



Rabbits

Rabbits are becoming more and more popular as pets and can be kept indoors, where they use a litter tray and are very sociable and great fun!

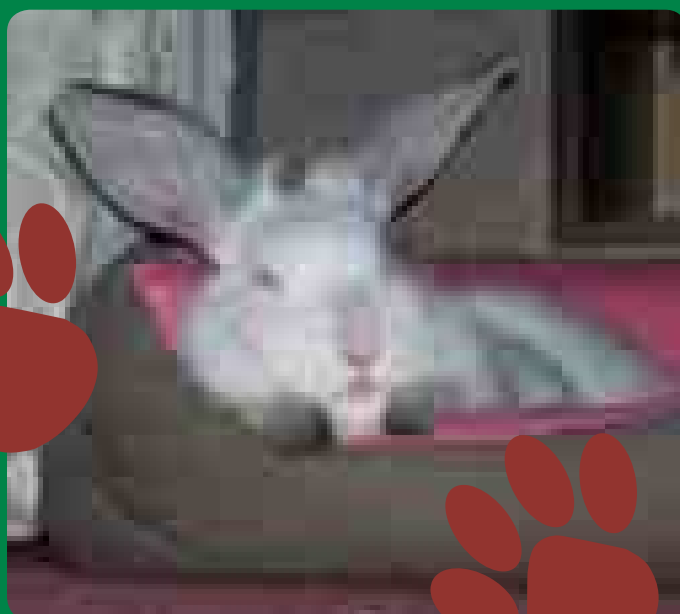
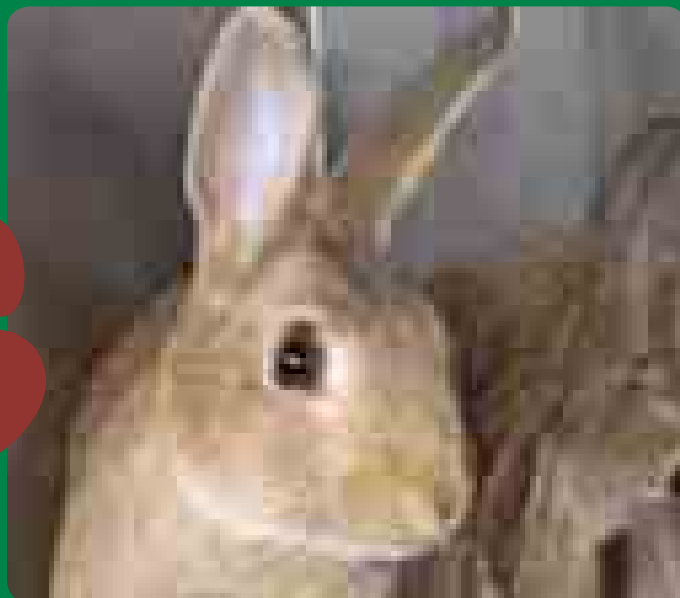
Wherever they come from, allow us to check your new, young pet rabbit for free at the first health check. Most are weaned at 6 weeks of age. Pick up a Parkside care leaflet at the same time and follow our tips for a long and healthy life.

At, 12 weeks - Vaccinate against myxomatosis, with yearly boosters, but every 6 months in high risk situations. Viral haemorrhagic disease should also be vaccinated against (one dose with yearly boosters), as this nasty disease is also in our area and can even be picked up from contaminated feed. These vaccinations need a 2 week gap between them. If you can only do one vaccination, then Myxomatosis is the main vaccination to have done at this time.

Keep clean and dry especially in summer to avoid fly strike. Use a topical fly killer from Parkside if in doubt. Maggots are not nice.

Feed lots of hay and restrict pellet food to one meal per day, so they are forced to eat hay, greens and roots (carrot, turnip etc). This keeps their teeth worn and aims to prevent their teeth from overgrowing and causing mouth ulceration and eventual untreatable gum disease. In other words, do not be too good to them as they are made to eat LARGE quantities of poor quality food. If more people thought of pellets as chocolates and always gave hay, then we would see fewer teeth problems! If you have any rabbit queries (on behaviour, feeding and general care) speak to Shona at the Dundee Surgery.

See more rabbit care in our care leaflet, which is also replicated in the **Pet Facts + links** in the PETS section of our web site at www.parksidevets.com.



POISONING IN PETS

We all know the dangers of rat and mice poisons but did you know that **grapes and especially raisins** are toxic to dogs? If eaten often or in quantity they will cause kidney failure in 2 to 3 days. Recovery can take 2 to 3 weeks. Lots of rich fruit cake will do the same.

Chocolate is also toxic to dogs, where the theobromine within causes many changes in the body but especially neurological problems. It would take 1Kg of dark chocolate to kill a Labrador by causing circulatory collapse, depending on how much cocoa was in the chocolate.

Cats are very sensitive to **Pyrethrins**, drugs frequently found in pet-shop flea remedies. These preparations are for dogs **ONLY**, but some people still put the liquid on to their cats – and many of these cats will die, with severe nervous symptoms. Avoid all this and come to **Parkside** for the most effective and **SAFE** flea-cures and prevention - for dogs *and* cats.

Paracetamol can be given to dogs as a painkiller, but it is also a cat-killer if used in that species.

Ibuprofen last a long time in a dog's body and if given for long, the levels become toxic. It is also not very effective in dogs.