


【Treating Abscesses】

When dealing with abscesses, early detection and aggressive treatment are key. Delaying diagnosis and treatment often makes abscesses more difficult to treat.


Abscesses can only be treated once the cause of the abscess is identified. The source of the abscess could be caused by an ear, tooth, or skin infection.


Rabbit pus is extremely thick – similar to the texture of cream cheese! Therefore, rabbit abscesses are impossible to “drain” and surgery is very often required.


1 Drainage and wound care

 Surgery is essential to treat most abscesses. The surgery can range from simple drainage (not in rabbits) to surgical removal and depends on the severity and cause of the abscess. When the abscess is mild and not affecting the underlying tissue, we can consider surgical drainage (removal of the pus). This less invasive procedure can sometimes be performed under sedation. Removing the pus can also give us the opportunity to collect a sample for bacterial culture so that we know what type of antibiotics to use.

2 Surgery


 When the bones are involved, surgery is almost always necessary.

 This is very common with tooth related abscesses. Because of the specialized teeth in rabbits and rodents – their “reserve crowns” (or roots) can be the cause of the infection. Without surgically removing the infected tooth, the infection will be impossible to cure and will likely recur.


 Ear infections which are common in lop-eared rabbits, often require surgical intervention. These are not really abscesses, but they can rarely be cured with just antibiotics.

It is normal to be concerned that surgery will be painful for your pet. But, many pets feel significantly better AFTER surgery to remove abscesses because the pain from the pressure and inflammation of the infection is removed.

3 Medication

 Antibiotics and painkillers are crucial before and after surgery.

The selection of antibiotics needs to be based on the results of culture and sensitivity testing to ensure maximum efficacy and avoid resistance. Conditions involving bone infections usually require a longer course of antibiotics (4-8 weeks).

If you think your pet may have an abscess, please schedule a consultation with us at  25271718.