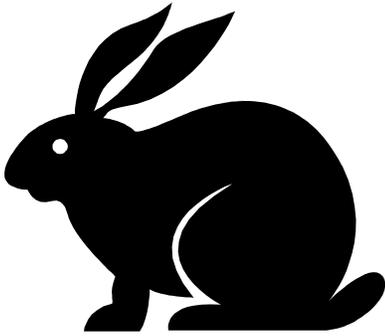


Rabbits- Not Just Small Cats



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Special Patients

Rabbits have often been treated by the veterinary world as nothing more complicated than a small cat. The truth is, rabbits have unique anatomical and physiological characteristics that make them a challenging surgical candidate. They require special care during every phase of the surgical procedure, as well as pre- and post-operatively. If this extra care is not taken, unnecessary and dangerous complications can result. Our veterinary team has either extra training and/or schooling in order to have as complete an understanding as possible of the whole rabbit, from ears to tail, and everything in between!

Health Needs

Just like with our dogs and cats, we are able to perform in-house blood work to assess the health status of our rabbit patients. With just a small amount of blood, we can determine if there are any abnormalities in your rabbit's system. This is very useful in obtaining a correct as well as more accurate prognosis. Our in-house blood chemistry machine is the top of its kind for exotic pet medicine and results can be obtained at our hospital in only 15 minutes. In addition, our licensed veterinary technicians are highly skilled in safely obtaining and interpreting rabbit lab samples.

Anesthetic Concerns

Rabbits have a small oral cavity, which makes them difficult to intubate. Normally, we place a breathing tube (endotracheal or "ET" tube) in a dog or cat to enable us to breathe for them in the event that they have difficulty breathing on their own during anesthesia. Placing an ET tube in a dog or cat is relatively straightforward because their anatomy is easy to visualize. Rabbits, however, have very small mouths and large tongues, which make it difficult for us to place the ET tube without special techniques. As a result, we either need to perform the surgery without the ET tube, or have special training and equipment to place an ET tube. Anesthetic monitoring of a rabbit that does not have an ET tube requires experience and vigilance on the part of the veterinary team, which comes from our many years of treating rabbits. In addition, we have the equipment and ability to place an ET tube in a rabbit if necessary, which provides an extra measure of safety for your pet.

Pain Management

Rabbits are uniquely sensitive to pain. Rabbits who undergo surgical procedures without adequate pain control can suffer serious side effects due to the way their bodies handle pain. Our goal is to prevent and alleviate as much pain and stress before, during and after the surgical procedure to prevent pain related complications. Knowledge of the proper pain control drugs and their administration is imperative in pain control for rabbits. Your rabbit will receive medications in the hospital to control pain and we will send home safe and tasty pain medicine. Ask about our special flavorings that we can make just for your rabbit's needs!

Post-Operative Care

Rabbits can have serious post-operative complications that require swift treatment. It is not enough to be able to perform the surgery successfully, but the veterinary team must also be able to care for the patient AFTER the surgery in the event that there are post-surgery complications. One of the most common complications after surgery is called gastrointestinal stasis, and is a slowing or stopping of the gastrointestinal tract and requires quick treatment. Our staff knows to anticipate such complications and to show the owner how to spot them so that the patient can be monitored after he or she goes home. Our experience enables us to incorporate the animal's caregiver into the care plan to provide the most comprehensive care possible.