



RABBIT HEALTH CHECK SHEET

- EYES
- EARS
- NOSE
- MOUTH
- THROAT & CHEST
- PAWS & CLAWS
- ABDOMEN
- FUR & SKIN
- BOTTOM

Eyes - Have a look at your rabbit's eyes and watch out for discharge, redness or blinking. These can all be signs of infection, pain or serious issues like scratches on the eye. Your rabbit has tear ducts which sit in the corners of their eyes, look for creamy discharge, redness or swelling. If you need to bathe your rabbit's eyes, use cool boiled water.

Ears - Rabbits have amazing senses to help them if they need to pick up on a danger and get away quickly. Their big ears help them to detect even quieter sounds which can be much further away. With such large ears, rabbits can be prone to ear infections – just like cats and dogs. Look out for smells, discharge or crusts building up. Watch out for signs of holding their head to one side or losing their balance.

Mouth - Rabbit's teeth continually grow. Dental disease can be a major problem if the teeth don't wear down properly. Signs of a problem might be not eating, drooling or eye problems. Make sure your rabbit always has a good supply of pelleted food, grass and hay.

Nose - Look for discharge or swelling and make sure your rabbit's nostrils are clear.

Throat and Chest - Rabbits, like other small animals, are quite prone to infections which can cause wheezing and breathing problems. Listen to your rabbit breathe and watch out for any sneezing.

Abdomen - Always make sure your rabbit is bright, and constantly eating and passing normal poos. If they stop doing this it can lead to a condition called bloat. If you notice your rabbit's appetite is reduced, you could tempt them with greens or some vegetables. If they do not quickly start eating, and or your rabbit's abdomen is firm or swollen, it is best to seek urgent veterinary attention.

Paws and Claws - Rabbit nails can grow long and become really sharp. If you have a patio area then occasionally placing the run over this part of the garden can help your rabbit wear their claws down. Look for any cuts or bleeding on the paws.

Back end and bums - When it comes to flystrike season from April to October, you should be checking your bunny's bum twice a day. Rabbits may get fur and faeces matted around their back end which can lead to sores, infections or even fly eggs being laid and growing into maggots. Check to make sure your rabbit is not losing fur over their back end or are wet around their bums. This might be a sign that they are stiff and are not moving around as much. Always provide your rabbits with clean bedding in their living area.

Fur & Skin - Your rabbit is covered in lots of fur but sometimes it can fall out or they can look like they have dandruff. Your rabbit's skin should not be swollen or red.



If you notice any problems with your rabbit, see your vet as soon as possible.

