Prevention is better than cure: How to avoid and treat common conditions

Speaker: Jo Hinde RVN

Jo has worked in the veterinary industry since 2007 and has a special interest in rabbits. She owns and runs LagoLearn, providing rabbit specific CPD to veterinary professionals in the UK and internationally. She also spends a significant amount of voluntary time working with charities and parliamentary groups to highlight animal welfare and is proud to be Junior Vice President of the British Veterinary Nursing Association. She has received several awards over the years including the Blue Cross Veterinary Nurse of the Year in 2014, an RCVS Innovation Award winner in 2017 and the IFAW Animal Advocate Award in 2017.

Rabbits are the UK’s third most popular pet and have an average lifespan of 7-10 years. As such, we should be ensuring we understand their specific healthcare needs and offer appropriate preventative treatments.

Husbandry is a big part of this and it is important to understand the correct diet and housing options needed to keep rabbits healthy. This talk will only touch briefly on diet but will focus more on enclosure types, sizes and biosecurity (both at home and in the clinic). It will also discuss the benefits of keeping rabbits in bonded pairs and the importance of neutering.

Infectious diseases will be discussed including myxomatosis, RHD1 and RHD2. These diseases will be explained further as well as covering current vaccine information and potential treatment options. E. Cuniculi is a commonly presenting disease in rabbits. We will delve deeper into this topic along with differential diagnoses (inner ear infection), diagnostic and treatment options as well as preventative advice.

The pros and cons of routine worming will be highlighted along with other key rabbit health information and advice on how to disseminate this to your clients in the most effective way.

Learning points;

- Understand the importance of husbandry including how to advise clients on the best type and size of enclosure
- Understand and recognise the main diseases and conditions that can be prevented
- Know the range of preventative treatments available and when to use each one
- Have the knowledge to advise owners of the potential problems in the best way