

GOOD NEWS FOR RABBITS, GUINEA PIGS, RODENTS & FERRETS

Good news this month for Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Rodents and Ferrets!

A new range of products has been launched that target many parasitic diseases of these so called 'small furries'.

Many rabbit owners will be aware of the horrors of fly strike. This occurs when blowflies lay eggs in the soiled fur of a rabbit and when these eggs hatch into maggots they eat right into the skin and flesh. It is often hard to pick up on in the early stages as a rabbit's instinct as a prey animal is to hide any illness or injury. So all too frequently this condition isn't discovered until it is fairly advanced and the rabbit has already suffered extensive damage that sometimes is fatal.

A new spot on preparation has been developed that is easy to apply. It is put on fortnightly to protect rabbits from flystrike. The spot on works by repelling the flies so they don't lay eggs in the first place, and if they do then it will kill the maggots that hatch.

Of course, if a rabbit has persistently soiled or wet fur this needs addressing as there will be an underlying reason. A rabbit still needs to be kept clean even if protected by spot on so we recommend that rabbit owners handle their rabbit every day and specifically check the rabbit's rear end in case they need cleaning. Please give us a call at the Surgery for further information or advice.

Another common rabbit complaint is infestation by a fur mite called Cheyletiella. These tiny mites are just visible to the naked eye and so sometimes this condition is referred to as 'walking dandruff' as it is just possible to see them moving along. It is very itchy for the rabbit to have these little mites walking about in their fur and so they get very flaky itchy skin and sometimes will loose a lot of their hair.

Typically this condition was treated with a course of injections but now there is a spot on version of the injection and so once the condition is diagnosed, it is much easier to treat as owners can apply the spot on course at home. I expect the rabbits will be happier with this too!

It's even better news for Guinea Pigs who, as anyone who has ever owned one knows, HATE injections. Guinea pigs can get infested with mites that burrow deep into their skin and make them so itchy that they scratch and chew themselves until they cause scabs and bleeding. Having to inject a family of Guinea Pigs for a course of 3 injections makes for a lot of squealing, so the fact that they can have the mite spot on as an alternative is excellent news.

If you would like to know more about these products, or have any questions about any of your pets then please call us or come in and see us at Hook Veterinary Centre.