



BASIC RABBIT EMERGENCY KIT

- A cat-sized carrier to take bunny safely to the vet.
- Antiseptic soap for you to wash before and after treating your rabbit.
- A plastic digital thermometer to take a rectal temperature reading. Normal rabbit body temperature ranges from about 101° - 103°
- KY jelly or petroleum jelly to lubricate thermometer tip.
- Pediatric Simethicone (generic name) for gas. Common brands are Little Tummys, Gas-X, Phazyme, Mylicon, and Ovol. Some rabbits really like the chewable fruit flavored tablets, making it easier to feed if they will eat it. A rabbit suffering from gas may show the following symptoms: sitting hunched up, eyes closed, belly pressed to the floor, loss of appetite or loud gurgling noises from the tummy. Call your vet for dosage amount, or check <http://www.morfz.com/rx/drugcalc.html> for dosage information by your rabbit's weight.
- Neosporin, '3 in 1' Antibacterial Ointment, or Bactriban (mupiricin) antibiotic ointment for minor cuts or bite wounds. (Do NOT use Neosporin Plus Pain Relief with Pramoxine.)
- Bag Balm or Calendula gel for sore hocks and minor scratches. Calendula gel is available at health food stores and Bag Balm is available at some feed stores.
- Ivory soap, Betadine, chlorhexidine solution (Hibiclens) or Novalsan (diluted) to wash cuts & puncture wounds. Ask your vet for a small sample of his or her preferred wound cleansing disinfectant.
- Blunt ended scissors or a disposable razor for safely removing fur away from a wound, clipping off matts or debris lodged in fur.
- Cotton swabs, sterile gauze, cotton squares and self adhesive vet wrap to bandage wounds.
- Styptic powder, cornstarch, or flour to stop a toe nail from bleeding if clipped too close to the quick. Also apply mild pressure with a clean washcloth for several minutes.
- An ice pack for fever or heat stress. **A rabbit with a temperature higher than 103° F should be considered an extreme emergency. Use the ice pack wrapped in a towel, and get him to your rabbit-savvy veterinarian immediately.**
- A heating pad, warm water bottles, or heating disc. **A rabbit with a temperature lower than 100° F should be considered an extreme emergency. Pack the rabbit with warm water bottles wrapped in towels and get him to your rabbit-savvy veterinarian immediately.**
- Towels for 'burrito wrapping' a rabbit, and for the carrier.
- Tweezers to remove splinters or debris.
- Saline solution (plain contact lens solution) to flush eyes.
- 'Critical Care' by Oxbow
- A small slice of banana, a can of V-8 juice, fruit juice, canned pumpkin (not pie filling) or baby food to mix with medicine.
- Pedialyte unflavored liquid for hydration. Sub-q fluids should be given when a rabbit is in stasis or having a problem with sludgy urine. Your vet will advise you about this if it is needed.

SUGGESTED READING MATERIALS TO HAVE ON HAND:

- **Rabbit Health in the 21st Century**, by Kathy Smith, Second Edition
- **[Gastrointestinal Stasis, The Silent Killer](#)** by Dana M. Krempels, Ph.D

RECOGNIZING WHEN IT'S AN EMERGENCY

Remember to stay calm and to minimize your rabbit's stress level. Stabilize your rabbit in a quiet place in a carrier. Call your veterinarian. Tell them the signs your bunny is exhibiting, what care you have already given, and when you expect to arrive. Make sure you have the vet's phone number and good directions with you before you leave.

- **Unconsciousness / Inability to respond to stimulation/obvious behavior changes.**
- **Rabbit doesn't eat anything for 12 hours.**
- **Gasping for air / stretching neck and head up.**
- **Seizures / acting drunk / rolling/tilted head.**
- **Uncontrolled bleeding.**
- **Blow out diarrhea.**
- **Known ingestion of a toxic substance / poisoning.**
- **Nonproductive straining to urinate.**
- **Limb dangling / Unwilling to bear weight on a leg / Inability to use hind legs.**