

Keep your rabbit safe from fly-strike

What is fly-strike?

'Fly-strike' (myiasis), is the presence of fly eggs or maggots in the fur or flesh of an animal. This distressing condition, which can affect any pet but is most frequently seen in rabbits, is sadly quite common and can be fatal.

Fly-strike usually occurs during the warm spring and summer months when flies are active and looking for somewhere to lay their eggs. Your rabbit and its cage can be ideal areas if you do not take preventative action.



The fly's eggs hatch into maggots which grow quickly and if undetected can then burrow into the rabbit, feeding on its flesh within only a few days. Regrettably this occasionally results in the need for euthanasia.

If you spot any signs of fly-strike, such as fly eggs or maggots on your pet, seek urgent veterinary advice

How you can help to prevent fly-strike

- Examine your rabbit a minimum of every day, particularly around its rear and any wounds or damaged skin. Make sure that those areas are clean as flies are attracted to the odours produced by faeces, urine and wounds.
- Avoid overfeeding food, such as fresh grass and succulent green vegetables, which may cause or worsen diarrhoea, as rabbits with diarrhoea will be at greater risk.
- Keep the hutch clean. Remove dirty bedding daily, and provide plenty of good quality, absorbent bedding to reduce moisture. Regularly empty the hutch completely and disinfect it using a highly effective, but animal-friendly, disinfectant such as those in the **F10 range**. This helps reduce the odour-generating bacteria which attract flies.
- Protect your rabbit by applying a topical fly repellent. Although good hygiene can greatly reduce the number of flies, direct protective action is also recommended. **F10 Germicidal Wound Spray with Insecticide** is the ideal fly repellent spray to provide you with a simple and effective means to help in the prevention of fly-strike.

F10 Germicidal Wound Spray with Insecticide

F10 Germicidal Wound Spray with Insecticide is a ready-to-use spray that can be used to repel flies, fleas, mosquitoes, ticks and lice with just a simple application to your pet's rear end or to any wounds/broken skin.

Directions for use:

- Clean your rabbit as required, ensuring all excess organic material is removed
- Spray 1 or 2 times* to cover their rear, or any wounds
- Repeat every five days (or immediately if your rabbit has been washed)

* Use the 100ml bottle. Do not exceed 2 sprays per kg body weight

To purchase this preventative spray, or for more information and advice on fly-strike prevention, contact your veterinary surgery.

