

Rabbit Health



Important Medical Information

Your adoption packet contains medical records for your newly adopted rabbit. These records document all tests that were performed at the San Francisco SPCA. They also contain information about any illnesses or conditions that were diagnosed, what treatment was given, and what kind of follow up, if any, is recommended. **Numerous Bay Area veterinary hospitals offer a FREE “post adoption exam” if scheduled within three business days of your adoption**—please take advantage of this offer to have your new animal examined by a veterinarian. Veterinary hospitals that will honor this free exam include:

All Pets Hospital, San Francisco—415-861-5725
Linda Mar Vet Hospital, Pacifica—650-359-6471
VCA Tender Care, San Rafael—415-454-4994
VCA Bay Area, Oakland—510-654-8375

Common Rabbit Health Problems

As the guardian to a new rabbit, you should be aware of specific potential health concerns. Please consult your veterinarian as soon as possible if you notice any early indicators of illness. Common health issues include:

- **GI Stasis.** If rabbits stop eating or eliminating for 12 hours or more something is seriously wrong. If your rabbit ever does not seem interested in her food and is not eliminating for 6 hours or more, offer her favorite treat—if she still does not eat, go to the vet immediately.
- **Respiratory issues.** Symptoms include eye discharge, redness, squinting or sneezing, and nasal discharge.
- **Parasites.** Rabbits can get fleas and several types of species-specific ear mites. Check fur regularly for “dust” and ears for debris. Rabbits can also get a few types of intestinal parasites, the most common being coccidian; symptoms include soft stool.
- **Overgrown incisors (teeth).** Rabbits with overgrown teeth may stop eating and drool excessively. Rabbit teeth never stop growing.
- **Sore hocks,** also known as pododermatitis. Often wire-floored cages are too rough on the feet of rabbits, causing the protective layer of fur on the foot of the sole to wear thin which leads to painful ulceration. Rabbits do not have paw pads like cats or dogs and require solid flooring with many soft resting spots.