

# Heart Disease in Rabbits

## Symptoms you may spot at home

Recognising the telltale signs and symptoms of a heart problem in rabbits can pose a challenge. Frequently, obvious indications are vague and can mirror those of other conditions. Additionally, rabbits possess the adeptness to conceal signs of vulnerability, including pain and illness. This evolutionary trait assists them in evading potential threats as prey animals. However, you might spot some of these symptoms below at home.

- Increased Breathing Rate
- Lethargy & Decreased Activity
- Sudden Weight Loss or Gain
- Bloating
- Reduced appetite

### Loss of Appetite

Heart disease can lead to a decreased appetite and weight loss. However, appetite loss can also be related to other symptoms and can lead to the development of gastrointestinal stasis (GI stasis) - a distressing and life-threatening ailment in rabbits, arising when an obstruction hinders the normal functioning of their digestive system. If your rabbit discontinues eating or displays a lack of bowel movements - contact our vets immediately.

### Cardiac Arrest

In some instances, heart disease can lead to cardiac arrest, especially if the condition remains undiagnosed and untreated.

**If you notice the above signs you should contact our veterinary practice straight away.**

Bringing your rabbit for regular check-ups with one of our vets can help to spot heart disease and other conditions early. Our vets can listen to your rabbit's heart and arrange further tests. Book a check up for your rabbit today.

