

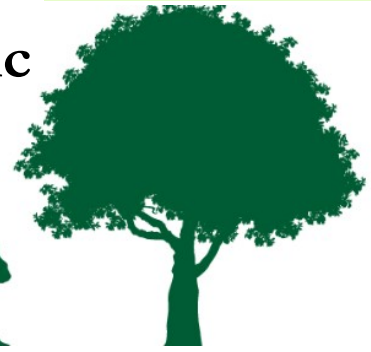
**Damory Veterinary  
Clinic**

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# Damory Veterinary Clinic

## Small Animal Factsheet



### FEEDING YOUR RABBIT

#### **Why Feeding Your Rabbit Properly Will Help Keep Him/Her Healthy**

Rabbits need to eat lots of fibre. Ideally this is provided by grass but good quality fresh hay daily is an ideal alternative. Also feed a variety of vegetables but feed all in moderation and introduce them gradually so that they don't cause diarrhoea. Fruit is high in sugars and these upset the rabbits gut so should only be fed occasionally as treats.

The grass (or hay) and vegetables can be supplemented with small amounts of a complete concentrate feed, fed once a day. If you chose a muesli type food make sure your rabbit eats all of it because they will often leave the bits which they most need. A complete pellet feed avoids this selective feeding.

Rabbits on a low fibre diet such as one fed on a muesli type feed only are prone to health problems which can take several years to become obvious but are often irreversible. They can develop tooth problems due to poor enamel and bone softening leading to pain and difficulty eating and grooming, and abscess formation.

A runny eye(s) can be an early sign of dental disease due to blockage of the tear duct as it runs over the teeth roots when they overgrow. A wet chin occurs because the rabbit salivates more due to mouth pain. Rabbits normally eat the soft sticky faeces they produce overnight (called caecotrophs) to provide extra vitamins – teeth pain prevents this behaviour and the caecotrophs stick to the rabbits bottom and look like diarrhoea and make them at risk of fly strike.

