

Rabbit First Aid Kit

Rabbit emergencies can happen at any time so be sure to have a rabbit first aid kit on hand. Keep all the items together in a box so you can find everything quickly. Also, if there is a disaster & you have to evacuate quickly, you can easily grab the box.

In an emergency, do not do a diagnosis yourself, but contact your vet. Under your vet's supervision, use the items in your first aid kit to care for your rabbit until you can get to the vet. Or use the items as described by your vet for post visit care.

There are many opinions as to what should go in a first aid kit. The following link is a good start.

https://wabbitwiki.com/wiki/First_aid_kit_for_rabbits

It lists many items for the kit, what it is used for & where to get it. There are also many links to other resources concerning first aid kits. All of the items are listed in this spreadsheet:

http://curiousbunny.com/first_aid_kit_xlsx.pdf

Additional items that are useful in a first aid kit have also been included in this spreadsheet.

A few items have not been included in the spreadsheet, as new information indicates they are not recommended. Hydrogen peroxide is no longer used to clean wounds (it causes more harm than good) & is generally not used to clean scent glands (use mineral oil or water). Desitin ointment (which does not have Zinc) might be confused with Desitin cream (which does have Zinc) so best to leave it out (other products listed can be used instead). Balmex has Zinc. Plain diaper rash ointment is not specific enough.

Notes

Be sure all expendables, e.g., medicines, have expiration dates on them. Once a year (mark your calendar), go through everything & replace expired items.

To know if something is wrong with your rabbit, you first have to know what's right. Do a monthly health check so you know what's normal for your rabbit. See <http://curiousbunny.com/exam.pdf>.

During an emergency, write down everything that you observe & everything that you do. Add date & time to all entries.

There are some free pet first aid apps, that while not specifically for rabbits, might be helpful. Search Google or Apple App stores for "Red Cross Pet First Aid".

While a rabbit first aid book would be wonderful, there are very few available & I have not read them so cannot recommend one. A general pet first aid book might be useful. There are many & I have not read all of them so cannot recommend one, but the following are mentioned a lot on the web and it might be good:

<https://www.amazon.com/First-Companion-Dogs-Cats-Prevention/dp/1579543650/>

The First-Aid Companion for Dogs & Cats
by Amy Shojai, 448 pages, 2001

<https://www.amazon.com/Lovers-Guide-First-Emergencies-Guides/dp/1416025316/>

Pet Lover's Guide to First Aid and Emergencies
by Tom Day, DVM, 200 pages, 2005

Here are first aid booklets that can be downloaded from the web for free:

<https://vcahospitals.com/veterinary-specialty-center-seattle/-/media/files/vsc-pet-first-aid-handbook.ashx?la=en>

download VCA pet first aid booklet, 34 pages

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XEI2rmrqagAJ37HkovguXh6VZTHVHMcx/view>

download ARCA pet first aid booklet, 16 pages

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Rev 220405