

VetTalk Newsletter

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AUTUMN 07

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Vaccinate your pet rabbits
- Certain cat and dog flea products such as Frontline are fatal to rabbits
- Keep your pet inside when fireworks are being used. You may wish to use a sedative for some animals

Myxomatosis

This disease affects rabbits and is caused by the myxoma virus. Although the disease is usually seen in the UK in late summer and early autumn, it can occur all year round and this year has been a particularly bad year. The disease causes severe swelling of the lips, eyelids and genitals; it causes much suffering and distress to the animal and anyone observing a rabbit in such a state. Wild rabbits can become infected by the virus and can then pass the infection onto your pet by direct and/or aerosol contact.

“So only people living in rural areas must vaccinate their pet rabbits?”

No, all pet rabbits should be vaccinated. As the virus is also transferred by fleas, flies and cats carrying rabbit fleas, city and indoor rabbits should also be vaccinated.

Myxomatosis is almost always fatal. All pet rabbits should be vaccinated

Some vets and here at VetTalk we recommend biannual vaccination. Others depending on where you

live recommend annual re-vaccination; see your local vet for their recommendations.

Do not forget flea control for your rabbit (and all your other pets) as well as vaccination.

Your vet should sell spot – on treatments that are applied weekly, fortnightly or monthly depending on which product you chose. For specific brand names in different countries or more queries about Myxomatosis you can ask us at www.vettalk.co.uk

Fireworks

The nights are getting longer, soon there will be Halloween, Bonfire Night, New Year celebrations, in other words fireworks!

The loud noises can be very frightening to most pets. What can we do to help? Keep your pet inside if possible once it begins to get dark. Cover aviaries, rabbit and guinea-pig hutches. Provide hiding places for your pet. If you think your cat or dog really will not cope your veterinary surgery can prescribe a sedative for short

term use. These drugs can calm and relax your pet; some sedatives even reduce their memory of the event! Care, not all sedatives are suitable for all breeds of dogs and some sedatives can actually make your cat/dog more excited so try them in advance.

If you do prefer a more natural alternative for your dog/cat, there are pheromones available online or from your veterinary surgery in the form of plug in diffusers, collars or pump sprays. These need to be used well

before the actual day of the fireworks.

Homeopathic sedatives are another alternative.

All drugs whether homeopathic or not should be taken as instructed by your veterinary surgeon and used in healthy animals only, unless otherwise instructed by your veterinary surgeon.

For more detail, clinical signs your pet may exhibit or if you have more questions ask your online vet on www.vettalk.co.uk