



HEAD TILTS AND MORE!

It can be very upsetting to find that your bunny is suddenly falling over, has difficulty standing or has a tilting of the head to one side.

The main thing is NOT to panic! Make sure that your bunny is comfortable and positioned in a warm and safe location on soft material and call your rabbit experienced vet to make an appointment for a thorough checkup.

There can be a number of reasons why your bunny may have problems with balance. The condition is called Vestibular Disease and this covers head tilts, rolling, falling over and hind limb weakness.



HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

The two most common causes are:

Middle ear infection – Any rabbit can suffer a middle ear infection but it can be more common for lops due to less air circulation throughout the ear. When a bunny suffers an infection of the middle ear, this can cause a loss of balance.

Encephalitozoon cuniculi (EC) – this is a parasite that is frequently passed from mum to the babies in the nest via urine. One of the symptoms of EC is head tilt or hind limb weakness. Most rabbits carry EC and a simple EC blood test will tell you if your bunny is EC negative or positive.

Less common causes are:

Trauma – balance can be affected if a bunny suffers a blow to the head or spine.

Growths/cancers – growths or cancers can cause pressure on the spine or brain and this in turn can cause a loss of balance.

Toxins – rabbits explore with their teeth and if a bunny chews on a poisonous plant they can suffer toxicity and loss of balance/movement.

SO, WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Visit a rabbit experienced vet for a thorough diagnosis, medication or treatment.

At home, please keep your bunny comfortable, preferably inside the house, on soft bedding such as a fluffy bed or a

soft blanket or towel. It is recommended to house your bunny in a smaller area using puppy pen panels or an extra large carry cage. If your bunny is rolling, keep him/her safe by placing rolled up towels around the edges to avoid any further injury. Don't forget to remove any pointy objects or loose threads so your bunny does not become tangled or injured.

If your bunny is not eating as normal, you may have to syringe feed using Oxbow Critical Care (ask your vet about this supplementary food).

Ensure that your bunny is drinking enough water. Many bunnies suffering from any balance issues may also suffer from nystagmus (eye movement). This can cause panic and nausea and your bunny may not be able to move around to find the water bowl. You may need to bring the bowl of water to your bunny.



Melbourne
Rabbit Clinic

DAY CLINICS

We are excited to announce Rabbit and Guinea Pig consulting at Essendon and Point Cook Animal and emergency centres on Mondays from 6th of July, 2015.

Please ring at Ferntree Gully Clinic to book.

9758 9879

ANIMAL
ACCIDENT

EMERGENCY

24h

PET
EMERGENCY
CENTRES

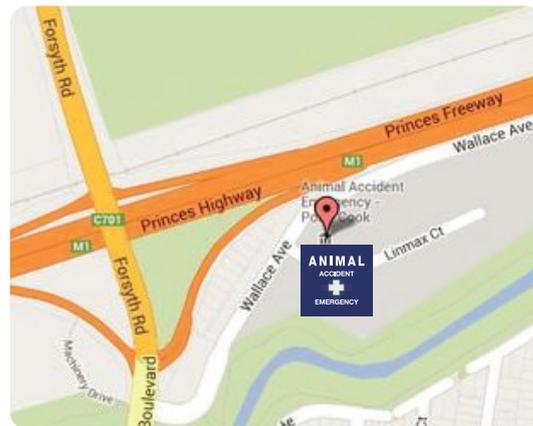


Always open. We always care.

ESSENDON & POINT COOK



Animal Accident & Emergency
6 Wallace Avenue
Point Cook VIC 3030
(03) 8368 7400
enquiries@animalemergency.com.au



Animal Accident & Emergency
72 Hargrave Avenue
Essendon Fields VIC 3042
(03) 9379 0700
enquiries@animalemergency.com.au