



RISK FACTORS FOR FLYSTRIKE IN RABBITS



Latest research from SAVSNET

Flystrike is an often rapidly fatal disease, caused by flies laying their eggs on damp areas of a rabbit's skin or fur.

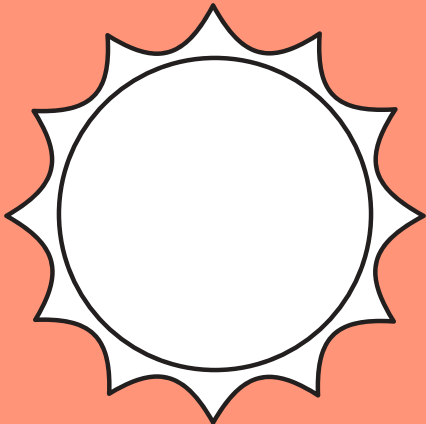
It is a serious welfare concern.



DATA FROM 389 VET PRACTICES

Data were collected from March 2014 – April 2017 from practices participating in SAVSNET.

Flystrike was identified where active blowfly strike lesions were recorded.



RISK: SEASON

Flystrike was first recorded in April, with a peak number of cases recorded (69.7%) in the summer between June – August.



RISK: AGE

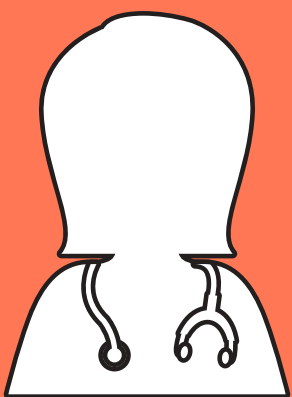
Rabbits aged 5–7 were 3.85 times more likely to present for flystrike than young rabbits aged one year or less (CI 1.85–8.01; $p < 0.001$).

This increased to 4.78 times for rabbits aged over seven years (CI 2.18–10.47; $p < 0.001$).



RISK: ENTIRE FEMALES

Compared to female neutered rabbits, female entire rabbits showed a 3.30 greater risk (CI 1.86 – 5.86; $p < 0.001$).



HELP YOUR CLIENTS

Tell owners when their rabbits are at risk of flystrike

Advise owners of older rabbits to be extra vigilant

Encourage owners to consider neutering their female rabbits