



SPLAY LEG IN RABBITS

Splay leg is a descriptive term for a clinical condition in which a rabbit lacks the ability to bring one or multiple legs underneath their body, instead their leg or legs splay outwards. Many reasons have postulated as to what might cause splay leg, including slippery flooring during the initial few weeks of life and genetic inheritance. However, the exact cause of splay leg is often difficult to determine and it is likely most cases are multifactorial.

Similar signs can be seen in:

- Spinal trauma
- Structural abnormalities
- Encephalitozoon cuniculi - a parasite that lives in the brain and spinal cord of rabbits.
- Low blood glucose

Splay leg can be confirmed with radiographs (x-rays) which allow us to determine the severity as well as to look at if there are any suitable treatment options. Treatment options depend on the severity and cause of the splay leg but in general often include either surgical options or palliative management with anti-inflammatories and other pain relief if needed. In some very young rabbits strapping or bandaging in certain ways can also help.

If you are at all concerned about your rabbit or have any other questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

