

Common Illnesses in Rabbits and Small Animals: Diagnosis and Treatment Strategies

Introduction

- Rabbits and small animals physiology is suited to escaping predators and surviving in various habitats.
- Unique physiology
- Herbivorous diets (rabbits, guinea pigs) vs. omnivorous (ferrets).
- Dental health importance: Continuous growth of teeth.
- Digestive systems: Sensitivity to sudden changes in diet.

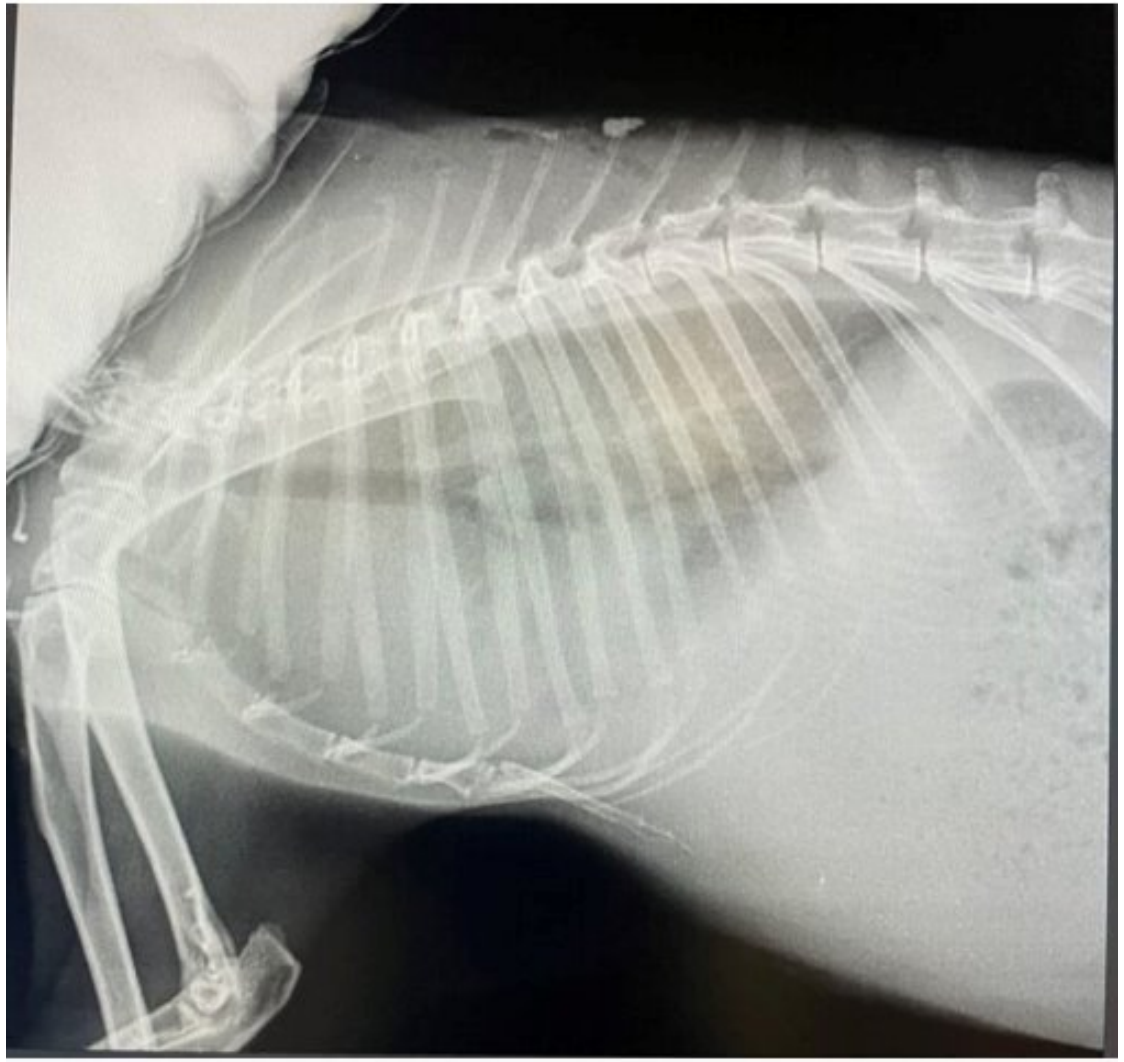


Respiratory

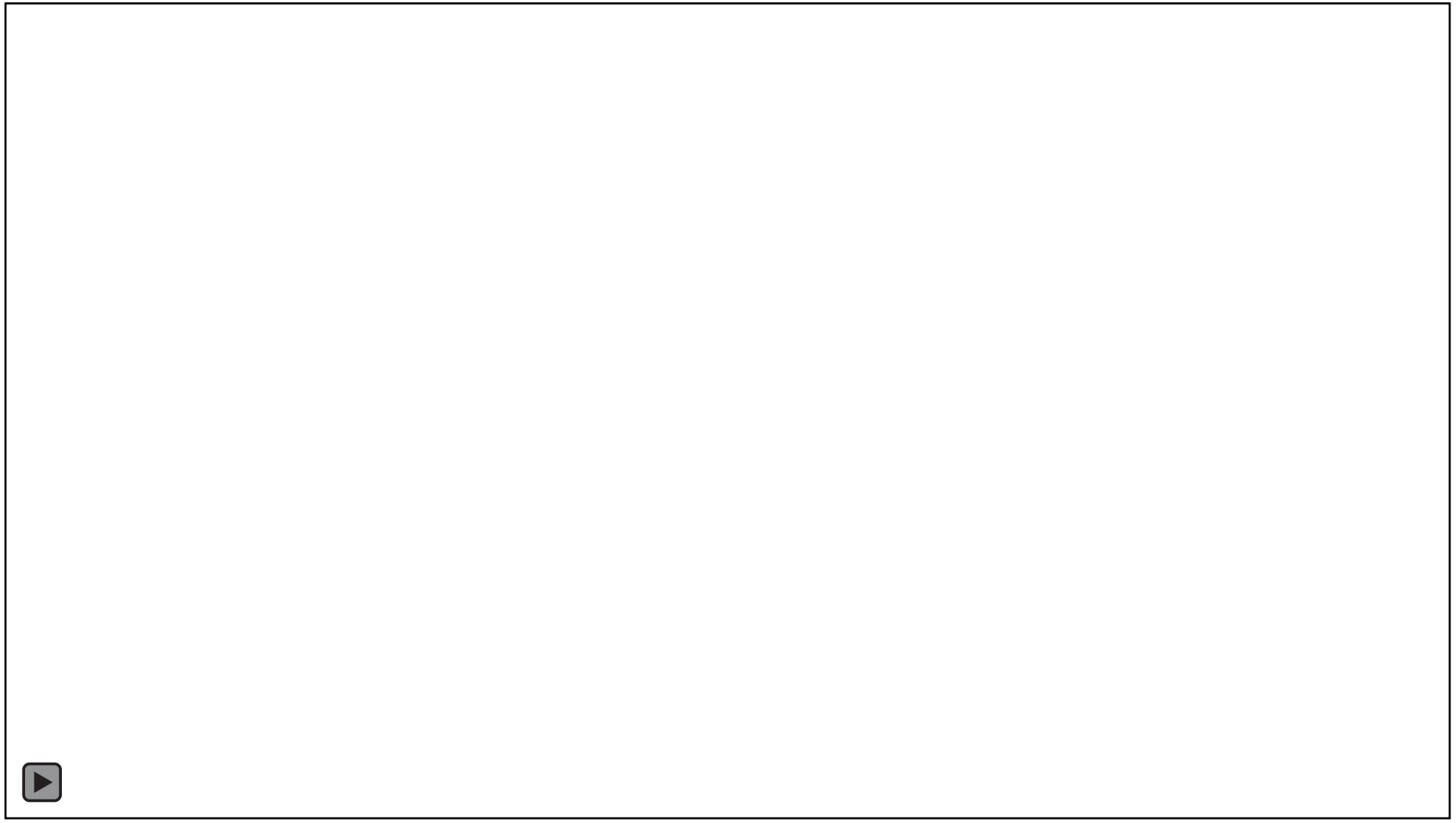
- Rabbits obligate nasal breathers
- Respiratory Infections (e.g., Pasteurellosis)
- Bacterial infection caused by Pasteurella multocida.
- Symptoms: Nasal discharge, sneezing, difficulty breathing.
- Diagnosis : Radiographs , culture and sensitivity , lacrimial flush swabs
- Treatment:
- Antibiotics Enrofloxacin at 10mg/kg BId ,Marbofloxacin 5 mg/kg OD ,Ciprofloxacin 5-20 mg/kg BID
- **Supportive and Adjunctive Treatments**
- Anti-inflammatory drugs.Nebulization therapy, ear/eye drops.Flushing of nasolacrimal ducts.

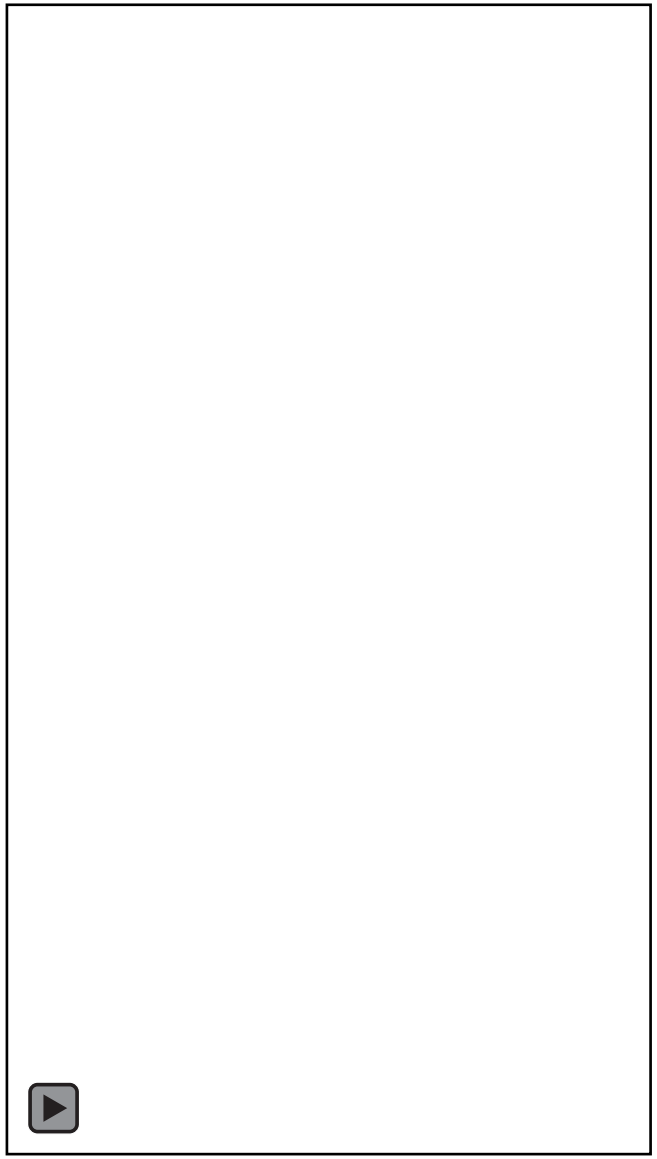
Administration of fluids ,Surgical interventions in severe cases.











LACRIMIAL DUCT
FLUSHING

Gastric Stasis

- GI Stasis (Gastrointestinal Stasis)
- Caused by lack of fiber, stress, or changes in diet.
- Symptoms: Decreased appetite, small fecal pellets, lethargy.
- Diagnosis X-ray ,USG ,Physical examination and palpation of stomach
- Treatment: Rehydration, pain management, prokinetics (stimulate gut motility), dietary changes.

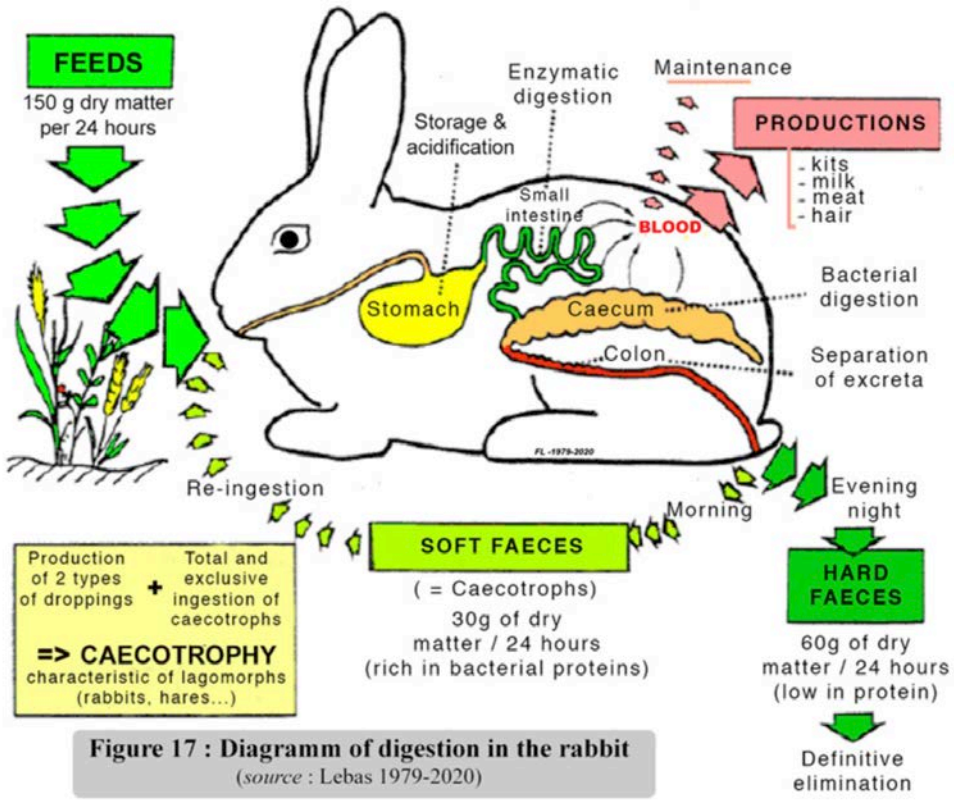


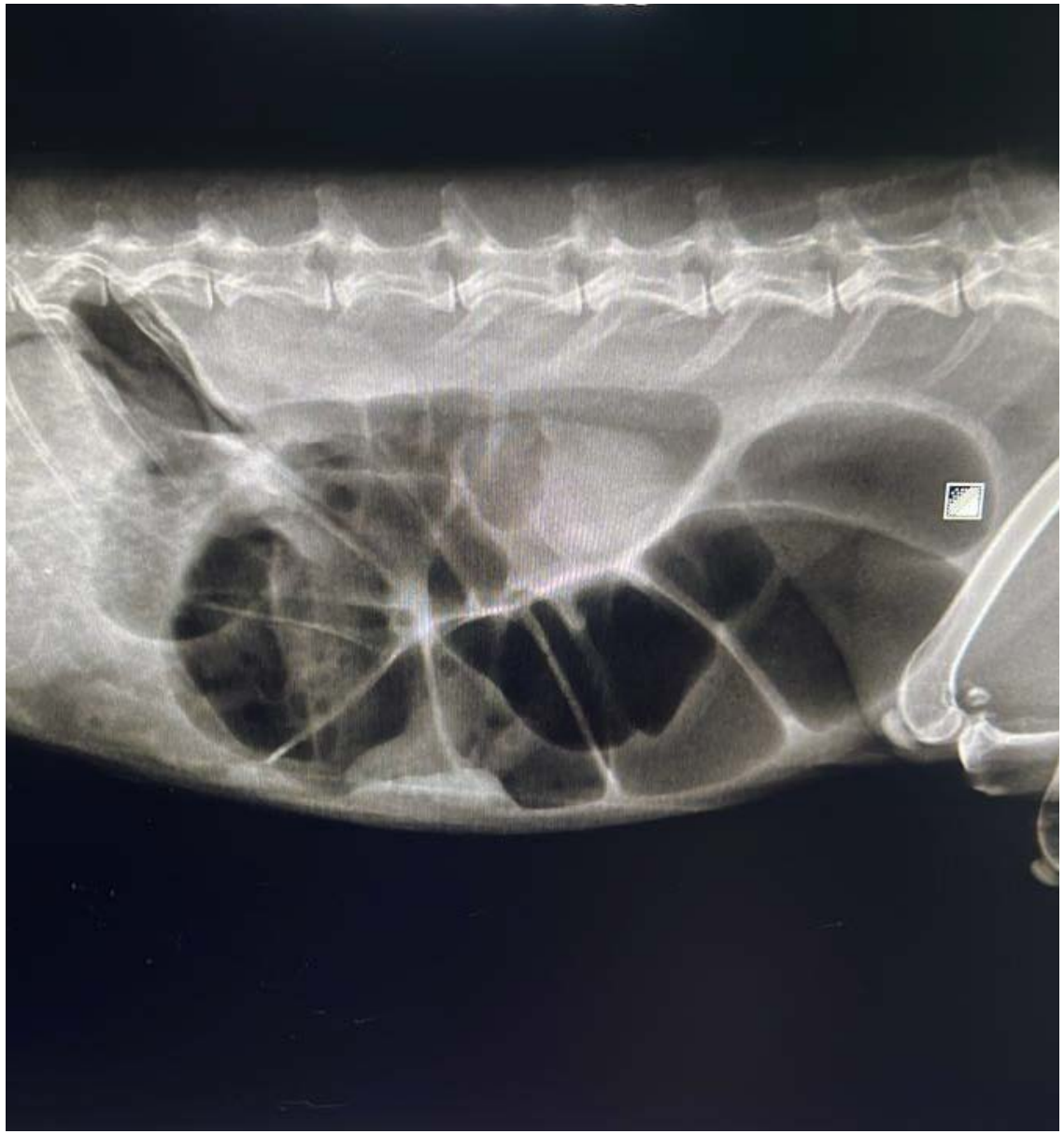
Figure 17 : Diagramm of digestion in the rabbit
(*source* : Lebas 1979-2020)








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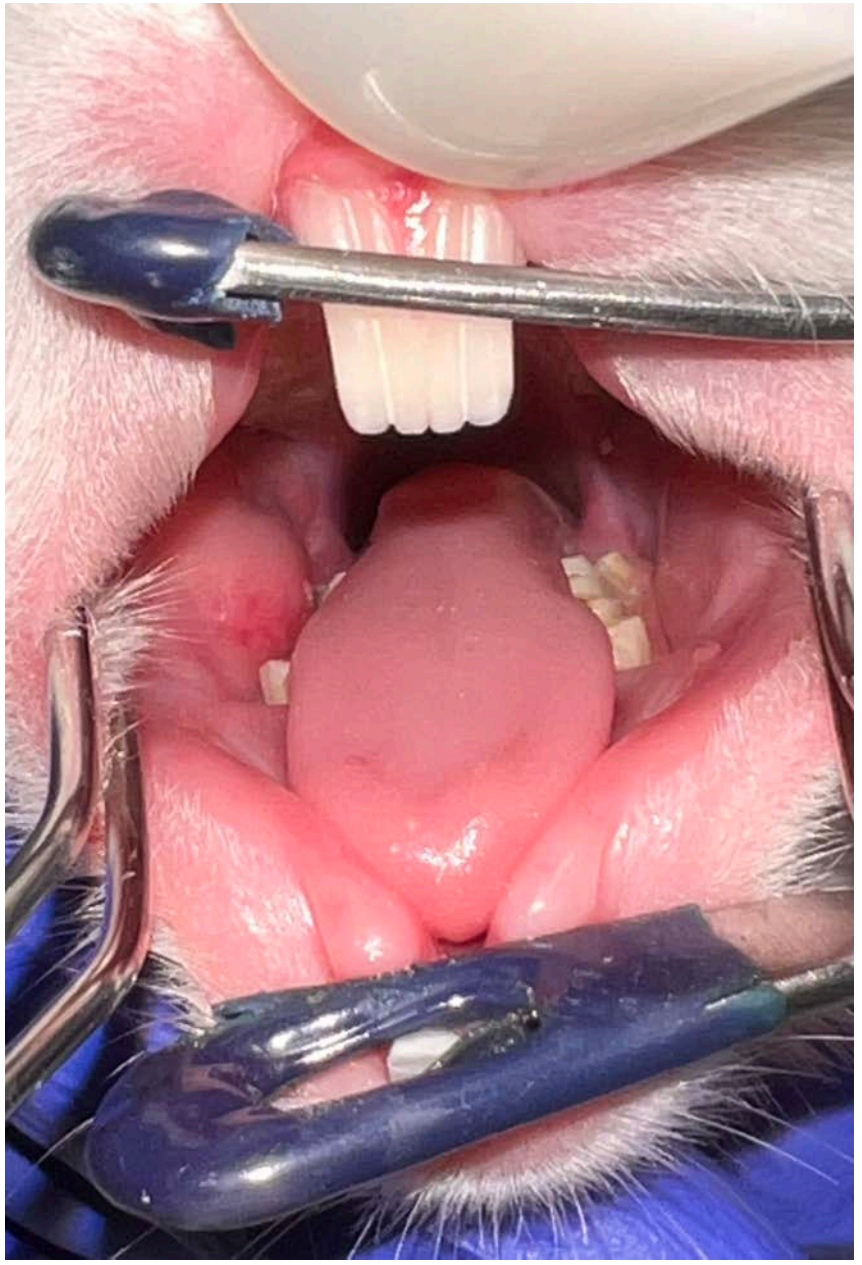
DENTAL DISEASE

- Dental Disease (Malocclusion)
- Overgrowth of teeth due to improper diet (low fiber).
  - DIAGNOSIS : Visual inspection – Otoscopic examination , X-rays lateral , dorsoventral ,dental examination under anesthesia.Contrast x-ray – nasolacrimial duct Ct scan
- Symptoms: Drooling, difficulty eating, weight loss , epiphora and dacrocystitis , abcess , incisor malocclusion.
- Treatment: Regular dental check-ups, appropriate diet, Analgesics , possible dental trimming.

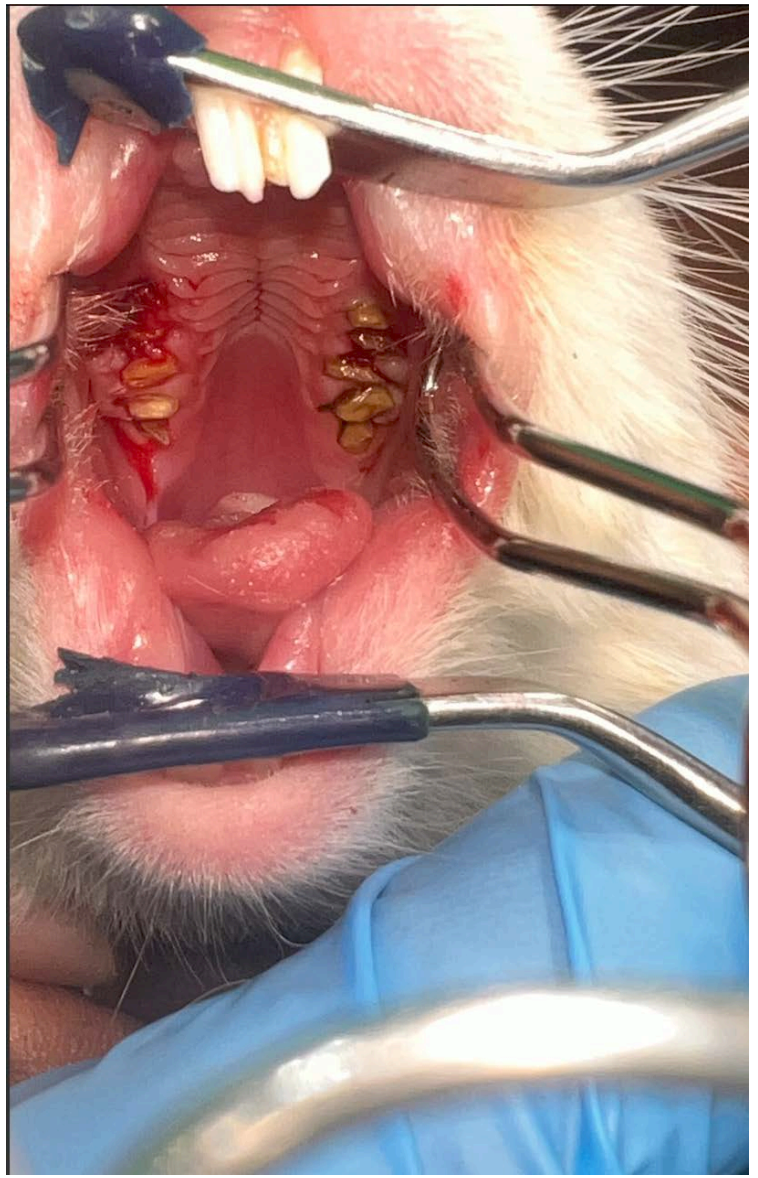




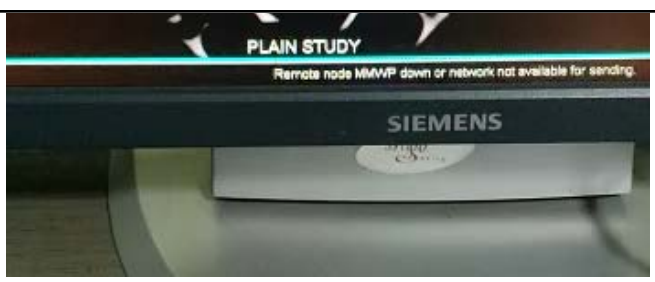


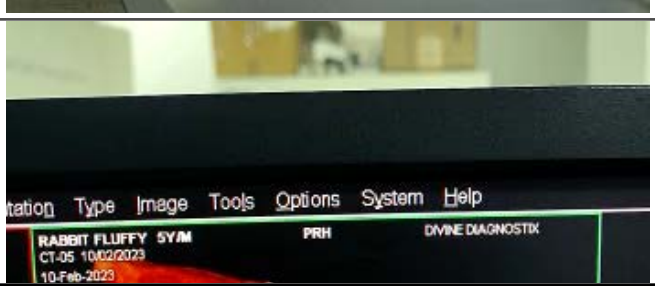




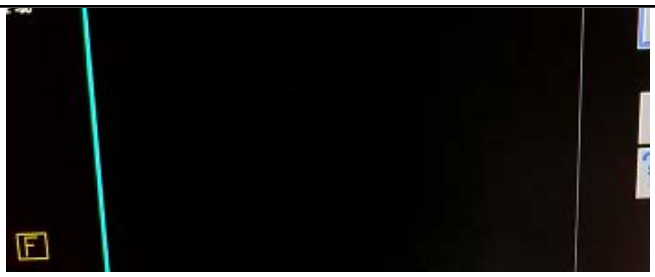



AHR
DIVINE DIAGN


PLAIN STUDY
Remote node MMWP down or network not available for sending.
SIEMENS

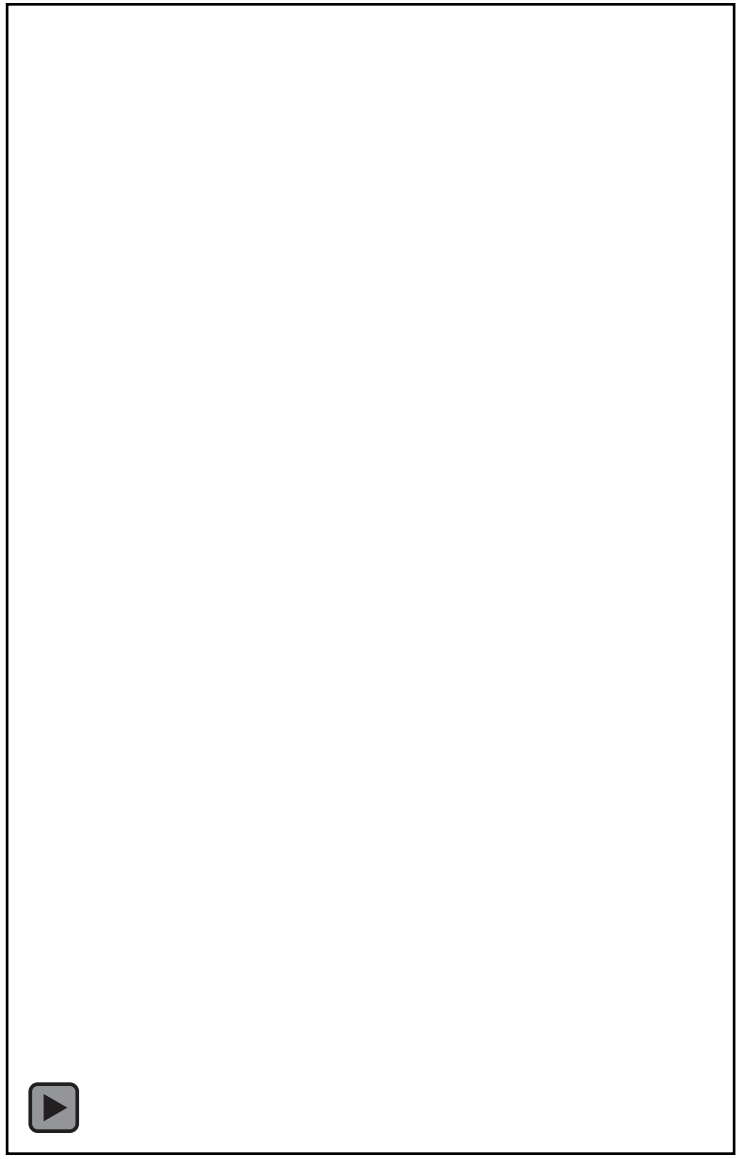

Type
Image
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RABBIT FLUFFY 5Y/M
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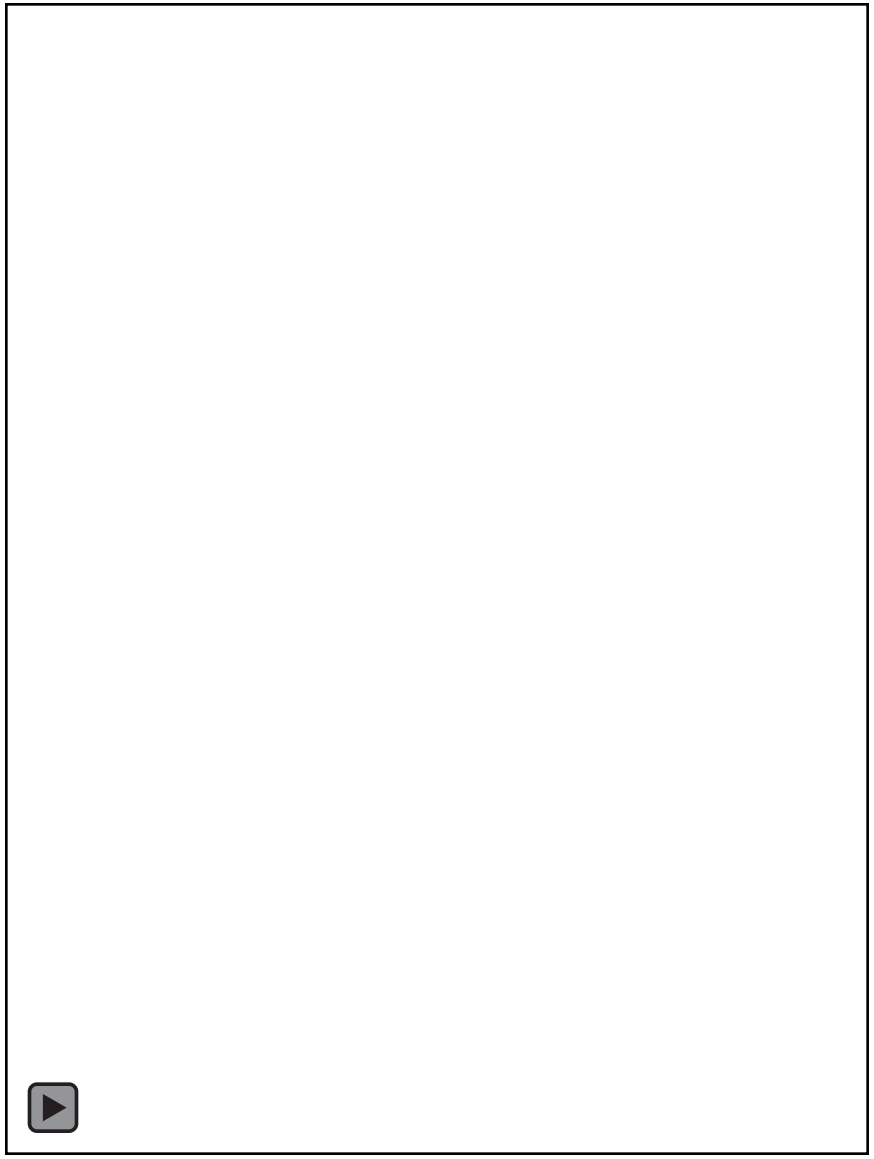
CT



Parasites

- **Common Illnesses**:
  - **External parasites**: Fleas, mites, and ear mites.
  - **Internal parasites**: Worms (e.g., coccidia, pinworms in rabbits).
- **Symptoms**:
  - Scratching, hair loss, sores, diarrhea, bloating, weight loss.
- **Diagnosis**:
  - Fecal tests for internal parasites, skin scrapings for mites.
- **Treatment**:
  - Antiparasitic medications (e.g., ivermectin for mites, fenbendazole for internal parasites).





Urolithiasis

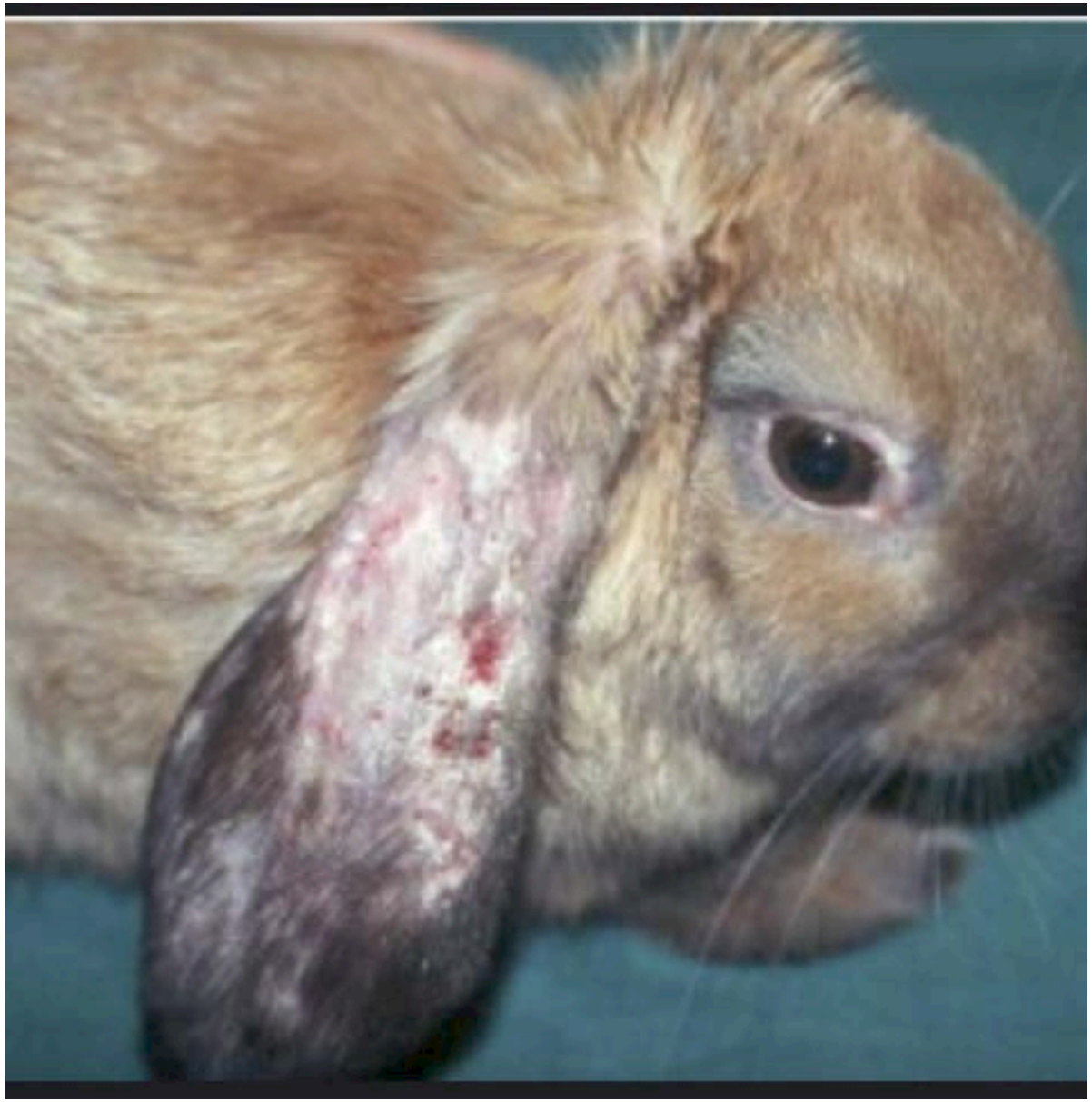
- **Common Illnesses**:
  - **Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs)** in rabbits and guinea pigs.
  - **Bladder Stones**: Common in rabbits and guinea pigs due to high calcium intake.
- **Symptoms**:
  - Bloody or cloudy urine, difficulty urinating, pain.
- **Diagnosis**:
  - Urinalysis, X-rays, urine culture.
- **Treatment**:
  - Antibiotics for infections, surgical removal of bladder stones, dietary adjustments.

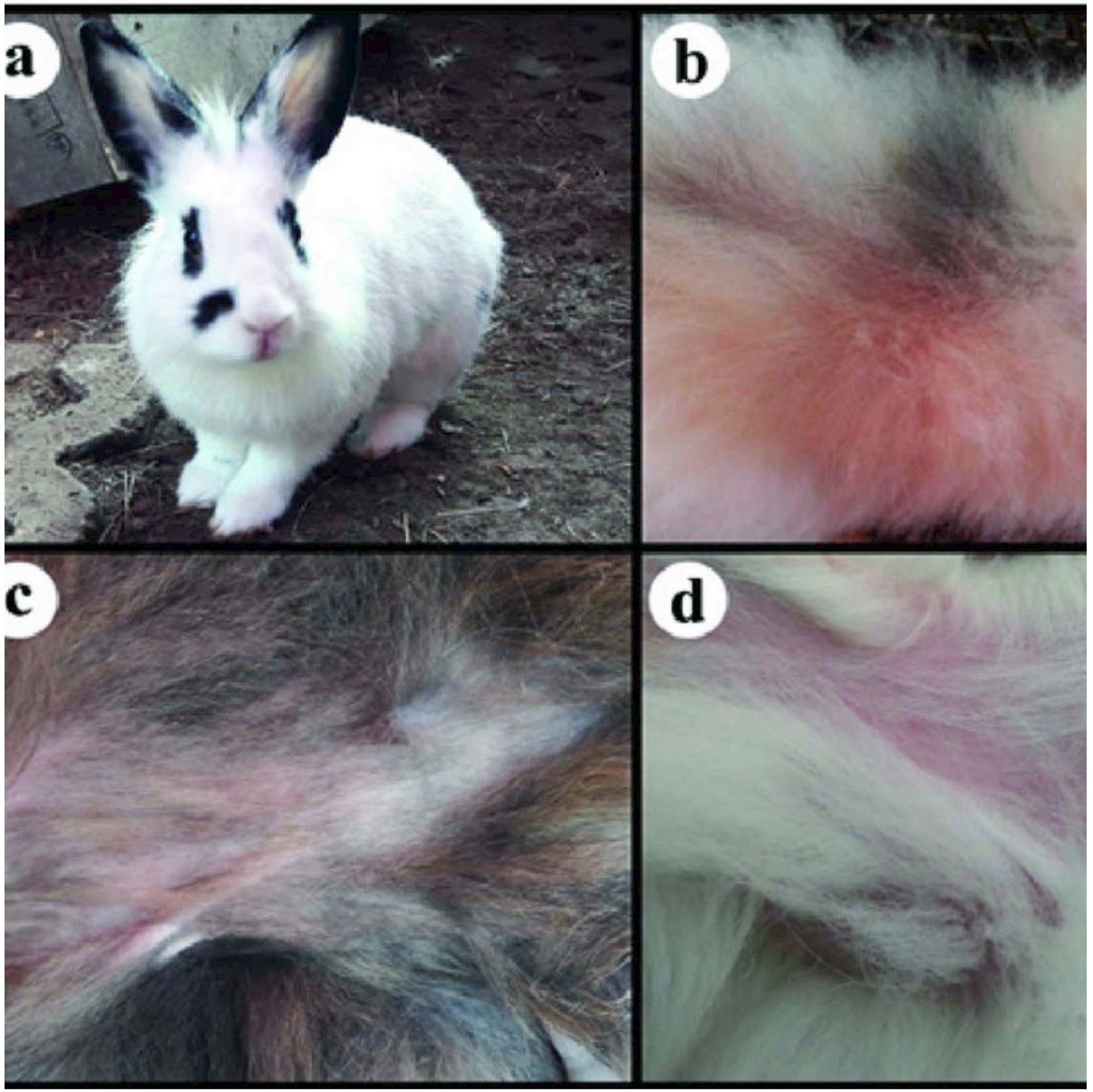

t with nephroliths and cystolith

Skin and Coat Condition

- **Ringworm**: Fungal infection affecting skin and coat.
- **Dermatitis**: Can be caused by parasites, allergies, or bacterial infections.Ulcerative pododermatitis
- **Symptoms**: Hair loss, itching, red or scaly patches, sores.

- **Diagnosis**:
  - Fungal cultures, skin scrapings, microscopic examination.
- **Treatment**:
  - Antifungal creams or systemic medications, antibiotics for secondary infections.

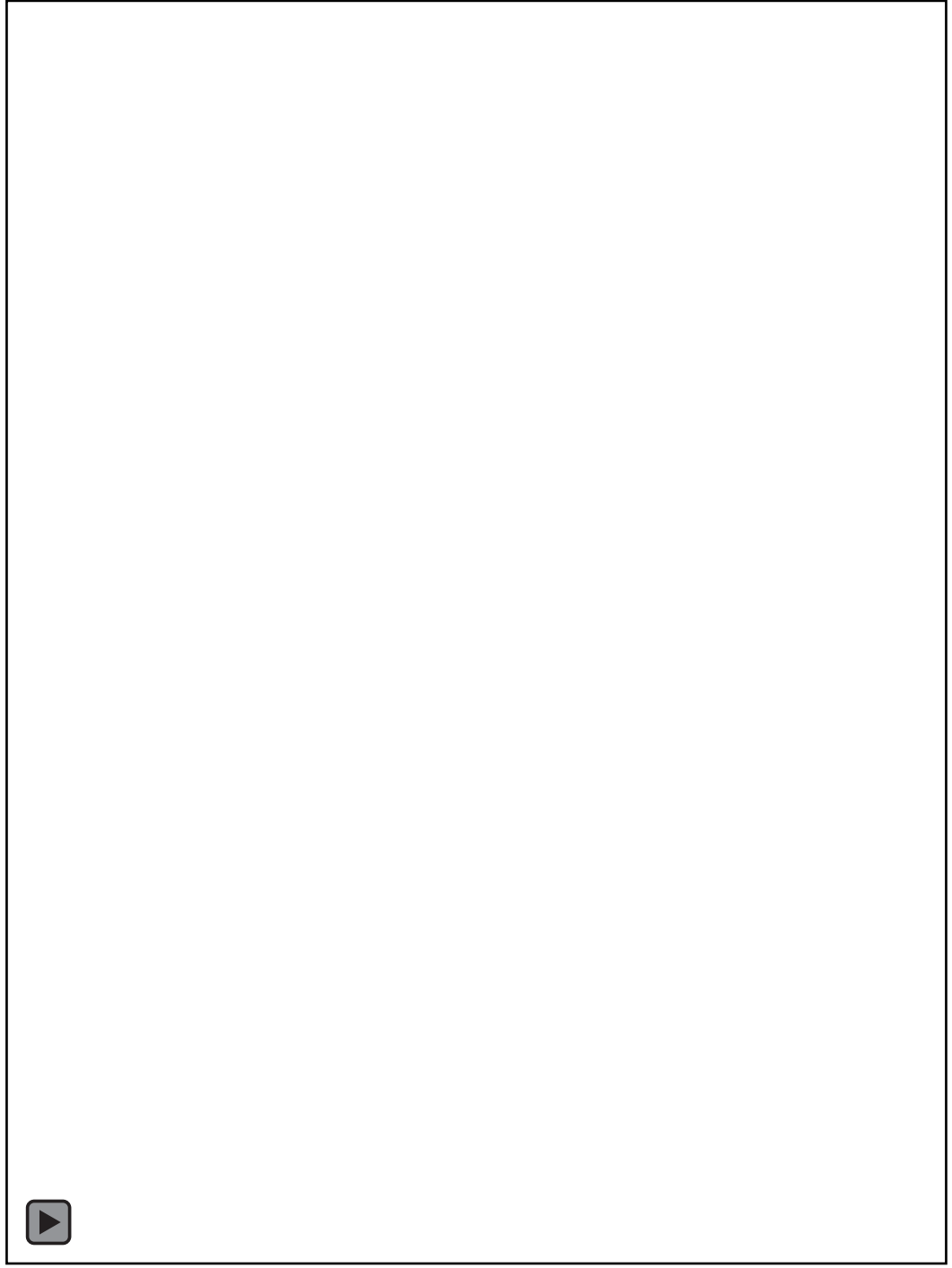



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b
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Head tilt in Rabbits

- The most common causes of head tilt in rabbits are *Encephalitozoon cuniculi* and bacterial otitis media/interna.
- DIAGNOSIS : Otscopic examination , ear swab culture , ear cytology
- TREATMENT Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory , avoid corticosteroids .Antibiotics
- Use ear lavage to remove debris found deep within the ear canal.
- TOPICAL Always select a product that does not contain steroid.

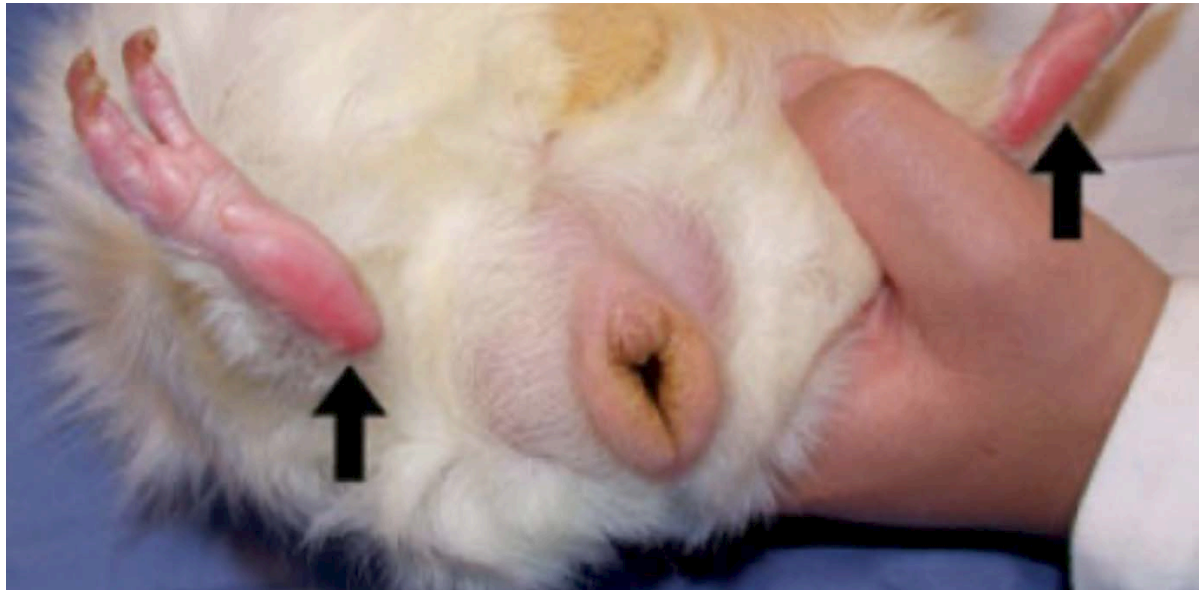




Guinea Pigs

- Scurvy (Vitamin C Deficiency)
- Symptoms: Lethargy, swollen joints, bleeding gums.
- Treatment: Vitamin C supplementation through diet or oral drops.
- Respiratory Infections (e.g., Bordetella, Pneumonia)
- Symptoms: Nasal discharge, labored breathing, lethargy.
- Treatment: Antibiotics, supportive care.







HAMSTER

- Wet Tail (Diarrhea)
- Symptoms: Diarrhea, lethargy, a wet, matted tail.
- Treatment: antibiotics, supportive care, diet adjustments.
- Lumps or Tumors
- Common in older hamsters.
- Symptoms: Visible lumps, changes in behavior.
- Treatment: Surgical removal or palliative care.





PREVENTIVE CARE

DIET :

- Hygiene: Clean living environments to prevent infections.
- Proper Diet: High fiber diet for rabbits (hay), vitamin C for guinea pigs.
- Regular Vet Check-ups: Early detection and prevention of diseases.
- Parasite Control: Flea, mite, and worm prevention in all exotic pets.
- Stress Reduction: Providing proper housing, enrichment, and avoiding sudden environmental changes.

CONCLUSION

- Regular monitoring for symptoms.
- Importance of early veterinary intervention.
- Educating pet owners on disease prevention and proper care.