



A cool solution
when it's hot!



Thermal Care™ is a patent-pending technology that utilizes unique, specially selected, research-tested compounds to help rabbits cope with heat stress.

Heat stress can compromise health and production

Slower growth

Lower milk production

Hampers reproductive
efficiency

With
Thermal
Care



Signs and Prevention of Heatstroke in Rabbits

Information provided courtesy of Dr. Alfred Mina, DVM, Maika Veterinary Clinic, Hilo, Hawaii.

Heatstroke occurs when the body's heat-dissipating mechanisms cannot accommodate excessive heat. Rabbits are extremely sensitive to elevated environmental temperatures, especially when combined with high humidity. Heatstroke can occur in any climate, but occurs more frequently in warm and/or humid environments. Factors contributing to heatstroke include exposure to sun, ambient temperatures greater than 85°F, lack of shade, inadequate ventilation, and insufficient supply of cool, clean drinking water.

SIGNS

- Early signs are nonspecific (depression, lethargy, lack of muscle coordination)
- Advance signs include, but are not limited to seizures, coma, respiratory distress, muscle tremors, and cardiopulmonary arrest

PREVENTION

Since rabbits do not have sweat glands and cannot pant effectively, they rely on the large surface area of their ears to serve as the site of evaporative cooling. The ears play an important role in thermoregulation. Management tips to help prevent heatstroke include:

- Provide adequate water supply at all times
- Keep rabbits out of direct sunlight or provide adequate shade
- Use ceramic/stone tiles in housing for rabbits to lay on
- Place frozen water bottles in the cage for rabbits to lay on or lean on
- Use air conditioning or fans to help regulate comfortable body temperatures
- Provide good ventilation – open windows/doors
- Groom/clip coat down, especially long-haired breeds

Pregnant does are susceptible to heatstroke. Be especially attentive to them and other rabbits with predisposing underlying diseases such as cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, neuromuscular disease, obesity, and previous history of heat-related disease.

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