



## GIVING YOUR RABBIT AN INJECTION

Firstly, this is not as scary as you may think – rabbits tolerate injections under the skin very very well, generally much better than they handle oral medications!

Step 1: Draw up the required amount of medication as directed on the bottle, using the gradations on the barrel of the syringe to measure it.

Step 2: The best place to give the injection is under the loose skin on the back of your bunny's neck, in the region in between their shoulder blades. If you are right handed, lift up the skin with your left hand, forming a sort of triangular "tent" shape.

Step 3: Remove the needle cap.

Step 4: Hold the syringe by the barrel (not the plunger) or the area where the syringe attaches to the needle. Insert the needle into the "door" of the tent under your fingers i.e. the hollow between where you've lifted the skin so that the needle is pointing towards the bunny's head. You'll feel a sort of pop when the needle actually pierces the skin. Also importantly – make sure you insert the needle along the same line the bunny's back is. i.e. not at right angles to the bunny's back.

Step 5: Gently draw back on the plunger a few millimetres – if there is any blood in the barrel, remove the needle from your bunny's skin and start over again after replacing the needle with a fresh one.

Step 6: Inject the medication by pressing on the plunger but without moving the rest of the syringe or needle, and then remove the needle from your bunny's skin. Carefully remove the needle from the syringe and dispose of it into a sharps container. Ideally do not attempt to replace the cap on the needle as you may accidentally prick yourself with the needle. The syringe can be discarded into the normal rubbish bin – do NOT discard the needle into the rubbish bin!

Things that can go wrong:

- Sometimes the medication can end up on the fur rather than under the skin. This happens when you accidentally push the needle into and out the other side of the skin tent you have made. Do not panic! Wipe all of the medication off your bunny's fur using a damp sponge. Throw away the syringe and needle and start all over again.
- Your bunny becomes restless – be decisive when giving the injection. Try not to dither around poking the needle into the rabbit's skin as that will be painful and quite annoying. Find the spot and push the needle in without fuss. If you are worried, have someone hold the rabbit's head and shoulders and also offer the bunny a tasty treat.

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

