

RABBIT FLY STRIKE

With spring arrives fly strike season, and your rabbit will be at increased risk. To reduce the risk, follow our top-tips and use a reputable preventative product such as Xenex Ultra Spot-On or Rear Guard.

Fly strike occurs when flies lay their eggs into wet, soiled or sore areas on the body, the eggs hatch into maggots which can then attack the skin and flesh.

To reduce the risk:

- Ensure your rabbit's house is clean and dry, free from faeces and urine
- Check your rabbit regularly, ensuring there are no faeces soiling the fur
- Bath your rabbit if necessary, ensuring they are dried properly afterwards
- Feed mostly hay, grass and quality rabbit food to reduce the risk of diarrhoea

Xenex Ultra Spot-On

Xenex Ultra Spot On, is a product which repels the flies that cause fly strike, and kills fleas, ticks and lice. It's easy to apply – part the fur and spot some of the liquid onto the skin. Each application is effective for up to 2 weeks. 1 packet of Xenex Ultra Spot On contains 6 tubes, enough for 12 weeks cover, and costs around £14.55.

Rear Guard

Rear Guard is an alternative product, which when applied to the rabbit's fur prevents fly strike for up to 10 weeks, however, it does not protect against fleas, ticks and lice. Using the supplied applicator, the fur must be thoroughly wetted with the product from the middle of its back to the tip of the tail. Rear Guard costs around £13.30, enough for one application.

Please contact the surgery if you would like further information about fly strike, diets or to obtain a fly strike preventative.