

Rabbit Handbook

Other Problems

Examine your animals daily. Note how much food and water are consumed, and the nature and quantity of wastes. Color, fur condition, breathing, nasal discharges and ear carriage (the way the ears are held) are indications of health. Isolate sick animals until they recover. Do not handle sick animals until after you've cared for the healthy ones.

Slobbers

Cause: Slobbers may be caused by too much green feed, or green feed to which young rabbits are unaccustomed. It may also be caused by sniffles, coccidiosis or bad teeth.

Treatment: The treatment depends on the cause. If too much green feed has been offered, lower the amount. If irregular feeding of green feed caused the condition, give green feed daily. If bad or long teeth are the cause, correct this condition by either removing bad teeth or cutting off long teeth.

Cuts and Wounds

Treatment: Clip hair around wounds. Clean the wound, then apply an antiseptic such as Merthiolate. If the wound is deep and wide, stitches may be needed.

Long Front Teeth (buck teeth)

Cause: To wear evenly, the large front incisor teeth should meet at a correct angle. In some cases, this does not occur, and the animal has difficulty eating.

Treatment: Trim the teeth even with the others, using diagonal cutters (many times ordinary wire cutters are adequate), and file down the sharp edges with an ordinary file. Do not keep these animals for breeding, since buck teeth may be inherited by offspring.