



Rabbit Reproduction

The Kits

- Baby rabbits are called kits. For the 1st 5-7 days they are completely helpless and depend on mum for everything.
- DO NOT TOUCH kits when born as this can cause mum to reject them.
- Check the nest daily and check kits are moving but do not touch them.
- Watch mum to check she is going to kits regularly and is nursing them.
- If Kits need hand feeding use Goats milk as rabbits are lactose intolerant.
- At about 7-10 days the Kits will start to open their eyes and begin to crawl out of the nest.
- At about 21 days old the Kits will start to eat a small amount of normal rabbit food so at this point increase the amount you are feeding mum so there is enough for everyone.
- At 6 weeks old remove Kits from mum and completely weaned
- Kits can be sold/ rehomed from 8 weeks old.

The Doe

- A female rabbit is called a doe.
- She is pregnant for approx 28 days. You may not that she has very little hair once she has plucked herself and made a nest this is normal and it will grow back.
- The doe should be fed normal amounts of food even when she is feeding the Kits. The only difference in her diet should be to swap the concentrate she is being fed to a JUNIOR diet.
- When the Kits are 6 weeks old and have been weaned change the doe's food back to normal and get her spayed ASAP.

Feeding

- Diet is very important with rabbits and you should be checking Daily that they are eating and passing faeces although this is very difficult when doe and kits are all in hutch together.
- The concentrate should form the main nutrient source of a rabbit's diet and a doe suckling kits and rabbits under one year of age should be on Junior rabbit food.
- All rabbits over one year of age should be on adult food
- Fresh vegetable should be available but avoid vegetables high in water content as this can cause diarrhoea.
- Hay should always be available this adds roughage to the diet and help with wearing down teeth which are constantly growing.
- Fresh drinking water should always be available.
- Only feed pellets as a concentrate source. Often owners feed muesli based diets however this is not good for Rabbits guts and results in selective feeding which can lead to problems.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the nursing team.

MKTG/Pets/Collateral/InformationSheets/Rabbit/Rabbit Reproduction



Scarsdale Vets
Pride Veterinary Centre
Riverside Road
Derby DE24 8HX
Telephone: 01332 678333
www.scarsdalevets.com

