

## Post-Operative Care

Your rabbit has undergone the following procedure under sedation/general anaesthetic:

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Your rabbit should be awake, alert and eating by the time he/she comes home, but we also advise the following to assist him/her to a quick and full recovery:

- Keep your rabbit warm and quiet overnight.
- Keep indoors for the next \_\_\_\_\_ day(s).
- Cage rest your rabbit for the next \_\_\_\_\_ day(s)/week(s).
- Feed a tempting meal if appetite appears reduced, as often occurs post anaesthesia/surgery. Fresh grass or herbs are often appreciated.

Your vet may have prescribed the following medications to aid appetite:

- **Maxolon Paediatric Drops** - this is a gut stimulant and \_\_\_\_\_mls should be given by mouth every six to twelve hours until your rabbit is eating 100% normally and defaecating 100% normally starting at \_\_\_\_\_ today.
- **Metacam** - this is a painkiller and \_\_\_\_\_ drops should be given once daily by mouth starting at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Avipro Powder** - this is a probiotic to help correct gut function and should be added to your rabbit's drinking water at the stress dose for the next few days. Flavouring the water with apple, blackcurrant or carrot juice can aid palatability. *A complimentary sachet is provided for you today.*

## ★ Important Warning ★

If your rabbit does not eat or pass droppings after returning home, please contact us for advice on **01722 333291** the next morning.

- Use the eye drops provided to moisten your rabbit's eyes over the next twenty-four hours.
- Give any additional medications carefully following the instructions on the label(s).
- Make sure your rabbit has comfortable bedding, eg: clean towels or drybed on top of newspapers.

## Wound and Dressing Care:

- Check the operation site two to three times daily to check that your rabbit has not interfered with it or removed any stitches, staples or dressings. If you notice any smell, redness, discharge or swelling, contact us to arrange a check up appointment.
- A Buster collar or post-op coat must be used if your rabbit tries to interfere with any wounds, dressings, drains or stitches (see Buster Collar section).
- Dressings must be kept dry (see Dressings section).
- Wounds may be closed using a variety of techniques, some of which look completely invisible! However, if your rabbit has skin stitches or staples these will need removing in \_\_\_\_\_ days.

## Dressings

- Success of your rabbit's treatment depends on good care of a dressing. Further charges will be made for dressing changes.
- Dressings must be kept dry. **Temporarily** a plastic bag can be used for this purpose when outside. **Never** leave on.
- If you notice any swelling or soreness around the dressing, please contact the surgery.
- If you notice any signs of sudden discomfort, please contact the surgery.
- If you notice any discharge or sudden smell from the dressing, please contact the surgery.
- If the dressing slips, please make an appointment as soon as possible as it may need replacing. Due to having fur, this is a common complication of dressing applications in rabbits.

## Buster Collars

Success of your rabbit's treatment relies on your rabbit not interfering with any wounds, dressings, drains or stitches; complications can arise if you fail to stop interference.

- Some rabbits may "sulk" or panic when a collar is first applied, but will adjust in a short while, especially if distracted with tasty titbits.
- Rabbits will be unable to gauge the extra width of their head and so will bump into furniture and door openings.
- Raise your rabbit's water and feeding bowls if necessary. Only in a **minority** of cases is it necessary to remove the collar to allow your rabbit to eat. If this is the case, **do not** leave your rabbit unattended until it is replaced.
- Groom your rabbit daily, including wiping the face and eyes, whilst it is wearing a Buster Collar.
- Clean the collar regularly.
- Keep rabbits indoors whilst wearing a Buster Collar.
- Allow your rabbit supervised access to its soft faecal pellets - it is essential that these can be eaten to maintain health.

The size of collar recommended for your rabbit is:

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(Obtainable from Reception)

## Other Information

Always contact the surgery if your rabbit does not seem well - it is better to check than ignore possible problems.

### Your next appointment is:

With: -----

On: -----

At: -----

If you have any queries, including emergency queries outside normal working hours, please contact us on **01722 333291**.

For further information on rabbit health and care, please see [www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk](http://www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk).



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## Quick Reference Guide



### Endell Veterinary Group

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[www.endellveterinarygroup.co.uk](http://www.endellveterinarygroup.co.uk)