



How to Syringe feed your rabbit.

It is very important that your rabbit eats good quality food every day. Sometimes rabbits refuse food due to stress, pain or recent surgery. Prolonged periods of not eating can lead to liver problems such as “fatty liver”, especially in overweight or obese patients.

Try to tempt them with their favourite foods.

If the rabbit still does not want to eat then we recommend syringe feeding.

We can provide you with the food and the wide opening syringes needed.

Start with laying a medium sized towel on a non slip surface on a table, or some owners prefer to feed the rabbit on the floor.

Sit the rabbit on top of the towel and fold the sides tightly over the rabbit so just the head is visible. Back the bum of the rabbit into yourself. You now have the rabbit in a safe and secure position.

The syringe food is a high fibre diet and should be mixed with water fresh before each feed. Instructions are on the food sachet.

It is important to start feeding slowly and gently with small amounts of the food to not stress the rabbit any further.

Give 1-2 ml and let the rabbit swallow the food with the syringe tip removed from the mouth. A maximum amount to feed per session is 10 ml/kg of body weight.

If the rabbits splutters or coughs then give it a moment to calm down and try again.

Do not force the syringe far into the rabbits mouth.

It is quite normal that the rabbit may nibble on the syringe end.

For an unwell rabbit who is not eating on its own we would recommend 4 feeding sessions a day.

Remember to rinse out the syringe after use so it is ready for next time.

Please do not hesitate to ask us to demonstrate how to syringe feed or to create a towel wrap (also called a “bunny burrito”) when you visit us at the veterinary hospital.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if there are any concerns or questions.