ILLNESS PROTOCOL

When a rabbit is behaving abnormally and there is no clue as to why, this is the protocol we suggest to help determine the level of care needed.

Severe symptoms need IMMEDIATE emergency veterinary care!!

SUGGESTED VETERINARIANS:

List of rabbit savvy veterinarians by state on the National House Rabbit Society's website: rabbit.org/vet-listings/

GHRS preferred Veterinarian

Windward Animal Hospital 770-569-7298 11895 Jones Bridge Rd. Johns Creek, GA 30005 windwardanimalhospital.com



"Treat Test"

A rabbit that doesn't want to eat a treat or fresh greens should be cause for concern. Continue to Step 2.

Take the Temperature
A rabbit's temp is a good indicator if he is ill. GENTLY take his temperature with a small, flexible tipped children's thermometer lubricated with Vaseline.

TEMP (normal is

101-103°F)

OVER 103°F?

Too HOT

UNDER 101°F?

Too COLD

IF BELOW 101°F: Warm up with heating pad and towels/blankets warmed in dryer. (He should begin to move around more as his temp returns to the normal range.) Continue to Step 3.

IF ABOVE 103°F: Cool down by wetting ear tips with rubbing alcohol, using refrigerated cans/bottles, and AC. HIGH TEMP NEEDS VET CARE ASAP while continuing to cool. Skip to Step 4.

NORMAL TEMP? Continue to watch for any changes in attitude, appetite; Continue to Step 3

Give pediatric gas drops orally

Often, a rabbit will need gas drops to help relieve gas pain. Simethicone (Pediatric GasX) is safe to give even as a precaution. REPEAT APPROX. 3-4 TIMES: Give 1ml baby gas drops (simethicone) every 30 minutes and check his temperature at the same time. Gently pat the sides of his belly to help pass built-up gas. Continue to Step 4. If temp isn't returning to normal range and/or there are additional signs of discomfort, such as

TEMP STABLIZED? Give 1ml pediatric gas drops every 30 minutes and take temp at same time; REPEAT approx. 3-4 times

TREAT GAS PAIN REPEAT #3

MAKE A VET VISIT TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE

TEETH GRINDING, MAKE AN EMERGENCY VET VISIT!

Regardless of the severity of ANY of these symptoms, you will need to make a vet visit to determine the CAUSE. Often, GI Stasis is triggered by tooth pain (because it is too painful to eat) which needs to be determined by a veternarian under anesthesia. Severe symptoms need IMMEDIATE vet care!

AN EMERGENCY:

3-4 times

NO CHANGE, SLOW CHANGE, OR ADDITIONAL CONCERNING SYMPTOMS, CALL VET/CONTACT SHELTER REP IMMEDIATELY

ALL OTHER:

Schedule a vet visit as soon as possible. GI Stasis (the slowing down and/or stopping of the gastrointestinal tract) will very LIKELY RETURN until the ACTUAL CAUSE is addressed.