



ABSCESS WOUND CARE AND FLUSHING

Abscesses sometimes require flushing to allow the wound to be cleaned. This article provides some basic and general advice on this however it is best to follow the specific recommendations provided by our vet.

When cleaning any open wound it is good to set aside at least 10 minutes two - three times a day. Place a towel on a flat surface such as a table. In most cases a spare person will be required to hold your rabbit.

Please have the following on hand:

- A spare towel
- Chlorhex, saline or warm salty water to flush the wound
- Syringe to flush
- Topical wound gels or creams such as Manuka Honey Wound Gel or Flamazine (if appropriate)
- Dry swabs to clean the edges of the wound
- Cotton buds

1. When you get home, look at the wound **closely** so that you can later compare how the wound is healing. Please remember that the wound is infected and there likely will be smelly pus present. Because rabbit and guinea pig pus is quite thick, it often does not drain very easily. We want to keep the wound clean and we want to keep it open as long as possible so that the pus can drain. Keeping the wound clean is one of the most important parts of healing the wound.

2. Gently bath and clean the wound with warm salty water (1 teaspoon of salt in a litre of warm water) or as otherwise directed. The wound should be bathed with this solution 3-4 times daily. When flushing wounds, draw up the solution in the large syringe and with gentle pressure squirt this on to the wound. With the spare towel wipe away any extra liquid. You should use at least 10mls for large wounds.

3. Using the dry swabs gently remove any white pus present. Wipe the edges of the wound and gently wipe away any excess material/exudate that has appeared.

4. With the cotton buds, apply a small amount of the cream or wound gel provided (if relevant).

5. If your pet has been prescribed antibiotics it is important that the **entire course** is given as instructed.

6. If your pet has been prescribed any pain relief medication please give as instructed.

7. Your pet should be kept rested and confined indoors. This is to help prevent maggot infestation of the open wound. Open wounds attracted flies and they can become flyblown. Fly eggs look like little white dots around the edge of wounds, if these are seen they should be removed as soon as possible.

If you are at all concerned about your pets' wound, please contact us as soon as possible.

