

# Behaviour: When Your Rabbit is Unwell

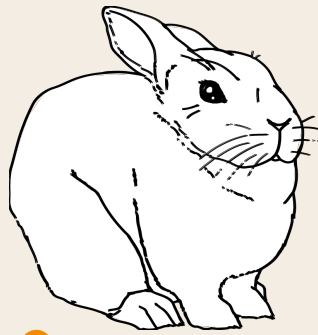
By Tamsin Stone

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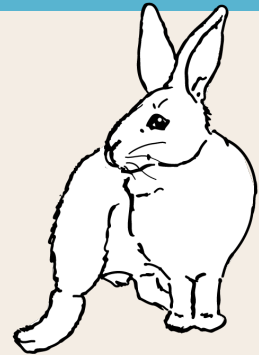
## ● Changes to Grooming

Soiled or dirty fur, dirty ears, excessive scratching, chewing fur, wet fur around eyes, chin or bottom.



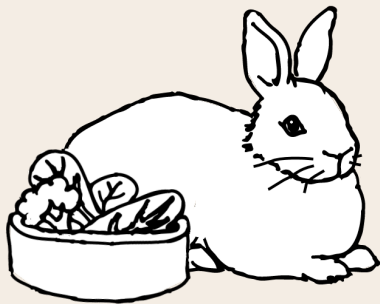
## ● Changes to Activity

Less active than normal, slower to greet you, aggressive, spending less time playing, exploring or interacting.



## ● Changes to Movement

Limping, stumbling, dragging back legs, uncoordinated, tilting to one side or reluctant to move.

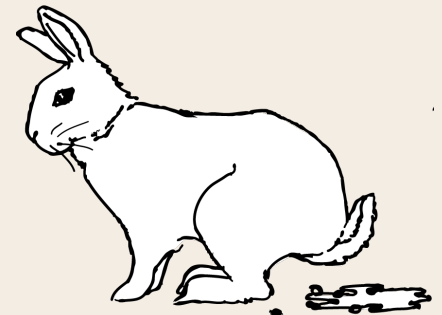


## ● Changes to Eating Habits

A change in food preferences, only eating favourite foods, eating less, dropping food or chewing oddly.

● Not eating at all is an emergency.

Rabbit's instincts are to hide signs of illness; they often show little outward sign of being unwell until they are very sick. The first hint of potential illness are subtle changes in your rabbit's behaviour and routine that make you feel "something's not quite right". If you notice a change you are worried about, call your vet to set up an appointment.



## ● Changes to Toilet Habits

Losing litter training, increased weeing, small or odd shaped droppings.

● Diarrhoea or producing no droppings are emergencies.

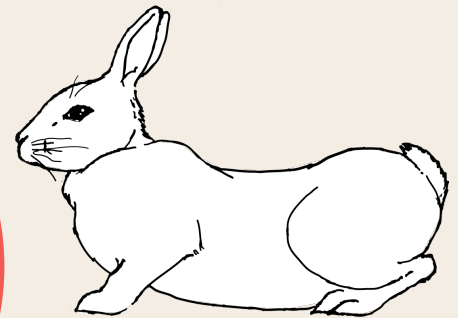


## ● Signs of Pain

Sitting huddled/hunched up, eyes tense or semi closed, reluctant to move, and may grind their teeth.

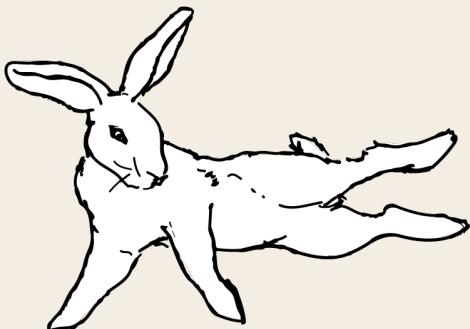
Some health issues should be treated as an emergency and you'll need to call your vet (day or night!) and go straight there:

Unresponsive  
Difficulty Breathing  
Not eating/pooping  
Diarrhoea (Liquid/watery poop)  
Flystrike  
Trauma  
Bleeding  
Seizure



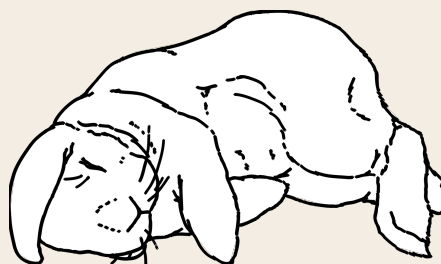
## ● Stomach Pressing (Pain)

Pressing the stomach to the floor, being restless and unable to find a comfortable position to sit or lie in.



## ● Seizure

Rapid twitching, kicking or shaking. May stagger or appear disorientated, but not necessarily fall over.



## ● Unresponsive

Laying on side limp, floppy, cold. Some rabbits sleep in this position but will act normally when disturbed.



## ● Difficulty Breathing

Mouth breathing (rabbits usually breath through their nose), laboured breathing, wheezing or blue lips,