

# Flystrike!

- flesh eating maggots.



## What is it?

- Flystrike is when flies lay eggs on living rabbits, they subsequently hatch and the maggots start to eat the rabbit's flesh.
- Within hours the eggs start to hatch - fast action is imperative.
- ALL rabbits are at risk and health compromised rabbits are at higher risk, the flies are attracted to damp fur, urine, faeces and scent glands



Fly eggs in clipped fur after removal

## How to spot it

- Check your rabbits over throughout the day in summer months look for eggs stuck to the fur
- The eggs are tiny a yellowish white like small grains of rice - see picture

## What to do?

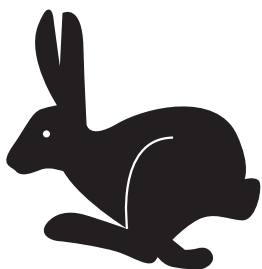
- Seek immediate veterinary advice. This is an **EMERGENCY!**
- Do not bathe the rabbit, this will make it more difficult to your vet to use clippers to remove the infested fur and eggs
- **DO NOT TRY AND TREAT AT HOME, YOUR RABBIT WILL NEED EXPERT TREATMENT.**

**KEEP CLEAN, KEEP DRY, KEEP FLIES OUT!**

## Prevention

- Keep housing clean, remove soiled bedding daily
- Ensure your rabbits are not overfed - this can lead to dirty bottoms that will attract the flies
- Check your rabbits periodically throughout the day - including house rabbits
- Keep health compromised rabbits indoors with window screens
- Disinfect housing weekly
- Keep your rabbits dry
- Use fly deterrents such as fly paper, fly traps, citronella and lavender
- Use screens on windows and doors
- Use a preventative such as Rearguard.

*Flystrike is not totally preventable, but by taking the precautions above you will reduce the chances of your rabbits being affected.*



**ACTION**

for Rabbits

**It's time to make things happen!**