dogs and/or cats it is best to regularly worm your rabbit.

Rabbits with worm infestation will have significantly increased appetite and may lose weight despite of this.

Worming Control

As with any pet prevention is better than treatment and is particularly important if you have a multiple pet household. There are several different products that are available from us to treat or prevent a worm infestation.

Panacur rabbit Paste:

This is a paste that is administered orally and should be repeated 2-4 times a year. It aids in the control of *Encephalitozoon cuniculi* and protects against intestinal worms.

Xeno 450 Spot on:

This is directly applied on the back of the neck and protects rabbits from both internal and external parasites. This should be administered monthly to provide full protection.

Regular worming of your pet is important for you too, worm eggs can be passed to the human members of the family by your rabbit, or even brought into your house on your shoes from the soil. Health risks are rare, but present.

Balanced Diet

Rabbits have complex digestive systems, so it's very important that they receive a proper diet. A basic rabbit diet should consist of the following foods:

Hay

Rabbits should have access to a constant supply of this hay, which aids their digestive systems and provides the necessary fibre to help prevent health problems such as hair balls, diarrhea, and obesity.

Vegetables

In addition to hay, the basic diet of an adult rabbit should consist of leafy, dark green vegetables such as romaine and leaf lettuces, parsley, cilantro, collard greens, arugula, escarole, endive, dandelion greens, and others. Variety is important, so feed your rabbit three different vegetables at a time. When introducing new veggies to a rabbit's diet, try just one at a time and keep quantities limited.

Fruits and Treats

While hay and vegetables are the basis of a healthy diet, rabbits also enjoy treats. Many rabbits enjoy carrots, but they are a starchy vegetable and should only be given sparingly as a treat. Other treats your rabbit might enjoy are apples (without stems or seeds), blueberries, papaya, strawberries, pears, peaches, plums, or melon.

Foods to Avoid

With such sensitive digestive systems, there are a number of foods that rabbits should avoid eating. These include iceberg lettuce, tomatoes, cabbage, corn, beans, peas, potatoes, beets, onions, rhubarb, bamboo, seeds, grains, and many others. Also, don't feed your rabbit chocolate, candy, or most human foods. If you are not sure about a certain food, please contact us.

Water

Rabbits should always have an ample supply of fresh water available. Be sure to change your rabbit's water at least once each day. Water can be kept in a sipper bottle or bowl. If you use a sipper bottle, watch new rabbits to make sure they know how to use the bottles, and clean bottles daily so the tubes don't get clogged. If you use a bowl, make sure that the bowl is heavy enough to avoid tipping and spilling.

Chewing

Chewing is part of a rabbit's natural behaviour, but it doesn't have to be destructive. To keep rabbits active and amused, you may want to put untreated wood blocks or cardboard in their cages. Bowls, balls, and rings made of willow wood are big hits with many rabbits and can be purchased online or in specialty stores. You can also use paper-towel rolls, toilet-paper rolls, and other chewable cardboard materials that can be tossed in the trash once they've served their purpose. Avoid objects with sharp edges, loose parts, or soft rubber that rabbits could chew into pieces and swallow.

Vaccinations

Rabbits need to be vaccinated against two main diseases. We can vaccinate a rabbit from 9 weeks of age.

Viral Haemorrhagic Disease (VHD)

This is a lethal disease and is highly infectious, killing up to 75% of rabbits affected. The virus causes internal bleeding and death and can attack rapidly.

This vaccine is given to your rabbit from 12 weeks of age, and a yearly booster vaccination to maintain immunity.

Myxomatosis (myxo)

This is a disease that is spread by sucking insects, it can cause swelling around the eyes and face, infections and respiratory problems.

This vaccine can be given at 9 weeks of age and is