

Fly Strike

Flystrike or blowfly myiasis is a condition resulting from the infestation of living skin with the larvae of the blowfly (maggots)



The flies often lay their eggs on a normal healthy animal, but elderly, sick or overweight rabbits are more at risk.

Providing there is sufficient moisture present, the blow fly eggs hatch into maggots within 12 hours and begin attacking the rabbit's skin with their mouth and secretions resulting in very raw areas. This attracts further blow flies and the condition gets worse and worse. The toxins produced by the maggots often cause the rabbit to go into shock which may be fatal.

Flystrike often results from faecal or urinary contamination of the coat which may be due to the rabbit not grooming itself properly. Often it is related to dental problems, obesity or a poor diet which results in soft faeces and contamination of the coat.

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE!

Inspect your rabbit every day (especially on warm days). Comb through his fur. Looking for anything amiss. Signs including twitching may indicate some irritation in the coat. Listlessness is NEVER a good sign in a rabbit.

If you find any maggots or suspect that there may be some present that you cannot find, your rabbit MUST be seen by a veterinary surgeon.

If your rabbit has a recurring urinary problem or diarrhoea/soft faeces, veterinary attention is advisable.

If your rabbit has a urinary problem or loose stools, he will require frequent baths to prevent blow flies being attracted to him. Ensure that he is dried properly as moisture can also attract blow flies. Shaving around your rabbit's hindquarters may facilitate easy bathing and drying.

Feed a complete rabbit food, preferably one in which all the ingredients are pelleted.

[MKTG/Pets/Collateral/InformationSheets/Rabbit/Fly Strike](#)



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

