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 5.85 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 6.78 times for rabbits aged over seven years (CI 2.18-20.47; p<0.001).

RISK: ENTIRE FEMALES
Compared to female neutered rabbits, female entire rabbits showed a 5.50 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

www.liverpool.ac.uk/savsnet/