

# Rabbit Spays

## Pre-operative information for Ovariohysterectomy (Rabbit Spay)

**Before the procedure we would ask you to read this document carefully** to give you (the owner) the information required for the elected procedure. Every surgical procedure that is undertaken carries accepted associated risks and complications. Although rare, we want you to be fully informed before you proceed.

The procedure your rabbit will be having today is called an ovariohysterectomy or more commonly a rabbit spay. A small area of hair will be clipped on the ear for induction of anaesthesia and hair from around the surgical site (abdomen). This surgical procedure involves removing the ovaries and the uterus or womb. Once this procedure has been performed it cannot be reversed.

Please read the following list of complications that can result from this procedure and ask a member of staff if you have any questions or concerns. This list is not exhaustive. Should a complication arise, owners are liable for the costs associated with the complication

1. Haemorrhage (bleeding) both during and after the procedure (inside or outside of the abdomen)
2. Wound breakdown and infection
3. Bruising and swelling
4. Seroma (pocket of fluid)
5. Suture material reaction
6. Herniation
7. Risk of injury when handling and on recovery post-operatively. Rabbits are at higher risk of injury to their backs which can lead to permanent paralysis
8. Gut stasis (slowing down or stopping of digestive system)
9. Damage to internal organs (including tying off the ureters)
10. Anaesthetic complication including death

**We take great precautions to minimise these risks to your rabbit.**