Manage GI Stasis at home:

- Pain Management: Address any pain the rabbit might be experiencing. Pain can contribute to stasis, so pain relief may help stimulate movement and appetite. Administer the correct doseage of METACAM® (meloxicam oral suspension).

- Feeding: If your rabbit has stopped eating altogether, mix up some Critical Care powder into a solution and syringe-feed your rabbit. If you do not have critical care on hand, you can use cooled boiled water (warm) and mash the pellets into a solution. This will ensure your rabbit remains hydrated, too.

- Exercise: Encourage gentle movement to stimulate the digestive system. Allow the rabbit to hop around in a safe, stress-free environment.

- Massage: Take your rabbit onto your lap while on the floor (so that there is no risk of jumping from high). Sit your rabbit in your lap and massage the belly with gentle pressure, in downward motions. You can also use the end of an electric toothbrush to apply vibration to the belly.

- Temperature Control: Keep the rabbit warm as stress and cold temperatures can worsen stasis.

- Medication: Administer 0.5-1ml of *Simethicone* each hour for up to 3 hours. This can be found at most pharmacies and is sold as baby gas relief / gas drops.

If you are not comfortable doing any of the above or do not know how contact your veterinaian.

VI Fluffle

Educate • Support • Advocate



Gastrointestinal (GI) Stasis in rabbits:

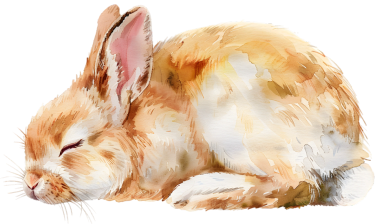
Gastrointestinal stasis (GI Stasis) is a serious life threatening condition where the digestive system slows or completely stops. If GI stasis is not addressed promptly it may lead to fatality. This brochure will give you some great tips to manage stasis.

Rabbits are sensitive creatures when it comes to their digestive health. Any sudden changes in diet or stress can lead to GI issues like bloat or GI stasis.

this brochure is Veterinarian approved

Signs of GI Stasis

- Not eating anything - offer their favourite treat to see if there is any interest if you're unsure.
- Very small fecal pellets (poops) - or producing none at all.
- Lack of movement.
- Hunched sitting position.



- Pressing belly onto the floor, visible discomfort .
- Ignores interaction / appears less interested than usual.

Check their Belly!

1. Feel the stomach area by feeling for the belly behind the ribs.
2. If it is soft and squishy like putty, you can safely attempt to manage the stasis at home.
3. If you're able to, put your ear to the belly and listen. Belly sounds are a positive indication.

If the rabbit's stomach is distended and rock-hard, it may mean it's already packed with consolidated food. Offer the rabbit water or if you can give sub-q fluids. Food may make the situation worse. **This is an emergency situation and you need to visit your rabbit savvy veterinarian.**

Be Stasis Ready!

- **60ml catheter Syringes (ask your vet for these)**
- **Critical Care Formula**
- **Simethicone (Baby Gas Drops, available at pharmacies)**
- **METACAM® (meloxicam oral suspension)**
- **Towel**
- **Blanket**
- **Subcutaneous fluids (if you are comfortable your vet can teach you how to do this).**

Prevent GI Stasis

- Maintain a proper diet rich in hay and if switching pellet brand, do so slowly.
- Avoid high-carbohydrate or high-fat foods - limit to ocassional treats.
- Provide ample space for exercise.
- Ensure a stress-free environment.
- Regularly check for any signs of dental issues or health problems that might contribute to stasis.
- Veterinary check-ups are essential for your rabbit's overall health.

Shedding and buildup of fur can contribute to blockages or obstructions in the gastrointestinal tract. Keeping your rabbit's fur groomed and managing excessive shedding can help prevent stasis.