



Rabbits and E-Cuniculi

What is E-Cuniculi?

E-Cuniculi is an parasite belonging to the protozoa family that affects the central nervous system and can spread to other areas of the body usually including the eyes, and kidneys. Rabbits can live normally with E-Cuniculi dormant in their system without any obvious signs, and others can be affected severely over several body systems. It can be transferred from a mother rabbit to her baby during birth and it can spread between rabbits as they will shed the organism through their urine.

How does E-Cuniculi affect my rabbit?

If the infected rabbit has a healthy immune system, this usually prevents E-Cuniculi from multiplying although the organism will remain in the rabbits system. Immunosuppression from illness, stress or aging can result in signs of the disease.

Symptoms of E-Cuniculi can include but aren't limited to:

- Head Tilting to one side
- Neurological Problems - loss of balance and co-ordination
- Cataracts or Blindness
- Chronic Gastrointestinal Problems
- Urinary Tract Problems
- Kidney Disease



Treatment for E-Cuniculi:

If it is suspected that your rabbit may have E-Cuniculi it is advised for them to have a blood sample taken by a vet to confirm a positive diagnosis. There is an oral medication that can be given that helps to suppress the E-Cuniculi levels in the system. Unfortunately the medication is not a cure and the rabbit will always have the organism in the system. This means medical treatment does need to be continued for the duration of the rabbit's life, usually at 3 - 6 monthly intervals. Monitoring the disease with your vet is also important and regular checkups for an E-Cuniculi positive rabbit is advised.

