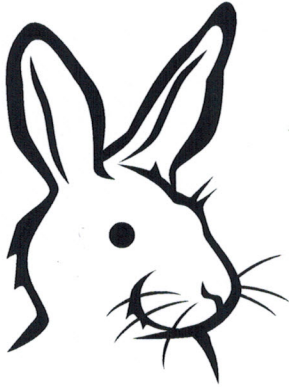


Your Rabbit's Surgery



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Pre-surgical Instructions

1. Do NOT fast your rabbit the night before surgery. He may have food and water in normal amounts. The morning of the surgery, we recommend that you do not feed him a large breakfast. Offer water and hay in normal amounts, but go light on the pellets. Rabbits are unable vomit so they can eat the morning of their surgery. However, too full of a stomach can cause problems, so we recommend a light breakfast.
2. Your bunny can have normal playtime/out of cage time the night before surgery. The exercise will help keep his gastrointestinal system moving well and reduce his stress levels.
3. Make a little "care package" for your bunny to bring to the clinic the day of the surgery. Include some hay, pellets, and his favorite treats, including fruits and vegetables. If he is fussy about his water, bring some of what he normally drinks. It is important that bunny start eating as soon as possible after surgery, so we want him to have access to things he is familiar with as bunnies can be fussy eaters.

The day of the surgery, make sure to clean bunny's cage and litter pan well so he has a clean house to come home to.

Post-surgical Instructions

1. The most important thing we need to do is to get bunny to eat and drink as soon as possible. Offer him a variety of his favorite foods and treats. If he is not eating within 24 hours of the surgery, you must call the clinic as he will need to be started on syringe feedings and may require some drugs to help with his gastrointestinal motility. Fluids may be given under the skin to help with hydration.

IT IS VITAL THAT YOU INFORM US IF YOUR RABBIT HAS NOT EATEN WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE SURGERY, AS THIS COULD MEAN THAT HE IS SUFFERING FROM STASIS, A SERIOUS CONDITION.

2. Restrict exercise for at least 5 days for males, and 7 days for females. It is important that bunny is not too active. No jumping, running, or strenuous exercise as this may cause stress to the healing incision. It is okay to handle your bunny, and some gentle activity is fine.
3. Check the incision(s) at least once daily. Look for swelling, redness, odor, bleeding or other discharge. Make sure bunny has not chewed at his incision and opened it. Call the clinic immediately if you notice any of the above incision problems.
4. Monitor stool output. Small and/or misshapen stool can be a sign of stasis. Soft stool can also be a problem.
5. Call the clinic if the bunny is lethargic, seems warm, is loudly grinding his teeth, or seems unable to get comfortable. These are signs of pain and possible infection.
6. Pain medicine will be prescribed for your rabbit. It is important to use this medicine as directed as pain will slow your rabbit's recovery process. A painful rabbit will also not feel like eating.